

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Photography Exhibition

Title: 'Amar Bangla'  
Photographer: Naib Uddin Ahmed  
Venue: National Museum Auditorium  
Date: November 7-13  
Time: 9:30am-8:30pm



### Poetry Recitation Competition

Title: Our Pushkin  
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H-42, R-7, Dhanmondi.  
Date: November 12  
Time: 2:30pm



### Nandan Film Festival

Venue: TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University  
Date: November 11-12  
Time: 10am onwards  
Today: Hiridoyar Kotha, Garam Bhat Oshoba, Nichhak Bhuter Galpo, 'Ahal', 'Emon Deshi Kothao Kujjo Pabenako Tumi'



### Solo Painting Exhibition

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



## Ibsen through new eyes

Int'l festival on the iconic playwright begins today in Dhaka

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

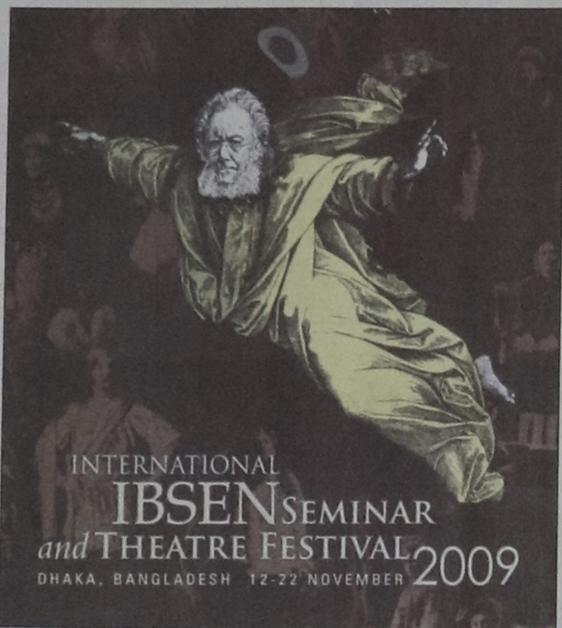
A twelve-day international festival featuring works of legendary Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) begins today at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in the city. Titled "International Ibsen Seminar and Festival '09," the gala event will take place at BSA and Jahangirnagar University, Savar. The festival will highlight several acclaimed plays by the existentialist playwright as well as seminars on his life and works.

Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) in association with BSA, Jahangirnagar University, Centre for Ibsen Studies (University of Oslo), Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka, ICCR and Grameenphone, is organising the festival.

The inaugural will take place today at the National Theatre Hall, BSA at 4:30pm. Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister for Foreign Affairs is expected to attend the event as chief guest, while National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will inaugurate the festival.

The festival will feature 23 plays staged by troupes from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Iran and Egypt. Three seminars and several interactive sessions will take place at the Seminar Room, JU. The seminars will feature internationally renowned theatre personalities.

Local theatre troupes such as Centre for Asian Theatre, Nagarik



Natya Sampraday, Aranyak Natyadal, Natyakendra, Prachyanat, Theatre Art Unit, Bangaranga Natyadal, Desh Natok, Palakar, Drama and Dramatics Department, JU and BSA will stage plays at the festival.

Plays to be staged by local troupes are -- "The Communicator," "Opekkhaman" (based on Ibsen and Syed Shamsul Haq's works), "Shatrugna" (adaptation of "An Enemy of the People"), "Mrito Manusher Chhaya" ("John

Gabriel Borkman"), "Punarjanmo" ("When We Dead Awaken"), "Chhayachakro" ("Ghosts"), "Guru Nirmata" ("The Master Builder"), "Bhokto" ("Brand"), "Norar Tin Konya" ("A Doll's House"), "Nurir Pala" ("A Doll's House") and "Adrishya Paap" ("Ghosts").

Troupes from abroad such as The Chorus Repertory, Aarshi Theatre and Vivadi (India); Moaser Theatre (Iran), Aarohan Theatre (Nepal), Tehrik-E-Niswan

(Pakistan) and LaMusica Independent Theatre (Egypt) will also stage plays at the festival.

Plays to be staged by the troupes from overseas are -- "When We Dead Awaken", "Putuler Chithi" ("A Doll's House"), "John Gabriel Borkman", "The Wild Duck", "Guriya Ka Ghar" (A Doll's House) and "Nora's Door" ("A Doll's House").

CAT's latest production "The Lady from the Sea" will also be staged at the festival, while Kotha Abritti Charcha Kendra will stage a recitation-based production highlighting Ibsen's poems.

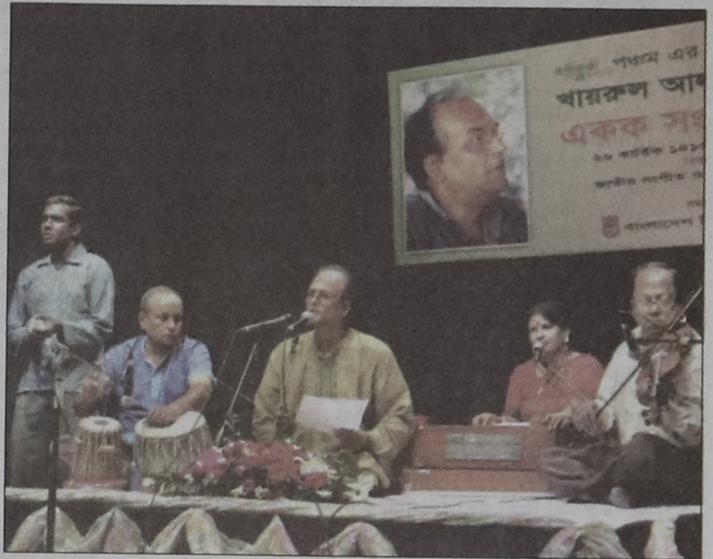
Apart from plays and seminars, an art competition and exhibition on Bangladeshi theatre icon Selim Al Deen, titled "Images of Selim Al Deen's Life and Works" will be held at the National Art Gallery, BSA. The exhibition will feature artworks by the students of twelve art institutes of the country.

An installation, titled "Ghosts of the Heartland" by noted American artist Sara Paula Hoffman would also feature at the festival.

Films, featuring Ibsen's works, will be screened at the Rehearsal Room of BSA everyday from November 14. The festival will end on November 23. The organisers will honour seven personalities from different fields with 'Ibsen Award'.

## An actor turns singer

Solo musical performance by Khairul Alam Shobuj



Khairul Alam Shobuj (centre) performs at the programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Noted actor Khairul Alam Shobuj's solo music performance was held at National Music and Dance Centre of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on November 10.

Shobuj is mainly known as an actor, a recitor and an organiser, but the fact that he sings well surprised many in the audience. Shobuj's performance was marked by an indomitable passion for music.

As the curtain went up, the performer along with the instrumentalists rendered a patriotic chorus "Amar desher matir gondhey."

After the performance, Era Zaheer and Proteeti Purna welcomed the artistes and chief guest Kamal Lohani, director general of BSA, with flowers.

In his speech Kamal Lohani said, "Once I saw Shobuj bhai rendering a song on BTv. I was so surprised that I called him right away to congratulate him."

Shobuj performed a number of popular songs from the '50s and '60s originally recorded by legendary artistes like Hemanta Mukhopadhyay, Shyamol Mitra and others. He started with "Tumi shondhya akashey tarar moto", followed by "Naam rekhechhi Bonolata", "Kato raagir bhul bhagatey", "Boshey achhi patho cheye", "Tumi ki emni korei thakbey durey", "Ma, amar shadh na mitilo" and more.

The artiste also rendered two ghazals -- "Aa lautkey aaja" and "Ye mera deewanapan hain".

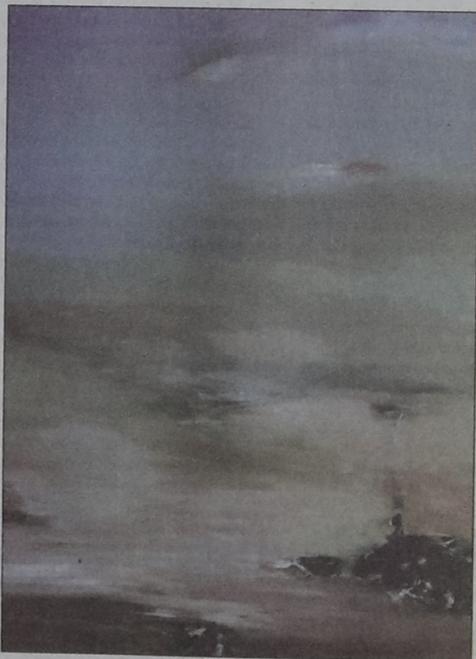
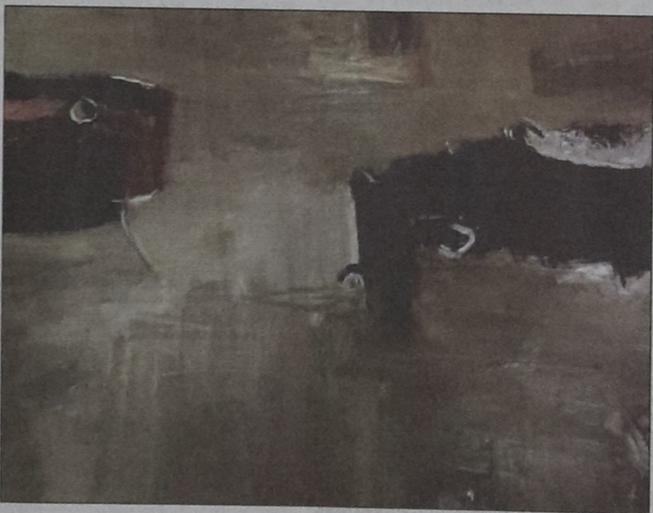
Sunil Das on violin, Khokon on keyboard, Tina on 'tabla' and Sobhan on harmonium assisted the singer.

Assisted by BSA, the programme was the first offering of 'Pancham', a musical organisation in the city.

The programme was dedicated to the artiste's recently deceased mother Rabeya Khatun.

## A journey within

Mohammad Tokon's solo exhibition in New York



Artworks by Mohammad Tokon

TAKIR HOSSAIN

In the '90s, a number of Bangladeshi painters went overseas for higher education. They wanted to explore novel themes and master new techniques. Most of them are abstract painters; colours and forms are the primary aspects of their paintings. Mohammad Tokon is one such promising painter from Bangladesh who has been living in New York for over nine years. After graduating from the Institute of Fine Arts (now Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka), he left the country for the US. He had his higher education in Communication Design at The City University of New York. He is also a graphic designer. His solo painting exhibition, titled "Destination Unknown", is now on at Sky Lobby Gallery in New York.

Before leaving for New York, Tokon spent most of his time in Jhenidah and Dhaka. City life, the surrounding atmosphere and social structure have made a great impact on him.

Tokon's works plunge deep into nature, human relationships, personal loss, social injustice, physiological journey and inner



visions. His works are closely connected to dreams and illusions. He naturally uses flat colours and creates many textures and forms on the canvas. His works are mainly colour-based and varied pigments give a distinct language to his works. His works are pure abstract and have a great touch of impressionism. His compositions are not neatly organised, sometimes revealing uneven texture and sensuous arrangement of space. Space plays a significant role in his works. His works clearly articulate nature's unseen and unobserved beauty. In his use of colour, he has displayed a certain romantic concern for vivacious, lively hues and soulful texture.

Occasionally unfamiliar forms are scattered in his paintings that create a different look. His paintings stand out for their approach to figures and objects, which are not usually focused. His colours occasionally look smooth and tranquil, which provide a water-colour effect in his works. Colours are the predominant aspect in his paintings and the paintings are marked by a preoccupation with time, history and moment. Tokon's works also convey an insight into life and a spiritual attachment.

## Enhanced government assistance needed for film industry

Discussants say at a seminar by Moviyana Film Society

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Film industry needs enhanced patronage and more assistance from the government -- filmmakers and distinguished guests were of the view at a seminar held at Central Public Library on November 10. The seminar was held to mark the third anniversary of Moviyana Film Society (MFS). Belayet Hossain Mamun, president, MFS, read out the keynote paper at the seminar.

Presided over by noted filmmaker and president of Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies, Badal Rahman, the seminar was attended by a number of film enthusiasts.

Mamun's paper highlighted the present gloom over the Bangladeshi film industry. The industry has been in a sorry state over the years.

The paper also included a six-point demand including removal of the Film Society law, which has been active since 1980; more government patronage to the film sector; more film related activities from autonomous institutions like Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and a complete National Film Institute.

Lawmaker Obaidul Kader, who is also the president of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Information Ministry, was the chief guest at the programme. He informed that at present a five-member committee is working to overcome the issues threatening the film industry.

Among others, film activists and teachers Mamun Hossain Murad and Zahidur Rahim Anjan; writer Salimullah Khan and journalist Sajjad Sharif spoke at the seminar.



Mamun Hossain Murad speaks at the seminar.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.