

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

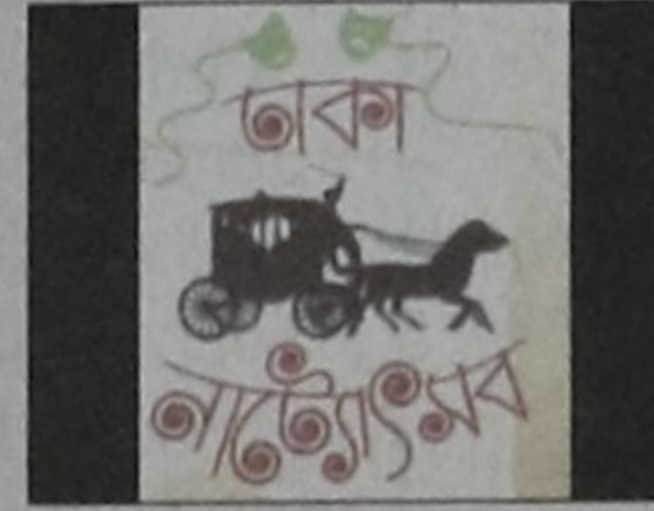
Theatre Festival
Organiser: Aranyak Natyadal
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Shegunbagicha
Date: October 22-25
Time: 7pm everyday
Today: 'Mayur Shinghashan'



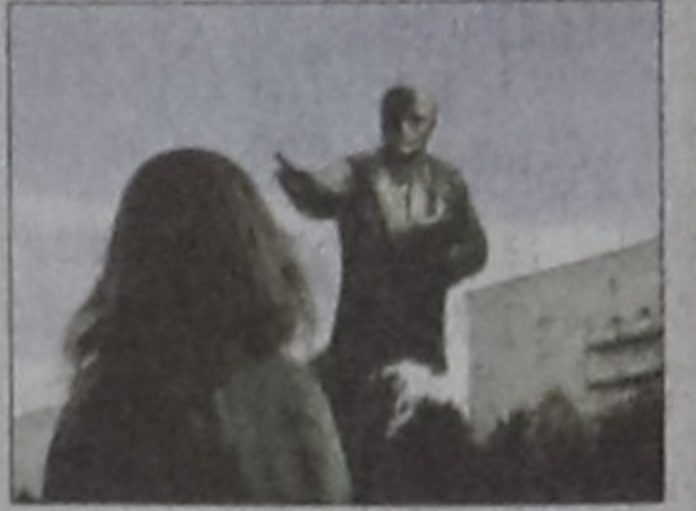
Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Mustafa Khalid
Palash
Venue: Asiatic Art Gallery, Nimtoli, Ramna
Date: October 23
Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre Festival
Title: Dhaka Natyashab '09
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
Venue: Zahir Raihan Cultural Centre, Shurapur
Date: October 15-31
Time: 7pm everyday



Film Screening
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: October 21-22
Time: 4pm onwards
Today: 'Crazy' & 'Good Bye, Lenin!'



The many faces of Bangladesh

Photography exhibition at Drik Gallery



"I tried to bring out the best of the country," said the photographer.

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

On October 18 the exhibition "Bangladesh - The Land of Diversity" was inaugurated at Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi. State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan was the chief guest and Alan Davy, managing director of British American Tobacco Bangladesh was special guest.

The exhibition features 64 photographs by MM Zahidur

Rahman Biplob. "I tried to highlight the various aspects of Bangladesh through these images," said the photographer.

"It's a wonderful compilation," said Abdul Mannan Khan. "I was particularly delighted to see the photo of the crow. The sight of the black bird in its habitat was pretty amazing and I'm glad that the photographer has directed our vision to this image that is often overlooked."

The pictures feature

diverse people, places, animals and locales that share a common theme: Bangladesh. The various ways that colours mingle, smiles almost appear and people go about their everyday lives have been beautifully portrayed through the collection of photos.

In one photo, some empty chairs on a beach evoke an empty feeling whereas in another, there is a melange of vivid colours and faces brimming with life. This is Bangladesh -- a land of many con-

trasts. A depiction of an indigenous woman sitting alone, perhaps contemplating, is a moving image. Then there is a photo of a boy storming through a pathway, blowing dust behind him, epitomising vigour and aspirations. The exhibition also has 20 photographs on wildlife, of which Bangladesh has an immense wealth to offer.

"I tried to represent Bangladesh in its traditional and historical elements, landscapes, nature, environment

and lifestyles.

"Basically I selected these pictures out of my collection of around 100,000 photographs. The theme is big, enormous even. I tried to collect and bring out those moments that have a story to share of and about our country," said Biplob.

"When taking the photos, I had encountered several interesting experiences. Like when I took the snap of an indigenous woman, there was a problem in communication. Once they got to know that this unfamiliarly attired man holding a digital equipment was there just to take photos, they were a little shy but were very cordial and hospitable.

"Behind the photo of a deer is another wonderful story. It was taken in Nijhum Dwip. A couple of children had caught a deer cub and a friend of mine and I were trying to release it. All the other deer out of about 150 had fled seeing us, but the mother deer stayed behind to watch over its cub. The shot was taken just as the cub went free. It kind of symbolises the bond between a mother and a child. I guess the love of a mother is the same everywhere, even in wildlife.

"I tried to bring out the best of the country, but Bangladesh has many faces and I had my limitations," the photographer said.

The exhibition ends on October 25.

The writer is a freelance contributor



"Dhanshiritir Tirey": Special documentary on Jibanananda Das



"Dhanshiritir Tirey" highlights poet Jibanananda Das' life and works.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Highlighting poet Jibanananda Das' life, education and works, a special documentary

titled "Dhanshiritir Tirey" will be aired on Banglavision tonight at 11:20pm.

Anchored by eminent literary critique, poet and editor Abdul Mannan Syed,

the programme has been planned and produced by Mamun Khan.

Poet Jibanananda Das is considered a forerunner of modern Bengali poem. Das had created lyrical masterpieces on the rivers Dhansiri, Shondhya, Shugandha and Kirtankhola. The exquisite landscape that is depicted in many of his poems is the reflection of the scenic beauty of Barisal.

Abdul Mannan Syed has elaborately analysed the places that bear memories of the poet. A highlight of the documentary is poet Rabishankar Moitri -- sitting on the bank of the river Dhansiri -- reciting poems of Jibanananda Das.

Young Bangladeshi filmmaker Shiropa wins U.S. award

Shiropa Purna, daughter of artist duo Kalid Mahmud Mithu and Kanak Canpa Chakma, has won an international film award, according to a press release. Shiropa won the 'Judges Award for Excellence' at the Reel Teens Film Festival, New York.

She earned the prestigious recognition for her documentary on the lifestyle of the Bangladesh gypsy (bedey) community, titled "Our Boat is Our Address." Shiropa is the first filmmaker of her age to win this award, according to a note from the festival director.

Apart from the award giving ceremony in New York, Shiropa will also attend a programme at the 26th



Shiropa's documentary zooms in on the bedey community.

Chicago International Children's Film Festival. The child filmmaker will receive her award in New York on

November 7. Shiropa and her mother Kanak Champa left the country for USA yesterday.



Jahangirnagar Theatre (JT) staged its production "Bhabmurti" recently at the Mukto Mancho, Jahangirnagar University. The play was written by Moloy Bhaumik and directed by Mahbubur Rahman Rana. Apart from the play, a certificate giving ceremony for participants of a theatre workshop was also held at the venue. Dr. AKM Shahnawaz, president, JT handed over the certificates.

A field day for children Cultural Competition in Barisal

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

The Bangladesh Shishu Academy's Barisal unit recently organised a 'Moushumi' (seasonal cultural) Competition for schoolchildren in eight districts of the region.

Hundreds of enthusiastic children from Barisal, Barguna, Bhola, Jhalakati, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Madaripur and Bagerhat districts participated in the event.

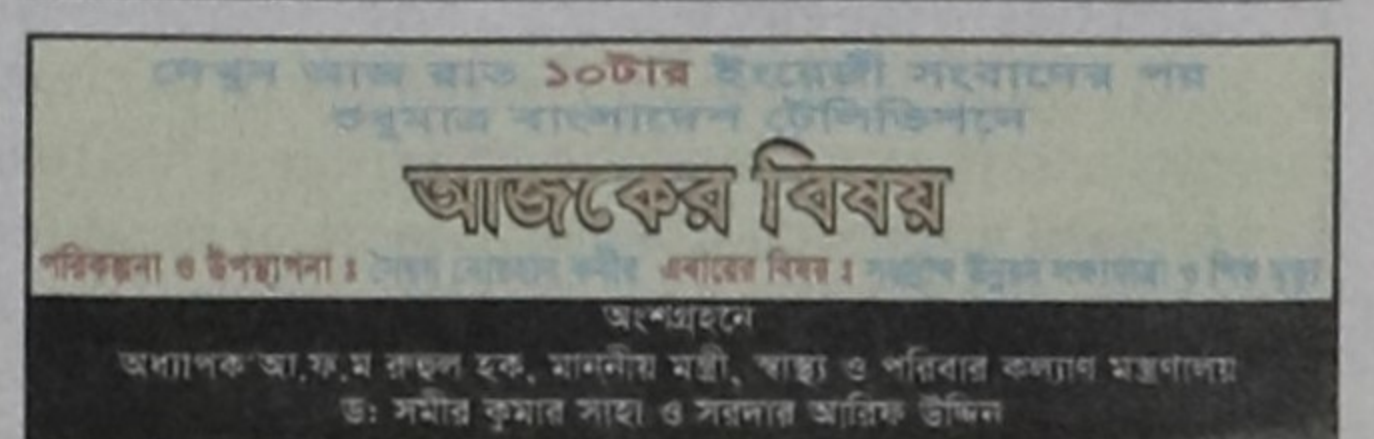
The programme is an annual fixture to enable school students to take part in cultural events such as chorus songs, quiz, debates and dances.

Around 50 schools participated in the daylong programme held at Barisal Government Girls' School last Friday.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (general) of Barisal, Mohammad Sirajul Haque was the chief guest at the programme, while Barisal District Officer of Shishu Academy, Pankaj Kumar Roy Chowdhury presided over the discussion.

Talking to *The Daily Star*, participants at the programme said that the competition was a new and learning experience for them. Competitions like this would help them hone their creativity. They also urged the organisers to hold such competitions in future.

In the concluding session, the chief guest handed crests among the winners in three categories.



Honouring a screen legend

Suchitra Sen Film Festival to begin in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The district administration and 'Suchitra Sen Smriti Sangrakshan Parishad' are the joint organisers of the weeklong 'Suchitra Sen Film Festival-2009' to be inaugurated on October 23 at the Pabna Town Hall premises.

"The festival has been organised to honor Suchitra Sen, a screen legend of Bangla films, originally from Pabna. It is also meant to introduce the younger generation to quality films," said film organiser sources.

"We feel proud that the silver screen diva is originally from Pabna. We want to preserve the memories of Suchitra Sen in Pabna, like her ancestral home," said Mohammad Saidul Haque Chunn, secretary of the festival organising committee.

Veteran film actress Kabari is to inaugurate the film festival. Earlier a procession will wind its way through the main streets of the district headquarters, said organiser sources.

A discussion focusing on the films of Suchitra Sen will also be held at the Town Hall premises the same day. Renowned film director Soovas Dutt will be the chief guest on the occasion. Pabna Deputy Commissioner Dr. AFM Manzur Kadir is to chair the programme.

Suchitra Sen spent her childhood and adolescence at her father's residence in the village Gopalpur in Pabna. Sen's original

name was Krishna Dasgupta. She began her studies at Mahakali Pathshala in Pabna town. Later she gained admission at Pabna Girls School, which is now Pabna Government Girls High School. Suchitra studied till Class IX in this school. She left the then East Bengal with her family just before the Partition (1947).

Her first film in India was "Shesh Kothaye" in 1952. Sen had starred in at least 63 films, including seven Hindi productions. She was famed for her superior histrionics and a smile that could melt ice. The Uttam Kumar-Suchitra Sen on screen pairing gained popularity in both Bengals. In the course of her acting career Sen had performed in at least 32 films with Uttam Kumar.

Unfortunately her paternal residence was occupied by an educational institution. Cultural activists would like the historic house to be freed and turned into a museum. They have submitted a memorandum at the Deputy Commissioner's office to this effect.

"Through the upcoming film festival we want to generate awareness on this issue among the people of Pabna and the country," said Gopal Shannal, president of Pabna Drama Circle and one of the members of the festival organising committee to *The Daily Star*.

"At the festival we will showcase 30 films of Suchitra Sen," asserted Zakir Hossain, secretary of the Ekushey Book Fair Celebration Committee and a member of the film festival committee.

