

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

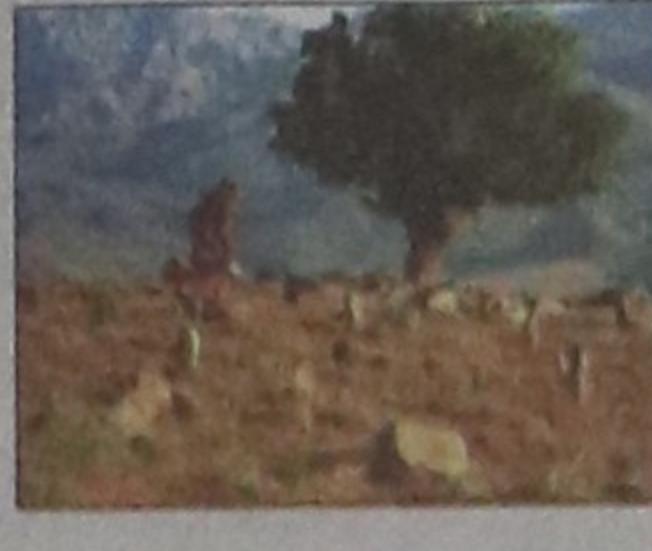
Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Jai Bangla
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhamondi
Date: Sep 27-Oct 10
Time: 12-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Kantha Kahini
Artist: Fahmida Akhter Kakoli
Venue: La Gallerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhamondi
Date: Oct 1-14



Iranian Film Festival
Title: The Wind Will Carry Us
Director: Abbas Kiarostami
Venue: Alangir Kabir Film Centre, 62 Science Laboratory Road
Date: September 26
Time: 5pm

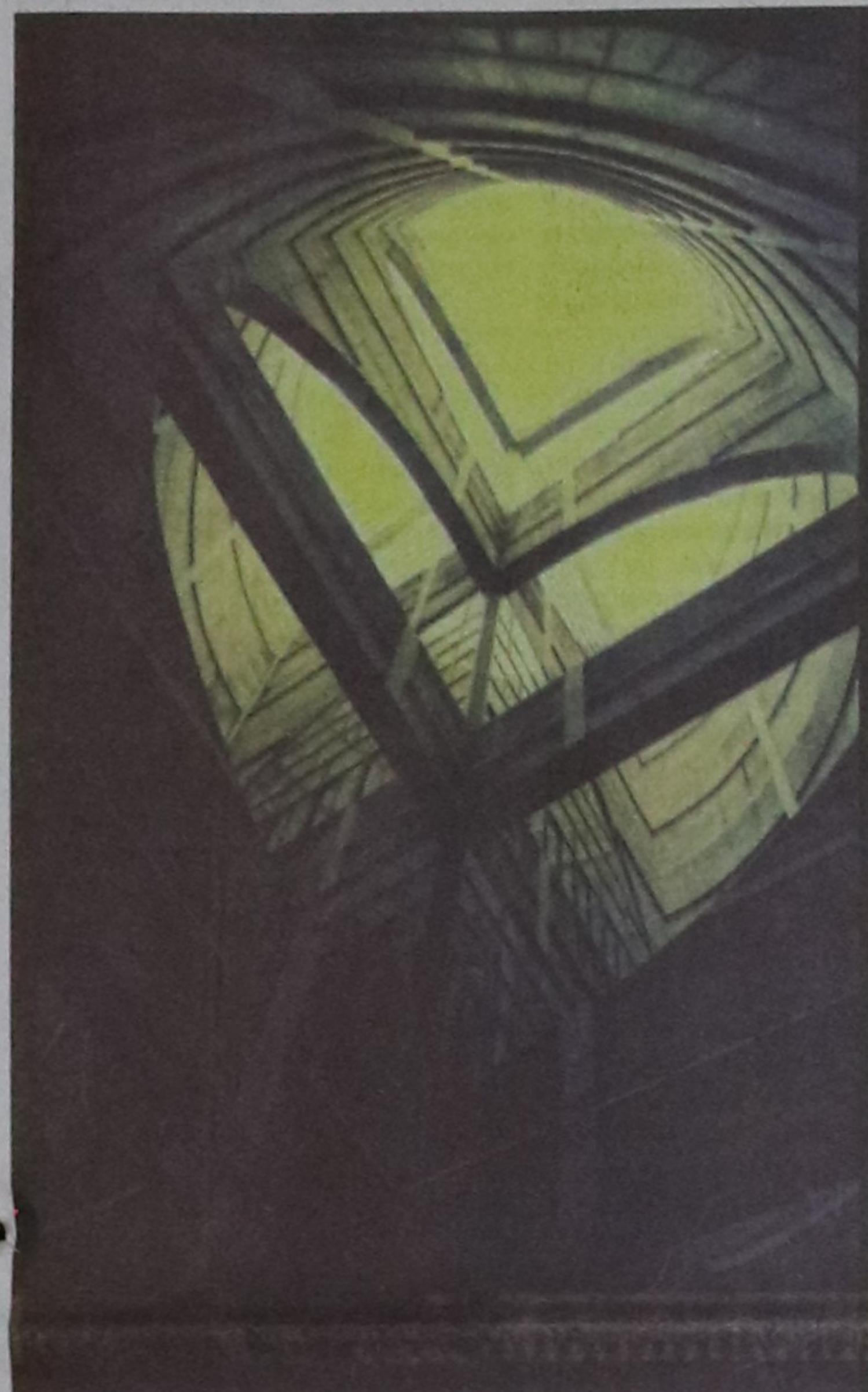


Film Screening
Title: Through Fire, Water and... Brass Pipes
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhamondi
Date: September 26
Time: 5pm



Architecture that overwhelms

M. Shamsuzzaman's solo photo exhibition



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Architectural heritage is often larger than life. Framing edifices that are considered benchmarks in global architectural heritage can be challenging and architect-amateur photographer M. Shamsuzzaman has tried his hand at that.

Shamsuzzaman's solo photo exhibition, titled "Heritage Inspiration" was recently on at Drik Gallery in Dhaka and Charupith Art Gallery in Jessore. The exhibition featured photographs of architectural wonders as well as more modest samples of diverse styles.

Shamsuzzaman is a BUET graduate and has also studied at AIT, Bangkok. He has worked in Bangladesh, Thailand, Singapore and Kosovo. He recently completed his assignment with UN-HABITAT in Kosovo as a spatial planning adviser. At present he is studying urban development in Germany and France under the Erasmus Mundus scholarship programme.

The architect is seemingly passionate about photographing heritage buildings and sites. Taking photos is part of a process through which Shamsuzzaman makes an effort to explore the technicalities and inner aesthetics of historical ruins. The photographer has had the opportunity to visit the classical heritage sites of Asia and Europe.

"Gondola Poles" and "Window and the Creepers" (2006) are essentially alluring vignettes of Venice. The latter shows the "city of water" from an untried perspective.

The old town of Yanina (Greece, 2008) is seen through the openings of an Ottoman fort in another photo.

"Load and Light" (Athens, 2006) shows the Temple of Hephaestus near the ancient Agora. This heritage site is one of the best-preserved temples of Doric order.

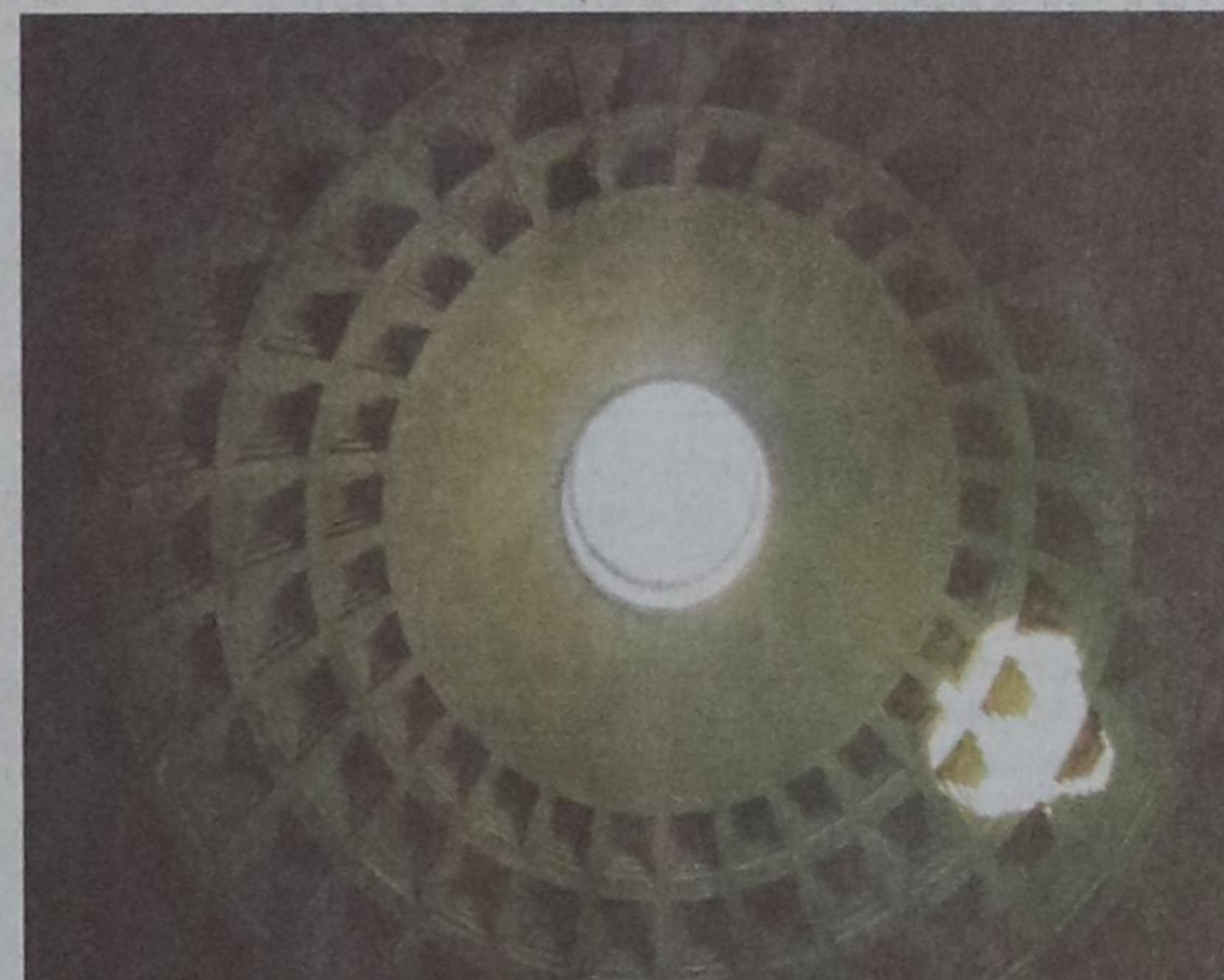
The architect-photographer has also showcased close shots of floral motifs, ornamentations, samples of particularly exotic designs etc. Photos taken in Fes, Morocco; Paris, France; Athens, Greece and Konarak, India belonged to this category.

Shamsuzzaman didn't overlook his country either. Haunting black and white stills of Panamnagar (taken in 1990) give the viewer an idea of what Bangladesh has to offer. Also included in the series was a photo of a mosque, which was excavated in Barobazar, Jessor.

Apart from the antiquated, a shot of the light well in the parliament building in Dhaka (1990) is remarkable.

For some reason, the photographer also included images that are void of any architectural element. Photos of the water cycle -- source of Lake Ohrid in Macedonia -- are awe-inspiring but don't really go with the rest of the collection.

Among the noticeable faux pas were poorly framed photographs. One, in particular, almost came off halfway. Some images had blurry appearance, perhaps because of inadequate resolution when enlarging the prints.



Clockwise (from top-left): Form of Light (Dhaka, 1990), Sun and the Sky (Rome, 2007) and Stories of Stones (Athens, 2006).

Movie Watch

Bright Star: An ode to Keats, Love

An ode to love and artistic inspiration, the period film "Bright Star" marks a return to form for Jane Campion ("The Piano," "An Angel at My Table," "The Portrait of a Lady"). The film spans the years between 1818 and 1821 and depicts the three-year courtship and truncated love affair of spirited young Fanny Brawne (Abbie Cornish), a seamstress and dress designer who today would have been another Vivienne Westwood, and the doomed poet John Keats (Ben Whishaw).

A giant of the Romantic period, Keats was the author of such hugely influential works as "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and "La Belle Dame Sans Merci" (the film takes its title from the Keats sonnet "Bright Star"). Keats, who died a year before Shelley, was also an archetypal Romantic hero, an artist dead at 25.

He was his own "Endymion," sent prematurely to his eternal rest. As played by the ferrety and wraithlike Whishaw ("Perfume," "Brideshead Revisited"), he is arguably never as alive as he should be. In contrast, Cornish's Fanny is so

plumply brimming with life she seems more succubus than muse.

Still, the film, also written by Campion with research from a Keats biography by Andrew Motion, captures the intersection of life and art astutely. Keats lives and works with friend and fellow poet

Charles Armitage Brown (a marvellously nasty, if ultimately tedious Paul Schneider), who is jealous of the "ignorant" Fanny and makes his contempt for her plain.

Fanny lives with her sweet mother (Kerry Fox of "An Angel At My Table"), serious younger

brother Samuel (Thomas Sangster) and charming little sister "Toots" (Edie Martin).

If the film is occasionally in danger of being upstaged by a cacophony of outlandish hats and beribboned bonnets, it is also charged with an erotic current, however unconsummated.

"Poems are a strain to make out," laments Fanny, who reads "Endymion" ("A thing of beauty is a joy forever," etc.) in order to determine whether this Keats "is an idiot."

After they fall in love, Keats acknowledges he cannot ask Fanny to marry him because he has "no living and no income." She for her part will not let him go. But as his health deteriorates they face the permanent separation of death.

It is not easy to say whom Campion relates to more, the dying artist or his "bright star" and enthralling belle dame.

"Bright Star" makes a strong, "Piano"-like case that love and nature are art's progenitors, and that the three are engaged in an eternal ménage à trois. If death is never far away, John and Fanny are also surrounded by teeming life: the flowers, insects and "winged dryad" of the trees.

Campion also makes it clear that unsurpassed among these natural splendours is Cornish's magnificent profile. It is a thing of beauty.



"Bright Star" depicts the three-year courtship and truncated love affair of Fanny Brawne and the doomed poet John Keats.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Dance of life

Discussion on the significance of the art form in Tripura traditions



Tripura artistes dance at the programme.

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Speakers at a discussion in Khagrachhari last Thursday were of the view that dance is an indivisible part of Tripura culture and heritage.

In the Tripura community, the tradition of dance is older than singing. Dancing is not only perceived as a form of entertainment, but also an art to inspire people. Tripuras consider dancing a medium through which angry gods and goddesses can be appeased.

The discussion titled, "Dance: Traditional Tripura Indigenous Culture," was organised by Gairing Cultural Forum (GCF), a local group that has been working to uphold the Tripura traditions in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The event was held at the Town Hall in Khagrachhari.

CHT Refugee Affairs Task Force Chairman Zatindra Lal Tripura attended as the chief guest, while Bangladesh Tripura

Students Forum's (BTSF) central committee president Joy Prakash Tripura presided over the discussion.

During the discussion, speakers elaborated on the various aspects of dance in Tripura life. For example, 'Haba' dance, also known as 'Jhum' dance, is performed to seek blessings for good harvest. 'Khatharok' dance urges for abundance of water, and 'Haja-giri' dance appeases the god Shiva.

Among others, Khagrapur Mahila Kalyan Samity president Shepalika Tripura; Jana Sanghati Samity's Khagrachhari district committee president Shaktipado Tripura; Bangladesh Tripura Kalyan Sangsad president Monindra Kishore Tripura and Gairing Cultural Forum director Roy Tripura spoke at the discussion.

Later, local Tripura artistes presented demonstrations of their traditional 'Jhum' dance, bottle dance, 'Haja-giri' dance and candle dance.

Catching up with celebrities post-Eid

"Galpey Gaaney Eid Anandey" on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Talk show "Galpey Gaaney Eid Anandey" will be aired tonight at 10:45pm on ATN Bangla. Popular artistes from different mediums will appear as guests on the show.

Noted dancer duo Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad, actresses Farah Ruma and Srabasti Dutta Tinni and singer Balam are the guests on tonight's programme. The guests will perform and take part in a cheerful 'adda.'

Planned and hosted by Karovi Mizan, the show has been directed by Fakhrul Abedin.



Celebrities with the host (centre) on the show.

Eid-special play on ETV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Eid-special single-episode play, "Dui Din-er Chhuti Manjur Koria Badhito Koriben," will be aired tonight at 9:30pm on Ekushey Television. Shatirtha Rahman has penned and directed the play.

The story revolves around a theatre enthusiast. Rakib is a passionate theatre activist and a member of a theatre troupe in Dhaka. He has a soft corner for fellow theatre activist Nila. Rakib often gets compliments for his voice. He

used to be a recitor. Apart from theatre, Rakib provides voice for ad jingles and also works for an agency. Out of nowhere, his office transfers him to Rajshahi.

Gradually Rakib's craving for theatre drives him crazy, and one day, without notifying the management, Rakib leaves for Dhaka. The story gets a twist, when the next morning he finds his boss waiting for him in his living room.

Anisur Rahman Milon, Golam Farida Chhanda and Al Mansur play the lead roles.



A scene from the play.