

WHAT'S ON

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

Music and Dance Programme
Tagore's Fireflies
Organiser: Shadbona
Venue: Main Auditorium, Chhayanat
Date: March 15; Time: 7pm

Tagore Dance-Drama
Title: 'Mayer Khele'
Organiser: Shadbona
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 18
Time: 7pm

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

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Vision -5
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: March 10-29
Time: 11am-8pm

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

Tagore Dance-Drama
Title: 'Rupantar Khele'
Organiser: High Commission of India, Dhaka
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum
Date: March 16

Duet Painting Exhibition
Title: Untitled
Artists: ASM Mustafiz Jamil Akbar Shamim & MM Mazudun
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1

Need for equality under spotlight

Chandalika staged at National Museum

ZAHANGIR ALOM

As part of the ongoing joint celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore by India and Bangladesh, Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Dhaka organised staging of a Tagore dance-drama, "Chandalika", at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on March 9. Choreographed and directed by Guru Dr. Thankamani Kutty, artistes of Kalamandalam, Kolkata, India staged the dance-drama.

"Chandalika", composed by Tagore, is an epic composition. Tagore adapted the dance-drama from "Jatak", a collection of Buddhist stories. The original story depicts how, having achieved nirvana, Chandalika gives up her desire for Ananda. However, Tagore did not provide a glimpse of Buddha or the necessity of acquiring nirvana in his play. His "Chandalika" is more flesh and blood.

A young girl, Prakriti, who belongs to the untouchable caste of 'Chandal', is the protagonist of the dance-drama. Hated and belittled by the upper caste, Prakriti becomes depressed and wallows in self-hatred. Ananda, a disciple of Lord Buddha, asks for water on a hot summer day from Prakriti, who was drawing water from a well. The girl refuses to offer him water, as she is scared and surprised, thinking that the water touched by her is not fit for his drinking. Ananda consoles her by saying that all human beings are equal and she must not sow the seeds of self-hatred.

Prakriti is convinced and offers him water. Ananda quenches his thirst and blesses



Sambaditya Das (L) and Malabika Sen as Prakriti and Ananda.

PHOTO: STAR

Prakriti. This event brings about a dramatic change in Prakriti as her mind turns towards Ananda. She opens her heart to her mother who is a strong woman -- well versed with black magic, performs all sorts of ritualistic witchcraft and succeeds in drawing back Ananda to satiate her daughter's infatuation for him. But, at the end, both Prakriti and her mother become extremely repentant for forcing Ananda to divert to worldly attachments.

Prakriti realises that Ananda is an ascetic and it is wrong to entangle him in a materialistic world. The mother and daughter sincerely beg his forgiveness. Ananda blesses Prakriti. Both Prakriti and her mother bow down to Ananda and he uplifts

them to tread the path of divine enlightenment.

The dance-drama, enacted in two Indian classical dance forms -- Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi -- never failed to stir the audience with its concept of equality and the need to shun the concept of "untouchables" which was once prevalent in society.

Malabika Sen donned the role of Prakriti while Anita Mallick and Sambaditya Das enacted the roles of Prakriti's mother and Ananda respectively. The other cast members included Kalamandalam Sankara Narayanan, Rajib Saha, Samrat Dutta, Jhinook Mukherjee, Moumita Chatterjee, Barnali Shome, Senjuti Sengupta, Iliana Basu, Jayita Ghosh, Amrita Ghosh and

Jayanti Saha.

Ashoke Adhikari designed the lights while Madhumita Kutty designed costumes. Sarbo Bharatiya Sangeet O Sanskriti Parishad directed music for the production. Rajashree Bhattacharya, Tamalika Guha and Kajal Sengupta lent their voices to Prakriti, her mother and Ananda respectively.

At the end of the show, Ranu Bhattacharya, wife of Acting Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sanjay Bhattacharya, greeted all the featured artistes, Somnath G. Kutty, secretary, Kalamandalam and Guru Dr. Thankamani Kutty, choreographer-director, with bouquets.

The troupe also staged the dance-drama yesterday at the Muslim Hall of Chittagong.



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (C) with poetess Indira Varma and Urdu poet Rahman Musavvir.

Love in another language

Tagore in Urdu

In the last phase of his long and illustrious life, Rabindranath Tagore had endearingly beseeched to posterity: "Tobi Mone Rekho" (remember me). The poem proved prophetic.

In the middle of February, 2012 a book containing a selection of 101 of his poems translated into Urdu 'nazm' (verse) -- perhaps for the first time -- was launched by the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the India International Centre. The book, titled "Romancing Tagore" (Basu Media) has been put together by Delhi-based poetess Indira Varma and Urdu poet Rahman Musavvir. The poems have been culled from all the phases of Tagore's prolific career.

The book launch was followed by the release of a music album containing eight nazms sung by noted Indian vocalist Shubha Mudgal and Pakistani artiste Najam Sherraz, with music by Debajyoti Mishra.

Over the past few years Rabindranath Tagore's works have been translated into more than 25 different languages but recreating the magic in Urdu was different for

Indira Varma. "It was like falling in love again," says Varma, the Delhi-based poet-lyricist.

However, as Varma pointed out at the book launch, "The translations are not verbatim." Interestingly, the phrase she used for it is "transcreation, whereby the feeling and ideas contained in the songs are conveyed in the finest manner possible without strictly adhering to the verbal and grammatical arrangement of the original."

Varma used to sit with five dictionaries to find the right words for Tagore's Bengali poems. "We first translated them into Hindi and then wrote them in Urdu," she says.

Visva Bharati, which was for long the custodian of Tagore's more tangible and even intangible legacy, was convinced and brought on board; it even allowed the book to be published under its own banner.

The book does not merely bridge the gap between Urdu and Bengali, it also brings together two countries -- India and Pakistan, through the medium of music.

COMPILED BY CORRESPONDENT

Ways to unwind

In conversation with Farzana Chhobi

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Since her debut with the Abdullah Al Mamun play "Chithhi", Farzana Chhobi has been involved with acting as a craft for a decade. During her substantial career, the actress has performed in many TV plays, along with working as a model. She has also emerged as a promising screenplay writer in recent times. The Daily Star (TDS) had an informal chat with Farzana about her life outside the studio.

What do you usually do on weekends?

Farzana: I don't usually get free weekends. Shootings keep me occupied. But if I do get a break, I like to spend time with my family and go out to eat and have fun. Otherwise I stay at home, reading books and writing new scripts. I watch a lot of movies. Weekends for me always mean watching new films.

Where did you go recently?

Farzana: I went to Chittagong and Kaptai with my mother. Which is an ideal holiday spot for you? Farzana: Chittagong. I was born there, and my elder brother also lives there. I feel good whenever I go to the port city.

How do you fight stress?

Farzana: All I need is some solid sleep. I don't feel well if I don't get enough sleep.

What would you call an ideal holiday?

Farzana: I pine for such days when I will be able to spend the entire day with my family.

What do you have in your refrigerator at all times?

Farzana: Chocolate and plenty of ice cream.

What are you reading now?

Farzana: "Shotoborshe Cholochoitro" by Bibendu Udash. It's a brilliant read.

Which error gives you reasons for joy?

Farzana: I wanted to be a doctor, but became an actor instead. This gives me immense pleasure.

What is your most prized possession?

Farzana: My car and laptop. Without these two, my life would stall.



Rupa Ganguly adjudged best female playback singer

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

You have known Rupa Ganguly so far for her acting prowess but now get ready to appreciate her as a national award-winning singer too.

No one was perhaps more surprised than Rupa herself when the jury for the Indian National Film Awards 2011 announced last Wednesday that she was adjudged the best female playback singer for her songs in the Bengali feature film "Abosheshey".

"I am happy but I am more surprised. When I heard the news the first thing which came to my mind was that Shreya Ghoshal should have won it. I love her music," said the 45-year-old actress who shot into fame with her role of Draupadi in the TV serial "Mahabharat".

It was on the insistence of the "Abosheshey" director Aditi Roy that Rupa had agreed to lend her husky voice for two Rabindra Sangeet.

"She (Aditi) was hell-bent that I sing. They said since the songs are without any instrumental music, only I can sing well in such a situation. I think it worked out well because the songs are an integral part of that character," said Rupa.

Rupa made her mark as an actress in films like the Gautam Ghosh-directed "Padma Nadir Majhi", Aparna Sen's "Yugant" and Rituparno Ghosh's "Antarmahal".

But those close to her knew her vocal abilities too. "My friends and teachers have always



told me that I sing well. But then there are not many actors in India who can sing well," Rupa said adding she was always very serious about singing but never took it up as a profession.

Always fond of music, Rabindra Sangeet in particular, she started having formal training in music at the age of 17.

She had even launched a Rabindra Sangeet album "Bhavana" in the year 2004.

However, "after that, I could never pursue singing because acting has a serious clash with musical profession. The work environment and the hectic

schedule don't allow you to take care of your voice or give you the time to practice," said the actress.

She recalls a 20-year-old incident when legendary Bengali musician Hemanta Mukhopadhyay had appreciated her voice.

"He said if I would have taken music as a career, I would have done very well," Rupa said.

Asked whether after winning the national award, she would take up music more seriously, she said she would still not take up singing professionally.

"I sing only because I love to sing. And I think that is what makes it special," she said.

Screening of "Phirey Esho Behula" at SUST

SUBRATA DAS, From Sylhet

Four shows of "Phirey Esho Behula", a film focusing on women's difficulty and their response and bravery to overcome it, ended at the central auditorium of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet on March 7.

A number of students and teachers were seemingly moved by the film screened on March 6 and 7 at the initiatives of Chokh Film Society, a cultural organisation on SUST campus, to pay homage to the iconic actor Humayun Faridce, informed Mehedi Hasan, president of the organisation.

Inspired by the time-honoured myth of "Manasa Mangal" or Behula-Lakhindar, the film has been directed by Tanim Noor.

"I cannot forget the co-operation and hard work of Humayun Faridce

during the shooting of the film. After completion of shooting, he also asked regularly about when the film would be released," recounted Tanim Noor who spoke to this correspondent.

Many in the packed auditorium sat in great excitement for the climax of the film, in which Tanima, the protagonist, is the symbol of eternal Behula in contemporary times.

Marwa Begum Merry, a post-graduate student of Sociology department, enjoyed the film along with her classmates Zubaida Tanzeen Shanta, Jayati Dutta, Swapna Rani Roy and Kajal Das. "The inner significance of the film touched me greatly as it seems to me that the film will inspire women to be braver, confident and self-dependent," explained Marwa from her sociological perspective to The Daily Star.



A scene from "Phirey Esho Behula".

PHOTO: STAR

Classical music soiree by Uchchhas Lalitakala Academy



Ustad Anil Kumar Saha (L) performs at the soiree.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uchchhas Lalitakala Academy held a classical music soiree at Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on March 9. The founder principal of the academy, Sharifa Quader, led a choral rendition of khayal with a tarana set on Raga Behag that set off the soiree.

Ustad Anil Kumar Saha was next to take the stage. The artiste first performed a khayal based on Raga Puria Kalyan. The vilambit bandish, "Aaj rangeela man bhaye", of the raga seemed to have a soothing effect while the poetic drut bandish, "Morey ghar aaja surajana saiyann", had a romantic plea. Alok Kumar Sen on harmonium and Intiaz Sultan on tabla (vilambit ektal and teentaal) accompanied the vocalist.

As spring was in the air, the artiste

could not but render a melodious bandish, "Aayori basanta", set on Raga Hindoli. And last but not the least, Ustad Anil Kumar Saha presented a truncated version of Raga Desh. His fashioning of a melodic alap followed by a monsoon-inspired bandish, "thuma barase badaria saawan ki", seemingly captivated the hearts of many.

Intiaz Sultan played teentaal on his tabla while Alok Kumar Sen was on harmonium during the performances. Ustad Md. Yousuf Khan was the last performer of the soiree. The artiste played a dhun on his sarod. He featured the melody of Raga Jila Kafi, presenting alap, gur alap, gaut, jhala and a tehai. Another dhun performance set on a romantic Raga Bhairavi by the artiste wrapped up the soiree. Commerce Minister GM Quader and other dignitaries were in the audience to enjoy the musical event.

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

A two-day annual cultural festival of the indigenous people of greater Mymensingh region ended Saturday last. The festival that included a fair and exhibition was held at the Birishiri Tribal Cultural Academy in Durgapur, Netrakona.

On Friday, Promod Mankin, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, inaugurated the festival as chief guest. The Additional Deputy Commissioner of Netrakona, Anwar Hossen Chowdhury, presided over the function and Police Superintendent of Netrakona, Joydeb Bhadra, was

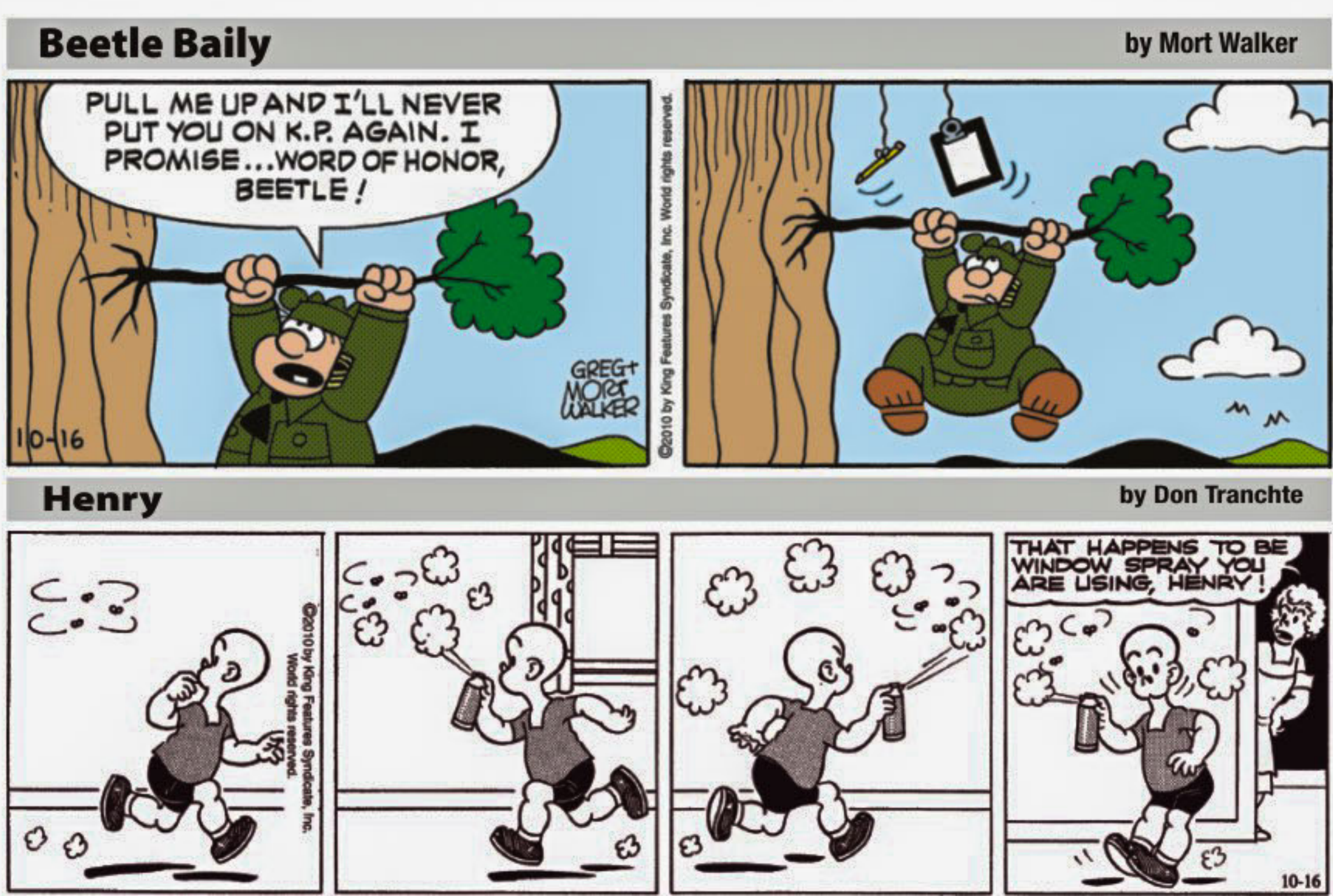
present as special guest. Among others, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Durgapur, Kamruzzaman Mia; Jatin Sangma, director of Birishiri Tribal Cultural Academy; Uttam Kumar Riehl, assistant director of the academy; the district correspondents of different national dailies etc were present at the function.

The artistes of the academy along with the indigenous young men and women performed ethnic dances and songs. They also performed dance numbers to Bangla songs. The 35 stalls at the festival which displayed traditional items of food, attire, musical instruments, orna-

ments and household articles added much colour to the event.

The publications of indigenous poets and writers were also available at the festival.

Birishiri is a cultural and educational centre for indigenous people. The festival is held every year to celebrate the culture and traditions of the local indigenous communities. People from different areas of greater Mymensingh through the venue during the event. Young indigenous men and women attend the function in colourful attire, performing their traditional songs and dance numbers.



ATN BANGLA	07:45	xDrama Serial: Mayer Doa
11:20	Business and Finance	Porduban
12:15	Vision 2020	Celebrate Thirty Years of Miles
01:25	Mati Shubash	Total Sports
05:20	Agnar Shannay	Maasranga Television
08:40	Shimana Chharye	10:02
CHANNEL i	01:05	Bangla Feature Film
05:30	Drama Serial: Al Kichhu	Backyard Science
	08:30	Drama Serial: Khonikolay
	09:30	Kingkorobobimur
	11:00	Ontor Bajao
	Z Studio	
	10:50	Herbie: Fully Loaded
11:30	Travel On	The Rock
ntv	01:30	The Mask of Zorro
08:45	Bangla Feature Film	The Flying Guillotine 2
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolaar	John Carpenter's Vampire
06:10	Achhey	The Legend of Zorro
06:10	Shubho Shundhaya	HBO
08:15	Drama Serial: Poth	11:30
	Gechhey Behey	Ninja Assassin
ETV	Maggi Test an Balance	01:25
		Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
		Diamonds Are Forever

abcr radio FM 89.2	10:00	Morning Express
06:00	Bhorer Janalaya	12:00
09:00	Mukhorito Jibonoy	01:00
12:00	Darun Dapurey	04:00
02:00	Dumara Baidoy	06:00
05:00	Shundhata	01:00
07:00	Shajher Maya	01:00
09:00	Raat-er Akashay	08:00
11:00	Gajet Shesh Nes	12:00
Radio Fori	04:00	U Tum
07:30	Hello Dhaka	07:00

<p>Pathorer Kanna</p> <p>On Boishakhi TV at 08:45pm Drama Serial Cast: Fazlur Rahman Babu, Alvi</p>	
	<p>Frozen</p> <p>On HBO at 09:30pm Genre: Drama/Thriller Cast: Shawn Ashmore, Emma Bell</p>
<p>Palabar Poth Nei</p> <p>On ATN BANGLA at 08:00pm Drama Serial Cast: Ahsan Habib Nasim, Sumona Shuma</p>	

10:02	Desh Jurey Opordh	07:15	The Chapagone
05:25	Perikroma	09:30	Frozen
07:50	Music Station	11:30	Death Race 2
10:10	O Bondhu Amar		StarWorld
12:05	Cine Hits	11:30	Desperate Housewives
	Ekushey-er Raat	02:30	Supernatural
Boishakhi TV		10:30	Dexter
10:30	Bangla Feature Film	11:30	The Big Bang Theory
03:30	Shudhu Cinemar Gaan	12:00	Two And A Half Men
04:15	Shorashori Doctor		National Geographic Channel
11:00	Reporters Diary	11:30	Mega Structures
BANGLAVISION		02:30	Prehistoric Park
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	08:30	Secrets of Wild India
05:20	Shyamol Bangla	09:30	The Last Days of Osama Bin Laden
08:15	Drama Serial: Ladies First	10:30	Seconds from Disaster
11:25	Prokashi Mukh		Discovery Channel
Rtv		02:30	Man Vs. Wild
12:10	Bangla Feature Film	03:30	My Naked Secret
05:00	Cinema 8 Gaan	09:00	Massive Engines
06:00	Drama Serial: Tal Bahana	10:30	Dual Survival
08:20	Drama Serial: College Road	11:30	Tattoo Hunter
09:50	Bridal Show		BBC World
Desh TV		04:30	Durpath
04:30	Durpath	11:00	BBC World News
06:30	Desh Top Chat		

ATN BANGLA	11:30pm	House Number 138
08:00pm	Palabar Poth Nei	ETV
10:55pm	Uttaradhar	09:30pm
CHANNEL i	09:30pm	Potomac
07:50pm	No Mans Land	Boishakhi TV
09:45pm	Priyo	08:45pm
11:30pm	Terminal	09:20pm
Rtv	09:05pm	Patheer Kanna
	Boiya Paribar	Batpar
		BANGLAVISION
		09:05pm
		Long March
		Desh TV
		08:15pm
		Sat Kahon

RTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
	News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.	
	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.	
	News (English) at 6:00pm	
	Rtv	
	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 pm	
	CHANNEL-4	
	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 pm	
	ATN BANGLA	
	NEWS (Bangla): 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm	
	01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm	
	News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.	

ATN BANGLA	12:00am	Zero Hour
11:30pm	Ja Kotha Koo Boleni	BANGLAVISION
12:30am	Lead News	06:25pm
09:45am	Tripa Matra	Front Line
12:30pm	Taroka Kothon	07:40pm
ntv	Ei Shomoy	Tarakpal
Boishakhi TV		07:40pm
		Our Democracy
		Desh TV
		12:45pm
		Shoja Khatun
		Maasranga Television