

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Drawing Exhibition

Title: The Surge of Emotion
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, North Super Market, 2nd Circle, Gulshan
Date: January 4-19
Time: 10am-8pm



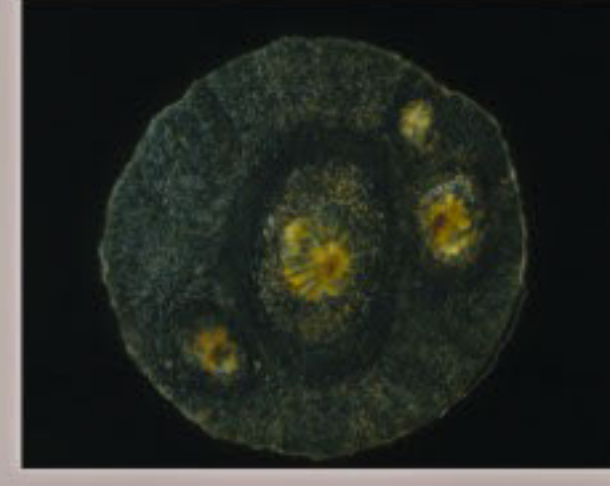
Book Launch

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



Solo Painting Exhibition

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



Painting Exhibition

Painter: Biren Shome
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: January 4-20
Time: 10am-8pm



A rendezvous of two cultures

Dakshina performs at Shilpakala Academy



The performances by Dakshina fuses western and eastern elements.

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

The term 'Dakshina', meaning 'offering' in Sanskrit, seemed truly justified for the US dance troupe Dakshina which offered a fascinating performance to the Dhaka dance connoisseurs. Daniel Phoenix Singh's dance company, Dakshina, presented a 90-minute dance performance, titled 'Experience the Movement', at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh

Shilpakala Academy on January 3.

The troupe presented "Bell Song", "Lullaby", "Since You've Asked", "Lila" and "Dreams". All but the last has been choreographed by Daniel Singh. "Lullaby" and "Since You've Asked" are duets. "Bell Song" is a blend of contemporary and Bharat Natyam moves and "Lila" is Singh's retelling of the popular myths involving Lord Krishna. "Lila" delves into Devaki's (Krishna's mother) quiet courage.

"Dreams" was performed during the

second half of the show. It is choreographed by the late pioneer of modern dance, Anna Sokolow. "Dreams" is an expression of the horrors of the holocaust. It speaks of how a group of people holds on to their dignity even as they face disgrace and despair -- the plight of looking for shelter from the soldiers. A girl tries to run away from imminent evil. Just when she thinks the nightmare is over, she is caught and the whole horrid experience is rerun. A man (enacted by Daniel) runs and knocks at



every wall, hoping to escape but ultimately meets his doom. As tragedies of war unfold, a couple tries to hold on to each other.

The articulate expressions and movements were integral to the stories that they portrayed. For example in "Dreams", the performers portrayed a faint gas that kept on getting denser to the point of suffocation. Although no smoke could be seen, it was sensed through the expressions of the performers.

Dakshina is the first company to

present Anna Sokolow's work in South Asia. The troupe has performed in Chennai, Bangalore and Ahmedabad before coming to Dhaka.

"I had two homes till now -- USA and India," said Daniel, adding, "but now I have three, including Bangladesh." Daniel expressed that he and his team would like to visit Bangladesh again.

'Experience the Movement' was presented by Nrityadhara in cooperation with the American Centre in Dhaka.

"They have travelled far and worked very hard to perform here. I want them to know that our hearts also danced with them," said Lauren Lovelace, director of the American Centre in Dhaka.

"We are elated to have Dakshina amongst us," said Minu Haque, convenor of Nrityadhara. "This is a great initiative that creates a rendezvous between two diverse cultures," she added.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

"Garbhodharini": Samaresh Majumdar's epic novel comes to TV



"Garbhodharini" narrates the adventures of four friends who want to change their surroundings.

A CORRESPONDENT

The story of four friends that took Bengali readers by storm and continues to fascinate generations is now coming to TV. A mega-serial titled "Garbhodharini", an adaptation of Samaresh Majumdar's hugely popular novel, goes on air on January 6 at 8:15 pm on Channel 1.

"Garbhodharini" narrates the adventures of Joyita, Shudip, Anondo and Kollan who, despite their dissimilar backgrounds, have similar ideologies about the flaws of the society. Joyita comes from an affluent family that made its fortune by means of her father's corrupt practices. Similarly, Shudip's father is a dubious lawyer; his mother is

various shady activities to everyone's attention. Their actions infuriate influential figures involved, and soon the authorities pursue the perpetrators. The rebellious quartet dodge the police and take refuge in a secluded area.

The entire initiative to bring the novel to the small screen was undertaken by Shankha Dasgupta, director of the serial.

"I chose 'Garbhodharini' because when I read it, I felt like it demanded to be made into a film or serial," says Dasgupta. The author agreed to Dasgupta's proposal under the condition that he would write the script himself.

Seventy-two episodes (each 22-minute long) of the serial are jointly produced by Top of Mind and Priority.

The cast includes Tisha, Hillol, Shajol, Shahriar Shubho, Saberi Alam, Pijush Bandyopadhyay, Mahmudul Islam Mithu, Shamima Naznin, Jayonto Chattopadhyay, Chitralekha Guho and others.

"Garbhodharini" will be aired every Wednesday and Thursday at 8:15pm.



Susan Boyle is looking for love

Scottish singing sensation Susan Boyle will dedicate 2010 to finding herself a boyfriend.

The single 48 year old, who claims never to have been kissed, shot to fame last year and subsequently turned down the chance to look for love on a TV dating show, following a string of offers from producers.

But Boyle admits she's determined to fill the new year with romance, and will spend her time searching for her perfect companion.

She tells Britain's News of the World newspaper, "I now dream about the perfect man. Women just want the security of a nice man and somebody to love you."

When asked what she is looking for in a partner, Boyle admits she has a liking for her "Britain's Got Talent" mentor, Simon Cowell.

She adds, "I owe so much to him. He knows I have a soft spot for him. Simon (is) my kind of (man)."

Source: Internet

Theatre festival in Delhi by National School of Drama

Bangladesh to be represented by "Chailor Unmadini"

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh will be represented by Ashim Das-directed "Chailor Unmadini", an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House" and contemporary Indian plays by the late Vijay Tendulkar, Habib Tanvir and BV Karanth are the highlights of the 17-day annual festival.

In all, theatre groups from 13 countries, including Germany, Israel, Bangladesh, China, France, Japan, Italy, Singapore, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan, will feature in one of the mega cultural events in the Indian capital.

Tendulkar's "Sakharam Binder" and Dharamvir Bharati's "Andha Yug" will be staged along with adaptations of all-time classics of Anton Chekhov, Ibsen and Jean Paul Sartre.

Shakespeare's plays "Hamlet" and "Macbeth" will be reproduced. Based on enthusiastic response to the 'Young Experimenters' component last year, the festival will take forward the initiative by showcasing the work of ten

young directors, distinguished by the manner in which they access and interpret classic texts, new work and their own socio-cultural and psycho-political realities, according to the festival organisers.

A special focus in the 2010 festival will be evenings of theatre music and songs that will include stalwarts like Karanth, Jagmohan Upreti and Habib Tanvir.

Also, in recognition of the increasing importance played by technology in every area of contemporary existence, including arts and creative expression, the NSD will hold backstage tours and technical/sound/light workshops. These will be accompanied by exhibitions, interactive sessions with directors and one-to-one meetings for experts on special requests and video screenings.

A round-table conference featuring eminent people from the world of theatre and allied arts will be held to discuss issues of current interest to theatre practitioners.



A scene from "Chailor Unmadini".

Bangladeshi contestants on Zee Bangla show

A CORRESPONDENT

The popular talent hunt "Mirakkel Akkel Challenger" on Indian TV channel Zee Bangla will now include contestants from Bangladesh.

The channel is holding daylong auditions at the Channel i Tejgaon Office from 10 am today. Officials of Zee Bangla -- Sudipta Bhowmik, Shubhankar and Navnita Chakrabarti -- are expected to be

present as judges.

"Zee Bangla has plans to include participants from Bangladesh in its other talent hunts, such as 'Dance Bangla Dance' and 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' and more," informed SMN Islam James, CEO, WEB Entertainment. WEB Entertainment is working on behalf of Zee Bangla in Bangladesh. Channel i is the promotional partner of the Bangladesh auditions.

"I was approached by Navnita

Chakrabarti, the producer of 'Mirakkel Akkel Challenger', on January 1. She informed that the popularity of Zee Bangla programmes among the Bangladeshi audience is growing, and that's one of the main reasons to include participants from Bangladesh," Islam said.

"Mirakkel Akkel Challenger" is aired everyday (except Sundays) on Zee Bangla at 10 pm BD time.