

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition

Painter: Zahura Sultana Hossain
Title: Contemplation
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-2
Date: December 11-24
Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Painter: Rejaul Karim
Title: Twilight Zone
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27, Dhanmondi
Date: December 8-19
Time: 12pm-8pm



Film Festival

Title: Muktiyuddho Deshey Deshey
Organiser: Ranesh Das Gupta Film Society
Venue: Molvi Auditorium, Purana Paltan
Date: December 11-14
Time: 5pm



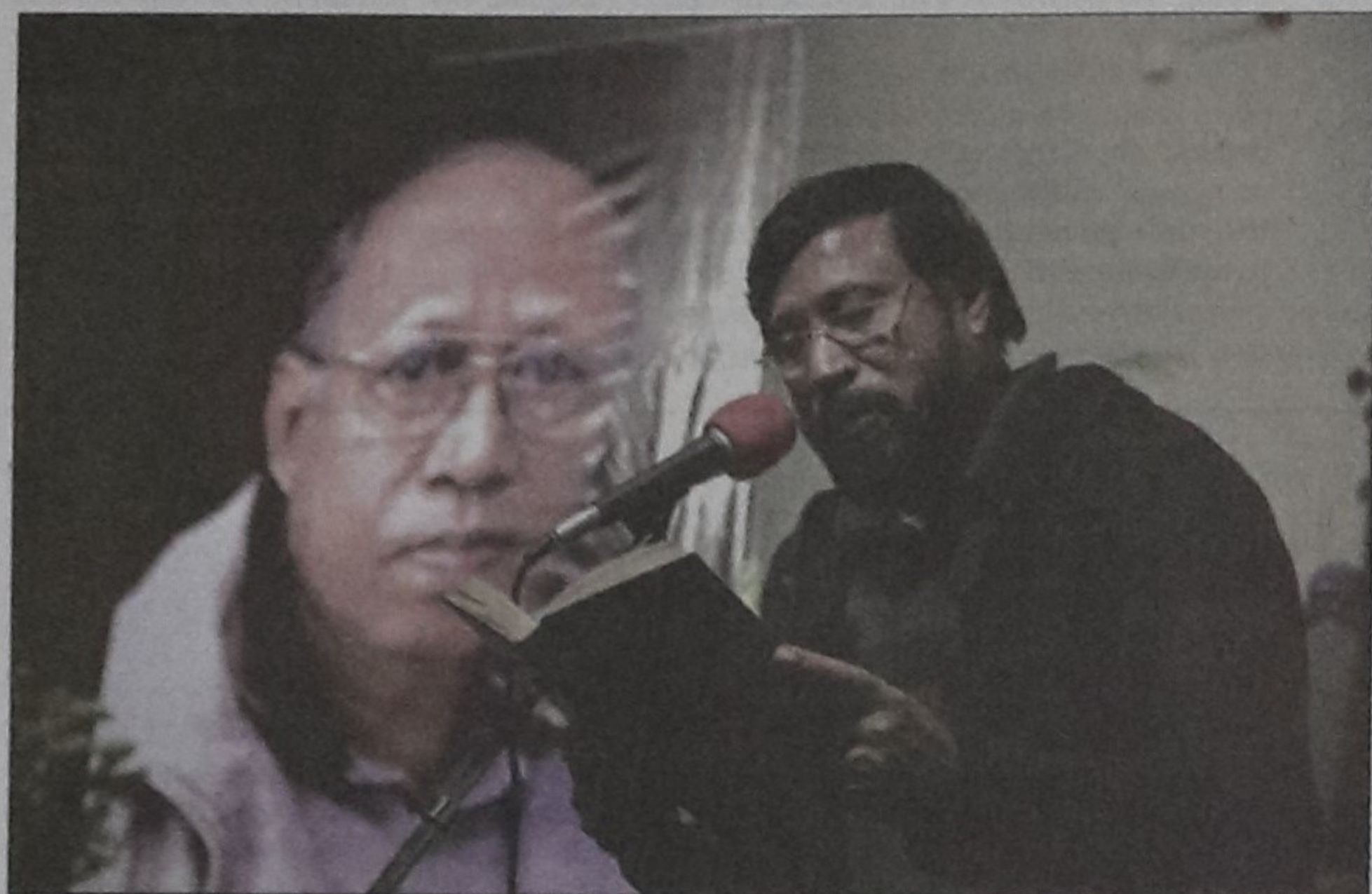
Photography Exhibition

Organiser: East West University Cine & Photography Club
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: December 11-16
Time: 3-8pm



A versatile figure

Remembering Nowazesh Ahmed



"Nowazesh was my cousin. I frequently visited his village during holidays. Nilu, Bakul, Sadi, Hadi, Majnu were very close to us. Nowazesh was interested in playing football and high jump. He put up many dramas in his school days. He was also expert in dance and Tagore songs. He collected magazines in his childhood and provided us much interesting news. His article was first published in 'Notun Shahitto', a prestigious literary journal. He believed in Marxist philosophy. He was always very friendly and kind to everyone."

"Nowazesh's passion for photography started when he was just a school going boy. His elder brother Naib Uddin Ahmed was an amateur photographer and he was inspired by him."

Ali Zaker said, "I met him when he was 60. His work mirrored cheerfulness and optimism and a sense of joy in human life. He taught me about wild flowers and its classification. We visited many villages in Bangladesh for searching wild flowers. His photographs inspired many of us to look at wild flowers more closely."

Bhaswar Bondyapadhyay, a well-known contemporary recitor said, "In recent times, Dr. Ahmed published two books on poetry of Rabindranath Tagore and Jibanananda Das. Besides publishing the books, he made two slide documentaries on these two great poets. I worked with him on those projects. He had a very good knowledge about the song and poetry of these two titans."

The discussion was followed by live music. Adity Mohsin, Shahed Imam and Fahmida Khatun and others performed at the programme.

Bhaswar Bondyapadhyay recites (above) Adity Mohsin sings at the programme.

CORRESPONDENT

Chhayanaout organised a memorial meeting to pay homage to the noted agricultural scientist and photographer Dr. Nowazesh Ahmed on December 12 at the Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial

Auditorium of Chhayanaout Sangskriti Bhavan.

Sanjida Khatun, president and a founder member of Chhayanaout said, "Nowazesh was a nature lover and an artistic person. He was involved with varied cultural activities in his lifetime. When

Chhayanaout was looking for a venue for celebrating the Bengali New Year, Ahmed selected the place (Ramna Botomul) in 1967. He will always be remembered by Chhayanaout."

Prominent TV personality Masud Ali Khan reminisced,

Celebrating the spirit of Christmas

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

On December 12, thirty five churches got together to celebrate Christmas at the Shishu Academy. The Christmas Festival 2009 was organised by Incarnation.

"This is not the first time; we try to do it every year," said Timothy Malaker, president of Incarnation. When asked why the celebration took place so early he said, "Just after December 12, all the churches have their own programmes and celebrations all the way upto Christmas Day, so we all decided to do it earlier."

All of the churches were from Dhaka, except for one Korean Church. There was a joyous day of programmes, starting from 3.30 pm to 8.00pm. A film show, music, dance, talk show and many other attractions were on the list of programmes and there even was a clown show. The main attraction for most kids was the arrival of Father Christmas.

"It's for the youth mainly; a colourful and musical day," said Momota, an organiser.

The programmes began with Reverend Nathaniel Setu Munshi giving an opening prayer. The guests were welcomed with flowers by

the presenter Simon. The chief guest, AD: Promod Mankin (MP) delivered a speech on this special occasion. The first group to dance was from SDA Church. The song was 'Cholo Cholo Shobe Jai Jishu Mondir-e'. A magic show was conducted by Apollo Luther. The Biblical heroes' lives were related by Aney Folia.

Christmas songs were sung by different groups and singers such as Astral Slaughter, Jewel Halder, Jadu Ritchil (M.C.Y.S), et al. Oitri, a little girl, danced to 'Thung Thung Thung Thung Churir Taley'. At the end, before the prayers, there was Kirton.

"Kirton is such an indispensable part of a Christmas celebration, without it, any programme is incomplete," said Anjan, member of Incarnation.

Sheela Biswas, an eighth-grader, shared her experience, "Although I have participated in dance programmes from an early age, this is the first time I am in a show like this one. I am pretty excited. I am waiting for Santa Claus anxiously. Having this celebration from early on brings in the spirit that 'Christmas is here'." Sheela, from SDA Church performed with her sister, Shilpa in a duet dance.



In the spirit of Christmas: artistes perform at the programme.

"Bitter Bairey" does Bangladesh proud

8th Third Eye Asian Film Festival in Mumbai

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladeshi director Golam Rabbani Biplob's second feature film 'Bitter Bairey' shared the best film award with a Kazakhstan movie at the 8th Third Eye Asian Film Festival in Mumbai.

This is the first time that a Bangladeshi feature film has won an award at a festival in Mumbai.

Biplob and Kazakh director Rustem Abdrashov, whose "The Gift to Stalin" was one of the films in the competitive section of the weeklong festival held from December 4 to 10, shared the prize money of Rs one lakh equally.

While "Bitter Bairey" is a film about the conflict between a rural art form and the greed of market forces, the story of the Kazakh film is about a little Jewish boy and is set against the backdrop of the 70th anniversary of the Joseph Stalin era in the erstwhile Soviet Union.

The winners of the award were chosen by a jury headed by Iranian filmmaker Kourosh Jahed and announced on Friday evening.

This is the second time Biplob picked up an award in India after his debut feature



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film "Swapnodanay" won the Silver Peacock as the special jury prize in the International Film Festival in Goa two years ago. It had also won the best debut director's award at the Shanghai festival.

"Bitter Bairey" was screened twice during the festival, the first being on December 4 when Biplob introduced the film to an audience of about 400.

Expressing happiness at winning the award in Mumbai, Biplob told The Daily Star that he was happier that Bangladeshi cinema got noticed among the discerning audience of the Indian enter-

tainment and financial capital.

The director said the response and the quality of appreciation have dispelled his doubts about Mumbai being the right venue for screening of serious films like "Bitter Bairey" because the general perception is that Mumbaiers are used to watching formula commercial movies.

Referring to the turnout of 400 viewers for "Bitter Bairey" at the festival, Biplob said, "What I value more than the number is the quality of appreciation. None of the viewers left the cinema hall as long as the screening was on."

According to the director, the kind of films he makes find it difficult to access the Western market because of their content. The current trend in the West is of making films on human rights and Islamic or Hindu fundamentalism and not stories which take a critical look at the downside of globalisation and commercialisation like "Bitter Bairey" has done, said Biplob.

The director said he has two-three stories in mind to make his next film but he is yet to make a start given the fact that finding a financier for the kind of work he undertakes is very tough.

Nrityadhara and American Centre to join hands

Dance performance to be held at BSA

ZAHANGIR ALOM

A dance performance titled "Experience the Movement" is to be held at National Theatre Hall Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on January 3, 2010. Nrityadhara, a heritage based dance troupe in Bangladesh, in collaboration with the American Centre in Dhaka under the supervision of the USA Embassy in Bangladesh will jointly arrange the programme.

A 12-member troupe of Dakshina, a pioneering dance company based in Washington DC and led by Daniel Phoenix Singh, is expected to perform at the programme.

Details about the performance were announced at a press conference, held yesterday at the Conference Hall of BSA. Nasiruddin Yousuff, chief adviser of Nrityadhara; Lauren Lovelace, director of the American Centre in Dhaka; Minu Haque, convener of Nrityadhara; Munmun Ahmed, Deepa Khanda Kar, Tamanna Rahman, Kabirul Islam Ratan and Anisul Islam Hiru, all founder members of



(From right) Nasiruddin Yousuff, Lauren Lovelace, Minu Haque, Sabreen Rahman and Merina Haque at the press conference.

Nrityadhara; Salma Munni, a Bharatanatyam artiste were present among others at the press conference.

Nasiruddin Yousuff pointed out, "No dance troupe from the US has come and performed here since the birth of Bangladesh."

"As a dance lover I am very much excited," said Lauren Lovelace.

"It is an initiative of making a cultural bridge through dance between two cultures and continents," said Minu Haque.

"Dakshina" meaning "offering" in Sanskrit, mainly blends Indian classical dance with other dance forms in the West. The vision of this company is to explore and present dance in its complexity and multiplicity, celebrating tradition while constantly creating new vocabularies in movement and dance, evolving to newer and higher standards.

Apart from completing his MFA in Dance from the University of Maryland and Laban Movement Analyst

Certificates from the Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies, NYC, Daniel Phoenix Singh learned Bharatanatyam, from his Guru Meena Telikicherla of Nrityanjali, an eminent Indian dance troupe, for 11 years. Dance Metro DC recognised Singh with the Founder's Award for Innovation in Dance in 2007.

Prior to performing here in Dhaka, Dakshina will perform in Chennai, Bangalore and Ahmedabad of India.

A dose of culture in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

A three-day cultural programme, featuring songs, a dose of comedy and dances was held at the Dumurshia Secondary School premises in Mohammadpur upazila. Several leading cultural personalities from Dhaka performed in the programme, which ended on December 12.

On the last day of the cultural programme, eminent singers Ankhi Alamgir, Channel i Khudey Ganraj-Soddo, Asha, Jhuma and Riddo rendered modern

songs which enthralled the local audience.

Banik Samity (an association for local entrepreneurs) organised the event, which featured the local traditional Lathikhela (mock fight with sticks) festival.

On the night of December 11, film star Nasrin performed dances while eminent comedians Mujibor and Tuku entertained the audience with jokes.

Earlier, on December 10 eminent singer Moon, film stars Subrata and Shaila, comedians Harun Kissing and K. M. Akteruzzaman performed in the programme.



Ankhi Alamgir and Soddo render songs at the show.

The cultural programme went down exceedingly well with the audience, which turned out in thousands from adjoining areas and even from the district town.