

WHAT'S ON

Folk Festival To Mark Woeherul Haque birth anniversary... Title: Deb Ghore Gan Venue: Sakhalia, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU Date: March 16 at 7pm onwards

Documentary Premiere Documentary: The Speech Venue: TSC Auditorium, DU Date: March 15 at 6pm

Musical Soiree Title: Praser Kheba Artists: Rinat Faizla, Yasmin Mushtak & Bizan Chandra Mistry Venue: Bangla Shikhalpa, H-27/SK, R6-27 (Old), Dharamondi Date: March 15, Time: 7pm

Exhibition Title: Peace Women Across the Globe, Peace Women Across Bangladesh Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dharamondi Date: March 8-19

Solo Photography Exhibition Photographer: Nazmuzzaman Prince Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dharamondi Date: March 25- April 6

Hindustani Classical Musical Soiree Artist: Padma Vibhushan Pandit Jasraj Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA, Date: March 16, Time: 6:30pm

Theatre Play: Bhramadhyasagar Troupe: Oboyob Natyadal Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: March 17 at 7pm

Srijonshil Taruner Natyaproskash Venue: Natyomandol, Dhaka University Date: March 1-15 Time: 6:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition Artist: Musshida Azra Alpina Title: Contemplation Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A Dharamondi Date: March 4-16

Baul Samrat Remembered

Shah Abdul Karim Festival in Sunamganj Ends

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The two-day folk music festival marking Shah Abdul Karim's birth anniversary ended at his village Ujon Dhol, in Sunamganj district, in the early hours yesterday. Thousands of people from neighbouring areas enjoyed the concluding day's presentations.

At the concluding function, the bard's son Shah Noor Jalal thanked the audience and organisers for arranging the programme. The function began with a rendition of the mystical bard's popular song "Kemoney Bhulibo Ami".

At the programme yesterday, bauls from different areas rendered Karim's songs one after another, including "Gari Cholena", "Agey Ki Shundor Din Kaitaim", "Bondhey Maya Lagaise", "Keno Piriti Baralere Bondhu" etc.

Bauls including Abdur Rahman, Ramesh Thakur, Bashir Uddin Sarker, Maya Rani Sarker, Haripodo Das, Khadija Akhtar, Anwar Reza, Dukhu Miah, Anik Hasan, Happy Rani Dhar, Rony Chakrabarty, Sheuli Chowdhury, Shah Abdul Toahed, Abdul Quaiyum and Billal Uddin performed at the programme.

Sharfuddin and Nazrul Islam conducted the function.

Banglalink sponsored the festival. Born on February 15, 1916, Shah Abdul Karim led a very simple life. Growing up in hardship, he began to express his thoughts and emotions in songs from a young age. He was awarded the Ekushey Podok in the year 2001 for his outstanding musical achievements.

The bard, known as 'Baul Samrat' died on September 12, 2009.



Singers perform at the programme.



DHAKA UNIVERSITY THEATRE FEST Hemingway Classic OLD MAN AND THE SEA Staged

JAMIL MAHMUD

The fortnight-long theatre festival by the Department of Theatre, Dhaka University has reached its final phase. On March 12, an adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's overly familiar work "The Old Man and the Sea" was staged.

The play, translated by Ahmed Abdullah, was directed by Imam Abdullah Hakim. The innovatively designed set took almost half of the space of the small Natmandal auditorium, limiting seating capacity. However, the full-house seemingly enjoyed the show till the end.

"The Old Man and the Sea", for which Hemingway won the Nobel Prize in Literature [1954], was written in Cuba [1951]. It was the last major work of fiction pro-

duced by the American author. One of Hemingway's most famous works, "The Old Man and the Sea", zooms in on an elderly Cuban fisherman named Santiago, who struggles with a giant fish in the deep sea.

The play becomes an epic battle between the weathered, experienced Santiago and a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream -- symbolising man's eternal struggle against the natural world.

Though the novel features few characters, the director opted to feature only the leading duo -- Santiago and his young follower Manolin.

The play opens with Santiago at seas; he has gone 84 days without catching any fish. He is so unlucky that Manolin has been told by his parents not to sail with

the old man. Still dedicated to the old man, however, Manolin visits Santiago each night, getting him food and discussing many things. Santiago tells Manolin that the next day he will venture far out into the sea to fish, confident that his unlucky streak is near its end.

Thus the epic battle begins, when on the eighty-fifth day Santiago sets out alone, taking his little boat far into the sea. By noon, a big fish takes his bait. The battle between the old man and the marlin is the most significant and thrilling part of the play. The director depicts it through positioning the protagonist on a tiny boat at the centre of the stage, which at times moves from one corner to another. Amitav Roy, as the protagonist, gave a stunning effort to

articulate the old man's struggle. But at times the dialogue took away some of that seriousness.

While Santiago tries to make his way to the shore with his prize, sharks attack the fish. Santiago kills some of them and many others are driven away. But the sharks keep coming, and by nightfall the sharks manage to devour the fish, leaving just the skeleton.

The director almost single-handedly designed the play, as he also did with the set, light, costume and music. Instead of sound of waves, he chose theatrical score as the background music during the battle between the old man and the giant fish.

Tarique Ibrahim played as the young apprentice Manolin.

Chronicles of Change

"Ogni O Jol", a collection of short stories, launched

A CORRESPONDENT

"Ogni O Jol: Rupanter Golpo", a collection of eleven short stories by Selina Hossain, Audity Falguni, Shahnaz Munni, Jharna Rahman, Papree Rahman, Moni Haider, Tanvir Malik, Munasir Kamal and others, has been published by Mowla Brothers and BRAC University Press. Edited by poet-writer Shamim Azad, the book is unique in its articulation of change in women's lives and the ways the authors have transformed case studies into fiction.

Stories in the book were inspired by case studies

conducted as part of the Stories4Change Writing Project attended by all the writers. This project was implemented by the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme at BRAC Development Institute. During October-November 2010, the Stories4Change project organised a series of creative writing workshops facilitated by Shamim Azad, during which the writers worked on these case studies and transformed them into fiction.

All the writers who contributed to "Ogni O Jol" were present at the book launch held at Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University on March 12. Alongside

young writers, renowned litterateur Selina Hossain shared her experiences at the event. The programme featured reading out excerpts from the book, songs, as well as screening clips of the creative writing process that produced these stories. The book was launched by Ruby Rahman, poet and MP. Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, was present on the occasion as

special guest. Dr. Syed M. Hashemi, director of BDI, spoke on the occasion and Ahmed Mahmud Huq from Mowla Brothers shared the publisher's perspective on the book.

A set of six Bangla booklets, titled "Narir Khomotoyom: Poribortone Gotipoh" was also launched at the event. The reports in these booklets present some of the research that inspired the stories in "Ogni O Jol".



Rabirag Performs in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet



Sadi Mohammad (centre) and other artistes of Rabirag perform in Sylhet.

Artists of Rabirag, Dhaka kept a packed audience captivated for over two hours at Sylhet Auditorium on March 10. This was Sadi Mohammad and his group's first ever performance in the north-eastern city. The programme, titled "Kobi Bondona", was arranged in observance of Tagore's 150th birth anniversary.

The renditions started with "Nil Digonte" in a chorus led by Sadi and others.

Other songs rendered at the event included, "Amar Mon Manena", "Kanna Hashir Dol Dolano", "Tumi Ektu Kebol Boshthey Diyo", "The Puno Dhonyo Koro", "Mor Bina Othey Kon Shurey Baji", "Ebar Tor Mora Garey", "Ami Tomar Shongey Bedhechi" and "Anoneter Pongey".

Rana Kumar Sinha, head of local organisation Anandaloke, rendered "Akash Bhora Shurjo Tara". Sadi informed the audience that they would be in Sylhet with their presentations again in the near future.

Songs of the Soil

Three-day Baul Festival concludes



Pagla Babul sings at the programme.

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A three-day Baul Festival concluded in Pabna on March 12 with a call for the preservation of folk traditions. A round of discussions focused on the literary work of the three folk legends Lalon Shah, Kargal Harinath, and Meser Shah. A reception was also organised for the prominent folk singers of the country.

The festival, titled "Matir Taney Baul Gaan-er", organised by Gonoshilpi Shangstha, opened at Pabna Town Hall premises. To mark the occasion, a rally set out from the Town Hall, paraded through the main streets of the district head-

rated the festival. The concluding day's discussion was chaired by Professor Shibojit Nag, president of Gonoshilpi Shangstha's regional committee. Dr. Sarwar Jahan Fayaz, a folk researcher, discussed the life and literature of Meser Shah.

Earlier, at the opening programme Professor Mohammad Monwar Hossain Jahedi and Advocate Shafikul Islam Shibli spoke about the songs of Fakir Lalon Shah, while Professor Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Dr. AKM Sirajul Islam and Dr. Samsul Bari spoke about the literary work of Kargal Harinath on Friday.

The speakers stressed the value and power of Bengali folk art. The songs of Lalon, Harinath, Hason Raja, Meser Shah and Shah Abdul Karim are close to our hearts. We have to preserve these songs. Among the renowned folk artists, Pagla Babul and his team from Lalon Practice Centre, Dhaka; Baul Salim and his group and the artists of Gonoshilpi Shangstha performed at the event. The artists performed the lilting folk music, using local instruments.

Professor Shibojit Nag, president of Gonoshilpi Shangstha's regional committee and a key organiser of the festival, said that while Bengalis love folk art, they are fast losing their rich heritage due to lack of support. However, steps are being taken to restore our heritage.

ENRIQUE IGLESIAS to Collaborate with SUNIDHI CHAUHAN



Latin pop icon Enrique Iglesias is teaming up with Bollywood's versatile singer Sunidhi Chauhan to record his first ever collaboration with an Indian artiste.



Enrique, whose albums have sold over half a million copies in India, making him the highest selling international artiste in the country, is fresh off the success of his latest studio album "Euphoria", which has spawned the worldwide hit "I Like It", featuring Pitbull.

The duet with Sunidhi will include Hindi lyrics. "I have always appreciated Enrique's music," Sunidhi said. "It's from the soul, be it his Spanish or English work. So when I was offered to collaborate with him by Universal Music India and composer Shameer Tandon, who is a good friend of mine, I accepted it happily. I am glad we are collaborating on a track from his successful latest album Euphoria."



Their timing couldn't have been better. The duo are the only famous flautists in the Hindustani classical music firmament though women do play the bansuri in the Carnatic music tradition of South India. What's more, Suchismita and Debopriya have trained under famous guru, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia for 15 years now.

The sisters' story goes back to their childhood. Though the obvious choice for women was singing or dancing at the time, Suchismita and Debopriya Chatterjee's parents encouraged them to play a different tune. The choice of vocation was easy to understand. Their parents were musicians in Allahabad.

The sisters first began training under Pandit Bholanath Prasanna and later went on to take flute lessons from the Mumbai-based Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia. Their guru happened to be acquainted with the young girls' parents and that may explain how they came to take lessons from Prasanna and Chaurasia.

Table of TV and radio programmes including ATN Bangla, Channel I, Banglavision, Desh TV, and Boishakhi TV.

Table of Drama Series including Makbul, Parpar, Shogunbazar, Maar Chhokka, and Darshak-er Golpo.

Table of News Bulletin programmes including News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, News (English) at 10:00am, and News (Bangla) at 7:30am.

Table of Talk Show programmes including Tanelap, Our Democracy, Front Line, and How's That.