

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



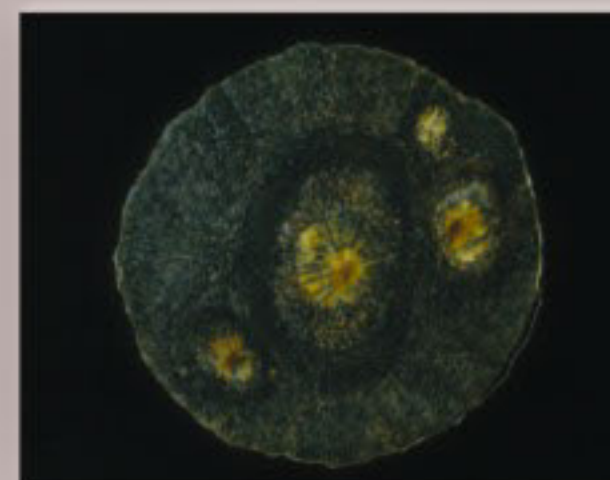
Theatre

Play: Bisharjan
Troupe: Dasharupok Repertory Theatre
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 9
Time: 6:30pm



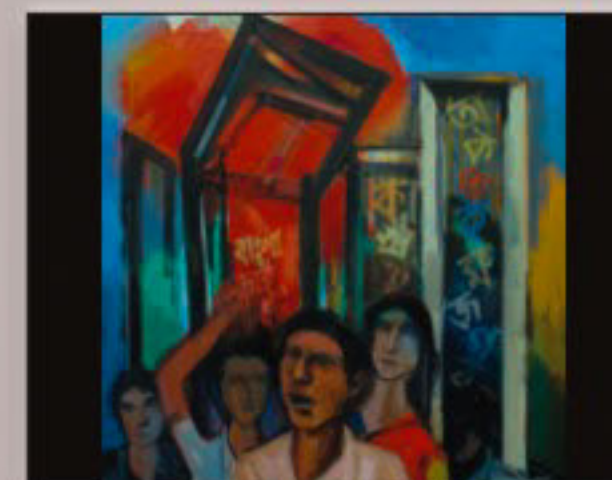
Solo Painting Exhibition

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: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: January 4-20
Time: 10am-8pm



Udichi's National Cultural Conference at Shaheed Minar



The chief guest and other dignitaries place a wreath at the Shaheed Minar (top); Udichi artistes perform at the cultural programme.

A CORRESPONDENT

The three-day 'Jatiyo Shangkritik Shammelon' (National Cultural Conference) by Bangladesh Udichi Shipli Goshti at the Central Shaheed Minar premises ends today. Members and activists of Udichi from across the country attended the event with much enthusiasm. Former Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman inaugu-

gured the conference on January 7.

"Udichi has a total of 215 branches all over the country," said Habibul Alam, general secretary, Udichi central. Habibul Alam is also the convener of the National Cultural Conference 2010.

"The main purpose of holding this conference is to enable better communication and coordination among the regional branches of Udichi. As members from all corners

of the country come together at the conference, they get a chance to know and interact with each other -- exchanging views, sharing ideas and more," informed Alam.

"This is the third national cultural conference of Udichi. Previous conferences were held in 1997 and 2000," he added.

The slogan of this year's conference is "Bojrobinay Jago Swadesh Amar".

At the inauguration

programme, chief guest Muhammad Habibur Rahman hoped for the success of the conference and applauded Udichi for holding the event.

Among others, Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqui, director general, BTV; Nasiruddin Yousuff, president, Shammilito Shangkritik Jote; Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation were present at the event.

Golam Muhammad Idu, president, Udichi central, presided over the session.

A colourful rally was brought out from Central Shaheed Minar. The rally circled the DU campus.

From 5:30 pm onwards audiences were entertained by performances by Udichi artistes. The cultural programme continued till 9pm.

Today the cultural programme will begin from 4 pm and will continue till 10 pm.

Apart from cultural programmes a seminar on the topic "Shangkritik Andolon: Bortoman-er Drishtitey Bhoishyot Bhabna" will be held at TSC Auditorium at 10:30 am today, informed the organisers.

The King lives on: 75th birthday of Elvis Presley



On January 8, 1935, Elvis Aaron Presley was born to Vernon Elvis and Gladys Love Presley in Tupelo, Mississippi.

It was just a half hour before his identical twin, Jesse Garon Presley, was delivered stillborn, and Elvis, an only child, was the apple of his parents' eye.

and it was church where Presley found his first musical inspirations.

When Elvis turned 13, the family moved to Memphis, Tennessee.

At Humes High School, Presley's music teacher told him he couldn't sing. The youngster's response to that was to bring in his guitar to class and show them that he could,

by rocking out a recent hit. Outside of that moment, Presley was a shy boy, often bullied in school, but in the guitar he'd found a friend, and took to the instrument with great enthusiasm.

In August 1953, Elvis strolled into Sun Records, with the plan to buy a few minutes of studio time to record a couple of songs for his mother. Sun boss Sam Phillips was intrigued.

Then on the hunt for someone who could bring the sound of black musicians to a mainstream audience, Phillips saw promise in Presley's distinctive vocal style. Soon an ad hoc trio was put together and a single was born.

The offers started pouring in early enough, and Colonel Tom Parker, the best promoter in the biz, started managing Presley, a move that saw him sign onto the RCA Victor record label.

For his first television appearance, Presley covered Carl Perkins' hit, "Blue Suede Shoes". A couple of months later, in March 1956, came Presley's first album -- it became the first rock and roll album to top the Billboard chart, a position it held for 10

weeks. The hysteria was just beginning.

Every few months Presley would turn anything into a cultural milestone.

The frenzy over "Hound Dog", the Ed Sullivan Show appearance, being nicknamed 'Elvis The Pelvis,' his motion picture debut... Elvis dominated the 1950s right to the end, after which he was drafted. And the uniform made him a bigger icon than ever.

Just mentioning that he had over 15 number 1 albums doesn't do him justice. Or that he made the guitar take centre-stage at a piano-driven time. Or that John Lennon was too nervous to speak when the Beatles met Elvis. Everything seems too reductive.

In Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction", they say the world is divided into Beatles people and Elvis people. What they forget to mention is that Beatles people love Elvis too.

May jukeboxes be blessed with his voice forever. All hail the King.

Compiled by Correspondent

Music in the air

Concert at Dhanmondi Abahani Playground

A CORRESPONDENT

On January 7, a concert featuring some of the leading pop and rock musicians was held at Dhanmondi Abahani Playground. The concert celebrated the first anniversary of the democratic government. Fakir Alamgir, LRB, Hyder Husyn, Tausif, Balam, Mila, RadioActiv and many others performed at the concert. Radio Amar and ATN Bangla were the media partners. The event was organised by Jaadu Events.

"The concert was proposed by DGFI," said Nilufer Mahmud, one of the organisers. Thousands of people crowded the venue from the beginning. Music enthusiasts poured in throughout the event.

Mitul of the band RadioActiv said, "For us it's a pleasant surprise. We are one of the few bands to perform here. It's like a milestone for us and we are proud to have performed at such a concert." Mitul, Shakil, Tapash, Sagor, Sujon performed covers of their favourite numbers. "There are over 20,000 enthusiastic fans; the experience is awesome!" -- said Mitul, adding, "Too bad our keyboardist Shahriar couldn't join, as his mother passed away just two days back."

"The crowd is simple amazing," said Balam, "and the environment is very positive. I really like being here, performing for and among exuberant music lovers."

Mila performed all her hit numbers. She shared her experience: "After a long time, we are doing such a big show out in the open, and this could only be possible because of the tight security. This is great!"

"It's a well organised concert," said seasoned Gana Sangeet artiste Fakir Alamgir. "It's a get together of young music fans. All of them sang from their hearts. It also feels good to know that we did this show out of the love for our country, to speak out once again and leave a reminder of the promise to reform in time."



Ayub Bachchu performs at the concert.

PHOTO: TAHER MANK

Loko Natya Dal to stage 550th show of "Konjush"



A scene from "Konjush".

Theatre troupe Loko Natya Dal will be holding the 550th show of "Konjush", an adaptation of the Moliere satire, "The Miser", at the National Theatre Stage today at 6:30 pm, says a press release.

"Konjush" belongs to the 'Comedy of Morals' genre, which is designed to address vices such as hypocrisy, pride, greed, social pretensions and nepotism.

Tariq Anam Khan's adap-

tation of the play presents a 'Dhakaiyya' (a native of Old Dhaka) protagonist -- a rich old man named Haider Ali. Through Haider Ali's story, "Konjush" attacks the selfish and opportunistic tendencies

of the elite. The cast includes Swadesh Ranjan Das Gupta, Ziauddin Shipon, Masud Shumon, Shamama Islam, Lovely Kamal and others.

Liaquat Ali Lucky is the director of the play.

PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV

The street play "C02 Red Alert" was staged at the Shoparjito Shadinata premises on Dhaka University campus recently. The play focused on the current issues related to global warming and its influence over the third world countries. Shantanu Halder was the director of the play.

