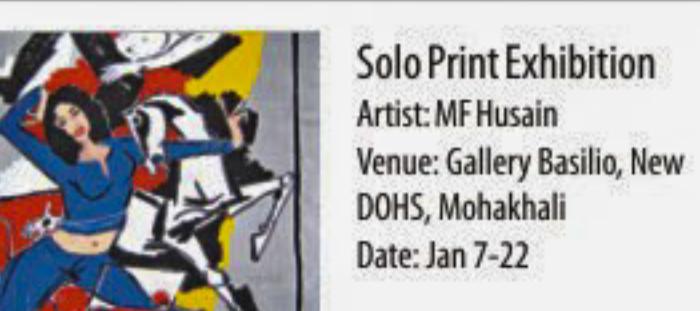


WHAT'S ON



Solo Print Exhibition
Artist: MF Husain
Venue: Gallery Basilio, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Jan 7-22



Dhaka Int'l Film Fest
Venue: Central Public Library, National Museum, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: January 12-20
Time: 10am onwards



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Nayan
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpkala Academy
Date: Jan 14-21
Time: 5pm



Russian Film Festival
Venue: Zahir Raihan Auditorium, Jahangirnagar University
Date: Jan 17-18
Time: 3pm



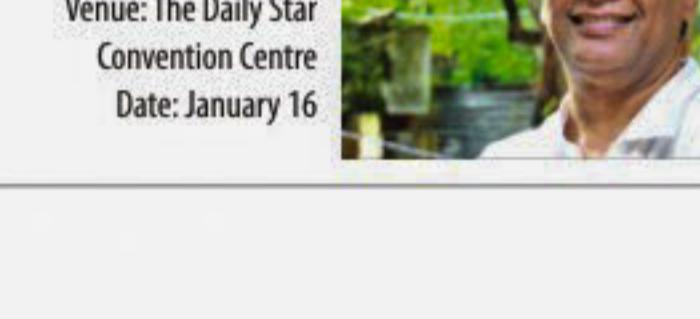
Wall Magazine Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Wall Magazine Parishad
Venue: Bangla Academy
Date: Jan 13-15
Time: 10am-6pm



Film Festival
Organiser: Suchitra Sen Smriti Shomprakash
Venue: Mukti Joddha Baffin Hall, Baitul Ahsan Auditorium, Pabna
Date: Jan 10-16
Time: 5pm



Selim Al Deen Death Anniversary
Venue: Shilpkala Academy
Date: January 13-16
Time: 6:30pm



Tareque Masud Master's Class
Lecturer: Victor Kossakovsky (Russia)
Venue: The Daily Star Convention Centre
Date: January 16

A CELEBRATION OF BANGLADESHI FILMS "CHALACHCHITRA MELA" AT BFDC

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Happy times returned to BFDC (Bangladesh Film Development Corporation) last Friday, as Channel i and BFDC jointly hosted a fair to celebrate Bangladeshi cinema. Thousands thronged BFDC premises to add to the already festive atmosphere of the fair.

The big guns of the silver screen, along with the rising stars, started arriving since morning, with authorities having a hard time managing the inflow of film enthusiasts at the venue. Officially inaugurating the fair at 11am, Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad termed the government's decision to increase grants for Bangladeshi films a "positive development". He further expressed hopes of Bangladeshi cinema returning to its glory days, adding his best wishes for the next movie fairs to be held on a grander scale.

Also present at the inauguration were Information Secretary Hedayatullah Al Mamun NDC; Managing Director of BFDC, M. Hamid; Impress Film Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagar; President of Film Producers' Association, Masud Parvez; President of Film Directors' Association, Mohammad Hanman; President of Camera Artistes Association, Abdul Latif Bachchu; President of Film Editors' Guild, Abu Musa Debu; President of Film Artistes' Association, Shakib Khan; seasoned actors Razzaq, Moushumi and Shilpi also received special honours.

The daylong festivities included a cultural programme, featuring Mohammad Khurshid Alam, Subir Nandi, Rizia Parvin, S.I. Tutul, Kona, Tele Samad performing at the event. Actors Ilias Kanchan, Rozina, Anjana, Omar Sunny, Amin Khan, Helal Khan, Nipun, Shahruh, Shilpi, Samrat and others also performed to the music. Razzaq, Bapparaj and Shilpi launched the performances.

Both veterans and rookies of the movie industry held casual chats throughout the day sharing memories and experiences.

Different stalls were also erected at



Soovas Dutt (2-R) receives crest from Abul Kalam Azad; M. Hamid and Faridur Reza Sagar are also seen in the photo.



the venue, featuring movie related books, CDs and other merchandise. The Eagle Video stall drew attention with a large number of people rushing to buy the collection of black and white movies from the 1970s and '80s. The poster exhibition by Bangladesh Cine Still Photographers Association was also a mentionable event.

Wall posters also put up the images of 84 movie stars whom we have lost.

Abdur Rahman was the project manager of the fair, while event direction was conducted by Taher Shiron.

Apu Mafuz and Moushumi Barua hosted the entire event, with Channel i airing the programme live.

Udichi celebrates Ranesh Dasgupta's birth centennial



Dignitaries inaugurate the festival.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 100th birth anniversary of eminent litterateur and a founder of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Ranesh Dasgupta, Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi has arranged a three-day festival at the Shadhinota Stambho Complex of Suhrawardy Udayan in Dhaka. The festival was inaugurated on January 13.

Under the titled "Konthe Moder Kunthabihin Nityakaara Daak", the festival features discussion, recitation and musical soiree.

Cultural personality Syed Hasan Imam inaugurated the festival. Indian elocutionists Partha Ghosh, Gouri Ghosh, Jagannath Basu and Urmimala Basu attended the programme as special guests.

Noted poets Nirmelendu Goon, Asad Chowdhury; cultural personalities Nasiruddin Yousoff and Asaduzzaman Noor; elocutionists Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay and Kazi Arif also attended the programme.

The discussions talked about Ranesh Dasgupta's life and contributions. They were of the view that Dasgupta contributed greatly to the national cultural movement besides his involvement in the left leaning politics. His journalistic and creative writings predominantly speak out against fundamentalism and oppression. He was a liberal thinker. A renaissance man and a dedicated social and cultural activist, Dasgupta was fearless and never compromised his moral integrity.

A story of freedom "Agunmukha" staged in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

"Agunmukha", a play that recounts the struggle of freedom loving people drew a huge audience at the local Shilpkala Academy auditorium on January 13.

Through the drama, the audience witnessed the struggle of people who seek to establish a society free from oppression and injustice on the one hand and corrupt practices of the state on the other.

Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, a leading theater troupe of the town, staged the drama for the second time.

Written by eminent playwright Mannan Hira, and directed by Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, secretary of Bahurupi, the play was the 389th stage performance of the troupe.

The cast of the play included Shahadat Hossain Saikat, Subarna Saki Khushbu, Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, Mofiz-un-Noor Khoka, Shahrer Neaz Babu and Krishna Talukder.

Manash Talukder, Wahab Mahmud Ramzan and Narayan Basak assisted in designing the stage, lighting and background music.

A discussion was held prior to the drama. Managing director of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, Professor A.K.M. Helalul Islam and Hilu concluded.

assistant secretary general of Group Theatre Federation, Md. Akhtaruzzaman, spoke at the inaugural session.

Among others, secretary of Bidrohi Natya Goshthi, Ali Azhar; secretary of Mymensingh Sahitya Sangsad, Anwara Sultan Aanu and secretary of Chayanat Sahitya and Sangskritik Dal, Ariful Haque, were present at the show.

The speakers said that the people who refuse to compromise with evil forces embark on a struggle against them and this trend has been continuing for centuries. The patriotic rebels stay uncompromised until their death and this scenario is depicted in the drama.

The patriots believe that the truth is timeless and it is never scrapped as obsolete. A complexity is seen between the relationship of the people and the state. Only emotion cannot unearth many truths hidden in politics and human relationships.

Talking to this correspondent, Bahurupi secretary Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu said that they staged the drama for the second time as they had a highly favourable response from the audience after the first show.

The turnout at the venue was very encouraging and will definitely inspire other cultural organisations to stage plays in Mymensingh town, Hilu concluded.

Manash Talukder, Wahab Mahmud Ramzan and Narayan Basak assisted in designing the stage, lighting and background music.

A discussion was held prior to the drama. Managing director of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, Professor A.K.M. Helalul Islam and Hilu concluded.

Visitor's delight Sultan Mela-2012

POONJ S BOSE, Narail

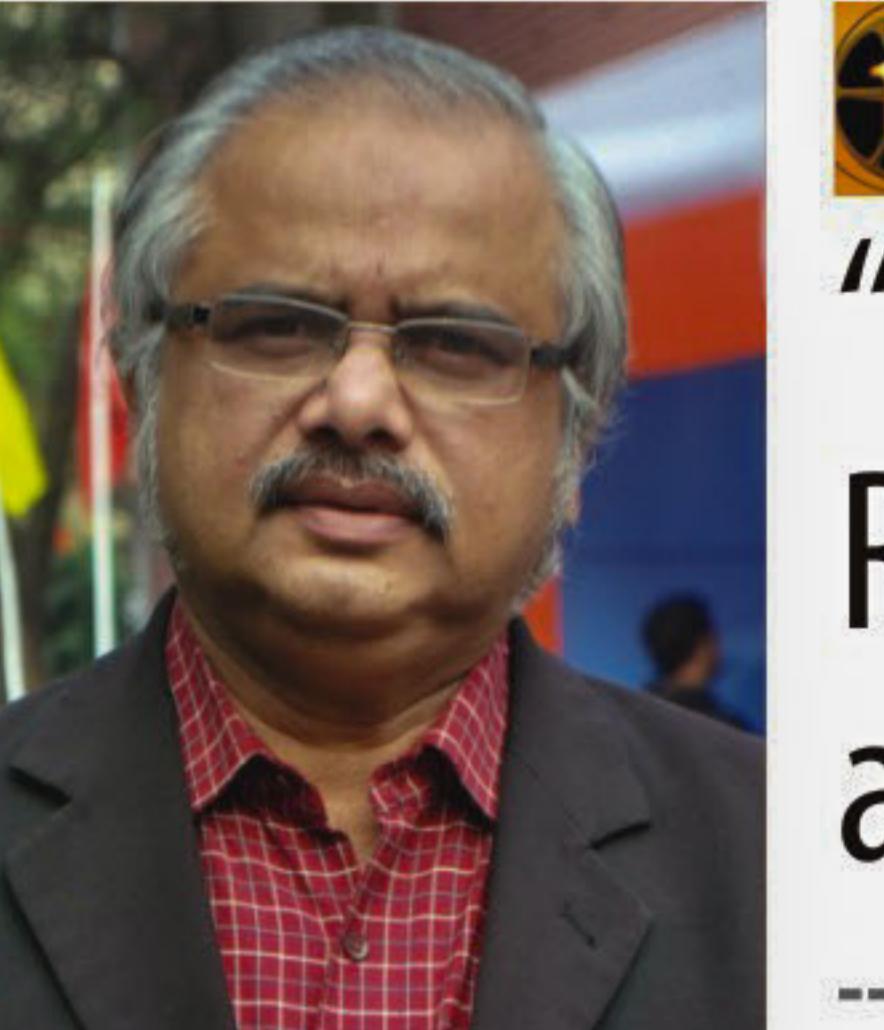


PHOTO COURTESY: DIFC
Ahmed Muztaba Zamal

JAMIL MAHMUD

Thousands of S.M. Sultan aficionados and visitors from different corners of the country as well as locals and people from the neighbouring country have gathered at the annual Sultan Mancha premises. In fact Sultan fans are now demanding an extension of the mela (fair) by three more days every year.

The Sultan Mancha premises and Shishu Shargo of Masimida village were in festive mode. Thousands of people and children had arrived at the mela. The children could be seen on the Ngora Dol. There were about 50 colourful stalls with different goods on display.

The mela kicked off on January 9 and will conclude on January 15. The visitors could be seen enthusiastically viewing art competitions, art exhibitions, bull fighting, horse races, jari gaan and kabi gaan, lathi khela, wrestling, recitation, theatre, cycling and ha-du-du.

A social satire that stands as a metaphor, "The Tenants" is a breath of fresh air from Iran. The film, set in the 1980s' Tehran, narrates stories of people with their own quirks and eccentricities.

Six Mehrjui films are being screened in the section.

Every afternoon a discussion is being held at Sultan Mancha with the participation of noted artists and renowned personalities of the country.

On the days of the meeting, in the evening cultural functions organised by different national and local organisations continue well into the night.

When contacted Md. Zohirul Haque, Deputy Commissioner Narail, said that this year it would not be possible to extend the mela at the last moment. He added that the authorities have chalked out a plan next year to increase mela days.

Every afternoon a discussion is being held at Sultan Mancha with the participation of noted artists and renowned personalities of the country.

Foreign delegates including filmmakers, actors, organisers and jury board members are in town at present. Zamal said that delegates have expressed their satisfaction regarding the arrangement of the festival.

This year over 200 films are being screened -- an admirable accomplishment by any standard. Zamal informed that they wanted to include more but failed because of lack of venues. Films are being screened at four venues at this year's festival.

Tareque Masud's "Runway" comes to Netrakona



Poster of "Red Tails".

The late director Tareque Masud's latest film "Runway" will be shown in Netrakona, as part of the ongoing countrywide release of the film, today, according to a press release.

The film will be screened at Mahua auditorium in the town, with three shows at 3pm, 5pm and 7pm today. "Naroshundor", Tareque and Catherine Masud's short fiction set in 1971, will also be shown. The programme is being jointly organised by Sandhani Pathagar and Helbop Krira Chakro, in association with Sruti Chitro.

Recently "Runway" was also screened in Mymensingh on January 7, in Jessor on December 29 and 30, 2011 and in Rajbari on December 31. Later this month, shows are planned for Dinajpur, Rangpur and Comilla. The film will be released in Dhaka on February 10.

Beetle Baily



by Mort Walker



by Don Trachte

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