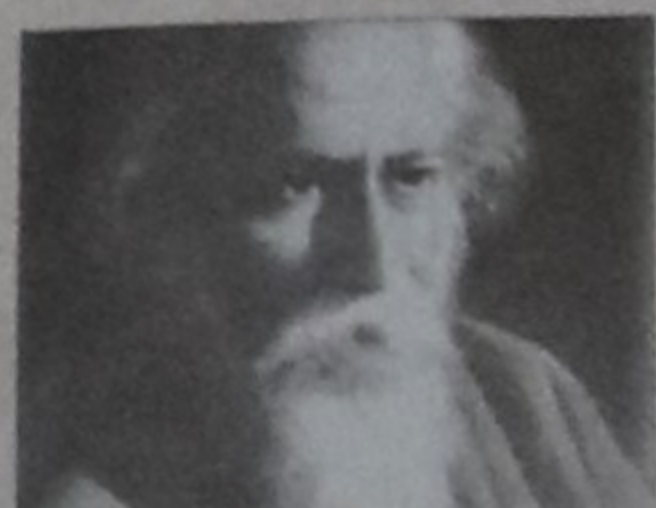


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Musical Soiree
Title: Jharichhey
Organiser: Nandan
Venue: Chhayanaaut,
Dhanmondi
Date: July 24
Time: 7:15pm



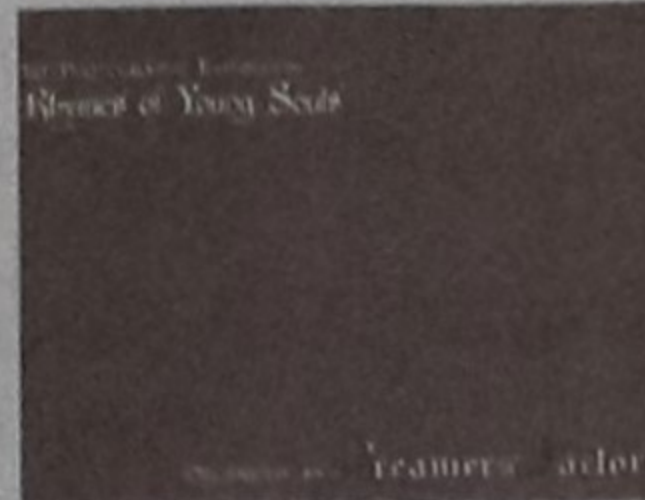
Photography Exhibition

Title: Survivors
Artist: GMB Akash
Organiser: Alliance
Francaise of Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise
of Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road,
Dhanmondi
Date: August 14-27



Photography Exhibition

Title: Rhymes of Young
Souls
Organiser: Dreamers'
Factory
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58,
Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: July 17-21
Time: 3-8pm

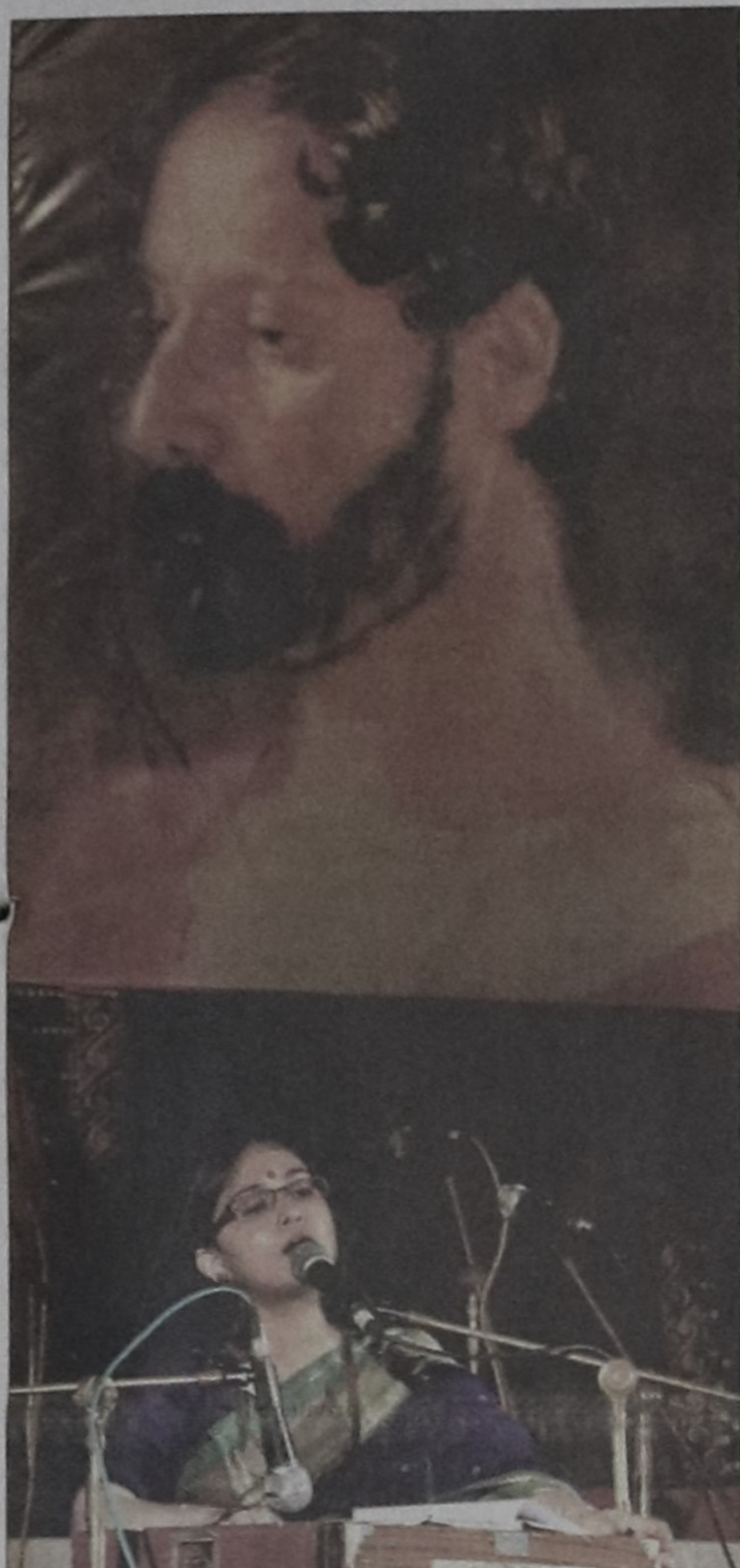


Film Screening

Organiser: Alliance
Francaise of Dhaka (AFD)
and Zahir Raihan Film
Society
Venue: AFD, 28, Mirpur
Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: July 20-24 at 5 &
7pm
July 20: 'Jules and Jim' &
'The Fire Within'



Rabindra Utshab at Chhayanaaut ends



The two-day festival at Chhayanaaut included vibrant dance performances, poetry recitation and renditions of Rabindra Sangeet.

MAINUL HASSAN

'Rabindra Utshab 1416,' Chhayanaaut's two-day festival, ended on July 18, with a grand closing programme.

Vibrant dance performances, poetry recitation, and renditions of songs by leading and upcoming Tagore artists marked the closing of 'Rabindra Utshab.' The programme drew in a large number of Tagore enthusiasts. At 6pm the programme kicked off with a chorus of the Tagore song, "Ol ashey oi oti bhairabo horoshey," by artistes of Chhayanaaut. Renowned Tagore singer Mita Haque led the chorus.

Artistes Shazia Hossain Preety (Chhayanaaut), Mritika Shohita (Chhayanaaut), Sarwar Hossain (Chhayanaaut), Shama Ali (Chhayanaaut) Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Bulbul Islam, Shahed Imam (Chhayanaaut), Joel Bishwas (Chhayanaaut), Topon Mahmud, Himadri Shekhor and Sabina Ahmed (Chhayanaaut) presented solo performances.

Veteran Tagore singer Aji Roy made a guest appearance at the programme. The artists sang two Rabindra Sangeet 'Jai Bujhi alo priyotomo' and 'Jai tobo bichitro anondolekeykobi.'

One of the highlights of the closing programme was a lecture on Rabindra

Sangeet by Dr. Sanjida Khatun. The title of the lecture was "Rabindranath-er Gaaney Tribenisangam." Dr. Khatun discussed on the structures of Tagore songs, focusing on the importance of maintaining original notations when performing the compositions.

"There are three basic aspects of a song -- lyric, tune and tempo. Singers often get carried away with the tempo, overlooking lyrics and tune," she said.

"The outcome turns out to be completely different than what it's meant to be, as the intervals between the words are not properly maintained," she added.

Other attractions of the day included a dance-drama titled "Hritu-Rango."

Members of Nriyandandan staged the dance-drama featuring Tagore songs on different seasons. The performance was choreographed by Sharmila Bandyopadhyay and compiled by Lubna Marium.

Members of Jago Art Centre staged another dance performance.

Gitanjali and Shurer Dhara also performed at the event.

The event wrapped up with performances on the theme of "interaction" by Mita Haque, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Tania Mannan, Azizur Rahman Tuhin and Jhumur Ahmed.

Curtains came down on the festival with a rendition of the national anthem.

The incomparable Dolly

Book on the National Award-winning actress launched

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Adwitia Dolly" is a book on Dolly Ibrahim, a gifted TV and film actress. Dolly won a National Film Award for her role in the film "Shurjo Dighol Bari."

The book launch was held at Nilima Ibrahim Hall of Bangladesh Mahila Samiti on July 18. Noted media personality Atiqul Haque Chowdhury was present as chief guest, while Kamal Lohani, director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy presided over the programme.

Novelist Rashid Haider gave the welcome speech. Haider is also the editor of "Adwitia Dolly." Masihuddin Shaker, director of "Shurjo Dighol Bari"; Dil Monowara Monu, executive editor of the magazine Ananya; Ramendu Majumdar, president of International Theatre Institute; Farid Ahmed, publisher of Somoy Prokashan and Abdur Rahim Khan (on behalf

of Dolly's family) spoke on the occasion. Ramendu Majumdar said, "Dolly was an outspoken, sincere and dedicated artiste. We could not evaluate her appropriately in her lifetime." Masihuddin Shaker said, "Dolly was vivacious and always made us laugh. She was a student of literature, so she could easily grasp the language of the film. She was unpredictable and a subtle sensuality came natural to her."

"Dolly's parents were very close to our family. I met her for the first time at her parents' house on North Brooke Hall Road. She was creative and bright, and a perfect follower for next generations," said Atiqul Haque Chowdhury.

The book is a collector's delight and includes varied, informative reminiscences by renowned cultural personalities Syed Shamsul Haq, Abdullah Al Mamun, Dr. Ibrahim, Dr. Nilima Ibrahim, Ramendu Majumdar, Atiqul Haque Chowdhury, Nirmelendu Goon, Rashid Haider, among others.



PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

"Adwitia Dolly" includes varied, informative write-ups on the late actress by renowned cultural personalities.

Shalonkara-Alankar Shobhita

An outlet offering everything related to dance

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The first shop offering dance and drama costumes, accessories in the country, Shalonkara-Alankar Shobhita, opened its doors to everyone recently.

The outlet is located at the Bashundhara City Mall (shop no. 101, block D, level seven) on Panthapath in Dhaka.

Shalonkara provides a wide range of dance costumes, including Manipuri, Kathakali, folk and classical, which are not readily available in the local market. Dancers and dance students in our country have to make do with costumes and accessories that often don't suit their requirements. This new outlet would meet their needs, hopes Warda Rihab, proprietor of the outlet.

Rihab, who is a talented Manipuri dancer, says, "As a dance student, I found it difficult to source accessories for my performances. At times I had to wait for my Guru (teacher) to bring my costumes from abroad. All dancers and actors here have faced the same problem. With Shalonkara, I hope to fill this major lacuna."

Rihab goes on to add, "I hope that the availability of the right kind of accessories will ensure that improper costumes and ornaments are not used in Manipuri and Kathakali dances, as they take away the authenticity of the art. Shalonkara also offers musical instruments such as the



Shalonkara provides a wide range of dance costumes, including Manipuri, Kathakali, folk and classical, which are not readily available in the local market.



'dhamcha' which are major components of Manipuri dance."

Rihab is a teacher at Chhayanaaut. After completing her honours in

Manipuri dance from Rabindrabharti University as an ICCR scholar, she is now in the midst of doing her masters from Manipur University. She is also in

charge of the first ever diploma course on Manipuri dance in Bangladesh being offered by the Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts.

In People's Court: Play with a bold anti-corruption message

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kurigram

The theatre group of Kurigram Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), under the umbrella of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), staged a play titled "In People's Court" at the Terre des Hommes' (TDH) Hall here on July 15.

The play homed in on the rampant corruption in society, be it in the sphere of

education, health or local administration. The play aimed at generating awareness on three fronts: the need for teachers to run primary schools in river-eroded areas, corruption of the school managing committee in the education sector; lack of doctors and nurses, careless treatment and supply of unhygienic food in hospitals in the health sector and test-relief corruption, VGF corruption,

providing aid to river erosion victims by the local administration and working out constructive solutions.

"In People's Court" will be staged in different districts throughout the year. Programme officer of TIB, Taufiqul Islam, and convener of the Yes group, Yousuf Alamgir, jointly directed the play with the participation of 20 members of the theatre group.

General secretary of

Kurigram Shilpakala Academy Rasheduzzaman Babu; dramatist Debobrota Bakshi Bulbul and journalists Abdul Wahed and Fazley Elahi Shwopon gave their interpretations of the play. Cast of the play included members of Yes group, Mizan, Hakim, Haimanti Shukla, Hasna Banu, Obayed, Bijoy, Shamim, Milon, Shohag, Ditia, Irin, Selina, Nasrin, Belayet, Moni, Konok, Farid, Fatema and Akram Hossein.

Paula Abdul unlikely to return to "Idol"

Paula Abdul may not return to "American Idol" for a ninth season, her manager claimed in a new interview with the Los Angeles Times.

"She's not a happy camper as a result of what's going on. She's hurt. She's angry," David Sonenberg, the "Idol" judge's manager, told the newspaper on Friday.

Sonenberg, who said that he became Abdul's manager just weeks ago, at the end of June, added that he has yet to receive a proposal for a new contract for Abdul.

"I find it under these circumstances particularly unusual; I think unnecessarily hurtful," he said. "I find it kind of unconscionable and certainly rude and disrespectful that they haven't stepped up and said what they want to do."

The result of the stalled negotiations, Sonenberg said, is that Abdul is unlikely to be back on the show she's judged for eight previous seasons.



Paula Abdul

Abdul herself took her Twitter page to address the situation on Saturday, though she didn't elaborate on the details.

"I'm actually moved 2 tears upon reading the enormous amount of tweets showing me your kindness, love, & undying support. God bless all of you!" she Tweeted. "If it weren't for you, this specific time and situation would feel a whole lot worse!"

Her manager's remarks come on the heels of the news of show host Ryan Seacrest's new contract, a reported \$45 million, three-year deal that makes him the highest-paid reality host on television.

Judge Simon Cowell is also in negotiations to renew his contract, while third judge Randy Jackson is attached to the show through 2011.

Auditions for Season 9 began in June.

Source: Internet