

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), Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 27-Oct 10
Time: 12-8pm



Art Exhibition
Artists: Farzana Ahmed Urmi & Tanny Dey
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: October 3-7
Time: 10am-8pm

PRINT & SCULPTURE

Baul Songs
Artists: Darbesh Shadon Fakir and his troupe
Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: India Cultural Centre, H35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
Date: October 8
Time: 7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Kantha Kahini
Artist: Fahmida Enam Kakoi
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: October 1-14
Time: 10am-12pm & 5pm-8:30pm



Blood-red oleanders lurk in a world of shadows

Nagarik Natya Sampraday stages Rakto Karobi



Decked with red oleanders, she is a constant reminder of the joys of nature. However, to Sardar, the King's chief henchman, Nandini is a threat. Red is the colour of passion, but it's also associated with danger. Sardar is apprehensive as he can't decide what Nandini's altruistic intentions are capable of. Proving Sardar's fears true, Nandini leads the people to a struggle for liberation when her lover Ranjan is found dead.

The ensemble cast included seasoned actor Ataur Rahman as Raja, Aupi Karim as Nandini, and Shireen Bokul, Lutfar Rahman George and Gazi Rakayet in other major roles. Performance-wise, the actors were undeniably adept. Renowned singer Aditi Mohsin and dancer Anisul Islam Hero's association with the production translated well into the songs and choreography. The set designed by Md. Saiful Islam, resembling a mine, served well. Nasirul Haque Khokon's lighting design complemented the set.

What weighed down the production was that the play was too heavily symbolic, certain scenes were too long, and the language might not seem contemporary enough to the average viewer.

"Rakto Karobi," directed by Atatur Rahman, will be staged in Cairo this month. It'll represent Bangladesh at the International Experimental Theatre Festival to be held in the Egyptian capital.

Aupi Karim (left) and Gazi Rakayet in a scene from "Rakto Karobi".

KARIM WAHEED

Nagarik Natya Sampraday staged its much-acclaimed production "Rakto Karobi" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on October 4. This was the 88th show of the production.

Rabindranath Tagore started writing "Rakto Karobi" or "Red Oleanders" (1923-24) during a visit to Shillong,

Assam. Supposedly, he was inspired by the image of a red oleander plant crushed by pieces of discarded iron. A branch with a single red oleander protruded through the debris, as if, the poet noted, "created from the blood of its cruelly pierced breast."

It has been suggested that the play's title might appropriately be translated as Blood-Red Oleanders to indicate the beautiful but lethal nature of the flower (oleander is one of

the most poisonous plants in the world) and its association with beauty and death in the play.

Though widely appreciated by Bengali audiences, the play has often been alleged to be elusive. "Rakto Karobi" is essentially a symbolic play. It addresses an agrarian nation obsessed with industrialisation. The idea of breaking free the shackles and finding a way out of the dark, shadowy pits can be an allusion to a home-

sick villager frustrated with city life. The play's theme also involves unscrupulous capitalism and exploitation of the masses.

The play is set in a place called Jakkhapuri, run by a monarch who is completely isolated from his people. The underground domain can best be described as a mine, where everyone is digging relentlessly in search of gold. Nandini is a breath of fresh air in this bleak world.



Literary magazine *Kali O Kalom*, in association with HSBC, Bangladesh, is going to award the "Tarun Kobi O Lekhak Purashkar" to up and coming litterateurs again this year. The award will be given in three categories -- poetry, fiction and researched-based work as well as plays. The award carries Tk one lakh and a crest for each winner. To announce the event, *Kali O Kalom* and HSBC jointly organised a press conference at Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi yesterday. Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of Bengal Foundation; Abul Hasnat, editor of *Kali O Kalom* and Sanjay Prakash, CEO of HSBC, Bangladesh spoke at the conference.

Dhaka auditions for "Lux Channel i Super Star '09" begin

The Dhaka audition rounds for "Lux Channel i Super Star 2009" started from October 4 at Emmanuel's Banquet Hall, Gulshan 1, says a press release. On the first day eleven contestants -- Shathi, Mukta, Papiya, Rini, Sukonya, Ananya, Jannat, Parveen, Nurshat, Tasmina Yasmin and Arsha -- received 'Yes' cards, which would allow them to participate in the next round.

Intekhab Dinar, Kusum Sikdar, Murad Parvez, Sharukh Shahid, Richi Solaiman, Farah Ruma, Munir Khan and Farzana



Participants who received 'Yes' cards at the Dhaka audition. Arman Munni are judges of the Dhaka audition rounds, which will continue till October 7. The auditions start from 10 am everyday.

Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt visit Iraqi refugees in Syria

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt took time out of their schedules on Friday to bring attention to the continuing plight of the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees still living in Syria.

Jolie, a United Nations goodwill ambassador, and her significant other spent time with two different families in the Syrian capital of Damascus. They also met with Syrian president Bashar al-Assad to discuss the efforts being made toward health care and education.

"It is clear that the Syrian people, no matter the challenges or difficulties they may face, have always shown generous hospitality to people in need," said Jolie, who last visited the area in 2007. "I hope that the rest of the world recognises that we all have to share this burden and continue to take care of Iraqi refugees."

Source: Internet



Brad Pitt with refugee children in Syria.

Buzz

Indian Summer: Film on Nehru-Edwina relationship

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A proposed film on the relationship between India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Edwina Mountbatten, the wife of last Viceroy of British-ruled India Lord Mountbatten, has received conditional clearance from the Indian government.

The script of the film "Indian Summer" starring Oscar award winning actress Kate Blanchett in the role of Edwina and Hugh Grant as Lord Mountbatten has been given the go-ahead with the rider that certain intimate scenes have to be deleted, officials in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said.

There is no official word on who will play the role of Nehru in the film, which is slated to be released in the year 2011 and the shooting is expected to begin early next year.

The film, which examines the last days of the British rule in India, is

based on a book titled "The Secret History of the End of An Empire" by Alex Von Tunzelmann.

In her book launched in 2007, the author explains how the relationships between Lord Mountbatten, Edwina,

Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and in particular the relationship between Nehru and Edwina, shaped the historical moment. Keeping the sensitivity of the subject, the film also needs to be

cleared by the Indian government before its commercial release.

These, officials in Information and Broadcasting Ministry say, are set procedures followed while granting permission for shooting of any foreign film in India.

An expert committee had scrutinised the script and suggested deletion of certain scenes, the officials said.

Mashraba Films, which is producing the movie, has also been told to add a disclaimer to the film saying that it is a work of fiction.

The Indian Information and Broadcasting Ministry has told the producers to stick to the script and any deviation from the approved script would need prior clearance of the government, the officials said.

In case the producers accept the conditions and decide to shoot the film in India, an officer will be attached to the shooting unit to ensure adherence to the script approved by the government.



(From left) Edwina Mountbatten, Lord Mountbatten and Jawaharlal Nehru.

An insight into Tangail

Book on the district launched

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The publication ceremony of a book, titled "Tangail Zila Parichiti," by young writer Khan Mahbub was held recently in the district.

Tangail Sahitya Sangsad, a local literary organisation, arranged the festival at the local Public Library Auditorium.

Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique was chief guest at the event.

Joint secretary of Tangail Sahitya Sangsad and rhymester Alam Talukdar; Lalon researcher Dr. Abul Ahsan Chowdhury; Tangail Deputy Commissioner M Bazul Karim Chowdhury and poet Bimol Guha attended the event and spoke at the discussion as special guests.

With Tangail Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education and Development) Dr Mohammad Abul Hasan in the chair, the

discussion was attended by, among others, young writer and researcher Tapan Bagchi and the writer of "Tangail Zila Parichiti" Khan Mahbub.

Speakers at the discussion said that Tangail is a district replete with a glorious history and tradition. The district, they asserted, was at the forefront of all democratic movements in the country, including the Liberation War of 1971. A good number of enlightened persons and brave sons of the soil were born in the district, they pointed out.

They also said that "Tangail Zila Parichiti" is a rich source of information on the local personalities as well as history, tradition, culture and literature of the district.

They thanked Khan Mahbub for authoring the book and expressed the hope that the literary work would gain a huge circulation.

A sizeable section of the local dignitaries, including poets, writers and other personalities, attended the book launch.

When Dhaka becomes quiet

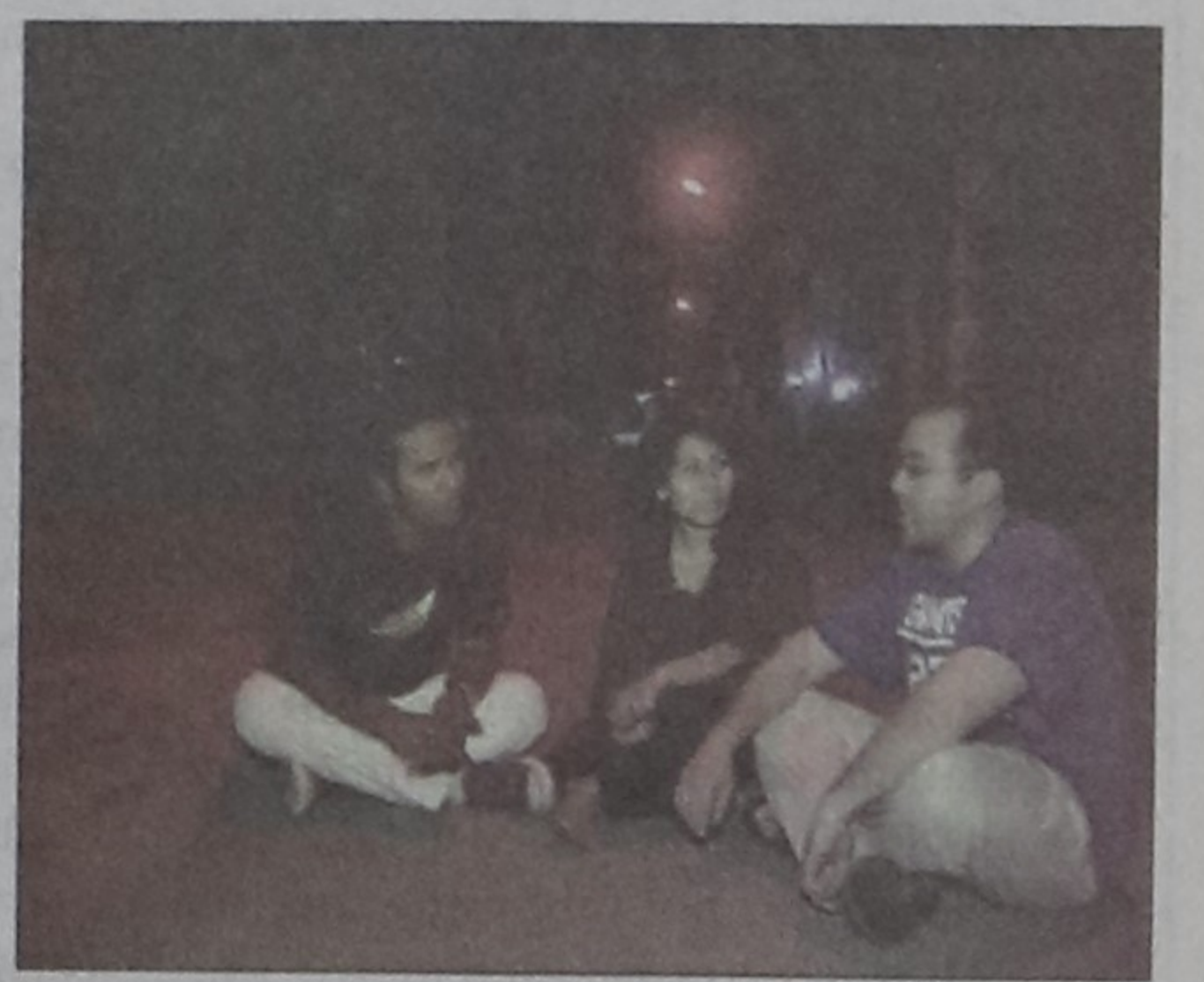
Entertainment show Raat Biratey on Banglavisision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Traffic jam and commotion -- these are the familiar features of Dhaka city at daytime. But after midnight, this city takes on a completely different look. The streets and avenues become almost empty and crowded places look eerily unfamiliar.

Entertainment show "Raat Biratey" on Banglavisision highlights Dhaka past midnight. Each episode features one or more celebrities and their take on Dhaka at night.

The featured celebrity spends a whole night with the host of the programme on the streets. Both the host and the guest walk through different streets



The show is hosted by Majnun Mizan (left).

and the guest shares his/her personal experiences with the host. Visiting popular spots of the city is also a key feature of the show.

"Raat Biratey" will be aired tonight at 11:25pm. Produced by Kawnain Shourav, the programme is hosted by actor Majnun Mizan.