

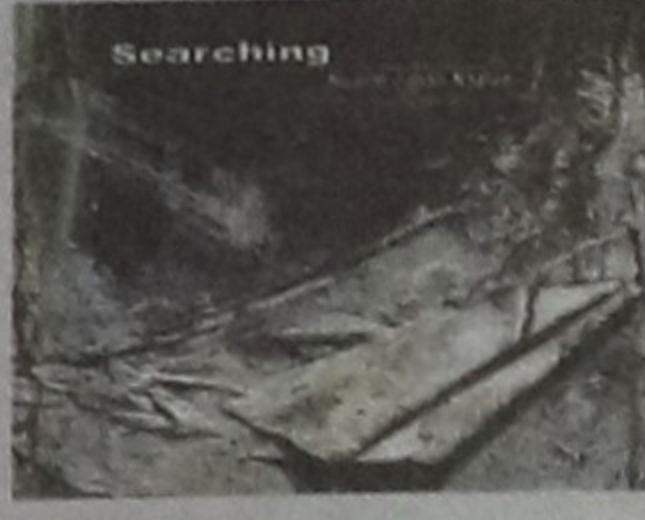
WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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



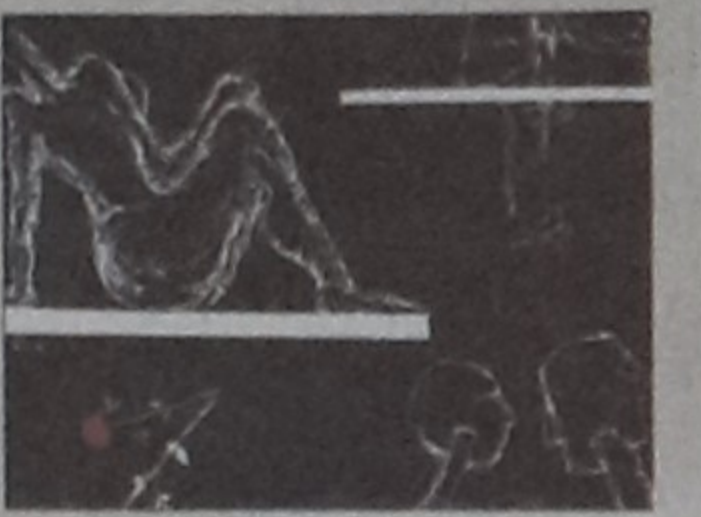
International Poetry Festival

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



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Lyrical Lines
 Artist: Rashed Kamal Russell
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: April 17-30
 Time: 9 am- 12 pm and 5 pm- 8 pm



Tazin Ahmed: A multi-tasking persona



SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

Versatility could very well be Tazin Ahmed's middle name. She is a multi-tasking celebrity who has made her mark in many fields -- ranging from performances in the theatre and small screen, as a journalist, playwright, TV anchor and director.

Tazin grew up in a cultural environment with a strong belief that hard work and dedication would enable her to create a niche for herself, which she successfully did with her down to earth attitude and exceptional acting chops.

Tazin completed her HSC in 1992 and in 1994 joined the daily Bhorer Kagoj. In 1997 she took up a job with Prothom Alo and became a staff reporter in 1998. She was also a columnist for Anondo Bhubon and a freelance contributor to Bangla Bazar. In 2002, she joined Mercantile Bank as a public relations officer. One year later she took up the mantle of programme executive with ntv. She staged her entry on the small screen in 1996. Alongside she became associated with theatre troupe Natyjon. In 2000 she joined Aronyak and is still a member of the troupe.

Eventually the load got to her and in 2004 she decided to focus on acting and writing. To date Tazin has scripted around 12 plays and directed a few as well. Commenting on her role as director she says, "Directing a few plays does not make one a professional and I'm not comfortable when termed as one."

Talking about her current work, Tazin says, "I'm starring in a daily soap called 'The Family' which will be on air soon. The story is about an extended family. Another 26-episode serial titled "O Bondhu Amar," directed by Hiru Khan and written by Imdadul Haque Milon, will be aired soon."

On her future plans, she says, "It's very hard to plan when you are a media professional. You are bound to be frustrated if things don't go according to plan. I feel that the TV channels and the media should change their perspective. Instead of going in for the narrow circle of sponsors, the channels should concentrate on quality. Only then will we have good writers, actors, directors and anchors."

Whether it is writing, acting or anchoring, the vivacious Tazin knows to give it her best shot each time. No wonder she has a firm position in the hearts of her fans.

Cultural activists in Saidpur stand tall after devastation



PHOTO: STAR

To recuperate, the group has designed calendars that are being offered to all (from Pahela Baishakh onwards) in exchange of contributions.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The cultural activists of Swatirtha Shahitya Shangskritik Shangathan, a leading literary and cultural organisation of Saidpur, are trying to get back on their feet after a fundamentalist group set their office ablaze in the dead of night. The incident occurred a few months ago and the apparent motivation for the deadly deed was the organisation's vocal opposition to this group.

To recuperate, the group has used its own funds to design and print calendars. Members of the organisation have been going door to door from Pahela Baishakh onwards to offer people with the calendars. In return Swatirtha has been gifted with old books, musical instruments, props and even monetary help.

Swatirtha was founded in 2000 when a group of young college and school students took a pledge to dedicate themselves to bring about

social change. The then general secretary of Saidpur Press Club, M.R. Alam Jhantu, donated books worth Tk 20,000 to Swatirtha. Likewise, the then Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Saidpur, Selina Shahadat, also donated books and provided logistic support to the fledgling organisation.

Within a short span Swatirtha had won many accolades. Among the distinguished visitors to the organisation's office were Rezanur Rahman, the editor of fortnightly entertainment magazine Anando Alo and Kurratun Aine Tahmina, news editor of the daily Prothom Alo.

The recent fire has destroyed the office, the library (with 7,000 books) cultural practice room, along with musical instruments, items used in set designing, sound system and other property.

A case was filed with Saidpur Police Station to take actions against the miscreants.

In the meanwhile, the public of Saidpur are happy to pitch in to revive Swatirtha.

Keeping alive the legacy of Kungal Harinath

AMANUR AMAN, Kushia

To mark the 113th death anniversary of Kungal Harinath, the pioneer of rural journalism, a discussion was held at Kumarkhali Press Club in Kumarkhali town last Thursday evening.

Kungal Harinath Smriti Trust, an organisation dedicated to the preservation of Harinath's legacy, arranged the programme.

Journalist Sohel Habib, member-secretary of Kungal Harinath Smriti Trust, was in the chair. Kumarkhali upazila Awami League general secretary and cultural personality, Abdul Mannan Khan, was chief guest. Among the speakers were president of Kumarkhali Press Club, Bablu Joardar; chairman of Progressive Thinkers Association in Kumarkhali, K.M.R. Shahin and general secretary of Kumarkhali Press Club, Lipu Khonkodar.

The speakers called for the nation to acknowledge the stellar contribution of Kungal Harinath. They termed Harinath as a pioneer of journalism in this region in undivided India. The speakers urged the government to take initiatives to preserve the memory of this erudite personality.

Kungal Harinath (1833-1896) was one of the few committed individuals who through his writings relentlessly sought to alleviate the misery of the people by rescuing them from the clutches of the Zamindars.

Harinath first published a newspaper called Sangbad Probhakar in 1854. Later he began publishing Grambartha Prokashika in 1860, which set out as a monthly and finally emerged as a leading weekly magazine.

Harinath wore many hats -- besides being a social reformer, he was a literary figure, a journalist, a teacher as well as a composer of folk songs.



PHOTO: STAR

Kungal Harinath Smriti Trust arranged the programme.

According to sources, the local administration has initiated the construction of a memorial complex at Kungal Kutir, the residence of Harinath in Kumarkhali, Kushia. The historic landmark, Mathuranath Press, from where Harinath published Grambartha Prokashika, and his contributions will also be preserved. The Ministry of Culture too has sanctioned Tk 12 lakh to keep alive Harinath's memory.



PHOTO: BANGLARCHOX.COM

On the sixth day of International French Theatre Festival, Fame School of Theatre from Chittagong staged the play "The Madwoman of Chaillot." Written by Jean Giraudoux, the play was translated by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and directed by Ashim Das. Organised jointly by Alliance Francaise, Natukey Theatre Group and Fame School of Dance, Drama and Music, the festival ends today.

Drama serial Bhangan on Desh TV



Chandni and Azad Abul Kalam in "Bhangan"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Bhangan" will be aired tonight on Desh TV at 9:30pm. Written by Touhin Hasan and directed by Parvez Amin, the serial is aired on every Sunday and Monday.

At the centre of the serial is an octogenarian man, Rahman. Once a government officer, he has been in bed for twenty years because of paralysis. All his savings went to building a house and he is now cared for by his sons. Mobin is the eldest, who is now the decision-maker of the family. A middle-aged man with a strong personality, Mobin has no child. Shafiq is the second son, who has gone missing

since his wife Nira, married his younger brother, Rafiq. Rafiq and Nira left the country consequently, leaving Topu and Tithi -- Nira's children with her former husband. Mobin looks after Topu and Tithi as his own children. Asgar, the youngest son of the family is a workaholic, which causes issues in his conjugal life. Romana is the only daughter of Rahman, who is married to a well of family. Romana often visits the family and likes to lecture her brothers on taking care of their father.

The cast includes Afroza Banu, Azad Abul Kalam, Chandni, Hillol, Tinni, Shojol, Elora Gauhar, Shamsul Alam Bakul and others.

New drama serial Bhuter Gali on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

New drama serial "Bhuter Gali" goes on air tonight on ATN Bangla. Written by Hafiz Redu and directed by Taher Shipon, the first episode of the serial will be aired at 8:40pm.

The serial presents the story of six men, coming from different districts and sharing a flat in the city. They are nothing alike, yet there is a similarity. They are all scared of ghosts. Their landlord lives upstairs with his wife and two daughters. One day a man named Rafique comes to live with the six tenants. It helps the panicked men to deal with



A scene from the play

their fright. But it seems, not everyone is happy that they are not frightened anymore.

Anisur Rahman Milon,

Intekhab Dinar, Bijori Barkatullah, Rahmat Ali and Wahida Mallik Jolly play the central roles.



Wrishiz honoured Kalyani Ghosh and Malay Kumar Ganguli, artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, at the Bengali New Year celebration programme by the organisation. Hemayet Uddin Bir Bikram (third from left), chief guest of the event, is seen presenting a crest to Malay Kumar Ganguli. Kalyani Ghosh and Wrishiz president Fakir Alamgir are also seen in the photograph.