

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Korean Film Fest
 Organiser: Embassy of the Republic of Korea
 Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh
 Date: December 5-11
 Time: 11am onwards
 Dec. 5: 'Forever the Moment', 'Old Partner'



Drawing Exhibition
 Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
 Venue: Gallery Chittrak, 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



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Time and Beyond
 Artist: Hamiduzzaman Khan
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, Rd 16, Sector 4, Uttara
 Date: December 4-15



Remembering two pioneering photographers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

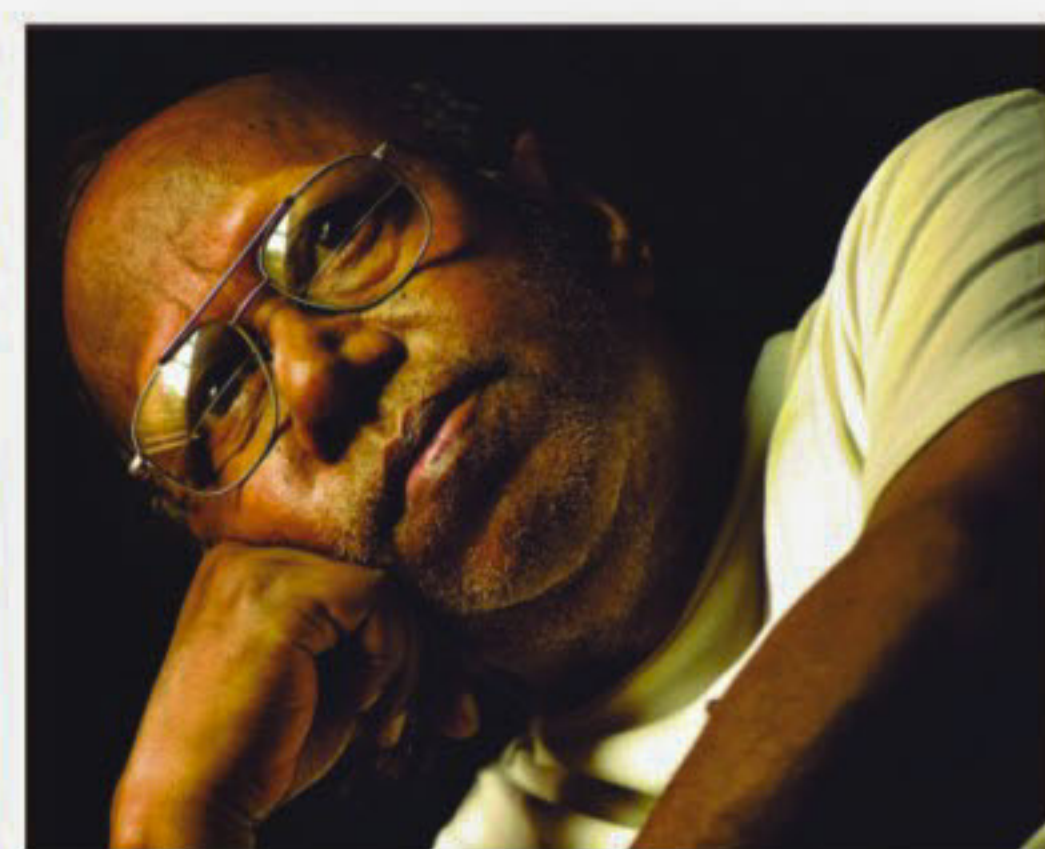
Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts organised a memorial meeting on two pioneering Bangladeshi photographers Naibuddin Ahmed and Nowazesh Ahmed at Bengal Café in Dhanmondi, Dhaka on December 4.

Noted painter Mustafa Monwar; chairman of University Grants Commission Professor Nazrul Islam; noted media personality Aly Zaker; publisher and trustee of Liberation War Museum, Mofidul Haque and Professor Nur Mohammad Talukdar attended the event and spoke on the occasion. The discussants highlighted the works and lives of the photographers.

Naibuddin and Nowazesh Ahmed -- brothers -- started photography in the 1940s.



Naibuddin Ahmed



Nowazesh Ahmed



Mustafa Monwar speaks at the memorial programme.

Speakers at the meeting were of the view that both Naibuddin and Nowazesh made immense contribution to contemporary photography in Bangladesh. They

believed in humanitarianism and were secular by nature. Their photographs reflect the familiar and not-so-familiar images of Bangladesh, which have

become forever imprinted on the souls of people.

Nowazesh was an avid nature lover. He was involved with varied cultural activi-

ties. His passion for photography started when he was just a school student.

Aly Zaker said, "Their works mirrored optimism. Nowazesh taught me a lot

about wild flowers and their classifications. We often went to villages in search of wild flowers."

Mustafa Monwar said, "From 1960 to '64, Naibuddin took many photos of Brahmaputra river and its surroundings. During that time, he worked in Mymensingh. Then he concentrated on his own village Paril, and its tranquil beauty."

Naibuddin and Nowazesh were born at Paril, under Manikganj district. The brothers were mostly known for their landscapes. They focused on typical rural elements like boats, riverbanks, mustard and rice fields, herds of cows, fishermen, potters, women and green horizons.

After the discussion, two documentaries - "Ekki Nokkhotro Jagey" and Nowazesh Ahmed's "Rabindranath-er-Chhinnopetro" -- were screened. "Ekki Nokkhotro Jagey" has been directed by Progga.

Dhaka International Book Fair '10 gets a lukewarm opening



The fair houses over 250 stalls.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the month of victory, Jatiya Grontho Kendra has arranged 'Dhaka International Book Fair 2010' at Dhaka University Gymnasium premises. Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the fair as chief guest on December 1. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique was present as special guest on the occasion.

The fair houses over 250 stalls. Though it is being touted as an "international" event, representation-wise,

only one stall -- by the Office of the Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dhaka -- was found at the fair.

Noted local publishing houses like Friends Book Corner; Dhaka Bishwabidyaloy Prokashona Shongstha; Mawla Brothers; Pathak Samabesh; Rodela; Ityadi Grontho Prokash; Nalanda; Pearl Publication; Oitijhya; Agami Prokashoni; Academic Press and Publishers Limited; Bishwa Shahitya Bhaban; Momo Prokash; Islamic Foundation; Sandesh; Shikha Prokashoni; Gyankosh; Shrabon and Ekushey Bangla have their stalls at the fair.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Reading is a habit that can certainly enlighten a person and such events are expected to generate interest among average and avid readers. Like Ekushey Boi Mela, this fair too offers books on various faculties of knowledge. The turnout of readers is still unimpressive but organisers hope it would pick up soon.

While browsing books at a stall, President of International Theatre Institute (ITI) worldwide Ramendu Majumdar said, "I'm always looking for good books. Autobiographies, books on Liberation War, theatre and essays draw me the most."

Cultural programmes and discussion are being held daily at the fair premises. Last year, Dhaka International Book Fair was held at Suhrawardi Udyan.

"Though Majnu Enterprise has taken the responsibility to manage the fair, they are not providing signboards for our as well as some other stalls," alleged Hossain Ahmed of AH Development Publishing House.

The book fair is open from 11am to 9pm on weekends, and from 2 to 9pm on weekdays. Dhaka International Book Fair 2010 will end on Victory Day (December 16).

TRON LEGACY

A cult classic resurrected

BUZZ

Director Steven Lisberger's sci-fi classic "Tron" is the story of Kevin Flynn (Jeff Bridges), a flesh-and-blood video-game developer, who is sucked physically into a digital universe inhabited by human-looking "programmes". Released in 1982, it was a visionary work.

This was a time when few people spent their working day in the glow of a computer screen, the first bricklike mobile phones were still years away, and the iPad would have seemed a risible fantasy.

Yet Lisberger created a world that plugged into the future-shock of technology and, as a movie, it was a game-changer. "Tron" was a milestone in the development of CGI (computer-generated imagery) and inspired a new approach to filmmaking.

Flynn's adventure in "the Grid" -- a dark, labyrinthine underworld strip lit by humming lines of neon and edged by fantastical geometric landscapes -- involves gladiatorial bouts to the death (the combatants armed with lethal glowing "Frisbees"), and super-fast chases on light-cycles that spin through 90 degrees in a nanosecond. His fate depends on his skills as a videogame whiz.

Among the filmgoers mesmerised by Tron's dazzling, pioneering effects was a wide-eyed schoolboy in Port Talbot, Wales, who recalls the experience with a sense of wonder. "As a 12 year-old coming out of that cinema, I felt as if my world had changed. It was the feeling that you'd been in a whole new world for an hour and a half, and then you come out and you see everything differently -- that's what I had with 'Tron'."

That schoolboy was Michael Sheen, who grew up to be a television and film star, playing, among others, Brian Clough, David Frost, Tony Blair (three times) -- and now Castor, the most memorably outlandish character in the soon-to-be-released sequel to "Tron", "Tron: Legacy".

"Tron: Legacy" is the story of how Sam (Garrett Hedlund), the son of Bridges's character Flynn, enters the world where the father he has never known has been trapped for 20 years. One key sequence is set in The End of Line Club, an exotic nightclub run by Sheen's character, an outrageously camp, narcissistic figure who provides a measure of light relief amid all the light-speed techno-mayhem of the rest of the film.

One of the reasons why it has taken 28 years for this sequel to arrive is that the technology required to produce the film industry's next game-changer is only now becoming available. For instance, "Tron: Legacy" director Joe Kosinski got his hands on 3D cameras even more advanced than those used in James Cameron's 2009 sci-fi epic "Avatar".

It is also significant that many of the Hollywood chiefs who are green-lighting today's blockbusters are, like Sheen, looking back nostalgically to the formative movie experiences of their teenage years.

However, the female lead in "Tron: Legacy" has no memory of the original: Olivia Wilde, who plays the fabulous and feisty "programme" Quorra, was born in 1984.

"It's funny," she says, "because 'Tron' is one of those movies that, even if you haven't seen it, you feel you have. It's made its way into the culture, and it's referenced so often in everything from Daft Punk [the electronic dance-music duo who provide the new film's soundtrack] to TV shows like 'Family Guy'."

"Before the shoot, I watched the original in preparation, and I was completely blown away by it. I thought this is a weird, experimental film that Disney somehow agreed to pay for."

Compiled by Correspondent



"Tron" boasts a digital universe inhabited by human-looking "programmes".

Film Festival ends with demand to restore Suchitra's ancestral home



Iliyas Kanchan speaks at the concluding programme of the festival.

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The weeklong Suchitra Sen Film Festival concluded last Friday with a vow to set up a museum at the ancestral home of the screen legend, which has been unjustly occupied for years. At the concluding programme on

December 3, renowned actors of Bangladesh stressed to generate quality films that would inspire the people.

The concluding programme was chaired by convener of the festival organising committee, Md. Saidul Haque Chunnu. State Minister for Home, Advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku

spoke as the chief guest on the occasion. Noted film actors Razzak and Iliyas Kanchan spoke as special guests.

"Suchitra's ancestral home is a source of pride for people of Pabna. This house must be recovered," Shamsul Haque Tuku said.

Razzak said, "Suchitra Sen excelled in her performances for which people

still hold her close to their hearts." Razzak also said that though Suchitra has decided to live her life out of the limelight, her popularity has not faded.

Lamenting on the present scenario, Razzak said that the film industry has become extremely commercial, thereby losing traditional sensibilities and sensitivity.

Actor Iliyas Kanchan urged the government to provide patronage to the film industry, as it is the leading media that inspires the masses.

"Film is a popular media. In fact it is the only media that has no partisan views. Films motivate people to be patriotic and fight against injustice," said Kanchan.

Among others, Deputy Commissioner Md. Mostafizur Rahman; Pabna Police Superintendent Jahangir Hossain Matobbar; secretary, festival organising committee, Ram Dulal Bhoumik; cultural activists Zakir Hossain and Gopal Shannal spoke on the occasion.

One of Suchitra's more renowned films, "Bipasha", was screened at the concluding programme.