

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Group Exhibition of Masks
 Title: Mukh O Mukhosh-2
 Venue: Galleri Kaya
 Date: January 16-25
 Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Ceramic Art Exhibition
 Title: Dissolved Past and Present
 Artist: Debashish Pal
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: January 17-26
 Time: 12pm-8pm



2nd Children's Film Festival '09
 Organiser: Children's Film Society Bangladesh
 Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
 Date: January 24-30
 Time: 11am onwards



Art Exhibition
 Artist: Steven Renald and Samina Nafies
 Venue: Creative Destination, Shanto-Mariam University
 Date: January 14-20
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Al Deen remembered in Barisal

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

The first death anniversary of renowned dramatist Professor Selim Al Deen was recently observed at Sabdabaly Theatre Hall Auditorium, Barisal.

The programme was organised by the Bangladesh Group Federation of Barisal division. Syed Dulal, presidium member of the Federation, chaired the programme.

Theatre personality Mintu Bashu, Kajal Gosh, Shubankor Chakabarty were among the speakers.

A discussion on Al Deen's contribution to Bangladeshi theatre was also held. The participants unanimously agreed that Selim Al Deen spoke a universal language in his writing. His plays, they added, have enriched post-colonial Bangla literature and many of his plays have been staged worldwide. "Selim Al Deen's death was untimely. His absence has created an irreparable void in our literature and theatre," they added.

Selim Al Deen is the only playwright in Bangla literature after Rabindranath Tagore to



Discussants at the memorial meeting.

develop a theatre theory and successfully apply it in his plays, said the discussants.

A trendsetter, theoretician, dramatist, educationist, theatre organiser, philosopher and Freedom Fighter, Selim Al Deen passed away on January 14. He was buried at Jahangirnagar University campus.

Padatik Natya Sangsad celebrates 31st anniversary

Ataur Rahman and Dr. M. Zahir receive "Kochi Memorial Award"

JAMIL MAHMUD

To observe its 31st anniversary, theatre troupe Padatik Natya Sangsad Bangladesh arranged a colourful programme at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on January 16. The programme also featured the formal presentation of the Kochi Memorial Award, named after one of Padatik's founding members, the late Abu Muhammad Murtaish Kochi.

Noted theatre personality Ataur Rahman and renowned lawyer Dr M Zahir received this year's awards, in the spheres of culture and law respectively.

The programme commenced with the performance of 'dhak' outside the auditorium. Inside, Nargis Chowdhury rendered Tagore's song "Shamukhey shanti parabar."

ITI worldwide president and noted theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar was chief guest at the programme. Chief of Padatik, Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury presided over the programme.

M Hamid, chairman, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Golam Kuddus, general secretary,



Ramendu Majumdar (3-R) hands over awards to eminent personalities.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote and lawyer Mohammad Sirajul Islam Khan delivered speeches as special guests.

Awardees Ataur Rahman and M. Zahir expressed their gratitude to the organisers for the honour bestowed to them. In his speech Ataur Rahman said, "There are changes in the wind blowing over the world at present as well as in Bangladesh. I hope that this wind augurs well." Dr M Zahir meanwhile said, "I am honoured to display this award in my home."

Recitor Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay read out brief profiles of both the awardees.

Ataur Rahman's name is synon-

ymous with theatre. He has directed several acclaimed plays including Sayeed Ahmed's abstract work "Mile Post", Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" and Rabindranath Tagore's "Rakto Karobi". His latest assignment is Shakespeare's "Troilus and Cressida".

Dr. M Zahir embarked on his career as a lawyer in 1962. After practicing for several years in Australia, he returned to Bangladesh in 1979 and began working here. Apart from his legal profession, Zahir is also notable as a writer and philanthropist.

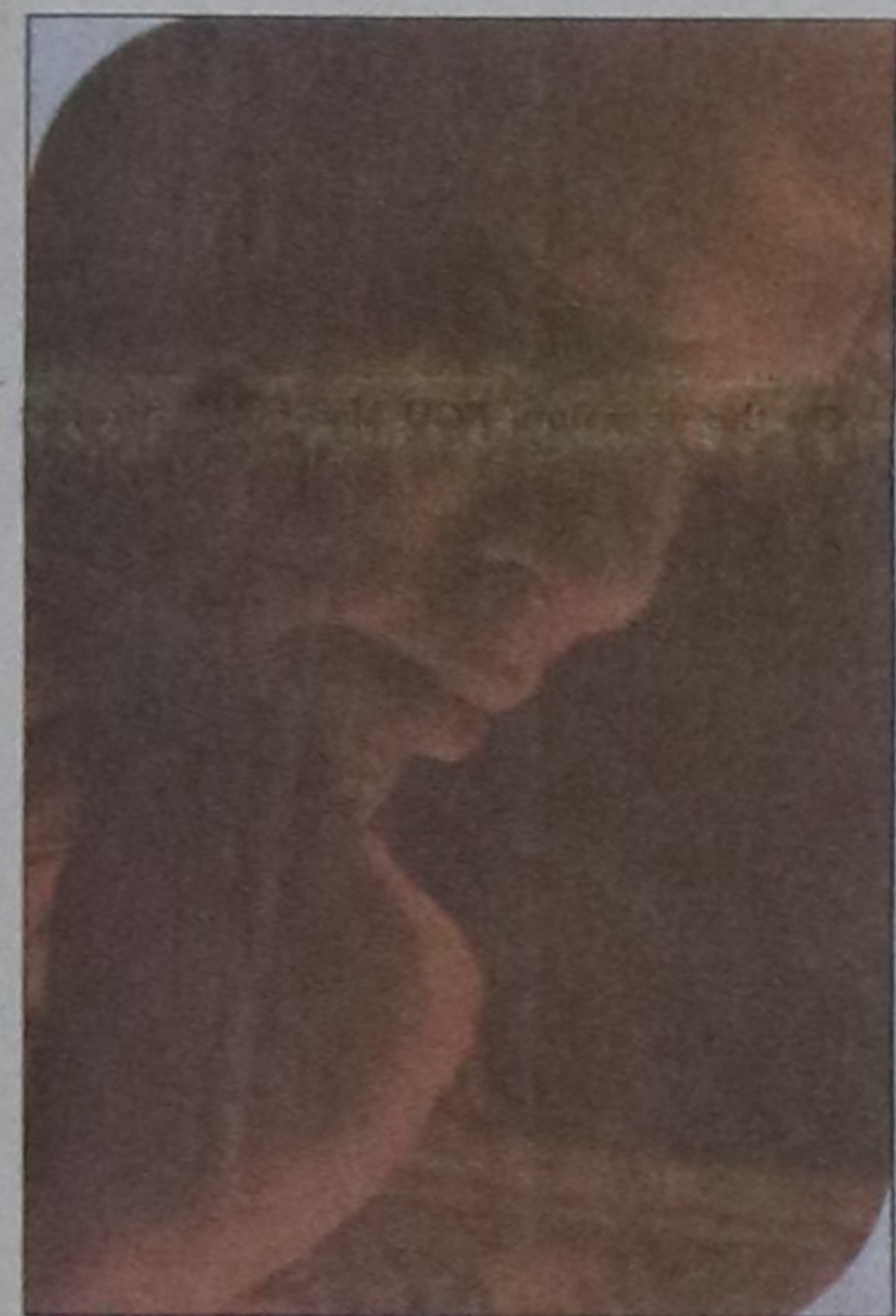
The award ceremony was followed by a colourful performance of dance and pantomime.

Artistes of Nriyanandan performed several dance including a group dance of 'pradip nritya', a solo improvised performance of 'Bharatnatyam' and a duet performance of 'tarana'. Manipuri artiste Nil Moni Sinha performed 'mridangabandan'.

Noted danseuse Sharmila Bandyopadhyay directed the danceitem.

Members of Padatik Natya Sangsad Bangladesh performed pantomime show "A Day's Tale". Directed by Raj, the mime show was divided into four sequences-- "Fantastic Dolls", "The Controller", "Vagrant's Tidbits" and "Me versus Myself".

Pabna recalls Selim Al Deen



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The death anniversary of noted dramatist Selim Al Deen, was recently observed in Pabna. To mark the day, Pabna Drama Circle organised a discussion on the life and work of the late cultural personality at its premises. President of Pabna Drama Circle Gopal Sannal chaired the programme.

Dramatist Firoz Khondoker, Sirajul Haque Pintu, Mostafizur Rahman Russell, Sarwar Morshed Ullash, Cynthia Rahman, Shaila, Sampa, among others, were speakers at the programme. In the view of these personalities, Al Deen set in motion a new dimension in theatre.

"Selim Al Deen made an immense and revolutionary contribution to theatre," said the speakers. "He introduced real life characters and focused on the struggle of human existence," they added.

Later, the artists of Pabna Drama Circle recited dialogues from the plays of Selim Al Din.

Nazrul fair at Nazrul Academy premises

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A two-day Nazrul fair was recently held at the Nazrul Academy premises. The event featured performances by 11 upcoming and talented Nazrul singers.

The fair was the first of its kind by the Academy and will go a long way in promoting Nazrul Sangeet. "Due to lack of exposure, talented Nazrul singers are on the decline. Some are switching to other forms of music, which is very unfortunate. A Nazrul fair will be held every three months to promote upcoming singers," said Mintu Rahman, general secretary, Nazrul Academy.

The event was inaugurated by Saiful Bari, chief advisor, ATN Bangla. Nazrul artiste Khalid Hossain, principal, Nazrul Academy was also present at the event.

The musical soiree began with a performance by Tasmi Binte Tarik. Tasmi performed five numbers "Surey o banir mala diyey", "Arun ranga golap koli", "Gohin raatey", "Kul rakho na rakho" and "Hey Modina bashi".

Shikha Rouf a popular singer from Chhayanat performed "Nohey nohey prio", "Chand herichhey", "Tumi shunitey cheona", "Jao jao tumi phirey", "Brojogopi khey hori". She was followed by Nawshin Liala.

A major attraction on the opening day was a performance by talented singer/composer Swani Zubayer. Zubayer began his perfor-



mance with the song "Amar noyoney noyon rakhi". Next he performed a ghazal "Piya piya piya Papiya phukarey". Zubayer ended his performance with the song "Shokhi shey hori kyamon bol".

Other artistes who performed on the opening day were Mohammad Badiuzzaman Badal, Ifat Tasnin Haque and Debjani Roy.

On the concluding day, eight Nazrul artistes -- Mazharul Islam, Chhonda Chakrabarti, Shahid Kabir, Mohammad Obaidur Rahman, Bijon Misri, Nazrin Jahan, Ismat Jahan and Bipasha Ghuhothakurta performed at the event.

Musical show "Bashudha Dhak Dhol" on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The third episode of ATN Bangla's musical programme, "Bashudha Dhak Dhol" will be aired today at 5:45 pm. The programme will be a regular feature on Sundays.

Today's episode features five segments, titled "Firey Dekha", "Natuner Keton", "Adda", "Ek Chakkar" and "Choltey Choltey". The topics that will be discussed are the history of music, careers of celebrated artistes, latest news of the music world. Performances by upcoming artistes are another attraction for viewers.

The director of the show is Shamim Ahmed, while the host is Sara.



Singer Hassan seen with the host in the programme.

Movie Watch

Chandni Chowk an unpalatable kung fu pander

Sidhu, a down-on-his-luck New Delhi cook, finds himself in contemporary China in what is billed by Warner Bros. as the first Bollywood kung fu action comedy. But the 2 and 1/2 hours of shouting, gesticulating, pratfalls and groin kicks in "Chandni Chowk to China" will leave viewers with an MSG headache.

Warners' first release of a Bollywood film in the US -- bowing January 16 on a record 125 screens -- is likely to disappoint connoisseurs of both Indian and Chinese cinema and pull in modest box-office results.

One day, while cutting vegetables at a roadside food stall, superstitious Sidhu (Akshay Kumar) spies a potato in the shape of Ganesh, the remover of obstacles. By lucky accident, he meets two mysterious Chinese men who think he's a reincarnation of a mighty war hero and ask him to vanquish a villain terrorising their village (shades of "Sholay" and "Seven Samurai").

Despite high-quality martial arts action directed by veteran Huen Chi-Ku ("Kill Bill: Vols. 1 and 2," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") and capable, if over-the-top, acting by Kumar and co-stars Deepika Padukone, Mithun Chakrabarty and Roger Yuan, "Chandni Chowk" is too long and overblown save for one endearing sequence in which Sidhu undergoes intense kung fu training.

Vintage toughie Chakrabarty, as Sidhu's



adoptive father, is capable of subtlety but isn't called upon to use it here. Kumar's love interest, Padukone (in a double role) sparkles and proves her mettle in action scenes.

Three days before "Chandni Chowk" hit theatres in the US and India, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced its short list of nine films edging closer to a foreign-language Oscar nomination. India's submission, the powerful and moving "Taare Zameen Par" by Amir Khan, didn't make the cut. Sadly, that film never will be seen by mainstream American audiences; yet "Chandni Chowk" is enjoying a hefty publicity push. If only "Taare Zameen Par" could have gotten its hands on that magic potato.

Source: Internet