

WHAT'S ON

Documentary Screening
Documentary: The Speech
Venue: SUST Auditorium, Sylhet
Date: April 26
Time: 5:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Symphony of Colours
Artist: Syed Abdullah Khalid
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, S-4, Uttara
Date: April 12-29

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

Solo Photo Exhibition
Title: A Dream of Venice
Photographer: Stephan Rabold
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhamondi
Date: April 15-May 10

Dhaka Street Theatre Fest
Organiser: Patho Natak Parishad
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: April 19-25
Time: 4pm onwards

Baishakhi Mela
Organiser: BSCIC
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: April 14-24
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Laia Ahmed Lisa
Venue: ICC, H-24, R-2, Dhamondi
Date: April 22
Time: 6:30pm

Solo Photo Exhibition
Photographer: Bishu Nandi
Venue: Creative Destination, H 20, Rd 1, Sec 3, Uttara
Date: April 16-20
Time: 3-9pm



Audity Mohsin (second from left), Srikanto Acharya and Mita Haque perform at the programme.

IN THE SPRING OF LIGHT

HSBC Celebrates Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Ltd in Bangladesh arranged a programme to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

The programme was held at the Celebrity Hall, Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, on April 18.

Eminent music researcher Dr. Karunamaya Goswami is the author of the book, titled "The Art of Tagore Songs".

Audity Mohsin performed six songs, including "Tomae Gaan Shonabo", "Bipul Torongo Rey", "Jey Raatey Mor Duarguli" and "Dibosh Rojoni Ami Jeno Kar".

Dr. Goswami said that although the book focuses on Tagore songs, it also sheds light on other aspects of the bard's creativity.

Minister Abul Kalam Azad was present at the event as chief guest. Sanjay Prakash, Chief Executive Officer, HSBC, gave the welcome speech.

Renditions of Tagore's timeless songs by the three renowned singers were clearly the main attraction at the programme.

The trio took the stage together and sang three songs in chorus, starting with the national anthem "Amar Shonar Bangla".

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Mita Haque's refined articulation of Tagore's compositions was a testament to her recognition as one of the leading

Rabindra Sangeet singers. Haque, whom Srikanto called "one of the finest contemporary Tagore singers", also sang six songs, including patriotic numbers "Aaji Bangladesher Hridoy Hotey" and "O Amar Desher Mat".

Srikanto took a while, as his accompanying musicians tuned their instruments. Srikanto, who is better known as an Adhunik singer, thanked the organisers for inviting him and giving him the opportunity to perform in Bangladesh.

The artist started with "Tumi Shondhary Meghmala". The noticeable aspect of Srikanto's rendition was that he opted for acoustic guitar and keyboard. The singer himself played harmonium.

The versatile singer also sang "Jetye Jetye Ekla Pothey", "Shedin Du Jonney", "Aaji Hroer Raatey" and "Tumi Ki Keboli Chhobi", the last song of the night.

Ustad Rashid Khan to perform at Dhaka Club



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Padma Sri Ustad Rashid Khan will perform at a concert at the main lounge of Dhaka Club on April 29.

The concert will mark the centenary celebration of Dhaka Club Limited. Initiated by the club's president Sadat Hossain Salim and EC committee, the event is being arranged by WEB Entertainment Limited, Dhaka.

"Ustad Rashid Khan will arrive in Dhaka on April 28 and perform on the following night. All preparations have been made," says SMN Islam James, managing director of WEB Entertainment Limited.

Ustad Rashid Khan belongs to the Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana (school of music), and is the great grandson of the gharana founder Ustad Inayat Hussain Khan.

He received the Padma Shri, as well as the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2006.

Born in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh on July 1, 1966, he received his initial training from his maternal grand-uncle, Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan.

Ustad Rashid Khan's renditions stand out for the emotive overtones in his melodic elaboration. Says the Ustad, "The emotional content may be in the alapa, or the bandish, or while giving expression to the meaning of the lyrics." This brings a touch of modernity to his style, as compared to the older maestros, who placed greater emphasis on technique and skilful execution of difficult passages.

Protest Against Attack on Bauls

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Agitated cultural activists of Pabna held a demonstration, protesting against the attacks on Bauls in Rajbari. The activists, comprising a cross section of society, brought out a protest rally in the district headquarters, organised by Shammilito Shangshkritik Jote, Pabna on Sunday, demanding exemplary punishment of the culprits.

The protest rally, which began in front of the Pabna Press Club, paraded the main streets of the district headquarters. Later cultural activists held a meeting in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office where they submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister demanding the punishment of the culprits.

Bauls are an integral part of our cultural heritage, said the speakers at the protest rally. Attack on them is essentially attack on our heritage and secular culture, they asserted. Those who perpetrated the crime are enemies of our culture; Bauls do not present a threat to any religion, they said.

President of Shammilito Shangshkritik Jote, Pabna, Biplob Bhattacharya; secretary, Md. Abul Kashem; president of Lalon Sangeet Academy, Md. Anwarul Islam and others spoke on the occasion.

Meanwhile the Pabna Drama Circle, a leading theatre organisation of the district, formed a human chain protesting the attack on Bauls. Theatre and cultural activists from different organisations joined hands to form a long human chain on Abdul Hamid road.

Workshop on Street Theatre in Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A five-day workshop on "Patho Natak" (Street Theatre) held in Dinajpur ended recently. At least 30 enthusiastic artistes of different cultural institutions of Dinajpur took part in the workshop, aimed at improving their skills in street theatre performance.

The workshop was organised by Dinajpur Shilpakala Academy at its premises in association with Bangladesh Patho Natak Parishad.

Rubli Chowdhury and Mazharul Islam were the trainers at the workshop.

Theatre troupe Palakar celebrates its ninth anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, it staged its latest production "Banglar Mati Banglar Jol" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Acadmey, on April 15.

Eminent author-playwright Syed Shamsul Haq has written the play based on Tagore's "Chhinnopatro". Veteran theatre activist Ataur Rahman -- who has successfully directed adaptations of Tagore plays previously -- is the director of the new production. The play sees Rabindranath Tagore as the protagonist.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

A two-day long kite festival ended in Durgapur upazila, under Netrakona district on April 16. Ghuri Utshab Udjapan Committee of Durgapur was the organiser of the festival.

The programme included kite flying, a discussion and a cultural event. A rally was also brought out in the upazila headquarters. The venue of the kite flying was Ghurir Cho', Teribazar Ghat in Durgapur municipality.

Around 200 participants flew different varieties of kites such as dhaush, sapa and dole at the festival. The event drew several thousand people from all parts of the district.

A discussion, followed by a prize giving ceremony, was held at the kite flying venue.

Joinal Abedin, Mayor of Durgapur municipality, presided over the discussion on the occasion.

Durgapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) addressed the gathering as chief guest.

Raymond Arang, general secretary of Ghuri Utshab Udjapan Committee, delivered the welcome address.

The chief guest distributed prizes among the winners. Later a cultural programme was held by the locals.

The play "Clybourne Park" by Bruce Norris, which examines race relations and the effects of modern gentrification, won the drama prize. The work imagines what might have happened to the family that moved out of the house in the fictitious Chicago neighbourhood of Clybourne Park, which is where Lorraine Hansberry's Younger clan is headed by the end of her 1959 play "A Raisin in the Sun".

The Pulitzer for history was awarded to "The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery" by Eric Foner, a Columbia University professor who has won multiple honours for a career focused on the Lincoln era and Reconstruction.

Foner, 68, called the latest prize a capstone for his career. He said it can be intimidating approaching a book on Lincoln, who has been written about so much before. But he said many Lincoln books either try to put the Civil War president on a pedestal or tear him down, and he was trying to get a balanced view on a specific topic seen through the lens of that period in history.

Ron Chernow, a New York-based historian who has written about Alexander Hamilton and John D. Rockefeller in the past, won the Pulitzer for biography for "Washington: A Life," about the nation's first president. It's his first Pulitzer Prize.

Kay Ryan's "The Best of It: New and Selected Poems" won the poetry prize, a book called by the Pulitzer board "a treasure trove of an iconoclastic and joyful mind." Ryan was U.S. Poet Laureate from 2008-2010.

The general nonfiction prize was given to "The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer" by Siddhartha Mukherjee, an oncologist and assistant professor of medicine at Columbia. It is his first book and he found out he won the Pulitzer while sitting alone in a bookstore in New York.

Jennifer Egan wins fiction Pulitzer Prize

AP, New York

Jennifer Egan's inventive novel about the passage of time, "A Visit from the Goon Squad," won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction Monday, honoured for its "big-hearted curiosity about cultural change at warp speed."

Egan, 48, has been highly praised for her searching and unconventional narratives about modern angst and identity. Her other novels include "The Invisible Circus," "Look at Me" and "The Keep."

Critics were especially taken with "A Visit From the Goon Squad," set in the digital upending of the music industry. Earlier this year, she won the National Book Critics Circle prize for the book, which experiments with format, notably a long section structured like a PowerPoint presentation.

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The music prize went to Zhou Long for "Madame White Snake," which was hailed as "a deeply expressive opera that draws on a Chinese folk tale to blend the musical traditions of the East and the West." It made its debut in February 2010 in a performance by the Boston Opera. Zhou was chosen to write the music by Cerise Lim Jacobs, who wrote the opera's libretto.

The Pulitzer in journalism, letters, drama and music are given out annually by Columbia University on the recommendation of a 19-person board and each award carries a \$10,000 prize.



Committed to Dance

In conversation with Professor Amita Dutt

JAMIL MAHMUD

Professor Amita Dutt is an Indian exponent of Kathak dance. An Uday Shankar Professor of Dance, Dutt is the former Head of the Department of Dance (2001-2003) and former Dean of the Faculty Council of Studies in Fine Arts (2006-2010), Rabindra Bharati University. Dutt has performed across three continents and has staged many dance recitals at prestigious dance and music festivals.

The dance exponent has been experimenting with new choreographic patterns, blending pure Kathak movements with essences of Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Sangeet. Dutt was recently in Dhaka and attended a cultural programme by Padatik Natya Shangshad Bangladesh. The danseuse demonstrated several of her experimental choreographies at the event.

The Daily Star spoke to the dedicated artiste and guru during the Dhaka trip.

Dutt's main goal is to popularise her dance style across the globe. She is also working tirelessly to establish the 'Bengal Gharana' (school) of Kathak which features Bengal's unique contribution to the art form.

"To establish an art form, I think, there are two key prerequisites that need to be fulfilled. One is grooming skilled performers and the other, having good audience. The interaction between an artiste and audience is important for an art form to survive," said Professor Dutt. "There was a time, when artistes thought that some art forms are not for the masses, which I think is a misconception. If my art cannot communicate with the audience then what purpose does it serve?" she asked.

In this regard, she shared her view that the media can play a significant role in grooming and encouraging a discerning audience.

Though this was her first visit to Bangladesh, Professor Dutt is well aware of the Bangladeshi dance scene. She admires the active dance arena. "I've seen Bangladeshi dancers perform in India. Bangladeshi students often go to India for higher studies in dance; I've come across many of them because of my profession. What I really admire is that after completion of their studies, they then return to Bangladesh and work in their country for the betterment of the art form," Professor Dutt said.