

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Ekushey Boi Mela '09
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 01-28



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



Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Kalo Teep
Photographer: Shah Sazzad
Venue: Chhobir Haat, opposite of Chankala, DU
Date: February 13-20



Film Screening
Film: Ratatouille
Organiser: Children's Film Society, Bangladesh and Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: February 28
Time: 5pm



Celebrating the day of love with Rabindra Sangeet

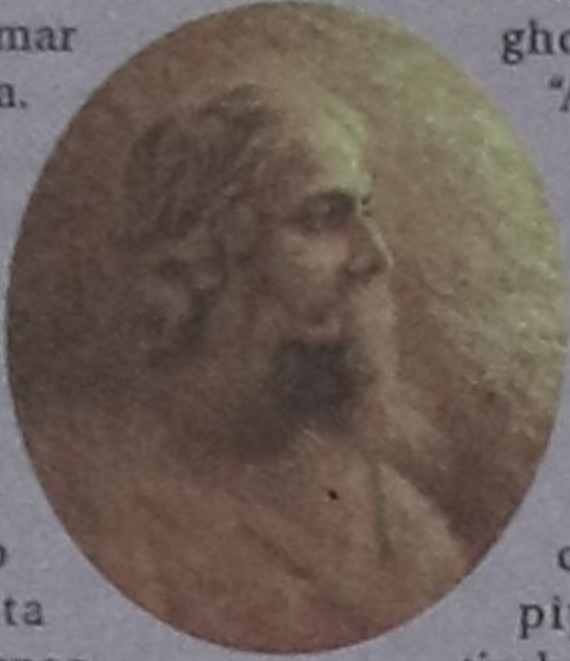
Rabi Raag's musical soiree at Natmandal

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate Valentine's Day, cultural organisation Rabi Raag held a musical soiree titled "Bhalobhashar Gaan" on February 14. The programme was held at the Natmandal, Dhaka University. Highlight of the programme was renditions of romantic Rabindra Sangeet. Along with noted Tagore singer Sadi Mohammad, member artistes of the organisation performed at the programme.

The programme started with a duet, "Esho esho amar ghoroy esho" by Ronju and Ena. "Aamar praan-er porey" by Lipi was the next song. Ronju also rendered a solo "Biraho holo."

Naznin and Shafiqur rendered "O keno amar," "O keno chaye," "Chitta Joleni alo" respectively. Echo, Shakil Rahman Khan rendered "Onek din-er churi korey pipashito" and



Among other duets performed at the event were "Jodi tarey nai" by Shama and Swapan and "Ektuku chhowa lagey" by Shafiqur Rahman Khan and Lipi.

Sadi Mohammad, director of the organisation, rendered two songs "Jey chhilo aamar swaponocharini" and "Nayan meley dekhi."

Makhan Chandra Hawladar and Nandita Yasmin rendered "Tumi ektu kebol" and "Purano jania cheo na" respectively. The programme wrapped up with a group rendition of "Rangiyi diye."

Nurturing love for everything Bengali

Students of English Medium Schools put their best foot forward



PHOTO: STAR

Students of reputed English medium schools, above and below, of the city poured their heart out in songs and dance numbers -- reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the country.

NADIA SARWAT

There has always been an accusation that the English medium schools of the country are not teaching children about our culture. "The Daily Star English Medium Schools Cultural Programme" held on February 14 at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy was one to prove the accusation wrong. In this month of the Language Movement, students of reputed English medium schools of the city poured their heart out in songs and dance numbers -- reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the country. It was the first event of its kind to provide different English medium schools an opportunity to demonstrate that they are not bringing up "aliens" in our country.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said in

his speech, "It has been a long cherished dream of The Daily Star to prove the allegation that 'English medium students are not well-acquainted with our culture,' wrong. But the bigger truth is that we should nurture our children in our own cultural milieu. These talented young children will represent our country to the world."

The event started with a stunning performance by students of Maple Leaf International School. Children in colourful costumes sang "O alor path-er jatri;" some danced with the song. Next was a chorus by students of BIT School. They rendered an inspirational Nazrul song, "Durgamo giri kantar maru." A splash of bright yellow dazzled the audience next, as a number of children wearing yellow sari took the stage with a dance. The dance number depicted the beauty of the six seasons in Bangladesh.

Sea Breeze International School, Oxford International

School, Green Gems School, Sunny Dale School, Play Pen International School and Saint Jude's School were the others to perform at the event. A performance by the Sea Breeze International School impersonating people of different communities such as snake charmers, bauls, farmers and more was quite entertaining. The last performance of the evening also won the hearts of the audience. It was a spectacular choreography with the song "Bangladesh amar Bangladesh," by the young students of BIT School.

Overwhelmed by the children's performances and response from the teacher-parents community, Mahfuz Anam announced to turn the grand programme a regular annual event for students of English medium schools nationwide. He also thanked the initiator of the programme, Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury of The Daily Star for organising the event.

Yet another 'pitha utsab' in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A 'Pitha Utsab' was organised recently at Ideal International School and College in the district town, as part of an 'education week.'

A total of 14 stalls were set up at the festival. Pitha of different shapes, names and tastes were on display at the festival drawing a large number of local foodies. Culinary delights included 'Bhapa,' 'Puli,' 'Dudh Puli,' 'Chittoi,' 'Dudh Chittoi,' 'Pati Shapta,' 'Nakshi,' 'Mera,' 'Jhal Pitha' and more.

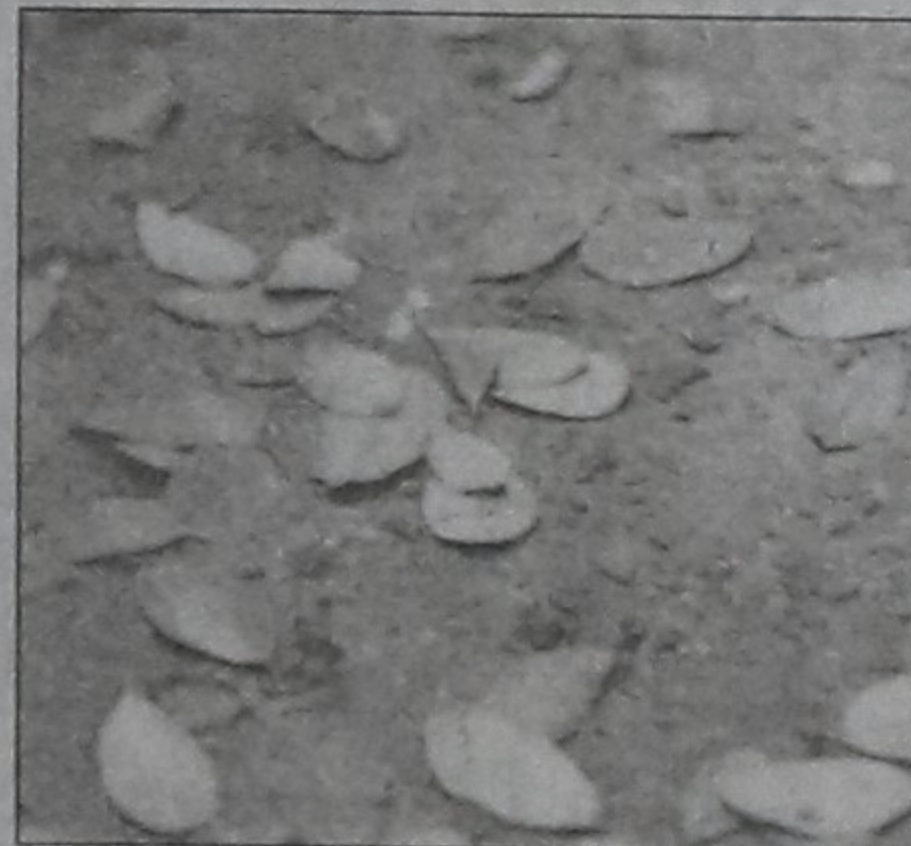
Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Ziaur Rahman Khan inaugurated the weeklong programme. Among others, Mayor of Mymensingh Municipality, Advocate Mahmud Al Noor Tareq; President of Lions Club, Dr. AKM Waliullah and Director of Lions Club, A.R Minto spoke on the occasion. Principal of Ideal International School and College and Lion member Md. Moniruzzaman chaired the event.

Speakers conveyed that the tradition of 'pitha' is an inseparable part of our culture.



Bemoaning the lost green

Kashef's solo exhibition at Bengal Gallery



Through his photos, Kashef has tried to translate the language of nature and its various phases.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Trees represent nature; they are the silent givers of life, enhancing the beauty of our surroundings. Trees have a personal language, and some claim that they can read the agony of these life-givers. Kashef is one of them, who has tried to translate the language of nature and its various phases through photographs. Plants give us food and shelter, and persuade us to nurture peace. Kashef's recent solo photography exhibition, held at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, delved into this aspect.

We are losing the greenery around us everyday, and open space is becoming increasingly rare in the city. Mushrooming high-rises, shopping malls and offices are taking over neighbourhood parks, gardens and patches of green. Foliage often invokes a nostalgic view. Each leaf has an untold story about the plant.

The photographer presented painful image

of trees at the exhibition. All photos were in black and white, delivering a message of the imminent extinction of these producers of oxygen. Trees are losing ground due to unplanned urbanisation. The relationship between humans and plants have worsened. Green is fast becoming invisible while human eyes crave the soothing shade.

Kashef tried to create a harmony between the gallery's walls and its floor. Dry leaves were scattered on the floor, creating a feeling of being right in the middle of nature.

"Plot Number Fifty Six," a book by Kashef, was unveiled on the opening day of the exhibition. Quality of the book's print is superb and it captures the essence of the complete exhibition. The book can be a collector's pride for its unique and unparalleled photographs. The publication has been dedicated to prominent painter Mohammad Kibria and noted art connoisseur Abul Khair Litu.

Fantastic plastic: Barbie turns 50

AFP, New York

New York's Fashion Week celebrated Barbie's 50th birthday last Saturday with a catwalk debut for the famous doll.

Organised under tents in Bryant Park, close to Times Square, the event drew throngs of fans of the fantastic plastic model, many of them young girls brandishing their pink invitations in a bid to cut through the crowd.

Some 500 one foot-tall (29-centimeter) dolls were lined up in the entry hall inside huge letters spelling out Barbie's name.

Shrouded in pink extravaganza, the podium gave way to real-life models showing off specially-designed outfits by top designers and coiffed "a la Barbie" with a high pony tail or hair draping their shoulders.

Models showed off twinkling outfits, tiaras and the black and white bathing suit the first Barbie wore in 1959. A young woman wearing a T-shirt that read "everyone needs a Ken" strutted her stuff while holding the hand of a man bearing a striking resemblance to Barbie's plastic fiancé.

The world's most-sold toy has often inspired designers, and Assouline Publishing distributed a specially created book that shows the blond doll dressed in Prada, Karl Lagerfeld and Alexander McQueen.

Toymaker Mattel, Barbie's "father," has just signed a contract with the Council of Fashion Designers of America. The group's president, Diane von Furstenberg, said she saw in Barbie an independent and confident woman who has an amazing capacity to have fun while remaining elegant.

Barbie sales have slowed in the past seven years, however, since the emergence of the competitor Bratz doll, and fell another 21 percent in 2008, according to Mattel's latest figures.



The show included pink decor and Barbie-style models with manes of hair, bright make-up and extra high heels.

Jamming with 'Voice Fair'

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

'Voice Fair,' a local band, hit the right note at a show at Baishakhi Mancha of Shaheed Quarter Park in the district town. The event, on February 13, was held to herald in Falgun, the first month of spring. The show, titled 'Falgun Open Concert,' drew a huge audience as the function was held a day before Valentine's Day.

The concert opened with a popular Baul song. Later the artistes rendered more than a dozen songs, including songs welcoming Falgun. Vocalist Delwar Hossain enthralled the huge audience gathered on the bank of the Old Brahmaputra river.

Advocate Mahmud Al Noor Tareq inaugurated the concert. A discussion was also held

before the concert with advocate Abdul Muttaqim in the chair. Among others, MA Quasem and Mohammad Shahab Uddin spoke on the occasion as special guests. The speakers expressed the need for the younger generation to promote Bengali culture. Bengali culture, enriched by diverse art forms, could be a role model for other nations-- if it was nurtured, added the speakers. Open concerts such as this, they concluded, could be a meeting ground for people from different age groups to uphold their traditions.

Titu played the guitar, while Babu was on the drums. The concert lasted till evening. The sponsors of the concert were Room-III, MM Computer, Menz Look, Photo Max, Prodig Sound, Sathi Decorator, Shanta Modelling Studio and Heart Touch.

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