WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

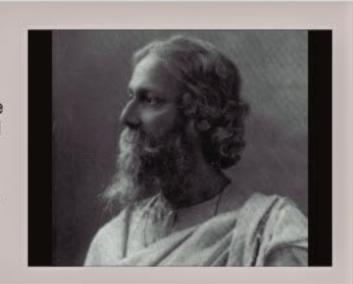
Calligraphy **Exhibition** Calligrapher: Najib Tareque Venue: Impressions Gallery, 67, Gulshan Avenue Date: August 19-September 19 Time: 9:30am-2:30pm and

4-5pm (Sunday-Thursday)

and 10am-1pm (Saturday)



Cultural Programme Organiser: Russian Centre of Science and Culture and Bangladesh-Russia Friendship Society Venue: Auditorium, RCSC, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi Date: September 16 Time: 6pm



Film Screening Film: Lucky Luke Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka. 26, Mirpur Rd. Dhanmondi Date: September 17 Time: 6pm



Photo Exhibition To mark Int'l Day of Tourism Title: Tourist Sights of Moscow and Moscow Region Venue: Modern Language Institute, DU Date: September 2-28



In Focus

Mymensingh Museum in a derelict state





AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

rooms of the museum, putting them at risk of ruination. The Once a popular draw for the museum has no proper prespublic, the Mymensingh ervation system, or adequate museum is fast losing its space for some 200 items appeal. Due to the sheer apacollected from the zamindars' (landlords) palaces, mainly thy of the concerned authorifrom the Muktagacha ties, the museum manages to get just 10-20 visitors a day. Zamindars.

Many rare and unique relics collected from various parts of Mymensingh region are now ent objects collected from zaminders' palaces, the then Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh established the museum at the garden house of Zamindar Madan Babu on Amrita Babu Road in the district town in 1969. Since the establishment of the museum, it was run by Mymensingh Municipality. The Department of Archaeology took over charge in 1995.

Mohammad Saiful Islam, now also Assistant Custodian-in-Charge, said that due to space constraints, it was not possible to display ancient coins and manuscripts. When the renovation started in 1999, some 150 coins of the Victorian era were handed over for safe custody to Department of Archaeology but these coins are yet to be put on display due to space constraints, he added.

To compound matters, the post of Assistant Custodian has been lying vacant since February 2008.

The valuable collections from the palaces of Muktagacha, Gouripur, Atharabari include showpieces, skulls of elephants (the

only collection among all the museums of the country), heads of deer, flower vase, candle stands, a sofa set made of wood and, statues made of white and black stone by Italian sculptors, among others.

Many items like earthenware, a stuffed peacock, coins of different eras, a big umbrella used for hunting, ancient bricks with artistic designs and calligraphy on paper and palm leaves found here earlier are now missing from the museum, for reasons best known to the concerned authority, lamented Ashit Chakrabarty, a retired bank official. There is not even a list of all the relics displayed at the museum, he added.

According to museum insiders, the museum has no plan of action to collect more relics to enrich the collection. Meanwhile, the Regional Office Assistant Director of the Department of Archaeology Mohammad Abdul Khaleque told The Daily Star that the problem of space constraint could be minimised after shifting the museum to Shashi Lodge, another building formerly owned by the Muktagacha landlords, now being used as Teachers Training College (Female) office. Following an inter-

ministerial meeting between the Ministry for Cultural Affairs and Education Ministry in 1995, it was decided that after completion of the alternative buildings for the training college, Shashi Lodge would be handed over to Cultural Affairs Ministry so that the lodge and the rare

I saw a highway of dia-

I saw a black branch with

I saw a room full of men

I saw a white ladder all

I saw ten thousand takers

I saw guns and sharp

And it's a hard, it's a hard,

It's a hard rain's a-gonna

As the viewer goes around

the exhibition, the images

unfold, each coupled with an

it's a hard, and it's a hard

whose tongues were all broken

swords in the hands of young

with their hammers a-

monds with nobody on it

blood that kept drippin'

covered with water

bleedin'

children

fall."

tellers.



Many items like earthenware, ancient coins and calligraphy on paper and palm leaves cannot be displayed due to space constraint.

relics could be preserved. However, there are no indications that it will be handed over soon, said museum

political will to improve the situation. Though the museum is under the Cultural dent.

Affairs Ministry, the State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Promod Mankin, MP, from Mymensingh has not yet visited the museum. The There is a definite lack of minister was unavailable for comment, despite repeated attempts by this correspon-



Hard Rain: Headlong Collision with Nature

displayed in three damp

To preserve the relics,

including sculptures, metal

and wooden works and differ-

Mark Edwards' exhibition in Delhi

KAVITA, New Delhi

Believe it or not, Bob Dylan's music is alive and well even in the inhospitable Sahara desert. Ask British "environmental communicator" Mark Edwards who was lost on the edge of the desert in July 1969. Rescued by a Turareg nomad who lit up a fire with two sticks, he was stumped to see the former produce a cassette player from which Bob Dylan belted out his famous political song, "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall".

Edward is quoted as saying, "Bob Dylan's song of love and death is burning into me. As Dylan piles image upon image, I have the idea to illustrate each line of the lyric." In the following years, the photographer travelled around the world on assignments that allowed him to take photographs that would mirror Dylan's powerful lyrics.

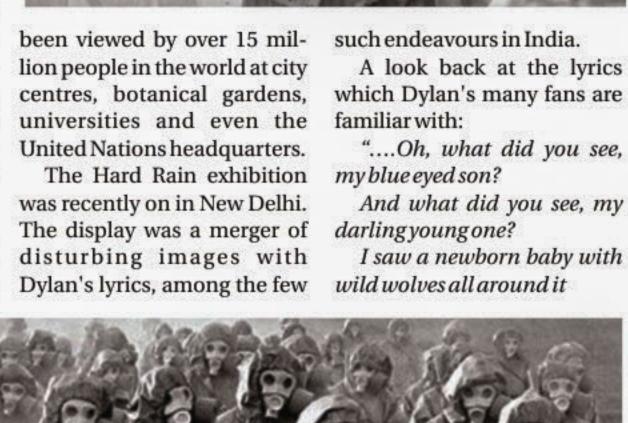
The outcome is the "Hard Rain: Headlong Collision with Nature" display which has



"....Oh, what did you see,

And what did you see, my

Bangladesh and India alone. Another photograph: an oiled seabird is the lucky survi-





Photos from the "Hard Rain: Headlong Collision with Nature" exhibition.

Eid-ul-Fitr celebration

Boat race in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

A boat race was held on the river Gorai last Monday on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. Golabaria Jubo Sangha of Dariapur union in Sreepur upazila arranged the traditional competition in conjunction with the adjoining

villagers. A total of 16 boats from Magura, Jhenidah, Faridpur and Rajbari took part in the event, which attracted thousands of people. A boat named 'Jai Bangla' of Jagadish Mondal from Kuchiamora union in Magura sadar upazila captured the first prize. The boat of Kanai Lal Biswas of Baliakandi upazila sadar called 'Chokher Polok' emerged second while the boat 'Ma-er Doa' owned by Ramesh Biswas from Akpotra village from the same upazila



PHOTO: STAR

A total of 16 boats from Magura, Jhenidah, Faridpur and Rajbari took part in the event.

competition.

Khan, secretary, National

bagged the third prize in the Board of Revenue (NBR), in chief guest, while the executhe chair; Dr. Nuruzzoha, With Mohammad Rois director of Sky-view group gave away the prizes as the

tive engineer of Roads and Highway, Faruk Ahmed was the special guest.

