

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Lecture

Topic: Ramadan between Folklore and Contemplation
Lecturer: Barrister Cynthia Farid
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: August 31
Time: 5:45pm



Werner Herzog Retrospective

Organiser: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: September 2
Time: 5:30pm onwards



Nazrul Death Anniversary

Organiser: Nazrul Institute & Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: August 24-29
Time: 3pm



Film Screening

Film: Ilya Muromets
Venue: Auditorium, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: August 29
Time: 5pm



Mural of Raja Ram Mohan Roy unveiled in Rangpur

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

A truly committed social reformer, and one of the pioneering figures of 'Bengali Renaissance', Raja Ram Mohan Roy commands respect for his extraordinary achievements in many areas, most significant of which is the abolition of the infamous 'Suttee Rite' in the then Indian subcontinent.

Many are not aware that this legendary personality stayed in Rangpur from 1809 to 1814. As homage to Roy and to commemorate his association with Rangpur, a mural of the social reformer was inaugurated at the premises of the Raja Ram Mahon Club in the district.

Made of fibreglass, the mural has been designed and crafted by sculptor Aneek Reza. Raja Ram Mohan Club, Rangpur and Bengali International, London (a charity organisation) jointly financed the project.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua unveiled the mural on August 25. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Pramod Mankin was the special guest. Among others attending the event as special guests were Ashiqur Rahman (MP); Tipu Munshi (MP); advisor of Bengali International (BI), London, Dr. Khalilur Rahman Kazi OBE; BI chairman of London Shamsul Haque; BI chairman of Kolkata, Dr. Sisir Dutta and chairman of Raja Ram Mohan Mission, Kolkata, Sankar Biswas.



PHOTO: STAR

Sculptor Aneek Reza working on the mural.

A discussion at Rangpur town hall followed the unveiling of the mural. Speakers discussed Raja Ram Mohan Roy's progressive movement in the subcontinent.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua said that Raja Ram Mohan's name remains immortal through his accomplishments in social reforms and human rights, particularly abolishing the inhuman 'Suttee Daho' custom.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Pramod Mankin said

that Raja Ram Mohan had to face difficulties but nothing could refrain him from his mission to free Bengalis from social and religious prejudices.

Dr. Sisir Dutta said that an international school would be established in Rangpur, named after Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

Sankar Biswas said that Raja Ram Mohan Mission, Kolkata would provide all sorts of support to establish the school.



A spiritual discussion, two-day long fair and a cultural programme to observe 'Ganesh Puja' ended in Magura on Tuesday night. The event held at the Natun Bazaar Puja Mandap, attracted people from adjoining districts as well. The highlight of the fair was a religious discussion. The cultural programme on the second day included religious songs, recitation, folk and modern songs. The entire Natun bazaar area wore a festive look during programme. A well attended mela was also arranged which turned out to be a major attraction for children.

The renaissance of Naquib Khan

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A busy schedule tends to make musician Naquib Khan somewhat elusive. This reporter had the fortune to catch up with him and get him to open up about his current work, taste in music and his plans for the upcoming Eid.

Currently Naquib is working on his new solo album "Brishtir Raat." His last solo album came out in 1989. Some of his unreleased songs that date back 30 years are included in this album.

"When my last solo last album was released 20 years back, I was a carefree bachelor. In this album, I'll be singing with my daughter. What a metamorphosis!" says Naquib in a lighter vein.

In the album, the titular song "Brishtir Raat" is targeted at expatriates who miss their wives or beloved left behind in the country. There are 11 tracks: one is a duet with Shakila Zafar; another features recitation by Asaduzzaman Noor.

Naquib is much into jazz and blues and enjoys music by Stevie Wonder, Sean, Eagles etc. "Music is my passion. Although I am a corporate and have many responsibilities, I still try to find time for music. I believe in a

balance between work and family life. In fact, all members of our band, Renaissance, have other professions but we still try to jam once a week or at least once a month."

So what's Naquib's plan for Eid? Will he be busy at work then as well? "No, on Eid I just try to spend some quality time with my family. It's still a lovely experience but there have been changes -- before I used to get new clothes from my parents, now I'm the one who gets Eid gifts for my children."

Naquib thoroughly enjoys contemporary music. He expresses the view that in current times there are many new and gifted artistes to be found. Besides that, he says, he is intrigued by the state-of-the-art technology that is all the rage today. However, he adds a note of warning: "Whereas technology is beneficial, one should not become too dependent on it. This could kill natural talent. Among the musicians of today, I'm really fond of the melodies of Fuad and Habib, among others."

Naquib Khan dedicates "Brishtir Raat" to all the parents of autistic children, as he is one himself. He hopes that his fans will appreciate his compositions and continue supporting his musical endeavours in the future.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Naquib Khan

Avatar trailer divides opinion

The new trailer for "Avatar" sparked intense interest with a record 4 million views on Apple last Thursday. Over the weekend, Gold Derby polled readers for their reaction to the "Avatar" trailer.

Of the more than 12,000 votes cast, fully one-third judged the "Avatar" trailer as "awesome" and another third said it was "OK." But one-fifth of viewers found it to be "awful."

Of course, the much-hyped 3-D effects and spectacle of "Avatar" are lost on a computer screen. Last Friday was the self-dubbed "Avatar" day with screenings of a 16-minute featurette on Imax screens worldwide. Writer-director James Cameron introduced this footage, which included several scenes not included in his Comic-Con preview.

"Avatar" is the first feature film helmed by James Cameron since "Titanic" won a record-tying 11 Oscars in 1997. "Avatar" stars newcomer Sam Worthington ("Terminator Salvation") as a paraplegic linked to an alien life form on the planet Pandora. The film also features Sigourney Weaver -- who earned the first of her three Oscar nods under Cameron's direction for "Aliens" -- as well as Michelle Rodriguez and Stephen Lang.



Source: Internet

Street play on the evils of acid violence

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon Theatre Lab, a local cultural organisation, staged its third production -- a street play, titled "Acid Chhurban Thorben" -- at Riverview High School and Collectorate School premises recently.

Through the story of a derailed young man and his victim, the play tries to generate awareness against the evils of acid violence.

Hamid, the spoilt son of an influential village leader, is involved in all kinds of antisocial activities. As he is the only son of his powerful father, none of his transgressions goes punished.

Selina, a school-going young girl, of the

same village, falls prey to Hamid's unwarranted attention. Hamid proposes to marry her but Selina refuses.

One day, as Selina is on her way to school, a disgruntled and enraged Hamid confronts her and hurls acid on her face. As Selina cries out in unbearable agony, the villagers rush to the spot and catches Hamid, who is later handed over to police.

After trial Hamid gets a death sentence for the heinous crime.

The play was written by Habibur Rahman.

The cast included Firoz Habib, Poritosh, Ratna, Bashanti, Nirab, Huda, Hannan, Shaiful Masum, Sadekur, Joy and Masud Hasan Raju.

Around a thousand students of two schools watched the play.



Actors of Thakurgaon Theatre Lab staging the play.

Tomar Opekkaye on ntv tonight

Single-episode TV play "Tomar Opekkhaye" will be aired on ntv tonight at 9 pm.

Written by Faria Hussain, the play has been directed by Chayanika Chowdhury.

The story revolves around Shampa who loves Monir and wishes to marry him. She runs away from home and waits for Monir all day, but the object of her affections does not show up.

With a gloomy face and even gloomier state of mind, Shampa wanders around on the streets carelessly. Soon, she finds herself in a predicament. Anik, a young man, helps her and escorts her home. Where does Shampa's life go from here?

Apurbo, Moutushi and Pail play the lead roles.



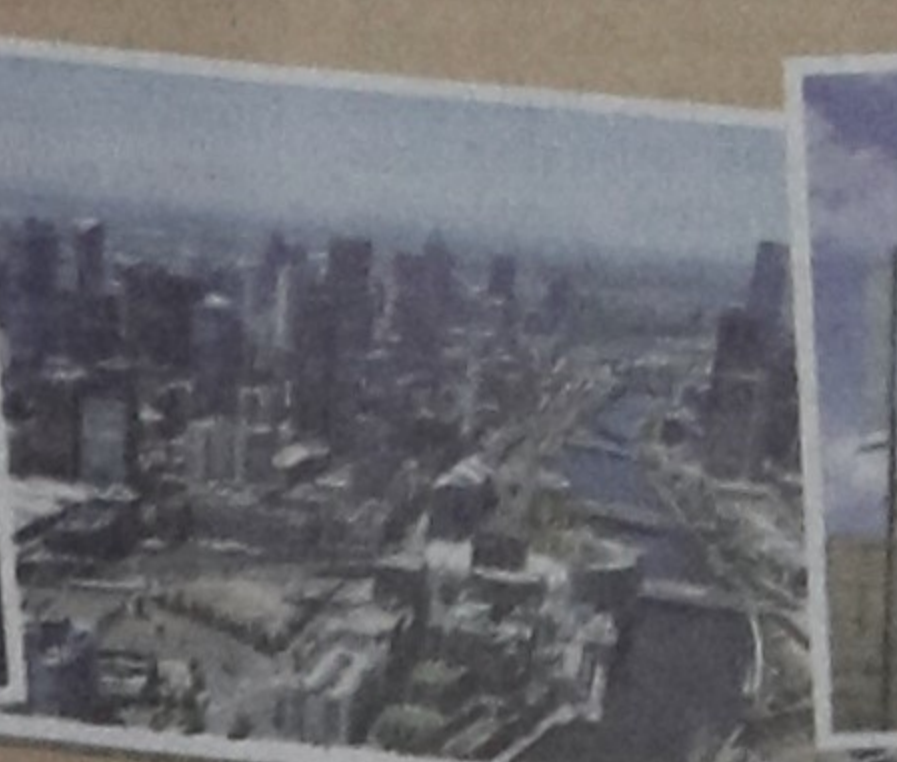
A scene from serial.

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UPCOMING EXHIBITION/SEMINAR
WESTIN HOTEL
Gulshan 2, Dhaka
29/30th August, 10am - 7pm
Phone: Paul on 0174 1288642

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