

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition Title: Standard Chartered Sreejoni 2010 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi Date: April 1-10

Mukh O Mukhosh 3 Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, S-4, Uttara Date: March 26-April 6 Time: 11am-7:30pm

Grand Group Art exhibition Venue: Saju Art Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2 Date: April 1-30 Time: 10am-8pm

Rooted Creativity-9 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, R-16, Dhanmondi Date: March 22-31 Time: 12pm-9pm

Theatre Play: Et'Yeokaste Troupe: Anamik Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: April 1 Time: 6:15pm and 7:30pm

Photography Exhibition Title: In Search Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi Date: March 25-April 6

Group Installation Show Title: Dhaka Seeks Solitude Venue: Goethe Institut, H-10, R-9, Dhanmondi Date: Mar 18-Apr 7 Time: 11am-8pm

Contemporary Australian Art Exhibition Title: BALGO Venue: Gallery Cosmos, 69/1, New Circular Road, Malibagh Date: April 1-13

World Theatre Day Celebration in Dhaka



(Clockwise from top left): Sitara Ahsanullah receives the World Theatre Day award on behalf of Bangladesh Mahila Samity; a scene from the play "Karna Kunti Sangbad"; Laisa Ahmed Lisa sings and Hasan Azizul Haque speaks at the programme.

delivered the keynote speech on the occasion. Theatre exponents Ataur Rahman and Mamunur Rashid; Director General of BSA Kamal Lohani; Chairman of BGTF Liakat Ali Lucky; Secretary General of BGTF Jhuma Chowdhury; Director of Department of Drama, BSA Sara Ara Mahmud and convener of this year's programme Kamal Bayezid spoke on the occasion. ITI Bangladesh Centre President Ataur Rahman presided over the discussion.

Mofidul Haque also handed over several copies of the international publication, titled "World of Theatre" to Ataur Rahman, Hasan Azizul Haque and Liakat Ali Lucky. The book "World of Theatre" was published from Paris, France on March 26 on the occasion of World Theatre Day.

In his keynote speech Hasan Azizul Haque elaborately discussed the history of theatre in this part of the world. In his speech, he credited dedicated theatre exponents and personalities for their outstanding contribution to the theatre movement in post-Liberation War Bangladesh. He also outlined the tasks that need to be carried out by theatre activists in the days ahead.

This year the organisers bestowed Bangladesh Mahila Samity (BMS) with the World Theatre Day honour. President of BMS Sitara Ahsanullah received the award on behalf of the Samity.

Tagore singers Bulbul Islam and Laisa Ahmed Lisa performed solo, while noted choreographers Sharmila Bandyopadhyay and Tamanna Rahman with their troupes presented dances at the cultural programme. Directed by Ataur Rahman, artistes of Nagarik Natya Sampraday staged the Tagore play "Karna Kunti Sangbad" at the event.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Theatre Day was observed across the globe on March 27. To mark the day in our country, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), in association with International Theatre Institute, Bangladesh Patho Natok Parishad and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) jointly arranged a day-long programme on March 27 at National Theatre Hall, BSA.

The programme included a procession, discussion where the official message was read out and a vibrant cultural programme.

Noted actor and theatre activist Lucky Enam read out the official message of this year by Ugandan dramatist, director, actor and university teacher Jessica A. Kawa. Writer, publisher and one of the trustees of the Liberation War Museum Mofidul Haque translated the message into Bangla.

Renowned litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque



Paper Crafts Big Draw at Mymensingh Industry and Trade Fair

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Handicrafts skillfully fashioned out of paper are a major attraction for visitors at the month-long 'Mymensingh Industry and Trade Fair' at Kachari Ferry Ghat area in the town.

Gulu Handicrafts, a shop which displays beautifully decorated paper-made items such as flower vases, coffee tables, pen stands and decorative items, has the largest number of visitors.

Rashidul Islam, sales executive of Gulu Handicrafts asserted that although the company has displayed its products for the first time in Mymensingh, the turnout of visitors is very impressive.



A total of 110 stalls including handicraft shops have been set up at the fair.

Proprietor of the initiative Abul Kalam told this correspondent that he has around 50 women employees and strives to popularise the craft by attending such fairs in different parts of the country.

Anwar Hossain, a school teacher who visited the fair with his family

members, said that the craft had great potential as the items are attractive and priced reasonably. Nargis Sharmin, a housewife was of the opinion that the craft could become a lucrative cottage industry in the future if people could be oriented towards such products.



PHOTO: STAR

A total of 110 stalls including handicraft shops have been set up at the fair. Diamond Ceramics, from Bikrampur, reported good sales. Abdur Rahim and Abul Kalam, salesmen at the stall, said that the company is participating for the second time at the fair. They

are hopeful of good sales this year, they added.

The fair began on March 1. Organised by Mela Enterprise Ltd., the fair was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Lokman Hossain Miah, as chief guest.

Among others, Mayor of Mymensingh municipality, Ekramul Haque Titu; Commander of Muktiyoddah District Command Nazim Uddin Ahmed and secretary of Mymensingh Press Club Ataul Karim Khokon attended the programme. Managing director of Mela Enterprise Mujibur Rahman Belal presided over the event.

"The rush of visitors encourages us to organise such fairs in the future," said Belal.

Literary Conference and Book Fair in Satkhira

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

The three-day long Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Biennial Sahitya Sammelan (literary conference) and book fair were held recently at Nalta Ahsania Mission Residential College premises in Kaliganj upazila. The event generated much great enthusiasm in the area.

Satkhira Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Abdus Samad inaugurated the conference as chief guest.

The conference and book fair were organised by Kachi-Kachar Mela, an organisation floated by the local people to promote literary and cultural activities among children.

Chaired by Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Toufique-E Elahi Chowdhury; Satkhira Zila Parishad chief executive officer Delwar Haider; Jatiya Kabita Parishad president and

general secretary Poet Habibullah Siraji and poet Aslam Sani; Indian poets Dr Amitabh Chakraborty, Dr Kanai Sen and Shefal Chakraborty and Nalta Central Ahsania Mission general secretary Abdul Mazid were the special guests.

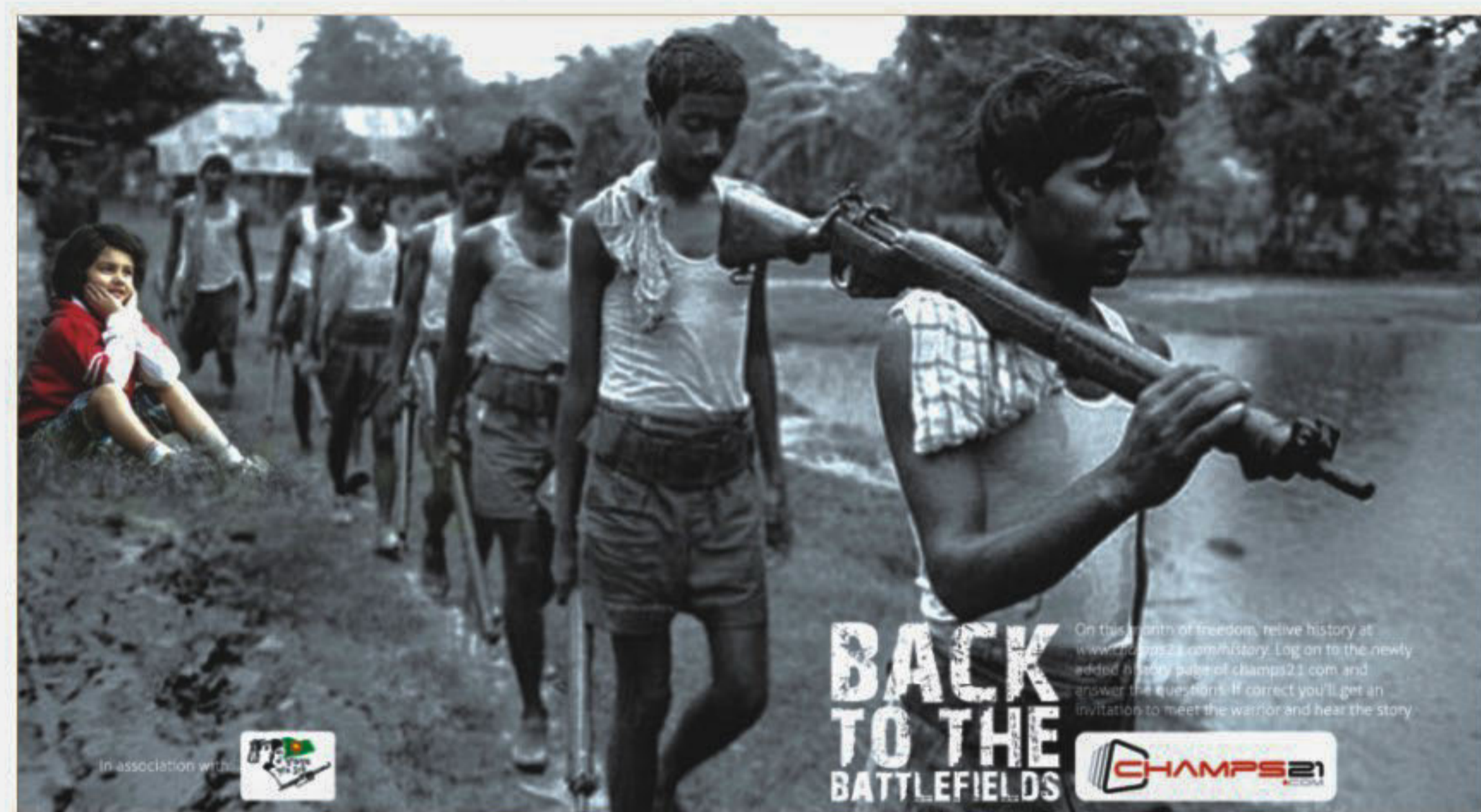
The speakers were of the view that no nation can develop without the acquisition of knowledge and literary conferences are a means to this end. Literature inspires people towards patriotism.

They asserted that literature inspired people to take part in the struggle for independence and helped realise the dream of the Language Martyrs in 1952 by establishing Bangla as the mother language. Literature also awakens the conscience of humanity, they added.

A cultural function was also held at the event.

Getting Youngsters Acquainted with History

Champs21 reaches out to school students with Dekhbo Ami Ekattor



A CORRESPONDENT

Fahim, a student of Sunbeams wondered on his way to school as to what actually happened during 'Operation Searchlight'. He came across the term while watching TV the previous night.

Not only Fahim, but many children in our country are yet to learn about the real history of the Liberation War. Champs21, country's first online learning service, is offering an exciting opportunity for them. School students from all over Dhaka can meet and interact with freedom fighters at Liberation War Museum, from today (March 29) to March 31. The heroes will share their experiences

during the nine months of war. Principals of several schools appreciated this noble initiative by referring to it as a "great opportunity for young minds to get acquainted with history from the makers themselves."

Apart from this event, Champs21 has also introduced on their website a special section named "Dekhbo Ami Ekattor" which has been dedicated to the history of the Bengali nation. Future nation-builders now have access to pictures, stories, videos, and exciting games on the Liberation War thanks to www.champs21.com.

Zafreen Hossain, a teacher at HURDCO International School says, "It is a matter of great pride

that we have achieved so much as a nation thanks to the Liberation War. Such initiatives by Champs21 will help impart that feeling of pride for our homeland on our children."

Students are encouraged to log onto www.champs21.com/71 to register for the event. Champs21 authority informed that the seats are limited and will be assigned on "first come-first served" basis.

Champs21 aims to use the power of internet and information technology to inspire the new generation towards building a more patriotic, smarter and responsible nation and the programme "Dekhbo Ami Ekattor" is a step closer to the goal.

Musical Delight

Dol Purnima festival in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

The 23-day long Dol Purnima festival ended recently at Anandamaye Kalibari in Manikganj with much festivity. The programmes included Kobi Gaan, Ramayan Gaan, Ashtakalin Leela Kirtan, Namsudha, and Krishna Leela.

Artists of Nityananda Krishnaleela Party of Bijonagar, Manikganj staged Krishna Leela. Krishna Gopal Sarker and Ranjit Sarker staged Kobi Gaan and Bimal Sarker of Rajbari performed Ramayan Gaan.

Babul Mahanta and Chhabi Mahanta of Bogra; Rajib Biswas of Satkhira and Paran Chandra Sarker of Dhamrai (Dhaka) performed Ashtakalin Leela Kirtan.

Pagal Nath Sampraday of Sirajganj; Annapurna Sampraday of Jessore; Shishu Gopal Sampraday of Magera; Debpuja Sampraday of Jhenidah; Kungal Sampraday of Kalashi and Adibhakti Sampraday of Daulatpur (Manikganj) performed Namsudha.

Thousands of enthusiastic devotees attended the events, which ran for 12 hours each day. On the concluding day, Anandamaye Kalibari Parishad president Shankar Lal Ghosh and its secretary Probit Chowdhury; Dol Purnima Ujapan Committee convener Atul Kumar Saha and its member secretary Gokul Dutta thanked the devotees for attending and peacefully enjoying the programmes.

Hugh Jackman Boogies with Shahrukh

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A conference on Indian media and entertainment industry in Mumbai turned out to be sheer fun for the simple reason that Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan made Hollywood superstar Hugh Jackman shake legs and hip to a sensuous number which had on screen none other than Madhuri Dixit.

But if Khan made Jackman dance with him, the Bollywood actor described the Australian actor of "The Prestige" and "Wolverine" fame as his inspiration for his forthcoming Hindi science-fiction film "Ra.One".

Chosen by the People magazine as the "Sexiest Man Alive", Jackman, who was in Mumbai with wife Deborra Lee-Furness, also made Bollywood beauty Aishwarya Rai Bachchan blush when he described her as the "most beautiful woman."

Jackman, 42, who shared the dais with Shahrukh Khan and director Karan Johar at a panel discussion on the entertainment world in Mumbai last Friday evening, said he was looking forward to working in Bollywood.

"The Indian cinema is growing every year. I am looking forward to work in Bollywood films. I am meeting directors. I hope Karan Johar is listening," Jackman said.

"I am a huge fan of Shahrukh Khan and I loved his film 'My Name is Khan'. Maybe one day Karan could direct a movie, based in Mumbai, called 'My Name is Jackman', and I am not a tourist," the Australian actor joked, referring to Johar's 2010 film "My Name is Khan" and its tagline "I'm not a terrorist." Jackman further said "Indian cinema is huge and is popular in Australia. People over there know about Bollywood. They are inspired by Bollywood films." Aishwarya Rai presented a memento



Hugh Jackman (R) with Shahrukh (L) and Aishwarya.

to Jackman who responded by saying "I feel Aishwarya is the most beautiful woman and a great actress" and quipped in the same breath "but even my wife is the most beautiful woman."

Shahrukh, who is excited about his upcoming film "Ra.One", said he was

inspired to make the film after watching Jackman's "X-Men". "I was watching 'X-Men' and the role of Wolverine was the biggest inspiration for me to make 'Ra.One'. I was completely inspired by your film," Shahrukh said.

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Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, ntv, etc.

Table with radio stations: abc radio FM 89.2, Hells Dhaka, Morning Express, etc.

Maar Chhoka On CHANNEL I at 09:35pm. Drama Serial. Cast: Abul Hayat, Mim.

Death Becomes Her On HBO at 09:30pm. Genre: Comedy/Fantasy. Cast: Meryl Streep, Bruce Willis.

Poush Phaguner Pala On ATN Bangla at 09:20pm. Drama Serial. Cast: Ferdous Majumdar, Topa Majumdar.

Table with TV channels and programs: Glamour World, ETV, Ekusher Business, etc.

DRAMA SERIAL. ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, ntv, etc.

Table with news bulletins: BTV, BANGLAVISION, etc.

Table with talk shows: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, ntv, etc.