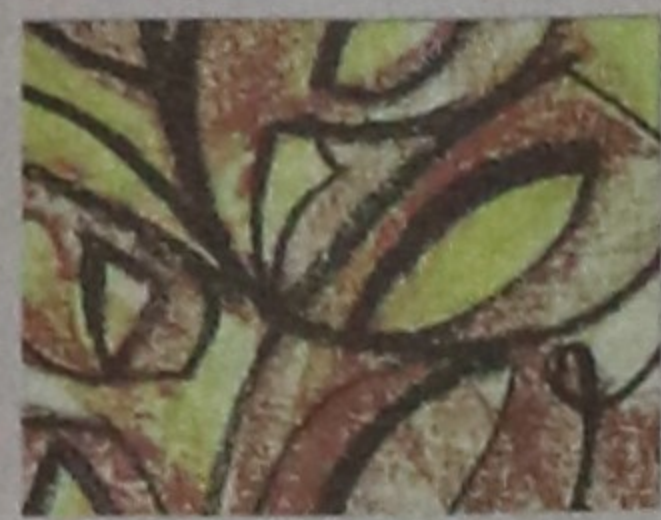


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Tagore Birth Anniversary Celebration

Organiser: Jatio Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parisad and Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi
Date and time: May 21 at 6:30pm



Films on Spanish Civil War

Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society & Goethe-Institut
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: May 17-21
Time: 3pm onwards



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Ochin Pakhi
Artist: Afroza Jamil
Venue: Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria (5th Floor), 57, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1
Date: May 15-31
Time: 11am-11pm (Fridays 3-11pm)



Photography Exhibition

Title: The Story of Tea Workers
Photographer: Philip Gain
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15/A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: May 10-19
Time: 3-8pm



Thirty years of melody

Shakila Zafar celebrates her musical career



The programme organised by 'Amra Shurjomukhi' celebrated 30 years of Shakila Zafar's musical career.

NADIA SARWAT

Shakila Zafar is the ever smiling, amicable artiste whose melodious voice has been entertaining the Bangladeshi audience for the last 30 years. In 1979, after winning a classical music competition by Bangladesh Betar, she started her journey in Bangladeshi music, and since then there has been no turning back. To celebrate the artiste's three decades in the Bangladeshi music industry,

cultural organisation 'Amra Shurjomukhi' held a solo musical programme on May 16 at the main auditorium of National Museum.

The event, open to all, drew a large audience, including several noted cultural personalities.

Shafiqul Islam Selim, coordination director of Amra Shurjomukhi, welcomed the audience at the event. The organisation has been holding regular musical programmes featuring noted and emerging artistes of the country.

Shakila Zafar, along with Tapan

Chowdhury, had performed at a programme by the organisation in 1993. The artiste received a warm welcome from the audience, which included seasoned poet-lyricist Shaidullah Farayazi; media personality Atiqul Haque Chowdhury; journalist Rahat Khan; theatre personality Dr. Enamul Haque and danseuse Shamim Ara Nipa. Noted media personality Syed Hasan Imam formally inaugurated the soiree. Shakila's present music teacher, Sanjib Dey also spoke at the event. Sanjib's father,

the late Mithun Dey, was Shakila's first mentor and teacher.

Expressing her deep gratitude, the artiste said, "Though I have devoted almost my entire life to music, I still feel I have so much to learn. I don't think I deserve such honour. Audience's appreciation and affections are my greatest reward."

Shakila started her performance with her music teacher Sanjib Dey. The duo presented a 'bandish' in raaga "Puria Dhaneshree," (usually performed in twilight hours). "I've always had a soft spot for classical music, which is the foundation of all genres. Though I started my career with this, I soon moved to other genres due to several reasons," she explained.

Shakila's next renditions highlighted the other genre close to her heart -- Nazrul Sangeet. "Bon-e choley banomali" and "Kholo, kholo, kholo go duwaar" -- both songs manifested the artiste's mastery over classical based tunes.

The latter part of the evening saw the artiste perform songs she is best known for. Shakila started her performance of 'adhunik' songs with "Jagi eka nijhum ratey" -- composed by eminent artiste Subir Nandi. Next was "Kije tumi chao," a song that popularised Shakila in her early days. The melodious romantic song was written by Mohammad Moniruzzaman and composed by Khandokar Nurul Alam.

Other 'adhunik' songs rendered by Shakila at the soiree included, "Karey bolbo ami moner kotha," "Bhulitey parina," and her breakthrough hit, "Tula rashir meye aar mithun rashir chhele."

Art workshop at Gallery Chittrak

A daylong art workshop was held last Friday at Gallery Chittrak, says a press release. Thirty-four painters of the country participated at the workshop. Creative Communication Ltd, Gallery Chittrak and UNWFP jointly organised the event.

The paintings from the workshop will be exhibited from June 5 to 9 at Gallery Chittrak. Proceeds generated from this event will go to

UNWFP's fund for children, followed by 'Poetry Reading' by eminent poets of Bangladesh on May 29 at the BRAC Inn auditorium.

Bilkis Mansoor, director, Creative Communication Ltd; artist Moniruzzaman, who is also the managing director of Gallery Chittrak and John Aylieff, country representative, UNWFP were present at the workshop.



Thirty-four painters participated at the workshop, jointly organised by Creative Communication Ltd, Gallery Chittrak and UNWFP.

Romana on Very Filmy tonight



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Very Filmy", a programme featuring popular actors is aired every Tuesday on Rtv. With Romana as tonight's guest, the programme will be anchored by Debashish Biswas and produced by Tanif Mahmood. In the first segment, clippings of various films featuring Romana will be shown. In the second part, the actress will respond to questions from her fans over the phone. The programme will be aired live at 11pm.

Short film The Flag screened in Rajshahi

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Theatre has come up with yet another unique production, "The Flag", a short film based on the Liberation War and war crimes. The second screening of the film was held at the Padma Ranga Mancha last Friday.

Ahsan Kabir Liton, a promising young playwright and member of Rajshahi Theatre, came up with the concept and directed the 34-minute thought provoking film. The film stands out for no use of dialogue. Background score has been done by Bappa Majumder.

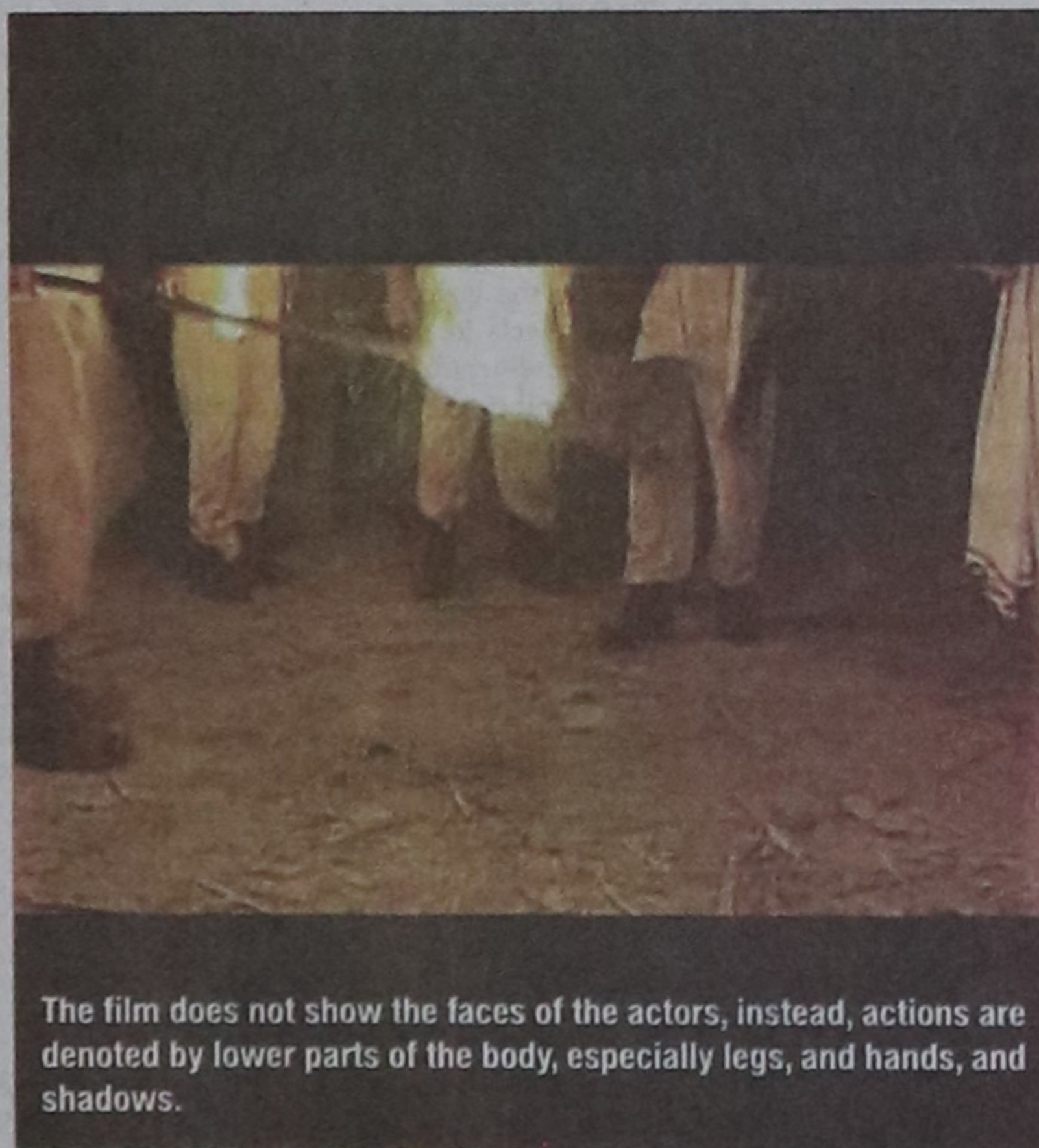
Another highlight is that the film does not show the faces of the actors. Actions are denoted by lower parts of the body, especially legs, and hands, and shadows.

A few years ago, Rajshahi Theatre drew much acclaim at home and in India for staging its play "Aronney" on a tree.

Eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque attended the film screening ceremony as the chief guest.

Renowned dramatist and teacher Malay Kumar Bhowmik and Dr. Syed Shafikul Alam, general secretary of Rajshahi Sammilito Sangkritik Jote, attended the event as special guests.

The speakers conveyed that the



The film does not show the faces of the actors, instead, actions are denoted by lower parts of the body, especially legs, and hands, and shadows.

viewers would have to deeply focus on the film to get a grasp, as it has no dialogue. The film addresses the necessity of understanding the issues

regarding war criminals and religious fanaticism, they added.

The premier of the film was held in Dhaka in January this year and had

filmmaker Morshedul Islam, theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff, documentary filmmaker Manzare Hasin Murad and secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Jhuna Chowdhury in the audience.

Prior to the second screening, some editing was done to the film. The film was shot at different locations in Rajshahi and features local actors.

The film zooms in on a fisherman and his little girl, going about their lives, at a village near the Padma river.

Pakistani military men, assisted by their local collaborators, break into the village after the fisherman shelters a wounded freedom fighter at his house. The freedom fighter teaches the fisherman's daughter the significance of the flag and what it represents. When the razakars (collaborators) try to burn the flag, the young girl takes it as an attack on the dignity of the motherland and runs away with it.

Rajshahi Theatre provided all sorts of assistance, including the actors, with a view to draw a greater audience, said Kamar Ullah Sarker, president of the group.

The cast includes Prokriti, Kamal, Sharif, Shahin, Dr. Jahid, Robin, Tuli, Khorshed, Bakul, Sony, Asif, Rajon, Baul, Shohag, Uttam, Hannan and many others. Mostafizur Rahman Tuhin is the cinematographer.

Talent hunt for reciters on Channel i ends

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Talent hunt for reciters, "Cute-Channel i Abritti Chhandey Anandey" had its finale recently. S.M. Mahiuddin Shamim (Dhaka), a student of Jahangirnagar University, won the title. Shamim received an amount of Tk 50,000 and a crest. Ummey Jamanna Kamal (Chittagong) and Zarin Tasneem (Barisal) came second and third respectively. The winners have been selected by the judges and the audience (SMS voting).

The first talent hunt on TV for reciters, "Abritti Chhandey Anandey" started on February 11 this year. Among the 2,500 contestants from all over Bangladesh, the best 30 were selected by the judges. Next, through different rounds, best six were selected for the finals,



S.M. Mahiuddin Shamim (centre), winner of the contest, with second place-holder Ummey Jamanna Kamal (right) and Zarin Tasneem, who came third.

held on May 14. Other finalists were Sharmin Mrittika, Bandopadhyay, Kazi Arif, Jannatul Naim and Muslim Jahan. The event was aired on May 15 on Channel i.

Shykh Seraj, director (news) of Channel i, was present with the four regular judges Bhashwar

Bandopadhyay, Kazi Arif, Pragna Laboni and Laila Afroz in the finals. Among the guest judges were Kamal Lohani, Asaduzzaman Noor, Pijush Bandopadhyay and Keya Chowdhury.

Devotees celebrate Kirtan festival in Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Thousands of devotees of Lord Krishna listened to 'bhajan' and 'kirtan' rendered by accomplished singers and accompanying musicians who gathered in Dinajpur from different parts of the country.

Dinajpur Barabandar Harisabha organised the weeklong programme recently at its complex. According to the organisers the festival is held every year.

To celebrate the festival, kirtan singers from different districts including Netrakona, Sylhet, Sirajganj, Khulna, Mymensingh and Barisal gathered in Dinajpur.



Kirtan singers from different districts performed at the event.

