

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Jai Bangla
 Artist: Shahabuddin
 Venue: Shaha Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: Sep 27-Oct 18
 Time: 12-8pm



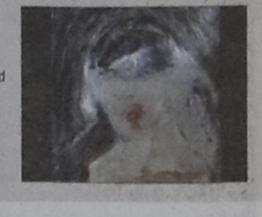
Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Kantha Kahini
 Artist: Fahamida Enam
 Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
 Date: October 1-14
 Time: 10am-12pm & 5pm-8:30pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Shells and Souls
 Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
 Date: October 9-15
 Time: 3-9pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Shudurer Mita
 Artist: Mustaque Ahmed
 Venue: Gallery Chitrag, H 21, Rd 4, Dhanmondi
 Date: October 23-November 5
 Time: 10am-8pm



An uphill climb

Call to include dance in education system



Clockwise (from top-left): Tamanna Rahman, Sheikh Mehedi Hasan, Dipa Khondokar, Minu Haque and Shaju Ahmed.

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

When the curtains came down on the 4th National Dance Festival on April 29 2009, Bangladesh Nriyashilpi Sangstha (the national council of dancers) made an appeal to the Education Minister. The dancers wanted a better public understanding of dance. According to them, the purpose of dance goes beyond mere entertainment. Dance can inspire, motivate, educate, enlighten. They believe if this art form is included in our education system, it would truly benefit us as a nation.

Recently, renowned dancers Minu Haque, Dipa Khondokar, Tamanna Rahman and Shaju Ahmed,

along with dance researcher Sheikh Mehedi Hasan got together with The Daily Star to discuss the need to incorporate the art form in our school curriculum.

"The annual National Dance Festival has been held since 2003," said Shaju Ahmed, executive member of Bangladesh Nriyashilpi Sangstha (BNSS). "We had demonstrations at several schools and 80 percent of the children echoed the view that they wanted dance as a part of their school activities. In many districts, this work had expanded, covering remote areas and we had submitted memorandums to the district officers to this effect."

"April 29 is observed as International Dance Day and on the occasion our associa-

tion holds a week-long programme. At this year's festival, the association submitted a proposal to the Education Minister and we are still awaiting a response from the ministry. In the proposal, we have asked for the inclusion of dance as part of the school curriculum, opening a university for higher studies of performing arts, offering more incentives to the existing cultural institutes such as Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Chhayanaut and others," Ahmed added.

Tamanna Rahman, joint secretary of BNSS, asserted, "Although Bangladesh can boast a well-developed dance scenario, the possibilities are only limited to appreciation. Students who want to gain

proficiency in this field usually go to India for higher studies. When they return as adept artists, they are more or less ignored by policymakers, the media and society in general. The fact that dance can be taken up professionally is still not a concept that has caught on here."

"This attitude is favoured by the government's limited budget allocated for cultural affairs, which is reduced time after time," said Sheikh Mehedi Hasan. "To amplify the practice of this art that is already very popular yet overlooked, and to give the nation's talented dancers a recognition that is their rightful due, the only measure that can be the most effective is the incorporation of this art form in the education system.

Moreover, the monthly salaries of dancer teachers outside Dhaka range between Taka 600 and 700 and in these times of price hike, that is nothing!"

Said Dipa Khondokar, general secretary of BNSS, "The TV channels still do not promote the art form and dancers adequately, though there are talk shows and features on singers, actors, directors and so on. Dancers are still not considered 'celebrities,' though we have many dance legends. Through *The Daily Star*, we want to draw the attention of our people, media as well as the government to our struggles that began with the inception of BNSS in 1978. Dance is ingrained in our culture, heritage and a fitting recognition is long overdue!"

"Dance is an art and like every other art form, it refines an individual and emancipates him/her from the constraints of everyday life," said Minu Haque, convenor of BNSS. "The art form is a practice of coordinated movements and therefore shapes not only the physique but also the mind. It is only natural that the monotony of school-work can make a child frustrated if not interspersed with something enjoyable such as dance. For this reason, this initiative was widely welcomed by the school children. We have the potential, we have the need and we have talented, skilled teachers and students yearning for this art. All that is required now is for a bridge to shorten this gap."

The writer is a freelance contributor.

A different kind of talent hunt

Differently-abled artistes in the limelight



A blind contestant performs on the show.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Banglavisision have started airing "Onno Alor Gaan" a new reality show featuring a musical contest for differently-abled individuals. The talent hunt has been organised by Kingbandanti Media.

A total of 97 contestants have been selected through nationwide auditions. Though tal-

ented, these singers are often overlooked by the society and media. Now they have an opportunity to prove their mettle and shine.

The audition rounds were judged by renowned artistes Ferdous Ara, Iffat Ara Nargis, Agun, Sandipan, Akramul Islam and others. Banglavisision, the daily *Shomokal* and Radio Amar are media partners of the competition.

"Onno Alor Gaan" is aired on Banglavisision every Friday and Saturday at 6:20 pm.



On October 10, a solo flute recital by Ustad Captain (retd) Azizul Islam was held at Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi. At the programme Azizul Islam's renditions were based on different raaga and taal. The seasoned flutist was accompanied by Pinu Sen Das on tabla and Mohammad Jahangir Alam on tanpura. Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui was the chief guest at the event.

Grand Finale of Moo's Band Fest '09

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On October 10, the Grand Finale of Moo's Band Fest '09 was held at the All Community Club in Gulshan. Twelve upcoming bands performed and the results were given out at the programme. The participating bands were Old School, Urban Fictions, Road 31, Oblique, Xorostrian, Crematic X, Chaotic Symphony, Cops Gone Bad, Heal, Framework, Xuthus and Biporit. From July 13 to August 18, every Friday these bands performed at Moo's Barn as part of the contest. Through judges' (Sajid from De-Illumination and Zia from Shironamhin) choice and online forums (amadergaan.com) the winner Crematic X was chosen.

"All the bands were just amazing," said Tanim, one of the organisers. "It was mainly a mechanism to promote up and coming bands in Bangladesh. The winner will be given a cash prize along with support in recording. The feedback was really good and we hope to do this again, perhaps on a bigger scale."

The media partners were amadergaan.com and Radio Foorti.



Members of the winning band, Crematic X, rejoice after the results were announced.

DJ Pro was the sound partner.

"The Grand Finale showcased the bands' diverse tastes in music and so was a spellbinding mix of all kinds of genres," said Dip, coordinator of the event.

Old School's Naved, Shadman, Mobasser, Mustaqim and Shanto started off with classics. The band has been working on grunge, hip-hop,

rock, fusion, etc. At Moo's Grand Finale they played 'Neo-Fusion,' which was basically rock with a Bengali touch.

Biporit was next who had a bit of classic and folk touch that left the audience in a relaxed mood.

Xorostrian's performance featured 'Nu-metal' which is quite rare in our country.

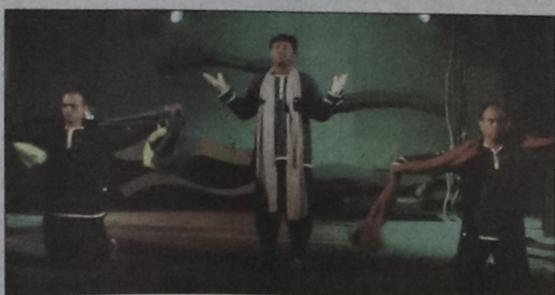
Urban Fictions blazed the podium with their heavy metal music. Diat, Rashel, Don, Tanim and Ravel performed "Kalu murti" from the recently released album "Rock 202".

Saif Ishtiaque from the band Oblique said, "It was great competing with other bands. It brought us all together." Oblique performed two songs from their last album "Ojotai".

Asheque from Framework shared a common experience: "Although we were competing musically, we became better friends as fellow musicians." Framework is a rock band consisting of Asheque (vocals), Sabuj and Tanjib (guitars), Manna (bass) and Shams (keyboard).

Members of the winning band, Crematic X -- Ashique (vocals), Arifur (bass), Sanjoy (drums), Prajna and Mainul (guitars) -- were seemingly ecstatic. This experimental rock band was also featured in the "Rock 202" album. They hope to release their own studio album within a year.

The bands were very competitive and yet amicable towards each other. Events like this would go a long way in giving the Bangladeshi rock music scene a boost.



Theatre troupe Nityadhara recently staged its production "Kando Nodi Kando" at the Studio Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The play was written by Manzurul Hasan Dulal and directed by Masud Parvez Miju.

Khulna auditions for Lux Channel i Super Star '09

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

The Khulna auditions for Lux Channel i Super Star 2009 was held recently at a hotel in the City.

In total 14 candidates received the much-coveted 'Yes' cards that would enable them to participate in the next round.

The lucky contestants are: Niharika Tithi, Habiba Siddiqua Natasha, Sushmita Binte Salam, Faria Diana, Noorjahan Akther Kanti, Marmo Madhurjo, Tandra, Sharmin Reza Rini, Jotia Biswas, Umme Hani and Natasha Mirza of Khulna; Ruma Akther and Moli Ahmed of Jessore and Shafayet Zabin Isma of Faridpur.

Around 1000 hopefuls registered to take part in the Khulna auditions. The auditions were judged by Tazin Ahmed, Tarin, Moutushi Biswas, Ashrafi Mithu, Shihab Shahin and Shamim Shahed.

তরুণ কবি ও লেখক পুরস্কার ২০০৯

বাংলাদেশের সাহিত্যের বিকাশ, প্রসার ও সৃজনধারাকে গতিশীল করার লক্ষ্যে এবং তরুণদের সাহিত্যচর্চা ও সাধনাকে উৎসাহিত করার জন্যে বিশ্বের স্থানীয় ব্যাংক এইচএসবিসি এবং মাসিক সাহিত্য পত্রিকা কালি ও কলম ২০০৮ সাল থেকে তরুণ কবি ও লেখক পুরস্কার প্রবর্তন করেছে।

২০০৯ সালেও এইচএসবিসি-কালি ও কলম তরুণদের সৃজন উদ্যমে প্রেরণা সঞ্চারের উদ্দেশ্যে কবিতা, সৃজনশীল ও মননশীল - এই তিনটি বিভাগে তরুণ কবি ও লেখকদের রচিত শ্রেষ্ঠ গ্রন্থের জন্যে পুরস্কার প্রদান করবে। এই বিভাগগুলো হলো ১. কবিতা, ২. ছোটগল্প ও উপন্যাস এবং ৩. প্রবন্ধ, গবেষণা ও নাটক। প্রতিটি বিভাগের শ্রেষ্ঠগ্রন্থের রচয়িতাকে এক লাখ টাকা করে মোট তিন লাখ টাকা পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে।

১৮ থেকে ৪০ বছর বয়সী বাংলাদেশী (প্রবাসীও) কবি ও লেখকদের রচিত মৌলিক সাহিত্যকর্ম পুরস্কারের জন্যে বিবেচিত হবে। ২০০৮ সালের জুলাই থেকে ২০০৯ সালের জুন পর্যন্ত প্রকাশিত গ্রন্থসমূহ এই প্রতিযোগিতায় গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে। পুরস্কারের জন্যে উপস্থাপিত হয়নি এমন বই, অনুবাদকর্ম এবং পুরস্কারের যে-কোনো পর্যায়ের বাছাইয়ের সঙ্গে জড়িত ব্যক্তিদের গ্রন্থ পুরস্কারের জন্যে বিবেচিত হবে না।

২৫ নভেম্বর ২০০৯ তারিখের মধ্যে কালি ও কলম দপ্তরে (বেঙ্গল সেন্টার, প্লট ২, দিগন্ত এভিন্যু, নিউ এয়ারপোর্ট রোড, পোস্ট-কোড, খিলক্ষেত, ঢাকা ১২২৯) পাঁচ কপি বই জমা দিতে হবে। সেইসঙ্গে একটি ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে, বইটি বাংলাদেশী লেখকের মৌলিক সাহিত্যকর্ম, লেখকের বয়স নির্ধারিত বয়সসীমার মধ্যে এবং বইটি এই পুরস্কারের জন্যে উপস্থাপন করা হচ্ছে। বয়স প্রমাণের জন্য জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র অথবা সমমানের সনদের অনুলিপি প্রেরণ করতে হবে।

২০১০ সালের প্রথমদিকে একটি অনুষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে পুরস্কার তিনটি প্রদান করা হবে। পুরস্কারের বিষয়ে বিতরণকর্মসূচীর সিদ্ধান্ত হবে চূড়ান্ত।

যোগাযোগ: ০১৮১৯২৬৮৪৫২, ০১৮১৯২৬৮৪৬২, ৮৯১৪০০৬, mail@kaliokalam.com

বিশ্বের স্থানীয় ব্যাংক