

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Alluvial Soul & Soil
Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
Venue: Garden Gallery, H 23, Rd 4, Baridhara
Date: April 17-19
Time: 4pm-8pm



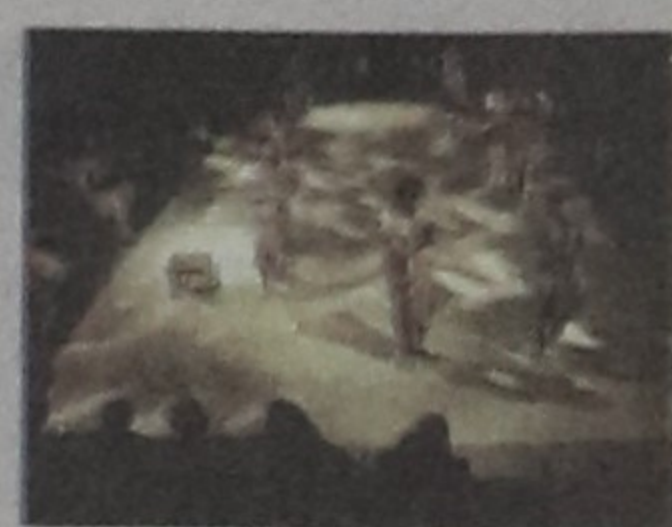
Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Searching
Artist: Nusrat Jahan Nazlee
Venue: Radius Centre-Bay's Galleria, 5th Floor, 57, Gulshan Avenue
Date: April 17-May 1



International Poetry Festival
20th anniversary of Bishwa Kabita Parishad
Organiser: Bishwa Kabita Parishad
Venue: National Museum, Shahbag
Date: April 19
Time: From 10am onwards



Theatre
Play: Half Akhrai
Troupe: Udichi
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: April 18
Time: 7pm



Eye on the motherland

'Documenting Bangladesh 3' begins

NADIA SARWAT

Documentaries effectively protest the injustices and social anomalies, thus possessing a powerful role to assess the development of a country. Celebrating this power to generate public awareness, a four-day documentary film festival began in the city on April 16.

Titled "Documenting Bangladesh 3," the festival features films that see Bangladesh from different perspectives. The festival has been organised by Bangladesh Documentary Council. A total of 40 documentary films are being screened at the festival being held at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium and Seminar Hall of Central Public Library. This is the third film festival organised by the council. Manusher Jonnyo Foundation and Oxfam GB are sponsors of the event. Step Towards Development, Aktel, Standard Bank Ltd., Singer Bangladesh LTD., United Airways and Mustak Ahmed have also sponsored the festival.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, one of the initiators of Bangladesh Chalachitra Shangshad movement, inaugurated the festival. Filmmaker Manzare Hasin Murad, adviser, Bangladesh Documentary Council; Fauzia Khan, president of the council and Farhana Hafiz, programme officer of Oxfam GB were also present at the inauguration. Anwar Chowdhury, festival director and general secretary of Bangladesh Documentary Council, presented the welcome speech.

In his inaugural speech Kabir Chowdhury noted, "Among the different genres of films, documentary holds a special place. Its significance is recognised worldwide. In a country where people often indulge into forgetting history, documentaries can play an important role in generating



National Professor Kabir Chowdhury (centre) inaugurates the festival. Maksudul Bari (left), representative of Oxfam GB Farhana Hafiz, Manzare Hasin Murad and Fauzia Khan are also seen in the photo.

awareness in our past."

"While the authenticity of information provided in a documentary is of utmost importance, the filmmaker's responsibility is to present that in an artistic way," he added.

Noted cinematographer Maksudul Bari was given a lifetime achievement award at the event by the council. Manzare Hasin Murad spoke on the awardee. A leading cinematographer of the country, Bari, has worked in acclaimed films like "Agami," "Aandhar," "Amader Chhele" and more. Bari continues to work behind the camera with absolute sincerity and commitment. Always eager to work with the talented upcoming directors, Bari dedicated his award to the young who are involved in

filmmaking.

Films are being screened at the festival in three categories -- general screening, competition for filmmakers, and competition for film students. The third category has been introduced this year to inspire young filmmakers who are studying the medium at universities or film institutes. Best films from these two competitions will receive the Bangladesh Documentary Award 2009 at the closing ceremony. Manzare Hasin Murad, Mainul Huda, Khurshid Anam, Mafidul Haque, Maksudul Bari, Nargis Jahan Banu, Shabnam Ferdousi and Shamim Reza are in the jury board overseeing the selection and competition.

"Frozen Tears," a 16-minute documentary on the Mirpur Jalladkhana

genocide by Polash, Tanvir, Laki, Meherun and Faiz; "Urai Moner Ghuri" by Lutfun Nahar Moushumi and "Rupantor Rupkotha" by Tasmiah Afrin Mou were selected from the three categories to be screened at the inaugural programme.

On the second day (yesterday) of the festival, premiere of a documentary on veteran activist Hena Das, titled "Abhijatri," was held. Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury was present as the chief guest at the event, while eminent litterateur Professor Hasan Azizul Haque was the special guest.

Besides screening films, seminars and round tables are also parts of the festival. "Documenting Bangladesh 3" ends on April 19.

Solo performance by Iffat Ara Dewan at Bengal Shilpalay

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To mark the Bengali New Year, Bengal Foundation organised a solo musical performance by artiste Iffat Ara Dewan on April 16 at Bengal Shilpalay. At the event, the artiste entertained the audience with Rabindra Sangeet and songs of yesteryears.

Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of Bengal Foundation greeted the artiste with flowers. Dewan started her performance with "Jodi kichhu amarey shudhao" -- received with rounds of applause. A rendition of "Chand tumi eto alo" was next.

Throughout the evening the artist performed 20 songs, including "Modhur roopey biraj," "Sharadin tomaye bhebey," "Jetha ramdhonu othey heshey," "Bhuley thakar kotha chhilo" and "Ei shundor



At the event, Dewan entertained the audience with Rabindra Sangeet and songs of yesteryears.

swarnali shondhyaye."

Daulatur Rahman, Almas Ali, Benjamin Sarker, Mrityunjay Majumdar and Dipan accompanied the artiste on keyboard, violin, 'tabla' and guitar respectively. Iffat Ara Dewan is a

renowned Tagore artiste who pursues music as a passion. 'Adhunik' songs, in particular songs of yesteryears, also suit her style. Dewan is also a talented painter and has had eight solo painting exhibitions so far.

Chapainawabganj celebrates 10th anniversary of Ekushey TV

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Ekushey Television celebrated its tenth anniversary in Chapainawabganj on April 15. Local journalists arranged a programme, which included a rally, discussion and a cultural programme.

Abdul Odud, law maker of Chapainawabganj 'Sadar, inaugurated the programme. Among others, Kanak Ranjan, assistant professor, Shah Neyamatullah College; Mahtabuddin, former deputy secretary and social worker; Mohit Kumar, cultural activist and journalist Mohammad Abdullah

spoke at the programme.

On the occasion, a rally was brought out from Chapainawabganj Press Club that paraded the main streets of the town. Later, a discussion was held at the Club Super Market premises, chaired by Aminul Islam.

Speakers at the meeting stressed on the need for broadcasting accurate information on different television channels for the greater interest of the nation.

Artistes of Ektara Shilpi Gosthi performed at a cultural programme that wrapped up the anniversary celebration.

"Jogphol" on Banglavisión ends tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The last episode of the drama serial "Jogphol" will be aired tonight on Banglavisión at 8:20pm.

The plot: A professor of a private university plans to go to Bangkok with his colleague and some of their favourite students. Mysterious incidents start to unravel as the group lands in Bangkok. Even at the hotel, the tourists experience some eerie presence. The group is attacked by a faceless entity. Feeling helpless, the group approaches a Bengali law



A scene from "Jogphol"

enforcement officer in Bangkok.

Abul Hayat, Srabonti, Anisur Rahman Milon, Fazlur Rahman Babu, and Humaira

Himu play the central roles in the serial.

"Jogphol" is written and directed by TV actor Tazin Ahmed.



Dr. William C. Engels, principal, Prime Campus hands over a prize to a winner of an art competition for children on April 12 at the campus premises. Special guests at the programme -- Dr. Iqbal Anwar, CEO, Prime Bank Foundation and Ferdousi Sultana, senior vice president, Prime Bank Limited -- are also seen in the photo. Sheikh Sardar Shahid Hossain, director and principal of Paddo Art School, Uttara was the main judge of the competition.

Mani Ratnam hospitalised

Multilingual filmmaker Mani Ratnam was admitted to a private hospital Wednesday following "breathing difficulty and dizziness", a family source said.

"He had a few minutes of breathing difficulty and dizziness. There is no need for any panic as the director is healthy and likely to be discharged after routine check-up and a day's rest. He may resume work shortly," the source said.

With a history of cardiac problems since the making of multilingual film "Yuva" (2003), Ratnam is resting in Apollo Hospital, the source added.

The 52-year-old is currently working on "Raavan" starring National Award winner Vikram, Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai, publicists said in a press statement. Having introduced Oscar winner A.R. Rahman to the industry through the critically acclaimed commercial success 1992 hit "Roja", the multilingual filmmaker has so far made 19 films. These include "Mouna Raagam", "Nayagan", "Anjali", "Iruvar", "Kannathil Muthamittal", "Yuva", "Roja" "Bombay" and "Dil Se".

Source: Internet

Pahela Baishakh celebration at Chittagong University after eight years

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Chittagong

The last cultural programme on the sprawling, lush green campus of Chittagong University (CU) took place nearly eight years ago in June 2001.

Since then cultural practices on campus went into a complete hibernation, as fundamentalist forces took over.

It was a welcome change this year as 'Pahela Baishakh' was celebrated with much gusto on CU campus. Many recalled past glories and a campus bustling with cultural activism they once boasted of on the occasion.

Since early morning on 'Pahela Baishakh' (April 14) the campus buzzed with the presence of thousands, breaking the eight-year stint of cultural barrenness. The past situation forced the students to celebrate events like 'Pahela Baishakh' at different venues in



Highlights of the celebration were 'lathi khela,' bullfight, snake charmers and more.

Chittagong city since there was an 'unannounced ban' on cultural activities on CU campus.

A three-day celebration began on the campus last Sunday with a colourful procession featuring elephants, horse and carriage, and masks. The procession started from Bottoli Railway

Station in the city and ended in front of Chittagong Press Club.

The following day's events included a 'kabadi' match and exhibitions of handicrafts and clothes on the university campus.

On Tuesday, 'Pahela Baishakh' was welcomed with the song that has

become the unofficial 'Baishakhi anthem' -- "Eso hey Baishakh, esho esho." The programme was held at the CU Shaheed Minar premises.

Highlights of the day were 'lathi khela,' bullfight, wrestling ('boli khela'), puppet show, 'nagordola,' snake charmers, kite-flying contest

and 'pitha' festival.

Later in the evening renowned folk singer Farida Parveen enthralled the audience with her immaculate performance.

Pulak Bhattacharya, an MBA student, said it was a remarkable experience for him as he had never witnessed a major cultural programme on campus since he enrolled in the university back in 2002.

Like Pulak, Shahida, Farzana, Faisal and other students of different departments shared the same reaction, thanking the authorities for organising the festival.

CU Vice Chancellor Professor Abu Yusuf, in his speech said, "Pahela Baishakh is a celebration for all, irrespective of religion, background and age."

"It inspires all to leave behind the fatigue and disappointments of the year gone by and look forward to a new year with hopes and dreams," he added.

