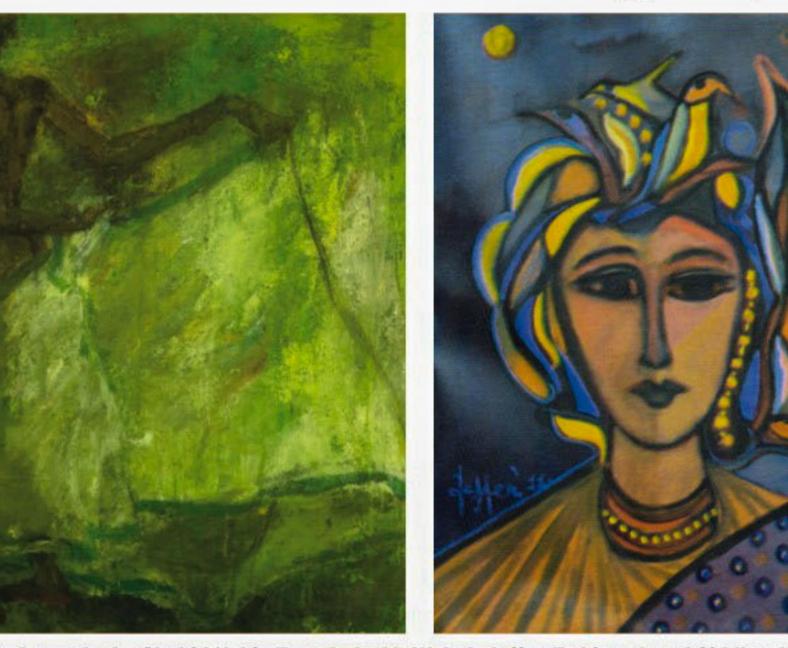


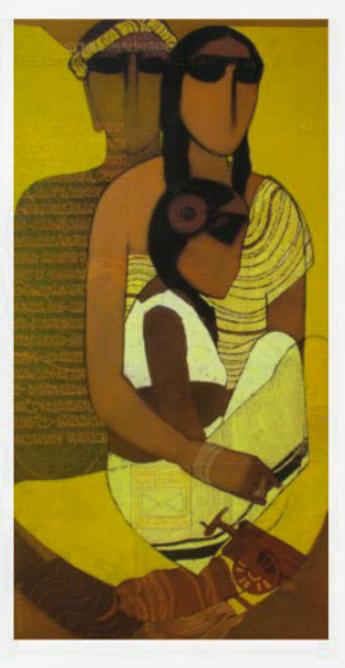


## Artists representing three nations come together

Standard Chartered hosts group art exhibition







(From left): Artworks by Shahid Kabir (Bangladesh), Wahab Jaffer (Pakistan) and Siddharth Shingade (India)

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Standard Chartered Bangladesh hosted a two-day art exhibition, titled "Diverse Strokes," featuring works of artists from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. The exhibition was held at Utshab Ballroom Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in the city. The exhibition was conceived and curated by Ritu Jain and Ishi Jami.

The participating Bangladeshi paint ers are: Murtaja Baseer, Syed Jahangii Qayyum Chowdhury, Abu Taher, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Shahid Kabir, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Shahid Kabir, Ranjit Das, Mohammad Eunus Kanak Chanpa Chakma and others. Abu Taher's canvas is usually domi-

nated by thick colours, scribbles and subtle figures. At the exhibition, his painting shows some rural women in a joyous disposition. The work looks rather rigid, as he does not leave any free space on his canvas. Strong whirling and broken lines and colours are the highlight Taher's work. The painter is seemingly influenced by Willem De Kooning.

Rafiqun Nabi is well known for his paintings, woodcut prints and drawing His paintings delightfully project the serene ambience of nature. Colours us ally used by the artist are azure, yellow, ochre, red, black and emerald green -

representing rural Bengal. Nabi does ermen, kingfishers, broken bridges, buf-Shingade, Vinita Karim, Dayanand faloes, boats, crows, wild flowers, people Karmakar and Ramesh Gorjala. at leisure and gossiping. His landscapes Narahari Bhawandla seems to be

exhibition, his semi-nude figure is seen

against black shade. Earlier the painter

Later he concentrated on objects from

everyday life. Teapots, flower vase and

Brickfields, riverscape, working women

Mohammad Eunus prefers pure

abstract images where colours and

forms are combined together. The

painter prefers to articulate himself

through abstract expressionism. At the

exhibition, the upper part of his paint-

part creates an imposing view with

and moments. Eunus always tries to

focus on affluent texture and open

ing features scrawled lines and the lower

azure light. His abstraction refers to life

also appear in his paintings.

The painter has used emerald green

attained fame for his series on Lalon.

transport the viewer to a higher realm. interested in oriental art. At the exhibi The artist arranges motifs in differen tion his work focuses on rural beauty combinations of light and shade. where women and bird get special Shahid Kabir has lived and worked in attention. The canvas also features lush Madrid for a long time. He has settled Siddharth Shingade's work is drawback in Dhaka and maintains a modest atelier at Kalabagan in the city. At the ing-based where subdued colours and

in a glowing light and mystifying setting The painter demonstrates his passion for portraying women in sombre mood. The painting's backdrop also carries a reflection of the woman. Ramesh Gorjala paints mythological figures and themes with detail and senfruits are common subjects in his works. sitivity. His subjects include Vishnu

delicate female figure are highlighte

Buddha and other deities. His works have a decorative look where tiny objects, lines and circles are noticeable A number of renowned Pakistani artists took part at the exposition. Among them are: A.Q. Arif, Wahab Jaffer, Farrukh Shahab, Abid Madad, Man

Rahi, Shahzad Zar and others. A.Q. Arif portrays historic buildings and architecture. The painter likes to go into details and wants to depict the aesthetic beauty of the place. He is very conscious about using colours. The dissimilarities of tones have been highlighted in differen

Wahab Jaffer's work depicts three women, and the women have similar facial expressions. The painter has made a distinction of their moods by using different colours. The birds in his painting signify peace and harmony

Abid Madad's area of expertise seems to be portraits. The painter has portrayed a seated woman. It is no doubt that the artwork was time consuming and it conveys the painter's reflection of close study of the character. The mode of expression is photo-realism.

Farrukh Shahab portrays many faces in different perspectives. The painter draws his inspiration from myth. Fragmentation is another significant feature of the painting and the artist's experi mentation with the visages has added another dimension to the painting

At the exhibition, M.A. Bukhari's painting depicts Arabic calligraphy and abstract compositions where colours and tones get transformed. For his Arabic calligraphy, he has engraved letters into layers of paint with a specially designed pen -- giving an aesthetic and decorative depth to each word and incorporating modern cubism at the

The exhibition was sponsored by tandard Chartered Bangladesh. The exhibition ended yesterday.

### LOVE BURNT BY THE FLAMES OF MELANCHOLY Nrityanchal premieres

Rai Krishna Padabali at Shilpakala

drama, "Bhanusingher Padabali"

position by Vidyapati -- Tagore's

unfurls with the classic composition

by Jaidev and ends with Govinda Das

composition. It also includes a com-

heartfelt tribute to the Vaishnav saint

ultimately wins when it mingles with

There goes a popular maxim -- love

ZAHANGIR ALOM

As a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore, Nrityanchal premiered a dancedrama, "Rai Krishna Padabali", at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 24. Inspired by "Bhanusingher Padabali", one of Tagore's earliest

Sheikh Hafizur Rahman wrote the dance-drama. The philosophy of true love took ied the sage poets Jaidev and Vidyapati. Tagore not only composed the extraor-

root in Tagore's heart when he studdinary lyrics, but music. The dance

melancholy. The love between the human soul (represented by Rai or Radha) and eternal soul (Krishna) holds this concept true. The endless journey of love between Rai and Krishna was set in

> Krishna tried to appease her by praising her beauty. Eventually after endless persuasion by Krishna, Radh manages to control her emotions. She surrenders herself to him.

> > Gope-Gopinis (donned by 70 artistes of Nrityanchal dance to celebrate Rai and Krishna's eternal love. Renowned Bangladeshi and

Indian singers --Haimanti Shukla, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonya, Manomo

Inspired by "Bhanusingher Padabali", one of Tagore's earliest works, noted

Bangladeshi poet Sheikh Hafizur Rahman wrote the dance-drama

danseuse Shamim Ara Nipa) is distraught prior to Krishna's (donned by Shibly Mohammad) ascension to the gettable memories of Krishana with the Gopes and Gopinis (friends) --Subal, Lalita, Bishakha, Brinda and Meanwhile, Krishna's childhood

friend Subal informs Rai of Krishna's intention of meeting her. Rai's longing for Krishna intensifies as she waits. The moment Krishna appears, she, however, feels awestruck. Her love, burnt by the flames of melancholy, has turned into ash.

A raas leela follows, where

Bhattacharya, Antara Chowdhury, Jayati Chakrobarty and Agniv Bandyopadhyay -- lent their voices to the musical. Noted Indian elocutionists Soumitra Chatterjee, Prodip Ghosh, Bratati Bandyopadhyay, Debashish Basu and Amit Roy narrated the story. Ratna Chowdhury, of India, directed the music.

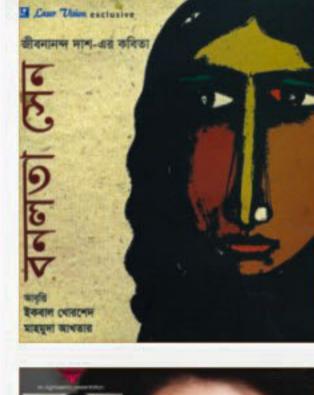
Nuruddin Faruk Shubho's set design, Sabuj Bhuiyan and Nasirul Haque Khokon's impressive light design deserve praise. Multimedia direction and editing by Palash Sarkar added a dimension to the live perfor-Sukalyan Bhattacharya, who pre-

sented an incredible piece in the production, planned and directed the dance-drama. The artiste also planned the costumes and props. Saheli Mahapatra and Pralay Sarkar jointly assisted him in direction. Sheikh Hafizur Rahman's "Rai

Krishna Padabali" was edited by Shankar Talukdar to suit the presen-At the end of the show, the emcee

of the programme, noted media personality and co-ordinator of Nrityanchal Muhammad Jahangir invited the chief guest, Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad; writer of the dancedrama Sheikh Hafizur Rahman; seasoned singer Haimanti Shukla and other dignitaries to the stage.

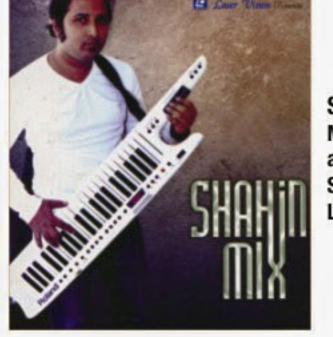
#### NEW RELEASES



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# Mayor Theatre Festival in Rajshahi begins



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Mayor Theatre Festival starte in Rajshahi on Friday evening, celebrating its 2nd anniversary with an array of plays for local theatre

The eight-day festival brings eight theatre groups from around the country to Rajshahi Medical College Auditorium to present a wide variety of plays including "Noshto Neer" by Dhaka Theatre "Uttorkhona" by Anushilon Natyodal, and "Shasti" by Rajshahi is not a haven for crime.

Shangskritik Sangha in Rajshah The fest continues with "Lal Jamin" by Shunnon, "Amena Shundori" by Theatre Art Unit of Dhaka, and "Aronney" by Rajsha University Theatre.

On the inaugural day, Rajshah Theatre staged its old production The play focused on the devious

ness of those who dupe simple people. Renowned local theatre artiste Kamarullah Sarker, Dr. FM Jahid and child artiste Souhardo

Sarker Rito performed the main roles in the play, directed by Another theatre group, Tarun



Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation organised the festival sponsored by Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC). The federation's chairman and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

> director general Liaquat Ali Lucky inaugurated the festival. Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman was chief guest at the event. He explained that the Rajshahi City Corporation is supporting the theatre festival to give evil forces the message that

"Bauthnama" on Saturday.

The inaugural session was also addressed among others by Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theater Federation and Rajshahi University teacher and playwright Malay Bhowmick, with the festival convenor and RCC ward councillor

Shariful Islam Babu in the chair. A rally paraded the city streets prior to this. Guests and artistes from around the country were welcomed at the festival with the showering of flowers and dances to songs "Labonne Purno Pran", "Anondoloke"

and "Fagun Legechhe". The festival will continue till Sampraday from Sirajganj, staged March 2.

## Promoting regional culture

Shantiniketan based musi-

Lathhi khela (mock fight with sticks) was presented at Barisal Central Shaheed Minar last Friday afternoon.

The 20-member Tiger Lathhi Khela Dol of Kulchar village under Babuganj upazila gave the one-hour performance as a part of a three-day cultural fair inaugurated on Thursday evening The fair has been organised by the district administration to

Events and performances based on folk themes and literature such as lathhi-khela, poetry, punthi-pathh; folk songs such as jari, shari, royani; dance and jatra are highlights of the programme. Stalls at the fair carry traditional food and sweets, clothes and

promote regional culture, tradition and heritage.

Barisal City Corporation Mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron led a rally from Aswani Kumar Hall to Shaheed Minar during the inaugu ration of the fair. ASM Arifur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Barisal, presided over the inaugural function.

cal troupe Shaptak held a cultural programme titled "Ganer Bhetor Diye" at the Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban, on February 24. The programme featured rendition of Tagore songs both by Bangladeshi and Indian singers. Among Bangladeshi artistes, Papia Sarwar, Auditi Mohsin, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Lily Islam and Azizur Rahman rendered songs. Apart from singing solos, the Indian artistes staged a recital of the literary work "Malancha". The organisation also held a similar programme at the National Museum on February 22.



#### Tagore's European connection

friendship with scholars and writers

like W.B. Yeats, William Rothenstein,

Ezra Pound and Einstein," he said,

"Geetanjali" amazed European

Europe was embroiled in war.

for arranging the event.

held at the venue.

and Udavshankar Das.

mance, by Sudeshna

scholars at a time when the whole

Recalling Tagore's contribution

Later, the music recital -- led by

Raktokarobi chief Shila Momen and

directed by Udayshankar Das -- was

The programme started with the

recitation -- in both Bangla and

English -- of "Tumi Kemon Kore

Gaan Koro Hey Guni" (I know not

how you sing) by Mili Chowdhury

An outstanding dance perfor-

Swayamprabha, to the recitation

Dhon Toh Achhe", followed by a

group performance -- "Sundaro

the backgrounds of the songs in

seemingly enthralled the audience.

Shreyashi Roy performed "Ashim

Mili and Udayshankar read out

to music, he thanked Raktokarobi

adding that the serenity of Tagore's

times and he maintained close

The full-house auditorium of Theatre Institute, Chittagong enjoyed an exceptional programme featuring the songs of Rabindranath Tagore written by him during his visits in Europe.

Marking Tagore's 150th birth anniversary, Raktokarobi, a renowned cultural organisation working on music in the port city, arranged the event titled "Arup Tomar Bani" last Wednesday Many keen music enthusiasts had

to stand outside, as there was not enough space inside the auditorium. The programme featured a total of 20 Rabindra Sangeet that were

written by the Nobel laureate poet

in different countries of Europe. A short discussion on Tagore's sojourns and his experiences in Europe was also held on the occa-

The programme started with a short introduction by elocutionist Rashed Hasan. Udichi Chittagong unit President

Professor Abul Mansur gave a brief address on the theme. Rabindranath had an insatiable

creative urge and wanted to know about the whole world, Professor Abul Mansur said, adding that this intense interest took the bard to different parts of the world. The Europeans' endeavours to

know the unknown, their diligence and enthusiasm drew Rabindranath greatly, Professor Mansur said. "Hey Bango janani, shath koti Bangalire rekhechho Bangal kore, manush karoni," -- quoting Tagore,

his writings the poet constantly

of the nation.

tried to stir the inert frame of mind

between the performances. Shubrata Das, Prianka, Banani Dutta, Farhana Nusrat, Soma Roy, Lucky Dutta performed well at the programme, though some of the renditions could not be heard clearly for poor sound system.

Bote Tabo".

the performance "Pantha Pakhir Rikta Kulaye". Palash Deb, Asim Das, Ashok Sarkar, Nikhilesh Barua, Satyajit Professor Mansur said that through Chakraborty accompanied the singers on tabla, esraj, keyboard

and sitar respectively at the

programme.

The programme concluded with

# Gambhira to generate awareness on social relationships

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Artistes of Proyash Folk Theatre Institute in Chapainwabgani district performed Gambhira (a sub-genre of Bangla folk music) to generate awareness among the younger generation about the importance of social relationships. The programme was organised by Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programmes (BCCP) at Pabna Edward College premises on Wednesday afternoon.

ing terrorism" was also held. Shariful Islam was the main speaker. The speakers said that we have to strengthen family relationships as well as establish closer links in society. If we can do so, we would be able to reduce crime and eliminate terrorism as

well. They urged the young to generate awareness on this issue. Later, through Gambhira, artistes enacted the role of a grandfather and grandson, and addressed the topic.



# A discussion on "We can build a better Bangladesh by eliminat-

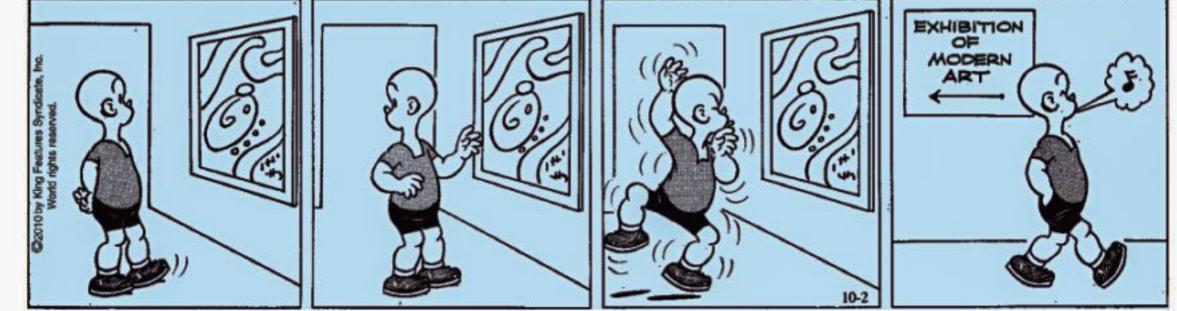
#### **Beetle Baily** by Mort Walker



Henry



by Don Tranchte



Boishakhi TV

10:30 Big, Bigger, Shokal Belar Roddur Bangla Feature Film **Discovery Channel** Ebong Class-er Bairey

CELLULAR

Man vs. Wild

Desh TV

08:15pm Sat Kahon

06:35 The Legend of Zorro

Star World

National Geographic

Catch Me if You Can

DRAMA SERIAL 11:30pm House Number 138 ATN BANGLA Amader Meherjan 09:20pm Utshab BANGLAVISION 09:05pm Long March

#### NEWS BULLETIN

News (Bangla) at 7:30am. News (English) at 10:00am, ate Night News (Bangla a 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm inglish) 11:30 pm. (To be News (English) at 6:00pm telecast on all Bangla News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, channels). CHANNEL-i 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am ATN BANGLA NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00

am, 4:00 am

News (Bangla):7:30am, 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, News (English): 9:00 am,

5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, TALK SHOW 07:40pm Our Democracy

12:30am Lead News

12:00am Zero Hour