

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Monirul Islam
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, Dhakamandi
Date: May 27-June 15
Time: 10am-8pm

Praner Khela
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Shilpakala, H-275/E, Rd 27 (old), Dhakamandi
Date: May 30
Time: 7pm

Dhaka Int'l Theatre Fest
Organiser: ITI Bangladesh centre
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 21-30
Time: 7pm everyday

19th National Art Exhibition
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 28-June 17
Time: 11am-9pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Essence of Mystery
Artist: Tarak Mahadi
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhakamandi
Date: June 3-16
Time: 3-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, B-7 A, H-60, Dhakamandi
Date: June 17-July 1
Time: 11am-8pm

Discussion and Musical Soiree
Marking 112th Birth Anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam
Venue: Saha Kamal Auditorium
Date: May 30
Time: 4:30pm

Ceramic Art Exhibition
Organiser: Harappa
Venue: Dink Gallery, Dhakamandi
Date: May 28-June 4
Time: 3pm-8pm



19th National Art Exhibition Opens at Shilpakala Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Art Exhibition brings about a festive mood in the local art circuit. The exhibition is organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). This year's exhibition (19th instalment), displays 265 artworks by 211 artists.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith on May 28. Suraiya Begum ndc, secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs and noted artist Rafiqun Nabi were present as special guests.

Five members of the jury committee are: Syed Jahangir, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Monsur ul Karim and Farida Zaman. Members of selection committee are: Abdus Shakoor Shah, Nazlee Laila Mansur, Tarun Ghosh, Mohammad Eunus and Golam Faruque Bebul.

Ashrful Hasan won the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award at this year's National Art Exhibition. Saidul Haque won the AB Bank Award; Biswajit Goswami won the Bengal Foundation Award; Ruhul Karim won the Bhasha Shainik Gazilul Haque Award; AKM Maynul Islam won the Begum Azizunnesa Fine Arts Award and Kamaluddin won the Dipa Hoq Award.

Participation of painters who emerged in the mid and



late '80s, and '90s is noticeable at the exhibition. The objective of this exhibition was to bring together artists belonging to different age groups, working in different mediums and techniques.

A number of artists have focused on installation and video art. Some of these installations have managed to effectively point out the unstable political scenario and social issues -- religious extremism, corruption, injustice and misuse of power.

BOOK LAUNCH

An Anthology of Kazi Nazrul Islam's Writings for Children

A CORRESPONDENT

Book launches are significant for authors and publishers, as well as avid readers. The launch of an anthology of Kazi Nazrul Islam's writings for children, titled "Nazrul Shishu-Kishore Shamagra", at VIP Lounge of the Press Club in Dhaka on May 28, saw renowned poets, thinkers and journalists of the country.

One of the noticeable features of the book is the vivid illustration (overseen by Sabih-ul Alam). Almost all pages of the fairly thick book have appealing and often humorous drawings that children and adolescent readers would be very fond of.

The book launch was presided over by poet Belal Chowdhury, who talked about Nazrul's incredible ability in writing amusing pieces with many layers of



underlying meanings, for young readers. Also present as special guests were Nazrul researcher Asadul Haque, poet Asad Chowdhury, Asma Abbasi, Zubaida Gulshan Ara and other renowned litterateurs of the country.

A highlight of the programme was renowned literary figure Asad Chowdhury's address, focusing on the life of Nazrul and his multifaceted genius. He also recalled the late poet and essayist Abdul Mannan Syed, who "would have been very happy and could contribute a lot to this initiative, if he were among us today."

In his speech, Dr. Abdus Sattar pointed out the aggression of "satellite TV culture" and its impact on our national culture.

Nazrul's anti-imperialist and revolutionary views can also be traced in his writings for children -- the speakers were of the view. On his symbolism, the speakers asserted that even his nursery rhymes unfold subtle nuances when pondered over.

Sarod recital by Abhisek Lahiri

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, organised a recital featuring noted Indian sarod player Abhisek Lahiri on May 28 at the National Music and Dance Centre Auditorium, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Enlisted as an "A Grade" sarod artiste at the All India Radio and Doordarshan National (state owned TV channel), Abhisek Lahiri started taking musical lessons at the age of 6, under the guidance of his father Alok Lahiri (eminent sarod player).

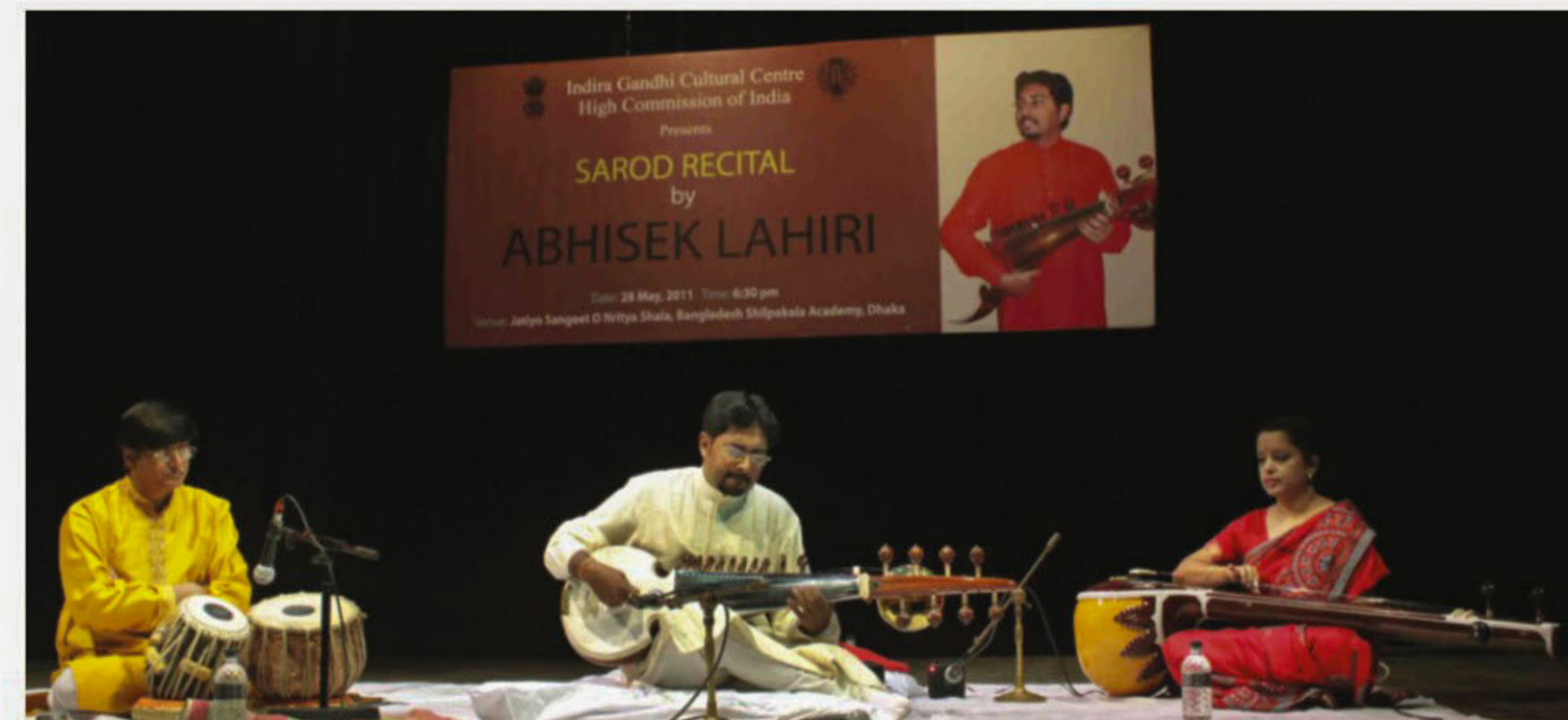
Lahiri's sarod recital was a blend of the Shahajampur, Maihar and Seni Beenkar Gharana and reflected subtlety, aestheticism and spirituality. Lahiri is an artiste of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New

Delhi and is a recipient of the popular National Scholarship for outstanding performance in sarod from the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India. He has also

won the President's Award (in sarod) from the Government of India.

The musician has participated in the 'World Kinder Festival' in Netherlands. Lahiri has released several CDs and

Cassettes. His solo album, "Sparkling Sarod", received nomination at the Global Indian Music Awards (GIMA) in "Best Hindustani Classical Album-Instrumental" category.



Abhisek Lahiri (centre) performs at National Music and Dance Centre Auditorium.

PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

Upbeat about Bangladeshi Theatre In conversation with Singaporean theatre activist Rebecca Lee



JAMIL MAHMUD

Rebecca Lee was in Dhaka recently as one of the members of Buds Theatre Company, Singapore. The troupe staged the play "Shades" on the inaugural day of the 1st Dhaka International Theatre Festival.

Lee informed that Buds Theatre is the first and only theatre company in Singapore that works with the local youth. The organisation provides free training for young people -- aged between 14 and 24 -- to groom them as full-fledged theatre activists and effective national-builders.

"We believe that whatever we do, must be relevant to the society, be it in Singapore, Bangladesh or any other place on this planet. The play we staged here in Dhaka carries such a message. It's relevant to Singapore, and after coming here we've just discovered that it is also relevant to Bangladesh," said Lee.

As the conversation turned to the subject of 1st Dhaka International Theatre Festival, she said with obvious delight: "This is my first trip to Dhaka. The festival, the ambience, the people, and all the things I've experienced over the last few days have been eye opening and amaz-

ing. We are surprised, and needless to say elated, to receive such a warm response from the people here." Lee also found many positive aspects about Bangladeshi theatre activists whom she describes as "dedicated and energetic."

"The other day we watched the play 'Muktodhara'. The energy, passion and dedication of the performers amazed me," she said.

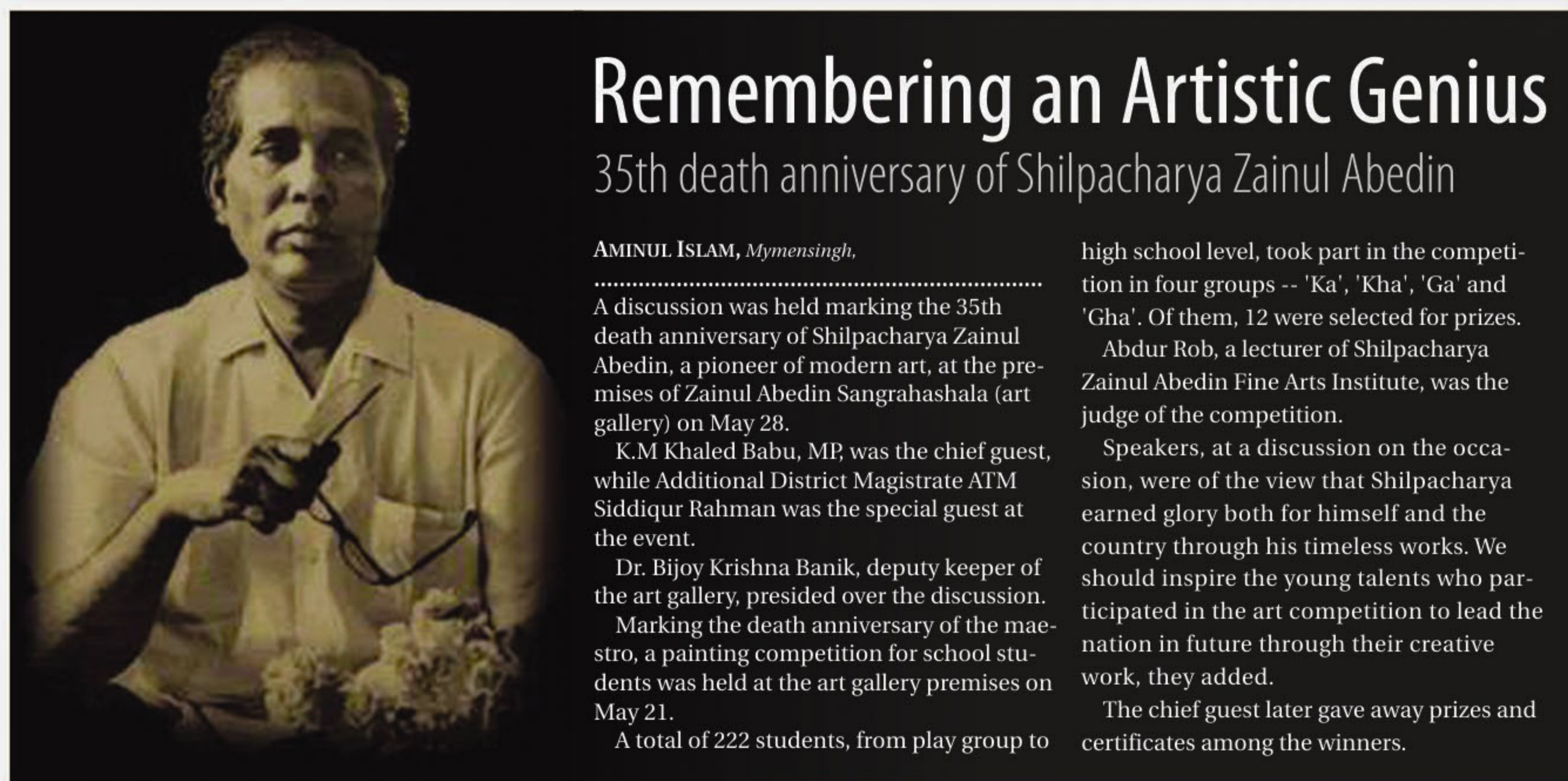
Lee earned a three-year professional degree on theatre from university before getting involved with Buds.

Talking about professionalism in Singaporean theatre, she said, "Theatre activists in Singapore still need other day jobs, which, I think, is pretty much similar to the Bangladeshi theatre scenario. However, we do have a professional attitude and atmosphere that I consider a privilege."

However, she said, "In Singapore it is not easy to talk about social anomalies, as there is censorship. We use theatre as a medium to speak out against odds."

Lee expressed her desire to work with Bangladeshi theatre groups in future. "We can share some skills through arranging workshops, training etc.," she said.

Apart from participating in the festival, Lee's troupe visited the National Museum, the Liberation War Museum, Dhaka University and other places of interest in Dhaka. The theatre activist found the places exciting except the gridlock on the streets.



Remembering an Artistic Genius 35th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh.

A discussion was held marking the 35th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, a pioneer of modern art, at the premises of Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) on May 28. K.M Khaled Babu, MP, was the chief guest, while Additional District Magistrate ATM Siddiqui Rahman was the special guest at the event.

Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik, deputy keeper of the art gallery, presided over the discussion. Marking the death anniversary of the maestro, a painting competition for school students was held at the art gallery premises on May 21.

A total of 222 students, from play group to

high school level, took part in the competition in four groups -- 'Ka', 'Kha', 'Ga' and 'Gha'. Of them, 12 were selected for prizes.

Abdur Rob, a lecturer of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Fine Arts Institute, was the judge of the competition.

Speakers, at a discussion on the occasion, were of the view that Shilpacharya earned glory both for himself and the country through his timeless works. We should inspire the young talents who participated in the art competition to lead the nation in future through their creative work, they added.

The chief guest later gave away prizes and certificates among the winners.

Rabindra-Nazrul birth anniversaries celebrated in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The 150th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore and 112th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam were jointly celebrated in Tangail town on Saturday with a vow to follow the ideals of the pioneers of Bangla literature in all walks of life.

"Shekoror Taney", a cultural organisation of Haji Abul Hossain Institute of Technology (HABHIT) in Tangail, arranged the festival at Bhasani Hall premises in the town. The celebration included a lively



cultural function with Rabindra and Nazrul songs and dances and a discussion on the lives and works of the two bards.

Students and teachers of different departments of HABHIT, domed in colorful costumes, performed at the event. They also staged the Tagore dance-drama "Chitrangada".

Assistant teachers of HABHIT Amir Hadi, Amina Khatun and Mehdi Hasan Rana moderated the cultural events. A discussion was held on the lives and works of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Tangail,

M Bazul Karim Chowdhury; president of Coronation Dramatic Club, Fazlur Rahman Khan Faruque; Additional Deputy Commissioner (education and development), Mahubul Alam, and Director of HABHIT, Ashraf Hossain, spoke at the discussion.

The speakers said that the two creative titans enlightened society through their songs, poetry, novels, short stories and dramas.

They went on to add that the powerful writings of Rabindranath and Nazrul had shown the first light of independence to the people of the country.

Barisal Divisional Theatre Fest Ends



Barisal Shishu Theatre stages 'Kajjatra' at the festival.

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The eight-day 'Barisal Bivaggio Natya Utsab' (divisional theatre festival), ended in Jhalakathi district town Friday night with a call for encouraging traditions and heritage. The festival was arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTFF) in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

Eight theatre groups from Dhaka, Barisal, Bhola and Jhalakathi staged nine plays on Jhalakathi Shilpakala Academy stage from May 20 to 27, said Syed Dulal, convener of the festival organising committee.

Theatre Art Unit of Dhaka, Shabdaboli Group Theatre, Barisal Natak, Barisal Theatre, Barisal Shishu Theatre, Natyam of Barisal, Malancha Natyam of Bhola and Protik Natya Gosthi of Jhalakathi performed their plays at 7pm every day.

On the last night, Theatre Art Unit of Dhaka performed "Amena Shudori". Liaquat Ali Lucky, chairman, BGTFF and director general BSA, inaugurated the festival on May 21.

Syed Dulal, president member, BGTFF, presided over the concluding session. Ashok Kumar Sarkar, Deputy Commissioner Jhalakathi, attended the programme and announced the closing of the festival.

Three-day Cultural Fair Concludes in Port City

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

A three-day long District Cultural Fair concluded in the port city on Saturday. The Chittagong District Administration arranged the fair at the local Shilpakala Academy premises.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Md Sirajul Haque Khan inaugurated the fair. Deputy Commissioner Fayeze Ahmed chaired the opening programme. Litterateur Professor Harishankar Jaldas spoke as the special guest on the occasion.

The fair featured poetry recitation, puppetry, lathi khela (mock fight with sticks), jatra pala (folk theatre),

dance-drama and various forms of rural songs like Shari Gaan, Jari Gaan, Maizbhandari Gaan and Bichheddi Gaan.

In his speech, the Divisional Commissioner said that youngsters are often isolated from their roots. Such efforts would help them to trace their roots, culture and traditions.

The fair started with the beats of dhol (drum). Artists from Bulbul Lalitkala Academy performed Shari Gaan: "O Majhi Nao Ujan Chale" and other songs followed by the choral performances by artists of District Shilpakala Academy.

Children from Bodhan Abriti Parishad impressed the audience with their group recitation of "Sradhdha", composed by Rabindranath Tagore.

The second day's programme started with lathi khela. The lathiplay from Lakshampur held the audience spellbound with their remarkable skills.

Karnaphuli Opera staged a jatra "Bagdatta". On the third day, artistes from Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha performed indigenous dances, directed by Proma Abonti. Kobylar (rural poet) Abdur Rahim and his troupe recited verses from old manuscripts narrating the history of Chittagong and its dervishes and saints.

The fair ended with puppet dance by puppeteers from Brahmanbaria.

Table of TV and radio programmes including BTV, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, Z Studio, and RADIO.

Tara Bhora Raatey On TV at 07:30pm Musical Programme Host: Aditi Mohsin

Star Trek On HBO at 11:30pm Genre: Action/Adventure Cast: Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto

Boyra Paribar On Rtv at 09:05pm Drama Serial Cast: Majnun Mizan, Humaira Himu

Table of TV programmes including ntv, RTV, ETV, and ATN BANGLA.

Table of DRAMA SERIAL programmes including ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, ntv, and RTV.

Table of NEWS BULLETIN programmes including RTV, ATN BANGLA, and CHANNEL I.

Table of TALK SHOW programmes including RTV, ATN BANGLA, and CHANNEL I.