

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Japan Cultural Festival '09
Organiser: Embassy of Japan and BSA
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: March 4-7
Time: 10am-1.30pm, 2.30pm-7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Liudmila Gurar
Organiser: Russian Centre of Science and Culture
Venue: Exhibition Hall, RCSC, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Inauguration: March 5 at 5pm



Photography Exhibition
By Julien Pannetier and Bruno Valentin
Title: Dhaka, a City and its People
Venue: AFD, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: February 19-March 5
Time: 9am-12pm, 5-8pm (Saturdays 5-8pm)



Award
Title: Shilu Abed Master Craftsman Award '09
Organiser: National Crafts Council of Bangladesh
Venue: BRAC Inn Centre Auditorium, 75, Mohakhali
Date: March 5
Time: 6pm



Prof. Anisur Rahman: A lifetime of devotion to music

Premiere of "Bhuban Bhora Sur" at Public Library

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On March 3, a documentary titled "Bhuban Bhora Sur" (Melodies of the Soul) on Professor Anisur Rahman's thinking and interpretation of rendering Rabindra Sangeet was premiered.

Professor Anisur Rahman is a devoted Tagore enthusiast and an interpreter of the rendition of Rabindra Sangeet in a style that is very much his own. Professor Rahman has been praised over the years for his unique approach to Tagore songs.

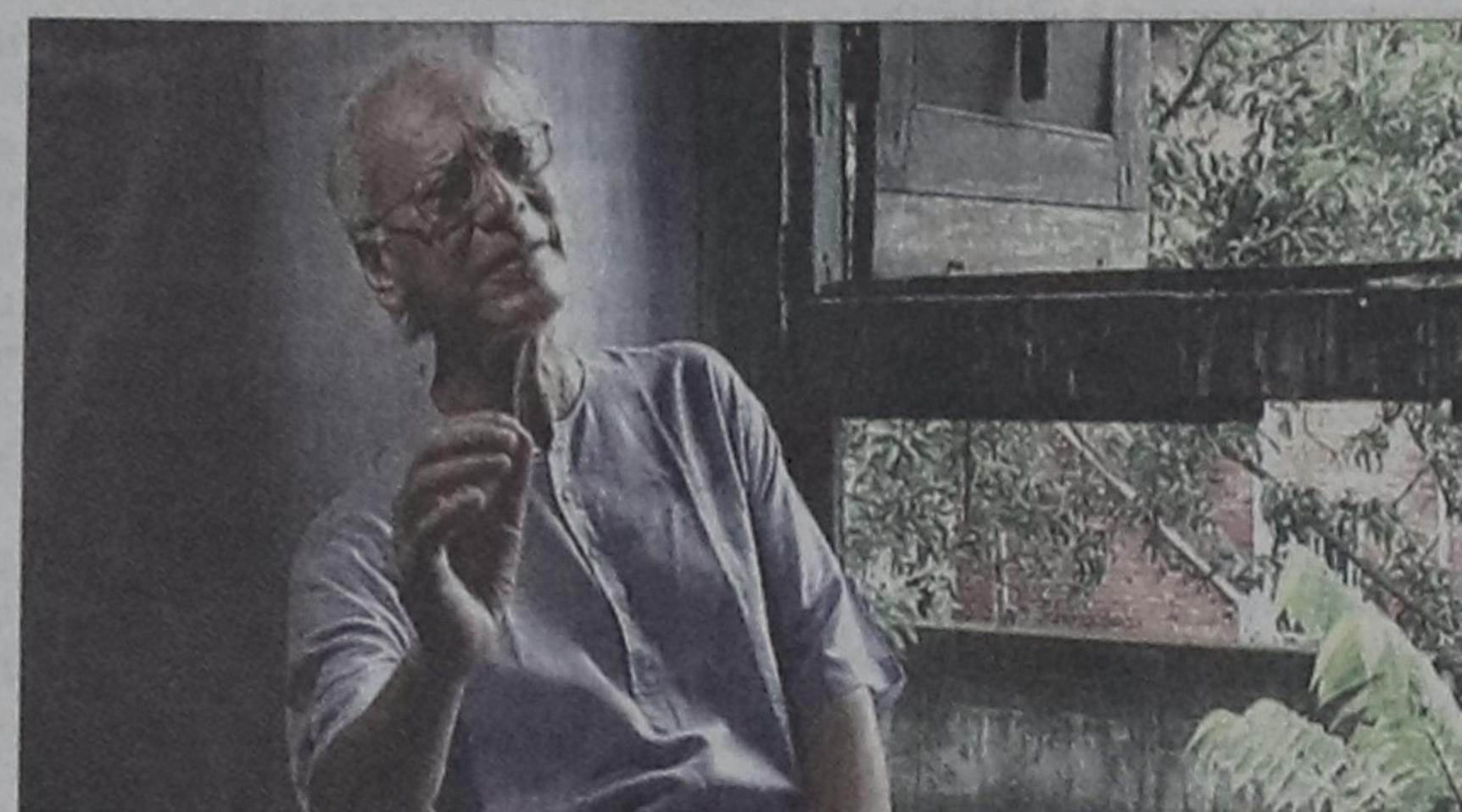
The premier was held at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library. Many eminent personalities attended the programme.

Shabnam Ferdousi has directed the film while Meghna Guhathakurta and Shripa Bose have jointly produced it. Throughout the approximately hour-long documentary, Professor Rahman explains different aspects and ideas that are related to Rabindra Sangeet. The film, shot at different locations, takes the audience from Professor Rahman's living room to Tagore's Kuthibari in Shilaidaha.

Professor Rahman has written several books on Rabindra Sangeet as well as on economics. One of his books, titled "Songs of Tagore," contains English translations of 65 Tagore songs and an elaborate discussion on the genre. Professor Rahman received the biennial "Rabindra Award" given by Rabindra Parishad of Patna in 2004.

At an open discussion held after the screening, Professor Rahman's admirers shared their views on the documentary as well as Rabindra Sangeet.

"I would like to describe the documentary as an essay on film. The imagery with Anisur Rahman's rendition is remarkable," said Syed Shamsul Haque.



Throughout the documentary, Professor Rahman explains different aspects and ideas that are related to Rabindra Sangeet.



Director Shabnam Ferdousi (right) with the rest of the crew.

In his speech, educationist Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir said, "I'd like to thank the director and producers for their effort in presenting the introvert Anisur Rahman through this work."

Among others, human rights activist Sultana Kamal, Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, film teacher and auteur Manzare Hasin Murad and Shamim Akhtar spoke at the programme.

BRAC University makes Bangladesh proud at SAUFEST '09



Nazia Ahmed (extreme L) of BRAC University won the 'Best Vocalist of the Festival' award.

M. SANJEEB HOSSAIN

The 4th South Asian Universities Youth Festival, popularly known as SAUFEST, was hosted by Panjab University in Chandigarh, India. A total of 29 teams representing universities from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka took part in this prestigious cultural event involving the whole South Asian region. BRAC University represented Bangladesh at SAUFEST 2009 and made our country proud by winning the most coveted prize for 'Best Team of the Festival.' To widen the Bangladeshi smile even further, Nazia Ahmed of the BRAC University team won the 'Best Vocalist of the Festival' award!

The 14-member BRAC University team arrived at Panjab University campus on February 11, 2009. The events began the day after and Shabnam Mostafa, an architect to be, of the BRAC team staged a sensational classical dance performance to Nelly Furtado's "Powerless." The fact that the lyric of the song has some Punjabi words thrown in was a way of celebrating the merging of cultures.

Apart from Nazia Ahmed's unforgettable renditions of ever-familiar Bangla folk songs "Har kala," "Shonar moina pakhi" and "Nao chhariya dey," Adrita Anwar and S.M. Miftahuzzaman sang a lovely duet, Tagore's "Bela jey jaye." Adrita sang another Rabindra Sangeet "Bhalobashi bhalobashi." Miftahuzzaman presented a solo performance of a song written by one of the BRAC



in South Asia." Sanjeeb's utopian aspiration of seeing a united South Asia through the enlightened young was well received, along with Fahim's extempore cynicism of relying on the youth alone.

Tamanna Zaman Khondoker, another dancer of the BRAC team, performed with "Dokhina," a Santali song. Tamanna teamed up with the other Bangladeshi dancer, Shabnam, and performed with "Takdum takdum baajey Bangladesher dhol." The performance garnered rounds of applause and cheers.

The mime piece by Syed Parvez Imran and Md. Mehedi Hasan Tushar was also a hit with the audience. The symbolic storyline, brainchild of the BRAC University team leader Dr. Tureen Afroz, brought to light a key issue: how the bigger South Asian countries impose their policies and visions on their smaller neighbours. The skit showed that no matter how powerful a country might be, bad times often arrive unexpectedly, and it is the neighbour -- big or small -- that comes forward with a helping hand.

Md. Amjad Hossain Siddique offered his instrumental expertise with many of the performances of the BRAC team members.

All in all, SAUFEST 2009 was an uplifting experience for the participating young men and women from Bangladesh. The BRAC teams raised the Bangladeshi flag to greater heights at the event. Here's hoping more such achievements by Bangladeshi youth are on the horizon.

The writer is a student of BRAC University



team members. Another BRAC member, Ahmed Bin Parvez sang "Shorbonasha Padma nodi." Singers formed the majority of the BRAC team and it was completed by Salman Raihan Khan, who set the stage on fire with a charged performance of Ayub Bachchu's "Shei tumi." The young Bangladeshi singers rounded up with a chorus of "Puro digonoye shurjo uthhechhey." The forcefulness of the vocals reverberated in the air.

The BRAC team also took part in debate. BRAC students Fahim Mostafa and M. Sanjeeb Hossain parted ways and debated each other as well as debaters from other countries. The motion was, "Youth is the most potent force to establish peace

Tagore's Krishi Bank dossiers found in Naogaon

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, back from Naogaon

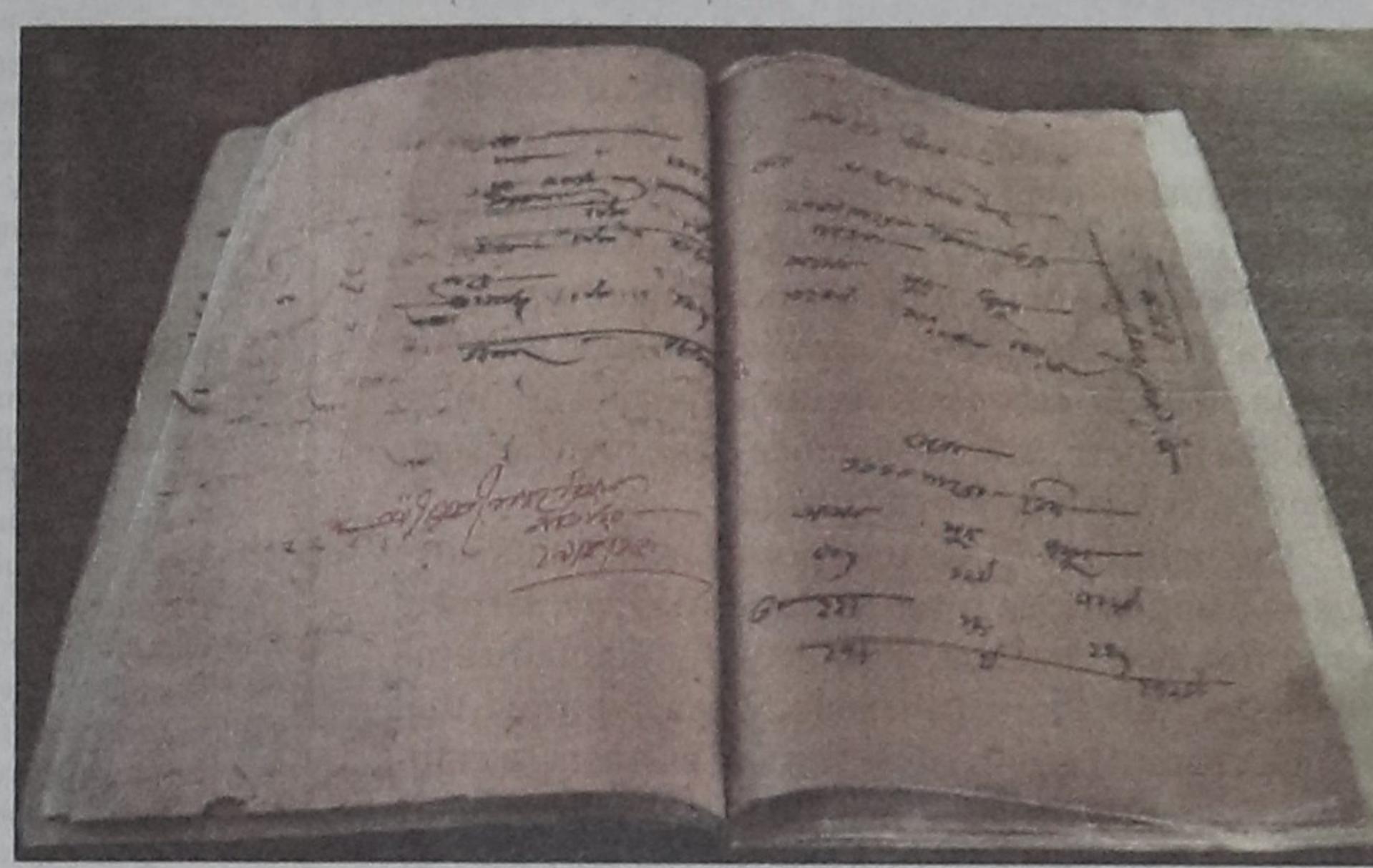
Rare account statements of Krishi Bank in Patisar and zamindari statement of accounts of Shilaiddaha Estate overseen by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore have been recently recovered from Bilkrishnapur village, under Raninagar Upazila of Naogaon district.

Tagore enthusiast Matiur Rahman Mamun, of Patisar under Atrai Upazila of the district, recovered the documents from the possession of a college teacher, Abdul Hamid, a few days ago.

The 95 year-old water print ledger was maintained by Ahmed Ali Shah, an employee of Shilaiddaha Estate in Kushtia district, to collate accounts of the estate along with the Tagore related statements of Krishi Bank. Tagore founded the Krishi Bank at Patisar with his Nobel Prize money for the development of agriculture through state-of-the-art equipments, like power tillers for instance, in the area.

Matiur Rahman Mamun has been collecting Tagore memorabilia since 2003 on his own initiative and with his own funds. He handed over a rare letter written by Tagore on February 14 to the Department of Archaeology through local lawmaker Israfil Alam.

Naheed Sultana, custo-



The dossier is old and rare and needs further research to be deciphered.

PHOTO: STAR



Matiur Rahman Mamun (L) has been collecting Tagore memorabilia since 2003.

dian, Rabindra Memorial Museum at Shahjadpur Upazila in Sirajgonj district, confirmed that the statement is old and rare and the water print document needs

further research to be deciphered. It shows a boy with a bow and arrow mounted on a lion.

According to the document, the transactions had

been maintained for at least 25 years as per Bengali calendar from the year 1320 to 1345. The ledger was handwritten and verified by Raboti Kanto Bhowmik.

Tomar Dowa-e Bhalo Achhi

Ma on ATN Bangla

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ATN Bangla will air the 31st episode of drama serial "Tomar Dowa-e Bhalo Achhi Ma" tonight at 9:20 pm. Kazi Shahidul Islam has written the scripts of the serial directed by Mahfuz Ahmed.

With unemployment on the rise, a large number of young Bangladeshi men seek employment abroad every year. But the life and jobs abroad mostly crush their dreams. The serial highlights the life of migrant Bangladeshi workers. Featuring the everyday woes and discrimination Bangladeshi workers face abroad, the serial moves forward.

Ferdousi Majumdar, Mosharraf Karim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Majnum Mizan, Hasan Masud, Intikhab Denar and Shams Shumon play lead roles in the serial.



The serial highlights the everyday woes and discrimination Bangladeshi workers face abroad.

Mattu O Bondhura on Channel i



"Mattu O Bondhura," aired on Channel i, is an entertainment-educational programme for children.

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is jointly produced by Machhranga Productions and Impress Telefilm Ltd.

Through stories and songs relayed by a character named Mattu and his friends Jhumu, Mitu, Tinu and Porag -- at a garden, in 'Tepantor-er Math' and 'Swapnoghar' -- children get lessons in different issues that address their psychological development.

"Mattu O Bondhura" is aired every Thursday on Channel i.