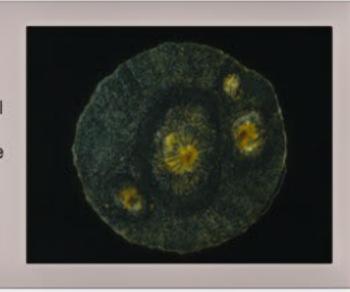
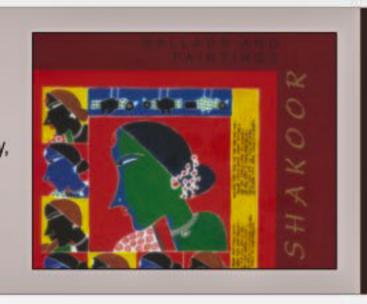


Solo Painting Exhibition Title: Image Artist: Mohammad Fakhrul Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi Date: January 4-15

Time: 9am-12pm & 5-8pm



Book Launch Title: Ballads and Painting Abdus Shakoor Shah Venue: Garden Gallery, R-4, H-23, Baridhara Date: January 11 Time: 6pm



Classical Musical Soiree Artiste: Tushar Dutta Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi Date: January 4 Time: 7pm



Painting Exhibition Painter: Biren Shome Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi Date: January 4-20 Time: 10am-8pm



Starting the New Year with Tagore's timeless songs

Musical soiree by BRSSS



Sirajus Salekin sings at the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The latest instalment of Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha's (BRSSS) regular musical soiree was held at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library on January 2. Ten selected member-artistes and expatriate singer Sirajus Salekin rendered Rabindranath's lesser-known as well as popular numbers at the programme.

General secretary of BRSSS Tapan Mahmud informed that the soiree is held once every two months at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium.

In the evening, the programme started with a rendition of "Tomar Ei Madhuri" by Mamun Zahid. The singer also sang the much-familiar "Sharthak Janam Amar."

The ten selected artistes rendered two songs each. Selina Huda was the next singer to take the stage. She rendered "Khanchar Pakhi Chhilo" and "Gaan-er Bhelaye Bela Obelaye."

Golam Haidar, Nandita Yasmin, Khandakar Abul Kalam, Sushmita Ahmed Barna, Pramod Dutta, Sharmila Chakrobarty, Pijush Barua and Chhaya Karmakar were the other performers at the programme.

Among the songs rendered at the soiree were: "Amar Nayan Tabo", "Ami Kebol-i Swapano", "Charan Dharitey Dio", "Roop Sagorey Dub Diyechhi", "Amar Pran-er Majhey" and "Hey Akashbihari".

Sirajus Salekin was the last singer of the evening. Salekin, one of the founder members of BRSSS, has returned to the country after a hiatus of 15 years. The evening was special for both Salekin and his fellow members of BRSSS.

Salekin sang several songs at the programme, including "Hridoy Amar Prokash Holo" and "Pothey Pothey".

Kritodash" staged

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Shapla Natya Goshthi, one of the leading cultural organisations of the greater Dinajpur district, staged renowned dramatist Abdullah Al Mamun's play "Ekhono Kritodash" at Thakurgaon Mirza Ruhul Amin Auditorium recently. Noted drama artiste of Thakurgaon, Rupkumar Guha Thakurata directed the play, which was the 13th production of Shapla Natya Goshthi.

The play features the trials of a freedom fighter in post-Liberation War Bangladesh.

Before the curtains went up, a discussion was held at the

Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sultana Parvin attended the event as chief guest. S.M. Jasim presided over the programme.

Organising secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation's Rajshahi division wing, Asaduddin Poplu and President of Thakurgaon Press Club Abu Torab Manik attended as special guests. The cast of "Ekhono Kritodash" included Rupkumar Guha

Thakurata, Selina, Adiba, Shamim, Shadidul Islam, Jahangir Alam, Waliul Haque, Fazle Elahi Mukut Chowdhury, Sohel, Ujjal, Shaju, Mehedi and Sajjad Hossain. Credit for the stage management and decoration goes to

Rezaul Karim Reza, Shahin, Shimul and Goutam (make-up). Mamun and Ratan did the music direction and S.M. Jasim oversaw the entire management.

Shapla Natya Goshthi started its journey in 1982. According to the speakers, in the course of its 27 years, the cultural organisation has played a major role in staging shows in the rural area despite different constraints and financial crisis.

Theatre is a major tool in the transformation of the society and creates awareness about many social ills. The public and the cultural activists all have responsibility in this direction, speakers said.

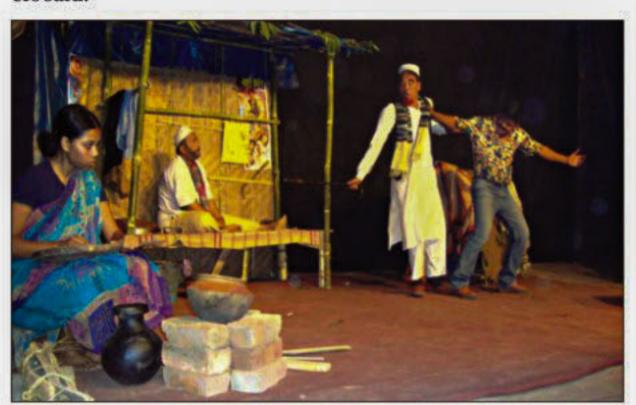


PHOTO: STAR

Actors of Shapla Natya Goshthi stage "Ekhono Kritodash"

Abdullah Al Mamun's "Ekhono A "Sonata" for Dhaka



Mita Chowdhury, Leesa Gazi and Farhana Mithu in "Sonata".

A CORRESPONDENT

"Sonata", a one-act play by the eminent Indian playwright Mahesh Elkunchwar was adapted by Leesa Gazi to be performed as a bilingual play -- Bangla and English. The setting of the play was changed from Mumbai to London and three Indian women transformed into three Bangladeshi women living the lives of Londoners. "Sonata" was directed by British Bangladeshi director, Mukul Ahmed, and produced by Tara Arts in October 2008. This was the very first time that a theatre performance contained all Bangladeshi actors for the mainstream theatre in London. "Sonata" was part of Tara Arts' Displacement Season. All the plays included in this block explored the worlds of people forced to uproot and start a new life thousands of miles away, their loneliness and the sacrifices they have had to make.

"Sonata" will be staged today, tomorrow and the day after at the British Council auditorium in Dhaka and is being co-produced by Tara Arts, the British Council and ITI, Bangladesh.

Tara Arts was founded in 1977 as a response to racially motivated violence in the UK. Since 1981 the theatre has been based in South London. Its aim is to represent cross-cultural theatre and stages classical and modern plays. Tara embraces representation of different cultures in performance and visual arts.

Mukul Ahmed was trained as a theatre director at London University in 2007. He closely follows the vision of Tara Arts' Artistic Director, Jatinder Verma, and works with modern plays as well as the classics. Mukul's direction of an adaptation of "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" in 2007 earned him the much-coveted 4 star from the Times theatre critic, Jeremy Kingston. Other major plays directed by Mukul are "Prints of Denmark", "The Rape of Lucrece" and "Rokeya's Dream" (based on "Sultana's Dream").

He has Staff directed at the Royal National Theatre, England and just prior to his visit to Bangladesh directed "Romeo & Juliet" for Tara Arts. In July 2010, Mukul is going to direct Tahmima Anam's "A Golden Age" (adapted by Leesa Gazi) for the South Bank Centre. In the not too distant future, he plans to stage Syed Waliullah's "Laal Shalu" (Tree Without Roots). Mukul is programming a Youth Shakespeare Festival season at Tara Arts for the coming spring and runs the Tara Arts young actors programme, ArtsBeat.

Mukul has been the recipient of the Laurence Harbottle scholarship and has done an attachment with the Royal National Theatre under the Stepchange bursary programme.

Mita Chowdhury, Leesa Gazi and Farhana Mithu play the three college friends who have settled in London in "Sonata".

Horse race and Jatrapala in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

A traditional horse race and Jatrapala (folk drama) were held at village Chhoy-Char under Moghi union of Magura sadar upazila recently.

Residents of Chhoy-Char village under the banner of "Amora Grambashi" arranged the annual event that has been organised here for the last 10 years. Thousand of enthusiastic people from different villages of four upazilas of the district thronged the venue to witness the event.

Fourteen people from Magura and adjoining district Jhenidah participated in the equestrian event.

Former chairman of Moghi union Abdul Hai Sardar was chief guest while local social worker Rejaul Islam was special guest at the

"People of our village arrange the annual event from donations from the locals," one of the organiser Khairul Islam told this correspondent, adding that the residents readily contribute for the event.



Natives of Magura and neighbouring Jhenidah participate in the equestrian event.

Elton John helping Eminem fight drugs

AP, London

Elton John says he has been helping American rapper Eminen fight drug problems for more than a year.

John says Eminem is succeeding in his well-publicised battle against substance abuse.

John told BBC Radio last Saturday that as a recovered

substance abuser he is happy to help people if they want the assistance but drugs make people so arrogant that they often reject help.

Eminem has written about his substance abuse problems in the past.



Peter Jackson is made Knight

New Zealand has made its most famous filmmaker a knight in the reinstatement of the title for the first time in a decade.

Peter Jackson, maker of the Oscar-winning Lord of the Rings trilogy, said the award was "better than the Oscars".

Former Prime Minister Helen Clark, who had abolished British knighthoods in 2000, was made a member of the Order of New Zealand.

This is the highest honour available in the country.

It carries no honorific and is limited to 20 living New Zealanders at any one time.

Sir Peter's Lord of the Rings trilogy won a total of 17 Oscars, and earned him the homegrown title of Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2002. In a written statement, Jackson described

the honour as an "incredible moment." "I didn't think anything would surpass the

2004 Academy Awards, but I was wrong," he said.

"The feeling of gratitude and pride I have in accepting this honour from my home country is profound."

Sir Peter was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2002, and has "continued to excel in and significantly contribute to the New Zealand film industry", the citation for his knighthood reads.



He remembers the early days: "When I was growing up in Pukerua Bay I spent weekends shooting war movies in my parents' vegetable garden with their Super-8 camera. I was eight years old and had no real expectation of being a film director. My dream was to work on special effects."

The awards were among 193 given to those active in sports, the arts, charity and even theology.

Source: BBC

