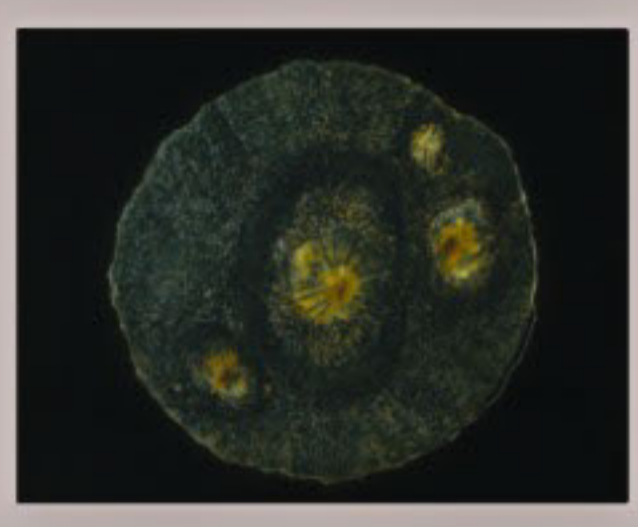
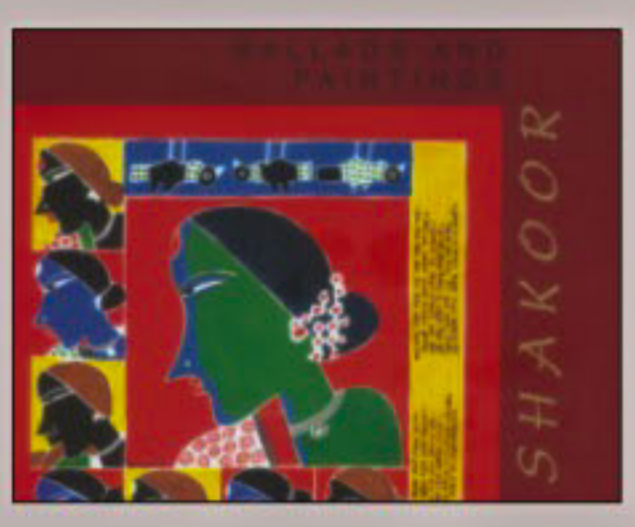


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Image
Artist: Mohammad Fakhru Islam
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: January 4-15
Time: 9am-12pm & 5-8pm




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



Classical Musical Soiree
Artist: Tushar Dutta (India)
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. PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

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

Abdullah Al Mamun's "Ekhono 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 auditorium. 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, Fazole 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.



Actors of Shapla Natya Goshthi stage "Ekhono Kritodash" PHOTO: STAR

A "Sonata" for Dhaka



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

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

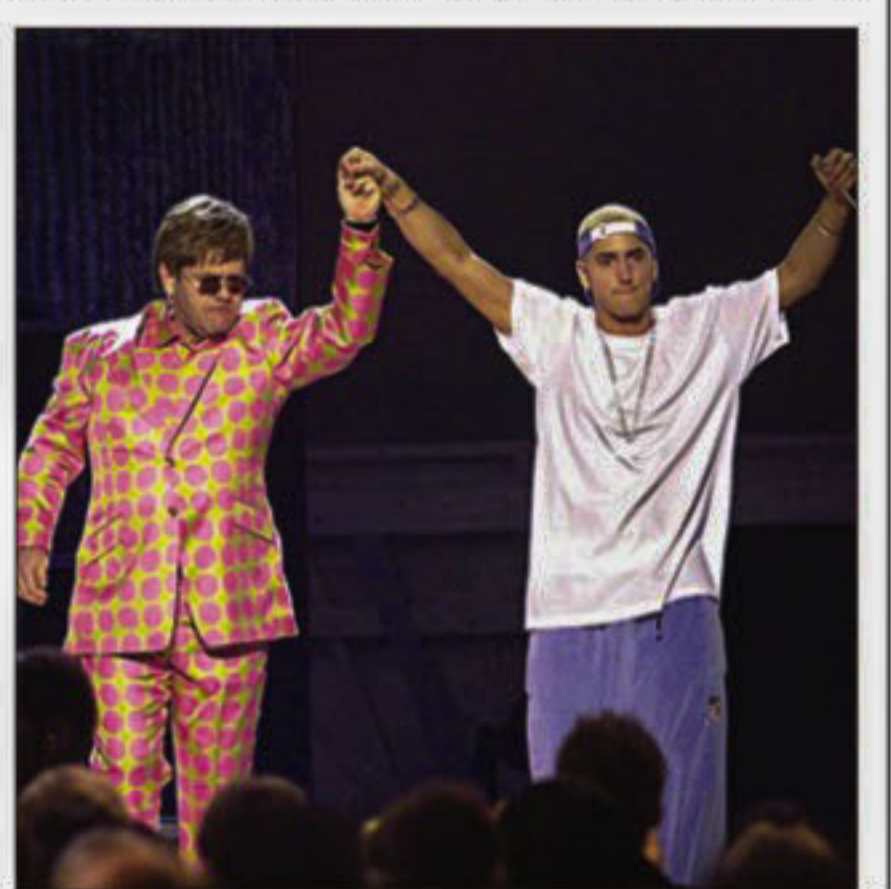


Natives of Magura and neighbouring Jhenidah participate in the equestrian event. PHOTO: STAR

Elton John helping Eminem fight drugs

AP, *London*

Elton John says he has been helping American rapper Eminem 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 home-grown 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.



Source: BBC
 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.

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