

WHAT'S ON

Baishakhi Boimela O Sahitya Sammelan Organiser: Sahitya Bazar Venue: Central Public Library Premises, Shaahbah Date: April 19-23

Group Art Exhibition Title: The Voice of Time Venue: Institute of Art & Culture, H-2, R-1/A, Gulshan-1 Date: April 17-26 Time: 12pm-9pm

Grand Group Art exhibition Venue: Saju Art Gallery, Gulshan-2 Date: April 7-May 8 Time: 10am-8pm

Folk Theatre Fest Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: April 21-24 Time: 7pm

Album launch Album: Sakha Priner Hagley Aye (by Rumana Islam) Venue: Dhaka Club Limited Date: April 22 Time: 7pm

Solo Painting Exhibition Title: Cycling in Circle Artist: Mostafiz Karigar Venue: La Galerie Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi Date: April 18-May 2

Film Festival Title: Rabindranath O Chalachitra Venue: National Music & Dance Centre, Shilpakala Academy Date: April 22-28

Theatre Play: Arakshita Troupe: Deh Natok Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

The romantic saga between heaven and earth Shapmochan staged at National Museum



The dancers were immaculate in demonstrating their graceful movements.

ZAHANGIR ALOM Aruneshwar's palace, she observes that Aruneshwar meets her only at night. Aruneshwar uses his skillful dance, soulful music and sensitive words to avoid showing his face. Finally, when Kamolika manages to see Aruneshwar's face she is shocked and feeling cheated, leaves his palace. Later, however, the beautiful melody of the veena played by Aruneshwar, mesmerises her and she realises that inner beauty is far more important than external appearance. She follows the tune of Aruneshwar's veena and is reunited with him. They both return to heaven. The dancers were immaculate in demonstrating their graceful movements, sculptured postures, rhythmic footsteps, lively expressions and of course intricate choreography by Dona Ganguly in the production. What set the entire performance apart was the dancers' devotional charisma of mingling timeless Tagore songs including 'Rangye Dye Jao Jao', 'Esho Esho Anwar Ghar-e', 'Ami Elem Tomar Gaan-e', 'Aaji Dokhin O Dutar Khola', and 'Mor Bina Utbey Kon Sur-e Baiji' with the essence of Odissi. With his purposeful yet soothing narration, veteran Indian actor and elocutionist Soumitra Chatterjee, along with others, lent his voice in recitation for the record. Dona Ganguly donned the role of Kamolika while Raghunath Das enacted Aruneshwar in 'Shapmochan'. Ishani Paul Chowdhury, Baishakhi Ganguly, Keustar Banerjee, Sulagna Rai and others enacted the roles of Madhushree, Urvashi, Indra, Indrani and more in the dance drama respectively. At the end of the performance, Landy Minister Rezaul Karim Hira and Attorney General Mahbubey Alam presented bouquets to the featured artistes.

Dhaka Art Summit: A new era for Bangladeshi art

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

It is mid-April and Dhaka beckons the Bangla Nobo Borsho (New Year). While the flaming red Krishnachura and regal purple Jarul trees painted the roadside in warm colours, art lovers of the city painted the longest alpona (a 350,000 square feet motif, representing the folk culture of Bangladesh) in the world on both sides of the Manik Mia Avenue.

One couple was going the extra mile. The young Samdanis, Rajeeb and Nadia, were busy overseeing the preparations for the Dhaka Art Summit opening, designed to showcase contemporary Bangladeshi art to the world. Well-known critics, historians, curators and painters from art capitals were flying in to participate in this much-anticipated event.

The Samdanis are no strangers to the global art scene. Accomplished collectors in their own right, their collection boasts rare works ranging from Bangladeshi masters Zaiul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan to emerging talents. Their 'international' collection includes works by Rembrandt, Matisse, Picasso, Salvador Dali to Damien Hirst and Anish Kapoor. A few of Rabindranath Tagore's unique artworks have also added a sense of prestige to their collection.

"Our collection also includes artworks of Indian progressive artists like S.H. Raza, E.N. Souza, M.F. Husain, Akbar Padamsee, Ravinder Reddy and others," said Nadia.

The Summit was a result of collaboration between the Samdani Art Foundation (SAF), Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and Bangladesh National Museum (BNM), and sponsored by City Bank and American Express.

The Dhaka Art Summit, launched on April 17, showcased 249 pieces of artwork by prominent and promising artists of Bangladesh. "The final selection of works was made from a pool of 900 painters and featured mediums such as oil, acrylic, watercolour, prints (etching, aquatint, lino, litho, serigraphy etc), installation, video art, videography, photography and sculpture," said Rajeeb Samdani, founder-trustee of the Dhaka-based Samdani Art Foundation.

The displays were arranged on multiple locations to increase access to the art enthusiasts. The central exhibit at the National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy spanned across three floors. The Bangladesh Master Artists Exhibition, showcasing 71 artworks by 27 renowned artists -- including Shilpakalya Zaiul Abedin, Patua Quamrul Hasan and S.M. Sultan -- was held at the National Museum. Additionally, 19 exhibitions at several private galleries -- including Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts and Dhaka Art Centre -- also featured prominent works. "The summit aims to be an eye opener and also a platform for interaction among art reviewers, artists, critics and thinkers," said Nadia Samdani, trustee and CEO of Samdani Art Foundation.

"The art scene in the East is heating up, and we want to



The Dhaka Art Summit showcased artworks by prominent and promising artists of Bangladesh.

create an opportunity to promote Bangladeshi art locally and internationally through this summit," added Rajeeb.

Six seminars were hosted as part of the summit to highlight the emergence of South Asian art and the potentials of Bangladeshi art. The seminars were conducted by representatives from internationally renowned art houses such as Christie's and Rossi & Rossi.

The well attended seminars included sessions by Kyla McDonald, Curator of Tate Modern Museum, London ("12 years of Tate Modern"); Yamini Mehta, Head of Modern and Contemporary Indian Art of Christie's ("The History of Collecting South Asian Contemporary Art"); Dr. Amin Jaffer, International Director of Asian Art at Christie's ("Corporate Involvement in Art"); Dr. Deepanjana Klein, Chief of Modern and Contemporary South Asian Art, Department ("The Emergence of South Asian Art: Bangladesh and the Future"); Taryeba Begum Lipi, Bangladeshi artist ("Artists: Changing and Widening Ideas") and Dr. Shahidul Alam, internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi photographer ("Can Photography be Taught? The Limits and Possibilities of Photographic Education").

SAF also presented two awards Samdani Artist Development Award (worth Taka 1 million) and Samdani Young Talent Award (Taka 500,000) at the closing ceremony held at the National Museum.

An international jury comprising Kyla McDonald, Dr. Deepak Ananth, art historian and expert (France), Elaine W. Ng, editor and publisher of Art Asia Pacific, Indian

artist Ravinder Reddy and Bangladeshi painter Shahabuddin Ahmed added an insightful perspective to the prestigious summit. Shahabuddin Ahmed, chairman of SAF said, "Bangladesh is blessed with brilliant artists. However, none of the galleries in Bangladesh represent individual artists and also do not participate in international art events. Due to the lack of support, these artists were unable to get international exposure. The summit is a pioneering initiative to promote the art of Bangladesh globally." According to the internationally acclaimed, Bangladeshi artist, Monirul Islam, the summit opened up Bangladesh art to the bigger overseas market. "The exchange of news and views on art widened the concept of art," said Mahabubur Rahman of Britto fame. Internationally famed Indian artist Ravinder Reddy said, "I think that a number of Bangladeshi painters' works carry signs of internationalism. Installation and video art will however, not go a long way in our region due to plagiarism." According to Dr. Amin Jaffer, "The summit has drawn positive attention from other countries towards Bangladeshi art. The organisers have put in a big effort to hold the summit in the country." Among the art connoisseurs who gravitated to the exhibit in large numbers, there was a similar sense of optimism. The start of the Bangla New Year seemed to have heralded in a new age for Bangladeshi art.

Pioneer of rural journalism

116th death anniversary of Kargal Harinath

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

The 116th death anniversary of Kargal Harinath, the Bengali pioneer of rural journalism, was observed in a befitting manner. On the occasion, a discussion was held at 'Kargal Kutir', the ancestral home of Harinath in Kumarkhali upazila in the district on Thursday evening.

Kushtia district Administration arranged the programme. Kargal Harinath Smriti Trust, an organisation dedicated to the preservation of Harinath's legacy and Kumarkhali Upazila Administration supported the arrangement.

With Dr. Mohiuddin, Chief Executive Officer of Kushtia Zila Parishad in the chair, the discussion was addressed by Kushtia Deputy Commissioner (DC) Banmali Bhoumik as chief guest.

Among others, Principal of Kumarkhali Degree College Sharif Hossain; former Upazila Chairman in Kumarkhali, Rezaul Karim Hannan; Kumarkhali Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md. Moniruzzaman; general secretary of Kushtia Shilpakala Academy, Amirul Islam; president of Kumarkhali Press Club, Bablu Joarder and journalist Sohel Habib, member-secretary of Kargal Harinath Smriti Trust, were present on the occasion.

The speakers termed Harinath as a pioneer of journalism in undivided India. They also had words of high praise for his stellar contribution in his field. The speakers urged the government to take more initiatives to preserve the memory of this erudite personality and to introduce him across the world.

Harinath (1833-1896) was one of the few committed individuals who through his writings relentlessly sought to alleviate the misery of the masses by rescuing them from the clutches of the zamindars.

Harinath first published a newspaper called "Sangbad Probhakar" in 1854. Later, he began publishing "Grambartha Prokashika" in 1860, which set out as a monthly and finally emerged as a leading weekly magazine.

Harinath wore many hats -- besides being a social reformer, he was a literary figure, a journalist, a teacher as well as a composer of folk songs.

The chief guest at the programme, DC of Kushtia, Banmali Bhoumik announced that the administration would commission a mural of Kargal Harinath and a stage named 'Kargal Manch' at the Kargal Kutir.

Kushtia District Administration and Kushtia Zila Parishad will fund this, said Bhoumik.

The local administration has already constructed a memorial complex at Kargal Kutir. The historic landmark, Mathurann Press, from where Harinath published "Grambartha Prokashika", and his contributions is being preserved.

A forgotten day

Birth anniversary of poet Shaikh Fazlul Karim in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Most people are acquainted with the poem "Kothay Shargo, Kothay Narok, Ke Bole Ta Bohudur....". Unfortunately Shaikh Fazlul Karim, the man who wrote this brilliant poem, remains unseen as was evident when his 129th birth anniversary on April 13 came and went without any national endeavour to observe the day.

There is an irony in this lack of recognition Today, Karim's poems and stories have found a place in the syllabus of many schools. Besides he was a prolific poet, novelist, short story writer and author of children's stories. Around 55 of his poetry books, fictional works, and novels were published in Kolkata by various publishing houses. The only reminders of the poet in Lalmonirhat are the

Kobi Shaikh Fazlul Karim Girls High School in Lalmonirhat town and a reading club in the poet's native village Kakina. Yet Karim, believe his many admirers is deserving of national recognition. "His in depth writings truly open the third eye. No wonder Shaikh Fazlul Karim was called the poet for mankind," said poet Ferdousi Rahman, going on to add that the government should accord him national recognition.

What makes it even worse is that the poet's house in danger of becoming a relic of the past and his graveyard is threatened by erosion by a pond.

Headmaster of Kobi Shaikh Fazlul Karim Girls High School, Sekendar Ali Sarker asserted that the need of the moment was to keep alive the memories of the great poet.

Teachers, students and a cross section of society in Lalmonirhat urged the government to accord recognition to Karim and publish his writings.

Nachhimoner Pala: Mingling folktales with contemporary elements

JAMIL MAHMUD

"Nachhimoner Pala" recounts the story of an innocent woman's pains and woes inflicted on her by her vicious in-laws. For 12 long years after her marriage she is not allowed to see her husband, who has been packed off overseas by his parents on ostensible business.

The aforementioned theme is pretty much common in our traditional folktales. Based on this theme, Shalok Nachhimon Natyagosthi from Kushtia staged, "Nachhimon Pala", at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on April 21.

The tale kicked off a five-day folk theatre festival organised by the academy. State Minister for Housing and Public Works Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan inaugurated the festival as chief guest.

Prior to the staging, director general of the academy Liaquat Ali Lucky made a brief speech highlighting the necessity of nurturing our traditional theatre forms.

Although "Nachhimon Pala" incorporates common elements of folktales, it is quite contemporary in its form. The depiction of the story is set in a



The pala is popular in greater Kushtia region.

contemporary time. There is was a sequence of the marriage ceremony. Although it is a royal wedding, the arrangement has features usually seen in a contemporary rural wedding. The selection of costumes also had contemporary elements. The actor, who played the role of the husband, wore a royal outfit but put a pair of Nike shoes on his feet. There were couple of other performers who wore T-shirts and trousers. However, the lead characters wore colourful attire. The cast and crew were all males. The pala has been directed by Rezaul Haque Shalok. According to

the troupe members, the pala is usually staged for seven to eight hours. However, a shorter version was staged at the Shilpakala Academy. They also pointed out that a local venue called Nachhimon in the greater Kushtia region has been named after the popular character from the tale. Today, Tilai Loko Theatre from Parbatipur, Dinajpur will stage "Kandoni Bishtor". Nabbin Chand is the director of the production. The staging will start at 7pm. The five day festival will also feature other indigenous theatre forms including ashtak gaan and shong pala.

Cultural programme held in Ctg

SHAHNOOR AKTHER URMI, Chittagong

To celebrate its 12th anniversary, Chattagram Jontro Shilpi Songstha (Instrumentalists Organisation of Chittagong) organised a cultural programme titled 'Obhishek O Praner Mela' 12' at DC Hill premises in the port city on April 20.

Social researcher and Vice Chancellor of Premier University, Dr. Anupom Sen was present as chief guest while Ashok Chowdhury, chairman, Probr Dutta Shaju, general secretary of the organisation were present on the occasion.

In his speech, Dr. Anupom Sen said, "A song cannot be perfect without instrumental accompaniment. It is unfortunate that instrumentalists are still neglected, going on to congratulate all the artistes and the organisation for their steps to gain recognition. 'Asovad' a Sufi Music Team performed three tunes on the instruments.

Shubhra Sengupta led her troupe School of Oriental Dance, Swapan Barua led Sonchary Nrityokola Academy, Hanif Khandokar led his team Mayabee Dance to present several lively dance performances.

Through the dance pieces, the artistes brilliantly represented the patriotism, Pahela Baishakh festival and more. Later, Kolpona Lala, sang two songs in the local dialect: 'O Poraner Talto Bhai' and 'Shona Bonde Amare' to pay homage to late musician MN Akher, while artistes Sangret Acharjo and



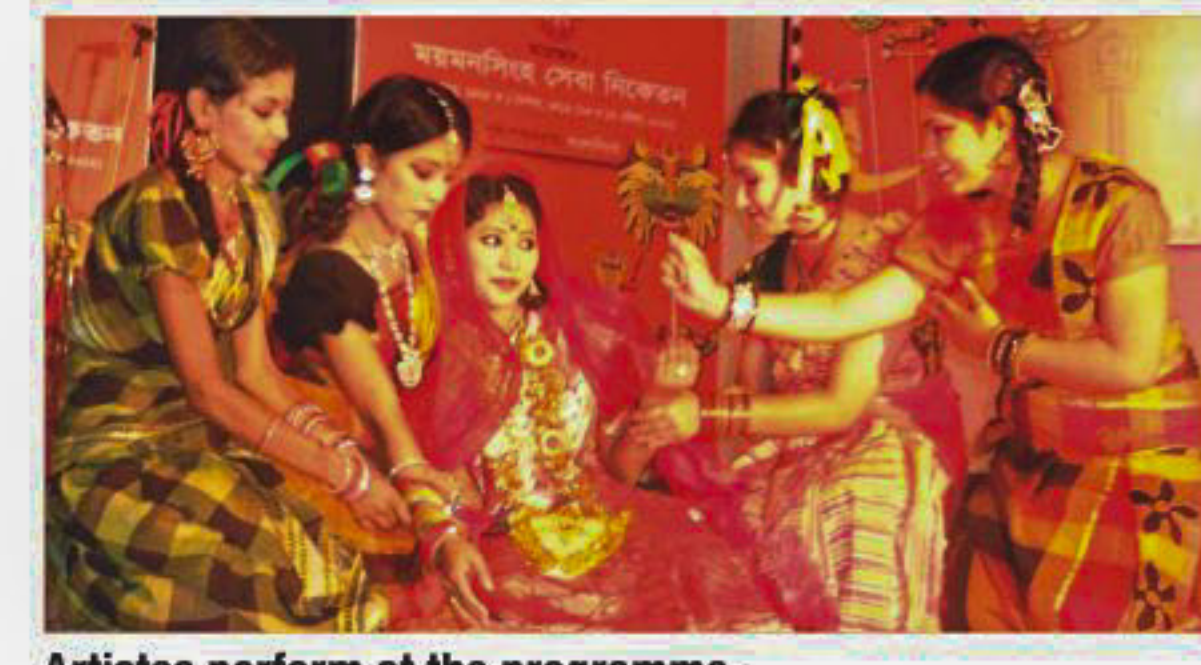
Dancers perform at the programme.

Kolyani Ghosh rendered "O Bhai Bus Conductor" and "O Torkari Wala" respectively. Instrumental Artiste organisation of Chittagong, posthumously honoured the owner of Gonesh and Sons, a music instrument store, Gonesh Chandara Dhar and also awarded three noted persons who trace their roots to Chittagong: illustrious musician and singer Naquib Khan, Robi Chowdhury and Ustad Kinomroy Chowdhury.

The programme started with a rally. Later Naquib Khan, Dilruba Khan, Robi Chowdhury, Fakir Shahabuddin along with several artistes of ATN Bangla Shera Kontho and Close up 1 artistes performed solo.

Enthralling fare

Three dance dramas staged in Mymensingh



Artistes perform at the programme.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Three dance dramas including "Mahua", a major part of Mymensingh Geetika, "Kamala Sundari" and "Nakshi Kanthar Math" of poet Jasim Uddin enthralled the audience recently.

The dance dramas were staged at a two-day programme undertaken by Mymensingh Sheba Niketan, a socio-cultural and non-political organisation at the Town Hall premises to welcome the Pahela Baishakh.

Secretary of Mymensingh Sheba Niketan Dr. Hossain Ahmed Golandaj inaugurated the celebrations, the first of its kind in the town.

Written by Kabi Dwiza Kanai, a prominent palakar of Mymensingh Geetika, the dance drama "Mahua" was conceived by Mohatar Hossain Bachchu and Professor Abdur Rashid Miah.

"Mahua" has been directed by S.M Mizanur Rahman. The artistes of Sandipon Sangskritik Sangstha, a leading cultural group of the town staged the production.

"Kamala Sundari", a dance drama based on the folklore of Mymensingh region was staged by Sargam Lalitakala Academy from Kishoreganj. The drama has been directed by Sandeep Roy.

"Nakshi Kanthar Math" was staged by Nriyagan, a dance school of the town and directed by Maksudul Alam Milton. A performance of Baul songs and more followed.

Eminent eye specialist Dr. Harisankar Das, Dr. Samaresh Kundu, secretary of Bahurui Natya Sangstha Shahadat Hossain Khan Hillu, president of Lokkrishri Sangstha Mirza Abul Kasheem Beg and its secretary Dr. Nurul Amin and vice-president advocate Abul Kasheem; veteran journalist Ziauddin Ahmed, RKM Nazim-ud-Dula and freedom fighter Hafizur Rahman, among others were present at the two-day programme.

The speakers said that the programme organised by Mymensingh Sheba Niketan would be organised in future. The huge rush of people at the two-day programme has encouraged us greatly, they added.

Mostafiz Karigar's solo exhibition at Alliance Francaise

A CORRESPONDENT

Alliance Francaise de Dhaka has organised a solo painting exhibition titled 'Cycling in Circle', featuring the works of promising painter Mostafiz Karigar. This is his first solo exhibition, which is now on at La Galerie of Alliance Francaise.

The opening ceremony was held on April 18. Prominent painter Sameerjit Roy Chowdhury inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Md Shaiful Ahad, chairman of Advanced Bangladesh Ltd and art critic Moinuddin Khalid were present as special guests at the inauguration. Jérôme Charbonneau, deputy director of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, delivered the welcome speech and presided over the programme.

Around 35 paintings are on display at the exhibition. The painter has used oil, acrylic, pen-ink on canvas and paper. He has used bright colours and the colours bring a charming ambience to his artworks. He has used many symbols which represent dreams, longings, nightmares, wishes and more. The colours used are black, blue, red, black, yellow and emerald green. The artist has made an attempt to



An artwork by Mostafiz Karigar.

experiment with pure forms, colours and textures. His modes of expression are varied.

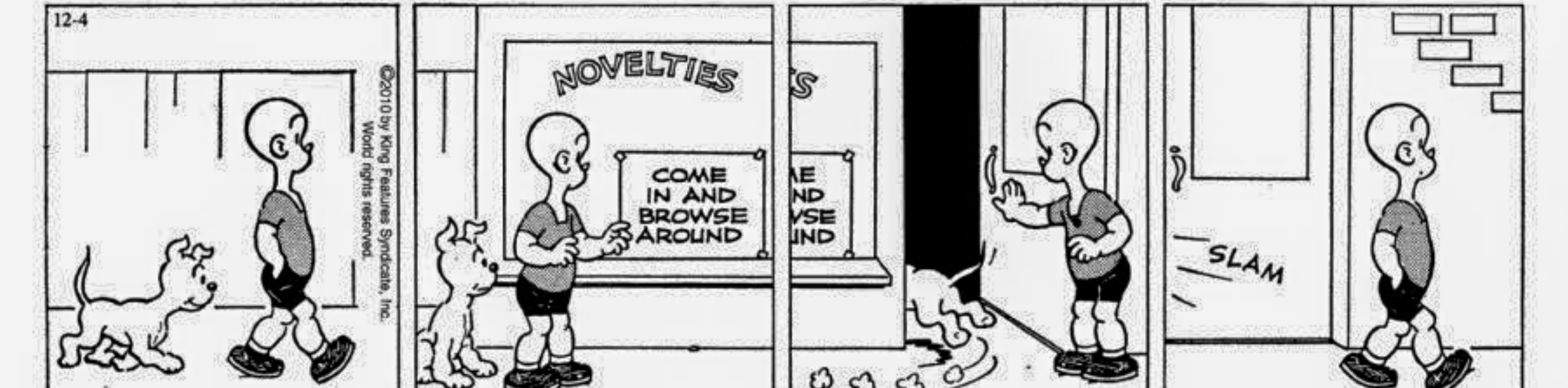
Karigar was born in Kushtia in 1986. He completed his graduation from the Department of Ceramic, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka in 2010.

The exhibition will continue till May 2.

Beetle Baily



Henry



When Madhushree returns and hears about the punishment, she requests Lord Indra not to separate her from Sourasen and asks for the same punishment. Lord Indra agrees and imposes the condition that only if Madhushree falls in love with Sourasen and Madhushree are born in different kingdoms as King Aruneshwar and Princess Kamolika. After their marriage, when Kamolika reaches

Table with TV channels and programs: BTV, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, nTV, abt, Radio FM 89.2, etc.

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Table with TV channels and programs: Olshapur, On Rtv at 09:05pm, Drama Serial, Cast: Chanchal Chowdhury, Bidya Sinha Mim, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: 04:10, 06:15, 09:00, 11:30, 06:30, 08:20, 12:05, 02:00, 11:10, 03:30, 08:00pm, 08:15, 11:25, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, 08:00pm, 08:40pm, 09:15pm, 09:50pm, 10:15pm, 10:45pm, 11:00pm, 11:30pm, 11:55pm, 12:05pm, 12:30pm, 12:55pm, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: NEWS BULLETIN, 08:00pm, 08:45pm, 09:15pm, 09:50pm, 10:15pm, 10:45pm, 11:00pm, 11:30pm, 11:55pm, 12:05pm, 12:30pm, 12:55pm, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: TALK SHOW, 12:30am, 10:45am, 10:40am, 07:40pm, nTV, 12:00am, 10:10pm, 12:00am, 11:45pm, 07:30pm, etc.