

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Film Screening

Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: July 18-19
Time: 3pm onwards
Today: "House of Fools" & "Black Cat, White Cat"



Exhibition

To commemorate Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah Birth Anniversary
Organiser: Bangalee Shamagra
Venue: Bangalee Shamagra Museum, Khair Mansion, 235/2, Elephant Road
Date: July 10-24 Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Sylvan Forms
Sculptor: Ferdousi Priyabhashini
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: July 19-28
Time: 12 pm-8 pm



Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: The Life and Struggle of Garment Workers
Photographer: Taslima Akhtar
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: July 18-24
Time: 3-8pm



Tagore's 150th birth anniversary Chhayanaut's yearlong celebration begins



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

The celebrations began with the lighting of *Mongolprodip* (below) followed by rendition and dance with the song "Antor Momo Bikoshito Koro" by the artistes of Chhayanaut.

A CORRESPONDENT

To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary [May 8, 2011] of Rabindranath Tagore, Chhayanaut's yearlong celebration was inaugurated at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on July 16.

The two-day long celebration titled "Rabindranath-er Haatey Haat Rekhey Bangladesh" began with the lighting of *Mongolprodip* followed by rendition and dance with the very song "Antor Momo Bikoshito Koro" by the child artistes of Chhayanaut.

Noted artiste Mita Haque delivered the welcome address at the event while choral renditions-- "Oi Mohamanob Ashey," "Apon Hotey Bahir Hotey" and more followed at the first session (10am-12pm).

Angshu, Ruhama, Shubarno, Lami, Progga Paromita, Anindita, Nijhum, Shupriti, Zarin, Ethini, Amiya, Apurba, Prova, Oishwarjo, Sadia, Priyoti, Mrittika, Maliba, Shrabonti, Antora, Anindya, Prokriti, Mehnaz and Hridita presented a number of solo and choral recitations and renditions.

Students of "Nalonda," a school of Chhayanaut, performed a play, "Tota Kahini" on the programme. "Rabindranath," a documentary by Satyajit Ray was also screened at the first session.



Second session (6:30pm-9:30pm) of the programme started with the choral number "Oi Mohamanob Ashey" by the artistes of Chhayanaut. President of Chhayanaut Dr. Sanjida Khatun, delivered her lecture titled "Mukti Shangram O Shangskriti" on the occasion.

Solo musical programme featuring noted Tagore artistes Fahmida Khatun, Mujibul Kaiyyum, Roquaiya Hasina Neely, Adity Mohsin, Anup Bhattacharya, Chhaya Karmokar and others followed.

Later, artistes of "Chhayanaut" went on with the remainder of the cultural show.

"Aji Bangladesh-er Hridoy Hotey" was the choral rendition by the artistes. Partha Tanvir Noved, Nirjhor Chowdhury, Kanchon Mostafa, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Sharmin Shathi Islam, Azizur Rahman Tuhin and others rendered solo Tagore numbers--"O Amar Desh-er Mati," "Je Tomarey Chharey Chharuk," "Ma Ki Tui Porer Darey," "Amay Bolo Na Gahitey," "Ke Eshey Jaay Phirey Phirey," "Sharthok

Jonom Amar" respectively at the event.

A number of recitations featured in between solo and choral renditions. The event wrapped up with the rendition of National Anthem.

Enamul Haque Omar and Iftekhar Alam Proddhan Dollar on tabla, Almas Ali on violin, Yusuf Khan on Sarod, Iftekhar Hossain Shohel on keyboard and Prodip Kumar Roy on moudira assisted the artistes.

Grameenphone sponsored the event.

Film "Peepli Live"

Aamir casts magic once more

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood actor-filmmaker Aamir Khan appeared in a new role at the music launch of his latest production "Peepli Live"--that of playing jazz drums.

Aamir surprised everyone at the function, who included filmmaker Karan Johar, by going on the dais and enthralling the audience with his percussion skills on July 13.

The actor was clearly encouraged by the band members of Indian Ocean, which composed the music of "Peepli Live". He played favourite Gujarati Dandiya beats to show the audience that he can do it all.

"I used to think as a child that I would perform on stage with a band and finally I got an opportunity...thanks to Indian Ocean", said Aamir.

The music launch showcased live performances by the famous band Indian Ocean, as also Nagin Tanvir (late theatre personality Habib Tanvir's daughter) and actor Raghuvir Yadav.

Villagers of Badwai in central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh,



where "Peepli Live" was shot, joined Raghuvir to sing "Mahangaayi Dayan", their folk song which features in the film and is already a hit, which relates the impact of rising prices on common man.

"Peepli Live", an Aamir Khan Productions' film directed by debutant Anusha Rizvi, is a satire on farmers' suicides and releases on August 13.

Khan said he would not let political parties use the song "Sakhi Saiyaan Toh Bahute Kamaat Hain/Mahangai Dayan Khaye Jaat Hain" that also takes a dig at the government over

inflation. "We will not lend the song to anyone for political use. This song is part of the story of the film and it will not be used in any kind of political campaign," Aamir told reporters on the sidelines of the music launch of the film.

Members of some opposition parties, including Bharatiya Janata Party, had approached the filmmaker to buy the rights of the song, written by a resident of Badwa village, to use it as a tool against the government, given the recent flare up in prices of essential commodities.

"We have made the film for the audience. This song is part of the story of the film. The movie is about the urban and rural divide that exists in India and inflation is a general issue," Aamir said.

It may be recalled that India's ruling party Congress had used Oscar-winning A R Rahman's famous song "Jai Ho" from Danny Boyle-directed "Slumdog Millionaire" during its campaign for parliamentary elections last year.

Aamir says the cast of "Peepli Live" is apt, considering that the story is set in a village. He said, Mahmood Farooqui, the

casting director of the movie, has done "an amazing job" in the casting of the film, "it's just so apt. We have picked up artistes from a theatre group called Naya Theatre by late Habib Tanvir."

When questioned about his favourite character from the movie, Aamir as usual had a very interesting answer, "I particularly like Amma's character, she plays an amazing character. In fact, she had also done a part in old "Umrao Jaan", directed by Muzaffar Ali," he said.

The "Peepli Live team" put a lot of thought behind the characters and were very clear about what they needed. Since the story was set in a village, the cast had to be such. That is one of the reasons that the movie has no big names, in terms of actors, associated with it.

The casting director of the movie, Mahmood Farooqui who is also Anusha Rizvi's husband, looked in the most unlikely of the places so he could get authentic looking actors. In fact, authenticity was such an important factor that many a new faces will be seen in this movie, many of them belonging to the people of village Bhadwai.

Beyond borders

Farida Parveen performs



PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN

A wonderful interplay of Parveen's vocals and Gazi Abdul Hakim's flute during the song "Shomoy Geley Shadhon Hobey Na" caused a musical high.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned Lalon singer Farida Parveen performed solo at a musical programme on July 16 at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan. The High Commission of India in Dhaka arranged the programme. Adorably known as 'Lalon Koinna', Parveen enthralled the audience with a rendition of over 25 Lalon songs.

Although, Parveen has become synonymous with 'Lalon Geeti,' she is also an accomplished 'adhunik' singer. Her renditions of the songs such as "O Pakhi Rey Ekbar Aye," "Ei Padma, Ei Meghna" and "Tomra Bhulei Geccho Mallikadi'r Naam" are equally popular among music enthusiasts. However, the singer only sang Lalon songs at the programme.

Accompanied by the able playing of 'tabla' and bamboo flute by Debendranath Chattopadhyay and Gazi Abdul Hakim respectively, Parveen took the audience on a journey to the mystical world of Lalon, as she rendered

songs that belong to different 'tatwa'.

"Khamo, Khamo Oporadh," a plea to the Almighty to absolve sins, was her first rendition of the evening. She gradually sang popular numbers such as "Barir Pashey Arshi Nagar" and "Jekhaney Shai'r Baramkhana" as well as lesser-known compositions including "Shei Kalachand Nodaye Eshechhey".

A wonderful interplay of Parveen's vocals and Gazi Abdul Hakim's flute during the song "Shomoy Geley Shadhon Hobey Na" caused a musical high. The song was the last of the evening. The programme continued for nearly three hours. Daulat-Ur-Rahman on keyboard, S.M. Reza Babu on 'dhol' and Delwar Hossain on 'dotara' accompanied Parveen throughout the programme.

Parveen is widely credited to have taken Lalon's music and philosophy beyond our borders. In 2008, Parveen won the 'Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize,' a prestigious Japanese award for upholding traditional music in Asia.

Rain songs

Musical soiree held

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A musical soiree, 'Hridoy Mandrilo', based on the rain songs of Rabindranath Tagore, entertained a huge audience at the auditorium of Zila Shilpakala Academy on Friday evening.

Shishu-Tirtha Ananda Dhani Sangeet Biddayatun organised the programme. The artistes of the music school who gave solo performances included Joyeta Fahmi, Bithi Pande, Sangjukta Das Noton, Rima Saha, Naumi Alam and Tagore artiste from Dhaka, Shahed Imam.

The audience was captivated by the popular monsoon songs composed by Tagore. Among the songs were "Hridoy mandrilo domoru guru guru", "Nilanjana ghana punja chhaye", "Tomar geeti jagalo smiriti", "Aj sraboner purnimate", "Tomar kola hawae", "Puub hawate dei dola" and "Oi sraboner buker bhitor".

The songs on different ragas such as Malhar, Megh-malhar, Mia-malhar, Behag and Kafi gave the event a classical touch.

Earlier, a discussion was held with advocate Rokeya Begum, the president of Shishu-Tirtha Ananda Dhani Sangeet Biddayatun in the chair.

Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Professor Dr. M.A Sattar Mandal inaugurated the programme as chief guest. Among others, Professor ABM Nurul Anwar, the principal of the music school addressed the inaugural session.

Atiqul Islam, joint-secretary of the music school conducted the programme.

The speakers were of the opinion that Rabindranath depicted nature very skillfully in his songs, and gave a real picture of the country's different seasons like the monsoon. We can enjoy the natural elements more vividly through his songs, they added.

It is a very positive development that the younger generation is now keen to practice Tagore songs. More initiatives should be taken to familiarise the youngsters with such songs, which are an integral part of Bengali culture, they said.



PHOTO: STAR

The audience was captivated by the popular monsoon songs composed by Tagore.