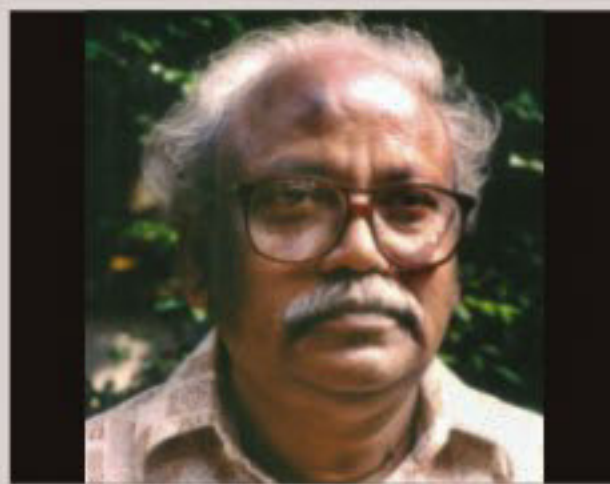


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

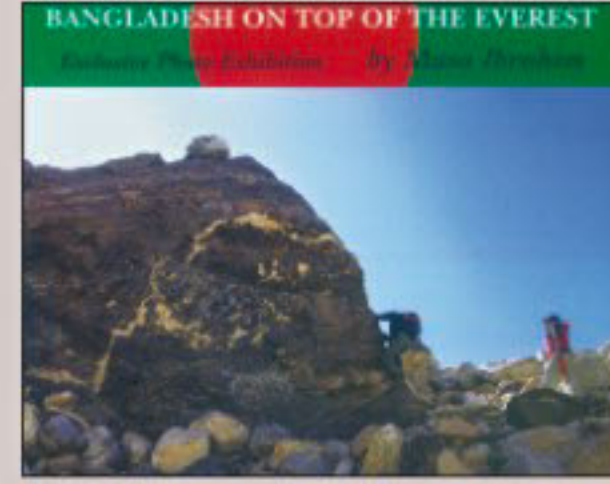
Suchitra Sen Retrospective
Organiser: Suchitra Sen Smrity Sanrakshan Parishad, Pabna
Venue: Mukto Moncho, Pabna
Date: November 26-December 3



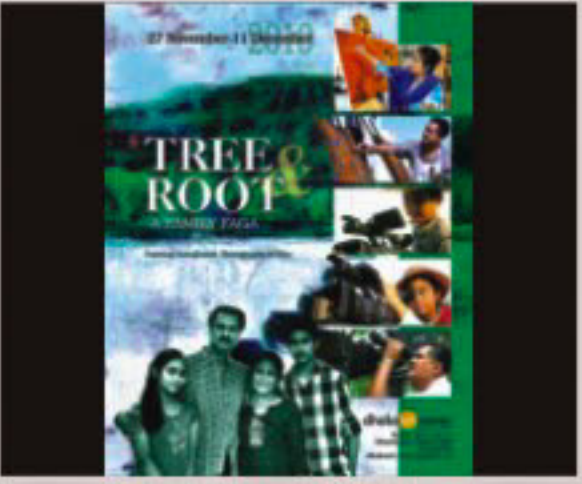
Drawing Exhibition
Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
Date: December 3-20
Time: 10am-8pm



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



Celebrating Indomitable Bangladesh

The Daily Star and Standard Chartered honour upcoming and veteran talents



Musician Naquib Khan (centre) and co-artists sing at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

ZAHANGIR ALOM

For the third consecutive time, Celebrating Life -- a contest recognising and awarding talented photographers, lyricists and filmmakers -- was held this year. Finale of the contest was held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital on November 30. The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh jointly organised the event.

This theme of this year's competition was 'Indomitable Bangladesh', set with the objective of portraying the unbeatable spirit of Bangladeshis through the mediums -- photography, lyrics and film.

President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Md. Zillur Rahman graced the occasion as chief guest and inaugurated a photography exhibition featuring entries from this year's competition.

Elita Karim, editor of the Star Campus, and Yasir Husain from Standard Chartered, emceed the event.

A choral rendition based on the winning lyrics 'Bangladesh Bangladesh... Adomyo Aar Aprotirodhyo Amar Bangladesh' kicked off the performance session. Musician Naquib Khan with others performed the song written by Ripa Sarkar. Naquib Khan composed the music.

An audio-visual presentation featuring highlights of Celebrating Life over the last three years was screened.

Bangladesh is teeming with life despite constant

adversities. Set on this theme, artistes of 'Pallabi' staged a dance performance at the event. Minu Haque choreographed the dance to the song 'Potaka-e Laal Shurjo', written and composed by Mohammad Rafiquzzaman and Ali Akbar Rupu.

In his speech, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said, "At the end of the day, performance speaks higher than words. Despite lots of limitations and problems, Bangladesh has maintained a steady progress. We often fail to see the big picture. A new revival in our cultural arena has taken place, particularly in the fields of painting, theatre and music. The Daily Star and Standard Chartered strongly believe that nurturing creative potentials of Bangladeshis will take the country to greater heights of cultural attainments. That is the aim of Celebrating Life."

President of Bangladesh handed over the awards (crests and certificates) among the 31 winners for this year, including three lifetime achievement awards and critics' awards. Lifetime achievement awards went to Mustafa Monwar (film and TV), Rashid Talukdar (Nawajesh Ahmed Photography Award) and Mohammad Rafiquzzaman (lyrics).

"Bikol Pakhir Gaan" bagged the critics' award for the best play while Nurul Alam Atik ("Bikal Palkhir Gaan") and Amitabh Reza ("Ei Shomoy") shared the critics' award for best director. Other critics' awards went to Shatabdi Wadud (Best Actor, "Ei Shomoy"), Joya Ahsan (Best actress, "Tarpur O Angurlata Nando Ke Bhalobashey"), Nehal Koraeshi (Cinema-

photographer), Sunny Chowdhuri (Video Editor), Nurul Alam Atik (Cinematography), Mezbaur Rahman Suman (Special award for the play "Bikol Pakhir Gaan") while Mamun took the best award for Sound ("Ei Shomoy").

Celebrating Life provided Lifetime Achievement Awards and Critics' Awards for the first time this year.

Kuddus Helal (first), Md. Maniruzzaman (second) and JA Akash (third) bagged the Celebrating Life 1010 photography awards. Shahrukh, Sheikh Mohir Uddin, Akhlas Uddin, Yusuf Tusar, Mohaimin Islam Badhon, Esha Khan, Rakibul Hasan, Jashim Salam and Mostafizur Rahman received awards (honourable mention) in this category.

Ripa Sarkar (first), Bilal Hasan Nuri (second) and Ashanuzzaman (third) bagged the Celebrating Life 2010 lyrics awards. Jyoti Laal Makhon, Ranu, Nasiruddin Tusi also received awards (honourable mention) in this category.

In an inspirational speech, the President said, "Bangladesh has her own opulent cultural heritage. It is a country of melody and songs. Art is diffused in every nook and corner of Bangladesh. Celebrating Life is a commendable effort in recognising and honouring creative talents of Bangladesh."

Thanking the guests, dignitaries and participants, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, Jim McCabe delivered his concluding speech.

Rafi Hossain, editor of Star Insight, is the coordinator of Celebrating Life.

Film on Liberation War draws many in Goa

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The International Film Festival of India this year does not have a single film from Bangladesh but nearly 200 people were spell-bound on the morning of November 27 by a 152-minute documentary on the Liberation War screened at the Inox Hall in Panaji.

The feature length documentary "The History of the War of Liberation of Bangladesh" directed by Mahfuzur Rahman and produced by Tapan Roy received high appreciation from the viewers, Roy told The Daily Star over phone from Panaji.

Roy had introduced the film to the audi-

ence who liked it so much that there was a demand for an encore. But that was not possible given the lack of space and tight screening schedule for such a large number of movies, the producer said.

Roy said he is very pleased with the kind of positive response the documentary generated from the audience in Panaji.

After the screening of the film at the Festival, Roy handed over the film's DVD, whose cover carried a photograph of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to Goa Chief Minister Digamber Kamath at a function. The producer was also felicitated by the organisers of the festival.



A scene from the documentary.

A woman driven to the edge

"Amader Shiuli", a play with a strong social message



The play reveals how girls fall victim to sexual harassment, early marriage, dowry and meet with tragic ends.

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAUAT, Thakurgaon

To generate awareness against social evils, including sexual harassment, early marriage, and dowry, a play titled "Amader Shiuli" was staged at Thakurgaon Municipality Auditorium premises last Monday evening.

To mark the International Women Repression Prevention Fortnight, Thakurgaon NGO Cell, a forum of Thakurgaon NGOs, arranged the programme in association with Steps Towards Development.

The play reveals how girls fall victim to sexual harassment, early marriage, dowry and meet with tragic ends.

The play is based on a real life incident in Shingpara village under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila in which a pretty village belle Shiuli, daughter of a farmer, is forced into early marriage to evade sexual harassment.

Even after the birth of two children, Shiuli is often tortured for dowry by her in-laws, including her husband. However, she cannot raise her voice against them, as her father is unable to meet their demands.

Failing to get dowry, Shiuli's husband marries another girl who brings a motorbike with her. He does not take permission from Shiuli for the marriage alliance though she is his first wife.

A humiliated Shiuli commits suicide by taking poison.

The cast included Ujjal, Manik, Dipali,

Shishir, Rana, Antar, Sohel and Tuktuhi. Prior to the play a discussion was held at the venue.

Chairman of Thakurgaon Municipality Shahed Kamal Chowdhury attended the programme as chief guest and Assistant Superintendent of Police Shafiqul Islam and President of Thakurgaon NGO Cell Rabiul Azam were present as special guests while former School Inspector of Secondary Education Nurun Nahar presided over the discussion.

Namin Begum, coordinator of NGO Cell conducted the programme.

The speakers said incidents of sexual harassment and violence against women have increased in recent months and several girls had taken their lives, driven to the brink by goons.

They said violence and repression against women could not be stopped merely by enforcing laws. Rather awareness is critical to combat this growing social menace.

They said that as the law enforcement agencies alone cannot stop this grave danger to women, the onus rests on every individual to do so. The speakers called for forging a social and political movement to prevent harassment.

Girls should be assured of safety in going to school and college, said the speakers, pointing out that the country, would only progress with women's education.

Merging diverse mediums



The exhibition is a display of watercolours by Sayeeda Kamal, handicrafts by Prokritee, and fashion fabrics by Milita Chowdhury and Swallow.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"The Gallery", a gallery in Gulshan and a newly established art hub, has organised an exhibition titled "Dipanwita", a display of watercolour by Sayeeda Kamal and handicrafts by Prokritee (a group of talented artisans from the rural artisans) and fashion fabrics by Milita Chowdhury and Swallow. The exhibition was inaugurated by advocate Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain-O-Shalish Kendro on November 26.

Sayeeda Kamal, considered an earnest watercolorist, has a passion for portraying natural beauty, quiet environment, greenery and riverine beauty, sailing boats, fishermen and their daily

chores, cloudy skies, and villagers' and their daily activities. The artist's preferred technique is based on smooth wash colours and diverse subtle experimentation. At times, the artist uses thin colours for demonstrating her focused subjects. This method gives a dilute look to her works. She seeks to depict the freshness and simplicity of nature.

Artists usually start to explore their imagination and creativity with the depiction of nature and the sixth seasons of our country. The core reason is that nature's beauty and purity fascinate them emotionally. Sayeed's works are purely realistic with a touch of impressionism. She began her career as a pure nature painter, representing a truly fresh line of beauty in nature with its affluent abundance of colours, shade and light. She also portrays seasonal

changes, soothing landscapes, ponds, green paddy fields in autumn, blooming mustard field in winter, beautiful rainy days, flowers, celebrating harvest season and cloudy skies. She portrays the landscape according to the season's harmony and its personal setting.

At the exhibition, there are also various handicraft items like handmade paper, wrapping paper, greeting cards, picture album, palm leaf, hogla-leaf and various recycled items. Different types of lamps, candles, toys and some fashionable accessories like-- various dresses made of hand spun cotton with natural dyes, banana fibre and pineapple fibre, crochet scarves, bed-sheets, table-cloths and many lifestyle products are also on display.

The exhibition will continue till December 20.