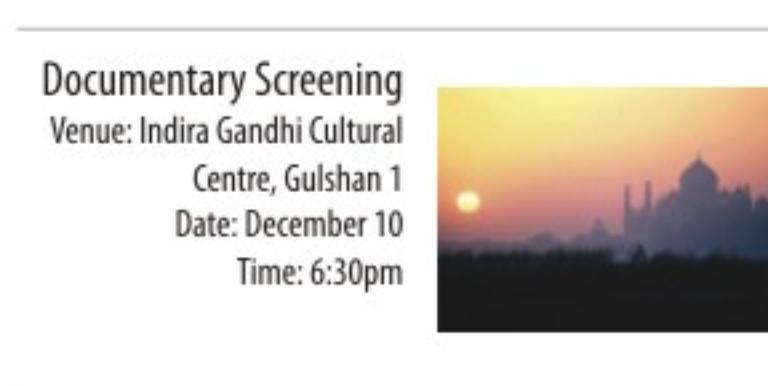


WHAT'S ON



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



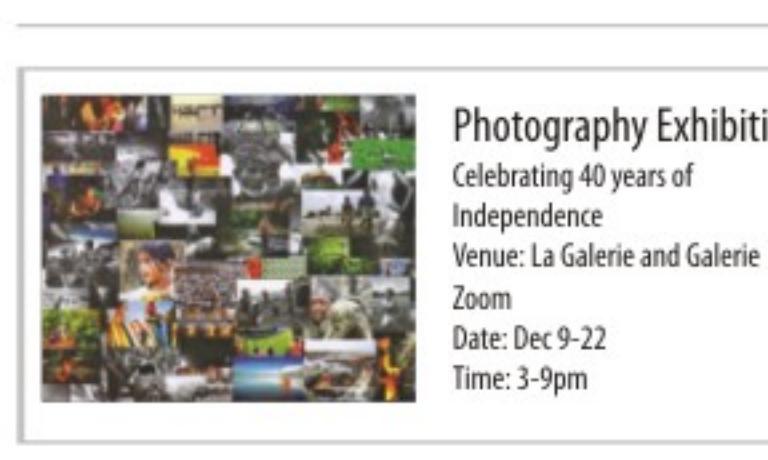
Documentary Screening
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural
Centre, Gulshan 1
Date: December 10
Time: 6:30pm



Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Gallery of Fine Arts,
Asiatic Society, Nimpoti
Date: Nov 27-Dec 9
Time: 12pm-8pm



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



Photography Exhibition
Celebrating 40 years of
Independence
Venue: La Galerie and Galerie
Zoom
Date: Dec 9-22
Time: 3-9pm



Exhibition
Title: Tropic and Kanta
Venue: Art Gallery, Bangladesh
Shilpakala Academy
Date: Dec 2-10
Time: 1am-7pm



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



16th Berger Young
Painters' Art Exhibition
Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU
Date: Dec 11-15
Time: 10am-6pm

Tribute to an iconic photographer



ANDREE STOESSEL

Six weeks have gone by since Rashid Talukder, one of Bangladesh's most revered photojournalists, has passed away at the age of 72. As homage to Rashid Talukder's extraordinary work, the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka is hosting a special photography exhibition in its premises. The exhibition with the title, 'From the self-rule to independence -- people's movement in camera', will last until December 7.

Although the artist recorded, on his camera, numerous aspects of people and life in Bangladesh, he is most famous for his images of the Liberation War. Not only are the photographs pieces of art, but also a documentation of inestimable value. Rashid Talukder had donated around 150 pictures to the museum a few years ago. "It is our responsibility to show these pictures to the public," General Manager Mahbub Alam explained. "Rashid Talukder took photographs of many moments during the war," he added. "Struggle for language, struggle during the elections, struggle for independence..."

Liberation War Museum is displaying around 70 enlarged black and white pictures in a separate showroom. Rashid Talukder's photography is also part of the regular exhibition.

The special exhibition covers the 1969 mass uprising in East Pakistan, the non-cooperation movement, mass protests, Bangabandhu's historic speech on March 7, 1971, the genocide and the Liberation War. The display includes pictures of the blocked railway lines and streets in 1964 and 1965, the rallies in the late '60s, the effects of the bombardment at Bangabhaban, student



Photographs at the exhibition.

leaders, victims, protests and triumphant processions. Of course, some of Rashid Talukder's most famous pictures are shown, such as the photograph of the brave little boy leading a procession, who was shot soon after. Even though numerous images show cruelty and desperation, many photographs put across the spirit of hope, the strength and the social cohesion of Bangladesh.

THE AUTHOR IS WORKING AS AN INTERN FOR THE DAILY STAR.

Tagore's French Connection

RAFFAT BINTE RASHID

"Tobu mone rekho jodi duure jai chole..." is a much-loved, soulful Rabindra Sangeet. But its charm multiplies manifold when you hear the bard rendering it himself in his stirring voice.

The French Gala Evening, organised by the France Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIFB) at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka on Saturday evening, was where this number from the original archive, sent solely for the occasion, was played as part of the exclusive film of Tagore in French.

The event was split in two sessions -- "Tagore and France" was all about the poet's French connection, the history, literature and music while the second session featured "Ritirango", a cultural show on classical composition, recital, song and dance. It was indeed a rare opportunity to be able to listen to the great poet sing his own songs in the documentary film, "Tagore and France", presented by Dr. Samuel Berthet, the Director of Alliance Française in Chittagong.

The relationship between Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore and France is of particular importance. It started with his grandfather Dwarkanath Tagore's visit to France and continued with his brothers, particularly Jyotirindranath.

Before his fame spread all over the world in 1913, the talent of Tagore had already attracted the attention of personalities such as the famous traveller Alexandre David Néel and the poet Saint John Terse, French ambassador to London.

His association with Romain Rolland paved the way for a historic, first-ever coordinated awakening and mobilisation of world intellectuals. Tagore became a regular visitor of La Maison Autour Monde, the house of famous businessman and patron of the arts Albert Kahn. In this house are kept invaluable archives of the poet and his family.

The first visiting professor invited to Visva Bharati was French scholar Sylvain Levi, in 1921, whose collaboration boosted Tagore's initiative of setting up a



Dancers perform at the programme.

university. His relationship with France also played a pivotal role in the incarnation of the poet as a painter with his first ever exhibition held in Galerie Pigalle in Chittagong.

Tagore's attraction towards and influence on the French artists were immense and some of them rallied his educational experience in Shantiniketan, including French artists Alain Danielou and his companion, the Swiss photographer Raymond Burnier whose photos have been discovered in 2010 and exhibited for the first time in Chittagong and Dhaka this year and then taken to India and Europe.

"Ritirango" or celebration of seasons, the second part of the programme, was rendered by Azizur Rahman Tuhin, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Shemonti Manjou, Pabok Dipro and Naima Naz. And the graceful dances were presented by Tahmina Islam, Tarah Shahwar, Mirrimoy Rahman, Ajmee Jamal and Sabroni Chanda.

CCIFB is the country's oldest foreign chamber with 120 members. This year marks the 15th consecutive time that it has organised such an event.

SS Kamal, the president of the Chamber, said in his brief speech, "The chamber this year celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of the Nobel laureate and highlights

Tagore's French connection." Kamal added that the Chamber, along with facilitating business and organising trade fairs, actively takes part in cultural exchange between the two countries. The annual French Gala Event has earned its own reputation in this regard.

The French Ambassador, the chief patron of the Chamber, pointed out that Bangladesh has an economy with considerable potential even during this worldwide economic recession. Its vibrant private sector proved that challenges can be changed into success. Bangladesh enjoys a robust trade index with France.

The evening was a chic affair that reminded us that Tagore had left behind a legacy of 'intellectuality and high spirituality'. The programme was sponsored by T.K. Chemical Complex (gold sponsor), and AEI-English Electric of Bangladesh Ltd, Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd, Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd (silver sponsors). The bronze sponsors were Bureau Veritas (bivac) Bangladesh Ltd, ECM group and Knit Concern Ltd while the support sponsors were Aamra and Total.

The writer is Editor, Star Lifestyle

Travels through Liberty

Excerpts from Azam Khan's last interview

When the (Liberation) war broke out, my father told me that if I go to the battlefield, I'd have to come back only after the nation has been liberated. I took it as a challenge. His words encouraged me a great deal on the battlefield.

At the Mela Ghat training camp for Mukti Bahini, I and my fellow freedom fighters could not keep the excitement concealed. As far as singing was concerned, it was accentuated by patriotic fervour. We used to take up our tin plates and tap on them with our songs. People from all over the barracks, including the teachers of the refugee camp schools, came to listen or sing with us.

I would not have taken part in the war had I known this is how it'd turn out. Before independence, Bengali politicians were not corrupt; they were inspiring figures. Pakistanis tried to repress us in every way possible. So, the war was inevitable. But is this what we fought for? We had a vision of a state that would uphold the rights of every citizen. Has that happened?

Maybe it's just me, but back in the day people were more passionate about music. We did not create music just to earn money, but rather to entertain the audience and make an impact on them.

Whenever I sang a song, I took my country and the listeners into consideration. I'd like to find my dream song. I've not yet recorded my best song.

I've been bestowed with immense honour and love from the people. I fought for freedom, tried to inspire the youth to stay away from all evils through my music, and in return received love from everyone.



THEATRE TODAY

"We want to project our culture through theatre"

-- Jyoti Sinha, actress, Manipuri Theatre

JAMIL MAHMUD

Jyoti Sinha, actor of Manipuri Theatre, believes that it is possible to uphold one's cultural identity through performing arts such as theatre. She adds that theatre is also an effective way to preserve and resurrect dying cultural elements.

"Initially Manipuri Theatre was our passion. As days passed by, we realised that it was also a way to project our identity," said Jyoti, an accomplished theatre actor of this generation.

After her father's death in 1996, Jyoti and her family returned to her village in Kamolganj, Moulvibazar. That year Manipuri Theatre was formed there and she joined the troupe. In 2002, she enrolled in Jhajhingar University.

PHOTO: MUMITA M.

Jyoti Sinha in "Kohe Birangana".

The fact that a theatre troupe is operating from a remote village and yet, is reasonably well known to the Dhaka audience is a rarity. Jyoti's brilliant performance in the troupe's latest production "Kohe Birangana" helped her as well as the troupe to come into the limelight. Her other memorable performances include "Sri Krishna Kirtan", "Ingl Andhar Pala" and "Ajobpurer Barshoboron".

"We had a modest beginning. Now we have a concrete idea of what we have to do," said Jyoti.

As a troupe from a village it has to face obstacles, the major one being to traverse such a distance, stage a show in Dhaka and finally return to the village. "Each journey is stressful. Yet we come only to get recognition and to demonstrate what we're about," said Jyoti.

The troupe is a member of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTTF). Jyoti thinks BGTTF can play

more important roles to help troupes outside Dhaka. "As a young theatre activist from outside Dhaka, I have little interaction with senior activists from Dhaka. If BGTTF arranges programmes such as workshops and seminars more often where we, the outsiders can join, it would help us immensely," she said.

Another issue she feels hinders theatre practice is the lack of venues in and around Dhaka. If more venues are set up in Dhaka, they would get more chances to stage plays in the metropolis, she feels.

Jyoti shared that they want to follow the philosophy of Badal Sircar's 'Third Theatre'. As they do not have advanced light and sound equipments, they want to win hearts of the audience through their performances.

Two of a kind

Gallery Cosmos -2 opens its doors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gallery Cosmos inaugurated its second premises on December 3 at Villa de Anjuman, New DOHS, Mohakhali in the city. Bangladeshi expatriate painter Jamil Akbar, Nagarbari Barman, Tarik Islam, Shohag Parvez, Sohel Rana, Tina Kabir and others. The guest artists were Alokesh Ghosh, Sukhomoy Sadoshima, UNB Chairman Amannullah Khan, UNB Editor-in-Chief and CEO of the gallery Enayetur Khan, Tehmina Enayet, director of the gallery, among others, were present on the occasion.

On the occasion, the gallery organised a daylong

drawing workshop conducted by Shahabuddin Ahmed.

About 20 painters from different art institutions took part in the workshop. The participating painters were Anukul Chandra Majumdar, Mustafa Akbar, Nagarbari Barman, Tarik Islam, Shohag Parvez, Sohel Rana, Tina Kabir and others.

Enayetur Khan said, "The gallery's main aim is to promote Bangladeshi art locally and abroad. We also want to reform and reshape our present art scenario. The gallery will invite well-known critics, historians, curators and painters from all over the world as part of its varied activities. We want to set up more galleries for popularising our art and culture. Regular exhibitions, discussions and workshops will also be vital part of the gallery's activities."

Shahabuddin Ahmed handed certificates among the participants of the workshop. Later, drawings produced from the workshop were exhibited at the gallery.

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