

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Rabindra Theatre Festival
Organiser: Pranganey Mor
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: May 1-8
May 6 at 6pm
Play: Khudita Pashan
Troupe: Subachan Natya Shangsad



Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Utshab
Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Sangstha
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library
Date: May 5-9
Inauguration at 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Urban Delight
Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: May 7-20
Time: 12-8 pm



Clay Art Exhibition
Title: Clay Art by Harappa
Organiser: Harappa
Venue: Drik Gallery, H58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: May 2-8
Time: 3-8pm

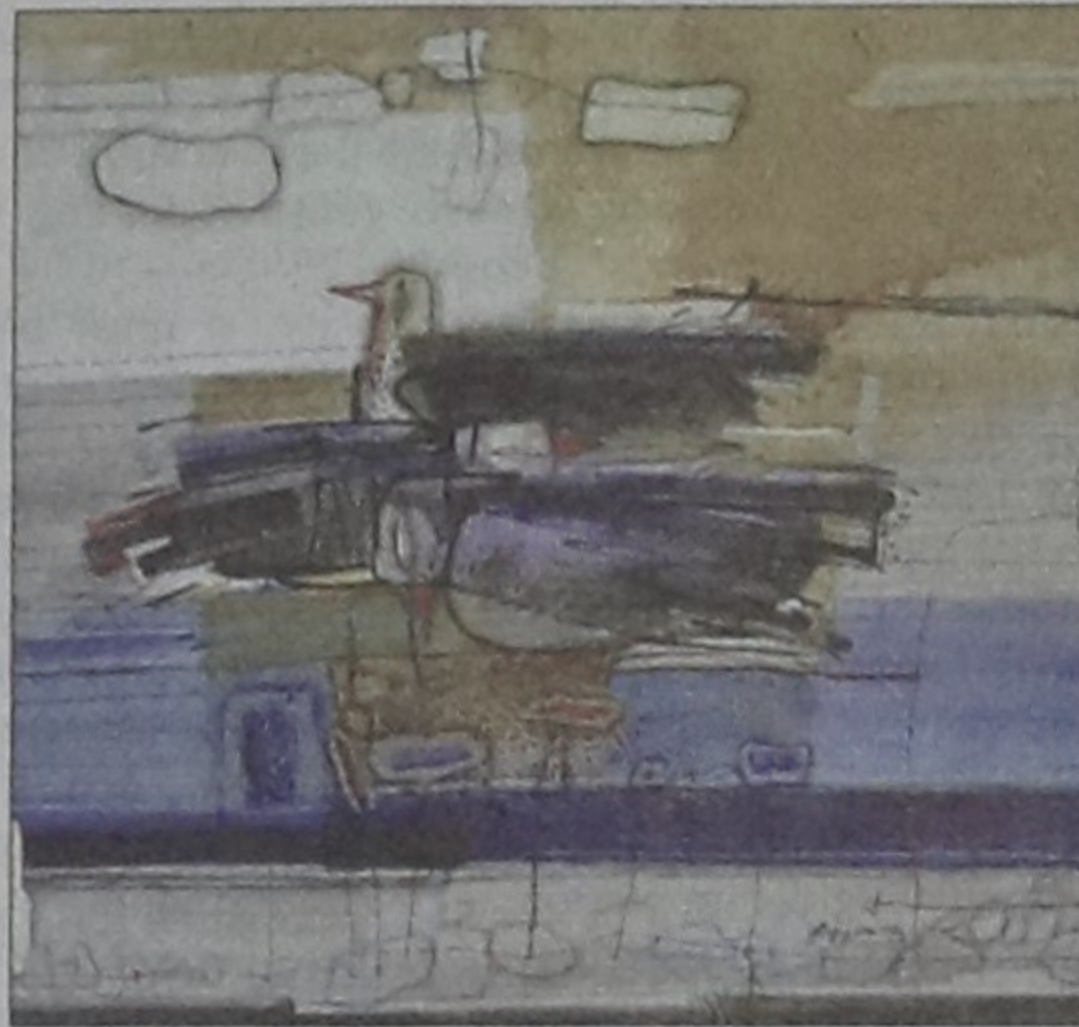


Exhibition of Bangladeshi painters in South Korea

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Embassy in South Korea and Korean Foundation are jointly organising an exhibition of eleven Bangladeshi painters at the Korea Foundation Cultural Centre. The exhibition will display around 100 paintings by eleven renowned Bangladeshi artists.

The participating painters are Mohammad Kibria, Rafiqun Nabi, Mahmudul Haque, Kalidas Karmakar, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Monsurul Karim, Ranjit das, Mohammad Eunus, Rokeya Sultana and Kanak Champa Chakma. The exhibition aims to introduce the best of contemporary Bangladeshi art to the Korean enthusiasts. The exhibition



Works by
Ranjit Das
(left) and
Rafiqun Nabi.

will feature pure abstract, semi-realistic, semi-abstract and folk-themed paintings. All participating artists have had solo and group exhibitions in the country and abroad.

This will be one of the biggest exhibitions of Bangladeshi art in Seoul. Korean painters and art connoisseurs have expressed keenness on Bangladeshi art and culture,

indicated by their frequent participation in the Asian Biennale held in Dhaka. The exhibition will be inaugurated on May 8 and will continue till May 16.

Raaga and Saaz in New York

MAHFUZUR RAHMAN, New York

It was a warm spring Saturday morning, on April 25, 2009, in New York. And the auditorium of Public School 69 in Jackson Heights was coming to life with the first notes of raaga *Bilashkhani Todi*. There was an air of anticipation, perhaps tinged with a certain amount of apprehension, among the audience.

This was to be a five-hour non-stop rendition of North Indian classical music, and the singer had a nagging medical problem with his voice. The singer was, however, as confident as ever, and soon his voice soared through the hall at full-throated ease.

The singer was Dada Tapan Kanti Baidya, one of the foremost exponents of North Indian classical music in North America. The time was 11:08am when he began with a one-hour and forty minute rendition of *Bilashkhani Todi*, a morning raaga, belonging to *Bhairabi thhat*. An enchanting "alaap" and "jod" that lasted some 40 minutes and ran the gamut of three octaves with complete ease, built the mood leading to a "bara khayal" -- *Ni Ke Ghungriya Thamakta Chal Chalaye* -- in "vilambit ek taal." All the bara khayals of the performance were in ek taal and all chhota khayals in tin taal. A scintillating chota khayal, *Balma More Chhor De Kalaiya*, followed.



Baidya (centre) performed without interruption for a full five hours at the auditorium of Public School 69 in Jackson Heights, New York on April 25.

There was then a smooth switch from *Bilashkhani Todi* to *Todi*, belonging to a different thaat. The bara khayal, *Daiya Bat Do Bara Bhayeeli*, was sung in raaga *Mian Ki Todi*. An exquisite chota khayal, *Ab Morey Naiya Paar Karo*, was performed in raaga "Gurjari Todi." An hour-long rendition of raaga *Bhimpalashree* was a transition from a morning to an evening raaga.

Serenity and pathos dominated the mood in the bara khayal, *Ab To Bari Der Bhayee*. This was followed by a chhota khayal, *Gorey Mukhoso Morey Man Bhabe*, beautifully done.

Almost four hours had passed when the maestro coolly switched to another evening raaga "Bageshree." Shorter than the preceding renditions, the bara khayal, *Kone Gata Bhayeeli*, was simply enchanting. A taraana, composed by Baidya, complemented the rendition. Fittingly, he ended the performance with a chota khayal in raaga "Bahar," *Kaise Nikase Chandni*, bringing out the full flavour of spring.

It was 4:25 in the afternoon when the rendition of raaga "Bahar" ended and Baidya had accomplished what he wanted: to sing without interruption for a full five hours, and go into the record books for the longest solo rendering of this genre of music. In a noble gesture, the artiste dedicated the performance to world peace.

We in the audience applauded and celebrated. The audience was, however, extremely thin. Many were invited, and the event was announced in the media. Few turned up. Apparently this was not what interests the Bengali community in New York. Yet Baidya sang along, as if to say: *Jodi tor daak shuney keu na ashey tobey ekla cholorey*. But those who turned up went home with a unique experience. Those five hours of exquisite classical music remained with me for many more hours after I had left the auditorium.

The order of the day was not over, however. The five hours of solo rendition was followed by another hour of classical music by Dada's pupils at Sadarang School of Music, which was then followed by a longer performance by many others of his students, in celebration of spring, with the maestro presiding over the entire event.

Mahfuzur Rahman is an economist and contributor to The Daily Star.

Sharmila Tagore joins Cannes film festival jury

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

After Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Nandita Das, veteran screen diva Sharmila Tagore is set to become a member of the jury for the prestigious Cannes Film Festival to be held from May 13 to 24 this year. Tagore will be part of the nine-member jury to be headed by French actress Isabelle Huppert. The jury also includes author Hanif Kureishi, Italian actress Asia Argento, Turkish director Nuri-Bilge Ceylan, American director James Gray, Hollywood actress Robin Wright Penn and South Korean filmmaker Lee Chang-Dong.

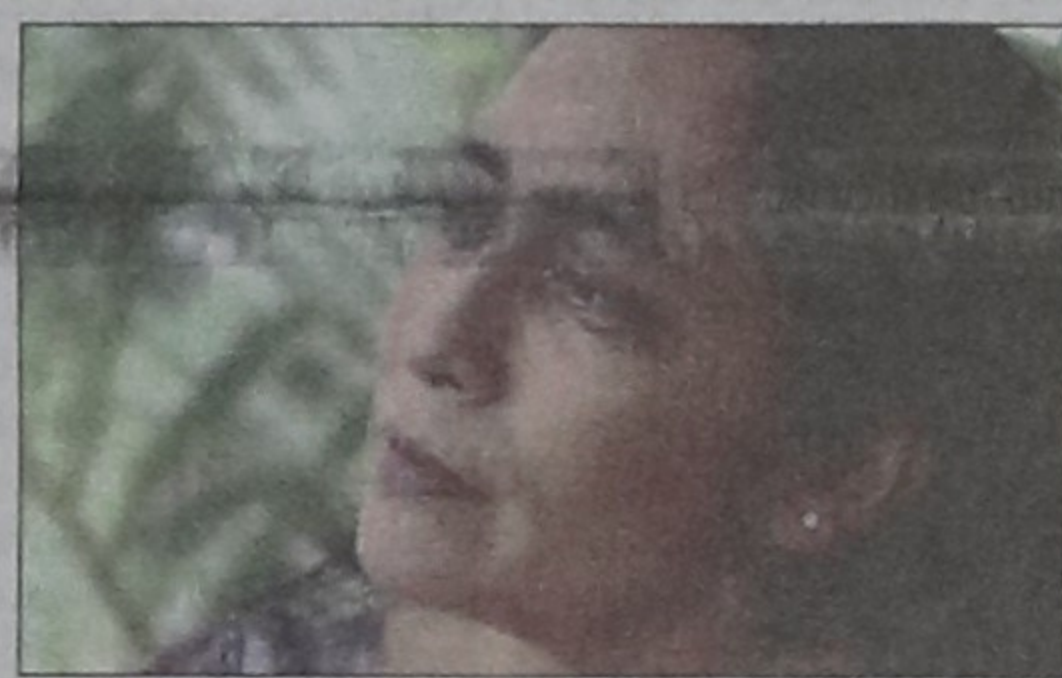
The first Indian to be a member of the jury at Cannes was internationally acclaimed director Mrinal Sen way back in 1982 and the first Indian actress to get the honour was Aishwarya Rai in 2003 while Das was its part two years ago.

Master director Satyajit Ray's "Devi" featuring Soumitra Chatterjee, Sharmila Tagore and Chhabi Biswas among others, was screened at the competition section of Cannes Festival in 1962. Ray's epoch-making movie "Pather Panchali" was also shown at the same venue in 1956.

Sharmila Tagore is currently the Chairperson of Indian Censor Board and acts in films from time to time.

Shadher Malati Genthechi

A musical offering by Luva Nahid Choudhury



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Shadher Malati Genthechi" -- Luva Nahid Choudhury's debut studio album -- is a musical offering featuring 12 songs of Dwijendralal Roy and Atul Prasad Sen rendered in the artiste's vivacious styling. Released some time ago, the formal launch of the album was held yesterday at the main auditorium of National Museum.

Professor Emirates Dr. Anisuzzaman and noted singer Iffat Ara Dewan unveiled the album at the event. A solo musical performance by Luva followed.

"I received my first music lesson in 1975 from the noted trainer, Acharya Mithun Dey of Mymensingh. I couldn't continue pursuing music as I became busy with my studies at the Engineering University (from 1980 to '86). I was introduced to songs of D.L. Roy and Atul Prasad by a friend's mother; she used

to hum these songs. The powerful lyrics had a deep impact on me. I collected some albums by Krishna Chattopadhyay and Santosh Sengupta, and started learning songs of Atul Prasad and D.L. Roy."

Luva also went through extensive training in classical music under Barkat Hossain. She has had two solo programmes organised by Bengal Foundation. Incidentally, this architect is also the director general of the renowned Bengal Foundation. She is also enlisted as a classical singer at Bangladesh Betar.

"Shadher Malati Genthechi" includes songs -- "Ami shara shokali," "Kronadoshi pathocharini," "Eka mor gaaner tari," "Ami boshey achhi tabo dwarey," "Amar ghum bhanganano chand," "Shudhu du'dineri khela" and more.

At yesterday's event, the artiste performed D.L. Roy and Atul Prasad songs from her album along with compositions of their contemporaries such as Kamal Dasgupta, Himangshu Dutt and the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Luva started with a devotional piece -- a 'Baitalik' (without any 'taal') "Ohey nirobo, esho nirobey" -- composed by Atul Prasad. Her repertoire also included a Nazrul Sangeet, "Gabhro raatey jhorano patar pothey," an Atul Prasad number "Bodhu neend nahi ankhi paatey," "Ami shara shokali" (from the album) and others. She ended with another 'Baitalik' song of D.L. Roy, "Shudhu du'dineri khela" (also from the album).

"Shadher Malati Genthechi" was released by LaserVision.

Talk show on public procurement on BTV



Discussants on the talk show.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A talk show on the issues of public procurement will be aired on Bangladesh Television today at 10:55am.

Today's programme will feature Secretary of IMED Md. Abdul Malek, director general of Central Procurement Technical Unit Amulya Kumar Debnath and former director general of CPTU A.K.M. Fazlul Karim. The guests will speak on the roles of IMED, CPTU and different aspects of public procurement, the Public Procurement Act and the Public Procurement Rules etc. Md. Shafiqul Alam will host the programme.

The 25-minute talk show will be aired once a month. Airing time of the programme would be changed from the next month so that the target audience including government officials and bidding community members can watch it at a more convenient time.

Happy Mother's Day




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