

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Musical Soiree
Title: Shrotar Ashor
Venue: Chhayanaut
Sankskriti Bhavan
Date: November 6
Time: 7pm



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



Painting Exhibition
Title: Faces of Buddha: An
Expression of early
medieval spirit
Organiser: JUB Art Club
Venue: Art and Aesthetics
Gallery, 90 Park Road,
Bandhara, 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



Ushering in transformation

Cultural programmes across the country on Prothom Alo's 11th anniversary



PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

(From left) Asif, Shakila Zafar, S.I. Tutul, Dinat Jahan and Fahmida Nabi sing "Bodley jao bodley dao" at the event.

ZAHANGIR ALOM, Dhaka

The popular Bangla daily Prothom Alo celebrated its 11th anniversary amid festivities at Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi in the city on November 4.

The setting sun on the western front was flashing a soft light on a banner that read "Apni shuru korun, bakira thik-i bodlabey" (Start changing yourself, rest will follow you.)

People from all walks of life

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

With the slogan, "Apni shuru korun, bakira thik-i bodlabey," the daily Prothom Alo celebrated its 11th founding anniversary across the country. Like other districts, a colourful programme was organised in Pabna on Wednesday.

The daylong event, held at the Pabna Town Hall premises, included tree plantation, blood donation,

attended the programme.

The cultural programme started with a performance by Kuddus Boyati and his troupe. Kuddus Boyati rendered "Agey ki shundor din kataitam" and "Ki shundor ek gaaner pakhi". Piara Kuddus, Boyati's wife, sang "Gaan gai amar mon re bujhai".

Professor Anisuzzaman; Professor Mozaffar Ahmed Chowdhury; Professor Asif Nazrul; editor of Prothom Alo, Motiur Rahman; editor of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam; cartoonist Shishir

discussion and cultural programmes. Prothom Alo Bandhu Shabha, Pabna arranged the programme.

President of 'Bandhu Shabha', Pabna Samsunnahar Borna chaired the programme. Veteran politician Mohammad Saidul Haque Chundu and Zakir Hossain, president of Pabna Press Club, among others, spoke in the course of the discussion. The secretary of 'Bandhu Shabha', Pabna Mostafizur Rahman Russell delivered the inaugural speech.

Bhattacharya; columnist Syed Abul Maksud; human rights activist Salma Khan, recitor Bhashwar Bandopadhyay; litterateur and sub-editor of Prothom Alo, Anisul Haq; TV personality Abdun Noor Tushar; singers Shakila Zafar, Shuvra Dev, S.I. Tutul, Asif, Fahmida Nabi, Mahmuduzzaman Babu, Kuddus Boyati; actor-singer Chanchal Chowdhury; folk singer and lawmaker Momotaj and film actor Shakib Khan, among others, raised their hands and vowed to work together to bring about

The speakers focused on Prothom Alo's social commitment. Prothom Alo wants an enlightened society so it emphasises the need for transformation, the speakers were of the view.

Later local artistes gave music and dance performances. Nasima Ashraf, Saki Rezwana Bonna, Usha along with their group performed in the cultural programme. Cultural activist Asraf Hossain Rabi conducted the programme.

positive changes in Bangladesh.

During a short discussion, Professor Anisuzzaman said, "Apart from carrying out professional duties, Prothom Alo is involved in many projects that are significantly beneficial to the society."

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam urged everyone to change everyday habits that have detrimental effects on the environment.

Editor of Prothom Alo and Magsaysay award winner Motiur Rahman said, "Change is a lengthy process. We have just started encouraging people from all fronts. Everyone should come forward to respond to the initiatives that encourage positive changes."

Chanchal Chowdhury entertained the audience with a rendition of the song "Nithua patharey nemechhi bondhurey".

Bhashwar Bandopadhyay recited a poem of D.L. Roy, "Nandalal To Ekoda Ekta Korilo Bhishon Pon".

Shakila Zafar, Fahmida Nabi, S.I. Tutul, Asif Akbar and Dinat Jahan performed a chorus "Bodley jao bodley dao", written and composed by Abu Sufian and S.I. Tutul respectively. Asif Akbar performed "Besh besh besh, shabash Bangladesh".

Shuvra Dev sang "Tirish lokkho praan er damey Bangladesh". Super Dharma, a cultural organisation, presented a chorus "Dhano dhanyo pushpo bhora".

Singer Momotaj rendered a song on street urchins -- "Sonargaon thekey berutei".

Finally, Mahmuduzzaman Babu and his band Mrittika sang "Ami Banglarga angai".

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Prothom Alo Bandhu Shabha, Magura held a cultural programme at the Asaduzzaman auditorium in the town on Wednesday evening to celebrate the 11th anniversary of Prothom Alo.

The cultural programme featured recitation, rendition of patriotic and adhunik Bangla songs and dance.

A rally was also brought out in the town on the occasion, which was well attended by people from all walks of life.

"Bhuban Bhora Sur" to be screened in Kolkata

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

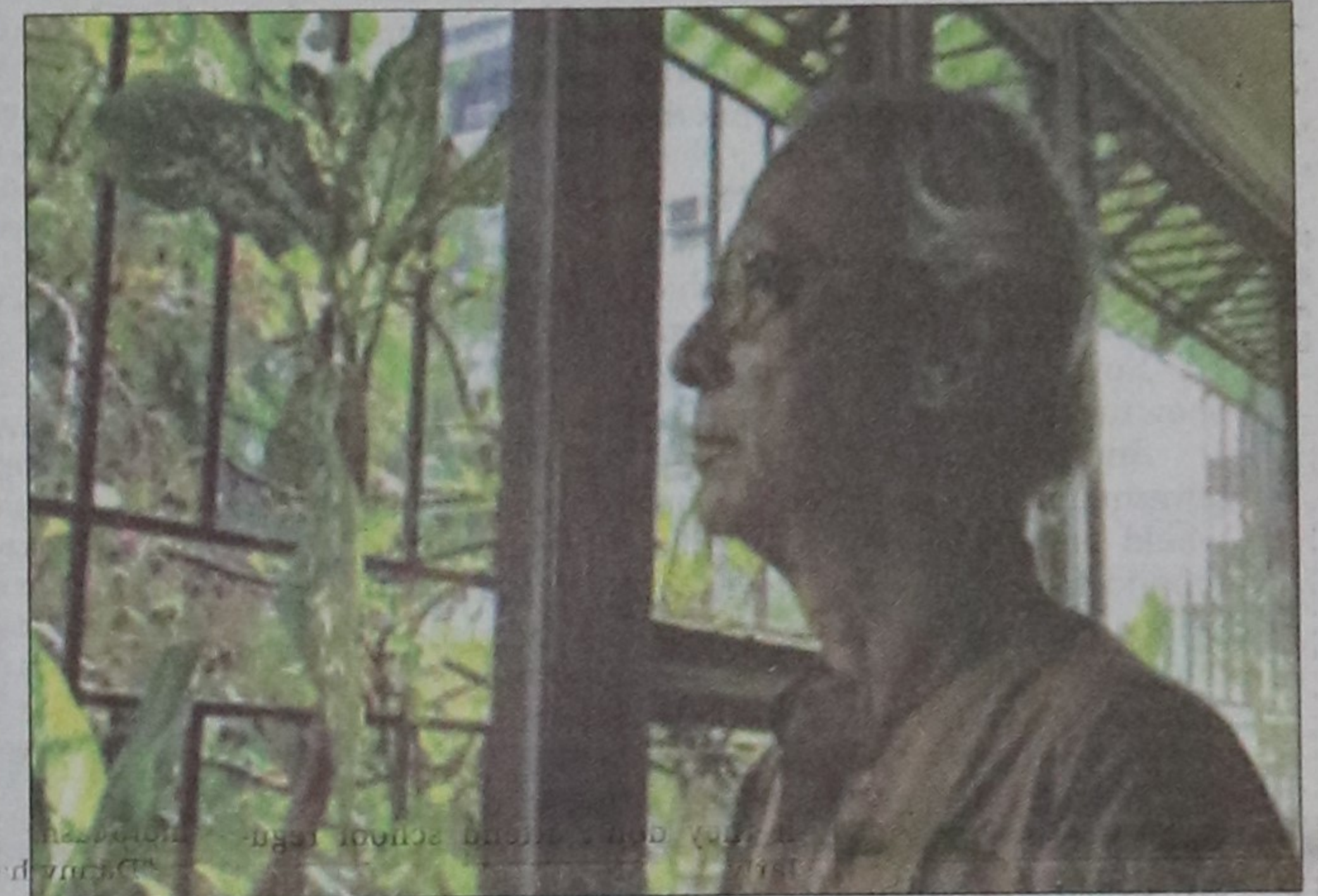
"Bhuban Bhora Sur", a 53-minute documentary on the interpretation and rendering of Tagore songs by noted economist and Tagore exponent Md. Anisur Rahman, has been selected to participate at the 15th Kolkata Film Festival.

The co-producers of the film Meghna Guhathakurta and Shipra Bose informed that the film would be screened at Nandan's Bangla Academy Auditorium on November 16. The film will be screened as part of the 'Short and Documentary Films' category.

Professor Anisur Rahman is a devoted Tagore enthusiast and an interpreter of the rendition of Rabindra Sangeet in a style that is very much his own. Professor Rahman has been praised over the years for his unique approach to Tagore songs.

Professor Rahman has also written several books on Rabindra Sangeet as well as on economics. One of his books, titled "Songs of Tagore", contains English translations of 65 Tagore songs and an elaborate discussion on the genre.

Directed by Shabnam Ferdousi, the film was produced in 2008. Maksudul Bari is the cinematographer of the documentary.



Professor Anisur Rahman in a scene from "Bhuban Bhora Sur".

Entries called for 3rd International Children's Film Festival

The 3rd International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh is going to be held in Dhaka from January 23-29, 2010, says a press release.

Children's Film Society Bangladesh will arrange the festival. Interested Bangladeshi directors can submit their films for participation at the festival. Documentaries, full-length, short and animated films, which are made especially

for children, can be submitted.

A selection committee will evaluate and approve the entries for screening at the festival. Interested directors can submit their entries to the following address by November 15, 2009: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62, Science Laboratory Road, Dhaka-1205.

Morshedul Islam is the director of the festival.

Behind the Scene

A closer look at Amitabh Bachchan

Make-up artiste Deepak Sawant has probably worked with Amitabh Bachchan the longest, at 30 years. They have worked together since "Zanjeer" catapulted Bachchan to fame in 1973.

On November 7, the superstar completes 40 years in the Bollywood film industry, and on the occasion Sawant recounted his experiences of working with Bachchan.

"I first met Amitji on the sets of 'Raaste Ka Patthar' (1972). The film starred Shatrughan Sinha and Amitabh Bachchan. Shatrughan was a big actor then. Due to some problem, Shatrughan got a personal make-up artiste for the film but Amitji did not. So I was asked to be his make-up artiste for the film."

"He made me his personal make-up artiste after two years," Sawant reminisces.

"I wanted to work with Amitji because he was good-natured and dedicated. He would always sit in a corner on the sets and rehearse his dialogues. He would not interfere in other people's work. Some thought that even though he is a new actor, he was arrogant and did not mingle with others. But that was not the case. He just wanted to be better. He took everything as a challenge."

"After 30 years with him, he is still the same. Today's actors don't rehearse as much."

"Due to a misunderstanding between us, I was not working with Amitji for four years. During the shoot of 'Jadugar'

(1989), Amitji faced some problem with his beard. The beard was made of synthetic hair and every time you touched it, it would get entangled. That's when Amitji called me to sort out the problem, and we decided to work together again. Since then I have worked with him regularly. I have not even taken a day off. When Amitji takes a day off, that's my off day as well," Sawant says.

"In all these years, Amitji never neglected his work. Even during times of personal crisis, he would shoot as though nothing happened. He would be totally engrossed in his work."

"I remember one particular incident while shooting for 'Sholay' (1975). I was relatively new in the field; Saroj Modi was the film's chief make-up artiste. In one scene, a bullet was supposed to have brushed Amitji's hand, and (director)

Ramesh Sippy wanted the make-up accordingly. Saroj Modi had brought the make-up material from London. But Amitji asked me to try it first. I was very nervous but I brought some red colour and cotton and did the make-up. When Jayaji (Bachchan) entered the room, she thought it was real blood oozing from Amitji's hand and she screamed. Everyone liked the make-up. But the shot was cut in the final editing. I liked Amitji's faith in me."

"When he took a hiatus for three years when his films like 'Insayinat' and 'Indrajeet' did not do well, I did not work. I could not join another actor; that was loyalty on my part."

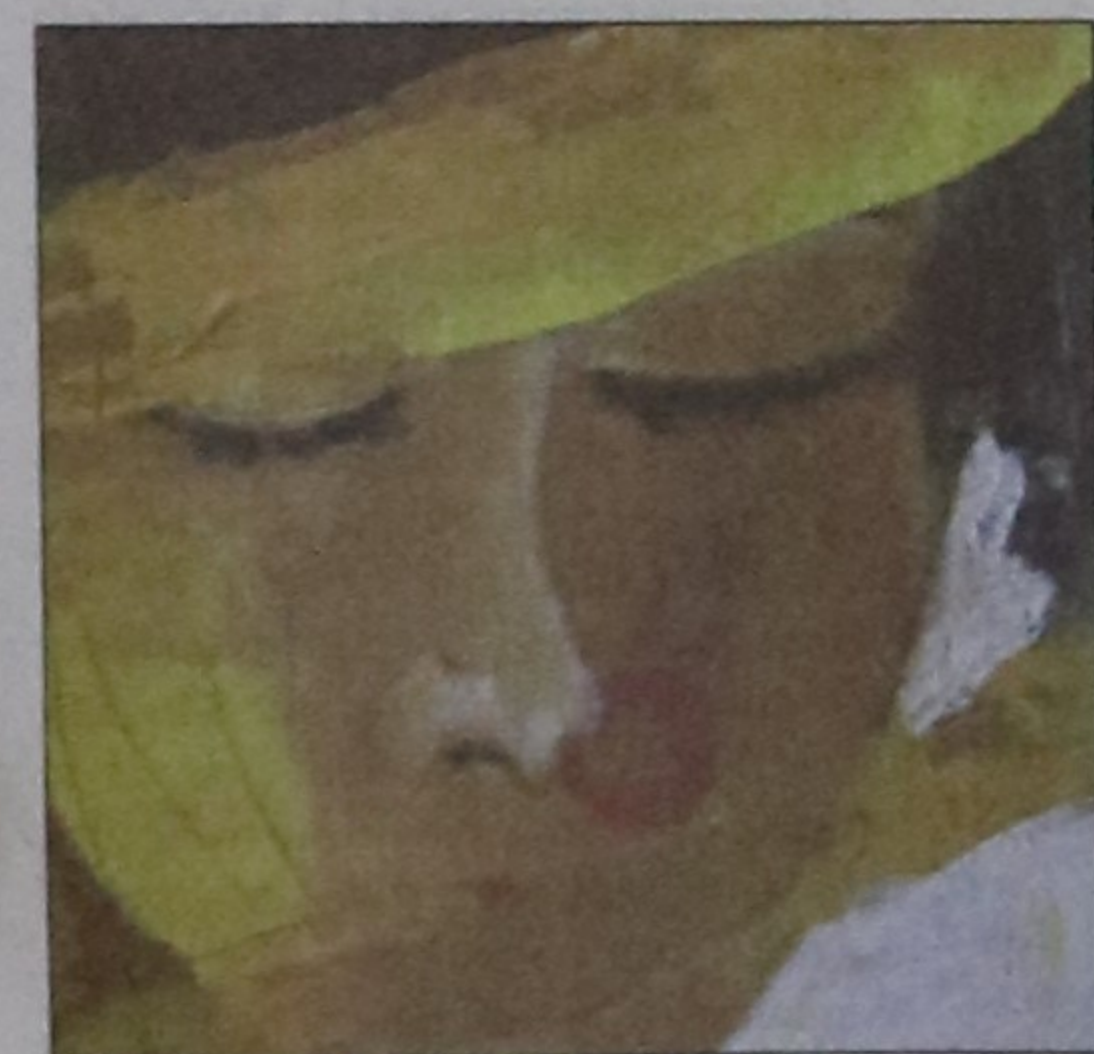
"Today, Amitji is 67 and still, he continues to work with utmost devotion."

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



Amitabh Bachchan with Deepak Sawant (right)

'Kisholoy': An emerging artist makes her debut



Paintings by Nawshaba Daliya

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Nawshaba Daliya's first solo exhibition titled, 'Kisholoy', is now on at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), Dhaka University.

The exhibition highlights a touch of rustic life and surreal expressions that unfolded the earlier experiences of the artist. It's a brilliant spectre of colours through which the artist expressed her emotions towards her rural home.

Painting is Daliya's passion and when she finds time from her painting, she delves into other things. "Not the other way around of making time out from other things for painting," she says.

"I love brightness and probably that's the reason why the radiance of colours is noticeable even in my dark and sombre paintings," says Daliya. "Each person has his or her individual taste. Just because a painting features shadow, it does not mean that it has to be dark and gloomy. This aspect can also be portrayed with a vibrant set of colours."

"Everything -- trees, grass, smells, the overall atmosphere inspired me in Thakurgaon, the place where I used to live. Basically I am a country girl, born and raised in proximity to nature. It helped me wonder as well as to wander about. The memories of the shaal bon would call me again and again. Not to mention the raw smell of hay, the cornfields, etc. I still cherish those early years of my life," the artist says.

"You will find in my paintings how the light and shade play, the essence of which I had sustained all these long years and that finally found a release through my art," she adds.

About being a second year MFA student of Graphic Design at FFA, DU and already having an exhibition of her works, she says, "This is a very delightful experience. Of course all kudos goes to my mother, my family, Monir, Tirana, Milon and all the people who have supported me."

The painting 'Shaal Bon' evokes the feeling of loneliness that is evident when anyone is in that particular place. "Even if you go to a shaal bon with a group of friends, it is the same. The same feeling of emptiness," Daliya says.

The series, "Mouno", has portraits of three women's faces, all with eyes shut. From one, a drop of tear can be traced while the other two look lost, dreaming but not happy. "They are not happy. Just like all the other women in society who are kept chained by social obligations no matter how far we are educated or how high we go in our careers." That expression of anxiety, closure and refrain are the elements of this painting.

The exhibition ends on November 7.