

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



Homage to Hemanga Biswas

Organiser: Wrishtiz Shilpi Goshilhi
Venue: National Music and Dance Centre, Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 22
Time: 4pm



Theatre Festival

Organiser: Dept. of Theatre, University of Dhaka
Venue: TSC Auditorium and Natmandal, DU
Date: November 17-23
Time: 6:30pm onwards



When Ibsen's Nora met Shamsul Haq's Elderly Man

Nagarik Natya Sampradaya stages "Opekkhoman"



"Opekkhoman" mingles two of Ibsen's plays -- "A Doll's House" and "An Enemy of the People"-- with Syed Shamsul Haq's "Irsha".

JAMIL MAHMUD

Nagarik Natya Sampradaya staged "Opekkhoman" -- a production based on various works by Ibsen, Rabindranath Tagore and Syed Shamsul Haq -- at the ongoing International Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival on November 19. The play was staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. On the same day, Aarohan Theatre from Kathmandu, Nepal staged "Mahan Shilpee", an adaptation of Ibsen's "The Master Builder".

"Opekkhoman" mingles two of Ibsen's plays -- "A Doll's House" and "An Enemy of the People" -- with Haq's "Irsha". There is also an influence of Tagore in the play. Veteran theatre personality Aatur Rahman directed the production.

About the experimental work, Rahman said, "I requested Haq to write something new for me which will feature both Ibsen and his works. Haq agreed and the project was subsequently approved by the organisers. Thus 'Opekkhoman' was born."

"Opekkhoman" features conversa-

tions among protagonists of three plays, at a railway station called 'Achintyapur'. The three characters -- Nora from "A Doll's House", Dr. Stockman from "An Enemy of the People" and the Elderly Man from "Irsha" -- have lost their social standing and decided to start anew.

They are lonely but not pitiable. They all believe in transformation and they are firm in their convictions. They have embraced life to fight the odds instead of rejecting it.

Nora, Dr. Stockman and the Elderly Man are all heading towards the same goal. Thus Henrik Ibsen of Norway, who left the mortal world in 1906 and Bangladeshi playwright Haq cross paths.

Aatur Rahman enacted the role of Dr. Stockman; while Aupi Karim and Pantha Shahrier performed as Nora and the Elderly Man respectively. Md. Nasirul Haque and Farhad Uddin Masum were the technical director and set designer of the play.

Aarohan Theatre staged "Mahan Shilpee" at the National Theatre Hall. Adapted jointly by Jeebesh Rayamajhi and Bal Bahadur Thapa, the play was directed by Sunil Pokharel.

"Mahan Shilpee" zooms in on an individual's ego, self-interest and the ever-lasting conflict between genera-



A scene from Aarohan Theatre's production "Mahan Shilpee".

tions. Hikmat Silwal, a middle-aged architect, deprives his wife Apsara of a meaningful marital life; he is a workaholic. Raghav, son of his former employee, works at Hikmat's firm. Raghav's father asks Hikmat to allow his son a bit more freedom. But Hikmat refuses, as he fears that the young talent will eclipse him.

Meanwhile, Hira, who respects Hikmat as her mentor, asks him to honour a promise that he made ten years back. A long conversation takes place between Hikmat and Hira. Finally, Hira urges him to let Raghav go. Hira encourages him to seek true contentment through a different medium.

The director himself performed as Hikmat, while Nisha Sharma Pokharel played Hira Bangdel. Aruna Karki, Prabin Khatiwada and Pashupati Rai performed the other central characters.

Today, Nityakendra will stage "Mrito Manusher Chaya" (an adaptation of "John Gabriel Borkman") at the Experimental Theatre Hall at 5pm. Tariq Anam Khan is the director of the play. Lamusica Independent Theatre Group from Giza, Egypt will stage "Nora's Door" (adaptation of "A Doll's House") at the National Theatre Hall at 7pm.

Photo exhibition in Barisal on Sidr anniversary

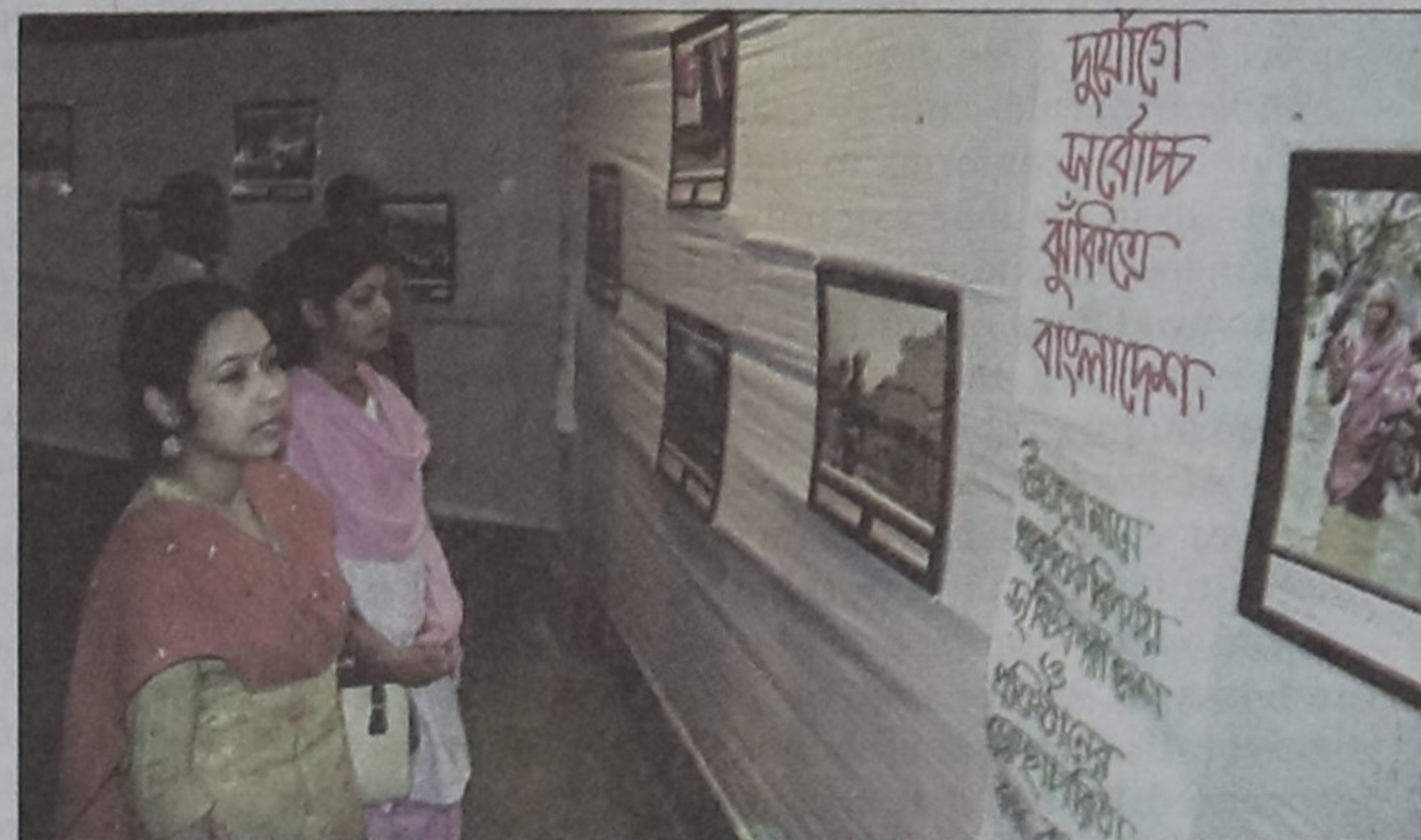


Photo enthusiasts at the exhibition observing the second anniversary of cyclone Sidr.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A two-day long programme, featuring a photo exhibition, was held in the city recently to observe the second anniversary of cyclone Sidr.

The programme was jointly arranged by Nagorik Udyog (Citizens' Initiative), Jubo Nagorik Odhikar Jote and Coastal Climate Action Group.

Barisal City Corporation Mayor, Advocate Shawkat Hossain Hiron, was the chief guest at the programme held at Barisal Aswani Kumar Hall.

Among others, Santosh Ranjan Talukdar, divisional commissioner; Dr. Md. Abdur Rahim, acting commissioner of Barisal Metropolitan Police; NGO officials and environmental activists, attended the programme.

Eid special

"Parshoborti Prem Nibedon" on Rtv

CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play "Parshoborti Prem Nibedon" will be aired on Rtv at 9:30pm on the first day of Eid-ul-Azha. Written and directed by Redowan Rony and Adnan Al Rajib respectively, the cast of the play includes Sumaiya Shimu, Shaju, Amirul Islam and others.

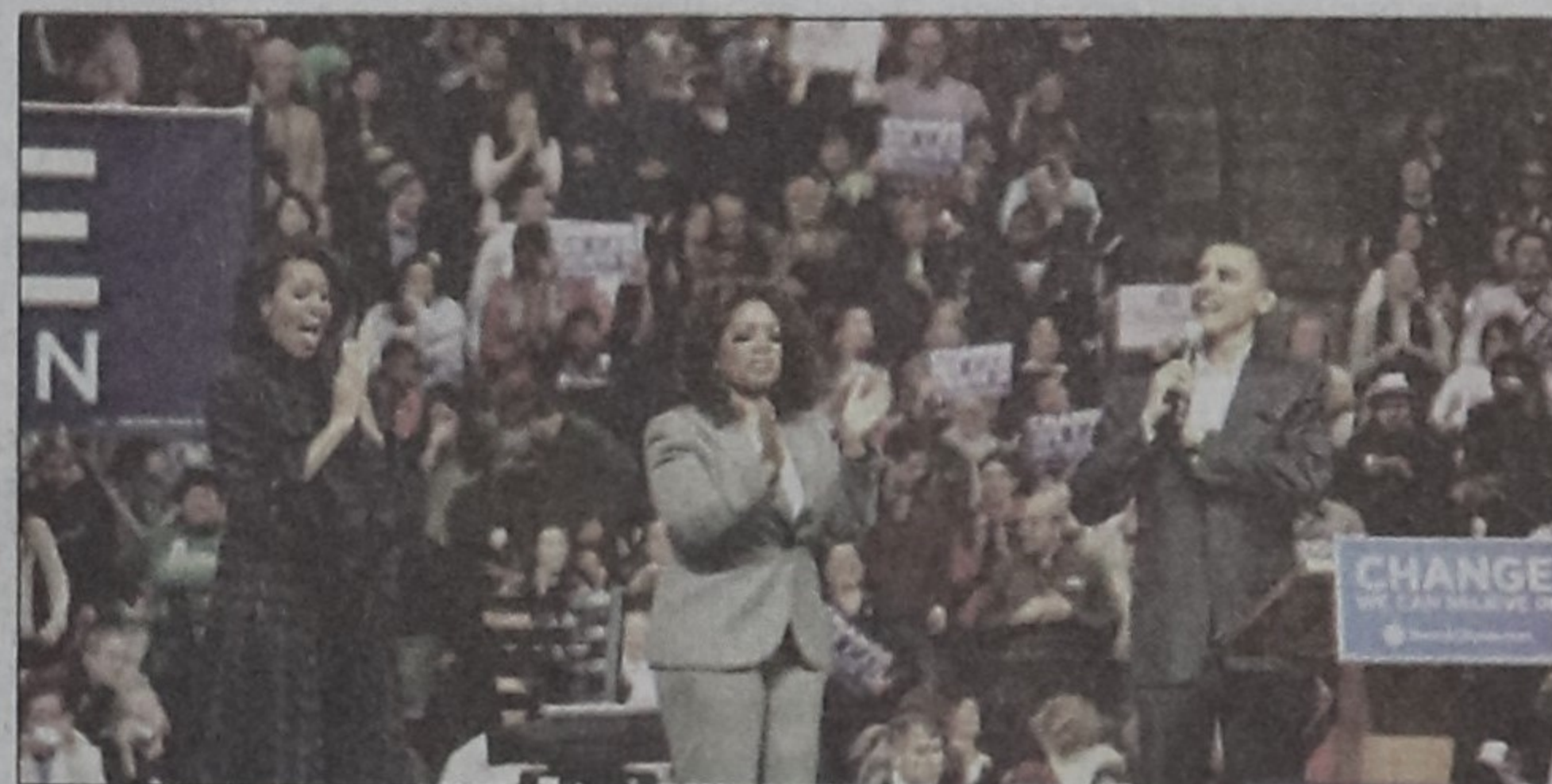
A hot-tempered Shumon Patwary, along with his younger brother and sister Zia and Jui, rents a house next to Shaju's, a gullible young man.



A scene from the play.

At first sight, Shaju falls in love with the beautiful Jui. A Professor of the same neighbourhood predicts how this relationship will work out but do the calculations work?

Oprah Winfrey to end her show



Oprah's full support of Barack Obama's candidacy for president was a crucial way station on his path to the White House.

In another blow to the struggling business of network television, Oprah Winfrey is expected to announce that she will step down from her syndicated afternoon talk show, which over the last two decades has transformed her into one of the richest and most influential forces in popular culture.

Although she has kept mum about her plans, Winfrey, 55, is expected to furnish a new show to OWN: the Oprah Winfrey Network, the long-delayed cable outlet she is starting in partnership with Discovery Communications.

The media personality and mogul -- whose show has served as the main pedestal from which she has engaged newsmakers high and low, transformed obscure products and personalities into runaway successes, and preached a gospel of self-empowerment to her devoted, largely female audience -- is betting that, in a world of ever-fragmenting audiences, the future lies with creating her own branded network. She was recently ranked No. 234 on a Forbes list of the world's richest people, with an estimated net worth of \$2.7 billion.

Although Winfrey could not be reached for comment, Tim Bennett, the president of Winfrey's Chicago-based production company, Harpo Inc., confirmed in an e-mail Thursday to station partners that she would end the existing

programme September 9, 2011.

"Oprah's personal comments about this on her show will mark a historic television moment that we will all be talking about for years to come," Bennett wrote.

By her own account, Winfrey was a victim of abuse, growing up impoverished on a pig farm in Mississippi, and has struggled with weight issues her entire life. That story has served as a lasting wellspring for her cultural appeal.

Her book club has minted reliable brands out of previously unknown authors such as Wally Lamb and -- controversially -- James Frey, while bringing mainstream attention and blockbuster sales figures to literary writers such as Toni Morrison and Cormac McCarthy. Winfrey's enthusiastic sponsorship turned "The Secret," a 2006 self-help book by Rhonda Byrne that was treated sceptically by many critics, into a multimedia phenomenon.

As one of the most successful African American women in U.S. history, her role in culture has been thoroughly debated. Her full-throated support of Barack Obama's candidacy for president was a crucial way station on his path to the White House.

Source: Internet



Tim Burton unveils his macabre artwork at MoMA

Filmmaker Tim Burton got the art-world seal of approval recently when he appeared at New York's Museum of Modern Art to help launch a career retrospective featuring his drawings, paintings, puppets and, of course, his films.

The show of Burton's works, which runs at MoMA from November 22 to April 26, is one of the most eagerly anticipated exhibitions of the season. The exhibition offers a first look at some of the artwork, much of which has never been exhibited in public

before.

Joining the goth auteur at the museum was actress (and mother of his children) Helena Bonham Carter, frequent collaborator Johnny Depp, composer Danny Elfman and actor Danny DeVito.

According to the museum, the show features artwork generated during the conception and production of Burton's films, as well as pieces from unrealised projects. Also on display are Burton's student art, his early non-professional films and work for non-

film endeavours.

Art purists may scoff that the whole exhibition is a publicity ploy unbecoming of a major cultural institution. However, Burton's appeal is almost guaranteed to bring in fans who might never before have considered stepping foot inside a museum. And that's not necessarily a bad thing.

As for the artwork itself, it is of course dark and weird in the way that only Burton can do dark and weird.

Source: Internet



(From left) Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Tim Burton and Danny DeVito at the launch of the exhibition.



Artworks by Burton at New York's Museum of Modern Art.