

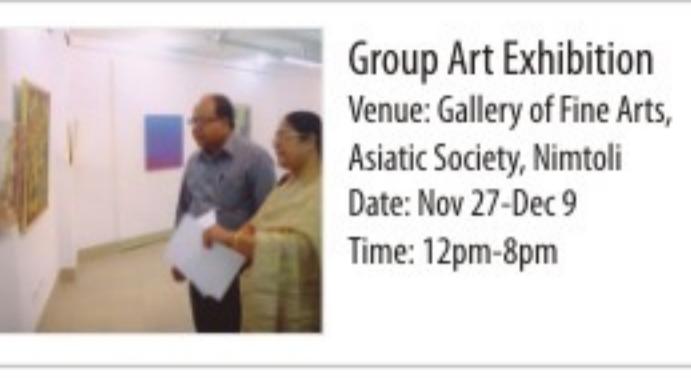
WHAT'S ON



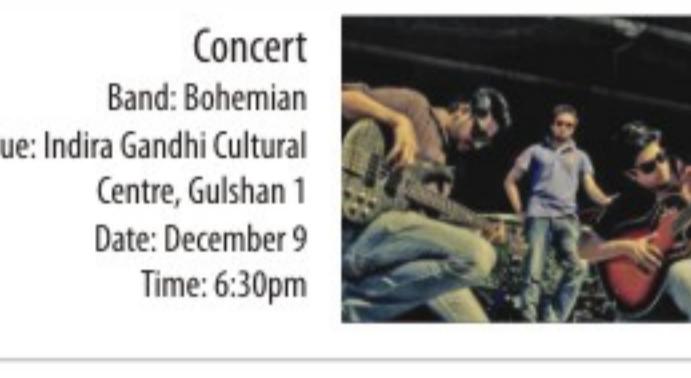
Group Art Exhibition
Title: Express Yourself
Participants: American and
Bangladeshi Artists
Venue: Dhaka Arts Centre, H-60,
Rd-7, Dhammomi
Date: Dec 8-17, Time: 6-9pm



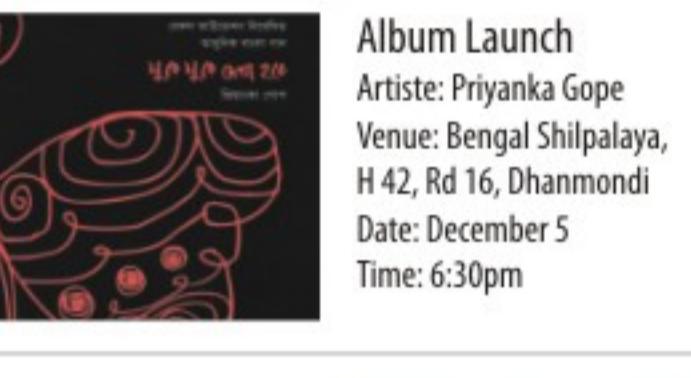
Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Miguel Oliver
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-5,
R-6, Dhammomi
Date: Nov 26-Dec 5
Time: 10am-9pm



Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Gallery of Fine Arts,
Asianistic Society, Nimgali
Date: Nov 27-Dec 9
Time: 1pm-8pm



Concert
Band: Bohemian
Venue: India Gandhi Cultural
Centre, Gulshan 1
Date: December 9
Time: 6:30pm



Album Launch
Artist: Priyanka Gope
Venue: Bengal Shilpajaya,
H-2, Rd 16, Dhammomi
Date: December 5
Time: 6:30pm



Cartoon Exhibition
Organiser: TIB
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of
Fine Arts, DU
Date: December 9-16
Time: 12-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Masters of Bangladesh
Art '11
Venue: Radius Centre,
Gulshan-1
Date: Nov 25-Dec 17



Exhibition
Title: Tagore and Kanta
Venue: Art Gallery, Bangladesh
Shilpkala Academy
Date: Dec 2-10
Time: 11am-7pm

Travels through Liberty

Rathindranath Roy speaks to Zahangir Alom

I witnessed the mass upsurge of 1969 and the Liberation War in 1971. The DUCSU (Dhaka University Central Students' Union) was then culturally very active. Our teachers -- Dr. Moniruzzaman, Dr. Anisuzzaman and others -- regularly arranged cultural programmes, including Rabindra and Nazrul Jayanti, Borsa Utsab etc. But as that turbulent time demanded, we also started singing Gano Sangeet. Whatever we performed -- Rabindra, Nazrul Sangeet or folk -- the songs were dedicated to the masses, to inspire a nationalist movement.

I joined Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (SBBK) in May, 1971. There were very few facilities at the radio station located at 57/8, Ballygunge Circular Road, Calcutta (now Kolkata). Revealing the address to anyone was strictly prohibited at that time due to security concerns. It was quite challenging for the staff to carry out their work. We had our dining hall downstairs and the studio was not

even soundproof. It was a one-channel machine with which we used to do all the recordings. Samar Das was the chief music director and producer of SBBK. My father, the late Haralal Roy, was also an SBBK artiste.

The day I joined SBBK, Apel Mahmud told me that he had composed a song and I had to sing it. That song -- "Teer Hara Ei Dheu er Shagor Pari Debo Rey", written by Gobinda Halder -- was my first performance on air for SBBK.

The inspirational songs that I sang at SBBK include "Amar Desh Shob Manusher", "Purbo Digantye Shurjo Uttechhey", "Nongor Tolo Tolo" (composed by Samar Das), "Rokto Diye Naam Likhechhi" (composed by Shujeo Shyam), "Bhebo Na Go Ma" (duet with Manna Haque) and "Hey Mohamanob Ekbar Esho Phirey" (duet with Ajit Roy).

In July/August, during the war, we (SBBK artistes) went to Chatulia, Paschimbanga, India where there was an



abandoned air base. There were almost 400 Freedom Fighters who, after receiving training there, were waiting to go back to Bangladesh and fight the Pakistani Army. We tried to boost their morale by performing inspirational songs for them.

After four decades of the war, I have to admit that the contributions of cultural activists during the Liberation War have not been aptly acknowledged. Cultural contribution in 1971 deserves proper evaluation and artistes who had inspired the nation in its troubled times should be honoured accordingly.

Three-day Art Workshop at Charukala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Visiting American artists at the workshop.

As part of the ongoing serigraph programme, titled 'Nijke Prokash Koro', organised by The American Center of the US Embassy in Dhaka, a three-day (December 1-3) workshop was held at the Printmaking Department of Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), University of Dhaka. On the opening day, Professor Mohammad Matlub Ali, Dean of FFA, guest artists Mira Friedlander and Ted Riederer and Anisuzzaman, head of the Printmaking Department, FFA, among others, spoke at the programme.

American artists -- Mira Friedlander and Ted Riederer -- are conducting the workshop. Anisuzzaman was the coordinator of the workshop at FFA.

A number of artists from different departments of FFA took part in the workshop. The participating artists are: Kanta Rahman, Ariful Islam, Kajol Das from Department of Graphic Design; Ruhul Amin Tarek, Zahid Hossain, Nadia Yasmin, Palash Baran Biswas from Department of Printmaking; Forhaduddin Masum, Sohel

Ashraf Khan, Mehedi Anjuman from Department of Drawing and Painting; Jinnatun Nahar, Maharunnissa Nipa, Amrit Nandi from Department of Craft.

Ted Riederer talked to The Daily Star about the workshop, the work process, themes etc. The artist said, "I've found the Printmaking Department here (FFA) to be

world class. Drive down any street of this city, and you can see logos, street signs and posters -- repeated continuously in advertisements. We take this barrage of information for granted. Mira and I are attempting to shake the students awake and grasp the power of images being repeated.

"To call us printmakers is only partially accurate. Printmaking to me is about recreating the same image in a series of perfect duplicates. We are teaching a relatively new technique which turns the old approach upside down. Our goal is to get traditional art students to loosen up and in the process apply an inspired approach to their method."

"Working at FFA, Dhaka University has had a profound effect on me. Much of my work explores the socio-political power of art. It is amazing to be working in a place that had such an important role during the Liberation War, where artists were able to help change the society. This is incredibly inspiring to me."

The 'Nijke Prokash Koro' programme will conclude with a public exhibition at the Dhaka Art Centre in Dhammomi (December 8-17).

Nazrul Sammelon ends at National Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day long Nazrul Sammelon (convention) ended at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka on December 2. Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha (BNSS) arranged the programme. Nazrul exponent and singer Sudhin Das and Nazrul researcher Professor Rafiqul Islam spoke on the life and works of the National Poet on the opening day (December 1) of the convention.

Promising and renowned artistes of BNSS performed Nazrul Sangeet -- in groups and solo -- at the convention. Artistes of BNSS started off the concluding day's musical journey through a group rendition of "Nomo Nomo Nomo Bangladesh Momo".

Young artiste Mehnaz Oishi performed "Shey Choley Gechhey Boley", while Sabab Hossain Kobi sang "Porodeshi Megh Jai Rey Phirey". Solo rendition of the song "Bidayye Shondha Ashilo Oi" by Debashish Bepari followed.

Emerging singer Sharmin Jahan rendered "Amar Shampan Jatri Na Loy" while Fakir Suman sang "Sur-e O Banir Mai Diye" at the programme.

Seasoned artiste Khairul Anam Shakil rendered the melancholic number, "Keno Diley Kanta Jodi Go Kusum Diley". The life and philosophies of Kazi Nazrul Islam should be our ideal. We, artistes of BNSS, are determined to diffuse Nazrul's legacy through ceaseless practice. Another goal is to nurture at least two generations of Nazrul Sangeet artistes so that they can take the lead in the days ahead," said Shakil, also the general secretary of BNSS.

Noted Nazrul singers -- Salahuddin Ahmed and Kalpana Anam -- performed the songs "Nilambori Sari Pori" and "Ogo Ontorjami" respectively. Bizon Chandra Mistry presented the number "Tumi Jakhon Eshchhiley" at the programme. Solo rendition by Pujan Das followed.

Noted dancer Tamanna Rahman performed to the song "Kheley Nonder Anginatye Nondo Dulal", while elocutionist Sumona Biswas recited a Nazrul poem.

Renowned Nazrul Sangeet artistes -- Fatema Tuj Zohra, Yasmin Mushtari, Dalia Naushin, Dr. Leena Taposh Khan, Sharmin Sathi Islam and others -- also performed solo at the event.

A choral performance of the song "Karo Bhorsha Korish Ne Tui Ek Allah'r Bhorsha Kor" by artistes of BNSS was next. The concluding day's programme wrapped up with a group rendition of the national anthem.

Iftekhar Alam Prodhan and Pallab Sanyal on tabla, Almas Ali on violin, Dipan on guitar, Khokon on keyboard and Hasan Arif on octopad instrumentally assisted the singers.



PHOTO: GOALAM MAHUB

Dev Anand: Bollywood's Peter Pan says adieu

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi



In Bollywood, he was described as the ultimate flamboyant and ever romantic and a charming hero. Some even considered him as the Indian version of Hollywood star Gregory Peck.

However, what stood out from the adulation and the romantic image was Dev Anand's inexhaustible zeal for life.

The 88-year-old actor-filmmaker, who died in London last Saturday night, will be remembered for his swagger and it was his delivery of dialogue that reminded many of Gregory Peck.

When his contemporaries like Raj Kapoor and Dilip Kumar stopped playing heroes in movies, Dev Anand did not lose his zeal and continued to woo his much younger heroines with trademark puff of hair, his gangling walk and smile in movies like "Johnny Mera Naam", "Des Pardes", "Prem Pujari", "Gambler" and "Hare Rama Hare Krishna".

His zeal for life was evident in the fact that the actor-director-producer had worked till his last. His latest project "Chargsheet" is ready for release.

In his last interview to a media house in September on his 88th birthday, Dev Anand said he had still survived.

His recent movies focused on the themes of present times like "Awval Number", "Sau Crore", "Censor", "Mr. Prime Minister" and the latest "ChargeSheet" where he played central characters. However, these movies did not do well at the box office.

But failure never disheartened Dev

anand's demand," he had said.

Dev Anand was considered avant-garde. His films spoke of his modern sensibilities and desire to portray tomorrow's issues today. The Bollywood legend always said his films were expression of his worldview and hence dealt with socially relevant subjects.

In 2007, he released his memoirs "Romancing with Life" where he admitted he has never looked back in his life, always preferring to remain optimistic and confident about future.

He established his film production company, Navketan International Films, in 1949 and produced more than 35 movies.

Dev Anand won two Filmfare Awards in 1958 for his performance in the film "Kala Paani" and in 1966 for his performance in "Guide".

As anand. "I never give myself a chance to get depressed. I think ahead," he would say. There has always been a hint of romance and intrigue in Dev Anand's personal and professional life, which perhaps made him so popular.

In 2007, he released his memoirs "Romancing with Life" where he admitted he has never looked back in his life, always preferring to remain optimistic and confident about future.

Born as Dharamdev Anand in Gurdaspur (now Pakistan) of undivided Punjab to a well-to-do advocate, Kishorimal Anand, on September

Nationwide Folk Music Festival goes to Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Around 50 folk artistes performed at the daylong Rajshahi divisional level programme of the nationwide Folk Music Festival. The event was held at Shilpkala Academy Auditorium in the city on Saturday.

Some 17 selected folk artistes from 8 districts of the division rendered songs.

Supported by UNESCO, the festival is being organised by Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Parishad to encourage folk music and artistes from every corner of the country. The Daily Star is the media partner of the festival.

The programme was divided into two parts. In the concluding part, artistes from the division performed various sub-genres of folk songs, including Gambhira, Alkap, Barosia, Hawaia, Bhatiali, Baul, Jari, Sari, Dhuha and wedding songs.

Abdul Mannan played the dotara, while Saiful Islam played the flute at the programme.

Folk singers from Dhaka, including Sabina Yasmin, AK Azad, Tabassum Ria, Nasrin Ferdous, Swapna Mia, Anima Gomez, and Dipti Rajbanshi rendered several songs.

Early in the day, Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khamruzzaman Liton

inaugurated the festival. Dr. Abul Hasan Chowdhury, chairman, Folklore Department, presented a keynote paper at the inaugu-



Artistes perform a wedding song at the festival.

ral session. He said the rich folk heritage of the country is waning rapidly as a large percentage of folk artistes are financially strained.

The Mayor called upon non-government agencies to work alongside the government in preserving folk music.

Folklore teacher Anupam Hiru Mondol, Monwarul Islam Bokul, the Parishad leaders Sheikh Hemayet and noted singer Indra Mohon Rajbanshi also attended the discussion.

Rajbanshi expressed the hope that the festival would encourage local and other artistes to perform in Dhaka.

The Rajshahi festival followed on the heels of similar festivals in Sylhet and Rangpur. The upcoming events are in Barisal (December 9), Khulna (December 17), Chittagong (December 24) and finally, in Dhaka (December 30-31).

Padatik's Tripura performance withheld

Due to visa-related complications, Padatik Natya Sangsad's upcoming performance in Agartala, Tripura has been withheld, said a press release.

Padatik was scheduled to perform its latest production "Shey", an adaptation of a Tagore story, at the inaugural programme of Drama Festival 2011 arranged by Secretariat Recreation Club, Agartala, Tripura of India.

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A platform for poets Abriti Kanan begins its journey

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinaipur

Abriti Kanan, a platform for poets of the district, held its launching programme in Dinaipur recently. The programme, featuring recitation of Tagore poems, was a tribute to the Nobel laureate poet on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary.

The programme, organised at the premises of the new Dinaipur Shilpkala Academy, attracted an enthusiastic audience.

Poet Ashiquullah Shah inaugurated the programme and spoke as chief guest.

Kazi Borhan, head of Dinaipur Natya Samiti, and Sultan Kamaluddin, a noted cultural organiser of the district, were special guests at the inaugural session.

Md. Shafiqul Haque Chittu, former mayor of Dinaipur and president of the organisation, chaired the discussion.

At the discussion, the speakers hailed the setting up of an organisation that brought poets together. Abriti Kanan, they said, would expand the cultural arena of the district as well as help advance recitation practice.

The evening started with a group recitation of Tagore's "Debotar Grash" and wrapped up with "Jai Gobindar Jai".

Abriti Kanan is an affiliated organisation of Bangladesh Abriti Samanay Parishad. Eminent actor and lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor is the president of Bangladesh Abriti Samanay Parishad.

At present the organisation has 280 branches across the country.



Marking 56th anniversary of Bangla Academy, a daylong elaborate programme featuring discussion, competitions, documentary screening and a cultural event was held at the academy premises on December 3. Members and staff of the academy, including Director General Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan, placed wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar in the morning. Professor Khandakar Sirajul Haque read out a paper on "Muslim