

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Musical Soiree
 Title: Pran-er Khela
 Artists: Naqub Khan and Tanvir Alam Shawjeb
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi
 Date: October 29



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Ballads and Paintings
 Artist: Abdus Shakoor Shah
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos, Malibagh
 Date: October 24 - November 7
 Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
 Venue: Asiatic Art Gallery, Nimtoli, Ramna
 Date: October 23 - November 22
 Time: 10am-8pm



Musical Soiree
 On Abbasuddin birth anniversary
 Organiser: Bhawaiya Angan
 Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh
 Date: October 27
 Time: 6:01pm



Fazlul Haque Memorial Award '09 Syed Shamsul Huq and Amjad Hossain honoured



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

(From left) Soovas Dutt, Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam, Amjad Hossain, Rabeya Khatun and Syed Shamsul Huq at the award-giving programme.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Noted litterateur Syed Shamsul Huq and veteran film director Amjad Hossain have been honoured with Fazlul Haque Memorial Award 2009. The award giving ceremony was held at a city hotel yesterday. The programme was organised by Fazlul Haque Smriti Committee.

The award is conferred in honour of Fazlul Haque, father of Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director, Impress Telefilm Limited and Channel i. Renowned litterateur Rabeya Khatun, wife of Fazlul Haque introduced the award in 2004. The award

is presented to a film director and a film journalist in recognition of their work.

Syed Shamsul Huq was honoured for his contribution to film journalism and Amjad Hossain for filmmaking. The awardees received a crest, a cash prize of Tk 25,000 and a certificate each. Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam, chief guest at the event, presented the crests; special guest veteran filmmaker Soovas Dutt handed over the certificates and Rabeya Khatun gave away the cheques.

Previously the awards were conferred to Fazal Shahabuddin, Chashi Nazrul Islam, Humayun Ahmed, Ahmed Zaman

Chowdhury, Saidul Anam Tutul, Rafiquzzaman, Soovas Dutt, Hireen Dey, Abdur Rahman and Golam Rabbani Biplob.

The event was well attended by cultural personalities, family members and well wishers of Fazlul Haque. Among others, Faridur Reza Sagor, Chashi Nazrul Islam and writer Imdadul Haque Milon were present at the event.

Apart from the awards giving ceremony a documentary titled "The Frontier Man Fazlul Haque" -- highlighting his life and achievements -- was also screened at the venue. The documentary was directed by Shahidul Alam Sachchu.

Udichi holds divisional training camp and workshop in Jhalakathi



PHOTO: STAR

Habibul Alam, secretary of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi Central Committee, speaks at the event.

RAFIQUL ISLAM, back from Jhalakathi

Udichi Shilpi Goshthi held the daylong Barisal divisional training camp and workshop recently with the slogan "Bohurupi Shajey Shoirachar: Manush Bholano Jabena Aar." The camp and workshop were held at Sanay Community Centre in Jhalakathi district town. The event included a discussion and a

cultural programme. Over 100 participants from six districts, including Barisal, Bhola, Barguna, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Jhalakathi listened raptly as the speakers outlined the organisation's objectives.

Chief guest Habibul Alam, secretary of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi Central Committee, inaugurated the programme. Habibur Rahaman, vice president of the Central Committee, chaired the event.

"Through cultural activities, people try to uphold their heritage which propounds humanity. It is the responsibility of every cultural activist to speak out against any attempt to damage this legacy," said Habibul Alam, in his speech.

Among the speakers were leading cultural activists of the division: Jamsheer Anwar Tapan, organising secretary of the Central Committee; Nasrin Mozammel Ema, Central Committee member and others. Udichi Shilpi Goshthi effectively uses music as a tool to protest against oppression. The organisation has long supported the progressive movement and taken an independent stance through patriotic and inspirational songs, said the speakers.

The discussants went on to add that Udichi artistes strongly believe that they have a responsibility to the society. As an outcome of this belief, they have worked in the cultural arena of the district for the last 43 years. Focusing on the key role of cultural movements in society, the speakers emphasised the urgent need to promote cultural unity.

Later a cultural programme was held at the venue. Artistes of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi as well as other organisations staged musical performances.

Rapper 50 Cent joins football stars at film gala

Rapper and actor 50 Cent joined football stars Rio Ferdinand and Ashley Cole at the London premiere of "Dead Man Running", which they co-financed.

Cole said he never thought he would see his name on a film's credits.

Ferdinand backed the film on the basis that work for disadvantaged children was generated through the project.

50 Cent's co-star, Brenda Blethyn, said her "street cred" has "gone through the roof" since appearing with the star.

Actor Danny Dyer, who also appears in the film, said the England footballers' backing was helpful, but they maintained a distance.

"They were great because they've given us publicity and that's all a film needs."

"They didn't get involved because they don't understand it."



50 Cent

"You know, I'm not going to tell them how to play football so they weren't going to start telling us how to make a film," he added.

Oscar-nominated star Blethyn said: "It made no difference to the way the film was made, it just meant that it got made at all and I'm grateful to them for that. How's that for a hat-trick for you?"

Manchester United star Ferdinand added that their involvement would have long-term benefits for young people.

"Now they're going to be involved in future projects so it's going to be a win-win situation for everybody involved."

Other famous faces who turned out for the Leicester Square premiere included Spice Girl Mel B and singer Jamaica.

Source: Internet

Aranyak's theatre festival ends

Dipu Smriti Padak '09 conferred on Malay Bhowmik

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The theatre festival by Aranyak (celebrating 100th shows of "Mayur Shinghashan" and "Shongkranti") ended at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on October 25. At the closing ceremony, renowned dramatist and teacher Malay Bhowmik (Rajshahi University) was honoured with the Aranyak Dipu Smriti Padak-2009.

The festival began on October 22 with the staging of "Mayur Shinghashan". Other Aranyak productions, "Shongkranti", "Ebong Bidyasagar" and "Rarang" were staged on October 23, 24 and 25 respectively.

Malay Bhowmik, a freedom fighter, has been actively involved with Bangladeshi theatre for the last three decades. Apart from writing and directing several outstanding plays like "Shob Byabochchhed", "Bohey Prantojon", "Ora Kadom Ali", "Iblish", "Kinu Kaharer Thetar", "Bhumi Konya O Jonum" (in Santal language), "Dewan Gazir Kissa" and others, he has excelled as a journalist and an organiser.

Noted litterateur Professor Hasan Azizul Haque, Indian theatre personality Arun Mukhopadhyay, columnist Badruddin Omar, renowned cultural personality Nasiruddin Yousuff and Malay Bhowmik spoke on the occasion.

In his speech, Professor Hasan Azizul Haque said, "We have to nurture our folk traditions and incorporate them into the



Malay Bhowmik receives his award from Arun Mukhopadhyay.

mainstream culture to envisage our true identity."

Nasiruddin Yousuff lauded Malay Bhowmik's works and his courageous role as a theatre activist.

After receiving the award named after Aminul Ehsan Dipu, Bhowmik said, "Dipu being alive today would've surely been far more significant than me receiving this award. Years after independence, we are still slaves to greed and consumerism. Dipu's departed soul haunts me to establish the rights of the masses."

Dipu's mother Amena Begum was in tears during Bhowmik's speech.

Previously, Shimul Yusuf, Tariq Anam Khan and Tropa Majumdar received the award. President and secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Liaquat Ali Lucky and Jhuna Chowdhury respectively, were also present at the programme.

Mamunur Rashid, chief secretary of Aranyak Natyadal, presided over the programme.

After the award giving ceremony, Aranyak Natyadal staged "Rarang", one of its highly acclaimed productions. Mamunur Rashid wrote and directed the play.

Music against burning environmental issues



PHOTO: STAR

Bauls perform at the musical programme.

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Baul and mystic songs dominated a regional programme in Sylhet city, held on Saturday night to protest against irresponsible actions that facilitate climate change and environmental

degradation.

Thousands of people jostled for place on the Surma riverbank in Sylhet city where the event was held.

The bauls raised the burning issues of our times through their traditional songs in a function called 'Jalobayu O Daridro Shunani' (Hearing on Environment and

Poverty).

Artistes of Palli Baul Samaj Unnayan Sangstha also presented songs of Lalon, Radha Raman, Hason Raja and Shah Abdul Karim. The function was dedicated to the memory of the recently deceased Shah Abdul Karim. The organisers were the Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL), Haor group with assistance from Oxfam and IDEA, a regional NGO.

Folk artiste Shahnaz Beli and her team presented several songs. Other local artistes and groups such as Birohi Kala Mia also came on stage with their mesmerising folk songs.

Sylhet City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran delivered a speech on the occasion.

Several farmers like Matiur Rahman from Biswambarpur, Abul Hossain from Jamamganj, Kamal Uddin from Brahmanbaria, Gunendra Sen from Srimangal and a fisherman from Habiganj, Omar Ali, recounted tales of misery caused by climate change and poverty.

Programme coordinator Nazmul Haque, politician Lokman Ahmed, lawyer EU Shahidul Islam Shahin, Assistant Professor of Shahjalal University Faisal Ahmed and Sylhet Press Club general secretary Ahmed Nur attended the event.

Andrew Lloyd Webber diagnosed with cancer

Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, 61, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, it has been disclosed.

His spokesman said in a statement that the condition was currently in its very early stages.

"Andrew is now undergoing treatment and expects to be fully back at work before the end of the year," it said.

Lord Lloyd Webber, composer of "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat", is set to judge a BBC talent show next year.

Lord Lloyd Webber is best known for his musicals, which include "Evita", "Starlight Express" and "The Phantom of the Opera".

Earlier this month, he launched his new musical "Love Never Dies", a sequel to "Phantom of the Opera", which is due to open in February next year.

He has led three successful BBC series which cast leads for West End musicals: "How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?", "Any Dream Will Do" and "I'd Do Anything!"

Next year he will launch a new BBC



Lloyd Webber wrote the UK's 2009 Eurovision Song Contest entry.

show to find Dorothy and Toto for a new theatrical production of "The Wizard of Oz".

He owns seven London theatres

including the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and the London Palladium.

Source: BBC