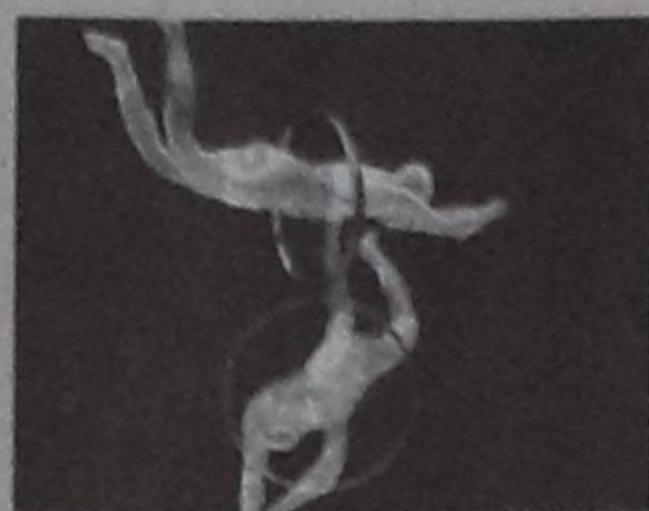


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Art Exhibition
Title: 18th National Art Exhibition
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: May 24-June 7
Time: 11-8pm (3-8pm on Fridays)



Raj Kapoor Retrospective
Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Rd 24, H 35, Gulshan 1
Date: June 2
Time: 6pm
Film: Barsaat



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Appointment 2009
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: May 28-June 12
Time: 12-8pm



Film Screening
Title: East European Film Festival
Organiser: Zahir Rahman Film Society and Russian Centre of Science and Culture
Venue: Russian Centre of Science & Culture H 510, R 7, Dhanmondi R/A
Date: June 2-4
Time: 4pm onwards



'Baul Mela' at Public Library

PHOTO: MUMIT M

Rustic tunes for urban ears

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Musical programme, 'Baul Mela 2009' was held at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh on May 31. Organised by Palli Baul Samaj Unnayan Sangstha (PBSUS), the programme featured rendition of songs of folk maestros by 'baul' singers from across the country.

The event started with an instrumental piece, featuring several local musical instruments. 'Dhol,' 'mandira,' 'ektara,' 'dotara,' flute, harmonium and 'bango' created a perfect ambience for folk songs. A choral rendition -- led by Kushtia-based Tuntun Baul -- of the popular Lalson song "Dhanya dhanya boli tarey" followed.

Tuntun Baul also performed a solo, "Lanthaney ruper bati jalchhey rey shodai." Lalson songs dominated the evening. Artists also performed songs of rural bards Bijoy Sarkar, Shah Abdul Karim, Radha Raman Dutta, Hason Raja, Durbin Shah, Dudu Shah

and Panju Shah.

A performance of a Bijoy Sarkar song "Jibon nodir naiyya" by Manikganj based singer Aleya Begum was applauded by the eager audience. Akbar Ali from Kushtia sang another Bijoy Sarkar composition, "Janitey chai doyal tomar ashol naamta ki."

Baul Nayan rendered "Agey ki shundor din kataitam" (written and composed by Shah Abdul Karim) and "Baula ke banailo rey" (Hason Raja). Among others, Jasim Anadir, Khaibor Ali, Sadeque Ali, child artiste Apurba Bashona and Abul Sarkar performed at the programme.

Earlier a discussion was held at the

venue, where Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad was the chief guest. In his speech the minister hoped to work to uphold the traditions of rural Bengal. Mukta D Tomar, Indian deputy high commissioner, was the special guest. Among others, lawmaker Monirul Islam spoke at the discussion. Ferdousi Nazma, president, PBSUS presided over the programme.

Sharfuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, manager, PR and Communication, Banglalink gave the welcome speech. Banglalink was the sponsor of the event.

Children have a field day at Shishu Academy art competition

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

An art competition was held at the Shishu Academy on May 31. The function was held to observe the 33rd death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. The event has been organised annually since 1991.

Professor Md. Nazrul Islam was the chief guest and S.M. Aminur Rahman was the special guest. Artist Syed Lutful Haque, art editor of the daily Independent; Md. Nayeem Mashreki, chairperson of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Smriti Parishad and Pranab Chakrabarty, additional secretary, delivered speeches. Syed Lutful Haque, a former student of Zainul Abedin, nostalgically recalled his talented guru and talked about the immense power of a child's

imagination that can be realised through art. Pranab Chakrabarty echoed a similar view.

About 800 children, up to the age of 15, participated at the two hour long competition. The children were divided into four groups that were thematic in nature. Said Syed Lutful Haque: "A distinct theme would obstruct a child's imaginative power. The participants revealed their rich imagination through a variety of paintings on themes such as villages, village markets, environmental pollution and wrestling. Meanwhile, the chief guest and judges viewed the children's delightful art works.

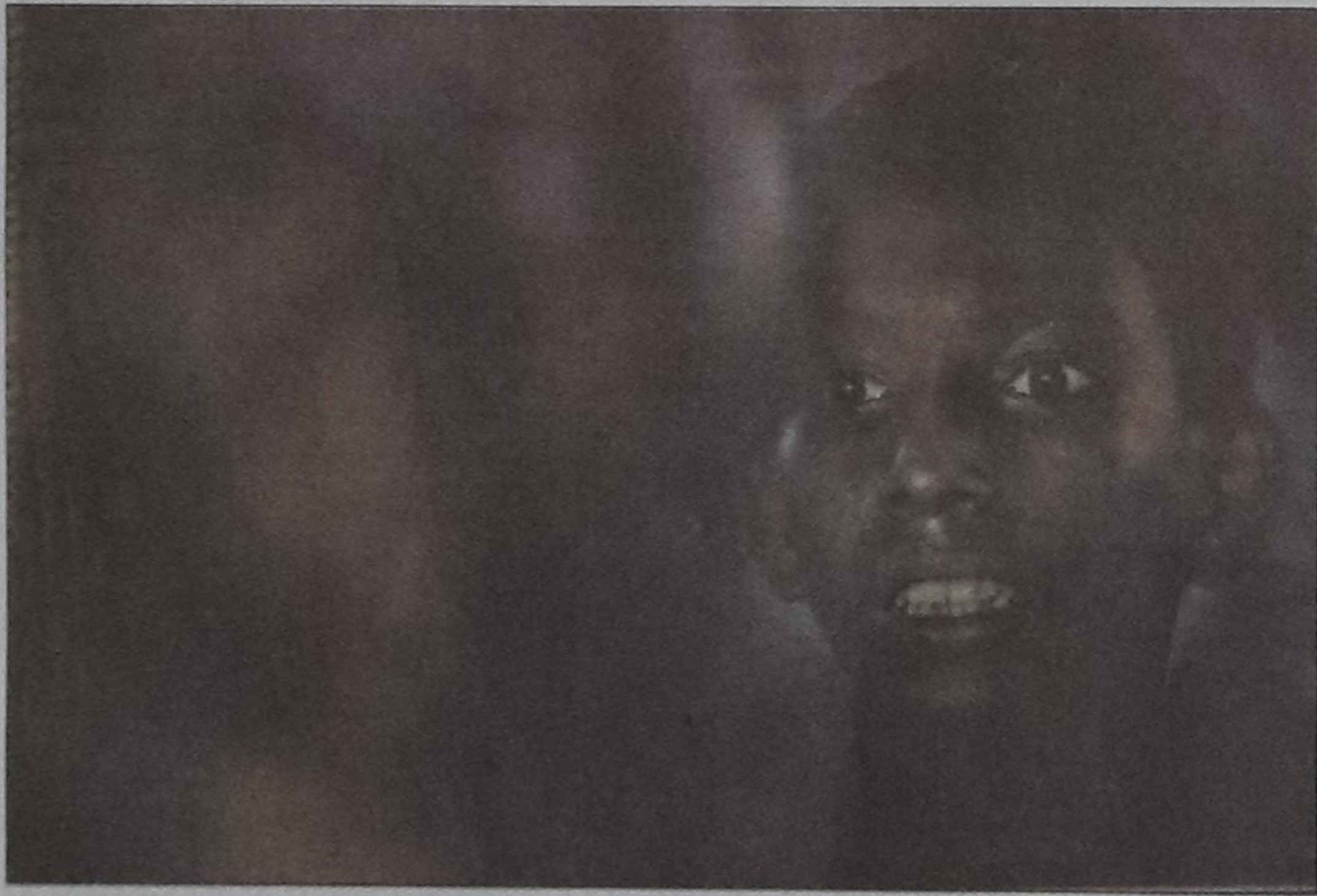
Sixty participants are to be selected as winners. The winners would get the privilege to visit an art exhibition on June 3 and the prize distribution is to be held on June 4.



Young participants at the competition.

Life in frames

Photo exhibition at Alliance Française, Chittagong



Photographs by Shoeb reflect the multifarious aspects of life.

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Chittagong

The usually quiet gallery at the Alliance Française, Chittagong buzzed with chatter as photo enthusiasts gathered here last Friday evening. The occasion was the inauguration of photographer Shoeb Faruquee's first solo exhibition.

A total of 30 internationally awarded and acclaimed photographs out of a considerable collection of around 20,000 taken by the photographer were on display at the weeklong exhibition titled, "Manush" (humans). Mirza Shakir Ispahani, the honorary consul of Germany inaugurated the exhibition. Mia Abu Mohammad Faruquee, father of Shoeb, was the special guest while director of Alliance Française Dr. Samuel Berthe gave the welcome speech.

Shoeb's photographs reflect the multifarious journey of human beings, featuring livelihood, lifestyle, struggles, hopes, aspirations and woes.

The collection has been divided into eight parts with different themes.

Director of Alliance Française, Chittagong, Dr. Berthe, who has written poems on the themes of the photographs, said, "I was inspired by the images and tried to articulate the inner messages Shoeb's photographs convey."

Three portraits of teenage boys highlighting the expression of amazement are proper reflections of their age -- a phase full of dreams, just waiting to leap into adulthood. A photograph of children playing depicts a sense of freedom and explosion of energy.

Elders like parents, grandparents and others help every adolescent to prepare for a big jump to the

adulthood. Shoeb has tried to frame this unending journey with his photographs.

Each human being faces himself/herself in search of certain answers. This aspect of human nature has also been addressed through some of the photos.

The photographer has already won awards in several major photo competitions at home and abroad including the World Press Photo contest. Shoeb has won over 30 national awards and around 60 international awards.

Speakers at the inaugural ceremony emphasised on taking steps to inspire young, upcoming photographers working in grassroots level across the country, so that they could develop their skills.

Later, Dr. Berthe recited several poems in French, while poet and journalist Jyotirmoy Nandi recited the Bengali versions of them.

The exhibition will remain open till June 4, organisers said.



Month-long art exhibition in Sylhet ends

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Human rights activist Sultana Kamal said that cultural activities should reach the common man and generate awareness. She was speaking as the chief guest at the concluding programme of a month-long exhibition held at the new Shah Alam Art Gallery in Sylhet city last Friday.

Veteran educationist Professor Abdul Aziz, cultural activists -- Supriyo Chakrabarty Ranju and Harold Rashid Chowdhury, and freedom fighter Anwaruddin Chowdhury were also present at the function.

Sultana Kamal also stressed the need to establish an art college here.

The Shah Alam Art Gallery opened recently at the city's Uposahar area. The artist died untimely a year ago, at the age of 33. The promising young artist had earned much appreciation from the cultural and literary circle of Sylhet region.

Around 200 paintings and drawings by Shah Alam were on display at the exhibition. Finance Minister AMA Muhith formally inaugurated the exhibition on April 24.

Source: Internet

Halle Berry's comeback begins with Surrogate

After the dreadful performances in "A Perfect Stranger" and "Things We Lost in the Fire," in 2007, Halle Berry is in talks to rejuvenate her movie career with a leading role in the new thriller "Surrogate."

Based on Kathryn Mackel's 2004 novel, the storyline centres on a couple so desperate to foster a child they mistakenly end up hiring an insane surrogate to carry their baby. It's assumed Berry would play the wife of the couple, but it'd be more

interesting if she flexes her considerable acting skills and plays the crazy surrogate.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, there is mutual interest from both Berry and studio 20th Century Fox to find a way for the former Oscar winner to topline the picture, but official negotiations haven't begun.

Notable, the film would reunite Berry with producer Ralph Winter who she worked with on the "X-Men" films.

The project is already a comeback for director Paul Verhoeven who is getting his ticket out of Hollywood movie jail where he's been unwelcome since "Hollow Man" bombed in 2000.

It's also worth noting that part of Berry's absence from the big screen is because the actress took some time off to have her first child, a daughter, in March 2008.



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