

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition Artists: Farida, Ranjit and Makud... Venue: H-300, R-198 New DOHS, Mohakhali Date: July 9-30 Time: 11am-8pm

Art Exhibition Title: Tribute to Mohammad Kibria Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharamandi Date: July 22-31 Time: 12pm-8pm

Group Exhibition Venue: Gallery Chittrak, R-6, H-4, Dharamandi Date: July 29-Aug 20 Time: 10am-9pm

Tapestry Exhibition Artist: Tajul Islam Venue: Gallery Cosmos, Malibagh Date: July 22-Aug 5 Time: 11am-7pm

Group Photography Exhibition Title: Haida: The River of Mystery Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dharamandi Date: July 28-August 4

Theatre Play: Nishimon Bishorjon Troupe: Mahalak Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: July 27

Group Art Exhibition Title: Tisoy Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road Date: July 16-29 Time: 3-9pm

Theatre Play: Binodini Troupe: Dhaka Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: July 30

THEATRE

Aroj Charitamrita celebrates its 50th show



A scene from the play.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka theatre circuit does not often see biographical plays based on local personalities. Nityakendra's 'Aroj Charitamrita' - based on the life and works of self-taught philosopher Aroj Ali Matubbar - certainly stands out in that regard.

The play marked its 50th show recently, which was held at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on July 23.

On the occasion, Nityakendra arranged a seminar and discussion at the Seminar Hall of the academy.

The play premiered in 2001. Since the play has been around for a decade, 50th show is not a big deal; nevertheless, it's been acclaimed both in the country and abroad. The play has been staged at several national and international festivals.

The play has been written by Masum Reza and directed by Tariq Anam Khan. It depicts the hardship that the philosopher faced throughout his life because of his convictions.

Aroj Ali was born in 1900 in the village of Lamchari, Barisal district. He studied only a few months at the village maqtab (religious school). He acquired most of his knowledge on varied subjects, including science and philosophy, through his own efforts. He shunned conventional religious traditions, and for this, he was treated as a blasphemer by his neighbours.

Aroj Ali Matubbar died in 1985. His writings 'Shotyer Shandhaney' (The Quest for Truth) and 'Srishtir Rahashya' (The Mystery of Creation) are widely acclaimed.

The play narrates the philosopher's life, starting from his childhood.

Lincoln Abhi played the adolescent Aroj, while Abid Rehan played the adult Aroj. Lucy Tripti Gomes played Aroj's wife. The cast also included Jhuna Chowdhury, Yusuf Hassan and Sangeeta Chowdhury.

Actor Mosharrar Karim penned lyrics of the songs used in the play. Fazul Kabir directed the music. Tarique Anam Khan also directed the set and light.

"Bangladesh-er Hridoy Hotey"

150 songs to mark Tagore's 150th birth anniversary



Veteran Tagore singers and exponents at the album launch.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, a collection of 150 Rabindra Sangeet was released on July 24 at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Dhaka. The songs (on 15 CDs) are part of a package that also includes a DVD and a booklet.

Produced by social activist and artiste, Rehana Siddiqui, the anthology, titled "Bangladesh-er Hridoy Hotey", stands out as it includes songs recorded by iconic artistes, some of whom are not among us. Burhan Siddiqui, accomplished singer who has conducted necessary research and oversaw the coordination for the compilation, said, "it's (the collection) a personal initiative."

"The collection includes songs by veteran artistes -- Abdul Ahad, Kalim Sharafi, Afari Khanam, Bilqis Nasiruddin, Sanjida Khatun, Zahedur Rahim, Maleka Azim Khan, Aji Roy, Mahmuda Khatun and Fahmida Khatun -- who upheld and promoted Rabindra Sangeet at a time when the bard's songs were banned here. This was our homage to these singers for their immense contribution to Bangladeshi music," Siddiqui added.

"Bangladesh-er Hridoy Hotey" includes four CDs featuring forty songs recorded by the veteran and late artistes; one CD of ten patriotic songs [chorus] and ten featuring contemporary major and emerging singers like Kaderi Kibria, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnyia, Papia Sarwar, Sadi Muhammad, Iffat Ara Dewan, Fahim



National Professor Salahuddin Ahmed receives a crest from Dr. Sanjida Khatun.

Hossain Chowdhury, Mita Haque, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Lily Islam, Auditi Mohsin, Chanchal Khan, Pramod Dutta, Salma Akbar, Sajed Akbar, Shireen Shila, Roquiaya Hasina Neely, Rehana and Burhan Siddiqui.

Siddiqui painstakingly collected records of late artistes from their families. Daulatur Rahman has done the music direction and Anisur Rahman Tanu directed the videos.

The DVD, included in the package, features conversations with researchers Dr. Anisuzzaman and Ahmed Rafiq. The brochure includes lyrical, brief biographies of the artistes and write-ups by leading exponents.

"Rehana [Burhan's wife] and I undertook this project with several aims," said Siddiqui. "We wanted to generate interest in Tagore songs in general. This anthology, which comes in a bag, can function as an archive for those interested in getting acquainted with Rabindra Sangeet. It can be a great gift for any occasion."

Among others, National Professor Salahuddin Ahmed, Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Dr. Anisuzzaman, Maleka Azim Khan, Fahmida Khatun, Dr. Karunamaya Goswami and Hasina Momtaz attended the album launch.

Veteran radio and TV personality Hena Kabir passes away

A CORRESPONDENT

Hena Kabir, veteran radio and TV personality who has made significant contributions to Bangladeshi cultural sphere for more than 50 years, breathed her last yesterday (July 25) at Apollo Hospital in Dhaka.

She had been battling with breast cancer for the last two years, and had also undergone a major surgery in the USA. As her state of health deteriorated, she was admitted to the CCU of Apollo Hospital on July 20.

"Her physical ailment failed to make a mark on her artistic vigour. Hena apa actively supported young, talented artistes and organised musical soirees till her last days," said singer Parveen Sultana.

The ever-elegant and charming Hena embarked into the career of a radio announcer.

Hena made an entry into the cultural circuit in 1956 when she signed up as an actor at East Pakistan Radio. When the station started commercial service, she was taken on as an announcer. Later in 1964, she ventured into Pakistan Television and was a pioneering TV announcer in the sub-



Hena Kabir.

continent. She was the chairperson of Shetubandha, a cultural organisation that has many well-known artistes as its members. With a view to promote singers, Shetubandha also organised musical conferences. The last such musical conference was held in 1996, with the participation of Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani artistes. Hena Kabir has left behind her husband, two sons, a daughter and a host of cultural personalities to mourn her death.



A potent poet In remembrance of Samudra Gupta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pakkhik Audikoron and Poet Samudra Gupta Memorial Academy jointly organised a memorial meeting on Samudra Gupta at Seminar Hall, Central Public Library in the city on July 23.

July 19 marked the 3rd death anniversary of the poet. Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan was present as chief guest. Cultural personality Shankar Shawjal and poets Rezauddin Stalin, Abdul Hai spoke on the occasion.

Habibullah Shirazi, president of Jatiya Kabita Parishad, presided over the meeting. Habibullah Shirazi said, "Gupta's verses are distinguished by their meticulousness and potency. He was a patriotic poet. He took part in the mass upsurge in 1969 and Liberation War. His poetry highlights secularism, patriotism, struggles and optimism."

Rezauddin Stalin said, "Gupta was an internationally recognised poet. His poems have been translated into French, English, Hindi, Nepalese, Chinese, Urdu and Norwegian."

Shahjahan Khan said, "Gupta was a passionate poet and a professional journalist. He worked at several newspapers and weeklies. He created a strong voice against communalism and social and religious bigotry. He wrote poems, novels, essays and more. His style was bold and more candid than his contemporaries."

At the programme, a number of promising poets recited their poems on Samudra Gupta. Samudra Gupta (named Abdul Mannan by parents) was born on June 23, 1946, at Hashil village, Sarjanjand district. He adopted the alias 'Samudra Gupta' during the 1960s and was widely recognised by his penname throughout his life and career. He wrote thirteen books of poetry, as well as one work of fiction and a book of poetry as collaboration with another writer.

DS Café



DS Cafe will buzz as TV show host and model Sharmin Lucky drops in to take your calls. Call 8126155 on Wednesday, July 27, between 3:30 and 4:30 pm to speak to Sharmin Lucky!!! The countdown has begun!!

Workshop on verbal skills at TSC

Academy for Recitation, a TSC (Dhaka University) based organisation is arranging a four-month long workshop on recitation, correct pronunciation, verbal skills, and news presentation. Professor Niranjan Adhikary, noted reciters Bhashwar Bandopadhyay and Shimul Mustafa,

Mir Barkat, Mahidul Islam and other reciters and experts of phonetics will conduct the workshop, according to a press release. The classes are scheduled to take place every Friday from July 29 at TSC. Interested persons can get the details at the main gate of TSC everyday.

Table with TV programmes: ATN BANGLA, Boishakhi TV, CHANNEL i, Z Studio, ntv, Star Movies.

Table with RADIO programmes: abc radio FM 99.2, Dhaka Calling, Radio Today FM 89.6, Radio Footi.

Table with Chakri Chai On BANGLAVISION Educational Programme Host: Mishu Rahman.

Table with Quiz Show On Z Studio at 09:30pm Genre: Drama/History Cast: Ralph Fiennes, John Turturro.

Table with Golpo Shalpo On ETV at 10:10pm Talk Show (Live) Host: Fauzia Erina.

Table with Rtv programmes: Bangla Feature Film, Amader Ward, Lax Ebong Bipashur, Kichhu Dekha Kichhu Kotha.

Table with ETV programmes: Ekushey-er Business, Sports Plus, Deshurey Sanglap, Neel Paera Gaan, Shokal Belar Reddur, Bangla Feature Film, Sports Time, Style File, Chakri Chai, Raat Biratey.

Table with BANGLAVISION National Geographic Channel programmes: Nat Geo Rush, Cameramen Who Dare, Caught in the Act, Nat Geo Investigates.

Table with Desh TV programmes: Desh Janopad, Durpath, Obak Prithibi, Ke Hote Chay Kotpoti, Total Sports.

Table with DREAM SERIAL programmes: Adarsha Mesi Bari, Posh Phaguner Pala, Durdashe, Dur Pahere Batashara, Terminal.

Table with NEWS BULLETIN programmes: News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, News (English) at 10:00am, News (Bangla) at 2:30 pm, News (English) at 4:00pm.

Table with TALK SHOW programmes: Tinkalpa, Our Democracy, Golpo Shalpo Gaan, Front Line, Dech TV, Sha Ja Kotha.

A beacon for women Birth centenary of Pritilata Waddeder

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking the birth centenary of Pritilata Waddeder, a day long programme was held at Udichi Mymensingh Sangsad auditorium in the town on July 22. Birkannya Pritilata Waddeder Janma-Shata Barsha Ujyapon Parishad organised the programme.

The programme included a discussion and cultural programme. The cultural function included a choral rendition and poetry recitation session. Kumaresh Chandra Nag, Gopal Bhattacharya, Shampa Pal Chowdhury, Shubhra Jorder, Moumita Basak, Goutam Devnath and Kanchan Bhushan Nag of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi performed at the cultural programme.

Kamrul Haque Iqbal and Saiful Haque of Shabha Abriti Charcha Kendra joined the poetry recitation session.

A discussion was held with Professor Sumita Naha, president of the Parishad in the chair. Professor Zatin Sarker; eminent cultural personality Kamal Lohani and Professor Nazrul Hayat, secretary of the Parishad, among others spoke at the discussion. Fahmida Yasmin Runa delivered the welcome speech.

Earlier, Kumudini Hajang, a veteran of 'Tanka Movement' in Mymensingh during the British regime inaugurated the programme by hoisting the national flag. The speakers at the discussion said that Pritilata, the first woman martyr joined the anti-British movement with arms under the leadership of Master Da Surya Sen. She was a scholar and passed all her



examinations with distinction but she was selfless and as single minded in her aim to free the country from the clutches of the British rulers, they said.

The pioneering Pritilata torched a lamp for women of this country who has once been confined to four walls, the speakers added. Pritilata was a good example of the need for women's equality with men and that women could be an important part of all movements alongside men, they added.

Different forms of oppression and harassment of women are increasing and in many cases the administration has revealed its ineptitude in checking such a menace. We should take oath on the birth centenary of Pritilata so that there is zero tolerance to such oppression.

Born on May 5, 1911, Pritilata sacrificed her life on September 23, 1932 after a successful operation on European Club at Pahartali in Chittagong.

TV WATCH

Balam and Julee to host musical show on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

Balam and his sister Julee, both popular singers, will be hosting a TV show for the first time. The musical programme, titled 'Jombey Ebar Ganey Ganey', will be aired on ATN Bangla. The centerpiece of the programme will be quizzes for four participating groups, each consisting of a girl and a boy. The participants will be selected through SMS.

"I'm a singer, not a TV host. The reason why I agreed to work in the show is that I liked the concept," says Balam. Directed by Eva Rahman, the show will present the siblings in a different getup in each episode. Expressing how she feels about being the host of a TV show, Julee says, "Although I've never done this before, I hope I'll be able to work it out."



Mahadev Saha receives Gunijan Shammanana Padak

Sanghoti Literary Society in London recently (from July 3 to 10) organised a weeklong Bangla Kabita Utsab (poetry festival) 2011 at Brady Arts and Community Centre, Hanbury Street, London, says a press release. The festival featured poetry recitation, musical soiree, staging of plays, discussions, seminars, rally and felicitation. Noted poet and columnist Abdul Gaffar

Chowdhury inaugurated the programme on July 3. Veteran poet Mahadev Saha was present as chief guest. Bangladeshi expatriate poet Shamim Azad; Iqbal Hossain Bulbul, president of the society; Shamsul Haque, secretary of the society; Faruk Ahmed Ronny, founder and former president, among others, delivered speeches at the inaugural session. Shikhor, a literary journal is published by

the society. The award giving ceremony started with conferring the Lifetime Achievement Award to Bangladeshi expatriate journalist Kader Mahmud for his outstanding involvement in journalism and upholding Bengali culture. Mahadev Saha received Gunijan Shammanana Padak for his immense contribution to Bengali poetry.

Life and times of an actress Aparna Sen and Konkona Sen in Iti Mrinalini

Pallab Bhattacharya, New Delhi

Elements of Aparna Sen's life as an actress in the '70s and '80s will be recreated by her actress-daughter Konkona Sen in the upcoming Bengali film "Iti Mrinalini" starring the duo.

This is the first time the mother-daughter duo will be acting in the same film in which Konkona plays a younger actress Mrinalini while her mother portrays an aged actress. Directed by Aparna, the film has anecdotes from her own life and is based on the life of an ageing actress reliving her memories before she embarks on committing suicide.

"Around me, there are many people from whose life I observed these things. I cannot name those people. And some parts are from my own life as well," said the 65-year-old director.

One such scene lifted straight from her life is when a young Mrinalini is suddenly thrown out of a film. "Very early in my career, I was once replaced by another successful established actress. I was very hurt. Later when the same producer came to me asking for dates for another film, I expressed my feelings before him. The same happens to Konkona in this film and her dialogue is exactly what I had told that producer," said Aparna who has won the Indian National Award for best direction twice ever since she made her debut as a director in 1981 with "36 Chowringee Lane".

"Iti Mrinalini" is closer to the mainstream cinema. It is more mainstream than any of my earlier films. The reason is that I have taken the life of a mainstream star in the film, so some mainstream elements are bound to be there," said Aparna who has also directed films "Mr. and Mrs. Iyer" (2001) and "15 Park Avenue" (2005).

Admitting that combining acting and directing becomes a burden on one's shoulders, she said she had no choice but to act in the film. "Using the both of us makes for a very strong casting. Else, we would have to find two people who look alike - one for the older and another for the younger Mrinalini," she said. The script of "Iti Mrinalini" was written along with Ranjan Ghosh -- the first time she is collaborating with a scriptwriter. Incidentally, her last film "The Japanese



Aparna Sen instructing Shaheb Bhattacharya and Konkona Sen Sharma while shooting "Iti Mrinalini".

Wife" was based on a story by London-based author Kunal Basu. Prior to that, she had penned all her screenplays and stories herself. This is also the first occasion where popular writer Sunil Gangopadhyay's poem has been used as a song in a film. "I have never gone beyond Rabindra Sangeet or folk songs in my films. But I decided to use that poem as a song because both are about Kolkata of the '70s," she said.