

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: The Dockyard
Artist: Yask Desai
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: March 18-24
Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Not Here
Artist: Ali Akbar
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: March 13-27
Time: 3-9pm (except Fridays and Saturdays)



Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Hridaye Bangladesh
Photographer: Chanchal Mahmud
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R-27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: March 19-30
Time: 12pm-8pm



Boats Exhibition
Title: Traditional Boats of Bangladesh
Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattashali Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum
Date: March 23-April 19
Time: 10am -5pm



Homage to Waheedul Haque

"Desh Ghorer Gaan" at Chhayanaut

A CORRESPONDENT

Chhayanaut will organise a two-day musical programme as a tribute to the iconic cultural activist and organiser.

The memorial programme, titled 'Waheedul Haque Sharok Deshghorer Gaan' will be held on March 19 and 20 at Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.

Waheedul Haque believed that it would not be possible to form a complete idea of our culture, without being familiar with our folk music -- rooted in our tradition. Upholding this ideal, Chhayanaut has been arranging this programme for the



last couple of years. The programme highlights various forms of folk music practiced in different parts of the country.

The programme will start from 5 pm and will continue till 9 pm. Saidur Rahman Bayati will inaugurate the two-day programme. BRAC Bank is sponsoring the event.

The announcement was made at a press conference held on March 16 at the Ramesh Chandra Dutta Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanaut Shangkriti Bhavan. Among others, Khairul Anam Shakil and Pradip Kumar Nag, general secretary and joint secretary of Chhayanaut respectively, were present at the press conference.

'Future in Frames': Film festival for children in Barisal



"The Crocodiles", one of the films to be screened at the festival.

A CORRESPONDENT

With the theme 'Future in Frames', Children's Film Society Bangladesh is arranging a three-day film festival in Barisal. The festival is going to open today at the city's Ashwini Kumar Town Hall.

Renowned cultural personality Aly Zaker will inaugurate the festival. Divisional Commissioner of Barisal Nurul Nabi Talukdar and acting DIG of Barisal Binoy Krishna Bala will be present on the occasion as the chief guest and special guest respectively. The inau-

gurational programme will be presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of Barisal Mashiur Rahman.

Thirteen films, short films and documentaries from six countries will be screened at the festival.

After successfully arranging three consecutive international children's film festivals in Dhaka, Children's Film Society is now holding festivals across the country. So far they have held festivals in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Bogra, Tangail, Kushtia and Khagrachhari. The festival in Barisal is being sponsored by Shezan Juice.

Keeping the rivers alive

Amra Shotodol hosts mass-awareness programme

A CORRESPONDENT

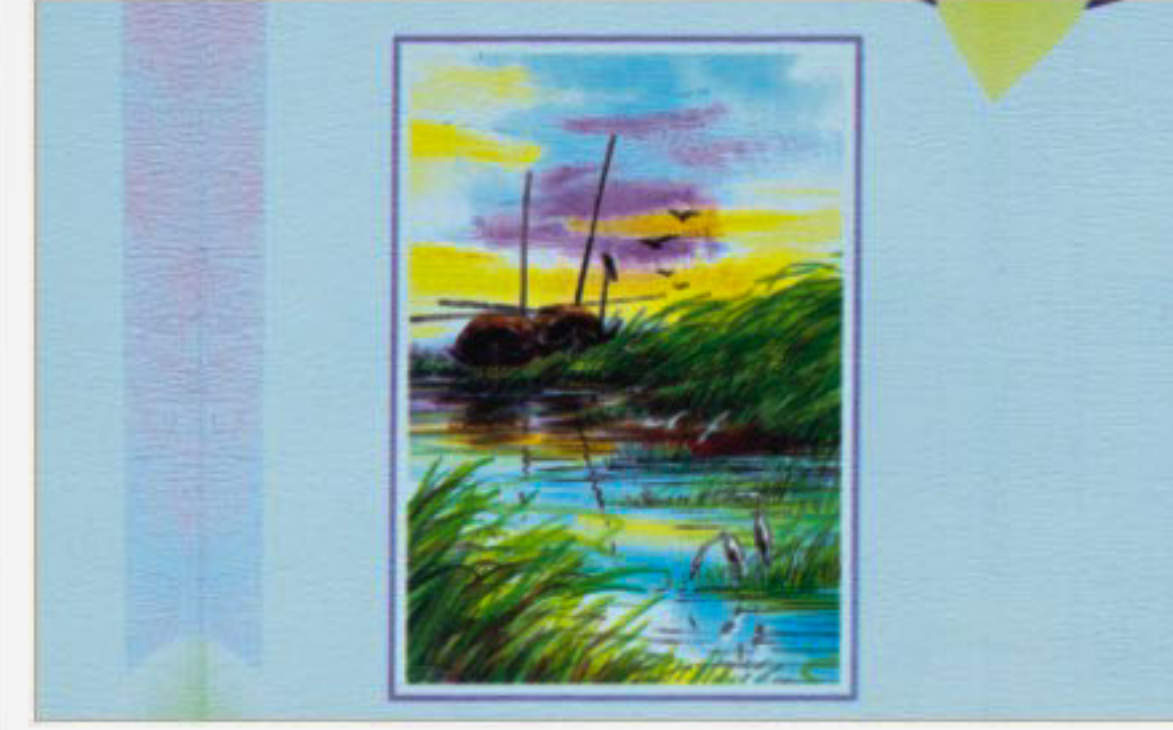
Amra Shotodol's initiative to preserve and protect rivers has a sequence of cultural events today at Rabindra Sharobor from 3:30 pm to 8 pm. The group will be hosting documentaries, recitations and an art competition for street children along with various other programmes.

Amy Rahman, choreographer and freelance producer, said about the event: "The situation of the country where rivers are being encroached has many thinking of ways to generate awareness amongst the masses. In this regard, various groups and people have shown appreciation and support and have come forward. The campaign was primarily organised by Amy's Workshop but later other groups like Assurance, Virgin Cola, Esha Consultancy Team and JAAGO volunteers offered help. Once the word was spread, more people joined us in an endeavour to save our rivers."

"My mother Feroza Begum who is involved in social work has inspired me to organise an art competition for 20 street children. The theme would be rivers -- how they see the rivers, now or in the future."

"We will be detailing various issues such as the effects of littering. We would approach the crowd and talk to the kids, etc."

In the evening, singers Fahmida Nabi, Jewel, Partha Barua and the bands Feedback, Rafa and Friends will be performing. Eminent artists Mustafa Monwar and Professor Abu Taher will be present at the art competition.



Nibedan to present songs from the gramophone record era

Cultural organisation Nibedan is holding a musical soiree on Friday (March 19). To be held at the Shaheed Zia Auditorium, National Museum, the event will feature songs from the 'gramophone record era' (1900-1950),

according to the organisers.

Dedicated to the memory of Tagore exponent and cultural activist Waheedul Haque, the soiree will feature Nibedan artistes rendering 20 popular songs from the bygone era.

"Music is art without periphery"

-- Sara Billah

ZAHIDUL NAIM ZAKARIA

Sara Billah has been taking music lessons since the age of five. Being a member of a family, which she calls immensely supportive, Sara's pursuit of her passion for singing has been uninterrupted. Her debut album, "Mom-er Alo" was released a few weeks ago. The album, targeted towards a wide audience, features eight adhunik (contemporary) songs written by her and other lyricists, and one Nazrul Sangeet.

Sara's interest mainly lies in Nazrul songs, but the artiste is keen on Lalon Geeti as well. After studying Indian classical music (from an early age), she joined Chhayanaut's five-year Nazrul Sangeet course. She has been teaching Nazrul Sangeet at the same institution since 2008. She graduated in English Literature from Jahangirnagar University.



Considering her extensive training and music lessons, one might think that becoming a singer was a conscious choice. The reality, interestingly, was quite the opposite.

Sara started working in the telecom sector and got married. She also took short courses in French as a third language at her university and Interior Decoration and

Design. When her first child was born in 2008, she quit her job to take care of her newborn. Once she had removed herself from the corporate world, she found time to delve once more into music, and realised how much she missed it. That according to her was the "wake-up call." That's when she decided she wanted to pursue singing as a career.

She acknowledges the fact that musicians and artistes in Bangladesh are often deprived of financial security. In light of this, Sara feels that the way her family and her husband have supported her over the years has been a monumental inspiration. Aside from her career as a singer, Sara is also part of the band Crimson. The band's first album "Shurjo" was released in 2006, and they received a nomination for the Citycell-Channel i Music Awards the same year.

Khairul Anam Shakil and Farida Parveen are Sara's favourite singers and she also enjoys listening to Arnob's music. Irish vocalist and composer, also a four-time Grammy Award winner, Enya, is Sara's role model.

"Music is universal. It appeals to people of all origins and orientations; it is a form of art without periphery," says Sara.

Cultural evening in Jhenidah

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

On Monday evening a fascinating cultural function was held in Jhenidah police lines on the occasion of the annual police conference and sports in Jhenidah.

DIG Sheikh Hemayet Hossain PPM of

Khulna Police Range was present as chief guest while Luna Parvin was special guest. Also present were Jhenidah and Kushtia Police Superintendents, OCs of six Jhenidah police stations, journalists, Freedom Fighters and political leaders.

Jhenidah Police Superintendent Rezaul Karim presided over the meeting. In the afternoon the chief guest inau-

gurated the event by releasing balloons and pigeons. Then followed a variety of games. In the evening a cultural show was held where "Close-up 1" contestant Purna, "Rtv Black Horse" singer Shohel and Baul singer Shah Alam rendered songs through the night. Thousands of people from all walks of life attended the cultural evening.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

As part of their four daylong in-house theatre festival (titled 'Mohola Magan'), Prachyanat staged its popular musical ensemble "Music of Flowers, Birds and Rivers" at the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on March 16. Two plays "Keramot Nama" and "A New Testament of Ancient Mariner" will be screened today at 6:30 pm.

The imaginative world of child artists

Art Exhibition by Cubic school



A CORRESPONDENT

The fourth annual Art Exhibition of Cubic School of Fine Arts began on March 13 at the Gallery Shomotot, Gulshan. Young artists -- ages between 4 and 13 -- have participated in the exhibition. Mujahidul Hassan (Rana), director of Cubic School of Fine Arts, spoke to The Daily Star about the exhibition.

"The kids did most of the work in class. They have so much enthusiasm and verve -- they finished the works in 10 days. A total of 48 students took part in the exhibition. They have applied different methods and concepts."

"Creativity is required in every field, so we should encourage these children," said eminent artist Mustafa Monwar, chief guest at the exhibition.

"A child expresses his thoughts and emotions through colours which should not be dictated by the parents or teachers," said Hashem Sufi, director of Dhaka History Research Centre, who was a special guest.

Colossal dinosaurs, wise parrots, colourful ducks, black and yellow cat, women shopping, little boys playing -- familiar and unfamiliar images as seen or imagined by the youngsters -- have come to life. Works of the pre-teens and teens on the other hand are more defined with a stoic grasp of reality; a bit of wonder and awe is still there.

The exhibition ends on March 23.



Clockwise (from top-left): Drawings by Mahroosa Choudhuri, Dilara Alam Jabeen, Sadika Islam, MD. Shajid Alim, Faizan Yameen Ahmed and Farnaz Nabi Chowdhury.

