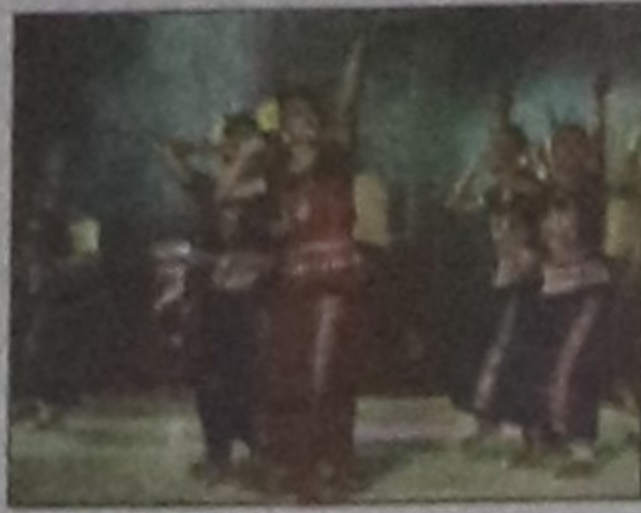


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Cultural Diversity Festival
Cultural show and exhibition
Venue: Bangabandhu Int'l Conference Centre
Date: December 3-5
Time: 10am-8pm



Musical Soiree
Marking the Death Anniversary of Ustad Ayat Ali Khan and Ustad Alauddin Khan
Organiser: Ustad Ayat Ali Khan Sangeet Niketon
Venue: German Cultural Centre, H-10, R-9, Dhanmondi.
Date: December 5
Time: 7pm



Christmas Carol
Organiser: Incarnation
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Ramna
Date: December 11
Time: 4pm



Theatre
Play: El Roud El Brishi
Troupe: Baylikrom
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 5
Time: 6:30pm



Unity in diversity

Three-day indigenous cultural festival in town



JAMIL MAHMUD

With the slogan "Unity in Diversity", a three-day cultural festival featuring different indigenous groups is being held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Titled "Cultural Diversity Festival '09", the programme began on December 3 and ends today. The programme has been jointly organised by Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Cultural programme, and an exhibition and sale of handicrafts and everyday items that are inseparable parts of indigenous life-style are the highlights of the festival. Handicrafts, agro products, non-timber forest products, traditional attires and ornaments are on display at the festival, which is drawing a good number of keen visitors everyday.

The organisers informed that the exhibition features over hundred stalls by 13 communities from the hilly areas and 19 communities from the plains. Chakma, Marma,

Bawm, Tanchangya, Rakhaine, Tripura, Garo, Santal, Karmakar and other indigenous communities are taking part in the festival.

At one corner of the venue, 12 groups of weavers representing the Chakma, Bawm and Tripura communities have set up their stalls -- demonstrating their traditional weaving techniques. Though the weaving tools look quite similar, they are known by different terms and are used in unique ways to produce clothing. The Chakmas call their loom 'bain', while the Tripuras and Bawms call theirs 'ritani' and 'thiamtah' respectively.

Usually women do the weaving. They produced attires both for men and women known as 'pinan', 'khadi', blankets, shawls, 'fatua' etc.

Also on display and sale were traditional foods. Homemade cakes, steamed rice, jam and spicy dishes which the indigenous people consume everyday and prepare for special occasion are a hit with the visitors. Cakes such as 'bini pitha', 'chhyana pitha' and 'bora



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

The festival features cultural shows and an exhibition featuring indigenous handicrafts, foods and more.

pitha' are some of the attractions.

To encourage the indigenous communities -- living in the hilly areas -- to produce their traditional items for a bigger market, CHTDF has arranged an award-giving programme. CHTDF awarded different products based on design, quality, market appeal and originality. Several stalls featuring last year's award winners are also part of the festival.

Ornaments including necklaces, rings and belts seemed to draw women of all ages.

Cultural programme at the Hall of Fame featured dance and music by the artistes of different communities. Through the performances, the artistes demonstrated their respective cultural traditions. On the first day of the festival, artistes of Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya communities (from the hilly regions) as well as the Karmakar group (from the plains) performed.

The exhibition is open from 10am to 8pm, while the cultural show takes place in the evening.

Bangla Academy celebrates 54th anniversary

Bangla Academy celebrated its 54th anniversary on December 3. The day started with Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, placing wreaths at the central Shaheed Minar, says a press release.

At 4 pm, at the academy's seminar room, a lecture titled "Rangpur Shahitya Parishad: Bangladesh-er Shahityacharcha Pratham Batighar" was presented by freedom fighter, researcher and historian Dr. Muhammad Moniruzzaman. National Professor Kabir Chowdhury was the chief guest at the programme.

On the occasion of its anniversary, Bangla Academy will honour 15 renowned individuals with fellowships. They are: Nurul Islam Kabyabinod; Amanul Haque; Imdad Hossain; Rawshan Ara Bachchu; ABM Musa; Ataus Samad; Finance Minister AMA Muhith; Barrister Amirul Islam; Dr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman; Professor ABM Abdul Latif Mia; Dr. Akbar Ali Khan; Ferdousi Majumdar; Bibi Russell; Habibullah Pathan and Abdus Samad Mondol. The honourees will receive their certificates and crests at a formal programme on December 26, 2009.

In his speech, DG of Bangla Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan said, "Bangla Academy has established itself as a unique organisation in South Asia. It is rare for an organisation to maintain close ties with the emergence and history of a nation, as the case of Bangla Academy demonstrates. Bangla Academy has become a part of our national identity."

In his lecture, Dr. Muhammad Moniruzzaman said, "To collect and preserve historic documents and publications of Rangpur region and to implement the local activities of Bangiya Shahitya Parishad, Rangpur Shahitya Parishad was formed on Baishakh 12, 1312 (according to the Bengali calendar). The organisation became a landmark in the literary movement of the region."

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury said, "Bangla Academy has not limited itself to the study or literature; it also plays a significant role in upholding our culture and heritage."

After the speeches, noted singer Papiya Sarwar rendered Rabindra Sangeet.



National Professor Kabir Chowdhury (centre) lights candles at a programme celebrating Bangla Academy's 54th anniversary.

Basement Chaos Theorem: Part 1

A new addition to Bangladeshi underground music

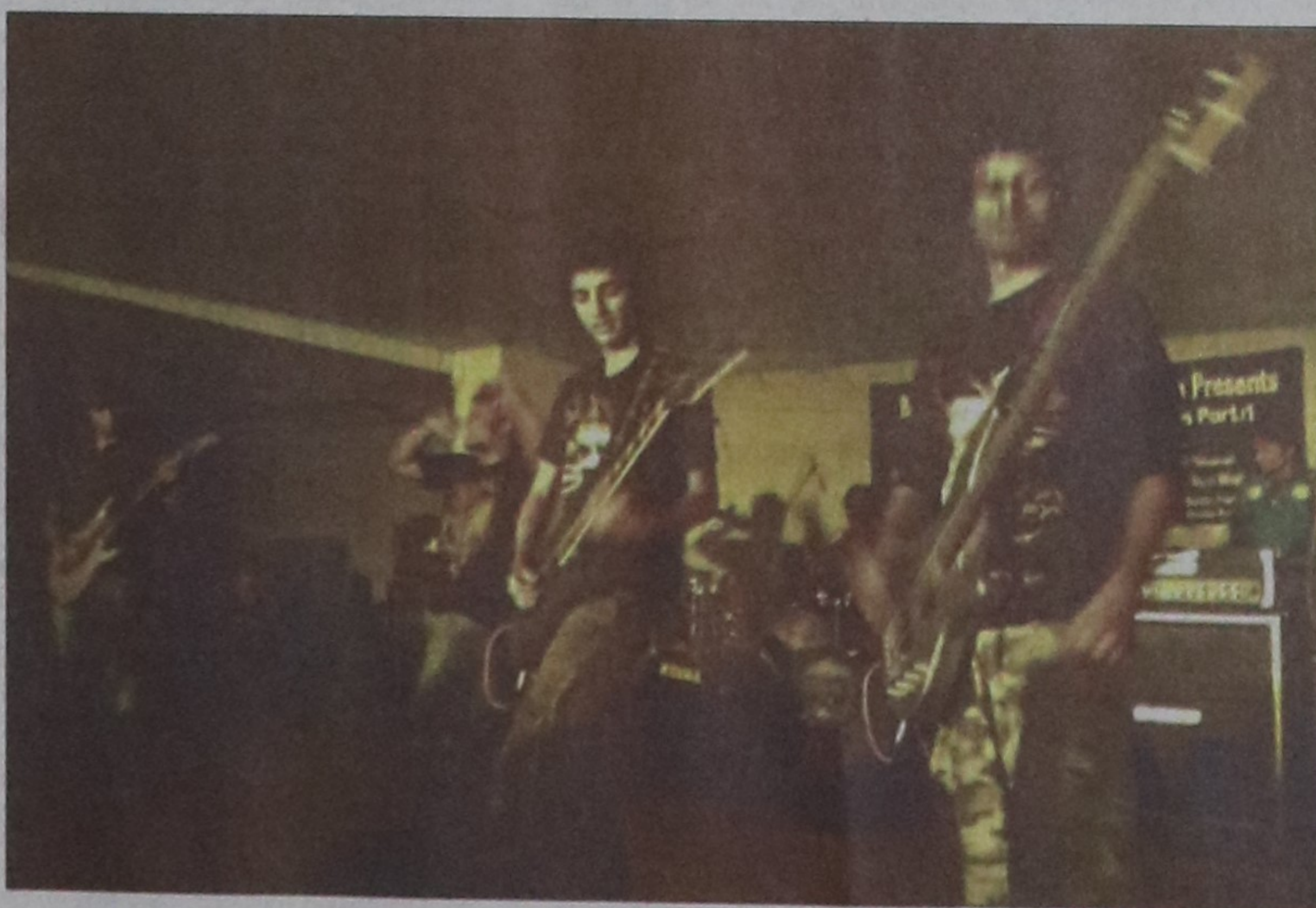
NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Although the underground music scene in the country has been active for a while, 'basement concerts', also known as 'underground concerts' were an unfamiliar phenomenon. The first such concert was held recently in the underground auditorium of Happy Arcade Mall. Bands Mechanix, Severe Dementia, MirrorBlaze, Septentriones, Osiris and Minerva were some of the performers. Basement Event Management along with Minerva organised the show.

Other performing bands were Last Episode, Owned, Sattire, Cadaver and Threshold.

"This is the first show that we had put together," said Tanvir, one of the organisers.

"Most of us come from the college near the shopping mall and when we were hanging out, we conceived this idea," said Shohan of Minerva.



Mechanix, Severe Dementia, MirrorBlaze, Septentriones, Osiris and Minerva were some of the performing bands at the concert.

"I knew the director of the shopping mall and when we approached him with the offer, he consented," said Saimun.

"Special thanks go to Tridib from Mechanix, Nayeem from Satanik, Nahian from Severe Dementia and Saimun in helping organise this concert," said Ishmi, Minerva.

"There is mainly one venue that is popular as the 'den' for underground rock so we wanted to shift the scene.

Anyway, although basements concerts are familiar in other countries, we wanted to introduce it here," said Arman of Osiris.

"The mosh pit was crazier than other shows," said Nahian of Severe Dementia.

"We have plans to have more of these shows in the future," said Rafsan of Minerva.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

Cultural programme in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

A cultural programme, featuring song and dance, was held at Ansar Ali play ground of Parnaduali area in Magura town on Wednesday night.

Durjoy Samobay Samiti a voluntary organisation, arranged the annual event to observe its Eid reunion.

Saiful Islam Hirok, Boidya, Jihad and Tukuki among others, rendered songs while Umy, Tanjila, Maria, Riti and Sabbir performed dances at the cultural programme that began with a patriotic song.

formed dances at the cultural programme that began with a patriotic song.

A sport event and a discussion were also held in the course of the day-long programme.

Kabir Murad was the chief guest and advocate Hasan Seraj Suja formally inaugurated the programme while Abdul Gafur, Dr. Alimuzzaman, Shakurul Islam Manna, Sharif Asaduzzaman, Munshi Ali Tarek and Zahid Mehedi Parvez were special guests.

"Sakin Sarisuri" on Channel i

CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Sakin Sarisuri" will be aired tonight at 7:50 pm. Written by Brindabon Das, the serial is directed by Salaudinn Lavlu, and is aired on Saturdays and Sundays.

The plot is set in a village called Sarisuri. Interestingly enough, the residents are all thieves.

The village is home to Muslims, Hindus and Christians who live in harmony, respecting and celebrating each other's creed and festivals. The village is virtually isolated from neighbouring areas for its natives' reputation of being swindlers.

The local administration is well aware of the villagers'

"profession" but does not take severe legal actions, as election is close.

The serial advances with a conflict among the villagers when the daughter of the local godfather falls for a young thief.

The cast includes

Mamunur Rashid, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Masum Aziz, Nazmul Huda Bachchu, Salaudinn Lavlu, Shanu, Azizul Hakim, Golam Farida Chhanda, Chanchal Chowdhury, Mosharraf Karim and Rawnak Hasan.



A scene from "Sakin Sarisuri".