

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

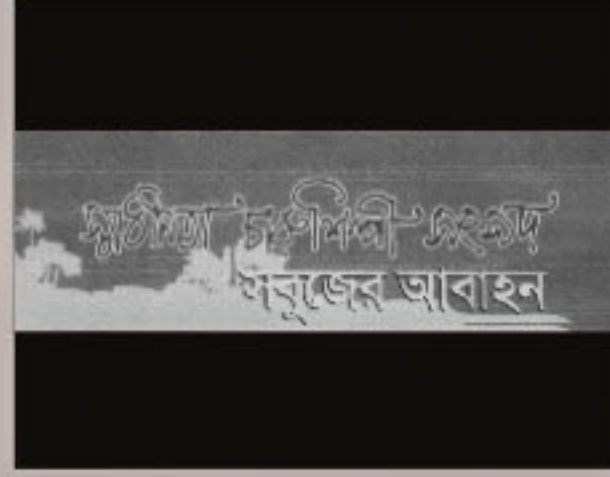
Photography Exhibition

Title: Summer in Russia
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, 42, Bhasha Shoinik M.A. Matin Road, Dhanmondi
Date: June 16-30
Time: 10am-7pm



Group Art Exhibition

Organiser: Shadinota Charu Shilpi Sangsad
Venue: Bangladesh Asiatic Society, Nimtoli, Dhaka University
Date: June-26-July 1
Time: 10am-8pm



Musical Soiree

Title: Praner Khela
Singers: Shammil Akhtar and Shahid Kabir
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, R-27, H-275/F, Dhanmondi
Date: June 30
Time: 7pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Mohammad Fakruzzaman
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
Date: June 19-27
Time: 10am-8pm



Tagore through the eyes of folk artistes

KAVITA, New Delhi

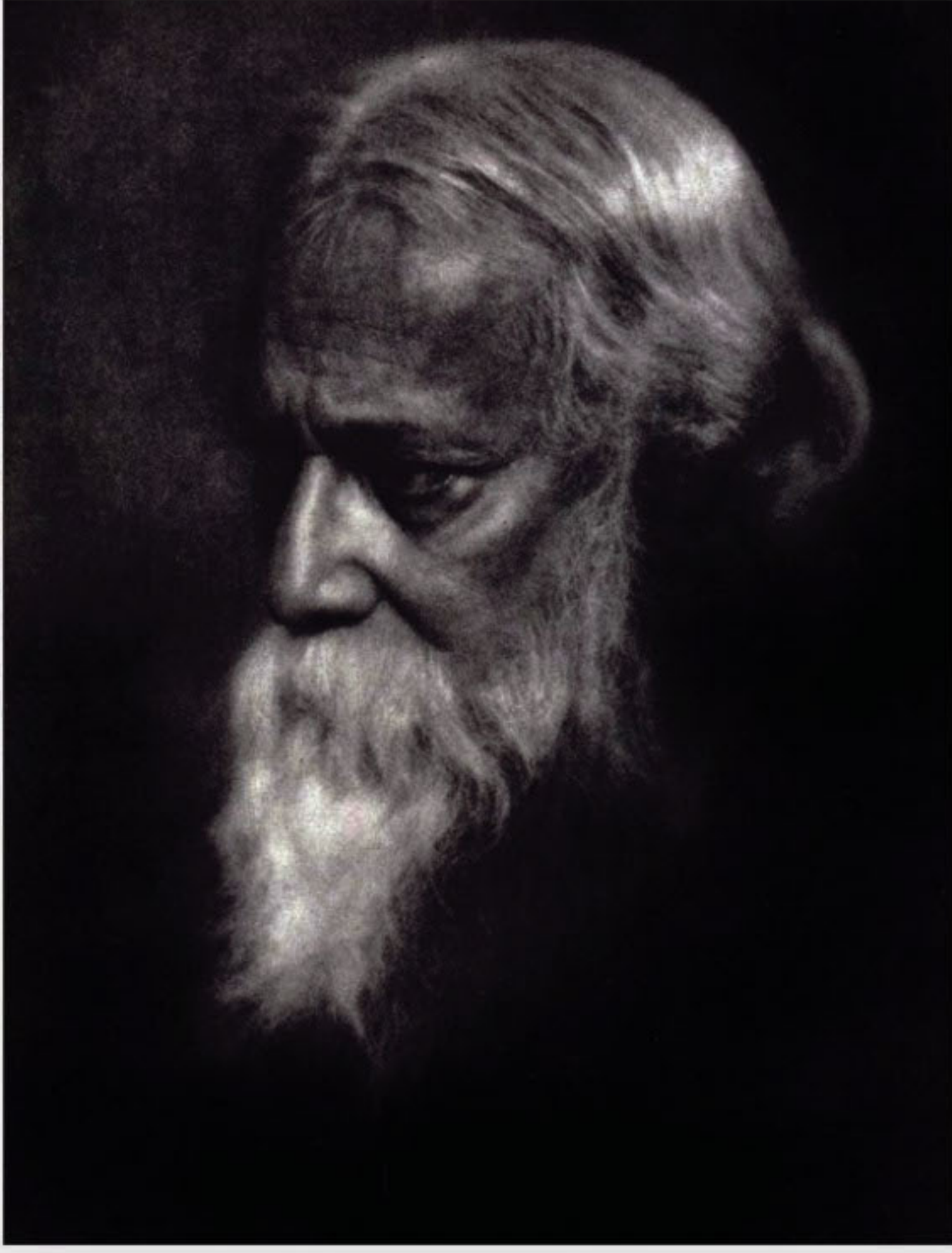
A cultural evening to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. So what's new? In clear contrast to the all too familiar fare of Rabindra Sangeet or a Tagore dance-drama, this time a mesmerised Delhi audience was treated to a performance of 'Tagore through the eyes of folk artists.'

Through genres as diverse as *Jhumur Naach*, *Paater Gaan*, *Chau Pala* and *Rabindranath-er Baul* songs, one got to see the subtle interplay of Tagore and the folk culture of Bengal. The superb concept and design was by banglanatak dot com, a Kolkata-based 'social business' organisation.

The curtains went up with a vibrant performance of *Jhumur* dance and song, an indigenous art form. A troupe from the remote village of Purulia danced to the tunes of Rabindra Sangeet translated in Kurmali language. As young girls went through their expert paces, they made an indelible impression with the dance on superbly balanced sticks also known as *Ranpa*.

Paater Gaan came up next. In a short but interesting piece, the traditional scroll painters of Medinipur, presented their paintings on Tagore's life accompanied by songs or 'Paater Gaan,' explaining the paintings.

Entrancing too was the *Chau Pala* 'Chitrangada Sambah' presented by a troupe from the impoverished Bannia village in Purulia. Based on Tagore's famous dance-drama



"Chitrangada," the masked dancers held the gathering in thrall with their powerful leaps and dramatic movements.

The piece de resistance was of course the Baul songs and Rabindra

Sangeet inspired by those songs. The Bauls of Nadia, complete with *ektara*, *dotara*, *dhol* and flute, effortlessly sang along with Kolkata's renowned Riddhi Bandyopadhyay and Bhaskar Sen.

Explaining the linkages between Tagore and the Bauls, Amitava Bhattacharya, founder director of banglanatak dot com, says, "Tagore was greatly influenced by Lalon Fakir. However, he could not meet Lalon because the Baul maestro died at the age of 117 when Tagore was only 24. While there is no documentation that Tagore actually met Lalon, the Bauls of Nadia believe that the two did meet. Later Bauls such as Gagan Harkara used to come to Shilaidaha where Tagore had a *kuthi bari*. Many of Tagore's songs were influenced by the Baul songs and later on the Bauls also got influenced by Tagore songs. You can see that the relationship between the Bauls and Tagore is like a full cycle."

Banglanatak's recent programme in Delhi is related to its initiative to make art a means of livelihood. The organisation works with 3,200 folk artists across six districts of West Bengal, embracing six art forms -- *Chau*, *Jhumur*, *Pata Chitra*, *Gambhira*, *Domni* and *Baul-Fakiri* and helps revive them through inputs such as training and market linkages. The results are clear. Says Bhattacharya, "The folk artists used to earn an average of Rs 400 a month in 2004 through their art when we began working with them. Today on an average they have a monthly income ranging between Rs 2,100 and Rs 18,000."

And if the artists survive, their arts will also survive, concludes Bhattacharya.



Celebrities on World Cup 2010 Football fever



"When it comes to football, the people of our country are true lovers of the game, and I'm no different," said rock star James, as he shared his interest in the World Cup with The Daily Star.

"I am following the World Cup with much enthusiasm as it progresses forward."

So do you have a favourite team?

James: "Argentina. Maradona is my all-time

favourite, Argentina is his country and this year he is coaching Argentina himself."

Who do you think will win the World Cup?

James: "I watched the game between Argentina and Nigeria. From what I saw I can say Argentina has great chances of taking the cup home this year."

Theatre festival in Bogra begins today

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

The five-day 'Theatre Festival-2010' begins at Shilpakala Academy Auditorium in Bogra town today. Bogra District Shilpakala Academy is the organiser of the festival.

The Embassy of Japan and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy have jointly organised a staging of the play "Eksho Bosta Chal" this evening. The play will also be staged tomorrow at 7:30 pm. Centre for Asian Theatre, Dhaka will perform "Amputation" on Wednesday evening.

Well known local cultural organisation Bogra Theatre is to perform "Kaibarto Bidroho" on Friday, the last day of the festival. Local organisation Collage Theatre will perform "Kittonkhola" on July 1, while Shilpakala Academy will stage "Mora" the same day.



It's all about eating healthy

"Maggi Taste n Balance" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

"Maggi Taste n Balance," a new cooking show is currently aired on ntv every Monday at 9 pm. The programme emphasises on healthy living through balanced diet.

"'Healthy food for healthy life' is the theme of the show," said Rahima Sultana Reeta, host of the programme. She is a consultant of Nestle. Nestle is the sponsor of the programme.

Sultana has been involved in cooking shows for many years now. She did diplomas on culinary skill from Infa Institute in France; Hotel Landmark, Thailand and Bangladesh Tourism Corporation.

"My first programme was on ATN Bangla and it was called 'Maggi Paka Radhuni.' The show was quite popular among the audience," said Sultana.

Other shows hosted by her were "Amader Ranna" on BTV, "Ebong Ranna" on ETV and "Shomoyer Shad" on Channel 1.

"On 'Maggi Taste n Balance' I try to feature recipes that are easy to cook and the ingredients used are always available," said Sultana.

"The recipes shown at the programme have been developed by Nestle through an elaborated project. The recipes have been checked for nutritional values and taste," said Sultana.

"On the programme we also provide a diet chart which shows the nutritional values of the food to encourage the audience to prepare the recipe for themselves.

"Each episode focuses on a certain type of food -- fibre, dairy products, snacks, iron-rich items, protein and so on, to inform the audience about the importance of having a balanced diet," said Sultana.

Each episode features a celebrity family, who are invited to the show.

"Maggi Taste n Balance" is produced by Foyez Reza.



The host (left) with actress Sarika (C) on tonight's episode.

Movie Watch

"South of the Border": Oliver Stone, tour guide



President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela rides a bicycle in Oliver Stone's "South of the Border."

Political documentaries shadowed by paranoia and apocalyptic foreboding are so commonplace nowadays that "South of the Border," Oliver Stone's celebration of the leftward tilt of South American politics, comes as a cheerful surprise. As anyone who remembers "JFK," his 1991 film about the Kennedy assassination, can attest, Stone has his own paranoid tendencies, but they are muted in this provocative, if shallow, exaltation of Latin American socialism.

During "South of the Border" Stone schmoozes with several left-wing political leaders, including his good buddy the Venezuelan president, Hugo Chávez; he takes Stone to his childhood home, where Chávez mounts a children's bike that collapses under him. Chávez comes across as a rough-hewn but good-hearted man of the people whose bull-headed

determination is softened by a sense of humour. At a corn-processing factory, he jokes: "This is where we build the Iranian atomic bomb. A corn bomb."

Stone's visit with Chávez is the movie's longest interview with a Latin American statesman during what feels like a whirlwind tour of South American capitals. Instead of the saber rattling, America-hating tyrants often depicted on American television, Stone finds sensible, plainspoken men (and one woman, Argentina's president, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner). They are well aware of how power works in the global arena. Those who have it use it for their own advantage; it's the way of the world.

The two demonic influences named in the movie are the American-controlled International Monetary Fund and the "private media." Kirchner recalls resisting

pressure to keep borrowing from the fund rather than pay back what was owed. Chávez repeatedly triumphs despite the almost unanimous hostility of Venezuela's privately owned media.

Other leaders interviewed include Kirchner's husband, Néstor Kirchner, who preceded her as president, and the presidents of Bolivia (Evo Morales), Brazil (Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva), Paraguay (Fernando Lugo), Ecuador (Rafael Correa) and Cuba (Raúl Castro).

The film's macrocosmic overview focuses on South America's leaders, not on the populace. Each country is given a brief, sketchy history. There are no serious interviews with the poor to determine how everyday lives have changed under these socialist governments, and there is no mention of the human rights abuses in Venezuela reported by

Amnesty International.

Chávez, who receives the most screen time, offers a grandiose historical worldview. In his rejection of American imperialism, he sees himself as a successor to Simón Bolívar, whose 19th-century revolution against the Spanish empire was interrupted when "the American and British empires divided us in pieces."

"We want to be ourselves," he declares.

The film is seasoned with unsettling tales of overbearing imperialist ways. Tariq Ali, the British-Pakistani historian who wrote the screenplay with Mark Weisbrot, describes what happened when the Bolivian government sold the water supply of Cochabamba to a consortium led by Bechtel, a United States corporation. When Bechtel, to protect its monopoly, persuaded the government to pass a law forbidding the poor to collect rainwater, the people rose up.

Kirchner recounts a conversation with George W. Bush about Argentina's financial crisis in which President Bush became irate at the suggestion that what the country needed was a Marshall Plan and insisted that the best way to revitalise an economy was through war.

Because so little has been made in the United States about South America's leftward continental drift, "South of the Border" is a valuable, if naïvely idealistic, introductory tutorial on a significant international trend. It ultimately proffers the vision of a pan-South American union that is economically and politically strong enough to realize the Bolivarian dream.

Source: The New York Times