

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Group Art Exhibition

Organiser: Gallery Chitrak
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
Inauguration: April 3 at 6pm
Date: April 3-12
Time: 10am-8pm



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 Painting Exhibition

Artist: Murshida Arzu Alpina
Title: Drinking Bottle Water and Breathing Dust Only
Venue: Goethe Institut Bangladesh H-10, R-9, Dhanmondi
Date: April 5-22
Time: 10am-8pm



Boats Exhibition

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



The honourees with the organisers and dignitaries at the event.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Celebrating 70 years of Dhaka radio drama

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 70th anniversary of broadcasting radio drama of Dhaka, now Bangladesh Betar, a programme was held at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on April 3. Betar Natyakar-Natyashilpi Shangshad (BNNS), an organisation of enlisted Bangladesh Betar actors, producers and scriptwriters, arranged the programme. The highlight of the programme was felicitation for 16 noted radio personalities.

The programme kicked off early in the morning through a

procession that headed out from BSA. Former and current radio artistes took part in the procession, which ended at the Press Club.

The main programme was held at the National Theatre Hall in the evening. The programme commenced through playing excerpts from "Chiranjib Mujib," a Bangladesh Betar programme directed by Mazharul Islam.

The 16 personalities honoured at the programme are -- Islam Ahmed, Md. Aminul Haque, Sirajul Islam, Saifuddin Ahmed, Masud Ali Khan, Abul Bajal Tulip, Atiqul Huq Chowdhury, Lily Chowdhury, Rabi Sarkar, Khadija Zaman, Jahanara Ahmed, Begum Momtaz Hossain, Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Mazharul Islam, Raisul Islam Asad and Nur-e-Hafza.

Kazi Zakir Hossain and Aleya Ferdousi, secretary general and president of BNNS respectively, spoke at the programme.

Aleya Ferdousi said that they wanted to arrange the programme on the eve of the anniversary (December 16, 2009) but could not due to unavoidable circumstances.

A cultural programme followed the felicitation, where artistes of Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts staged a group dance with the song "Mukrir Mandir Shopan Toley." Excerpts from a recording of Pramothesh Barua and his troupe's play "Debdas" were played at the programme.

Baul Jahangir and Abdul Majid, among others, rendered songs at the programme. Their renditions included Lalou songs "Raat Pohaley Pakhi Boley Derye Khai," "Tin Pagoley Holo Mela" and the patriotic song "Buk-er Pajor Jhajra Korey."

Suchitra Sen turns 79

Celebration in legendary actress's ancestral home in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

Today marks the 79th birthday of screen legend Suchitra Sen, originally from Pabna. Pabna district administration has chalked out daylong programme to celebrate the day.

A rally would be brought out from the Pabna DC office at around 10 am today while a discussion, screening of films starring Sen and a cultural programme would be held in Pabna Town Hall premises in the evening. Also a painting competition for children would be held at Sen's ancestral residence on the occasion.

Suchitra Sen was born on April 6, 1931 at the village Bhangabari of Belkuchi upazila under Sirajganj district. That was her maternal grandfather's home. Sen's family home was in Sujangar upazila under



Suchitra Sen

Pabna district. Her father Karunamoy Dasgupta was the sanitary inspector of Pabna municipality in early 20th century.

Suchitra Sen's original name was Roma Dasgupta. Roma along with her family left Pabna just before the partition in 1947. After moving to Calcutta (now Kolkata), Roma got married. After her marriage to Dibanath Sen, Roma took up her husband's last

name. She changed her first name to 'Suchitra' when she joined the film industry.

Her debut film was "Shesh Kothai" (in 1952). She acted in around 63 films, including 7 in Hindi. With Uttam Kumar, another legendary Bengali actor, Suchitra Sen formed a screen couple that became the essential hit-maker. The duo starred in at least 32 films.

"Suchitra Sen is the pride of Pabna. Her ancestral residence is also an historical establishment to us. But unfortunately the land has been occupied. It should be recovered and maintained as part of a heritage," Md. Saidul Haque Chunnun, convener of 'Suchitra Sen Smriti Rakkha Committee' Pabna said.

President of Pabna Drama Circle and also a noted cultural personality of the district, Gopal Sanyal, demanded to establish a museum at Sen's ancestral residence.

A demonstration of 'Rabindra Nritya' Performances by Surangama Nrityangan

DWAIPAYAN BARUA,
Chittagong

After a hiatus, dance enthusiasts of the port city enjoyed a dance programme titled "Matir Daake Aamra" on April 2 evening.

Local dance school Surangama Nrityangan organised the programme, marking its 10th founding anniversary. The programme featuring 'Rabindra Nritya' (Tagorean dance) was held at the Theatre Institute Chittagong auditorium.

Eminent social scientist and Vice Chancellor of Premier University, Professor Anupam Sen, inaugurated the programme. Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Mohammad Moniruzzaman was the chief guest. Columnist and poet Abul Momen was special guest at the programme.

Sen said Rabindranath Tagore developed a unique form of dance, blending different styles (like Manipuri and Odissi) and forms (like opera) that was employed in his dance dramas.

Moniruzzaman urged parents to encourage their



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Surangama Nrityangan perform at the programme.

children to take up performing art forms like dance as part of their social and cultural grooming.

In his speech Abul Momen said that dance programmes are hardly held in Chittagong at present. He called upon dance enthusiasts to promote dance groups of the city.

Among others, President of Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha (BNSS) Minu Hoque and Surangama director Jahanara Faruq Moli spoke at the discussion.

Surangama honoured BNSS Founding Member

Sharmin Hossain with a Lifetime Achievement Award this year.

Surangama director Moli told The Daily Star that the organisation intends to honour (biennially) dance exponents of the country. "We honoured seasoned dancer Zinat Barkatullah in 2008, Roushan Ara Begum in 2007 and Minu Hoque in 2005 with this award," she added.

The dance programme started with a solo performance by Moli, followed by a group dance -- performed by the students -- with the

song "Mati Toder Dak Diyeche."

The next dance was performed by five young students, to the song "Ora Okaroney Chanchal." The students of Surangama performed 15 more creative dances with Tagore songs.

The presentations highlighted creative dance forms, and featured styles like Kathak, Bharatnatyam and Manipuri.

The young students received hearty applause from a full house.



Life and times of female garment-factory workers

Tanvir Mokammel's "Bostrobalkara" invited to Italian Documentary Fest

Tanvir Mokammel's acclaimed documentary "Bostrobalkara: Garment Girls of Bangladesh," has been invited to participate at the 2010 Nodo Doc Fest, a documentary film festival to be held at Trieste, Italy, says a press release.

The festival will begin on May 5. Mokammel's documentary will be screened as part of the "Visions of the East: Globalisation and Social Crisis in South Asia" section. Previously "Bostrobalkara" was screened in Australia, Japan, Canada, Germany and Denmark.

Zooming in on the female garment-factory workers of Bangladesh, the documentary provides the audience an insight into the lives of these girls and women -- their struggles and social placement.



A scene from the documentary.

Solo exhibition of Soumyajit Choudhury at Radius Centre

A CORRESPONDENT

A two-week long solo exhibition of artist Soumyajit Choudhury started at Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria in Gulshan, from April 2.

Artist Soumyajit was born in Delhi, India in 1971. He graduated from Delhi College of Fine Arts in 1994. He went on to do his masters in film from the Film & Television Institute of India, Pune. Later he worked in Bangladesh for five years -- between 2001 to 2006 -- as an associate creative director in one of the leading advertising agencies of the country. Presently he is working as Head of Department, Fine Arts, at the Cambridge High School, Abu Dhabi.

Soumyajit is a versatile artist and experiments with various mediums. This exhibition showcases a selection of his paintings (done between 2008 and 2010) in acrylic on canvas. His paintings have a minimalist approach. There is the upside down triangle, which is a unifying motive that runs through all the works at the exhibition. When asked about its significance, he says that the triangle is just a pretext to start the painting. The emphasis is more on the tactile feel of the painting.

Soumyajit mentions that the intention of the paintings conveys to the viewers the same sense of ecstasy that he experienced while painting them.

The exhibition will continue till April 17.



A painting by Soumyajit Choudhury.