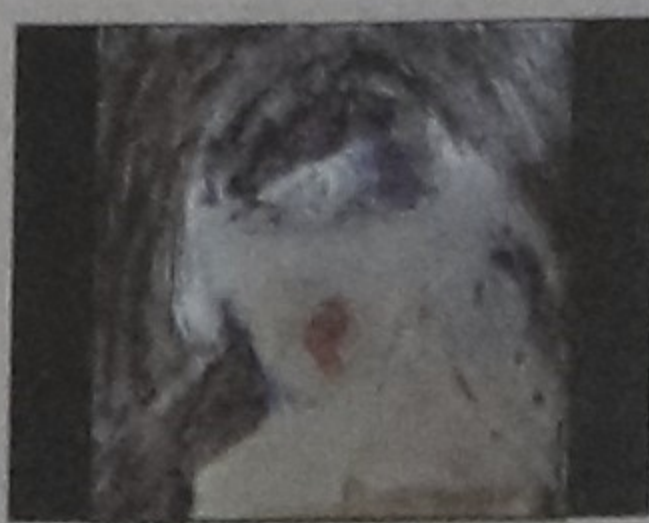


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

## Solo Art Exhibition

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



## Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Ballads and Paintings  
Artist: Abdus Shakoor Shah  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, Malibagh  
Date: October 24-November 7  
Time: 11am-6pm



## Painting Exhibition

Title: Faces of Buddha: An Expression of early medieval spirit  
Organiser: IUB Art Club  
Venue: Art and Aesthetics Gallery, 90 Park Road, Baridhara, Dhaka  
Date: October 28-November 11



## Solo Painting Exhibition

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



# The subtle magnificence of 'Raas' festival



The 'Maha Raas Leela' festival includes 'Gustha leela', 'Raas Nritya' and 'Kirtan'.

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI,  
Maulvibazar

The Manipuri community from Madhabpur and Adampur, under Kamalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Barisal

The two-day 'Raas Utshab' -- one of the biggest festivals for communities living in southern Bangladesh -- began last Sunday in Kuakata.

This tradition of over 200

upazila of Maulvibazar district, celebrated their major religious and cultural festival 'Maha Raas Leela' on November 2. Celebrations were held at Manipuri Jura Mandap in Madhabpur's Shibbazar and

years in the coastal region also signals the opening of the fishing season. Thousands of people gathered at the Kuakata coast to join the festival.

A two-day long 'Raas Mela' (fair) was arranged here. A major attraction of the event was cultural programmes sponsored by Grameen Phone

Adampur.

This was the 167th 'Maha Raas Leela' celebration at Shibbazar Jura Mandap. Maharaj Bhagya Chandra, the King of Manipur initiated the 'Raas Leela' celebration.

as well as religious rituals.

The festival began at Kuakata beach on Sunday, with devotees arriving after the emergence of the full moon, known as 'Raas Purnima'. The event ended with the visitors taking a dip in the Bay of Bengal on Monday dawn.

Madhabpur is the first place outside Manipur, where the festival was celebrated by the 'Bishnupuria' sect of Manipuris in 1842. Since then the festival has become a regular fixture in Maulvibazar district.

The devotees believe that the bath cleanses them of all their sins. Thousands of people from far and near thronged the mela ground arranged colourfully in observance of the festival.

Since 1927, the festival has been celebrated by the local Hindu community with great enthusiasm and religious

'Meithel', another faction of the Manipuri community, began observing the festival at Adampur Temple from 1986 onwards. However, Manipuris have been celebrating this event on the 'Purnima tithi' (full moon) of the Bengali month Kartik every year. As Manipuris are the followers of Sri Krishna, various 'leela' of the deity stated in the religious books are enacted with songs, dances and recitation on the occasion. The highlight of the festival was that all the performances were presented in the Manipuri language.

The 'Maha Raas Leela' festival includes 'Gustha leela' (dance of the cowherd), 'Raas Nritya' (dance of Sri Radha and her friends), 'Harir Lu', 'Kirtan' and discussion on religious topics. The programme began on Monday morning and wrapped up the next morning. According to the Manipuri community, the main themes of the festival are global peace, harmony, truth and beauty.

A major draw was a fair, complete with Manipuri handicrafts and other products. Thousands of devotees and people, irrespective of caste and creed from different areas of the country, attended the festival at Madhabpur and Adampur.

The venue: Khepupara Sree Sree Madanmohan Sheba Ashram in the municipal town.

The rituals of 'Ghat Puja', 'Bisharjan' and 'Ganga Snan' are also observed concurrently, said Bhupendranath and Kamalendu Hawladar of Madanmohan Sheba Ashram.

# A cinematic adaptation of Akhtaruzzaman Elias' "Kanna"



Nasiruddin Yousuff speaks at the programme.

PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Short film "Kanna" was premiered at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium of National Museum, Shabagh on November 2. The short film is an adaptation by Maruf Hussain of a short story -- with the same title -- by renowned litterateur Akhtaruzzaman Elias. Srishtigarh has produced the film.

The 16-minute film opens with a committal ceremony at the Azimpur graveyard. Afaz Ali offers prayers at funerals for a living. However, he fails to put his heart into his work and is interested only in financial gains.

Ali's whole attitude to life and death undergoes a drastic change when his son dies. Now he is completely moved while offering D'ua at someone's funeral, which he didn't do before.

The adaptation was not well executed in

terms of cinematography. The major flaw that was conspicuously visible at the premiere was the topping of red soil over a new grave in Barisal (red soil is typical to Barendra area, Madhupur Garh and hilly areas of north-east). Besides, the make-up artiste of the film seemingly did his job rather carelessly, especially in the case of the bearded man.

At the end of the show, a discussion was held on the film. Renowned cultural personality Nasiruddin Yousuff, columnist Badruddin Omar, Professor Anu Muhammad and Zayed Aziz took part in the session.

In his speech, Nasiruddin Yousuff said, "Akhtaruzzaman Elias changed the trend of modern Bengali literature. His observation of life and its portrayal in the form of literature is truly remarkable. A cinematic adaptation of his work would be naturally difficult."

# Morshedul Islam's "Priyotameshu" premiered

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The premiere show of the film "Priyotameshu" was held at Star Cineplex, Bashundhara City Mall on November 2.

Directed by Morshedul Islam and produced under the banner of Laser Vision, the film is an adaptation of a novel by Humayun Ahmed. A short discussion was held prior to the premiere of the film. Morshedul Islam and A.K.M. Arifur Rahman, chairman of Laser Vision, spoke on the occasion.

Rasheda K. Chowdhury, Mahub Jamil, Mazharul



Morshedul Islam (3rd from right) speaks at the premiere.

Islam (managing director of Laser Vision), cast of the film, journalists and eminent personalities were present at the premiere.

The 140-minute long digitally formatted film is going to be released at six movie theatres across the country on November 6.

# Theatre as a catalyst of change

## "Kabor" staged in Thakurgaon

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT,  
Thakurgaon

The Drama and Recitation department of Thakurgaon Shilpakala Academy recently staged the Shaheed Munier Chowdhury play "Kabor". The play was directed by Khoda Bakhsh Dablu.

The play was staged at Thakurgaon Shilpakala Academy Auditorium from October 30 through November 2.

Before the curtains went down, a discussion was held at the auditorium on Monday evening. Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Thakurgaon and also president of district Shilpakala Academy, Munshi Shahabuddin Ahmed, presided over the discussion. Superintendent of Police BM Harun-ur-Rashid; general secretary of district Awami League Sadek Kuraishi and regional director of Bangladesh Betar (radio) Thakurgaon Anwar Hossain Mridha were special guests.

The cast included Kulin Chandra Akash, Kamal Hossain, Ibrahim, Prodip Roy, Niloy Pal and Akbor Ali. Credit

for the stage management and decoration goes to Masud Rana, Masud Hasan (make-up) and Mizanur Rahman Rana (music management). Partho Sharothi Das oversaw the entire production.

At the discussion, the speakers said that theatre is a

major tool in the transformation of society and can create awareness about many social ills. The public and the cultural activists all have responsibility in this direction, they went on to add. With true commitment, they concluded, we would be able to bring about a social change.



A scene from Thakurgaon Shilpakala Academy's production "Kabor".

# RAVAGES OF TIME AND NEGLECT



The residence of Zamindar Haricharan Roy Chowdhury and his ancestors at Shyamnagar upazila under Sathkira district has seen better days. A Shiva temple, on the premises, from the same period, is still in use. After the Roy Chowdhury family abandoned the estate during Partition (1947), it had been used as a government office in different times. Close shots of the edifice reveal the ravages of time and neglect. The place that could have been a tourist attraction is now a skeleton of past glory.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.