

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

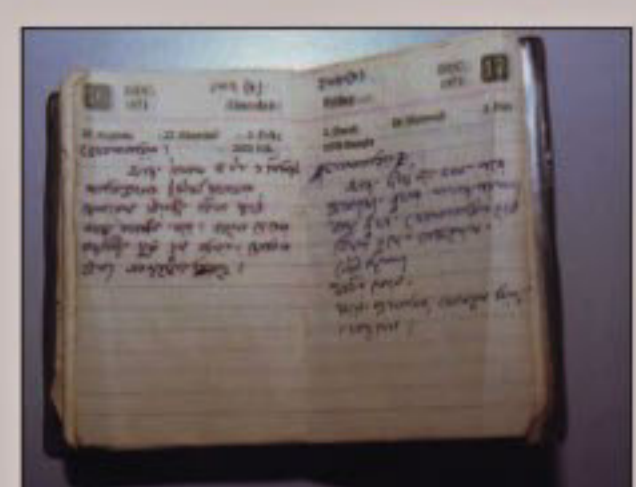
Photography Exhibition
 Title: Muktiyoddhar
 Camera: Muktiyoddho 1971
 Photographer: Haroon Habib
 Venue: National Art Gallery, Shipakala Academy
 Date: March 25-31
 Time: 11am onwards



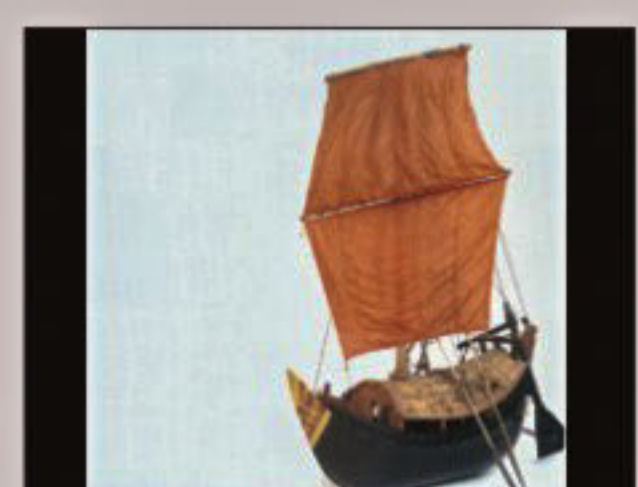
Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Syeeduzzaman Sumon
 Title: Rural Life
 Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
 Date: April 3-17
 Time: 3pm-9pm (except Sundays)



Exhibition
 Featuring articles used by eminent persons during the Liberation War
 Organiser: Bangalee Shamagra
 Venue: Bangalee Shamagra, Khair Mansion, 235/2, Elephant Road
 Date: March 27-31
 Time: 10am-8pm



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



A master inspirator sings live

Pratul Mukhopadhyay's solo performance at National Museum

JAMIL MAHMUD

Eminent Indian singer Pratul Mukhopadhyay's musical journey started nearly four decades ago with an aim -- after all discussions and arguments have ended, music will stand for humanity.

Invited by Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi to attend the recently ended Satyen Sen Gano Sangeet Utshab, Mukhopadhyay came to Dhaka on March 26. It is his first visit to Bangladesh though this was his ancestors' home, according to the artiste.

Over the last few days Mukhopadhyay attended a few programmes.

In addition to the festival, Udichi also organised a musical programme featuring solo performance by the artiste on March 29 at the Main Auditorium of National Museum. It was a memorable evening for both him and his fans, as it was Mukhopadhyay's first solo performance in Bangladesh.

The programme featured renditions of 20 songs by the famed singer-songwriter-composer. Throughout the two-hour concert, Mukhopadhyay's vocals worked magic on the full-house audience. The response from the audience moved him to tears. "I'll leave Bangladesh with an impression that after my departure my songs would inspire more people," he said.



This was Pratul Mukhopadhyay's first performance in Bangladesh. PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

Mukhopadhyay's gestures, humour and strength at the programme proved that even at the age of 68, the artiste could still engage an audience like, if not better, than performers half his age. Mukhopadhyay's signature style involves only his vocals and no instrument -- setting it apart from conventional music. His songs are captivating as they reflect a diverse range of human emotions and sensitivity. His compositions blend myriad styles -- from folk to *santali*, western to Japanese. In the late 1960s, he was known as

a singer of the masses, creating revolutionary songs. Today one finds it difficult to classify his songs and place them within the bounds of rigid definition. They stand apart and form a class by themselves. In between singing, the artiste chatted with the audience on several issues. "I consider myself an orator who sings in," joked Mukhopadhyay. Of the songs performed at the programme, most are adaptations of poems while some were written by Mukhopadhyay. He started with "Manush," an adaptation of

Birendra Chattopadhyay's poem. The artiste is best known to Bangladeshis for such songs as "Ami Bangla-e Gaan Gai," "Dinga Bhashao Shagorey," "Chhokra Cha[n]d" and "Alu Bechho Chhola Bechho." He rendered these as well as other well-known numbers such as "Phiriye Dao," "Slogan," "Ekushay February," "Charlie Chaplin" and "Giyechhilam Pakhir Hatey." Mukhopadhyay wrapped up his performance with "Ami Bangla-e Gaan Gai," which he wrote on *Pahela Baishakh* in the Bengali year 1400.

Book fair and film screening on Liberation War begins today

A three-day programme, featuring a book fair and screening of several films on the Liberation War, begins today at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, says a press release. State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Captain (Retd.) A.B.M Tajul Islam is expected to inaugurate the programme. Bangladesh Enterprise for Development and Security Studies is the organiser of the programme.

Mofidul Hauque, one of the trustees of Liberation War Museum, and Major General (Retd.) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury Bir Bikram will also speak at the programme. Nasiruddin Yousuff, president, Shammilita Sangskritik Jote will preside over.

The screening of Yousuff's "Ekatturer Jishu" will follow the discussion.



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Five noted personalities honoured with gold medals

Pabna district administration's Independence Day festival

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
 TOPU, Pabna

The 12-day Independence Day programme organised by Pabna district administration concluded recently. The district administration accorded reception to five renowned individuals with gold medals on the concluding day.

The award recipients are freedom fighter Nurul Kader Khan (posthumous), the then deputy commissioner of Pabna during the Liberation War (for his remarkable contribution during the war); noted writer Emdadul Haque Milon (literature); Samson H Chowdhury, chairman of Square Group (business sector); former Joint Secretary Abu Taher (public admin-



Awardees with dignitaries at the programme.

istration) and noted educationist of Pabna AR Samsul Islam (education). The programme was held at the Pabna town hall premises. A discussion and cultural programme were also held on the concluding day. Pabna Deputy Commis-

Superintendent Jamil Ahmed; noted educationist Professor Md. Kamruzzaman and author Emdadul Haque Milon spoke on the occasion.

The speakers stressed to keep the unity for upholding the spirit of Liberation War. The independence is our best achievement. It is our duty to fulfil the dreams of the freedom fighters, the speakers said.

The young generation should know the true history of the war. The speakers also urged all to build a prosperous country with the spirit of Liberation War.

Artists from different organisations performed at the cultural programmes. Discussions, cultural programmes and movies on '71 were screened everyday at the programme.

The evolution of saree

Fashion show at Ahsan Manzil on April 1



A fashion show titled "Evolution of sarees over 100 years" will be held at Ahsan Manzil on April 1 evening, says a press release.

City Bank and American Express Card are the title sponsors of the event. Other sponsors include Square Toiletries Limited and Marico.

The event is being organised by Tootli Rahman and her fashion label By Deshi.

At the press conference, Chief Communications Officer of City Bank, Mashrur Arefin said, "City Bank is proud to be a part of this event that will feature our rich cultural heritage through showcasing sarees."

"This show will highlight the evolution of sarees, its place in fashion and our society as well as remind us of our heritage, together with new styles," said Tootli Rahman.

Singer Shakila Zafar, fashion designer Tootli Rahman, Mashrur Arefin and Nazmul Karim (head of brand, City Bank) at the conference.

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