

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



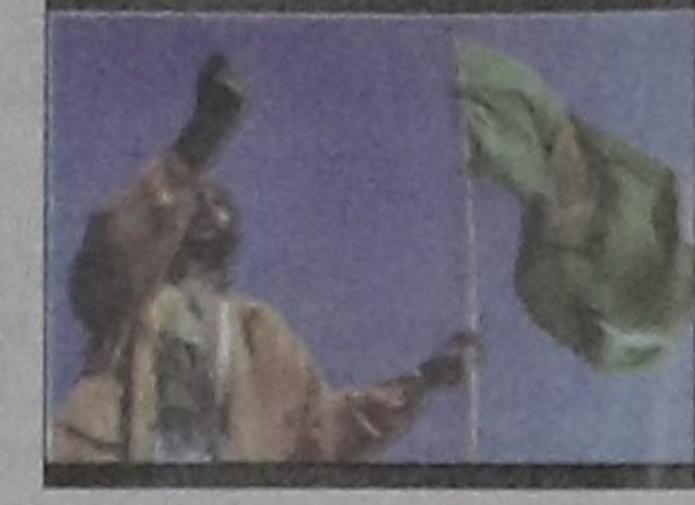
Solo Art Exhibition
Painter: Rejaul Karim
Title: Twilight Zone
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27, Dhanmondi
Date: December 8-19
Time: 12pm-8pm



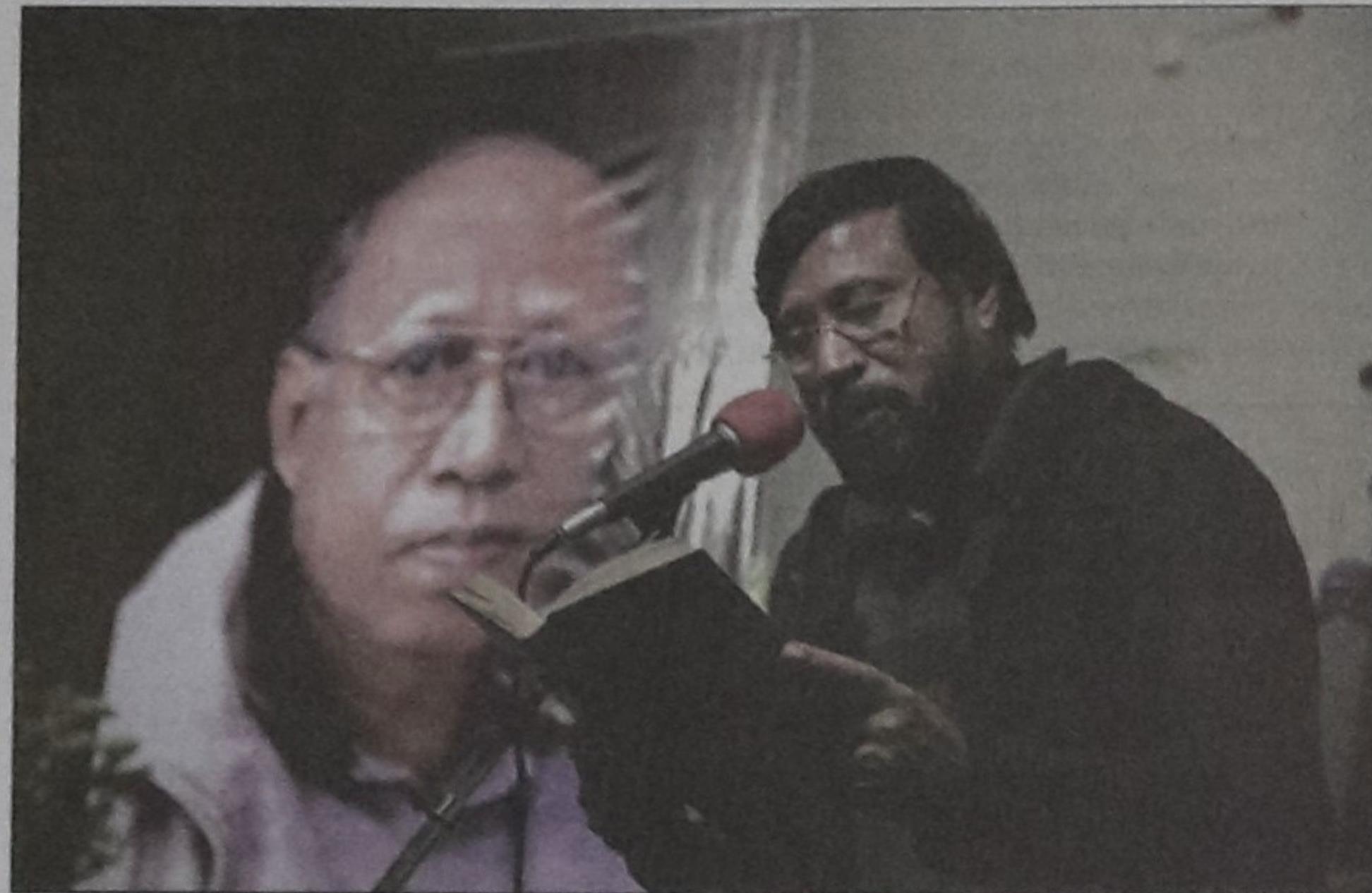
Film Festival
Title: Muktiuddho Deshey Deshey
Organiser: Ranesh Das Gupta Film Society
Venue: Moti Auditorium, Purana Paltan
Date: December 11-14
Time: 5pm



Photography Exhibition
Organiser: East West University Cine & Photography Club
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: December 11-18
Time: 3-8pm



A versatile figure Remembering Nowazesh Ahmed



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

CORRESPONDENT

Auditorium of Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban.

Chhayanaut 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

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

Prominent TV personality Masud Ali Khan reminisced,

"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 Shahityo', 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."

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 Mumbai is used to watching formula commercial movies.

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, convenor of Nrityadhara; Munmun Ahmed, Deepa Khandakar, 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.

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

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 up to 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 Slighter, Jewel Halder, Jadu Ritchil (M.C.Y.S), et al. Oitri, a little girl, danced to 'Thung Thang Thung Thang Churir Tale'. At the end, before the prayers, there was Kirton.



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

A dose of culture in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

songs which enthralled the local audience.

A three-day cultural programme, featuring songs, a dose of comedy and dances was held at the Durnurshia 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 1 Khudey Ganraj-Soddo, Asha, Jhuma and Riddo rendered modern

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 Kissinger and K. M. Akteruzzaman performed in the programme.



Ankhi Alamgir and Soddo render songs at the show.

The cultural programme turned out in thousands from adjoining areas and even from the district town.