

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Photography Exhibition

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



### Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Syeeduzzaman Sumon  
Title: Rural Life  
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dharmondi  
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), Dharmondi  
Date: March 19-30  
Time: 12pm-8pm



### Boats Exhibition

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



## Awareness on Liberation War through theatre

BSA stages "Khetmojur Khoimuddin"



Scenes from the BSA production.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



### MAINUL HASSAN

"Though the Pakistani army was defeated in 1971, their cronies, the *Razakars* and *Al-badrs* are still at large and it is high time that these people are brought to justice for their heinous crimes in 1971." -- was a reaction from an audience at National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on March 26. Theatre and Film Department of BSA was staging "Khetmojur Khoimuddin", set against the onset of the Liberation War, highlighting the atrocities of the *Razakars* and Pakistani army.

To celebrate the 39th Independence Day, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy held a three-day programme start-

ing from March 24. "Khetmojur Khoimuddin" was staged on the final day of the festival. The play was written and directed by Golam Sarwar.

The protagonist of the play is Khoimuddin Sheikh (played by Khandokar Tazminur). Khoimuddin is a day labourer who comes to Dhaka in search of better livelihood. In Dhaka he becomes aware of the political situation. As the Liberation War starts he returns to his village and informs the villagers of the war, Pakistani army and the 'Mukti Bahini'. But unbeknown to him the local landlords Saded Talukder (played by Mohammad Zahid Hossain Liton) and Solaiman aka 'Miaji' (played by Saifur Rahman) have formed a peace committee and been feeding the villagers false news of the war and propaganda about the 'Mukti Bahini'. When the peace committee becomes aware of Khoimuddin's efforts of gathering support for the 'Mukti Bahini' they inform the Pakistani army. In the last scene Khoimuddin is brutally murdered by the army -- a reminder of the mass murders conducted in 1971.

Among others Kamal Lohani, director general, BSA attended the play.

Apart from the play, the three-day festival included regular cultural programmes, discussions, recitations, dance performances and more at the BSA Open Stage.

## From page to screen

The possibility of Mrinal Sen adapting a Selina Hossain story



Mrinal Sen

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi



Selina Hossain

Will it be a case of second-time lucky for critically acclaimed Bangladeshi author Selina Hossain when it comes to her story being adapted for big screen by an eminent Indian director?

First it was maestro Satyajit Ray whose wish of filming Hossain's novel "Hangor Nodi Grenade" (Shark, River, Grenade) remained unfulfilled and now a guessing game is on about Mrinal Sen wanting to reproduce on celluloid Hossain's short story of a young village girl fighting a male-dominated society.

It was, in fact, five years ago that Sen had contacted Hossain over phone and asked her not to permit anyone else to film the short story "Bhalobasha O Sramer Shondhan" (In Search of Love and Labour) but the plan is yet to take off.

"You know, my misfortune of not seeing a great director making a movie out of my work seems to continue," Hossain told The Daily Star here on the sidelines of SAARC Literature Festival at the India International Centre last Saturday.

The story which Sen wanted to film is about a young Muslim girl in a Bangladeshi village whom a 70-year-old neighbour wants to marry after he failed to father a child from his three wives. The old man lures the girl's father into marrying her off to him in return for land.

The girl at first protests but later puts two conditions for marrying her suitor: (1) he

should not give land to her father and (2) he will undergo medical test to ascertain the reason for his remaining childless. The man agrees and the medical test brings out that he is impotent, causing him mental agony.

"I did not portray the girl as an uncompromising rebel for that is not realistic in the rural Bangladeshi society. I have left it to readers to imagine what she could have done in the circumstances she found herself," said Hossain.

The writer said that she is not sure if Mrinal Sen would be able to make a film out of her story, given his age and that he has not directed a movie for quite some years now. Sen, according to Hossain, wanted to shoot the film in India.

The author recalled with disappointment how Ray had written to her a number of letters in 1970s that he wanted to film "Hangor Nodi Grenade", set against the backdrop of the Liberation War, but could never make it.

However, after Ray's demise in April 1993, it was Bangladeshi director Chashi Nazrul Islam who made a film out of it.

In fact, Ray had since mid-1970s wanted to adapt "Hangor Nodi Grenade" and asked Hossain not to allow any other director to make a film on the story. The writer kept her promise till Ray's death, leaving his wish unfulfilled and her disappointed.

Will history repeat itself if Mrinal Sen wants to film her short story? Hossain shudders to think of such a possibility.

## Bucket blast

### Art show

KAVITA, New Delhi

Who hasn't heard of wall, street or even rickshaw art? Balti (bucket) art is in a different league altogether. In a first of its kind endeavour in India, the Delhi-based Kala Care group of Artists for Better World, displayed the works of 35 artists, who have used the ubiquitous bucket as their canvas.

The five-day "Balti Blast", an effective art show, concluded recently. The exhibition was held to coincide with World Water Day on March 22.

The 31 buckets tell their own story even if they sometimes convey truisms. Manish Kumar, artist and senior designer with CNN IBN, has finely embellished his bucket with human forms, an embryo, a mushroom, taps, hand pumps, tube-wells, clouds and living creatures like penguins and birds. "We on earth are wasting precious water resources and eyeing the moon and Mars to meet our water requirements. The truth is that with proper water conservation, we do not need to look elsewhere," he says.

In another eye catching bucket, artist Amrendra Maharana depicts many taps sprouting from a human head. There are also motifs like a child, fish, tortoise, a man and a toothbrush. Explaining the toothbrush, Maharana says that each of us has an "inner child" and emulating children may just leave taps

open while brushing our teeth.

In his work, renowned artist Jai Zharotia, the guiding force behind Kala Care and former head of the Department of MFA (Painting) at the Delhi College of Art, makes the point that living creatures and entire cities have no future without water. "All artists have a social conscience," asserts Zharotia, about his art.

The works of several other

water is the "life sap because it enriches every aspect of our lives." A green umbilical cord painted on the bucket reinforces that message.

The exhibition is a first for the Kala Care group which intends to extend its social and environmental horizons to theatre, music and dance. Says Shweta Zharotia, founder of the group, "We started Kala Care a few months ago with the vision that art should not be con-



Buckets as works of art.

artists too catch the viewer's attention. There's Priyendra Shukla's bucket with plastic taps that give the illusion of metal in their colour and texture. On her "canvas", Babita Biswas shows that entire life forms could be wiped out without water while Ruchika Wasan Singh does not impart an "intellectual" tone to her art work but still manages to show that

finer only to beautifying our homes but play an important role in creating awareness about important issues."

The exhibition has caught the interest of both the layman, higher government officials from the Water Ministry and even UNESCO. The event was inaugurated by A.K. Bajaj, chairman of the Water Commission.

## World Theatre Day observed

A CORRESPONDENT

World Theatre Day was observed across the world on March 27. To mark the day in our country, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, in association with ITI, Bangladesh Patho Natok Parishad and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy jointly arranged a day-long programme on March 27 at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The programme included a colourful procession, reading out the international message and a cultural programme.

TV actress Tamalika Karmakar read out the international message. Noted theatre personality Aly Zaker delivered the keynote speech. Prominent theatre exponents Ataur Rahman, Liakat Ali Lucky, Golam Sarwar, deputy director, Department of Drama, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy spoke on the occasion. ITI Worldwide President Ramendu Majumdar attended as noted guest at the programme. The programme was presided over by Kamal Lohani, director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The speakers expressed the view that "Bangladesh has created many artists, theatre activists, directors, playwrights, technical designers and a limited middle class audience. A significant number of playwrights started to write plays, containing new forms, themes and techniques. This is a very positive sign for us. We have a number of dedicated theatre exponents and their works are outstanding."

Eminent theatre activist from Chittagong Mahub Hasan, was honoured with Natyakormi Shammanana in the year. Manik Sarkar and his troupe (Comilla) performed at the cultural programme.

## Independence day celebrations held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Jhenidah Gonoshilpi Shangstha organised a four-day Independence day festival at Puratan DC court premises from March 24 to 27.

On Wednesday night, a distinguished columnist Professor Shahidul Islam inaugurated the event.

Abdus Salam, president of Jhenidah Gonoshilpi Shangstha, presided over the meeting, while central general secretary H.M Sayeed of Gonoshilpi Shangstha, ADC general Sheikh Rafikul Islam of Jhenidah, researcher Mohammad Ali, G.M Mizan, B.M Anwar, Babul Aktar Laltu and Suman Shikdar were present as special guests.

A discussion was also held. After the discussion, renowned artistes including Panna Biswas rendered songs at the inaugural ceremony. People from all walks of life assembled to enjoy this mesmerising cultural show.

On other days local singers rendered songs and staged different events every evening.

## Book reading contest in Sylhet



PHOTO: STAR

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid (centre) with other dignitaries and winners of the contest.

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The book reading festival organised by Swajon Samabesh, Jugantor concluded in Sylhet on Thursday last. As many as 120 students of educational institutions in Sylhet division participated at the final stage of the written contest this year.

Speaking as chief guest at the function, the Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said that the new generation should be given a clear picture on the history of liberation war. The habit of book reading can play a great role in achieving the goal. Students should be encour-

aged in reading new books. It would also help us build a knowledge-based society, he added.

Lawmaker Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury and Daily Jugantor executive editor Saiful Alam were the special guests at the Zila parishad auditorium.

Sylhet divisional president of the organisation, Mehedi Kabul chaired the concluding function while divisional coordinator Pranob Kanti Dev, Beanibazar upazila chairman Abdul Khaliq and educationist Shamima Chowdhury also addressed the function.

The chief guest handed over certificates and books to five best readers.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Dhaka Padatik recently conferred theatre activists Pijush Bandyopadhyay and Jhuna Chowdhury with 'Abul Kasem Dulal Shommanona' and 'Gazi Zakir Hossain Shommanona' respectively for their contribution to Bangladeshi theatre. The felicitation programme was held at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury (3-L) was present as the chief guest at the event. Among others, Nasiruddin Yousuff (4-L), president, Shammilita Sangskritik Jote and Golam Kuddus (3-R), president of Dhaka Padatik were present at the programme.