

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



Book Fair

To celebrate Humayun Ahmed's 61st birthday
Venue: Central Public Library premises, Shahbagh
Date: November 12-14
Time: 10:30am-8pm



Film Screening

Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: November 13-20
Time: 5pm onwards
November 13: 'Amelie' & 'With a Friend Like Harry'



Solo Painting Exhibition

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



A blend of colours: 'Silk Painting' by child artists



Paintings by children at the exhibition.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drik Gallery recently played host to the 'Silk Painting' exhibition. Of the participating artists, aged from seven to eleven years, some were

autistic. The exhibition gave all the children a unique platform to unleash their potential. The vibrant colours and flow of energy had the glow of innocence, but the creativity and innovation seemed to belong to a

mature and experienced group of artists.

"There are hardly such programmes for kids," said the woman behind it all, Nilufar Momen.

Retired in 2006, Nilufar was in mainstream primary education for 23 years. She is a former art teacher and Art and Display coordinator as well as facilitator of Thomas Buxton Junior School, London, UK.

Added Nilufar, "Although I have been involved with different forms of media such as dance, drama, music, art and sports; teaching art to children is a completely different experience. Teaching kids at the primary level requires a lot of patience, understanding and skills. Being with kids is also a pretty wonderful experience."

"There were a total of 55 paintings at the exhibition. Before Dhaka, there was another exhibition of

these children's works in London.

"Although silk painting is quite expensive and is done only for occasions such as an exhibition, it is great fun. There are no complications of sketching, lining, drawing. The best thing about it is the freedom of expression it provides. How the colours just end up blending together is brilliant. There are mainly three kinds of effects -- the dripping effect, salt effect and the 'gutta' effect (that resists the colours). Silk painting is quite an old concept, which originated in China. The vibrancy of colours, combined with the shimmering lustre of silk, is special and unique. Once a painting is finished, each one is individually wrapped in cotton, steamed, rinsed and ironed."

Rachel Lichtenstein has featured Nilufar Momen's life and works in the book

"On Brick Lane": "She is passionate about her role as a teacher and does everything she can to help expand the curriculum and show her Bengali pupils about other cultures and other opportunities."

M.A. Momen, Nilufar's husband said, "She started with differently-abled students. The remarkable response encouraged her to extend her works. There were also various exhibitions and works outside school that drew her attention like snowballs -- that is accumulatively. "She wanted to transfer her knowledge and thus the silk painting exhibitions sprang up."

"Paintings are a blend of colours. These particular works were conceived by the tender minds of children. The way a viewer sees a particular painting may differ completely from the way a child who created it perceived it."

'Maha-utshab': A traditional festival of Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

The local Hindu community recently observed its long-standing tradition of 'Maha-utshab' (grand festival) with a two-day programme at Durgapur village in Magura sadar upazila.

Thousands of people and devotees from Magura and adjoining districts flocked to Durgapur to witness 'jatrapala', 'mela' (fair), 'kabi gaan' (light songs in the form of questions and answers between duelling bards), special prayers and distribution of 'prosad' (food offered to gods and goddesses).

"I cannot confirm the exact year when the 'Maha-utshab' began, but it is an ancient event held annually. The festival is observed with much enthusiasm on the last Tuesday or Saturday of the Bengali month Kartik," said Ganesh Bala, one of the organisers of the traditional event.

On the first day of the



'Kabi gaan' at the festival.

PHOTO: STAR

programme (November 10), apart from the 'mela', a 'jatrapala', titled "Ekti Paisa" (written by Bhairab Banerjee), was staged. The cast included Khitish Chandra Biswas, Sanjit Biswas, Ranjan Biswas, Ramen Biswas, Ritu Biswas, Sabitri, Swapna, Mukti and Jharna.

On the second day, a musical soiree featuring 'kabi gaan' was held. A team led by

Nishikanta Sarkar from Fakirhat of Bagerhat district and another led by Ashutosh Biswas from Chengardanga village of Magura participated in the event which continued past midnight.

The performance, in the form of questions and counter-questions with answers, went down exceedingly well with the audience, which had turned out in hundreds for the event.

Profile of an adept flutist

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

No music is complete without the rhythmic tone of Samir's flute at Khulna radio station. He profusely renders his tune of flute in music and songs from the core of his heart. The musician is quite popular in Jhenidah. His melodious notes win the hearts of all.

Samir, 76, son of late Monir Uddin, was born in Nrisinghapur village on January 1, 1933. He completed his primary education from Kharikhali Government Primary School. One day he went to a horse race at Gorela village and there he came across a man named Hazari Biswas playing on a flute. Samir was moved by the music. After some days he went to Hazari's house and became his disciple.

Samir trained under Hazari for a year. Later he took up a job at the age of 12 at Jessore



Samir (centre) during a performance.

PHOTO: STAR

Orientation Company. After a few years he joined Khulna Rashid Brothers Jute Company as a driver. Here he got the chance of coming in contact with a renowned flutist of Khulna Betar (radio) Ali Ahmad. Samir expressed his desire to learn flute playing from Ahmad. After two years of training, Samir faced an audition at Khulna Betar and was selected as a regular

flutist in 1973.

Samir told The Daily Star that he has trained hundreds of students. He has three sons and daughters. His second son Shahin is a Nazrul Sangeet artiste at Dhaka Betar and Bangladesh TV and his daughter Runa is a singer of 'adhunik' songs at Khulna Betar. Samir added that he wants to spend his remaining life immersed in music.

Record 20 animated films vie for Oscar

AP, Los Angeles

A record 20 films have been submitted for best animated feature at the Academy Awards.

As long as at least 16 films qualify, there will be five nominees in the feature-length animation category.

The category has had only three nominees most years, but 2009 has been a prolific year for animation. The only previous year when there were five nominees came in 2002, when 17 animated films were submitted.

Submissions include a wide variety of styles, including the computer animation of such hits as "Up," "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" and "Monsters vs. Aliens"; the stop-motion animation of "Coraline," "Fantastic Mr. Fox" and "Mary and Max"; and the hand-drawn animation of "The Princess and the Frog" and "Ponyo."

Other films submitted are "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel," "Astro

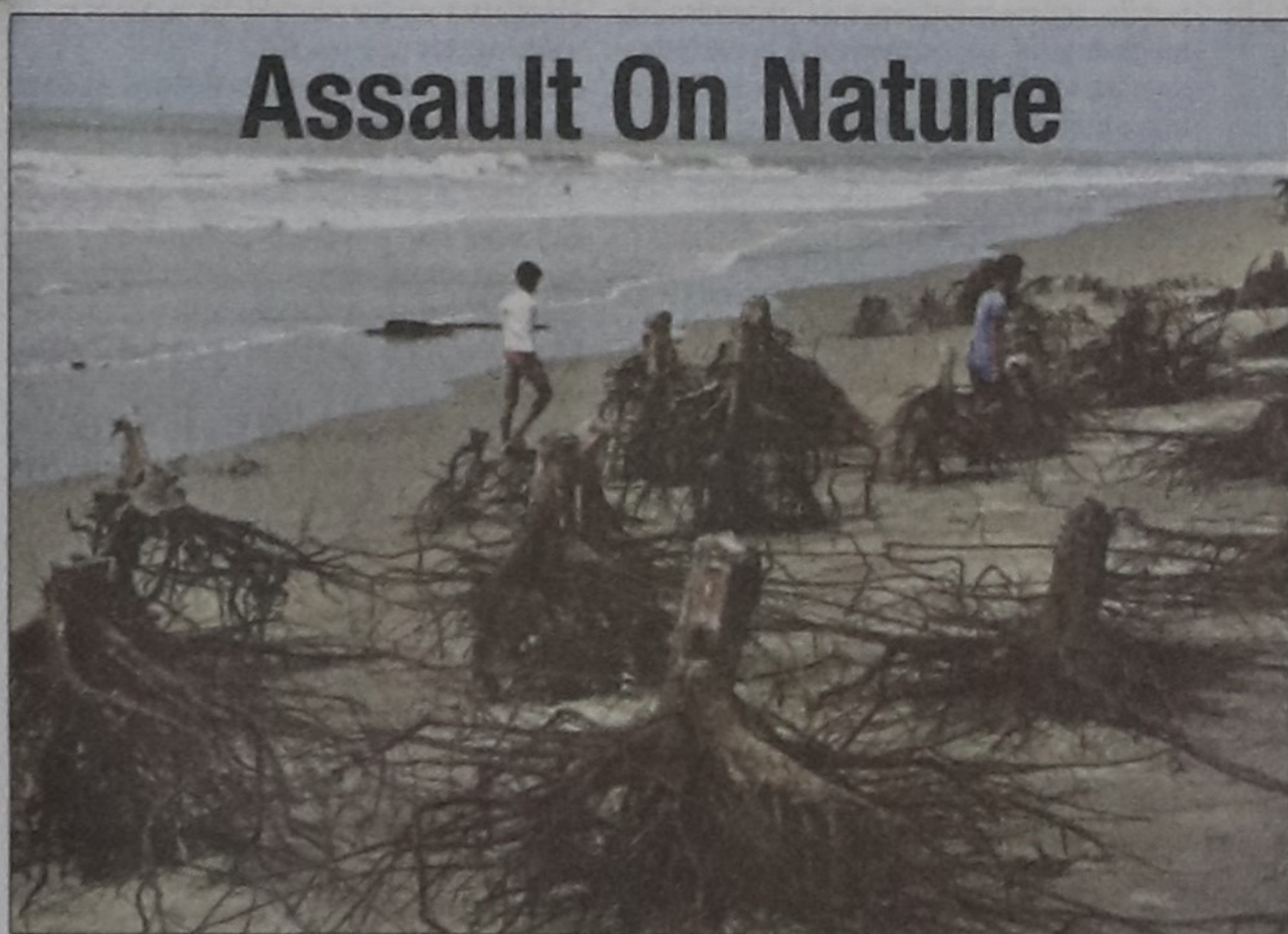
Boy," "Battle for Terra," "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs," "Disney's A Christmas Carol," "The Dolphin -- Story of a Dreamer," "The Missing Lynx," "9," "Planet 51," "The Secret of Kells," "Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure" and "A Town Called Panic."

Some films have yet to

complete a weeklong theatrical run in Los Angeles to qualify for the Oscars. Academy rules for the category also state that a "significant number of the major characters must be animated, and animation must figure in no less than 75 percent of the picture's running time."



A scene from "Up", one of the 20 films submitted for best animated feature at the Academy Awards.



To generate awareness among the masses of Bangladesh against the contamination of environment and the adverse effects caused by climate change, a three-day photography exhibition, titled "Biporjosto Paribesh: Bipanno Manobjati", was held at National Press Club Auditorium from November 9 to 11. Photo Shangbadik Bohumukhi Shamobay Samiti Limited arranged the exhibition. On the last day of the exhibition, participating photographers (working for different national dailies) were awarded for their works. Kajal Hazra of the daily Ittefaq and Ratan Gomez of Inqilab jointly won the first prize while Abu Taher Khokon of New Age and Mohammad Palash of Dainik Sangbad received the second and third prize respectively. Sheikh Enamul Haq and Anisur Rahman of The Daily Star, Sanaul Haq of New Age and Saiful Islam Kallol of Prothom Alo received special awards at the exhibition.

