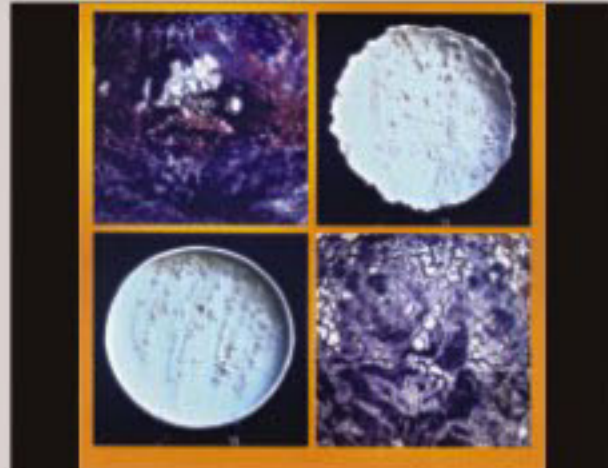


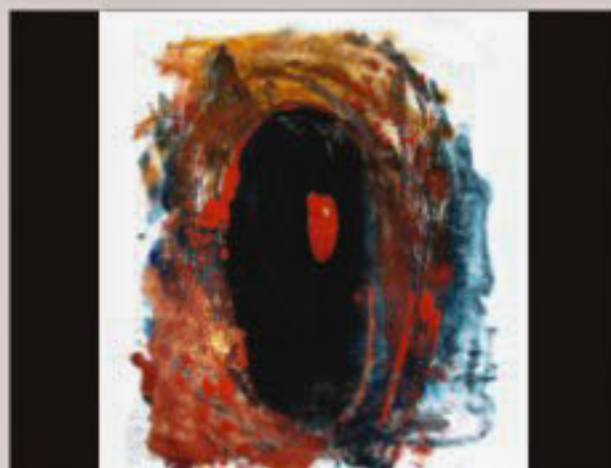
WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Ceramics Exhibition
 Title: Aesthetic Studio Ceramics
 Artist: Syed Shahadat Hussain
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
 Date: December 18-30
 Time: 3-9pm (Monday-Thursday) 9am-12pm & 5-8pm (Friday & Saturday)



Solo Monoprint Exhibition

Title: Seeds
 Artist: Soumyajit Choudhury
 Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-1
 Date: December 22-29
 Time: 10am-8pm (Fridays 3-8pm)



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Hashem Khan
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattoshali Gallery, National Museum
 Date: December 18-January 2
 Time: 12pm-8pm

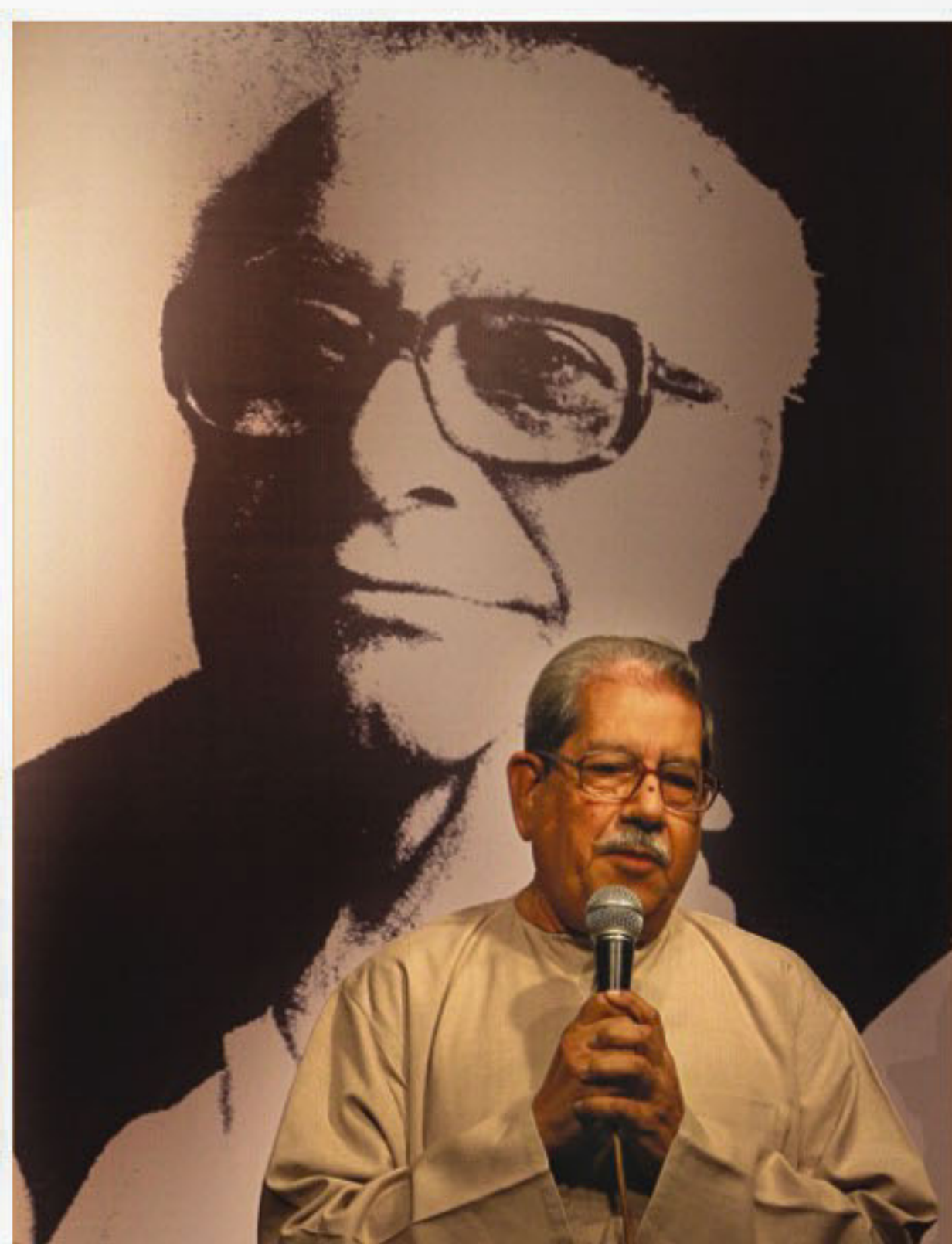


Aerial Photography

Photographer: Yann Arthus-Bertrand
 Organiser: US Bangladesh Foundation and Texeurop
 Venue: South Plaza, National Parliament
 Date: December 19-February 19



Bengal Foundation's Tribute to Kalim Sharafi



ZAHANGIR ALOM

As homage to the recently deceased eminent Rabindra Sangeet artiste Kalim Sharafi, Bengal Foundation arranged a memorial programme at Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi in Dhaka, on December 26.

The programme featured discussions and musical offerings to the memory of the artiste. Professor emeritus Anisuzzaman, litterateur Syed Shamsul Haque and Kalim Sharafi's daughter Aleya Sharafi spoke on the artiste. Noted artistes Mita Haque, Bulbul Islam, Shama Rahman, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, Iffat Ara Dewan, Aleya Sharafi and Mahmudur Rahman Benu rendered Tagore songs at the programme.

"Kalim Sharafi was, is and will be with us all, as he tirelessly worked for the revival of cultural awareness in the country. Certainly, we will not find him in our everyday life; but his philosophy and accomplishments will continue to motivate us," Syed Shamsul Haque said.

"I regard myself fortunate that Kalim Sharafi is my father. He was also my close friend. I cannot imagine that he is not with us any more," Aleya Sharafi said.

"Though born in an Urdu speaking family,

Kalim Sharafi dedicated his whole life to Bengali language, literature and culture. We observe his active presence in both the Language Movement and Liberation War. He wanted to be a doctor but became an extraordinary singer. He was a man with larger-than-life conscience. Through his actions he set examples of how to retain one's identity under a hostile regime," Professor Anisuzzaman said.

Tagore artiste Mita Haque rendered "Koto Ajanarey Janailey Tumi" and "Shudhu Tomar Bani Noi Go". Shama Rahman sang "Asru Nadir Shudur Parey" and "Deep Nibhey Gechhey Momo" as her tribute to Sharafi.

"Nishi Din Bhorosha Rakhish" and "Ami Chanchal Hey" were Bulbul Islam's offerings to the artiste's memory, while Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury performed "Din-er Sheshey Ghumer Deshey" and "Jibon Moroner Shimana Chharaye" at the event.

Aleya Sharafi rendered "Tomar-i Jhorna Tolaye Nirojoney" while Iffat Ara Dewan presented "Aaji Pronami Tomarey" and "Ke Go Antortoro Shey."

Iftexhar Hossen Sohel on keyboard, Almas Ali on violin, Enamul Haque Omar on tabla and Nazmul Alam Jharu on percussion instrumentally assisted the singers.

Professor Anisuzzaman speaks at the programme.



Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury sings a Rabindra Sangeet.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

IMAGES that speak

Five day photography exhibition in Pabna



Visitors at the exhibition.

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A five-day photography exhibition concluded on December 24, with a pledge to eradicate child trafficking across the world. Ajker Projonmo Forum, a photographers' organisation of Pabna, held the exhibition sponsored by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The event was held at the Pabna Town Hall premises. Hundreds of viewers from around the district attended the exhibition. Forty-five photographs on display focused on child trafficking.

"The photographs portrayed how vulnera-

ble children are trafficked out of Bangladesh. The merciless labour of children was also displayed at the exhibition. All of the pictures, which exhibit hard reality, are taken from different parts of the country," said Khaled Hosain Parag, team leader of Ajker Projonmo Forum and the key organiser.

"Through this exhibition we want to generate awareness against child trafficking. We have to work against such social injustices from the personal level," Parag added.

Two documentary films "Ekta Paruler Golpo" and "Nihshabdo Jatra", featuring child trafficking, were showcased at the venue on the concluding day.

Song and celebration Christmas festivities galore

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

To celebrate Christmas a 'Shanti Shubheccha Binimoy' programme was held last Saturday at Thakurgaon Catholic Church.

Deputy Commissioner of Thakurgaon, Muhammad Shahiduzzaman, was chief guest at the programme. Superintendent of Police, BM Harun-ur Rashid, was special guest, while Father of the Church, Antoni Sen, was in the chair.

Professionals such as journalists, teachers, social workers and public representatives

attended the programme.

Among others, journalist Shahin Ferdous and indigenous leader Babul Tigga, addressed the gathering.

At the discussion the speakers were of the view that communal harmony is needed to ensure an ideal society and development of the country. A vibrant cultural programme was held at the same venue.

The cultural programme included religious songs and dances. Local Christian artistes performed at the programme. Cakes were offered among the guests and others who attended the programme.

A town rejoices Weeklong Victory Festival ends

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A weeklong 'Victory Day' festival ended here in Dinajpur recently. The festival included a discussion, cultural programme and a play on the Liberation War.

The festival, held near Dinajpur Shaheed Minar, opened on December 14. The event gathered added significance, since on this day in 1971 Dinajpur town was freed from Pakistani occupation after nine long months of fierce fighting.

The Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner's office organised the festival, where almost all cultural organisation of the district participated, including Udichi and Naborupe.

Jashim Uddin Ahmed, Divisional Commissioner of Rangpur, inaugurated the weeklong

festival as chief guest.

The programme featured a discussion on the Liberation War and its aftermath on a war-torn nation.

Eminent locals including freedom fighters, who witnessed the war at first hand, were discussants.

Professor Dr. M Afzal Hossain, Vice Chancellor of Haji Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU); Md. Jamal Uddin, Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur; Chitta Ghosh, president of Dinajpur Press Club; Rezaur Rahman, general secretary of Dinajpur Udichi, were among the speakers.

The festival also featured cultural programmes and a play everyday. Local artistes of cultural organisations participated in the programme.



Youngsters dance at the festival.

PHOTO: STAR

A day of fun and frolic

Annual festival of Amader Pathshala

A CORRESPONDENT

The underprivileged children of Amader Pathshala had a day of fun, music, and entertainment with Shironamhin, Krishnakali, Shamogee, and Leela at the annual festival of the school on December 25. The vividly decorated school, located in Pallabi, wore a festive look, set off by colourfully attired students. The daylong programme included story telling, painting, singing, drama, and announcement of results of annual examinations.

Members of Amader Pathshala Trust; parents of the students, who are mostly rickshaw pullers or garment workers and the people of surrounding areas attended the programme.

The school children started painting in the morning. To encourage them, a prize was handed out to everyone who came up with a painting. "We teach our students the principle of cooperation as opposed to competition. In other words, if you are a student, you need to do your best rather than worry about doing better than the next person," said Hassan Rubel, the director of Amader Pathshala. "It's really moving to see how the kids feel about each other. A few days ago, I found that a whole band of children were crying because



Shironamhin performs at the event.

PHOTO COURTESY: TASLIMA AKHTER

one boy among them did not do well in the exam," added Ferdous, a senior teacher of the school.

After refreshment was served in the afternoon, the staging of "Pagla Dashu" by students amused the audience.

Popular band Shironamhin rendered some of its most popular numbers after Arup Rahee's band Leela rendered some Lalon songs. Tanzir Tuhin, the vocal of Shironamhin said,

"The success of Amader Pathshala is an example and an encouragement to those who care about a better future for the children." Tuhin added, "It's amazing to see how the community supported school is running without any sponsorship or funding of big corporations. We hope to continue our support for the school in the future."

Krishnakali and Shamogee rendered some songs for the children,

including some of their familiar numbers. Then, Kabial Ajit Sarkar and Bimal Sarkar, with their group from Dinajpur entertained the audience with a performance of their Pala Gaan. They called on the children to work for a society that does not discriminate against women.

All the artistes called on the audience to pull out the stops to support the school.