

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Inter-religious Film Session and Seminar

Organiser: The Embassy of Italy, Goethe-Institut & Rainbow Film Society
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: August 10-12
Inauguration at 5pm



Theatre

Play: Raja...Ebong Onnyanya
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: August 16-17
Time: 7:30pm



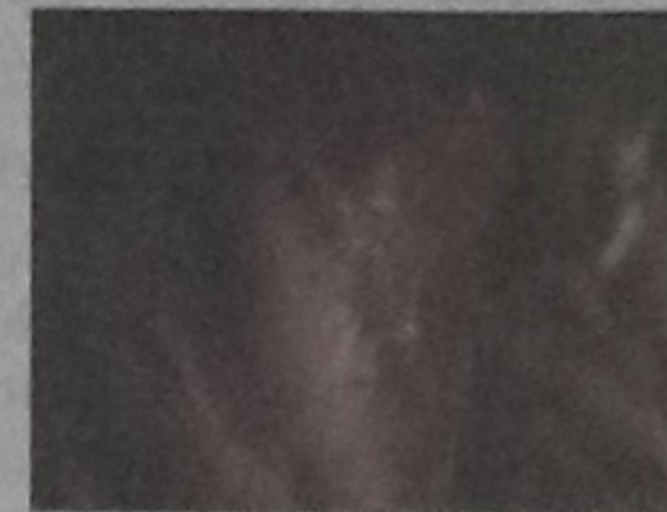
Musical Soiree

Title: Shrotar Ashor
Venue: Ramesh Chandra Dutta Auditorium, Chayanaut
Date: August 14
Time: 7:30pm



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



Story behind the story

Pathshala graduates display their works at Drik



Clockwise (from top): Photos by Tanvir Murad Topu, Khaled Hasan and Sazzad.

KARIM WAHEED

To mark the Graduation Day 2009 of Pathshala, the only photography school in South Asia, an exhibition featuring works of the graduating students (8th batch) of the institution is being held. The exhibition, titled "Perspectives" is on at Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi. Pathshala is the educational wing of Drik.

The exhibition was inaugurated on August 7 by Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus. At the event, Professor Yunus handed certificates to the graduates in photography. The Nobel laureate, along with guest of honour photographer Bijon Sarkar

and Pathshala principal Dr. Shahidul Alam, unveiled a book (also titled "Perspectives") of photography as part of the school's annual exhibition.

The exhibition and the book are products of Pathshala's yearlong documentary project by the 16 graduating students. The participating photographers are: Chandan Robert Reberio, Debasish Shom, KM Asad, Khaled Hasan, M Mazhar Hussain, Nurun Nahar Nargish, Prieto Reza, Qamruzzaman, Saikat Mojumder, Saikat Bhadra, Sazzad Hossain, Shehab Uddin, Shumon Ahmed, Tanvir Murad Topu, Tanvir-ul-Hossain and Tanzim Ibne Wahab. Abir Abdullah, the course teacher, edited the images.

The photographs are remarkable,

some are downright shocking, but what sets this exhibition apart is presentation. The photos -- out of frames -- have been placed on a rickshaw, tombstones and other unusual settings. Images present life on a bigger canvas, with the photographers' interpretations of creed, aspirations, drive, stigma, class, social inequality, changes in trends and more. According to the curator of the show, ASM Rezaur Rahman, the photographers have made efforts to minimise the gap between the viewer and the images.

Tanvir Murad Topu's project "City Wheeler" is on (as it can be guessed from the title) rickshaws. But it's not just about the semi-mechanical three wheeler. Topu has also managed to

delve into and portray snaps of the lives of some rickshawallahs.

Saikat Mojumder's "Life: Born in a Slum" is a groundbreaking work. The young photographer has gone where few men dare to step into. Mojumder's collage chronicles Sajila, a working woman from the Korail slum in Dhaka, giving birth to a baby boy. It's a shocking, eye-opening and learning experience.

Chandan R Reberio's project "Rest in Peace" features photos of a death and funeral rites at a church. Stark black and white images on tombstones have an eerie effect. The highlight has to be the photo of a graveyard, with an old church in the background. Rays of light trying to break free from sinister looking clouds also adds to the grim ambience.

Shumon Ahmed's brief documentary "Land of the Free" narrates the story of Mubarak Hussain bin Abul Hashem, the only Bangladeshi to have returned from the infamous Guantanamo Bay after five years of incarceration. At Guantanamo, Hashem was known as "Enemy Combatant number 151."

"Portraits of Anonymous Faces" by Tanvir-ul-Hossain features the apparent exploitation of workers in the apparel industry. With over one and a half million women employed in semi-skilled and skilled positions, producing clothing for export, the development of the apparel industry has had far-reaching implications for the country's economy and society. Hossain's project puts the workers in social and economic contexts, pointing at the dissimilarity that deserves reaction.

Each project, each story at the exhibition demands the viewer to reflect. You may or may not agree with the interpretations but they are certainly worth discussions, arguments and thoughts.

The exhibition ends today.

Generating awareness on climate change

Ebar Rana Bhai Bolchhen staged at Shishu Academy



Students of Obaidullah Memorial High School, Noakhali in the play.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Students of Obaidullah Memorial High School, Noakhali staged a play titled "Ebar Rana Bhai Bolchhen" at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium on August 10.

The protagonist of the play, Rana bhai, drowns in a sudden tidal surge caused by a cyclone, on his way to a programme arranged by the students of a school in the coastal region.

The students manage to rescue him. Rana bhai then explains the various impacts of cli-

mate change, such as excessive rainfall, drought, cyclone, flood, erosion of riverbanks, increase of sea level and salinity in the coastal areas.

He also tries to educate the students and locals on pre and post disaster management.

Written by Moloy Bhowmik, the play was directed by Tarek Khan.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Bangladesh and Char Development and Settlement Project (CDSP) III jointly organised the programme.

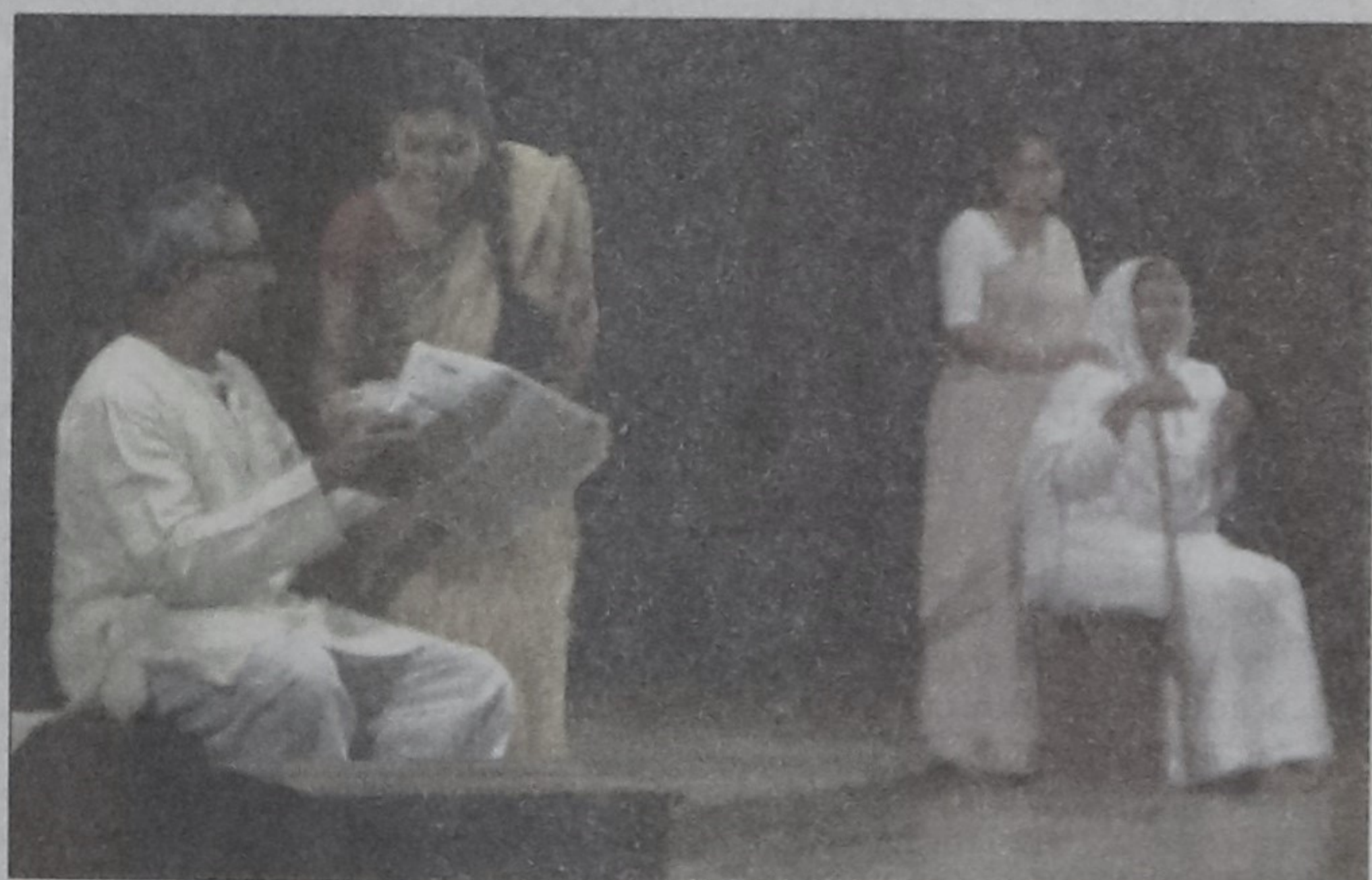


PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH.COM

On August 10, Nagarik Natyangan staged its production "Sheishob Dingu" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Written and directed by theatre personality duo Dr. Inamul Haq and Lucky Inam, the play focuses on the core aspects of the Liberation War.

Call to uphold indigenous traditions and culture

Int'l Day of the World's Indigenous People celebrated in North Bengal

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Traditional dances and songs marked the International Day of the World's Indigenous People (August 9) celebration in Dinajpur and adjacent districts organised by different non-government organisations. On the occasion, members of the different communities voiced their demand to set up a separate cultural institute for the indigenous performers.

The two-daylong celebration was held in Dinajpur, Thakurgaon,

Panchagarh, Joypurhat, Naogaon and Nilphamari where thousands of indigenous people swayed with the beat of drums and other musical instruments.

Speakers at the programme said that the traditions and heritage of the indigenous groups enrich the national culture. However, the indigenous way of life is constantly under threat.

Rights of indigenous people should be protected to ensure a harmonious society, they added.

Due to lack of adequate patronage

from the state and the Cultural Ministry, the lone cultural institute in Dinajpur for indigenous artists is now in a sorry state. Santal, Orao and Malo communities now do not have an institute where young artistes can train or practice.

Professor Ganesh Shoren said that encouragement from the government is much needed to uphold indigenous traditions and way of life.

General secretary of the institute, Professor Shoren told The Daily Star that in the past the Cultural Academy had trained hundreds of performers

who had impressed audiences at home and abroad. Around 600 indigenous artists of the institute performed at several national and international events, including the opening and closing programmes of SAAG Games in 1985 and '95.

Local indigenous groups have repeatedly urged the government to set up a full-fledged Cultural academy at the current venue in Shuihari village and thus provide them with a platform where they can train their young talents in their cultural traditions and heritage.



Artists representing the indigenous communities of Chapainawabganj (left) and Dinajpur perform at events on the occasion of Int'l Day of the World's Indigenous People.

AR Rahman plans free concert in Australia

Oscar winning music composer AR Rahman is planning a free concert Down Under in a bid to relieve the ongoing tension between India and Australia following racist attacks.

The composer, who won two Academy Awards for his work on the "Slumdog Millionaire" soundtrack, was devastated to hear of a series of violent incidents involving Indian students studying in Sydney and Melbourne over the past two months.

He is hoping to improve international relations with music and is set to organise a free concert in Sydney in January 2010 as part of the region's cultural festival.

"Considering the recent hassles that have created a bad vibe, I thought this concert would be a statement of peace. I hope it will do whatever it can to reunite culturally and spiritually," the Daily Express quoted Rahman as saying.

"This show is very important to me. I hope it creates a bridge of understanding and love," he added.

Source: Internet



AR Rahman (centre) poses for a picture with cancer affected children at an institute in Chennai.