

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Jabbarer Bali Khela O Baishakhi Mela

Venue: Lal Dighi Maidan, Chittagong
Date: April 24-26



Group Art Exhibition

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275/F Road-16, Dhanmondi
Date: 16-30
Time: 12pm-8pm



Film Screening

Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre
Films: Documentary on Pather Panchali and Apur Sangsar
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: April 24
Time: 6pm onwards



International Dance Day

Organiser: Dance Artists Association and Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Centre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 23-29
Time: 6.30pm



ITI Theatre Festival ends

A CORRESPONDENT

The theatre festival organised by the Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI), in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), ended on April 21. The festival started on April 15 and featured 20 theatre productions from home and abroad.

ITI Worldwide President Ramendu Majumdar and ITI Bangladesh Centre Secretary General Nasiruddin Youssuff spoke on the concluding day.

On the closing day, Nattokendro presented "Aroj Charitamrito"; Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy presented "Gazi Kalu Champabati" and Nagarik Natya Sampradaya staged "Chhayanaut" at the National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall of BSA respectively.

Ramendu Majumdar said, "This year, we kept the ticket price to a minimum so that youngsters and students could enjoy the shows. We want their active participation in theatre. All



A scene from "Aroj Charitamrito".

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

tickets were sold out at the festival. This is an inspiring message for us. As part of the festival, we also organised two workshops on Chinese Opera and

African Theatre. Many theatre activists showed their interest in participating at the workshops. We are elated at their response."

Bhoomi: An earthy flavour



Bhoomi performs live in Dhaka.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Bhoomi (literally 'earth') is a contemporary Kolkata-based folk-fusion band. It was formed in 1999, with an aim to revive interest in the folk music of Bengal and make it popular with an urban touch. Recently the band performed live in Dhaka. Surojit Chatterjee and Soumitra Roy -- two founding members of the band -- talked to The Daily Star during their stay in Dhaka. They shared notes about the band's journey, inspiration and the contemporary music scenario in Kolkata.

Bhoomi defines its music as 'urban folk'. Alongside re-imagining of traditional songs, the band fuses modern, urban lyrics with folk tunes. Bhoomi's popularity is rooted in a unique sound that combines a variety of traditional folk tunes with an array of western rhythms.

So far the band has released 10 albums, including "Jatra Shuru" (2000), "Udaan" (2001), "Paal Chhutechhe" (2003), "Bojhaj Kora Gaaner Gari" (2005) and "Notun Jouboner Doot" (2009). The latest is an album of Rabindra Sangeet.

What about their 11th album? Soumitra said, "Ten albums in ten years. I think that's enough. We'd bring out the

11th album after a gap."

Soumitra informed that the concert in Bangladesh was their 1,333rd stage show and, interestingly enough, it was the first ever performance in Bangladesh. "It was great performing here. The response from the audience was tremendous," said Soumitra.

In July 2006 Bhoomi became the first Indian band to play at the United Nations.

Songs such as "Barandaye Roddur", "Kandey Shudhu", "Dil Doriya Rey", "Madhur Madhur Chauni", "Mone Ar Nairey", "Dushtu Haowa", "Chokhar Deshey" and "Poob Akasher Gaan" are some of the band's popular songs.

Their current line-up includes six members -- Soumitra (vocals, drums and congas), Surojit (vocals, guitar, mandolin and flute), Sanjoy Mukherjee (percussion and effects), Hemanto Goswami (electric guitar), Abhijit Ghosh (bass guitar) and Robin Lai (keyboards and violin).

The band's single "Barandaye Roddur" from their debut album caught the attention of urban listeners. The song catapulted the group to new heights of stardom. Later the members of the band were hosted on a musical programme, titled "Barandaye Roddur" on ETV

Bangla (an Indian channel).

Surojit thinks that a change in the contemporary music scenario in Kolkata is apparent nowadays. The number of college-based bands and musical troupes are growing rapidly in Kolkata and some of them are surviving as well. "When we were students, one or two musical groups were apparent but at present you will find the number has increased to six/ seven," said Surojit.

He acknowledges Bangladeshi rock culture, as he thinks it is inspirational.

Surojit enthusiastically reminisced on his mentor the late Gautam Chattopadhyay -- the founder of Kolkata's first rock band Moheener Ghoraguli, who is widely considered the pioneer of rock music in Kolkata.

"I believe that Gautam is the mentor of rock music in Kolkata. His 'Prithibita Naki' -- that was covered by another Kolkata band Krosswindz in 'Abar Bochor Kuri Porey' -- is a revival in the history of Kolkata rock music," claimed Surojit.

Gautam penned the song when he was around 60 and according to Surojit he was "ageless." "If we did not jam in three/four days in a row, he would lecture us on the need for practice," Surojit said.

More Tagore memorabilia found

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

More Tagore memorabilia, including a manuscript, have been recovered recently at Shahzadpur upazila in Sirajganj and Patisar upazila in Naogaon districts. Unfortunately, the Department of Archaeology has not taken any initiatives to collect the memorabilia for preservation and display in the museum.

Regional director of the Department of Archaeology, Rajshahi Division, Badrul Alam admitted the fact saying that this was due to manpower shortage at the department.

Tagore enthusiast Matiuur Rahman Mamun said that he had found more memorabilia, including a large wooden box and a wooden shelf, which were made for the post office at Patisar Kachharibari premises long ago. Earlier, he said that he collected many memorabilia, including a rare six-page letter belonging to the Nobel laureate poet. He also recovered a bank register, which was established by the Nobel Prize money in 1905 at Patisar village for agriculture loans for the locality. However, the rare documents are still in the custody of the Naogaon district administration authority without proper care. Mamun had handed it over a few months ago to Naogaon district administration for safe custody.

Former postmaster Binoy Kumar Das, 70, confirmed that the wooden box and shelf were made for the Patisar post office. The present postmaster informed this correspondent that the box and shelf have been in use at the Patisar Kachharibari post office for a long time but failed to mention the period.

The Shahzadpur Pilot High School management found another manuscript earlier from the school's visiting book. The poet visited the school on January 20, 1890, commented in the visiting book and was pleased to observe the school management. The headmaster of the school, Mohammad, said that the rare Tagore memorabilia had been laminated, but should be preserved using appropriate methods.

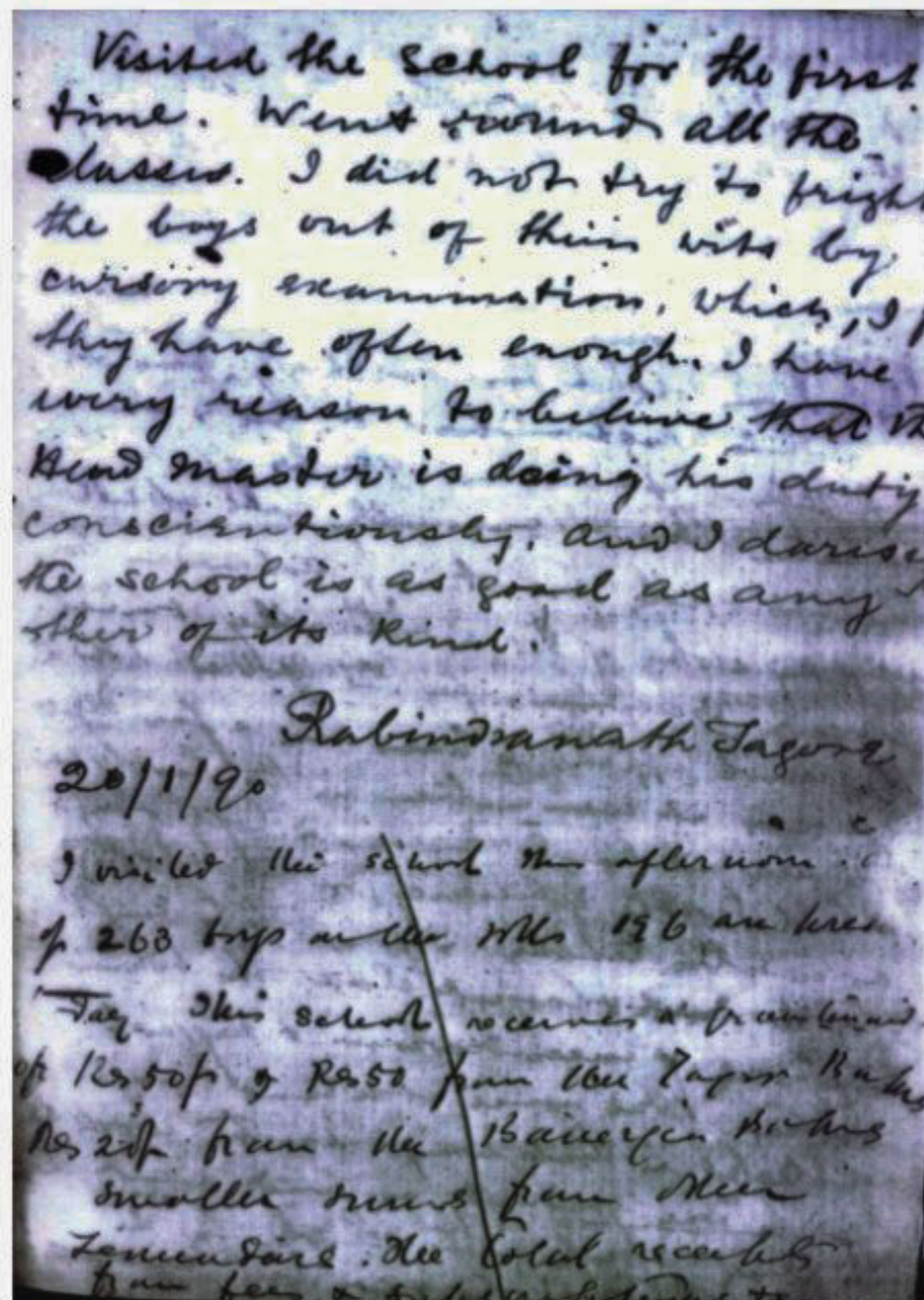


PHOTO: STAR

Tagore's handwritten remarks on Shahzadpur Pilot High School.

A songster in focus

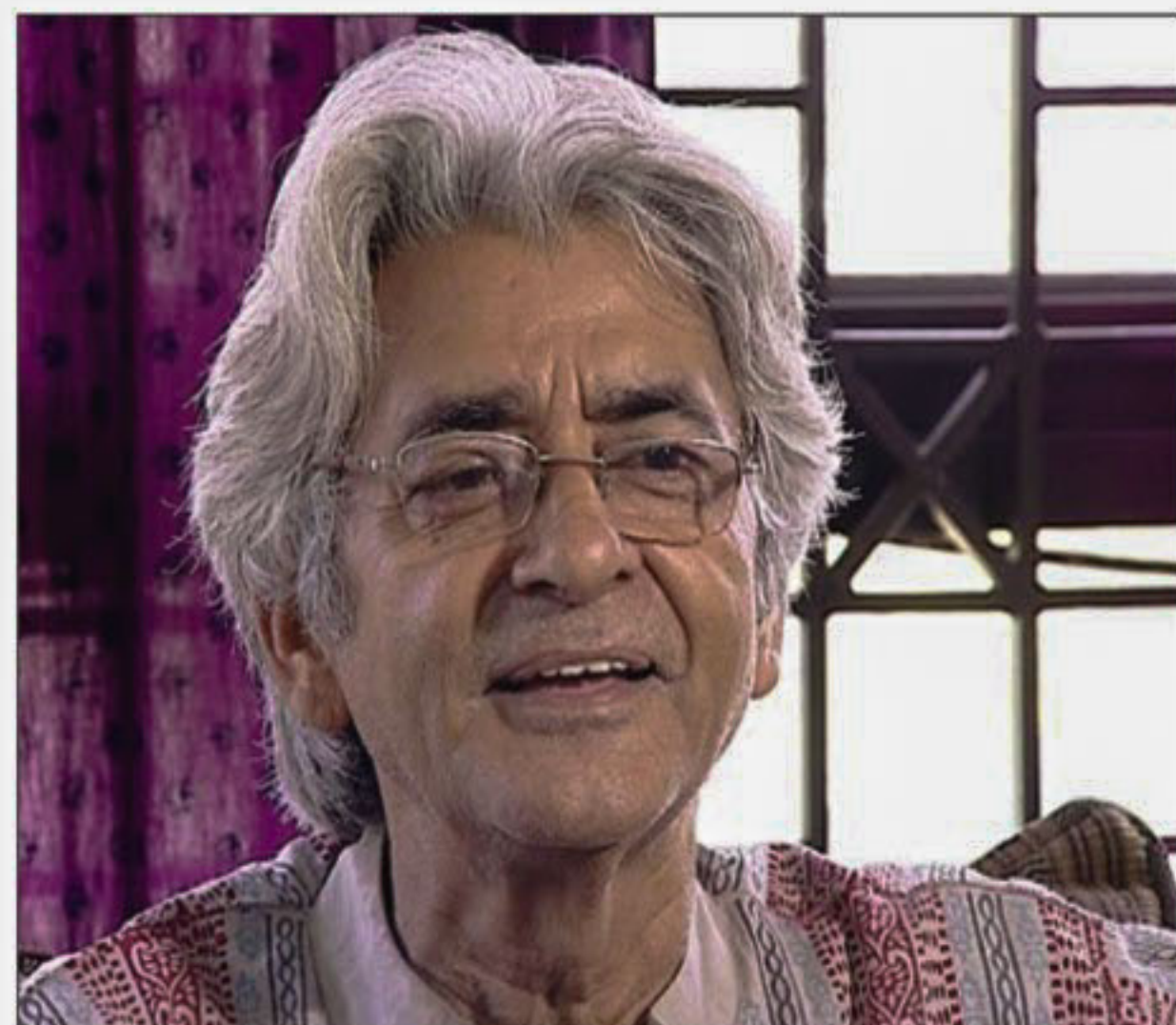
Special programme on Pratul Mukhopadhyay

A CORRESPONDENT

An adolescent Pratul Mukhopadhyay stunned all around him, setting to tune one of Mongolacharon Chattapadhyay's poems. Gradually he started writing songs, composed and rendered them in his unique style, making a major impact on contemporary Bangla inspirational music.

Rights of the masses, their struggles, and above all, love for humanity vivaciously reverberate in his songs. On the dawn of the Bengali year 1400, Pratul wrote and composed what is perhaps his most widely recognised song: "Ami Bangla-e-gaan gai; ami Banglar gaan gai; ami amar amikey chirodin ei Bangla-e-khunjeypai..."

Highlighting the life and achievements of the renowned lyricist-composer-artist, a special episode of "Japito Jibon" will be aired soon on Rtv. Executive producer of Rtv Ohidul Azam Tipu has produced the programme.



Pratul Mukhopadhyay

"Shrek Forever After" stars give it a final go at Tribeca premiere

Billed as "Shrek's last chapter," the movie, which opened the Tribeca Film Festival on April 21, arrives in 3-D on May 21 and showcases Mike Myers' green ogre stuck in a middle-age rut. When Shrek signs a pact with an evil-minded Rumpelstiltskin to reclaim his glory days, he ends up in an alternate world where everything is wrong and Princess Fiona (played by Cameron Diaz) is no longer his.

The kid-friendly premiere swapped a red carpet in favour of ogre green and featured appearances by director Mike Mitchell, Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Antonio Banderas and his wife, Melanie Griffith.

Murphy said that of his eight children, "my 3-year-old, my 8-year-old and my 10-year-old are still into 'Shrek'." The affable actor admitted he sometimes brings his donkey character home for the kids. "You know what I can do that's really cool," he said. "I can make a shadow puppet of the donkey, so that when I'm watching movies at home at the house I can do a donkey on screen." Banderas, who voices Puss in Boots, says for his kids, who are 24, 20 and 13, "Shrek" is universal. "Even in my country I grew up with many of the fairy tales I use in the movie," he says.

"I may do a movie that involves the film series 'Emmanuelle'," updated Mike Myers. Meanwhile, Puss in Boots is stretching his feline legs into a spin-off feature film. "It's an epic," Banderas says. "It's very emotional. You see him in an orphanage when he's very little, it's kind of an Oliver Twist story, you'll be surprised."

For Diaz, a perfect forever after means juggling a multitude of roles. She next appears in stunt-heavy flick "Knight and Day" with Tom Cruise, and is filming the comedy "Bad Teacher" opposite ex-boyfriend Justin Timberlake. "The great thing about my job is that I get to do all of it," she says. Single star Murphy says finding "the one" is at the top of his list. "I'm trying to figure it out still, meet a nice girl," he says.

The end of Shrek's road means a final goodbye for Mitchell. "I feel sad, I feel horrible, 'Shrek' is like the Tony Soprano for kids!" he says. But at least, he contends, "we brought the story to a satisfying conclusion." That includes a move to 3-D. Mitchell was in touch with James Cameron and screened "Avatar" and "How To Train Your Dragon" during the two and half years he gave the last "Shrek" its 3-D face lift. "It's kind of like a hippie commune at DreamWorks as we all learned about (3-D) at the same time." Mitchell says the funniest scenes in the movie come courtesy of Myers and Murphy going off-script. "Most of the jokes you see in the movie are stuff from us just playing around," he says.

Source: Internet

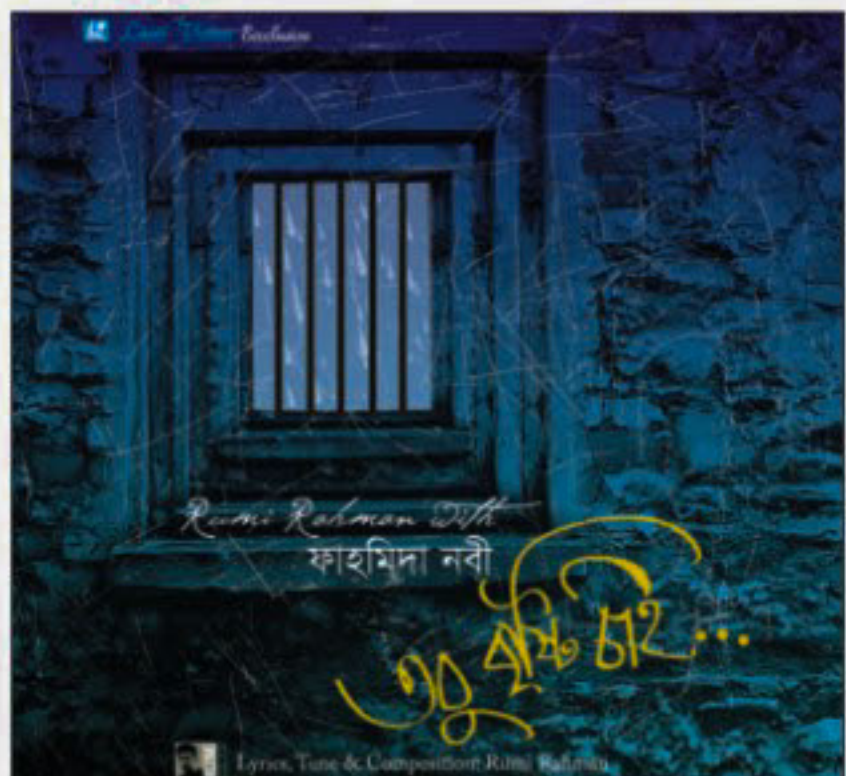
NEW RELEASES

Sroddhanjali
An album of adhunik songs by Rowshan Ara Shoma and Rahat Ara Geeti
Source: Laser Vision



Raat
Solo album by Shochhow
Source: Fahim Music

Suprabhat Bishonnota
Solo album by Sabina Yasmin
Source: Laser Vision



Tobu Brishti Chai
Solo album by Fahmida Nabi
Source: Laser Vision



(From left) Antonio Banderas, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz and Mike Myers attend the 2010 Tribeca Film Festival opening night.