

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photography Exhibition

Title: Muktiyoddhar
Camera: Muktiyoddho 1971
Photographer: Haroon Habib
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shipakala Academy
Date: March 25-31
Time: 11am onwards



Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Syeeduzzaman Sumon
Title: Rural Life
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: April 3-17
Time: 3pm-9pm (except Sundays)



Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: Hridoye 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



Rocking in the spirit of independence



(From left) Bands Aurthohin, Lalon, Warfaze and Black perform at the concert.

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Joy has walked all the way from Karwan Bazar. News of the major gig, titled "Shadhinotar Shure Gaibo Mora", had reached this seven-year-old boy as well. And why not? Not only were the popular bands like Warfaze, Black, Aurthohin, Shironamhin, Lalon and Mechanix were performing but the occasion was special too -- Independence Day. One can say it's celebrating the spirit of the day with a new sound and attitude. The response from the crowd was remarkable, especially noting the fact that how

excited and proud they all were proclaiming, "We are Bangladeshis" to electric guitar. Other bands that performed were Mohakaal, Kral, Funeral Anthem and Art of Ruin. The first on stage was Art of Ruin. The young band certainly picked up the nodes and the antinodes. It was a lovely, sunny day on March 26. The venue was Kalabagan Krira Chakra Club. By 2:30 pm, the crowd had already begun to gather. Funeral Anthem was on stage next with a medley of covers: "Hotasha" (Warfaze), "Phiriye Dao" (Miles), "Jala Jala" (Miles), "Moharaj" (Warfaze), "Rupbaan" (Mila), "Mela-e Jaire" (Feedback), "Sultana

Bibiya" (Nogorbaul), "Hoi Hoi Kando" (Nogorbaul), "Bangladesh" (Azam Khan), "Koshto Petey Bhalobashi" (LRB), "Nihshongota" (Souls), "Onnoshomoy" (Artcell), "Tumi Ki Shara Dibe" (Black) and "Chaite Paro" (Aurthohin). The glare of the sun had simmered down and it seemed the mood of the audience had also mellowed as Mohakaal's Turjo, Shondhi, Riyadh, Swagata and Iqbal came next, beginning with an electrifying instrumental of "Dhono Dhanney Pushpey Bhora". They sang "Bondhu" from "Rock 202" album and also performed "Kuasha-e Dhaka", "Bhalo Achhi Bhalo Theko" and some

more all-time hits. In the middle of hardcore rock and metal, the touch of alternative provided some variety. Mechanix took the stage, beginning with their upcoming album's title track "Oporajeyo". All members of the band were wearing black t-shirts with the Bangladesh flag in the middle. The vocalist was wearing green and red. Thousands sang "Bangladesh" with the band. As the night settled in, a different ambiance took over. People wanted to sway, move, and dance. Of course certain people were already dancing around, and the organisers had to announce, "Please dance in a corner. We want to celebrate

the day, not cause problems." Lalon worked the crowd with their spiritual songs and rocking beats. "Ami Opar Hoye" seemingly moved the audience and the raw energy of "Ek Chokhe Hason Kandey" was much admired. Black performed next. A guitar solo and Tony's magical touch on the drums made the audience go wild. As Jon spoke to the audience, Jahan and Shagor took their positions -- Black was ready to roll. They first performed "Question mark" -- a song marking the special day. Black wrapped up their powerful performance with "Tumi Ki Shara Dibe".

The last three acts were Shironamhin, Aurthohin and Warfaze. At this point, the venue was about to explode with rock fanatics crowding in from far and wide. Shironamhin played 10 songs, including "Bhalobasha Megh" and "Bondho Janala". Zia from the band said, "It's really awesome to be here; the crowd is great!" Oni Hassan of Warfaze agreed: "The crowd was huge and wild and awesome!" Warfaze brought the house down with "Moharaj", "Hotasha", "Oshamajik", "Joto Durey" and many more. The event was organised by Drishtipat Communications and sponsored by Sajeb Group.

Hariharan to perform in Dhaka on April 1

A CORRESPONDENT

For music buffs, Hariharan is not just a vocalist. He is a master who made his imprint across the genres of Hindustani music scene and beyond. From *ghazal* to pop, from *khayal* to fusion, Hariharan is an artiste who belongs only to his own league. And now Dhakaites have an opportunity to hum, cheer and listen to his music live, thanks to Papyrus Communications Ltd. For the first time in Bangladesh, Hariharan will cast his musical spell at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on April 1.



it won Hariharan an Uttar Pradesh state award, as well as a National Award for Best Singer nomination, and Hariharan's playback singing career took off. Initially Hariharan did live shows and also performed on TV. In addition, he cut several successful *ghazal* albums, writing most of the scores himself. One of Hariharan's first *ghazal* albums was "Abshaar-e-Ghazal" with

Asha Bhonsle, which went gold in sales. Hariharan has been one of the most trusted singers of A.R. Rahman and has recorded many memorable songs for him, featured in movies like "Roja", "Taal", "Bombay", "Rangeela", "Guru" etc. In 1998, Hariharan won the Indian National Award for the best playback singer for his soulful rendition of the song "Mere Dushman

Mere Bhai" from the movie "Border", composed by Anu Malik.

The year 1996 was a career milestone; Hariharan released the fusion album "Colonial Cousins" with Mumbai-based composer/singer Leslie Lewis. This was the first Indian act to be featured on "MTV Unplugged". It won a string of awards including the MTV Indian Viewers' Choice award. In 2004, he was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri and Yesudas Award for his outstanding performance in music.

His newest *ghazal* album "Lahore Ke Rang, Hari Ke Sang", with renowned composers from Pakistan, won him rave reviews and critical acclaim in and outside India. He also coined the terminology "Urdu Blues" with his immensely successful album "Kaash" which featured musicians like the percussion maestro Anandan Sivamani, Ustad Rashid Mustafa (on *tabla*), Ustad Liyaqat Ali Khan (on *sitar*) and Ustad Sultan Khan (on *sarangi*).

At the Dhaka concert, Hariharan will render his popular film songs, *ghazal* and more. Tickets are available at all outlets of Coffee World, Etcetera and Domino's Pizza.



To celebrate Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam receiving the "Cross of Officer of the Order of Queen Isabella" for his outstanding contribution to art by the Spanish government, friends and fans of the artist felicitated him at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka on March 27. The programme also included a discussion, music and documentary (on Monirul Islam) screening. Finance Minister AMA Muhith; Foreign Secretary Mijarul Kayes; lawmaker and cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor; Spanish Ambassador Arturo Perez Martinez; noted artists Qayyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqunnabi; UGC Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam and DG of Bengal Foundation Luva Nahid Chowdhury spoke on the occasion. Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, anchored the event. Singer Laisa Ahmed Lisa sang on the occasion, followed by the screening of a documentary produced by Bengal Foundation.

Kothakali celebrates silver jubilee

Weeklong theatre fest ends in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQ, Sylhet

The week-long drama festival organised in observance of the 25th anniversary of Kothakali, Sylhet, ended last Thursday at the city's M Saifur Rahman Auditorium. Performances by theatre organisations from different places attracted a good number of spectators.

Nagarnat, Sylhet staged "Hardhonu Bhang" an adaptation of Ramayana on March 25. Sholak, Amit, Liza, Marzan, Nayeem, Masud, Matiur, Uthpal, Jhuma, and Kochi featured different roles. Sylhet mayor Badar uddin Ahmed Kamran formally inaugurated the programme on Friday evening. Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Secretary General, Jhuna Chowdhury attended as special guest.

The speakers at the discussion said, theatre portrays

life. The civil society should extend assistance towards promoting theatre. They added, that, though Sylhet has a rich history of cultural activities, theatre organisations are facing odds.

At the festival, Kothakali, Sylhet, presented "Court Martial"; Centre for Asian Theatre staged "Velua Sundari". Uttarahikar, Chittagong staged "Shampan Naiya" followed by Jibon

Sanket of Habiganj with "Strir Potro". Nagamat, Sylhet performed "Har Dhanu Bhongo" on the concluding evening. Royal City Housing of Sylhet sponsored the week-long festival.



A scene from Nagarnat's production "Har Dhanu Bhongo".

Dhaka Padatik-UCB International Theatre Festival ends

A CORRESPONDENT

On the last day (March 25) of "Dhaka Padatik UCB International Theatre Festival 2010," Dhaka Padatik honoured actor Pijush Bandyopadhyay and Jhuna Chowdhury with "Abul Kasem Dulal Shommanona 2010" and "Gazi Zakir Hossain Shommanona 2010", for their contribution to theatre. Each was presented a crest and a cash prize of Taka 10,000. Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury was present as the chief guest at the event.

Among others Nasiruddin Yousuff, president, Shommilito Shangkritik Jote (SSJ); Hassan Arif, general secretary, SSJ; and Gollam Kuddus, presi-

dent, Dhaka Padatik was present at the event.

The "Dhaka Padatik UCB International Theatre Festival 2010," began from March 19. Dhaka Padatik has been holding a theatre festival every two years. This year's festival was organised marking thirty years of the organisation.

The theme of this year's festival was "Dhormo Borno Jatir Urdhey Jago Hey Nobin Pran." Gollam Kuddus was the convener of the event.

At the festival two Indian troupes Lokkrishiti and Shangleap Kolkata and a Swiss troupe Mummenschanz staged their performances. Theatre troupe Dhaka Theatre and the host Dhaka Padatik, also staged their productions at the festival.

On the closing day Dhaka Padatik staged "Paicho Chor-er Kichchha." Directed by Kazi Chapal, this was the second show of the play. The production is based on a local folklore of Khulna. The story narrates the eternal conflict between good and evil, truth and false, honesty and lust and its impact on people's life.

Speaking of the festival Gollam Kuddus, said, "During the festival we had a full audience almost everyday, which is very inspiring and a proof of people's growing interest in theatre, I believe that international theatre festivals can play an important role in generating interest of theatre among the new generation."