

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)



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-June 15
Time: 11am-11pm (Fridays 3-11pm)



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 Raihan Film Society and RCSC
Venue: RCSC, H 510, R 7, Dhanmondi
Date: June 2-4
Time: 5pm onwards
Today: 'The Red and the White' & 'The Mongol'



Anton Chekov's "Seagull" at Dhaka University

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Faculty of Drama and Music, Dhaka University had a three-day rehearsal staging of the Anton Chekhov masterpiece "Seagull" (1895) at Natmandal on the campus, starting from May 29. Directed by Abul Bashar Md. Ziaul Haque Bhuiya, the play is a production by the honours students of the faculty.

"Russian playwright Chekhov presents a psychological facet of reality, not as he sees it, but as he conceives it. With the play 'Seagull,' the audience enters a world of symbolism, another reality. This should expose theatre students to dialectic," said Dr. Israfil Shaheen, chairman of the department, on the play.

The entire story of the four-act play takes place at the 'Sorin estate,' in countryside Russia. Arkadina, the owner's sister from Moscow, comes to visit the crumbling estate. The play starts with the prepara-



Students of Drama and Music, Dhaka University, in a scene from the play "Seagull."

tion of staging of an experimental play. Konstantin Treplyov, a young, aspiring playwright is directing the

play, which happens to be his form of protest against mainstream literature and theatre. His rebellious efforts

annoy his mother, Arkadina, a leading theatre actress with whom Treplyov has a complex relationship. Nina, the

protagonist of Treplyov's play, is the object of his affections. But Nina is seemingly fascinated with the famous writer Trigorin, a friend of Arkadina who accompanied her from Moscow. Then there is Masha, the unhappy daughter of the head employee at the estate. Masha has fallen for Treplyov. All characters in the play go through intense inner dialectic, concerning what they have and what they want.

Kazi Tamanna Haque plays Arkadina and Kaiser Rahman, Treplyov. The cast also includes Faridul Islam, Ismail Hossain, Fahmida Sultana, Sonia Rahman and others. Faridul Islam Fardin's set design creates the required ambience for the play. Light design, costumes etc were done by students of third semester and fourth year. Golam Rabbani and Naved Rahman are the music directors.

The play will be formally staged in July.

Mohua Utshab held in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Poets, litterateurs and eminent cultural activists of Faridpur organised a programme titled 'Mohua Utshab'. The function was aptly held under a Mohua tree, popular in Bengali literature, at the Faridpur Government Rajendra University College on May 29.

The programme included a discussion, recitation and songs. Educationist Professor Altaf Hossain,

essayist and secretary of Faridpur Sahitya Parishad chaired the function. Dr. Sunil Kumar Chakraborty, singer; advocate Shipra Goswami; Farah Diba Ahmed; Rashid Ahmed Titu and cultural personality Mafiz Imam Milon attended the programme.

The programme was dedicated to tree lover Dijen Sharma.

The Mohua tree on the verge of extinction, has medicinal properties in addition to its popularity in Bengali literature.



PHOTO: STAR

The function was aptly held under a Mohua tree, on Faridpur Govt. Rajendra University College campus.

New drama serial "Guide" on ntv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A new drama serial "Guide" will be aired on ntv at 9:45 pm. The 28-episode serial is written, scripted and directed by Arun Choudhury. The cast consists of Tauqir Ahmed, Runa Khan, Apurba, Shojol, Nova, Bindu, Arefin Shuvo, Hillol, Nafiza and others.

The story of the serial: Elias Ali, a tourist

guide, escorts a group to various places. Among the tourists is a newly married couple, for whom this is a second marriage. There are others on the tour, each with a distinct story. As the serial moves forward, tension builds up among the tourists. Elias plays the role of a go between in easing the frayed tempers of the group.

The serial will be aired every Wednesdays and Thursdays.



A scene from "Guide."

"No Question No Answer" on Channel 1

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"No Question No Answer," a new mega serial written and directed by Kochi Khandoker, goes on air tonight on channel 1. Based on a comic story, the serial is aimed at providing the audience with total entertainment.

The story centres on a family; some of the members are confirmed bachelors. But the problem is, those who want to get married can't fulfil their wishes. The cast includes Mosharraf Karim, Tinni, Marjuk Russell, Tisha, Nusrat Yasmin Tisa, Pijush Bandopadhyay, Saleh ahmed, Sharmin Sheela, Lutfar Rahman George, Shanu and others.

"The play addresses social inconsistencies through humorous incidents," said Kochi Khandoker about his new serial. The serial will be aired on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8:15 pm.



Tinni plays a lead role in the new serial.

Discussion on publishing Bengali dictionary at Bangla Academy

A discussion on "Publishing Bengali Dictionary" was held at Bangla Academy seminar room on June 1 says a press release. Lexicographer Jamil Chowdhury was the main speaker at the event. Md. Abdul Quaiyum and Professor Anisuzzaman also took part in the discussion. Md. Shamsuzzaman Khan, director of Bangla Academy, delivered the welcome speech.

Speeches at the discussion highlighted the challenges in compiling, editing and publishing dictionaries. Speakers were of the view that a new Bengali dictionary will fulfil some need in the context that dictionaries on our language are few and far between. They also stressed the need to publish more dictionaries to enrich our language further. Dictionaries should be accurate though, they said. According to the speakers, there are two kinds of Bengali expressions -- literal and figurative. Pronunciation is also very important. Keeping these facets in mind, an effective dictionary would be published soon. Bangla Academy would take necessary steps for it.

A Bengali dictionary titled "Shabda Sanket" was published recently in Kolkata by Dey's Publication. In his speech, Jamil Chowdhury shared his experiences of publishing a dictionary.

Month long Handicraft fair kicks off in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A month long Fabric and Handicrafts Fair began in Pabna to convey the message of 'Use Handloom Products, Save the Handloom Industry'.

The Bangladesh Benarasi Tant Foundation organised the fair at the premises of the Pabna Stadium. Handloom and handicraft products from different parts of the country are on display at the fair.

State Minister for Power and Energy Advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku inaugurated the fair on May 30. The State Minister focused on the heritage of the handloom sector and said that the present government has always supported the entrepreneurs and artisans of the industry. The State Minister also focused on the heritage of the handloom industry.

President of Bangladesh Benarasi Tant Foundation Abdul Jabbar Chowdhury chaired the inauguration function. The lawmaker of Pabna-5 constituency Golam Faruk Khandakar; deputy commissioner Pabna Dr. AFM Monjur Kadir; Pabna Police superintendent Nibas Chandra Majhi; Pabna Sadar Upazila chairman Mosharraf Hossain; Secretary of Pabna Sports Association Abu Ishaque Shamim; District AL leader Md. Saidul Haque Chunnu; Rejaur Rahim Lal spoke among others at the inauguration session.

"Bangladesh is well known for its handloom and handicraft products. However the industry is on the verge of ---due to lack of government support. The sector has to be saved from further ruination," said the speakers.

Around 90 stalls have been set up at the Pabna Stadium.

On display are the 'Mirpur Benarasi sari', Tangail sari, 'Comilla Khadi', Jamdani and 'Monipuri sari'.

Johnny Depp's secret recipe to chill: His own island

As one of Hollywood's favourite actors, Johnny Depp knows a little bit about living life under the media's glare. So when he wants to get away, the star and his family head to Little Hall's Bond Cay, Johnny's private, 45-acre island in the Bahamas.

"(The island) is my decompression," Johnny told the July issue of Vanity Fair magazine. "It's my way of trying to return to normalcy...Escapism is survival to me."

The beaches on Little Hall's Bond Cay are named after Johnny's partner, Vanessa Paradis, their children -- Lily and Jack, actor Marlon Brando and gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson. But he also named one "Heath's Place" after the late actor Heath Ledger.

"I don't think I'd ever seen any place so pure and beautiful," Johnny said of the island as a whole. "You can feel your pulse rate drop about 20 beats. It's instant freedom. And that rare beast -- simplicity -- can be had. And a little morsel of anonymity...Whenever I was getting frustrated about being 'novelty boy' and making movies, I told myself, 'Calm down.' I can come down here and disappear. I spent the Christmas season here with Vanessa and the kids. You can feed hot dogs to the nurse sharks in the Exumas -- but it's best to not swim when doing it."



Another place Johnny goes when he's feeling stressed? Into other art forms.

"When I can focus on something like guitar or painting, I do," he told the magazine. "I started painting people I admire, like (Jack) Kerouac, Bob Dylan, Nelson Algren, Marlon Brando, Patti Smith, my girl, my kids. Keith Richards. What I love to do is paint people's faces, you know, their eyes. Because you want to find that emotion, see what's going on behind their eyes."

Hollywood continues to call, however, and Johnny revealed he has been thinking about playing Tonto in a Disney remake of "The Lone Ranger."

But while Hollywood works to lure the actor into various memorable roles, Johnny can't help but hear the call of his island.

"I look forward to my kids growing up on the island, spending months out of the year here...learning about sea life and how to protect sea life...and their kids growing up here, and so on...Theoretically, this place can add years to your life...Money doesn't buy you happiness," he continued, quoting an old adage. "But it buys you a big enough yacht to sail right up to it."

Source: Internet