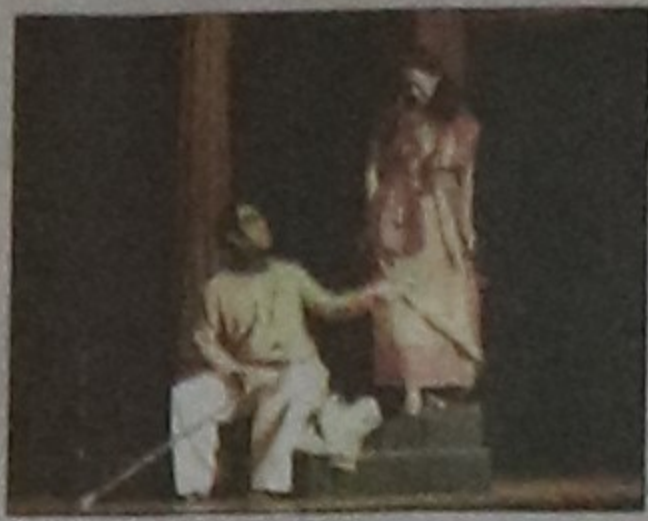


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

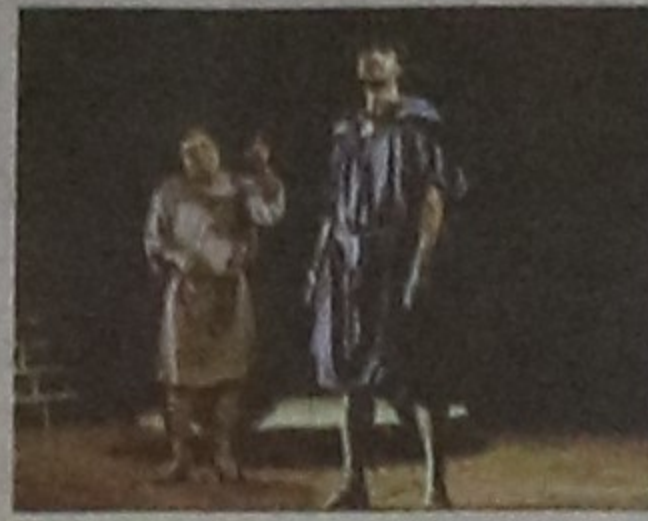
Theatre

Play: Raktokarobi (57th staging)
Troupe: Tirzak
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: January 30
Time: 6:30pm



Theatre

Play: Troilus and Cressida
Troupe: Nagonik Natyasampradaya
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: January 29
Time: 7pm



Group Art Exhibition

Artists: Mainul, Mehedi, Babu, Safin & Tomal
Venue: Shilpakala Academy Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi
Date: January 20-28
Time: 10am-1pm and 5-8pm



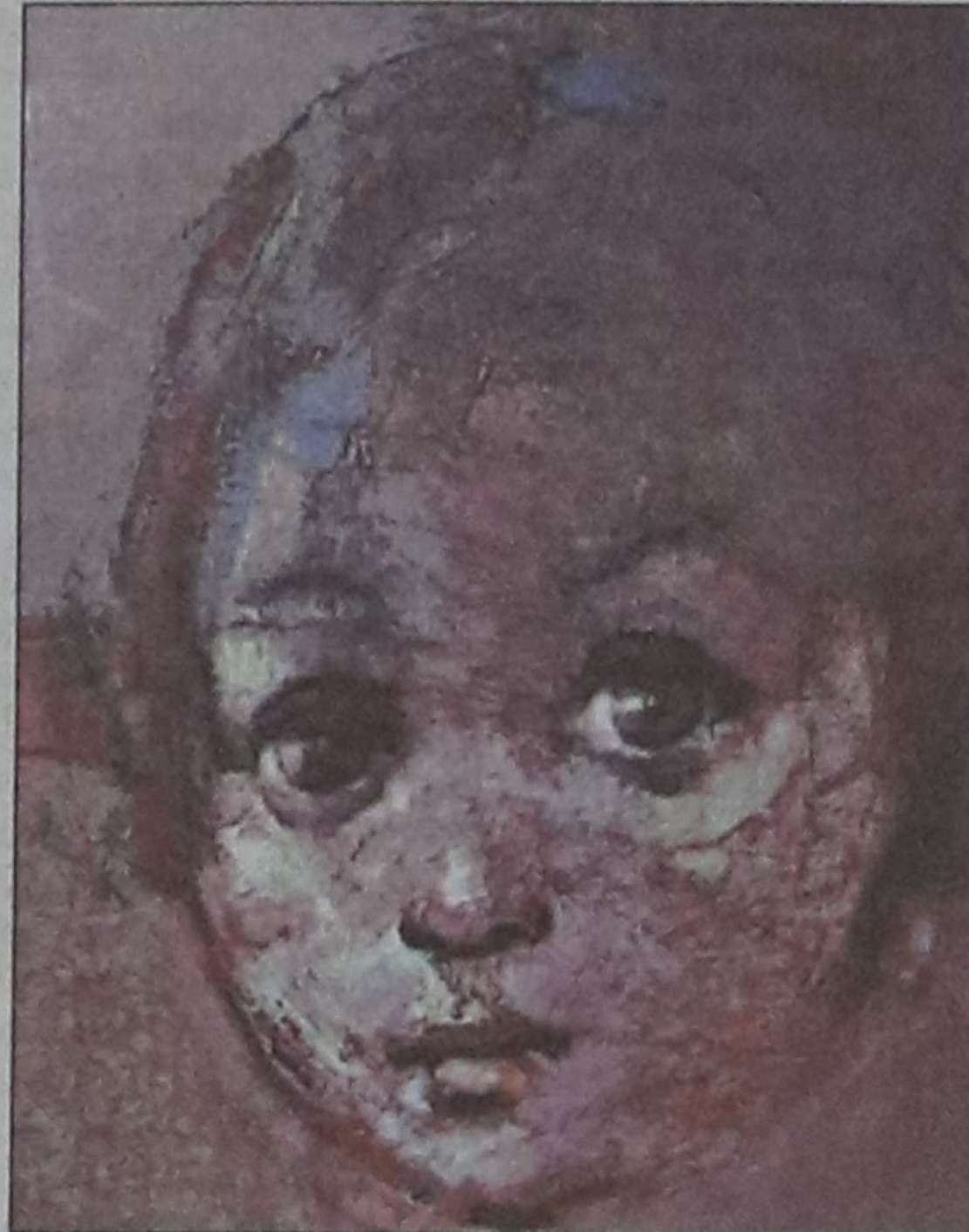
2nd Children's Film Festival '09

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



Civilisation in peril

Iqbal's paintings hit a burning issue



Mohammad Iqbal with one of his paintings.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Art enriches and broadens our soul. Art develops the aesthetic sense and enriches the quality of human beings. Art helps us to live and makes our life more interesting; it develops our cultural and social level. Art is greatly connected to our economic and cultural ambience. The soul is always modified by the revolutionary changes of cultural, social, political and economical structure.

Evolution occurs from such kind of ideas. And from the ancient time to the contemporary time, lots of movements have appeared in the art and culture milieu. All the movements are guided by time and history. Art enhances our culture, religion, social, political and geographical state and directs us particularly towards a civilisation based on an amalgamation of all these values.

Artists are always searching for new themes and novel techniques. This is a continuing process and all the movements started with a novel approach. Artists express their emotions, feelings and yearning through subjects, mediums and styles. As a subject, artists have chosen humanity since the Renaissance. Humanity has been articulated on the canvas with utmost empathy and passion.

The subject has been addressed at times with abhorrence against injustice and often with anxiety and rage caused by it. This is the grist to the mill in Mohammad Iqbal's case. Iqbal is one of the

leading painters of the '80s and his current pet subject is children, whom he regards as neglected and mistreated.

"My theme is 'Civilisation and Destruction.' The thought process is apparent on my canvas. Throughout the course of civilisation, major acts of violence and malice have taken place in different parts of the world," said Iqbal.

"Civilisation now faces several threats. War, intolerance, superstition, xenophobia, conflict of interest, inequality and power play are rampant. The world has advanced through education, science and technology. However, violence and hostility continue to pose threat to human civilisation. If the present trend continues, the existence of humans, animals and nature will be on the verge of extinction gradually," he said.

"Children are a symbol of hope and peace. Their existence depends on a world devoid of war and brutality. Many children die every year in wars and conflicts," Iqbal continues.

In the artist's view, the face is the most significant part of human figure and it is essentially the window of the mind. Through his works, he seeks to convey children's dreams, bliss, woes, yearnings and other emotions, and the artist focuses on eyes and faces to achieve that.

"I collect information from newspapers and journals on child abuse, trafficking, killing and rape. It makes me cry when I see children in inhuman conditions," Iqbal said. Memories from childhood

are also important to him. "I cherish those carefree days with endless possibilities," he added.

Delving into the past, Iqbal said that during the Liberation War he was just four years old. "Many lost their entire families to the war. Children lost their parents. War has now become a recurrent feature in the world. We remain insecure and unsafe. Children grow up amidst terror and panic -- some survive on the streets or orphanages. Many of them don't get to enjoy their fundamental rights. Unlike other major issues, children don't have enough adults taking up their cause," the artist explained his reason for choosing children as the theme of his artworks.

Children represent all that is pure and innocent. Some of the other motifs in Iqbal's paintings are animals, birds, houses, rivers, boats, hills and sky. The subjects appear in abstract, semi-abstract and realistic styles. "As always I haven't maintained one particularism, method, style or technique. I like to articulate the process of thinking and then add emotions and personal experiences. I think my works follow modern expressionism.

"Art is now a subject of self-expression. Art has no particular language. However, oil is my favourite medium because it gives me flexibility. I enjoy experimenting with new motifs, forms and techniques," Iqbal said.

Mohammad Iqbal now lives and works in Tokyo, Japan.

COURTESY: MOSHIUL AZAM SHAHAL

Call for more TV programmes on indigenous communities

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Speakers at a discussion, recently, said that Channel 1 has made significant contributions to peoples' access to information through its programmes. In the bargain, it has won the hearts of many.

The discussion, organised by 'Amra Channel 1 Darshok', was held at Khagrachhari Shilpakala Academy.

Deputy Commissioner A.K.M. Khairul Alam was the chief guest, while new Sadar Upazila Chairman Mohammad Shanay Alam presided over the event.

Speakers conveyed the hope that through its programmes the channel would help promote the heritage and traditions of the 13 ethnic communities of Chittagong Hill Tracts. Among others,



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous artistes perform at the programme organised by 'Amra Channel 1 Darshok'.

Superintendent of Police Mohammad Qaiumuzzaman Khan; additional deputy commissioner Mohammad Khalilur Rahman; Khagrachhari Press Club president Jiten Barua; secretary Azimul Hoque and Khagrachhari District Channel 1 correspondent Nazim Uddin spoke at the event. Later a cultural programme was held.

Teletalk Banijyo Mela Protidin on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Teletalk Banijyo Mela Protidin", an special programme on the ongoing International Trade Fair, will be aired today at 5:10 pm on ATN Bangla. The programme is aired live from the fair premises everyday.

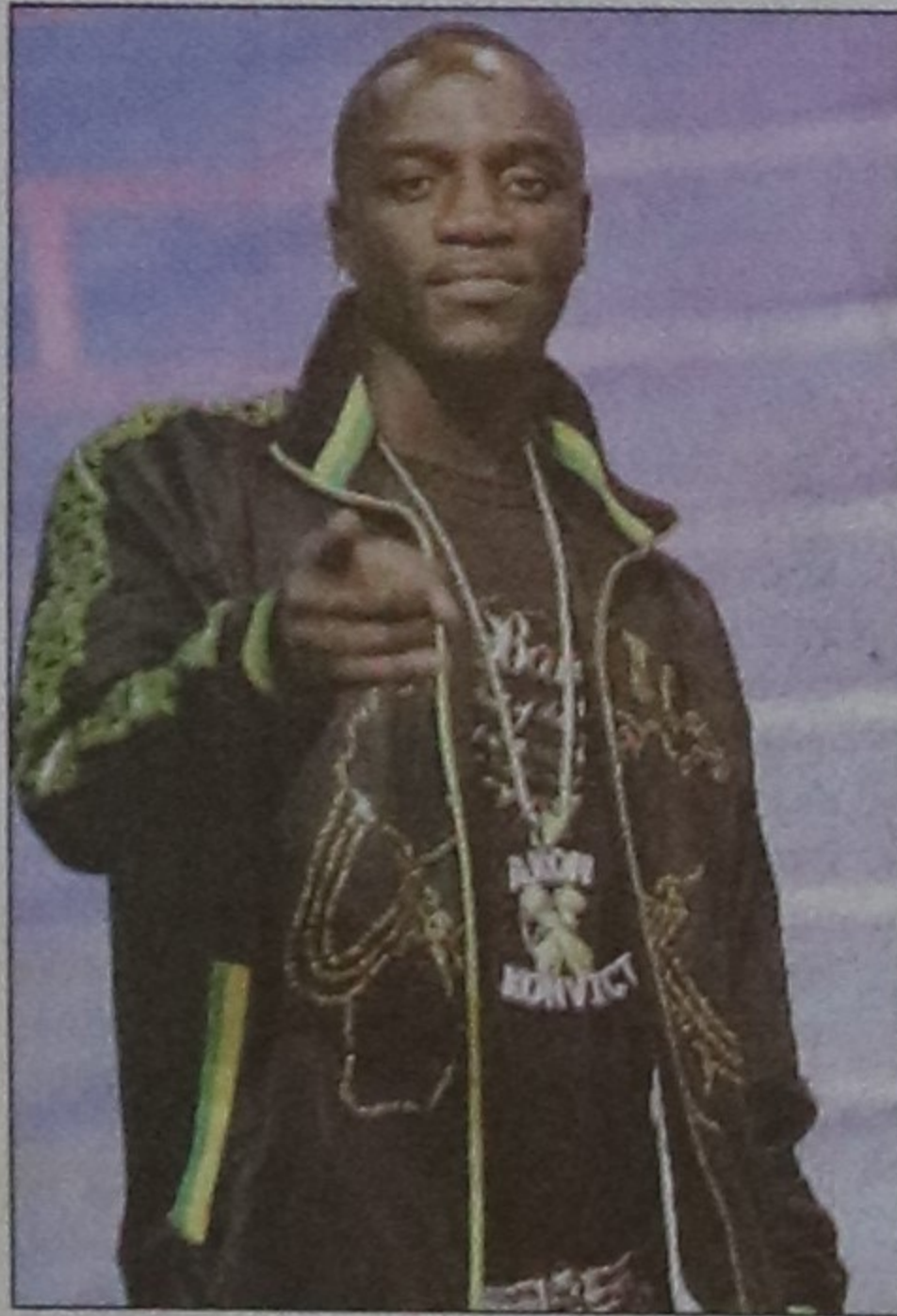
Directed by Abdus Sattar, the show is hosted by Khandakar Ismail. Held every year in the month of January, the fair generates much interest and enthusiasm among the Dhakaites. Along with local brands and products, the fair also includes stalls featuring international brands. "Banijyo Mela Protidin" features detailed



information on the stalls, public opinion, interviews with the traders and the consumers, and day-to-day events at the fair. The programme will be aired till January 31 (at 5:10 pm on weekdays and at 5:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays).

Just a number?

Stars lying about their age



Akon and Nicole Scherzinger of Pussycat Dolls are among stars who seemingly lie about their age.

Age is nothing but a number, but at least most of us know what number we have reached. Not Akon. This week he told the Associated Press he does not have any idea how old he is.

"I don't want to know I'm getting older," the hip-hop hitmaker said. "Then I'll start to think about getting checkups and insurance. I don't want that."

Seriously, everyone should get checkups! And insurance is just common sense. What if they found something during one of those checkups?

Akon's birth certificate says he is 31, but he says he is 21, and that he will be celebrating his 21st birthday for the next 10 years.

Weird. But the subject of age causes some musicians to get a little foggy -- Nelly, James

Blunt, J.Lo, and Nicole from the Pussycat Dolls have all shaved a year (or more) off their ages, like if they are much older than their fans, no one will buy their records. (In a related story, Taylor Swift -- who's either 13 or three years younger than Akon, depending on what numbers you use -- is at the top of the Billboard album chart for the 9 millionth week in a row.)

Along with checkups and health insurance, Akon really ought to be thinking about retirement savings. Not saying he is old, but the earlier one starts, the more time his/her retirement money has to grow -- and what better time than right now, when you're celebrating being 21?

Source: Internet

Pint-sized singers, mega talents

Top eight "Khudey Gaanraj" at a glance

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Meridian Channel i Khudey Gaanraj' 08" on Channel i is moving forward with the goal of finding the best child singer in the country. So far eight contestants have made it to the top and the selection of the 'Gaanraj' is just a few episodes away.

As the contest enters its last lap, here's a quick look at the contestants:

Md. Jewel Rana: For Jewel, "Khudey Gaanraj" is a huge platform to demonstrate his singing talent. His father Mohammad Jalal Uddin is a farmer and mother Halima Khatun is a housewife. He is from Sripur, Gazipur and is determined to shine in the contest. A student of Class 6 at Mizan Model Academy and Pre-cadet School, he wants to complete his education without dropping out. "It's very difficult for my father to manage my school fees, but I want to complete at least my SSC," says Jewel.

Shahabuddin Sajjad Uday: Uday is a student of Chitla Primary School. He is 9 years old and studies in Class 3. His father is Golam Sarwar and mother is Marzina Begum. He is greatly inspired by his teachers. Uday wants to pursue singing and teaching.

Imran Hossain Khan: Imran, 10, is a student of class 7 at



Imran



Jhuma



Jewel



Saddo



Parshi



Saran



Tuba



Uday

Razarbagh Police Line School and College. His father is Mostafa Hossain Khan and mother is Latifa Khan. Imran dreams of becoming a successful singer and an engineer.

Khan Saddo Samujjal: Saddo, 10, is a student of Class 5 at Green Field School and College. His father is Delwar Khan and mother is Shoma Khan. When he grows up, Saddo aspires to be a doctor and a vocalist.

Jhum Jhum Akhter Jhuma: Jhuma, 10, studies at Class 5 at Gazipur Government Primary Girls School. Her father is Khorshed Alam and mother is Jasmin Begum. "When I grow up, I want to be a teacher as well as an accomplished singer," says Jhuma.

Jarin Tasnim Tuba: Tuba, 10, is a student of Udayan Kindergarten School, Sirajganj. Her father is Abdus Sabur and mother is Sabina Yasmin. Both of her parents are school teachers.

She hopes to follow in their footsteps and also wants to pursue a singing career. **Sabrina Afrin Porshi:** Porshi, 11, is a student of Class 7 at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College. Her father is Ehsanur Rashid and mother is Julia Amin. To her "Khudey Gaanraj" is like a dream come true. Porshi hopes to be an engineer like her father and an accomplished artist.

Noshin Tabassum Saran: Saran, 11, studies at class 7 at

Bogra Cantonment Public School and College. Her father is Md. Tariqul Islam and mother is Samim Ara Shoma. Saran wants to be a professor when she grows up.

The grand finale of "Meridian Channel i Khudey Gaanraj" is scheduled for February 6. The show is aired on Channel i at 7:50 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Samina Chowdhury and Kumar Bishwajit are the two main judges on the show.