

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

12th Annual Bonsai Exhibition

Organiser: Bangladesh Bonsai society
Venue: WVA Auditorium, H-20, Rd-27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: October 14-17
Time: 10am-8pm



Painting and Installation Exhibition

Title: Dhaka Traffic: the City Can't Wait
Artist: Sulekha Chowdhury
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, Dhanmondi
Date: October 4-28



Group Art Exhibition

Venue: Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria
Date: September 24-October 15
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Innocence and Experience
Artist: Mohammad Iqbal
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
Date: September 24-October 12
Time: 10am-8pm



An actor par excellence

Q and A with Tariq Anam Khan

Tariq Anam Khan is a name familiar to theatre and TV audiences in Bangladesh. As an actor and director he has made a mark for himself. Khan has also appeared on the silver screen. His performance as the titular Thakur, in the British-Bangladeshi feature film "The Last Thakur" (directed by Sadik Ahmed) has earned him much accolade.

Shah Alam Shazu recently caught up with the seasoned actor. Excerpts from the interview:

The Daily Star (TDS): What are you busy with at the moment?

Tariq: Shooting for TV plays takes up most of my time. Each month -- from the 20th-30th, I shoot for the TV serial "Gulshan Avenue".

TDS: Are you currently working on a film?

Tariq: I've been cast in Humayun Ahmed's movie "Ghetu Putro Komola"; shooting for Salahuddin Lavlu's "Warish" will probably begin after Eid-ul-Azha.

TDS: "Gulshan Avenue" recently aired its 400th episode. Tell us about the serial.

Tariq: It follows a family's daily life. The play centres on the conflict involving money and power. Nima Rahman planned it wonderfully. Viewers love the serial because it offers them something new.

TDS: Many allege that "Gulshan Avenue" is based on Indian serials. Your take on this?

Tariq: This is an allegation we have faced for a while now. People watch Hindi serials all the time. They do so because the serials have some attractive features. No one can be blamed for watching these soap operas, or "family drama" as they're popularly known, as they have a significant way to present a story



with dynamism and dramatic elements. I won't say "Gulshan Avenue" imitates Hindi serials, but I will say it takes some elements from a popular setting. If we can do so and create something original, where is the problem? I know many viewers who shifted to "Gulshan Avenue" from watching Hindi serials. This is definitely a positive side.

TDS: The Television Producers

Association (TPA), Directors Guild and Abhinoy Shilpi Shongho recently formed a policy. As the general secretary of TPA, what is your opinion of the policy?

Tariq: The policy has been formed, but it requires time to realise it. We have a lack of discipline. We claim to be professionals but professionalism is yet to be adopted fully by us. If an order and certain working

standards are established then it will be beneficial for everyone.

TDS: What is the biggest obstacle TV plays face?

Tariq: The biggest problem is that the market has not developed in the country. We have many existing TV channels, some more on the pipeline. But the ever-expanding media relies on advertisements. So during an Eid-special play, fifteen minutes of advertisements run for every 10 minutes of a play. The channels' logic is that they have to survive in the competitive market as well.

TDS: Your theatre group 'Natyakendra' celebrated its 20 years yesterday. What do you consider to be the troupe's achievements and failures?

Tariq: Twenty years is relatively nothing. 'Aranyak' or 'Nagorik' are older organisations than us. Our primary goal while founding the group was to stage plays that would personally benefit us, be meaningful and offer wholesome entertainment. As there were no acting schools back then, learning from the troupe was also our intention. We also managed to create our own audience, which is an achievement. New blood is joining, as well as some leaving. One of our failures has been producing few plays in the past. We couldn't hold on to our members. We also failed to create a small studio theatre as planned. More practice was needed, while we failed to produce playwrights within the group.

We are attending the Cairo International Festival this month; our group has been selected to represent Bangladesh by the government. We also have plans to hold a festival by December this year.

Group exhibition at Tivoli Gallery



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tivoli Art Gallery at DIT Market, Gulshan 2, Dhaka has organised a group art exhibition, titled "Life of a Vagabond", featuring works of 10 contemporary Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani painters. The participating painters are currently based in Canada. The exhibition opened yesterday and will run till October 20.

The exhibition features works of Tajuddin Ahmed, Youngo Verma, Naz Ikramullah, Sylvat Aziz, Syed Iqbal, Amin Rehman, Asma Arshad

Mahmood, Noni Kaur, Meera Sethi and Vicky Vyas. The exhibition, curated by Ali Adil Khan, is dedicated to the memory of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Farooq Sobhan, President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute and Executive Member of Bangladesh Society for Promotion of Art inaugurated the exhibition. Robert McDougall, High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh, and noted fashion designer Bibi Russell were present as special guests on the occasion.



General Secretary of Shammilito Shangskritik Jote Hasan Arif inaugurated Udichi's Feni District Unit Convention through hoisting the National Flag at Feni Shaheed Minar premises on October 9. Organising Secretary of the Jote, Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury (Arif's left); General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi Central Committee, Habibur Alam and Probir Sardar, are also seen in the photograph.

Celebrating the season in style

Autumn Festival in Thakurgaon



A Baul singer performs at the programme.

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

'Sharod Utshab' (autumn festival) was held recently at Rabindra Mancho, Lokayan Museum premises, in Akcha village, under Thakurgaon district.

To celebrate the season, Lokayan Museum authorities organised the festival. The programme featured Rabindra Sangeet, *adhunik* and folk songs, and poetry recitation. The event started with rendition of the Rabindra Sangeet "Sharod Pratey Amar Raat Pohalo" by the programme deputy manager of Polli Kormo Shahayak Foundation. Among the artistes who gave solo performances were Mehedi Hasan, Sanwar Hossain, Mostafizur Rahman and Dinabandhu Das.

Chairman of Lokayan Muhammad Shahid Uz Zaman recited a poem at the programme.

The programme ended with a chorus of the Rabindra Sangeet "Amra Gethochi Shefali Malika Tomaro Biday Bela".

Following the performances a discussion was held at the venue.

The discussants were of the view that over the ages Bengali poets and litterateurs have eulogised 'Sharod' as a symbol of purity.

Rabindranath illustrated the many aspects of nature in this season through his songs.

They also appreciated the museum's initiative to celebrate the seasons with cultural programmes. Such initiatives would help promote and uphold our heritage and culture, they expressed.

Lokayan Chairman Muhammad Shahid Uz Zaman said in his speech, "Usually museums preserve objects and memorabilia related to empires, rulers and other renowned persons. We have taken a different approach to preserving objects that represent the lifestyle of our common people, like farmers' hats, fishing tools, different types of ploughs, indigenous weapons used for hunting, local musical instruments, documents of agreements between landowners and farmers, rural clothes etc."

"We want to promote and preserve our traditions and heritage for the coming generations," he added.

Among others, Deputy Manager of PKSF Rezanur Rahaman; assistant manager of PKSF Kopil Kumer Pal and Principal of Eco Pathshala Selima Akhter spoke at the discussion.

Nirmol Mojumder conducted the programme.

Rabindra Parshad gears up

Celebrating 150th birth anniversary of Tagore

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

As part of a yearlong programme marking the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, Rabindra Parshad's Mymensingh unit organised a programme on the campus of Mymensingh Teachers' Training College last Saturday evening.

The programme included a discussion, musical soiree and poetry recitation. Artistes of Shishu Tirtha Anandadhani Sangeet Bidyayatan, Shabda Abrittii Charcha Kendra and Udichi Mymensingh took part in the cultural programme.

Hamim, Raha, Dipra, Anika, Adri and Amjad Dolan of Shabda Abrittii Charcha Kendra staged poetry recitation, while Gopal Bhattacharya and Sunil Karmakar rendered Kirtan and Baul songs respectively. Sajal Koraishi presented the programme.

A discussion, titled 'Baul Rabindranath and Bangalee Manosh' was held with Professor Mokarram Hossain, president of Rabindra Parshad, in the chair. Among others, eminent Tagore artiste Professor Sumita Naha; Professor Jatin Sarker and poet Nirmelundu Goon also



The event featured renditions of Kirtan, Baul songs and recitation.

spoke on the occasion. Yeazdani Koraishi Kajal, convener of the celebrating committee, delivered the welcome speech.

Professor Naha said that Tagore mingled Baul tunes in many of his popular songs, as he was inclined towards the genre from an early age. While composing Brahma Sangeet, Tagore became acquainted with Baul and Kirtan songs, which enriched his music. Like many other songs, Tagore used a Baul tune as inspiration for "Amar Shonar Bangla", which later became our National Anthem, she added.

Rabindranath also played the role of Baul in different plays including "Falguni" and "Arup Ratan", and he is also called the modern 'Brahma Baul', said Naha, a retired professor.

Professor Jatin Sarker said that Rabindranath, enriched Bengali culture and brought it to world standards. He revealed the lifestyle of common people in his writings and his literature should, therefore

be taken to common people to make the celebration a success, he said.

The writings of such an astounding talent should be disseminated among the younger generation to ensure an enlightened country, said the speakers.

Rabindra Parshad has taken on the yearlong programme to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Tagore. The programmes include organising music, dance and recitation competitions at educational institutions; exhibitions of films on Tagore; collecting Tagore memorabilia and special publications on Tagore and cultural exchange among the districts.

"We have divided the programme into six parts so that we can have the essence of six seasons and make it more appealing to the audience," said Yeazdani Koraishi Kajal.

