

WHAT'S ON

18th Young Artists' Art Exhibition
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 2-16
Time: 3-8pm

Theatre
Play: Shikhandi Kotha
Troupe: Mahalak
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 11

Human Rights Theatre Festival
Venue: Rabindra Sarobar, Dharmondi
Date: March 9-11
Time: 4pm onwards

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Quest for Self
Artist: Gayam Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dharmondi
Date: March 9-22
Time: 12pm-8pm

Tagore Dance-Drama
Title: Chandrika
Organizer: High Commission of India, Dhaka
Venue: Muslim Hall, Chittagong
Date: March 11
Time: 6:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Freedom in Creativity
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara
Date: March 8-19
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Theatre
Play: Rakto Karabi
Troupe: Nagor Natyansampradai
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 11
Time: 7pm

Duet Painting Exhibition
Title: Title Unintended
Artists: ASM Mustafa Jamal Akbar Shamim SM MM Mazruddin
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 68 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1

Dhaka Padatik celebrates 32nd anniversary

JAMIL MAHMUD
Theatre troupe Dhaka Padatik held a two-day programme on March 9 and 10 at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to celebrate its 32nd anniversary. The troupe staged two of its recent plays on the days and arranged an award giving ceremony in honour of two of its deceased members.
On the first day, prior to the staging of the play "Apod", the inaugural and award giving ceremony was held. Law Minister Barrister Shafigue Ahmed was the chief guest. Veteran theatre personality Mamunur Rashid and general secretary of Shammilto Sangskritik Jote, Hasan Arif, were special guests. Golam Kuddus, president of Dhaka Padatik, presided over the inaugural programme.
At the ceremony, the organisers felicitated Syed Dulal, chief of Barisal based theatre troupe Shabbabali and Akhtaruzzaman, chief of Shomoy Sangskritik Goshthi, for their contribution to Bangladeshi theatre. They were respectively awarded with Abul Kashem Dulal Padak and Gazi Zakir Hossain Padak.
Highlighting its over three decade long journey, Dhaka Padatik's founder general secretary and now chief, Golam Kuddus, said that since its inception the troupe has been working to encourage the formation of a liberal society. "Through its productions, the troupe has been promoting the country's traditions and culture," said Kuddus.
The two plays -- "Apod" and "Paicho Chorer Kissa" -- that the troupe staged during the celebration are such examples.
"Apod" is an adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's literary work with the same title. The play has been directed by Masum Aziz.
The story of the play zooms in on a woman named Kiran. She is ill and the doctor suggests her to go to the countryside. Kiran goes to countryside and starts to live in a bungalow. A stranger, Neelkanta, suddenly appears on a stormy night. After his arrival strange incidents start occurring.
The cast featured Sonita Nasrin, Tariqul Islam, Masum Aziz, Kazi Aminur, Sabiha Zaman and Md. Zakaria. Kiriti Ranjan Biswas was the set designer, while Amlan Biswas designed the light.
The troupe staged its folk themed play "Paicho Chorer Kissa" on the second day. The play is a



Syed Dulal of Barisal Shabbabali receives crest from Mamunur Rashid.



A scene from "Apod".

collection of folk stories from the greater Khulna region, in which no particular individual has been credited for the direction of the play.
Kazi Shila, Masud Ahmed, Shaon Roy, Shahnaz Joya, Liton Chakroborty, Shonita Nasrin and Salauddin Rahat enacted different roles in the play. Aminur Rahman designed the light, while Kazi Shila designed the costumes for the play.
Among over 30 productions, the most staged play by Dhaka Padatik is "Khyapa Paglar Pychali". Written and directed by SM Solaiman, the play saw 394 shows so far.

TREAT FOR ART LOVERS

Tagore paintings at BAU

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
The exhibition of Tagore's paintings brought a large number of art enthusiasts together.
The three-day exhibition was held at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) campus, marking the 31st Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan (National Rabindra Sangeet Conference) here. The exhibition concluded yesterday.
The exhibition of Tagore's paintings is the fourth of its kind. Earlier such exhibitions were held in Dhaka in 2010 while they were held in Pabna and Dinajpur in 2011.
Around 80 paintings on nature, portraits, flowers and birds caught the attention of visitors who thronged the venue. The guests and eminent Tagore artists at the conference also visited the exhibition.
The rare paintings sketched by Tagore, between 1920 to 1941, are a priceless collection of JRSSP, said Dilip Dutta, organising secretary of Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad's (JRSSP) central unit.
He also said that a total of 105 paintings were collected from Visva Bharati through the kind cooperation of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.
Though the paintings were not accorded full recognition in the sub-continent in Tagore's lifetime, they garnered much acclaim in many European countries then, said Dutta.
The paintings were exhibited in many countries including Germany, Hungary and France, and European art critics highly praised Tagore and his artworks, Dutta told The Daily Star.
About the exhibition, Jahid Mustafa, a Tagore artist from Dhaka said that Tagore's paintings are not very familiar to the layperson and this is a welcome step by JRSSP to bring such timeless works to the common people.
Earlier, the national level conference and the first of its kind in Mymensingh, began at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Auditorium of BAU (March 8). Veteran Tagore artist Kazi Shahjahan Hafiz inaugurated the conference.
JRSSP central unit organised the event.
Some 500 artistes and organisers from Dhaka and 76 branches of JRSSP throughout the country joined the conference.
A unique presentation by City Bank, organised by MACOMM and sponsored by Icon, Coca Cola, the concert titled "Eternal Asha" began a little before 8 pm in the evening. Radio Today and ntv were the media partners.
While the audience was settling down in the stadium, Indian singer Suresh Bhosle decided to warm up the audience with a few numbers -- "Meri Mehboob", "Yeh Jo Mohabbat Hai", "Inteha Ho Gayi Intezaar Ki" and much more. A group of at least 12 musicians had joined him, along with a three-member choir consisting of female vocalists. Not only did Suresh hold sway over the audience with his



Visitors at the exhibition.



PHOTO: PALLASH KHAN

ELITA KARIM
It was a star-studded affair. Some of the most prominent stars of Bangladesh turned up at the Army Stadium in Dhaka on March 9, 2012. Well-known personalities in the fields of music, films, television, fashion etc. had all gathered to watch and listen to the South Asian music icon, Asha Bhosle.
The turning point of the evening was when internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi diva Runa Laila took the stage to welcome Asha Bhosle with flowers. Runa Laila suggested that they sing her famous song "Damamd Mast Qalandar". As the musicians jammed to the song, Bhosle claimed that this was the first time Runa Laila and she were singing together on stage. "This is a symbol of friendship between our countries," the veteran artiste said.
At the ripe age of 79, Asha Bhosle showcased her indomitable energy and spirit, especially when she did a small session of mimicking other legendary singers like Noorjehan, Ghulam Ali Khan, Lata Mangeshkar and Pandit Jasraj.
"I will return whenever you want me to!" -- said Bhosle when Runa Laila asked her when she would come back to Bangladesh. "Would you perform for us again tomorrow?" -- asked Laila, to which the older singer said, "Of course! I love Bangladesh!"
The show went on till 11 pm with more songs and duets sung by Asha Bhosle and Suresh Bhosle.
ELITA KARIM IS EDITOR OF STAR CAMPUS.

Poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah memorial fair inaugurated



Dignitaries participated in the programme.

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal
A two-day long fair, in memory of poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah, kicked off last Thursday at his native village Baherchar under Babuganj upazila of Barisal with a call to preserve the memory of this noted poet and undertake studies on his life and achievements.
The programme was organised by Poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah Smriti Pathagar (memorial library) at its premises to observe the 11th death and 78th birth anniversary of the poet.
Atkur Rahman, president of the library, presided over the first day's programme.
Renowned journalists, educationists, socio-cultural-political personalities such as Jute and Textile Minister Abdul Latif Siddiki; poet Belal Chowdhury; law-makers Hasanul Huq Inu, Rashed Khan Menon; BCC Mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron; historian Sirajuddin Ahmed; Barisal University Vice-chancellor Dr. Muhammad Harunor Rashid Khan; Education Ministry secretary Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury; media personality Nowshah Ali Khan; cultural activist

Three-day street theatre festival in Jessore

PONUEL S BOSE, from Jessore
A three-day street theatre festival began in Jessore at Raushan Ali Stage of the Town Hall premises on March 8. Organised by Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Jessore district unit, and sponsor by Talukder Group, the festival concluded yesterday.
Presided over by SM Maruf Hasan, convener, Potho Natok Urdapan Parishad, the festival was inaugurated by lawmaker Advocate Khan Tipu Sultan. Samsul Arefin, managing director of Talukder Group and AHM Mazharul Islam Montu attended the inaugural programme as special guests. Advocate Kazi Abdus Shahid Lal, adviser, Udichi's Jessore unit, spoke at the discussion. Khondokar Sharif Reza Topu, member secretary, Potho Natok Urdapan Parishad, delivered the welcome speech.
This was followed by the staging of "Banglar Kotha, Banglar Gatha" by Udichi Jessore. Udichi Magura staged "Roktakto Shomoy"; Dorshona Onirban Theatre performed "Pocket Marer Pachali"; Jhikorgacha Biborton performed "Kheksial" and Shekor Jessore staged "Hollaboi".
A fair was also held at the venue.



Artists stage a street play in the festival.

Children's magazine Rangdhonu turns 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
The concluding function of the month-long programme in observance of the 25 years of Rangdhonu, a monthly for children, was held last Tuesday at the Mohammad Ali Gymnasium in Sylhet city.
The daylong event included an education fair, art contest and wall magazine competition. About 200 children from different primary schools in the region took part in the event.
Director general of Bangla Academy, Shamsuzzaman Khan, was present as chief guest at the concluding function. He later gave away prizes among the winners of the competition. Veteran educationists, Professor Md. Abdul Aziz and Professor Mahmudur Rahman delivered speeches, among others, while executive director of the NGO, Friends in Village Development, Bangladesh (FIVDB), inaugurated the function in the morning.
FIVDB has been running 396 primary schools in the greater Sylhet region for over three decades and also publishes a children's magazine.



Children at the art contest.

Bollywood actor Joy Mukherjee passes away

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
Lanky and soft-faced Mukherjee endeared himself to women fans of the 1960s.
Yesteryears actress Mala Sinha, who acted opposite Mukherjee in "Humayya", produced by him, recalled that he was in Tokyo.
The veteran actor took to acting almost by accident. His father, well-known producer Sashadhar Mukherjee who co-founded Fimalaya Studio, was looking for a hero for his "Love in Simla" when its scriptwriter Aghajani Kashmiri thought that Mukherjee would be ideally suited for the role. His successful debut was followed by a hat-trick of musical hit films "Phir Wohi



"one of the most hard-working and disciplined actors of our time."

Weeklong book and cultural fair kicks off in Bhangura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna
A week-long book fair and cultural festival kicked off in Bhangura upazila of Pabna last Tuesday to spark cultural awareness among the people of Chalanbil region. Bhangura Shocheton Shahitya-Shangskritik Parishad, a leading cultural organisation of the upazila has arranged the fair at Bhangura Union High School premises.
State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Advocate Promod Mankin, inaugurated the event as chief guest.
"Books are a storehouse of knowledge. We gain enlightenment through reading. Books remove all darkness from society and so we need to develop the habit of reading books," said Mankin.
Focusing on the cultural heritage of Bangladesh, he went on to add, "The arts are the lifeline of a nation. We have struggled for our cultural freedom. Culture is inextricably linked to our lives and politics."
President of Bhangura Shocheton Shahitya-Shangskritik Parishad, Md. Abdul Khaleque, chaired the inaugural programme while the lawmaker of Pabna-3 constituency, Md. Mokbul Hossain; Pabna Deputy Commissioner Md. Mostafizur Rahman; Bhangura upazila chairman Baki Billah; UNO Md. Asadul Haque; Municipality mayor Abdur Rahman and secretary of BSSSP

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker
Henry by Don Trachte
Comic strips featuring Beetle Baily and Henry.

Table with TV programmes: ATN BANGLA, Desh TV, CHANNEL I, Maasranga Television, ntv, Z Studio, ntv, Z Studio, HBO, MTV

Table with RADIO programmes: akc Radio FM 89.2, RADIO FOOTI, akc Radio FM 89.2, RADIO FOOTI

Ek Bristir Raatey On ntv Single Episode TV Play Cast: Shoel, Bindu

Anger Management On 2 Studio at 09:30pm Genre: Comedy Cast: Jack Nicholson, Adam Sandler

Oloshpur On Rtv at 09:05pm Drama Serial Cast: Chanchal Chowdhury, Bida, Sinha Mim

Table with TV programmes: 06:30 Desh Jury Oparadh, 07:50 Gaaner Oparey, 08:20 Drama Serial: Ohongkar, 12:05 Ekushy-er Raat, 03:30 The River, 04:30 Supernatural, 08:30 The River, 09:30 Missing, 11:30 Dexter, National Geographic Channel, BANGLAVISION, Rtv, Discovery Channel

Table with DRAMA SERIAL programmes: ATN BANGLA, ETV, BANGLAVISION, ntv, Rtv, House Number 138

Table with NEWS BULLETIN programmes: BTV, BANGLA, NEWS BANGLA, BANGLA, BANGLA, BANGLA, BANGLA, BANGLA, BANGLA

Table with TALK SHOW programmes: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, Rtv, Desh TV, ntv, ETV, Media, Gossip, Boishakhi TV, Zero Hour, Desh TV, Shoja Kotha, Maasranga Television