

<p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p>	<p>21st National Rabindra Sangeet Festival Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh Date: May 4-8 Time: 7pm onwards</p>		<p>Solo Art Exhibition Title: Nocturnal Shades Artist: Hamiduzzaman Khan Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, R-16, Dhanmondi Date: April 4-16 Time: 12pm-8pm</p>		<p>Musical Soiree Singer: Shama Rahman Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1 Date: May 7 Time: 7pm</p>		<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Diversity Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi Date: April 23-May 6 Time: 5pm-8pm</p>	
-----------------------------------	--	---	---	--	---	---	---	---

Tagore birth anniversary celebration

Five-day programme by Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha at Public Library

JAMIL MAHMUD

To celebrate the 149th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, a five-day programme by Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (BRSSS) has begun at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Dhaka on May 4. Over 150 Tagore signers from all corners of the country are taking part in the festival. The

festival features renditions of songs, recitation, a dance-drama and discussions on the life and works of the Nobel laureate poet. Noted educationist and Tagore enthusiast Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman inaugurated the celebration. At the programme, the organisers honoured veteran violinist Subal Dutta with a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contribution to Bangladeshi music.

In his speech, Professor Anisuzzaman said that of all his creations, music is the best way to understand Rabindranath Tagore. "Rabindranath himself said that to know him better, one has to listen to his songs and read his short stories," said Professor Anisuzzaman. Tapan Mahmud, general secretary, BRSSS gave the welcome speech. Presided over by noted singer and one of the advisors of



Members of BRSSS during a group rendition.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



Violinist Subal Dutta (2-L) receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from Anup Bhattacharya.

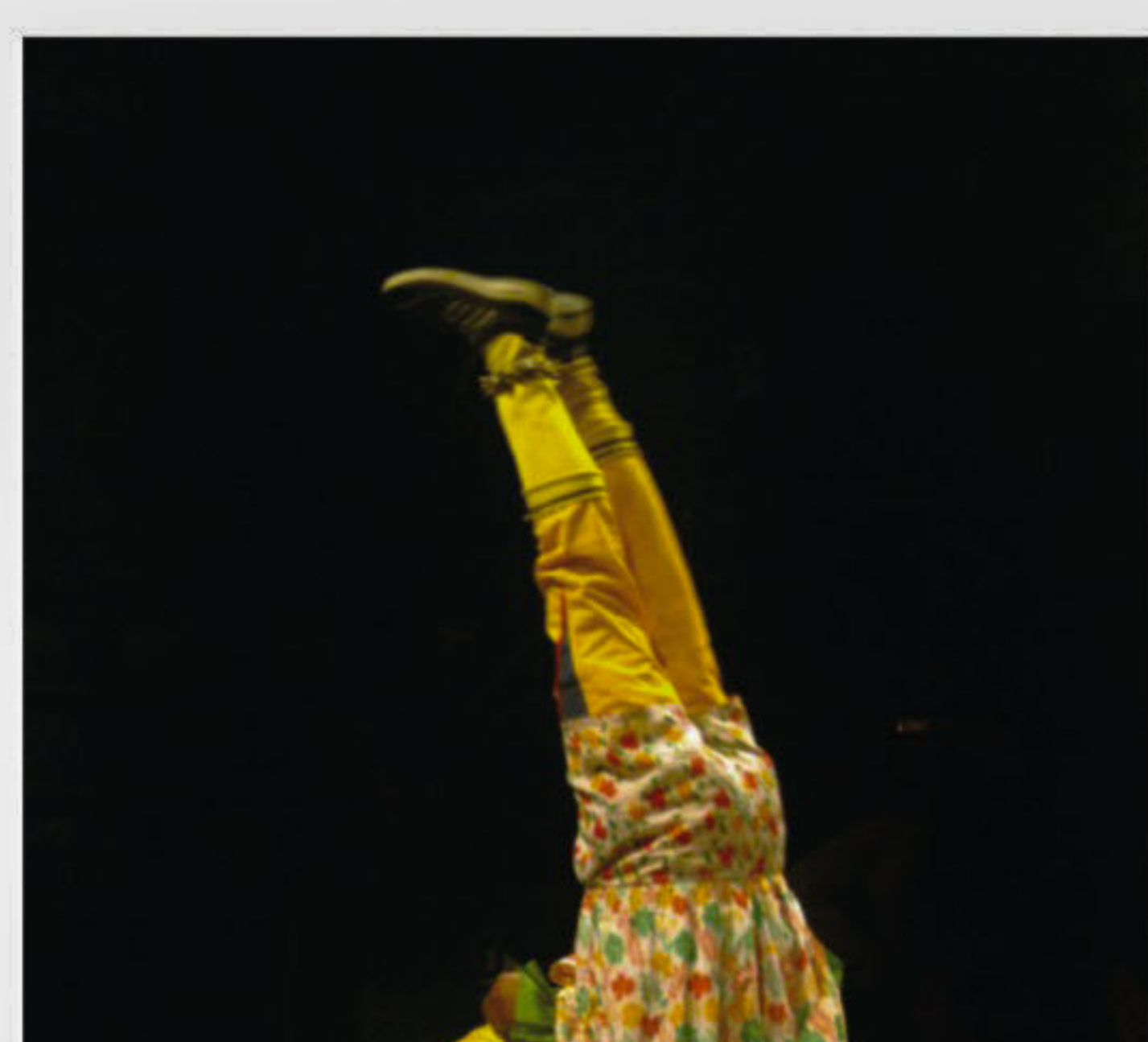
BRSSS, Anup Bhattacharya, the inaugural programme also included speeches by Rashed Hasan, assistant manager, PR and Communication, Banglalink. Banglalink is the sponsor of the event. The programme commenced through group renditions of the songs "Chalo Jai", "Morey Aro Aro Dao Pran" and "Amar Praner Manush Achhey Parney". Attired in purple sarees and white panjabis, nearly a hundred female and male singers performed the songs.

After the inaugural, solo performances were the highlights. Over 20 singers -- both noted and upcoming -- performed solo. This session featured artistes Iffat Ara Dewan, Lily Islam, Anup Bhattacharya, Anima Roy, Abhik Dey, Saiful Islam Khan, Sanchita Mitra, Anupam Kumar Paul, Meera Mandal and others. Their renditions included "Aji Jherer Raatey", "Mor Shondhay Tumi Shundur Beshey", "Ami Marer Sagor", "Ogo Tomar Chokkhu Diye", "Narey Narey Hobey Na

Tor", "Jey Chhilo Amar Swaponocharini", "Amar Praner Gobbir Goponey" and "Aaj Jemon Korey Gaichhey". Members of the Sylhet wing of BRSSS performed several group songs including "Joy Tabo Bichitro Anando", "Tomar Jharna Tolar Nirjoney", "Tomar Kholo Hawa" and "Prothom Alor Chorhon Dhoni" at the programme. The organisers informed that members of 15 district branches of BRSSS would perform throughout the programme.

Apart from renditions, dance-drama "Chitrangada" will be staged on the last day of the celebration. Choreographed by Kabirul Islam Ratan, Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts will stage the drama. Everyday discussions on Rabindranath's works will take place before musical programme. Dr. Syed Anwar Hossain will discuss on the topic "Rabindranath-er Gaan" this evening. BRSSS will also celebrate its president Kalim Sharafi's 87th birth anniversary on May 8.

Brainstorming camp on 'Lathi Khela' concludes



Apart from demonstrations of lathi khela, added attractions of the concluding ceremony were acrobatics, a simulated combat and a dance performance incorporating the art form.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

MAINUL HASSAN

The five-day brainstorming camp on lathi khela at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), titled "Robi Cholo Lathi Kheli," ended yesterday. The concluding session included a vibrant lathi khela demonstration at Experimental Theatre Stage, BSA. The participating lathiyal troupes from different parts of the country made presentations of various styles of the traditional art form.

Ten troupes from Barisal, Kurigram, Norail, Sylhet, Sirajganj and other districts attended the camp that began on May 1. "At the workshop we documented different forms and techniques of lathi khela," said Lubna Marium, general secretary, Shadhona. At the camp, the lathiyals were instructed by experts in the fields of lathi khela, dance and martial arts. "Through this yearlong programme we hope to train the participating lathiyals and sharpen their skills so that they will be able to

represent the art form and compare this with other martial art techniques," added Lubna Marium. Rana, a martial artist demonstrated the use of lathi (sticks) in Japanese martial arts. A fire dance was also staged featuring the use of lathi. Apart from demonstrations of lathi khela, added attractions of the concluding ceremony were acrobatics, a simulated combat and a dance performance incorporating lathi khela to classical music by Sabbir Ahmed.

The event ended with a group presentation of lathi khela by the participating troupes. "Robi Cholo Lathi Kheli" is a yearlong project jointly organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Shadhona -- a centre for advancement of South Asian dance and music. The project aims at reviving and popularising the traditional lathi khela in a new way. Mobile phone operator Robi is the sponsor of the event. Channel i, The Daily Star and abc radio are the media partners of the event.

At \$106.5 million, a Picasso sets an auction record

A painting that Picasso created in a single day in March 1932 became the most expensive work of art ever sold at auction on Tuesday night. In an overflowing salesroom at Christie's, six bidders vied for "Nude, Green Leaves and Bust," which depicts the artist's mistress Marie-Thérèse Walter, reclining naked. When the canvas last changed hands, in 1951, it sold for \$19,800. But this time, "Nude, Green Leaves and Bust" brought \$106.5 million. For 8 minutes and 6 seconds, bidding rose steadily, with five people still competing at \$80 million. Nicholas Hall, of Christie's old master paintings department in New York, took the winning bid for an unidentified buyer.



It brought \$104.3 million at Sotheby's in London in February. Picasso had reigned before that when "Boy With a Pipe (The Young Apprentice)," a 1905 canvas from the artist's Rose Period, sold for \$104.1 million at Sotheby's in New York in 2004. "Nude, Green Leaves and Bust" is considered a seminal work from a high point of Picasso's career. Before the auction, experts at Christie's cautiously talked about a price around \$80 million. On Tuesday night, Edward Dolman, Christie's chief executive, said, "The market is much stronger than we expected, with depth of buying from Russia, China and the Middle East." Mr. Dolman said most of the top works were bought by collectors living outside the United States.

"Nude, Green Leaves and Bust," a 1932 Picasso. Source: The New York Times

Very Healthy, Very Cool.



Coming Soon...