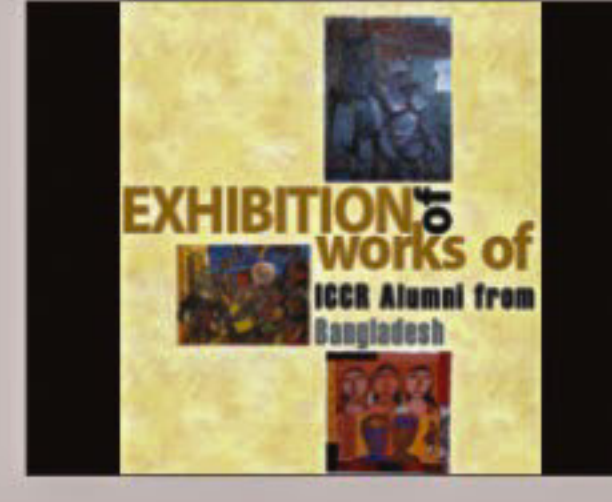


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Group Art Exhibition**  
**Organiser:** High Commission of India, Dhaka and ICCR  
**Venue:** Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1  
**Date:** March 10-23  
**Time:** 10am-6pm



**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



## Rooted in our tradition

'Desh Ghorer Gaan' by Chhayanaut



Ananta Kumar Dev (left) and his troupe from Kurigram perform Baithaki Gaan.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Cultural icon Waheedul Haque, who was one of the creative minds behind Chhayanaut, 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 a cultural programme featuring traditional art forms for the last couple of years. The programme has also been held to mark Waheedul Haque's 77<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.

Titled "Desh Ghorer Gaan", this year the programme was held on March 19-20 at the Bakultaka of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. On the first day, various troupes from all corners of the country performed at the programme.

Veteran Baul from Manikganj Saidur Rahman Bayati inaugurated the programme. Khairul Anam Shakil, general secretary,



Chhayanaut artistes render a Shah Abdul Karim number.

Chhayanaut; delivered the welcome speech highlighting Waheedul Haque's perspective on our traditional cultural entity. In his speech, special guest Sohrab Uddin gave a brief account on Saidur Rahman Bayati.

The programme started with a group rendition of the Shah Abdul Karim number "Agye Ki

Shundor Din Kataitam" by artistes of Chhayanaut. The Chhayanaut artistes also performed a couple of solo numbers. Sardar Mohammad Rahmatullah sang a *murshidi* song "O Murshid Poth Dekhaiya Dao". Swapna Roy performed a bhawaiya, while Narayan Chandra Shil sang a Bijoy Sarkar song,

"Ghor Bhangbey Tor Aaj Na Hoy Kaal".

After the Chhayanaut performance, invitee troupes from Kurigram, Sunamganj and Khagrachhari gave individual performances.

Among the invited troupes, Ananta Kumar Dev and his troupe (from Kurigram) took the stage first. Featuring eight mem-

bers, the troupe performed an approximately one-hour long *Baithaki Gaan*. Krishna Chandra and his troupe (from Sunamganj) performed the traditional *Dhamail Gaan*. The members of the troupe performed several popular songs of the genre, such as numbers of Radharaman Dutta and other bards of the greater Sylhet region.

Gairing Cultural Forum (Khagrachhari) was the last troupe to perform in the late evening. The members of the troupe demonstrated three items, including *Gariya Nritya* and *Lebang Dance*. Roy Tripura of Gairing Cultural Forum noted that they perform these numbers during the New Year celebrations.

On the second day, *Kirtan* and *Jari Gaan* were performed. Amol Chattopadhyay and his troupe (Faridpur) performed *Kirtan*, while Saiful Bayati and his troupe (Narail) came forth with *Jari Gaan*.

## Month long 'Theatre Festival' in Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A month-long 'Theatre Festival' kicked off on Friday evening with a colourful inaugural session here at Dinajpur Nattya Samity auditorium.

The much awaited 'Goodnight Bingshodi Dinajpur Nattyaushab' bonanza has been organised by Dinajpur Nattya Samity. Goodnight-Godrej has sponsored the festival.

Liakat Ali Lucky, cultural personality and chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation inaugurated the festival.

Mirza Anwarul Islam Tanu, Shajahan Shah, Chitta Ghosh, president of Dinajpur Press Club, AZM Menhajul Haque, Mayor of Dinajpur Municipality, Tarequzzaman Tareq, Azizul Imam Chowdhury, vice president of Dinajpur Nattya Samity, Rezaur Rahman Rezu, general secretary of Dinajpur unit of Udichi, Mohammad Abdul Majid, general manager of

Goodnight, spoke at the inaugural session. Earlier a colourful procession in Dinajpur town paraded many streets and concluded at the festival venue.

The opening presentation, "Neen Hakim", scripted and directed Sawkat Osman and Nure Alam Ujjal respectively was staged on Saturday evening by Nischitapur Galpa Theatre of Thakurgaon district.

Around 26 theatre groups from Dhaka, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram Pabna, Parbatipur and Thakurgaon are participating in the festival.

The speakers at the discussion said that the rich cultural heritage of Dinajpur will be reflected through the festival held after eight years. The festival is designed to showcase the remarkable progress which the Bangladesh performing arts have made since Independence, they added.

The focus in this festival is on reflecting the grandeur of regional theatre.



The Bogra unit of Shammilito Sangskritik Jote staged a street play "Abar Bangladesh" on March 19 at the city's Shat Matha premises. The play sought to create public awareness about the trial of war criminals.

PHOTO: STAR

## Aneela's new fashion line

Celebrity Artist Kalidas Karmakar was the centre of attention at Aneela Haque's launch of her new Summer-Boishaakh Couture line called: "Red", says a press release.

"Red symbolises love, victory, freedom, power and sun: the rays of hope. Kalidas is my mentor. The concept is Kalidas wearing my creation alongside his Mobile Art work by river Meghna near a small village," said Aneela.



Kalidas Karmakar

## Hundred poets assemble in festival of colours

Sixth 'Kabita Utshab' held



Kazi Abu Zafar Siddique speaks at the programme.

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

The sixth 'Kabita Utshab' (poetry festival) organised by Satkhira Kabita Parishad, an organisation formed by local poets, was held at Shahid Abdur Razzak Park on March 19.

Satkhira Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Abdus Samad inaugurated the festival by hoisting the National Flag as chief guest.

BTV director general, Kazi Abu Zafar Siddique, poet Aslan Sani, poet Shahadat Hossain Nipu, Dr. Shahidur Rahman and more.

"Poetry inspired people to take part in the struggle for independence and helped the Language Martyrs establish the mother tongue in 1952. Poetry awakens the conscience and enables men to raise their voice against all kinds of injustice," they said.

Let poetry inspire people to fight against poverty, corruption, injustice and misrule, they added.

Daridra' (Poetry will resist poverty) was held at the same venue with Professor Dolly Sultana in the chair.

Later, poet Kazi Waliullah presented the main essay while Kazi Abu Zafar Siddique, Aslan Sani, Asim Saha, SM Alauddin (posthumously), Sadar upazila chairman Alhaj Nazrul Islam, Falguni Hamid, Dr. Shahidur Rahman, Subhas Chowdhury, Gazi Azizur Rahman for their contribution to poetry, literature and social service.

The chief guest Satkhira deputy commissioner, Md. Abdus Samad handed over the crests to the recipients. Over 100 poets participated in the colourful festival.

## Photo exhibition in Mymensingh



Visitors at the exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A 10-day photo exhibition marking Independence Day began at the campus of Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) on March 16.

The MMC Debating Society (MMCDS) has organised the exhibition.

The exhibition features hundreds of pictures of different events and movements, including photographs from the beginning of

anti-British movements up to the Liberation War and victory. The photos collected from Liberation War posters and different other sources drew the attention of the audience.

Dr. Motiur Rahman, vice-principal MMC inaugurated the exhibition. Secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) local chapter Dr. Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan, ex-president and present secretary of MMCDS Dr. O.Z.M Dostogir and Raisul

## Fantasy Kingdom celebrates eighth anniversary

Fantasy Kingdom celebrated its 8th anniversary on March 19 and March 20, says a press release. The park was decorated with colourful festoons. S. M. Kamal Uddin, Chairman Concord Group was present on the occasion. He said that from now on, every Tuesday would be celebrated as 'Parent's Day' which means, on every Tuesday each parent visitor of the Fantasy Kingdom Park will get discount on entry.

Fantasy Kingdom flyers were distributed to students of different schools of Dhaka city in which they described their experience of visiting the theme park. Those who brought these flyers got a free entry on the occasion. There was a special offer for all visitors to enjoy all rides on the occasion. Additionally, 10 best writers got Membership Card of Fantasy Kingdom for one year.

On the day of the anniversary, popular music bands L.R.B, Souls, Shironamhin, Feedback, Nirjhor, Prometheus, Salvation & Sustain performed. Asif, Balam, Akhi Alamgir, Robi Chowdhuri, Mimi, Muhin, Fakir Alamgir, Parvez and Alam Ara Minu performed on the second day.



(From Left) S. M. Kamal Uddin, Chairman Concord Group; Lawmaker Towhid Murad Jong; Shahriar Kamal, DMD Concord Group (3-L) and others at the programme.