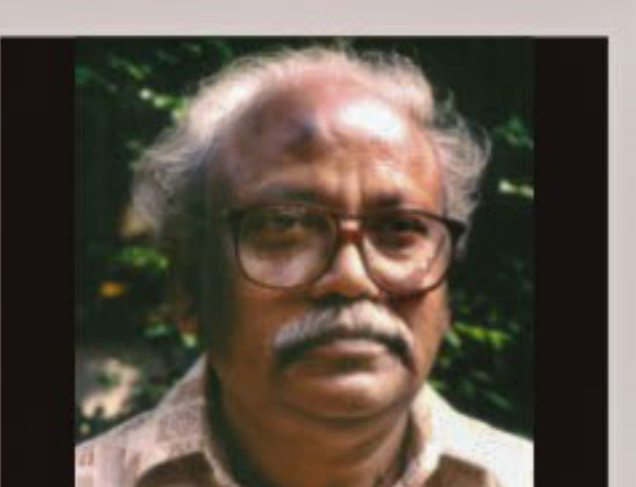


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

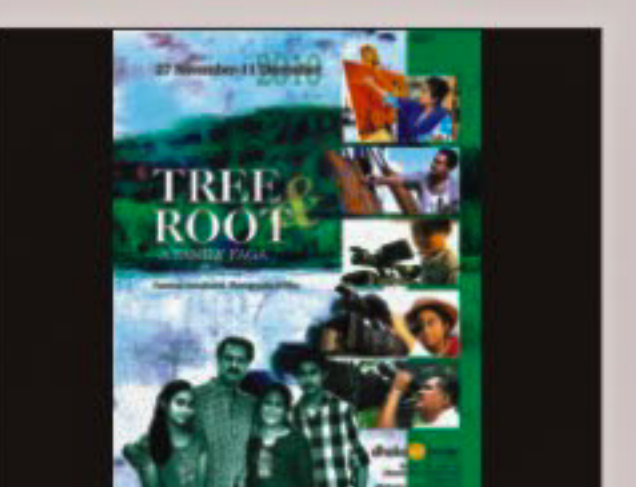
Suchitra Sen Retrospective
 Organiser: Suchitra Sen Smrity Sanrakshan Parishad, Pabna
 Venue: Mukto Moncho, Pabna
 Date: November 26-December 3



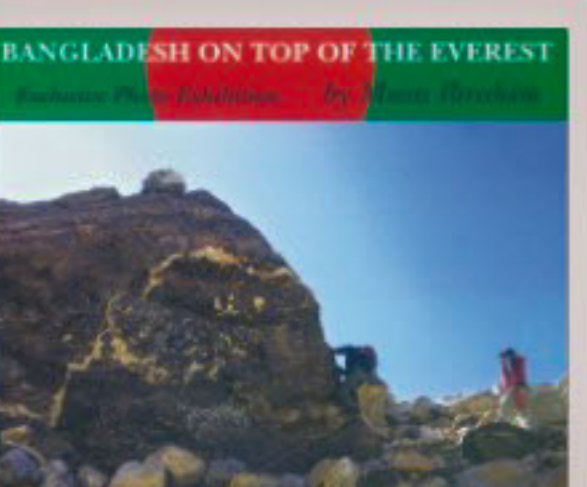
Drawing Exhibition
 Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
 Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
 Date: December 3-20
 Time: 10am-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Tree & Roots
 Artists: Mithu, Kanak Champa, Arjo and Shiropa
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7/A, H-60, Dhanmondi
 Date: November 27-December 7
 Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Bangladesh on Top of the Everest
 Photographer: Musa Ibrahim
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
 Date: November 26-December 9
 Time: 9-8pm



Rafiqun Nabi exhibition at Gallery Chitrak



An artwork by Rafiqun Nabi.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gallery Chitrak will hold a solo drawing exhibition featuring veteran painter-printmaker Rafiqun Nabi. The exhibition will begin on December 3 and will continue till December 20.

Nabi is well known for his paintings, woodcut prints and drawings. For many years, the painter served as the Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.

At the exhibition, his drawings will be displayed. Nabi uses acrylic, dry pastel, charcoal and other mediums. His figurative works meticulously portray rural folk, fishermen, kingfishers, broken bridges, buffalos, boats, crows, wild flowers and people at leisure. Nabi's work is a true reflection of rural Bengal and its magnificent landscape. His drawings seemingly document his observations of nature and his childhood days.

Colours usually used by the artist are blue, yellow, yellowish-brown, crimson, black and green -- representing the countryside. Nabi frequently changes his compositions -- a feat that makes his works more interesting and impressionistic. The artist also arranges motifs in different combinations of light and shade.

Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Noted painter Mustafa Monwar will be present as special guest and artist Qayyum Chowdhury will preside over the inaugural session.

Lalon, for a liberated, united society

Discussion and music at TSC

A CORRESPONDENT

To mark 200 years of practicing and engaging the philosophy (bhab-darshan) of Fakir Lalun Shai, Lalun World Society held a programme on November 25 and 26 at TSC, Dhaka University. The event featured songs, discussion, presentation of a paper and distribution of booklets.

On November 25, Dr. A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, attended the opening programme as chief guest. He spoke on the life and works of Lalun, emphasising that the secular, non-communal legacy of Lalun should be closely studied by youngsters.

Abdel Mannan, a Lalun researcher, presented the keynote paper on November 26.

Professor Anisuzzaman, Department of Philosophy, DU presided over the programme. He said, "Beyond the apparent dissimilarities among the religions, there is a spirit that celebrates universal humanity. Recognising this spirit enables us to transcend identities that divide human beings from one another. Lalun embraced this spirit that resides in each of us and put forth his secular philosophy."

Discussants emphasised on the significance of Lalun's songs in the socio-political history of Bengal. They presented a critique of the misguided reli-



Artistes of Dhaka Lalun Shilpi Goshthi perform at the programme on November 25.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

gious practices that result in violence and lamented that attempts to develop a secular, harmonious society in this region have been incessantly obstructed by extremists and colonial powers. Lalun's teachings can help us move toward a more liberated and united society.

Members of Dhaka Lalun Shilpi Goshthi rendered the bard's songs throughout the evening. The singers included Firoz Alam, Jibon, Chandan Babu and Nargis Parvin.

Debate festival for rural educational institutes

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A debate competition was recently organised in Biral upazila of Dinajpur. The aim was to encourage rural students to enhance their oratory skills. Such events are usually organised in urban areas.

The venue was the Biral Degree College premises.

About 1,000 students of different educational institutes of Biral upazila participated in the event, organised by Biral Upazila Chhatra Kalyan Shamiti of Dhaka, a student forum of Dhaka University.

At the inaugural discussion, the speakers lauded the organiser for arranging an event, which would encourage rural students to enhance their debating skills.

The speakers were Mohammad Ishak Ali Sarker, president of Biral upazila Awami

League; Mohammad Shamsul Rahman Parvez, president of Dhaka University Debating Club and others.

After the inauguration, a colourful rally made its way around various areas of Biral upazila. Before the competition, students from different schools expressed their views on the chosen subject, while all the teams enthusiastically debated the given topic.

The audience was impressed by the verve, wit and vivacity of the participants. The audience and judges also appreciated the efforts of the students as well as their teachers.

Teachers and students of almost all educational institutes of Biral upazila of Dinajpur were present at the two-day debate festival.

On the second day, a quiz competition was organised for the students.

The programme also included a training session for the debaters.

On the concluding day prizes were handed among the winners. Md. Golam Rabbani, UNO of Biral upazila, handed over prizes as chief guest.

Asaduzzaman Azim, general secretary of Dhaka University Debating Club; Asaduzzaman Asad Mondal, general secretary of F Rahman Hall Debating Club; Ashik Sardar, Jashim Uddin Hall Debating Club and Anwarul Kadir, president of Biral upazila Chhatra Kalyan Shamiti, were among the speakers at the closing programme.

Addressing the audience, the UNO of Biral upazila thanked the judges, organiser and participating students. He also commended the standard of the debates and congratulated the participants for their remarkable performance.

BAMBA-UNFPA concert rescheduled

The BAMBA-UNFPA concert, that was scheduled to be held yesterday, will take place on December 3, according to a press release.

Taking a stand against gender violence, Bangladesh Musical Bands' Association (BAMBA), in association with UNFPA and the Government of Bangladesh, will hold the mega concert at the Army Stadium in Dhaka. Twelve leading and promising bands of the country including Nagarbaul, LRB, Miles, Souls, Warfaze and Artcell will perform at the concert.

Nelly Furtado: Stories behind hits

In the decade since Nelly Furtado first came to public attention with "I'm Like a Bird", the Canadian songstress has dabbled in pop, folk, hip-hop, electronica, dance and world music.

"I've definitely confused people," the singer laughs, "but I guess that's part of what I do."

"I've always listened to a really broad spectrum of music, from British rock bands to Canadian folk music to Brazilian samba music, it's all stuff that turns me on."

"The one unifying thread is, clearly, I'm a pop singer and pop songwriter and melody, lyrics are central to what I do."

Furtado concedes that the scattershot approach means she has had to "find a new fanbase with every record", but it seems to have worked.

"Loose", her collaboration with hip-hop producer Timbaland, went platinum in 32 countries. The follow-up, a Spanish language disc called "Mi Plan", may have seemed like career suicide -- but it won a Grammy and topped the Latin album charts.

"My goal is to always record albums where pretty much every song sounds just as good with only an acoustic guitar and a vocal," Furtado explains.

As she releases her first greatest hits compilation, the singer-songwriter talked about the stories behind her biggest songs.

The song that means most to me
 "Try", which is a ballad from the second album, "Folklore". I was about six months pregnant with Nevis my daughter at the time. So that album has a lot of sincere, emotionally poignant moments for me. I was really inspired.

The second half of the song was totally improvisation. It captured a lot of emotion. So every time I sing it in my live show -- all around the world it's had the same reaction -- fans get quite emotional, and there's a lot of crying.



The song that started a fire
 This is true -- there are many witnesses who were there: When we recorded "Maneater", a speaker caught fire. It started smoking and a flame shot out of the speaker, which nobody at the Hit Factory in Miami had ever seen before in the 40 years the studio has been there.

The song that was more successful than I expected
 "Say It Right". I had no idea what a giant song it would become. The thing that still perplexes me about the song is that I still can't put into words what it's about. I think it's maybe about personal, visceral abandon. Throwing yourself into something without inhibitions.

Timbaland and I wrote it really late at night. It was four in the morning and it just kind of came out of

nowhere. We'd been watching Pink Floyd's "The Wall" on a huge screen all day long on mute -- so I think it was playing into our subconscious a little bit.

The song I love playing in concert
 "Turn Off the Light". We've done electro versions, hip-hop versions. Timbaland came and surprised people when we played it at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York. We did my regular version, then it was Tim's urban remix, and then we rapped, and then we went into a heavy metal ending, where I played guitar and traded licks with my guitar player. It just got rowdy, and the crowd would really move and jump in that part.

It's a great festival song, too. I played it at Glastonbury and people jumped and moved. It's got a lot of groove potential, so if you want that, you can really get it going on that song.

The song that didn't make it onto the greatest hits
 I really wanted the "Get Ur Freak On" remix I did with Missy Elliot. That was really important for my career, because it opened the whole hip-hop world to me, right after "I'm Like a Bird" came out. So there was a cool duality going on.

There's a funny story behind it, too. People would play that remix on the seriously urban, street radio stations in New York and the DJs said: "Oh, Missy's done a duet with a Jamaican boy."

I also wanted my duet with Michael Buble, "Quando Quando Quando". It's like my jazz tune. The duet with Timbaland and Justin Timberlake ["Give it to Me"] isn't on there, either. And I have a really cool duet with Josh Groban. We wanted to do a collaborations album for a while, because I've done so many -- and I'm still doing more. I'm not in a band but I have a thirst and a desire to be around musicians.

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