

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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



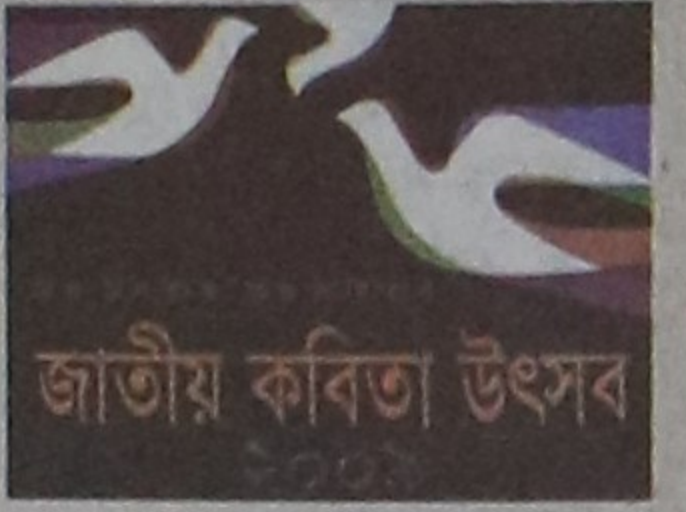
**Chobi Mela V**  
Int'l Festival of Photography, Bangladesh '09  
Theme: Freedom  
Venues: National Museum, BSA, Drik Gallery, Bengal Gallery, AF, GIB, British Council, Asiatic Gallery, Kalpana Bazar and Karwan Bazar underpass  
Date: Jan 30-Feb 20



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



**National Poetry Festival**  
Organiser: Jalyo Kabita Parishad  
Venue: Central Library, Dhaka University  
Date: February 18-20



### Exhibition

## Kalidas Karmakar and his canvas: Capturing obscure times

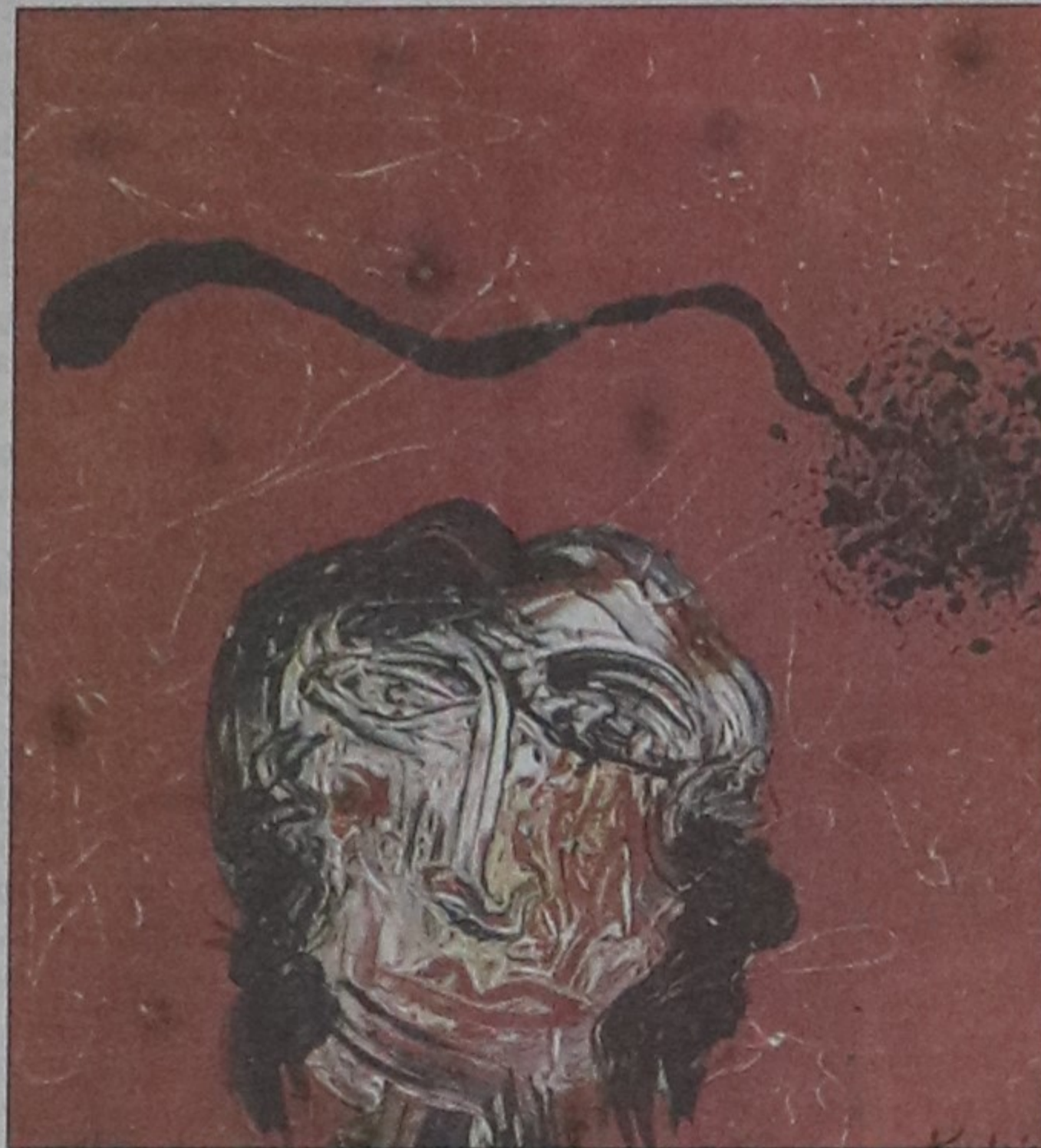
TAKIR HOSSAIN

Kalidas Karmakar's solo exhibition, titled "Alluvial Diary," is now on at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts. The veteran artist's latest images reflect anger, frustration, suffering, death, destruction and his subjects encapsulate the misery of common Bangladeshis in times of war, floods, cyclones, famines, political and economic turmoil.

While ordinary Bangladeshis were gripped by insecurity and a politically unstable situation in the last seven years, for artistes it was a dark period. Throughout these agonising times, Kalidas maintained an "alluvial" diary where he articulated the miseries.

As a painter, Kalidas feels that he has a responsibility to his country. He records time, history and incidents in our urban and rural lives. His language is distinctive as he uses the canvas to protest cruelty, inequality, political chaos, poverty and violence in our daily lives.

At the exhibition, Kalidas' works are accompanied with musical notes. During his recent visit to the US, he came across an elderly woman who lived very close to where he was staying. The woman used to play the piano till midnight



Through his works, Kalidas records history and incidents in our urban and rural lives.

and the music inspired him to work in digital lithography.

In his long and chequered life, Kalidas has gradually transformed himself into an abstract expressionist. His works are form and colour-oriented. He prefers bold

brush strokes, bright colours, light and shade. In his use of materials and tints, he frequently goes for the bold and natural. Kalidas is increasingly imparting messages through his paintings and he is becoming more innovative, using

space to increasingly interact with faces, figures and objects on his canvas. These works simultaneously display technical excellence and a mature intellect. The exhibition ends on February 28.

## 59th Berlin International Film Festival

### Milk of Sorrow takes top nod

SHAHEEN DILL-RIAZ, Berlin

With the applauses of 1600 guests and the announcement of award-winners, the Berlin International Film Festival 2009 (also known as Berlinale) closed the ten-day-long celebration of world cinema on February 14. The international jury of Berlin Film Festival has surprised the audience with their decision for this year's Golden Bear winner. The jury declared that this time the competition presented a broad range of films whose central aim consists in exploring ways to further the interpretation and understanding of contemporary issues. Therefore the jury has decided to honour those efforts that have achieved a fine balance between political statement and poetic form. They handed over the sign of recognition, the Golden Bear, to director Claudia Llosa for her film "La Teta Asustada" (The Milk Of Sorrow).

In the film, the main character Fausta is ill with a disease contracted from her mother's breast milk referred to as "the milk of sorrow." This however is not a viral infection, it's a condition that only affects women who were abused or raped during the Peruvian authorities' long war against



Golden Bear winner Claudia Llosa.

leftist guerrillas. Llosa's film addresses a dark era of her country's history. Established in 2001, the Peruvian 'Commission for Truth and Reconciliation' (Comisión de la Verdad y Reconciliación) has registered almost 70,000 murder cases, as well as countless rapes, abductions and other human rights violations in the period from 1980 to 2000.

The Jury Grand Prix, Silver Bear, went this time to two films: the Ger-

man production "Alle Anderen" (Everyone else) by Maren Ade and a Uruguay-Argentina co-production "Gigante" by Adrián Biniez.

The Best Director prize went to the Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi for his film "Darbarey Ely" (About Elly).

German Birgit Minichmayr collected the prize for Best Actress for her performance in the film "Alle Anderen." Best Actor award went to the British Sotigui Kouyate for his

performance in "London River" by Rachid Bouchareb.

Prize for Best Script went to Oren Moverman and Alessandro Camon for their film "The Messenger," directed by Oren Moverman.

The Alfred Bauer Prize is given every year in memory of the founder of Berlinale for a feature film that broadens the horizons of the art of filmmaking. This year the jury has unanimously decided to give the Alfred Bauer Prize to two films and two directors. One of these directors is an old master, the polish helmer Andrzej Wajda (for his film "Tatarak"), with 60 years of experience in filmmaking. Wajda is still young at heart and bold in developing new ways of filmmaking.

The other is a young auteur, Adrián Biniez, here in Berlin with his first feature film, imbued with a passion to use cinema to do what the medium can do best: narrate a moving story about our time and the human condition. The Bears inspired the Berlinale logo and were designed by the sculptor René Sintenis (1888-1965). The Bear is also the official symbol of the city of Berlin.

The writer is a freelance Cine-Journalist

## Music demands devotion

-- Manna Dey

JAMIL MAHMUD

According to legendary Bengali singer Manna Dey, music demands devotion. "Music is something that one cannot learn properly without a mentor. One has to be devoted to learn music," said Dey at a programme held at UODA's Shat Masjid Road campus yesterday. The Department of Music, University of Development Alternative (UODA) arranged the programme. Dey is currently in Dhaka. During this trip, the iconic singer has performed at several programmes and has been honoured by different organisations. Renowned local artistes attended the UODA programme.

Dey talked about the current competitive audio market in both Bangladesh and India, referring to the situation as "survival of the fittest."

"I've been involved with music for over six decades now; I am 90. I started my career in Bombay (now Mumbai), which has always been a tough gauntlet for a newcomer. In my day, I had to compete with legends like Mohammed Rafi, Talat Mahmud and Kishore Kumar, and carve a niche for myself."

The veteran artiste practices for two hours every day to keep his voice in shape.

Dey will perform at his last concert during this trip at Hotel Sea Palace in Cox's Bazar tomorrow. Earlier, he performed at two shows at Hotel Sheraton and Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre.

The crooner appreciated and conveyed his

gratitude for being lovingly honoured by the people of Bangladesh.

Vice Chancellor of UODA, Professor Emazuddin Ahmed and founder-chairman Mujib Khan spoke at the programme. In his speech Professor Emazuddin hoped for a better cultural atmosphere in Bangladesh. He also announced that the Music Department of the university would play a significant role in this field.

Later Professor Emazuddin and Mujib Khan jointly handed over a crest to Dey. Dey's wife Sulachana Dey, a noted Tagore singer, and Abdul Manna Talukdar of Save the Humanity were present at the time.

Earlier, students of SODA, CODA and UODA received Dey with bouquets of flower, accompanied with the Tagore song, "Tumi kemon korey gaan koro hey guni."

A brief musical programme was also part of the programme. Sunil Sutradhar and Paritash, teacher and student respectively of the Music Department, UODA, rendered songs made famous by Dey and Talat Mahmud. Noted Lalong singer Farida Parveen rendered "Ekta bod hawa legey."

Artiste and teacher of UODA, Tanvir Alam Shawjeeb rendered a Nazrul song, "Gangey jowar elo phirey, tumi eley koi." It was Dey who requested Shawjeeb to render a song, despite repeated requests from the audience who wanted the nonagenarian artiste to sing.

Among others, Nazrul exponent Sudhin Das, artistes Timir Nandi and Ferdaous Ara were present at the programme.



Manna Dey (centre) receives his crest from Professor Emazuddin Ahmed. Also seen in the photo is Mujib Khan.

## Palakar to stage silent monodrama Request Concert

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Palakar is bringing out its latest production, "Request Concert," (written by German playwright Franz Xaver Kroetz). Eminent theatre personality Kamaluddin Nilu is directing this experimental, one-actor play for Palakar. The play will be staged at the Palakar Studio at Natak Sarani (formerly known as Bailey Road) from February 20 to 28, at 6:30 pm everyday. The troupe has been regularly staging plays of different types, as well as experimenting on theatre, at their own studio within a limited space and with a professional approach.

"Request Concert" is a monodrama without any dialogue, centring on a middle-aged woman. On stage, the protagonist enters her apartment and does household chores well into the night. She hangs her clothes, cooks her meal, tidies up the room and so on. In her well-furnished apartment she has everything. But her existence strives with a sense of solitude. The play demands the character to develop through actions rather than dialogue -- exploring human condition from a distinct



Kamaluddin Nilu (left) explains a scene to Rokeya Rafiq Baby.

point of view. "Farnz Xaver Kroetz is a young, controversial and experimental playwright. Annoyed with the overuse of spoken words in theatre, he tried to find a way to break free from the conventional theatrical language. 'Request Concert' is not just an assembly of images; it represents life as it is without romanticising it," said director Kamaluddin Nilu. Noted actress Rokeya Rafiq Baby is playing the protagonist in the production. Premier show of the play is only for invited guests. Due to the arrangement of the set in the studio, only 28 people can be accommodated in the studio during the show. The show will be open for the audience from February 21.

## Michael Jackson auctions awards, albums, art etc.

The former King of Pop is lightening his load.

At an April auction featuring more than 2,000 personal items, Michael Jackson is set to sell his American Music Award for "Thriller," a velvet cape given to him by his children for Father's Day in 1998, a pair of rhinestone-trimmed socks from 1981, a basketball signed by Michael Jordan and his own original artwork.

The 50-year-old singer is also parting with his platinum and gold records, a customised Harley Davidson and a Rolls Royce limousine.

The five-day sale was announced in December by Julien's Auctions, but the full extent of the items available was not known until last Tuesday, when the auction house released images of the lots. The auction begins April 21.

Source: Internet



Michael Jackson is parting with more than 2,000 personal items.