

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

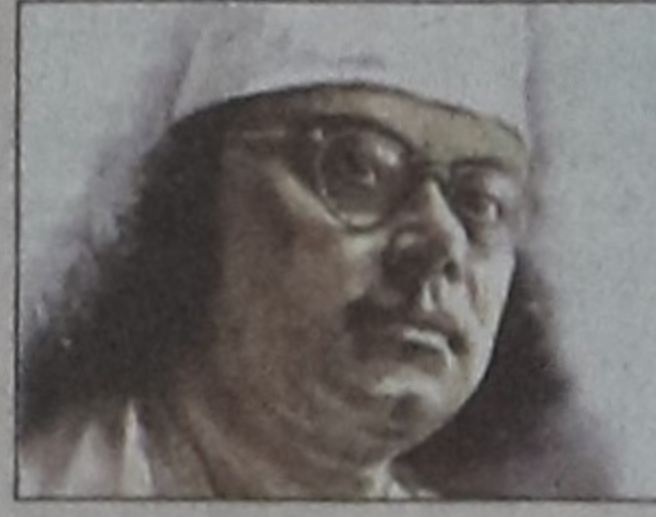
Int'l Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival
Title: Ibsen Through New Eyes
Venue: Shilpakala Academy & Jahangirnagar University
Date: November 12-23
Time: Everyday 5:30pm onwards



Painting Exhibition
Title: Dhaka-Kolkata
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: November 13-22
Time: 12-8pm



Kazi Nazrul Islam Smriti Swarna Padak '09
Organised by: Shubhechchha Sangskritik Forum
Venue: National Music and Dance Centre, BSA
Date: November 18
Time: 6:30pm



Book Fair
Title: Nobanner Boi Utsab
Organiser: Adorn Publication
Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: November 5-21
Time: 10am-8pm



Artists of Bangladesh and West Bengal come together

Group exhibition at Bengal Gallery

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts and Art Trust, Kolkata have jointly organised a group art exhibition, featuring the works of a team of Bangladeshi painters along with a number of Kolkata-based painters. The exhibition, titled "Dhaka-Kolkata", is now on at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi.

The works of Bangladeshi senior most painters like Aminul Islam, Murtaja Baseer, Syed Jahangir, Hashem Khan and Rafiqun Nabi are veritable visual treats for art lovers. Other participating painters such as Mahmudul Haque, Abul Barq Alvi, Abdus Shakoor, Rokeya Sultana and Anisuzzaman's theme-based works add a dimension to the exposition.

Some prominent painters of Kolkata like Prakash Karmakar, Amitabh Sengupta, Robin Mondal and Tapan Mitra's works make the exhibition more commendable and significant.

Aminul Islam, Murtaja Baseer and Shishir Bhattacharjee's drawing-based works are also eye catching. Murtaja Baseer is not only noted for his painting, but also for his realistic drawings and sketches. His pen based drawing "Morgue" delineates a dead body and the expression is clearly articulated of its conscientious lines. Nearing his 80s, he draws when he gets the time.

Aminul Islam's "Homage to Khajuraho" is an erotic drawing series mainly focusing on the physical relationship between males and females. The series articulates the proper emotion and fantasy of human beings. The drawings appear serene and the lines have been meticulously done. The works have a touch of transparency because of his use of brush washing. During the late 70s, the series had given him much acclaim.

Shishir Bhattacharjee's works signify varied social, political and economic crises of our society. His cartoons and caricatures are truly reflective of our present society. His works are always enmeshed with satirical humanism and animals' satirical forms.

Mahmudul Haque has a fondness for compositions and forms. His works plunge deep into diverse kaleidoscopic patterns and an imaginary world. At the exhibition, his subdued colours and thick textures have made the work more relaxed.

Folk ballads from the "Mymensingh Geetika" -- Mahua,



Clockwise (from top-left) Artworks by Prakash Karmakar (Kolkata), Syed Jahangir (Dhaka), Ranjit Das (Dhaka) and Maloy Karmakar (Kolkata).

Malua; "Nakshi Kanthar Maath," "Gazir Pat" and "Manosha Pat" are recurring themes of Abdus Shakoor Shah's paintings. At the exhibition, his works denote a number of visages



of female and birds. The artist usually focuses on the expressions on female faces, especially the eyes.

Rafiqun Nabi is well known for his paintings, woodcut prints and drawings. His paintings delightfully project the tranquil ambience of nature and its unparalleled beauty. His

characters and atmospheres are closely connected to our pastoral milieus. He received his higher education in printmaking from Greece in 1973. At the exhibition, one of his paintings delineates two cocks fighting. It's a very common scene in our rural areas. In the painting, crimson colour particularly gives an imposing view.

Ranjit Das is another important participant in the exhibition who is celebrated for his suggestive lines, diverse forms, vibrant pigments and contemplative themes. He is mainly a figurative painter. His "Searching for Soul" demonstrates a shouting face and the canvas is surrounded by a number of hands. The work indicates the agony and pain of suffering people in our society. Emerging in motion, his subjects have a realistic attachment with varied horizontal and vertical lines.

Hashem Khan is another senior painter in the group exposition. Abundant green, azure, yellow and white are dominant shades in his work. In "Song of a Tree and Kalshi", Hashem has used contrasting blue, yellow and red to create the essence of nature in rural Bengal. A lonely female figure is noticeable in the work. Thick brush strokes and bold lines are key characteristics in the artist's works.

Prakash Karmakar is the most senior painter among the participating painters from the Kolkata in the exhibition. He is predominantly an acrylic and oil artist. He has tried various other media like pastel, ink and watercolour but the best of Prakash's works has been either oil or acrylic on canvas. His works reveal thick lines to draw human figures and then simplified backgrounds. At the exhibition, his "The Nature" is dominated by crimson and emerald green. His works are painted flatly in bold colours.

Rabin Mondal portrays a human visage with acrylic, which signify the character's struggle and pain. Coarse lines and rough surface are the two traits of the painting.

Amitabh SenGupta's painting is marked by varied scribble writings and unusual forms. The painting looks more time consuming for his use of meticulous colours, lines and forms.

Sudeshna Halder's painting gives us a touch of surrealism and the figures outlines are very clear and impressive.

Maloy Karmakar is another participant who is basically a landscape painter. He likes to portray nature's silence and its varied aspects. His works give us a poetic and sensual impression. Emerald green is the most predominant feature in his works.

The exhibition ends on November 22.

Int'l Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival

"Shatrughna": A lone, ethical stance

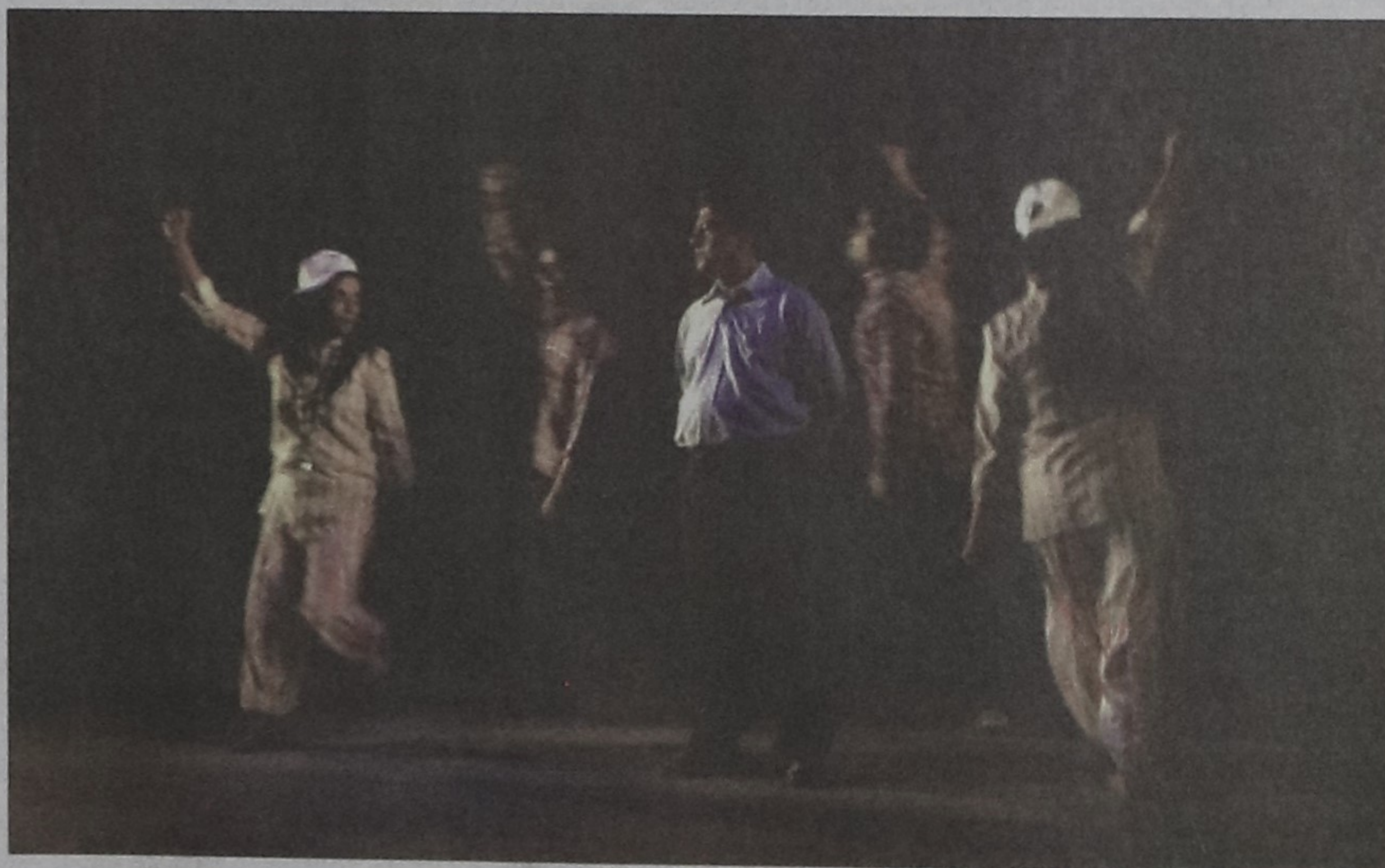
JAMIL MAHMUD

Theatre troupe Aranyak Natyadal staged "Shatrughna", an adaptation of "An Enemy of the People", on the fourth day (November 15) of the ongoing International Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival. Adapted and directed by veteran theatre personality Mamunur Rashid, the play was staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The play, in the satire form, zooms in on an individual who sides with truth, facing hostility from the society.

"An Enemy of the People" (1882) was Ibsen's response to the public outcry against "Ghosts" (1881), which at that time was considered scandalous. "Ghosts" had challenged the hypocrisy of Victorian morality and was considered offensive.

"An Enemy of the People" addresses the irrational tendencies of the masses,



The play addresses the irrational tendencies of the masses, and the hypocritical and corrupt nature of the political system that they support.

and the hypocritical and corrupt nature of the political system that they support. It is the story of Dr. Thomas Stockmann's struggle to do

the right thing and speak the truth in the face of extreme social inconsistencies.

Mamunur Rashid set the play in a contemporary society, where the protagonist, a physician, faces public outrage.

The physician, who represents Ibsen's voice, was enacted by Rashid himself.

The physician is a dignified citizen. His brother -- a moneylender known as 'Mahajan' -- somehow attains fame because of his social welfare activities. This identity helps him bag one of the world's most prestigious awards. The award turns Mahajan as the most influential person in the country.

Mahajan's true colours are revealed to the physician, when one day an elderly woman tells him how her son died in the process of repaying a loan from Mahajan.

To his surprise, the physician finds it difficult to make the masses see Mahajan's real identity. They seem unable to grasp the seriousness of the issue. As the conflict develops, Mahajan warns the physician that he should not raise his voice against his own brother.

The play highlights Ibsen's memorable quote: "The strongest man in the world is he who stands alone."

Chanchal Chowdhury performed as Mahajan, while Tamalika Karmakar played the role of his accomplice. Among others, Shah Alam Dulal, Rubly Chowdhury, Chhobi, Arif Hossain and Sajjad Shaju performed major characters.

Porimal Majumdar was the music director of the play. Tariq Mahbub was the light designer. The play also featured use of multi-media.

On the same day a recitation programme featuring Ibsen's poems was held at the Studio Theatre. Directed by Bhaswar Bandopadhyay, Katha Abriti Charcha Kendra staged the show.

Warid to sponsor 3rd Int'l Children's Film Festival

Warid will sponsor the 3rd International Children's Film Festival to be held in January 2010 in the city, says a press release.

In this regard, Warid signed a sponsorship deal with the Children's Film Society Bangladesh, the festival organiser, at its Corporate Head Office in the city on November 15.

CEO of Warid, Muneer Farooqui and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Children's Film Society Bangladesh and noted artist Mustafa Monwar signed the deal on behalf of their respective organisations. Noted filmmaker and an Executive Member of the Film Society Morshedul Islam and top executives of Warid were present on the occasion.

The festival will be held in Dhaka from January 23 to 29,



Muneer Farooqui and Mustafa Monwar signing the sponsorship deal at the Corporate Head Office of Warid in Dhaka.

2010. Around 150 movies of 40 countries will be screened at seven venues during the festival. Besides, series of workshops and seminars will be held on children's films.

Commenting on the deal, the

CEO of Warid said, "Warid is sponsoring this festival to open a world of cinema to the children of Bangladesh and to provide them with an exposure to cultures and traditions of different countries."

Nobanno festival at campus

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Music, Dhaka University ushered in the age-old traditional Nobanno festival with musical renditions and dance performances at Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) premises on November 15.

Students of the Department rendered several solos and choruses on the occasion.

"Mati toder daak diyechhey"; "Phirey chol"; "Aanander-i sagor hotey"; "Chol choley bhai jai" and "O dhan bhanirey" were among the choral performances while Mridula, Mehruz,

Shohel, Kanon, Pongti, Debashish and Enamul rendered "Nesha lagilo rey"; "Ami takdum takdum bajai"; "Oi shona jaay shyamer banshir"; "O mui na shono"; "Dhitang dhitang boley"; "Bol swarup kothay amar" and "Ego mowla tomar lagi" respectively.

Mithun with instrumental recital and Jhumi with a popular song of Palli Kabi Jasim Uddin "Nao chhariya dey" charmed the audience with two dance performances.

Prior to the musical programme, a colourful procession marking the onset of Nobanno was taken out from the Aparajeyo Bangla grounds and circled the campus.



DU students perform at the Nobanno celebration.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.