

WHAT'S ON

Nazrul Utshab
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut Bhavan, H-72, R-15/A, Dhanmondi
Date: July 1-2
Time: 6:30pm

Sufia Kamal Birth Anniversary
Venue: Bengal Shilpalya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi
Date: June 24-29
Time: 12pm-9pm

Recitation
Artist: Proyna Laboni
Venue: ICC, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1
Date: July 1
Time: 6:30pm

Fete de la Musique
Organiser: Alliance Française de Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhaka University
Date: June 30-July 1

National Recitation Festival
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 26-July 2
Time: 4pm onwards

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A, JH-50, Dhanmondi
Date: June 17-July 1
Time: 11am-9pm

Theatre
Play: Meraj Fakir-er Maa
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 30
Time: 7pm

Theatre
Play: Dhaka
Troupe: Bunon Theatre
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 30

Musical Soiree
Celebrating Hemanta Mukhopadhyay
Singer: Sheba Barua
Venue: Conference Lounge, National Press Club
Date: June 28

DS Café

DS Cafe will buzz as glamour girl Sumaiya Shimu drops in to take your calls today. Call 8126155 between 3 and 4 pm to speak to Shimu!!!

Cultural Festival in Feni

A cultural festival ended recently in Feni. The event featured a rally, discussion and performances. The fair was held on the premises of Zahir Raihan auditorium in Feni. Local District Commissioner, Altab Hossain Chowdhury, was present as chief guest and inaugurated the fair. Alim Akhter Khan, additional district magistrate of Feni, presided over the function.



Clockwise (from top): Sufia Kamal's household articles and furniture on display; noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud at the exhibition; a painting of the poet by Qayyum Chowdhury.



TAKIR HOSSAIN

On the occasion of the birth centenary of noted poet and social reformer Sufia Kamal, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts has organised a five-day cultural festival titled, "Tar Dirgha Chhayae". The festival features photographs, paintings, musical soiree, album launch and more. As part of the festival, an art camp was held on June 19 and 20 at Sufia Kamal's residence in Dhanmondi. Paintings from the workshop are now on display at Bengal Gallery. The featured artists at the exhibition are Qayyum Chowdhury, Mustafa Monwar, Syed Jahangir, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam bear their personal traits, techniques and approaches.

Sufia Kamal; highlights are portraits. Artists have focused on Sufia Kamal in various ways and style: realistic, semi-realistic, abstract, semi-abstract and pure abstract. Participating painters have captured her intense eyes and thoughtful mood on their canvas. Focusing on her curious and warm eyes, artists have captured the spirit of Sufia Kamal in her most candid moments. A number of painters have experimented with the themes of her poetry and creative writings. Artists have worked with different mediums and techniques like oil, acrylic, mixed media, and others. Paintings of veteran artists, Quayyum Chowdhury, Syed Jahangir, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi and Monirul Islam bear their personal traits, techniques and approaches. Syed Jahangir, one of the featured artists at the exhibition, said, "Sufia Kamal was a remarkable social and women's rights activist. But to us, in the cultural field, she was a poet, writer, organiser and humanist. We remember her with the deepest affection and respect." "Progress and development for women is lacking far behind. Rise of militancy and fundamentalism is holding back the pace of change. We will have to value the spirit of Sufia Kamal to reach our desired destination," said Kanak Champa Chakma. The festival also highlights 23 sketches on tram tickets by Zainul Abedin from Sufia Kamal's collection.

The doodles feature curves with human figures and familiar sights from our surroundings. Lush greenery, water, light and shade, landscapes, bushes and deep forest appear in the works. The drawings articulate Abedin's personal observations, experiences and understanding of the society. When one closely observes Abedin's sketches, one perceives a dreamy vision. When light and shade harmonically merge in the works, it comes into view to articulate joy and ecstasy. The 18 watercolours by the poet's daughter Sayeeda Kamal are also displayed at the festival. The artist has a passion for portraying natural beauty, greenery, fishermen, sailing boats, cloudy skies, villagers and their daily activities. The artist's preferred technique is based on smooth wash colours and diverse subtle experimentation. The exhibition ends today.



Promoting local cultural practices

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
A three-day long cultural programme in Patuakhali started last Saturday. Patuakhali district administration organised the programme to promote local cultural activities. Amal Krishna Mondol, acting district commissioner of Patuakhali, inaugurated the programme. On the opening day, a rally was brought out in the district town, and performances, a play were staged at district Shilpakala Academy auditorium. On the second day (Sunday), artists of Rakhain community (from Kuakata area) presented dance and a short play. Mama Chakma and co-artists presented two dances. Moen Chakma and Chatan cakma presented a short play that narrated how the community had settled in the area about 200 years ago. Yesterday, at the closing of the programme, Afzal Boyati and his team presented Jari Gaan and Grameen Shilpi Goshthi presented jatra pala.

Painting competition in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail
The paintings of Dibakor Das Ditya, Sparsha Pal, Sudipto Roy, Prianka Das and Shailla Binte Islam Meem were selected as first in 'different categories.' Tangail Public Library vice-president Khandakar Nazim Uddin was chief guest at the discussion. Others speakers at the programme were Bazul Rashid, Hosneara Baby, Kamonahish Shekhor, Nihar Sarkar and Al Ruhil. A prize giving ceremony was held after the discussion. Around 25 young dancers of Pabna participated in the four-day event, he said. After the workshop, the young dancers gave a Bharatanatyam performance at the IFA auditorium in Pabna on June 24. President of the organisation Badrun Nahar chaired the concluding programme. Among the speakers, Professor Md. Kamruzzaman, Professor Shihobjit Nag, Abdul Matin Khan Khan, prominent educationist of the district and Biplob Bhattacharya, president of Shammilito Shangshkritik Jote Pabna spoke on the occasion. The speakers emphasised that dancers should learn classical dance for its artistic beauty. Dance is one of the strongest performing arts and reveals the dancer's excellence through movement, they pointed out, adding that while classical dance is the origin of dance, nowadays young dancers prefer to go for modern dance.

007 Bonded in Matrimony

When James Bond finds love, he doesn't dawdle. Daniel Craig, the current 007, and Rachel Weisz, who play husband and wife in the upcoming film "Dream House", will start to build one of their own. Craig's publicist, Robin Baun of Slate PR, said Saturday that the pair got married Wednesday in New York. The Los Angeles Times said the wedding was very small -- attended only by two friends, Weisz's 4-year-old son, Henry, and Craig's 18-year-old daughter, Ella. Craig, 43, had recently split with his long-time girlfriend, Satsuki Mitchell. Weisz, 41, had been in a relationship with director Darren Aronofsky ("Black Swan"). Source: Internet

A Demonstration of Diversity
Ethnic Cultural Festival at Shilpakala Academy

ZAHANGIR ALOM
The recent Ethnic Cultural Festival featured traditional dances and songs by a number of indigenous artistes at National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on June 26. Khudra Nri Goshthi Cell [for ethnic groups] of BSA arranged the festival. The festival was a part of BSA's initiative to facilitate the practice of languages and cultural traditions of ethnic groups. The programme was also an opportunity for the ethnic groups as well as Bengalis to celebrate the opulent cultural diversity of the country. Artists from the Garo community presented "Nabanner Nriya" (dance celebrating harvest) while singers from Mushhor, Mahato, Malo and Kol communities performed songs of the Karam festival. As Kiang and Pangkhao artistes rendered Adhunik songs, it became evident that contemporary music trends have made an impact on some of the ethnic groups as well. Inspirational songs by artistes of the Munda community followed. With mridanga and kartal, five Manipuri artistes staged a spirited Mridanga dance. Their awe-inspiring flexibility and jubilant faces earned rounds of applause from the audience. A dance performance by Chakma artistes followed. Mahale performers presented the Jhum dance, while artistes from the Byom community performed Bamboo dance at the festival. To a pahadia dhun on flute, Tripura artistes performed an immaculate dance. The balancing act involved placing bottles with lit candles on heads and dancing. Pahadia and Oraon performers presented wedding dances, while Hajong and Tonchonga artistes rendered their traditional songs. Artists of Santal and Marma communities danced to their respective traditional songs, while artistes of Rakhain community presented an umbrella dance at the festival.



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Moving to the rhythm
Four day classical dance training workshop held in Pabna



AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna
A four-day workshop on classical dance concluded in Pabna on June 24. Leading dance training organisation of the district, Gontobbo, held the workshop at the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA), Pabna auditorium on June 20. The workshop was organised to train young dancers in Indian classical dance, 'Bharatanatyam, Caribbean dance and Contemporary classical dance' in Bangladesh. Amit Chowdhury from Dhaka was the dance trainer. "Through the workshop we introduced the young dancers from Pabna to classical dance. Without a knowledge of classical dance no one can perform to the best of their ability. However, since there is very little scope to learn classical dance at the district level, Gontobbo held the training workshop for the young dancers," prominent dancer Tomnjoy and secretary of the organisation told the Daily Star. Around 25 young dancers of Pabna participated in the four-day event, he said. Despite the moderately successful launch of his career, "Pancham", as he was lovingly called, was unable to leverage the clout that his surname carried in the rather conservative film fraternity in Bombay (now Mumbai). Producers always wanted Sachin Dev Burman, but no one was willing to experiment with his son, writer Aniruddha Bhattacharjee and Balaji Vittal say in the biography, "R.D. Burman -- The Man and Music". Yesterday (June 27) marked the 72nd birth anniversary of the iconic music director who brought about a breath of fresh air in the Indian music industry. R.D. was born in Calcutta (Kolkata). According to stories, he was nicknamed "Pancham" because, as a child, whenever he cried, it sounded in the fifth note (Pa) of the Indian musical scale. After moving to Bombay, he learnt sarod from Ustad Ali Akbar Khan. When he was nine years old, R.D. composed his first song, "Aye Meri Topi Palat Ke Aa", which his father used in the film "Funtooshi" (1956). The tune of the classic "Sar Jo Tera Chakraayee" was composed by R.D. as a child. His father loved the tune and included it in the soundtrack of Guru Dutt's "Pyaasa". R.D. began his music career as an assistant to his father. Out of his 331 released movie soundtracks, 292 were in Hindi, 31 in Bangla, 3 in Telugu, 2 each in Tamil and Oriya, and 1 in Marathi.

ALL TIME GREATS
R.D. Burman
Revolutionising Bollywood and Adhunik Bangla Songs

thi. He also scored a large number of non-film songs in Bangla (belonging to the Adhunik category). He was one of the earliest composers in Bollywood who was influenced by Latin music. Exposed to Latin music in Calcutta, R.D., over the years, developed a fondness for its vibrancy. "He soon made Bossa Nova (a musical form which finds inspiration in the Brazilian samba) his very own, literally bringing it across the globe from the beaches of Rio to the studios of Bombay where he dovetailed it to create a pentatonic tune for a song in "Kati Patang", according to the book, "R.D. Burman -- The Man and Music". Bollywood scripted fame for him, but it was Calcutta, where he let his nostalgia erupt unbridled. Pre-Durga Puja 1965, public attention was focussed elsewhere as India gathered itself in the immediate aftermath of a war with Pakistan. A ceasefire was announced three weeks ahead of the Puja. "The soldiers rushed back to their families leading to the reinstatement of the Puja spirit. Musically, the puja of 1965 aroused the curiosity of spirit when news got around that R.D. Burman was making his 'debut as a composer of Puja songs,'" the biography says. This was a chance happening for Burman "too rebellious a name for the average Bengalis, whose musical taste were limited to sombre and solemn." It turned out that Bengali lyricist Pulak Mukherjee wanted to produce a few songs with S.D. Burman, who refused and passed the assignment to his son. An unwilling R.D. expressed his discomfort in composing in Bengali, but assured of Lata Mangeshkar's voice, he offered eight tunes to Mukherjee, who selected two. His next round of Bengali compositions came in 1967. His best-known Bengali song, "Mon-e Pore Ruby Roy" -- incidentally the song he released first as duet with Kishor Kumar for one of Guru Dutt's projects -- has an interesting story. Sachin Bhowmik (actor) had lost his heart to a certain lady, who unfortunately spurned his affections. Her name was Chhobi Roy and she was immortalised as Ruby Roy in the song, which R.D. coerced Bhowmik to write. It was loosely based on Raga Kirwani and Raga Mukhari. The ditty, which was branded as "degenerate westernisation" took a long time to be accepted. The Hindi version of the song, "Meri Bheegi Bheegi SL..." was released in 1973, as part of the soundtrack of the movie "Anamika". R.D. Burman was arguably India's most popular composer in 1970s. During this time, he teamed up with singers like Asha Bhosle, Kishore Kumar, Lata Mangeshkar and others to produce some of the jazziest hits in the history of Bollywood music. For example, there were musical hits like "Amar Prem", "Budha Mil Gaya", "Caravan" and "Hare Rama Hare Krishna". R.D. Burman died on January 4, 1994. Compiled by Correspondent

Table with TV and radio programmes including ATN Bangla, Channel i, nTV, and Radio FM 89.2.

Table with radio programmes including Ekla Pakhi, Drama Serial, and Abhishek.

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