

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair Venue: Bangla Academy premises Date: February 1-28 Time: 9am onwards

Amar Ekushey Programme Organiser: Sangskritik Jote Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises Date: Feb 8-19 at 4pm everyday

Dui Bangla-r Rabindra Natyomela 2011 Organiser: Prangone More Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA Date: February 12-18 Time: 5:30

Group Art Exhibition Title: Rooted Creativity-8 Venue: Bengali Gallery, 275/F Dhanmondi, Road-16, Dhanmondi Date: February 4-13 Time: 12pm-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition Artist: Mohammad Samis Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7A, H-60, Dhanmondi Date: January 28-February 10 Time: 5pm-8pm

Book Launch Title: Jamana Nader Moshkara Author: Selina Hossain Venue: ICC, H-35, R-24, Gulshan Date: Feb 12, Time: 6:30pm

Sketch Exhibition Title: City of an Architect Artist: Mubshur Rahman Organiser: Debottara Foundation Venue: Asiatic Auditorium, Nimtoli Date: Feb 5-13, Time: 10am-8pm

In Memory of Kalim Sharafi Organiser: Unitrend Limited Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum Date: February 15, Time: 7pm

Call to Promote Proper Bangla Ekushey-special programme by Sangskritik Jote begins

JAMIL MAHMUD

A fortnight-long cultural programme to observe 'Amar Ekushey' (International Mother Language Day) by Shamilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) has begun at the Central Shaheed Minar premises, Dhaka from February 8. Nazrul exponent and noted cultural personality Professor Rafiqul Islam inaugurated the festival.

Cultural activists attended the opening programme, where everyone recalled the significance of Amar Ekushey and focused on practicing Bangla language in every sphere of life, especially at official levels. The ceremony began through homage to the Language Martyrs; flowers were offered at the Shaheed Minar alter and a one-minute silence was observed.

Among others, lawmaker and media personality Asaduzzaman Noor, publisher and Liberation War Museum trustee Mafidul Haque; Gano Sangeet artist Fakir Alamgir; Group Theatre Federation chairman Liaquat Ali Lucky and cultural organiser and convener of the programme Golam Kudus spoke at the



The programme will continue at Shaheed Minar till February 19.

inaugural. Nasiruddin Yousuff, president of SSJ, presided over the session, while Hasan Arif, reciter and general secretary of SSJ, delivered the welcome speech. Reciter Akhamullah read out the programme manifesto. In his speech, Professor Rafiqul Islam criticised the widespread distortion of Bangla language that has become a contemporary trend demonstrated on the FM radio and TV channels. "We don't want the youth of the country to learn and speak this distorted form of Bangla," said Professor Islam.



PHOTO: STAR

Asaduzzaman Noor also criticised the way our mother language. After the inauguration, a cultural programme featuring songs, dances, recitations and a street play was held at the venue. Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste Ashrafur Alam recited 'Ekushey February' (written by Habibullah Siraji). A solo rendition of Rabindranath's patriotic number 'O Aamar Desher Mati' by Lily Islam followed.

Padatik Natya Sangsad staged the street play 'Tribunal'. The play has been directed by Wahidul Islam. Members of the dance organisation Spandan performed dance. Among other artistes and organisations, Chhayanaout, Sangbrita and Nasima Shahin took part at the cultural programme.

Before shifting to the Rabindra Sarobar open stage at Dhanmondi, the programme will continue at the Shaheed Minar premises till February 19. At the Rabindra Sarobar, the programme will be held on February 20 and 21. Everyday the programme will start at 4pm.

BOOK FAIR IN PABNA

Keeping Alive the Spirit of Ekushey

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique underlined the necessity to give priority to the mother tongue over other languages. He was speaking as the chief guest at the Ekushey Book Fair in Pabna. He inaugurated the 15-day fair at Pabna Town Hall premises last Sunday night. Ekushey Book Fair Udjapan Parishad, Pabna has organised the fair. "Come February and we rush to admire our language. But we should remember that the appreciation of our mother tongue is not merely an issue confined to a specific time. Not just in February, but throughout the year we have to

appreciate our mother language," said Arefin Siddique. He also lamented the loss of many mother languages around the world due to lack of support. Taking lessons from the history we have to be aware and keep our language intact with proper values, he added. President of the Ekushey Book Fair Udjapan Parishad, Pabna, agriculturist Zafar Sadeque chaired the inaugural programme, while former Justice Golam Rabbani also spoke on the occasion. Rabbani called upon Bangladeshis to ensure a secular country in the spirit of the Liberation War and disseminate the spirit of Ekushey towards this end.

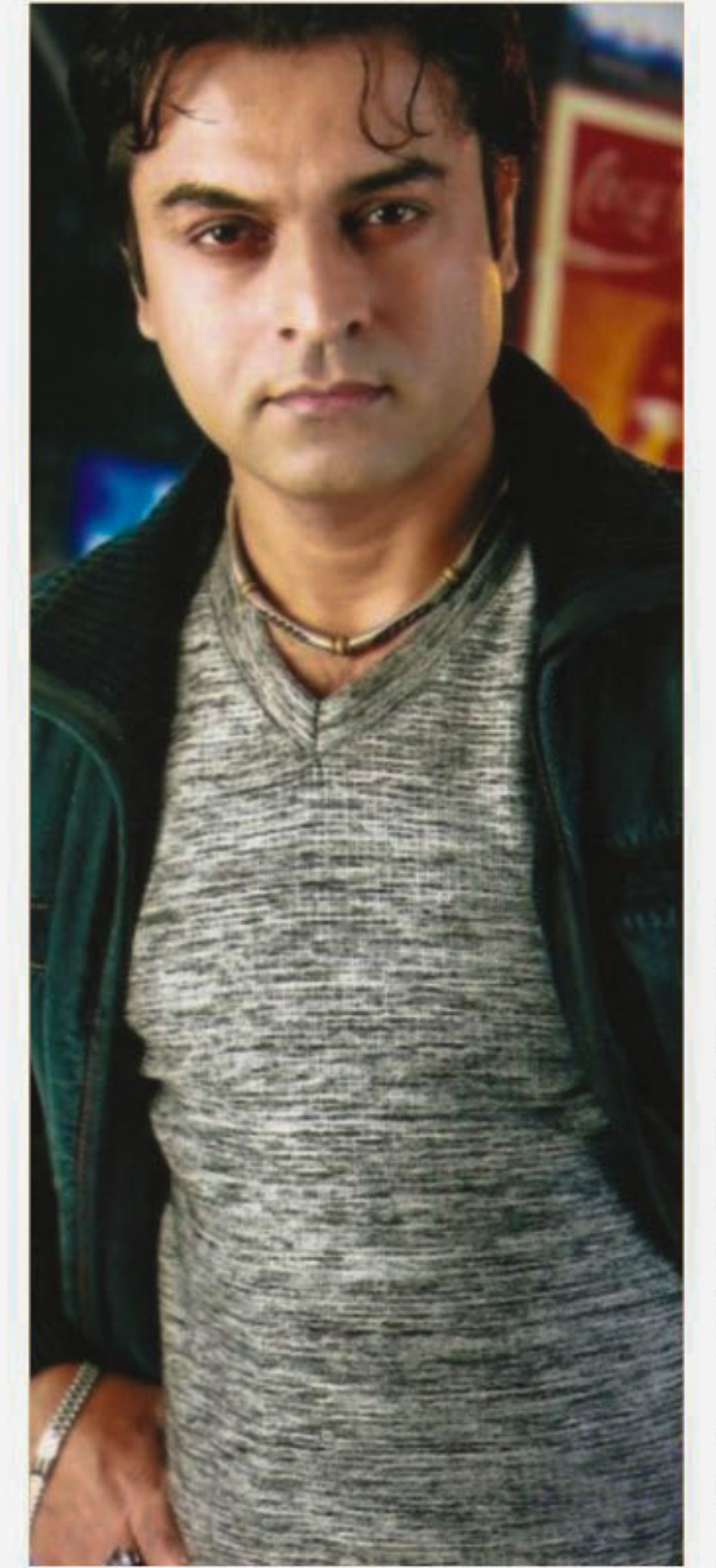
Among others, Professor of DU Mokaddem Hossain; Deputy Commissioner, Pabna, Mostafizur Rahman; veteran educationist Professor Mohammad Nurunnabi; adviser to the Udjapan parishad Mohammad Saidul Haque Chinnur; managing director of Universal group Sohani Hossain and cultural organiser Gopal Shannal spoke on the occasion. The speakers urged the people keep alive the values of Ekushey for the cultural development of the nation. Twenty seven stalls have been set up at the fair premise this year. There are 20 new books by young writers of Pabna which have been published targeting the book fair.



Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique (R) inaugurates the book fair in Pabna. Golam Rabbani (Back) is also seen in the photo.

PHOTO: STAR

Suvro Dev's Musical Link to Bangladeshi Cricket



ZAHANGIR ALAM

achieved test status. Bangladesh Cricket Board adopted 'Char Maro Maro Rey, Chhokka Maro Maro Rey' as their theme song. Shahidul Azam wrote the song while the number was composed and recorded by the artiste. In the same year (2000) the song "How's that" was the theme song of Asia Cup Cricket that was also held in Dhaka. Shahidul Azam wrote the song and Suvro Dev composed and rendered the song. Written by Shahidul Azam, Suvro Dev composed and recorded the song "Bangladesh Jegey Otho, Bangladesh Gorjey Otho" that was launched in ninth World Cup Cricket in 2007.

All the music videos of the songs were done by Rommo Rahim. Now 2011 is the glorious year for Bangladesh as the country is hosting the 10th World Cup Cricket on her soil. The gala opening ceremony is all set to kick off on February 17. The first match between Bangladesh and India will follow on February 19. This time Suvro Dev composed and rendered a song removing all his previous renditions on cricket, while Chairman of ATN Bangla Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman added several lines like "Joy Chhinye Ano Rey...Bangladesher Tiger Ra Joy Chhinye Ano Rey" and excerpts that fuel patriotic passion that eulogise our sublime Liberation War and martyrs of the soil. The music video of the song will go on air on different electronic media soon. Presently, Suvro Dev is the director of ATN Music.

Mini Input 2011 Best TV shows from around the world to be screened at Goethe-Institut

INPUT (International Public Television) is the biggest television organisation in the world. It has been organising international television's most important and influential annual screening conferences for over 25 years -- held in a different country each year, encouraging the development of public service television by screening, promoting discussion and debating about the television craft. The second Mini Input, a miniature version of the programme, will be held at the Goethe-Institut Auditorium, Dhaka on February 11 and 12, according to a press release. The programme is being hosted by Multimedia Development and Communication Centre (MDCC) and Goethe-Institut Bangladesh. The event will be inaugurated by Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Information and Culture. Sergio Borelli, co-founder of INPUT will be present as special guest.

Mini Input Dhaka 2011 will feature various programmes from different countries followed by post screening discussions. The programmes include "The Warning" (USA), "Famine Scam" (Norway), "The Quatraro Mystery" (Denmark), "Tulia Texas" (USA) "The Erection Man" (The Netherlands) and "Rabbits a la Berlin" (Germany), to be aired on the first day. The second day's screening will include "Contact" (Australia / France), "Also Tested on Humans" (Belgium), "The Child, the Death and the Truth" (Germany), "Make the Politicians Work" (Canada), "The Woman of Brukman" (Canada), "Connected" (Israel) "Goldfish" (Japan) and "China Blues" (USA). Everyday screening will start at 10am. Input 2011 will be held in Seoul, South Korea in May 2011.

Source: BBC

Zeenat Rehana's Comeback Veteran artiste's latest project features golden oldies



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To re-popularise the songs of the '60s and '70s for posterity, noted singer Zeenat Rahana has recently recorded 17 songs on two separate CDs, "Smriti Thekey" and "Songs To Remember." Zeenat is the daughter of Zebunnessa Jamal, an outstanding lyricist of Bangladesh who obtained the Nagendranath Gold Medal from the Calcutta University in Bengali literature. Jamal was a lyricist with a profound aesthetic sense, reflected in the romantic songs written by her. She proved that romantic songs can be written without going into obvious expressions. Her songs had magic and the ability to touch people's hearts. Both radio and television have contributed in promoting unforgettable songs in Bangladesh and abroad. Though the late '60s are referred to as the 'golden era of music' in Bangladesh, unfortunately, at that time radio and television had no mechanism to preserve those songs. Zeenat has been a part of the Bangladeshi music scene for over four decades. Her two new

CDs, besides taking the listener down memory lane, represent a great initiative. The album "Smriti Thekey" incorporates Zebunnessa Jamal's eight songs: "Shudhu Ekbar Ogo Bondhu", "Elo Ki Phirey Abar", "Ei Mon Jodi Konodin", "Tumi Bolo Abar Keno", "O Naam Na Jana Pakhi", "Ami Ei Tho Pashey", "Ei Shondhya Hobei Ki Britha" and "Janina Keno Raat-er Chokhey". Rooptanu has arranged music for the album.

"Songs To Remember" is a tribute to the renowned composer Karim Sahabuddin. The repertoire of the album includes nine Urdu ghazals. Sumon Reza Khan, Muntakim Chowdhury and Rooptanu have arranged music for the album.

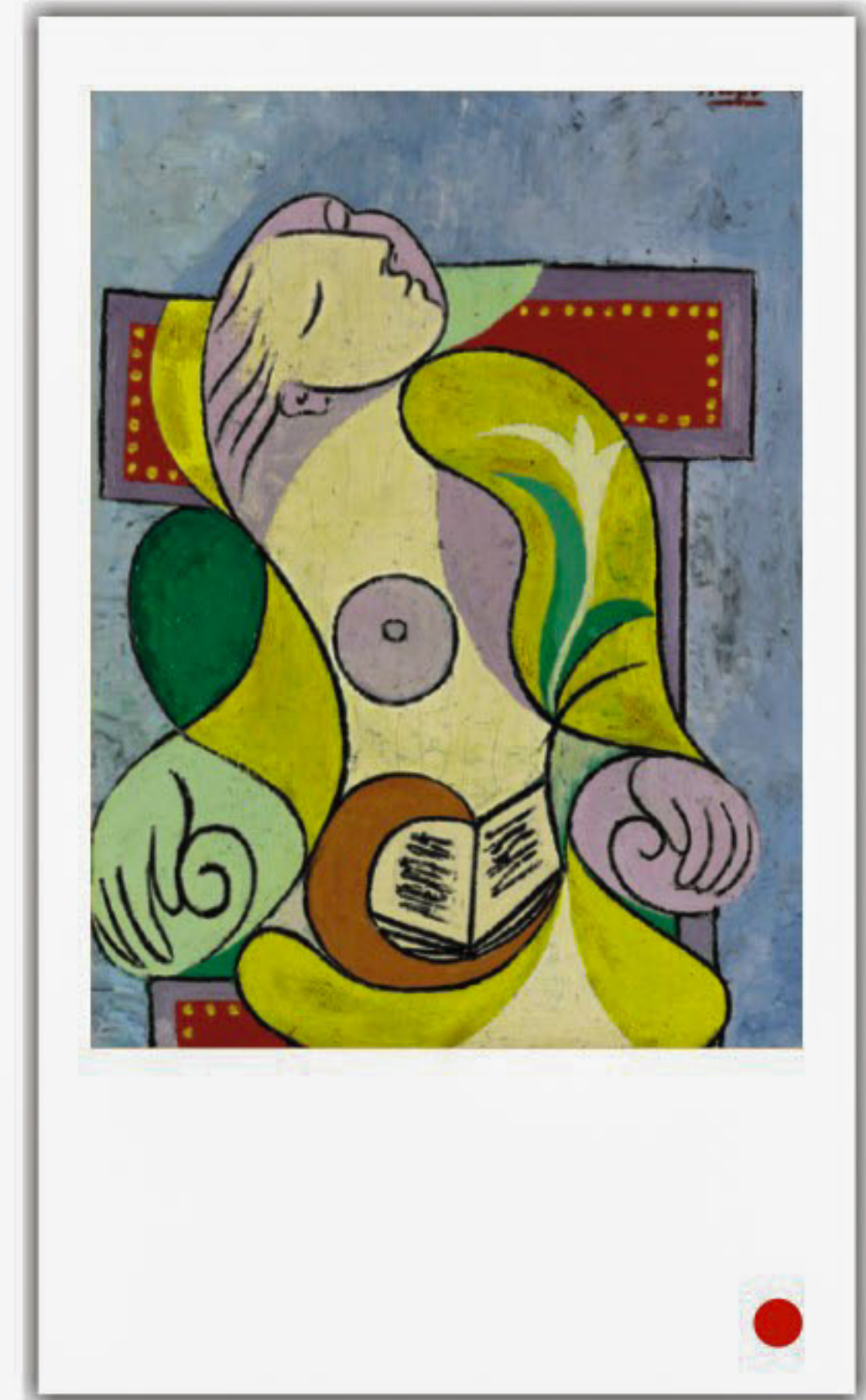
"My objective is to make the songs available to the present and future generations looking for melodious, romantic songs by music directors like Karim Sahabuddin who tuned the superb song "Sagor Teer Thekey" [written by Zebunnessa Jamal]," said Zeenat.

Under Fahim Music's banner, Eastern Bank Limited has sponsored the albums.



Picasso Painting La Lecture Fetches \$40m at Auction

A portrait of the muse who transformed painter Pablo Picasso's life has sold for \$25.2m (\$40.7m) at Sotheby's auction house in London.



The masterpiece depicts Picasso's secret lover, Marie-Therese Walter, who was 17 when Picasso, then 45, met her in Paris for the first time. Their relationship was kept secret for many years because of her age and because Picasso was married. Walter later said she had never heard of the artist when he first approached her saying: "I am Picasso-- you and I are going to do great things together." Until La Lecture was painted, Walter had only appeared in Picasso's works in code with her features often embedded in the background of his paintings. It was when the picture was exhibited at a Picasso retrospective that the artist's wife, Olga Khokhlova, realised there was another woman in his life and their marriage subsequently broke up. Walter later had a daughter, Maya, with Picasso. Walter inspired a number of works including La Reve as well as Nude, Green Leaves and Bust, both painted in 1932.

Art Exhibition at Faculty of Fine Arts

An education exchange programme between Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) and Slade School of Fine Arts, UCL, London was held recently at FFA. As part of the programme, a five day workshop, titled "Shaping the Space Between", was held at FFA. The workshop began on February 2 and continued till February 7. John Aiken, Professor, Slade School of Fine Arts, London was the coordinator of the workshop. A total of 12 students from Drawing and Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Ceramics, Graphics and Oriental departments [of FFA] participated at the workshop. The participating students worked in different mediums.

As part of the workshop, a two-day art exhibition is now on at the second floor of Sculpture Department, featuring works of the participating students. The exhibition opened yesterday and will end today.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Harunur Rashid; teachers of FFA and senior officials of British Council in Dhaka, among others, attended the inaugural session. John Aiken was born in Belfast in 1950, and studied at the Chelsea School of Art, London, from 1968 to 73. Aiken has been awarded many commissions, including a 40 meter frieze in Belfast City Hospital, a steel sculpture for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and a sculpture for St Anne's Park, Belfast. He is currently a Slade Professor-Director.

A Unique Fusion Assamese dance and Rabindra Sangeet

KAVITA, New Delhi

Leave politics aside, there are happy tidings on North East India's cultural front. Just one case in pointa recent two-day festival of arts from the banks of the Brahmaputra in New Delhi which brought together classical, folk and tribal dances from Assam state in North East of India and that too accompanied by Rabindra Sangeet. The dances, staged courtesy the Nagoan-based Antara Kalakendra, were choreographed by the talented Mandira Bhattacharjee, who runs the school. A taste of things to come was the graceful opening item, Sattriya, a classical dance of Assam. Interestingly, the traditional form of performing Sattriya dance was seen in the Vaishnavite monasteries (sattras) by male monks called Bhokots. Over a passage of time modifications were made in the original form and the dance is now performed on the stages of Kala Kendras and the likes. The show stealers were, without doubt, dances performed by the Karbi, Bhortal and Bodo ethnic groups of Assam. One of the Karbi dances showcased the traditional harvest festival of Karbi Ablong district in Assam. The festival was authentically represented as joyous dance was followed by the dancers sitting down to feast on Karbi wine and food. Another typical

Karbi dance, performed at weddings and other auspicious occasions, saw the dancers take magnificent leaps in the air, holding aloft gleaming swords and shields. Many claps were reserved for the Bhortal dance which centred on a woman balancing brass plates on various parts of her body. The Bodo dance was a powerful representation of another harvest festival. Here women with their tresses flowing and wielding swords gave a superb demonstration of woman power. Imagine the challenges that lay before choreographer Mandira: distinctive costumes, make up and music for each of the ethnic groups. What made her task even harder was the use of folk instruments to play Tagore songs. However as the evening progressed the dances and Tagore songs unravelled seamlessly, a combination which can often be jarring. Says Mandira who lives in Guwahati, Assam, "Each indigenous community has different dances and folk instruments. They rarely mix with each other." It was also an uphill task, she adds, to retain the original flavour of Rabindra Sangeet played with folk instruments. The performance over, Sattriya and Bharatanatyam dancer Mandira has a grouse about the lack of patronage. However, with more such performances, neglected North East dances could well enter the mainstream.



A vignette from the programme. PHOTO COURTESY: AMIT BHATTACHARYA

Table with TV programme listings for ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ntv, and BOISHAKHI TV.

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