

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Chobi Mela V
Int'l Festival of Photography, Bangladesh '09
Theme: Freedom
Venues: National Museum, BSA, Dhik Gallery, Bengal Gallery, AF, GIB, British Council, Asiatic Gallery, Kalpana Bazar and Karwan Bazar underpass
Date: Jan 30-Feb 20



Madhu Mela '09
Celebrating 185th birth anniversary of Michael Madhusudan
Organiser: DC Office, Jessore
Venue: Sagardari, Jessore
Date: January 25-31
Time: 2pm onwards



Solo Flute Evening
Flutist: Ustaz Abdul Islam
Organiser: Rotary Club of Dhaka Premier
Venue: Shahid Zia Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag
Date: February 6
Time: 6:30pm



Theatre
Play: Roshadhar Shudhadharer Rajjo
Troupe: Bangorango Natyadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: February 1
Time: 6:30pm



Three decades of enlightening a nation

Bishwa Shahitya Kendra celebrates 30th anniversary

JAMIL MAHMUD

Eminent educationist and president of the trustee board of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra (BSK), Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, said that the organisation's journey for enlightened people is eternal.

"There are some dreams that have no specific destination. These dreams are unbound and they move forward. The movement, triggered by them, is the ultimate achievement," said Professor Sayeed at the celebration of BSK's 30th anniversary.

With the slogan "Alokito Manush Chai," BSK started its journey on December 17, 1978. The organisation is a public welfare trust.

To celebrate the joyous occasion, BSK arranged a daylong programme at the Central Public Library premises yesterday. Amidst much enthusiasm, the programme began with a procession in the morning that started from and ended at the Public Library premises after circling TSC, Dhaka University.

Eminent personalities including politician Rashed Khan Menon, media person-



A joyous occasion: Atiqul Haque Chowdhury and Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed having garland.

ality Mustafa Monwar, theatre personality M. Hamid, illusionist Jewel Aich and litterateur Anisul Haque attended the procession.

Over the last three decades, BSK has made momentous achievements, but the modest Professor Sayeed does not want to call them "accomplishments."

"Our journey doesn't end here. We want to convey our message to each corner of the

country. It's not possible to do it overnight. I and my BSK colleagues have been trying to accomplish our goal over the last three decades and the collective effort will continue," added Professor Sayeed, a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts.

At present BSK conducts seven kinds of literary pro-

jects throughout the country including mobile libraries, study circles, publications and cultural activities. At present the organisation reaches over four lakh people of 59 districts. Among these, BSK has provided books to students of 45 districts through its mobile libraries. Furthermore the organisation has started working internationally as it has five branches in USA and UK.

Among others, Mustafa Monwar, Justice Golam Rabbani and poet Mahadev Saha spoke at the programme.

In his speech Mustafa Monwar said, "I hope BSK will overcome all odds and will work to prevent children becoming 'mechanical'."

Justice Golam Rabbani said, "Back in day, we had a healthy reading habit. The onset of 'TV culture' changed that scenario. Along with his colleagues, Professor Sayeed has been working determinedly to popularise the habit of reading outside the curriculum."

The anniversary celebration included a cultural programme as well where eminent artists performed traditional songs, recitation, dance and more.

Noted artistes including Indra Mohan Rajbangshi, Subir Nandi, Abida Sultana, Fakir Alamgir, Shammi Akhtar, Pragna Laboni, Bulbul Islam, Shoma Roy, Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay, Tapan Mahmud, Mita Haque, Mahadev Ghosh, Chandana Majumdar and cultural organisations including Rabirasmii, Udichi, Nibedan, Wrishiz, Spondon and Polli Baul Shamaj performed at the programme.



The anniversary celebration included a cultural programme featuring songs, recitation and dance.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Silver jubilee of Bangladesh Gonoshilpi Sangstha

'Pancha Kabir Gaan' at Pabna Press Club

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Bangladesh Gonoshilpi Sangstha, Pabna arranged a musical programme at Pabna Press Club premises last Thursday night. Titled "Pancha Kobir Gaan," the programme marked the 25th anniversary of the organisation. The programme was dedicated to the memory of the late artist Baruneshwar Saha.

Songs of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Rajnikant Sen, Atul Prasad and Dwijendra Lal Roy are collectively known as "Pancha Kobir Gaan" -- a significant part of Bengali cultural heritage.

Prior to the musical programme, a discussion was held. Speakers on the occasion focused on the roles of these legendary poets in Bengali literature and music. Speakers however



Artistes performed 'Pancha Kobir Gaan' at the programme marking Bangladesh Gonoshilpi Sangstha's 25th anniversary.

lamented the waning practice of these songs at grassroots level.

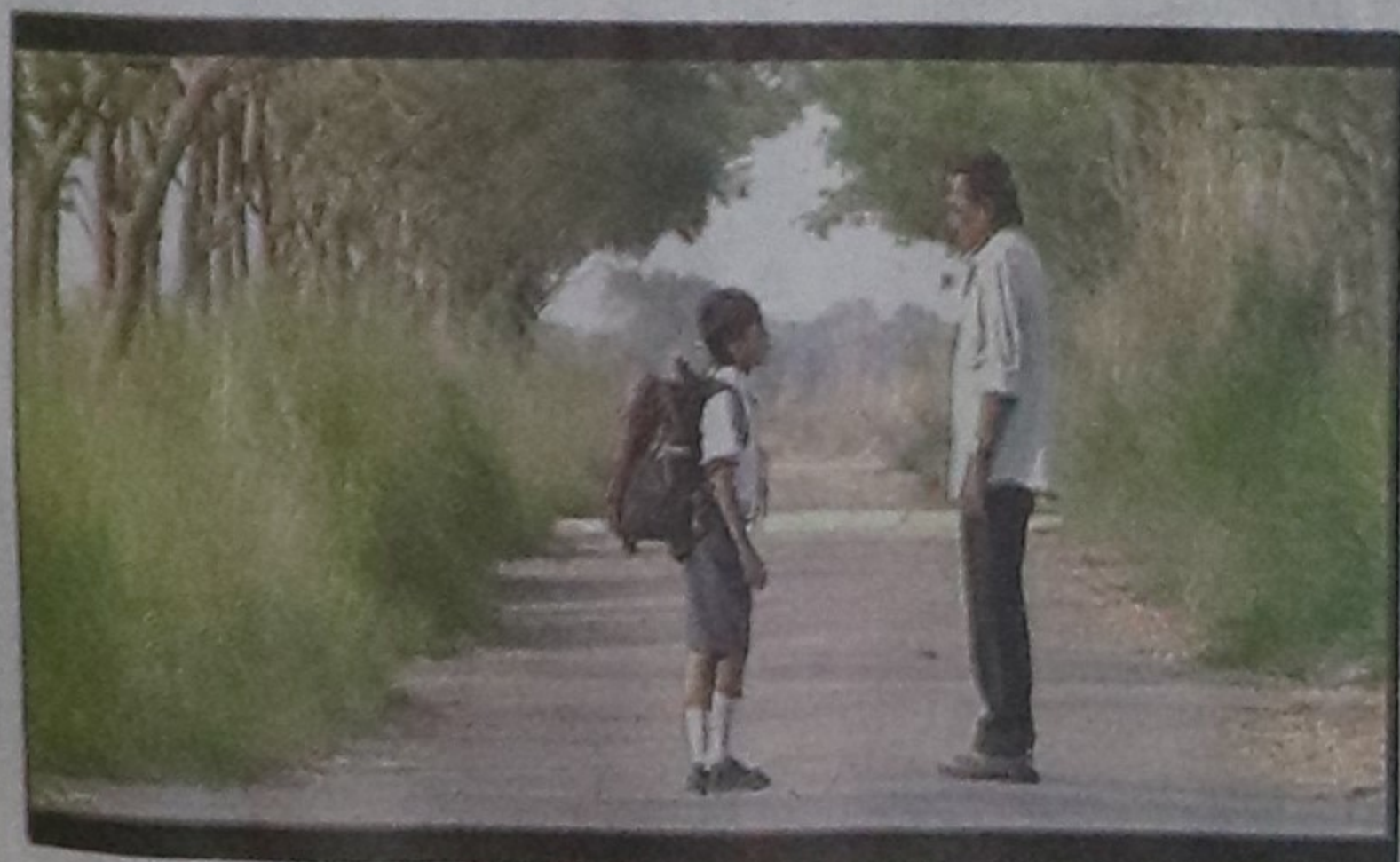
President of Pabna Gonoshilpi Sangstha, Shibojit Nag, chaired the

discussion. Educationalist Professor Md. Nurunnabi and journalist Anwarul Haque, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Songs of Rabindranath, Nazrul, Atul Prasad, Rajnikant and Dwijendra Lal are assets of our culture. Their verses enlighten us; nourish our souls. Their music soothes our mind, conveyed the speakers.

Unfortunately however, the current popular trend embraces imitation of foreign cultures, they argued and urged all to revive the practice of taking pride in authentic Bengali songs.

Artistes Rashidul Hassan Moti, Amirul Islam, Abul Hashem, Shafique Uddin, M. Sabih Pappan, Saki Rezwana, Mithila Afroza, Fahmida Jahan Brishti and Zinia Afroza performed songs of the five poets at the cultural programme.



A scene from "Khokoner Cycle."

Khokoner Cycle on ntv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode play "Khokoner Cycle" will be aired tonight on ntv at 9 pm. written by Mashiul Alam and directed by Aranyo Anwar, the play features Humayun Faridee, Elora Gauhar, Uzzal Mahmud and Pidim in lead roles.

The story follows Abid, a loner. His only son, Khokon died from a terminal illness a few years back. This tragedy has taken a toll on the conjugal life of Abid and his wife,

Rebecca. They are separated now. Abid is obsessed with the memories of his son. Khokon used to roam around on his cycle. The cycle was worn out and Khokon requested his parents for a new one. That cycle is now in the storage. One day, while looking for some old books, Abid comes across the cycle. The cycle seems to move before his eyes, bringing back happy memories of Khokon. The next day, Rebecca knocks on Abid's door, wanting the cycle.

"Poush Phagun-er Pala" by Genesis



PHOTO: MUMIT M

A performance by artistes of Genesis.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Genesis organised a programme and a book launch at the Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) last Wednesday. The event was titled "Poush Phagun-er Pala."

Two books -- "Golpey Adorsho Shikhi" by poet Mina Mashrafi and "Chandramukhi" by poet Mamta Khan -- were launched at the programme.

The book launch was presided over by

Syed Margub Morshed. Sheikh Akram Ali, president of Bangladesh Book Club; Golam Sarwar, director, Theatre and Film department, BSA and others were present at the session.

The cultural programme featured recitation, dance performance, mimodrama and music. Shokhi Kamal, Nur-r-Hafza, Nithor Mahub and others performed at the programme.

The programme ended with the staging of a narrative, "Shurjodoyer Agey" by members of Genesis Theatre.

Natraaj celebrates 18th anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate its 18th anniversary, theatre troupe 'Natraaj' organised an award giving ceremony and cultural programme at Bangladesh Mahila Samiti Auditorium on January 29.

The programme started with a dance presentation with the Tagore song "Ei din aaji."

A short discussion followed. President of ITI Ramendu Majumder (couldn't attend the programme); theatre personality Shimul Yousuf, Zeenat Ahmed and Dulal Talukdar were honoured with 'Natraaj Padak'. Each awardee received a crest and an 'uttorio'.

Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid was the chief guest at the programme. M. Hamid,

president, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation; Nasir Uddin Yousuff, president, Sammilito Sanskritik Jote; Mannan Hira, president, Bangladesh Path-natok Parishad and Minu Haq were present as special guests.

Jayanti Saha staged a Manipuri dance choreographed by Benazir Salam. The performance was directed by Tamanna Rahman.

Two plays -- "Bhab O Obhab" and "Rogir Bondhu" based on Tagore's short stories -- were staged at the programme.

The event ended with a group dance performance with the Tagore song "Purano sheidin-er katha."

Natraaj was founded on December 25, 1990. This was their first programme since 2002.

Department of Theatre and Music, Dhaka University staged the 'Jatra-pala' "Shah-jahan" on the first day (January 29) of the 'Jatra Festival' being held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premises. The month-long festival has been organised by Bangladesh Jatra Shilpa Unnayan Parishad.



PHOTO COURTESY: BANGLARCHOKH.COM

Fulki's annual cultural programme in Faridpur

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

Fulki, a cultural organisation for young artistes of Faridpur, held its annual programme at Saradasundari Girls High school in the town recently.

The event included poems, folk rhymes, chorus songs, dances and an art competition.

Sirajul Azam, convenor of Fulki, delivered the welcome speech with Anjali Balain the chair.

Among others, Siraj-e-Kabir Khokon, Advocate Ruhi Samsad Ara Jhumu, Mojibor



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes of Fulki during a group rendition.

Rahaman, Sayeda Akter and Abu Sufian Chowdhury Kusal spoke at the function. The programme drew a sizeable audience.