

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushehy Book Fair '12
Venue: Bangla Academy Premises
Date: February 1-29
Time: 9am onwards

Morshedul Islam Film Festival
Organiser: Tapar Tapar
Venue: Nat Mondol
Date: Feb 16-18
Time: 3:30pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Ecdas De Bangladesh
Photographer: Dr. Ferre Gacuin
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: Feb 17-Mar 1

Three Decades of Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premises
Date: Feb 19-20
Time: 10:30am onwards

Solo Exhibition
Title: Philosophy of Life
Artist: Rabul Amin Kaji
Venue: Banglali Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmoadi
Date: Feb 9-21
Time: 12pm-8pm

15th Anniversary of Prachyanat
Title: Andarjanta
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: February 21-22

Solo Exhibition
Artist: Khashinath Salve
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, R-6, H-115, New DCHS, Mohakhali
Date: Feb 7-20
Time: 11am-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Studied Reflections
Venue: Radius Centre, Gulshan-1
Date: Feb 10-Mar 2
Time: 10am-8pm

OUR FARIDEE



FARIDUR REZA SAGAR

In a magazine interview, Afzal Hossain announced that within a few days he would introduce someone on TV who would change the whole thought process of the television audience. The Dhaka cultural arena was mystified as to the identity of this person. We kept questioning Afzal but he made no comment. "One of my friends will come to Khabar Dabar," said Afzal. A young man wearing a white half-sleeved shirt with combed back hair appeared at the restaurant exactly at 5 pm. Shykh Siraj had a hunch that this was the young man who Afzal had been referring to for the last few days. "If Afzal wants to transform the thinking of the local audience with this man then I'm seriously questioning his judgment," said Siraj.

"Where are you come from?" "From Jahangirnagar University," was his reply, and he continued with, "Your next question must be what am I studying and why am I in Dhaka?" Surprised by his counter questions, we told him to wait for Afzal as he would be a bit late. Siraj had one more test for him though. He sent a plate of nakshi pitha and patishapta pitha, and another plate of lemon, onion and cucumber to the mystery man's table. We were waiting to see what he does. We expected the obvious -- that he would call the waiter and then either give him a sound scolding or question the kind of food he had been served. But, without any reaction

he ate up the two pithas and asked the waiter to take the salad back.

That was Humayun Faridee, who was always cool and composed. Which explains how beginning with village theatre he reached the pinnacle of the Bangladeshi media. There will be piles of articles on his life, on how he played diverse roles with absolute authority on both the small and big screen. There will also be TV shows about him.

I remember Faridee, in Gangtok, on an Eid Day. The night before Eid, I discovered that the city only had one mosque located near the bus stop. But no one knew the time of the jamaat (mass prayer). So, at 7:30 am I started towards the mosque and found Faridee sleeping with his room locked. Returning to the hotel from prayer at around 10 am, I found my gum-faced mother.

"Don't you know I need my breakfast exactly at 9 am because of my health condition?" -- she asked.

"I know, but the jamaat started late at the mosque."

"But Faridee returned way earlier than you from the mosque."

"But Faridee..." I stopped mid-sentence and pictured the whole story in my head. How could I tell my mother that he didn't go for prayers because he was asleep? She must've met him during her morning walk. And Faridee made my mother believe that he had returned from the mosque to the hotel right after the jamaat. He might have also spiced up his story by saying, "The others must be roaming around Gangtok after the jamaat."

Wherever Faridee went he had the last laugh. Is that why he left us on the first day of Falgun?

In the midst of writing this article, two of my friends: Sanaul Arefin and Imdadul Haq Milon showed up. I asked them to look at what I had written so far. Both of them commented that there was not enough emotion in it; they also stated that many of Faridee's contemporaries had not been mentioned in it.

Among his arresting terra cotta sculptures are those of Sarasawati, ardhanareswara (a half man-half woman form of Shiva), Durga as she vanquishes the demon Mahishasura.

Chatterji carries the legacy of the famous Bengal school of art. He is the disciple of artist, sculptor, poet Asit Kumar Haldar, principal of the Government School of Art and Crafts at Lucknow and the first Indian to be appointed in that post to a government art school.

Haldar was Rabindranath Tagore's grand nephew. In Chatterji's spacious and airy art gallery can be found Tagore's large folding chair while his home carries an arresting image of Tagore in profile at an angle that

Sanat Kumar Chatterjee: The Sage Artist makes it to Guinness

KAVITA, Shimla

The year 1998 was a watershed in the life of Shimla-based artist and sculptor Sanat Kumar Chatterjee. His magnum opus, a water colour on a 100 foot X 11 foot silk scroll had found a place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's longest painting. Chatterjee vividly recalls the proud moment when he got the news. "I was at a complete loss for words. The feeling of elation was incomparable," says Chatterjee.

His son Him Chatterjee, a professor of visual art at Himachal University, unrolls the blueprint of the large oeuvre. The scroll finely details the Mahashakti (feminine principle), the Hindu concepts of creation, preservation and destruction, interspersed with the Indian astrological interpretation of the zodiac signs. The younger Chatterjee points out that in addition to being an artist, sculptor, poet and musician, his father is an amateur astrologer.

Sanat Chatterji has a penchant for painting deities in the Hindu pantheon such as Shiv, Parvati, Durga and Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge and the arts. His forte is the extremely complex technique of wash painting, in which medium he has done work on subjects such as the flower polish, an intimate couple and a lady with twins.

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Sanat Chatterjee (front) is one of the last living pioneers of the Bengal School of Art.

reveals a thinning patch of his head which he otherwise refused to have caught on camera.

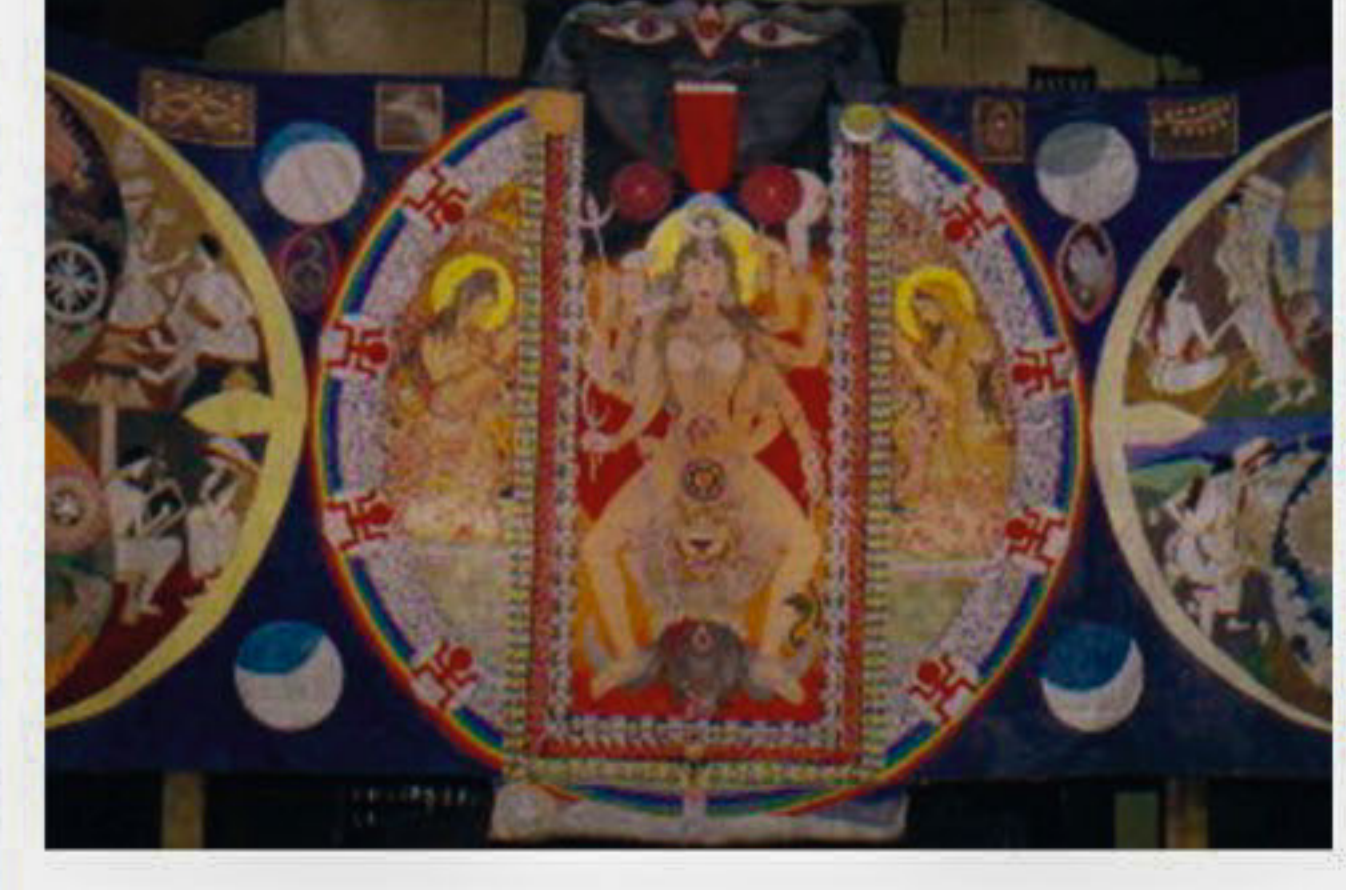
It is with nostalgia that Sanat Chatterji speaks of his guru Haldar. The "sage artist" as Him often refers to his father, was advised by Haldar to leave the big city and move to the quiet hills of Shimla. Formerly head of the Department of Fine Arts, Government College, Shimla, the elder Chatterji now leads a reclusive existence in Heaun village, Shimla where he has a studio-gallery and residence.

It is a tribute to his talent that his works adorn many Raj Bhavans (governors homes)

including Punjab, Haryana, the homes of eminent personalities such as Indira Gandhi, Dr Karan Singh, many government offices and educational institutions apart from art galleries in UK, Japan, West Germany, among other countries.

Now wheelchair bound after a stroke left him paralysed on the right side, he is frequently emotional when he talks of the old days. Often Him has to fill in the blanks about his father's life and times.

But the elder Chatterjee is not complaining. "I find solace in being amidst nature," he says on a wistful note.



NEW RELEASES

Sweet Dreams Instrumental album by Sheikh Sadi Khan & Reenat Fauzia
Source: Laser Vision

Bhalobash ar Diney Mixed album
Source: Agniweena

Godhuli Songs of yester-years by Kamal Ahmed
Source: Laser Vision

From Your Valentine Mixed album
Source: Audio X

LALTIP released yesterday

Big budget Bangladeshi film "Laltip" was released yesterday. In the run up to the big day, a red carpet premiere show was held at Bashundhara City Star Cineplex on February 15, says a press release.

Managing director of Impress Tele-film Limited, Faridur Reza Sagar; director and head of news of Channel I Shykh Seraj; executive director (French section of the film) Enayet Ullah; director of the film Swapan Ahmed and two lead role players -- Kusum Shikdar and Emon -- were present at the premiere.

French music composer Maurice Jarre did the music for the film. Maurice Jarre has received three Academy Awards and was nominated eight times, all in the category of Best Original Score. He also won three Golden Globes and was nominated 10 times. Talented Bangladeshi singers-composers Fuad, Ibrar Tipu, Ali Akbar Rupu and Arfin Rumej have also composed music for the film.

Latoya Jackson, sister of legendary pop singer Michael Jackson, has done playback for the film. Popular

Bangladeshi singers -- Kona, Nancy, Porshi, Tapash, Kazi Shubho, Upal, Arfin Rumej, Ibrar Tipu, Faad, James and Syed Abdul Hadi -- are the other playback singers in "Laltip".

Under the label of Impress Tele-film Ltd., Ashirbad Chalachitra will distribute the 132-minute long film.

The story of "Laltip" revolves around a Bengali girl who has grown up in Paris. Like many other expatriates, she is torn between her Bengali and French cultural identities. This diaspora dilemma is depicted through a love story in the film.

Apart from Kusum Shikdar and Emon, the cast of the film includes ATM Shamsuzzaman, Shohel Khan, Shahidul Islam Sachchu, Mishu Sabbir, Konal and Mithila (from Bangladesh) and Anna Lewis, Natali Fancesci, Daniel Karmer, Numia Jebi, Javier and Deborah Newman (from France and USA).

The film has been shot in France, Thailand, India and Bangladesh.



First World Bengali Conference to begin in Dhaka tomorrow



Ramendu Majumdar speaks at the press conference.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time World Bengali Conference is going to be held in Dhaka. The three-day conference will be inaugurated at Osmani Memorial Auditorium at 10:30 am on February 19. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be the chief guest while Nobel laureate Dr. Amartya Sen will be a special guest at the inaugural programme. A London-based organisation, Bengal International (BI), is hosting the conference.

A press conference was held yesterday in this regard at the VIP Lounge of National Press Club in the capital. Chairperson of BI, Mohammad Shamsul Haque; one of the founders of BI, Dr. Binoy Bhushan Chowdhury; joint convenors of the conference preparatory committee Ramendu Majumdar and Nasiruddin Youssuff; members of the same committee Hasan Arif and Selim SH Chowdhury and BI representatives from London, USA, Canada, Dubai and other parts of the world were present and spoke at the press conference. Member secretary of the preparatory committee, Golum Kuddus, conducted the press conference.

The inaugural programme will start through the rendition of national anthem, Ekusher Gaan and observance of one-minute silence in honour of all the martyrs of Language Movement, Liberation War and other rights movements of Bangladesh.

Apart from speeches by chief and special guests, Dr. Binoy Bhushan Chowdhury; Mohammad Shamsul Haque and Nasiruddin Youssuff will speak at the inaugural programme. Golum Kuddus will conduct the inaugural programme.

Four seminars will be held at the Nawab Nabab Ali Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka. Following the inaugural session, a presentation titled "Bengalis' Gift to the World" by Dr. William Radice will be held. Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam will preside over the seminar.

On the second day (February 20) of the conference, three seminars will take place at the venue. Presided over by Professor Rehman Sobahan, Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen will present the keynote paper, "Bangalians: Ekush Shatak" at 10 am while Vice Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, Professor Udaya Narayana Singh will speak on "Bhasha Tumi Kaar: Je Chahey Tahar" at 11:30

am. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor, Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, will preside over the session. The last seminar titled "Bohobishwe Bangla Bhasha O Shongskritir Bortoman Ebong Bhabishyot" will be held at 2 pm on the day. Presided over by Professor Zillur Rahman Siddique, eminent journalist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury will speak at the seminar.

Marking 60 years of Language Movement, eminent Bengalis from across the world will formally place wreath at Central Shaheed Minar at 12pm on February 21. A vibrant cultural programme will also be held at Rabindra Sarobar Mancho, Dharmoadi at 4 pm. Both expatriate Bengalis and local artists will perform at the event.

The conference aims to nourish Bengali culture and to form Bengali brotherhood worldwide. The richness of Bengali nation will be solidified through the concerted efforts of both expatriate and local Bangladeshis. Established in London, UK, Bengali International has branches in America, Australia and Africa. The organisation has been working for diffusing Bengali culture and consolidating Bengali solidarity for the last 35 years.

THE WEEKLY STRUM guitar magazine content including song and album lists, lyrics, and a guitar image.

Beetle Baily and Henry comic strips by Mort Walker and Don Trachte.

Table with TV and radio program listings for various channels like BT, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, etc.

Table with radio program listings for stations like akc radio FM 89.2, Shree Janakly, etc.

Chorkaboo On RTV at 08:15pm Drama Serial Cast: Shaju Khadem, Shanu

Chayanari Kayanari On ATN BANGLA at 09:20pm Drama Serial Cast: Bony Mirza, Shamim

Table with TV program listings for ntv, Star World, National Geographic Channel, etc.

Table with Drama Serial listings for ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ntv, etc.

Table with News Bulletin listings for BT, CHANNEL 1, ntv, etc.

Table with Talk Show listings for ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ntv, etc.