

WHAT'S ON

Musical Soiree
Artist: Farouk Ara
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: May 18, Time: 6:30pm

Film Screening
Title: European Short Film
Venue: Institute of Modern Language, University of Dhaka
Date: May 13-17
Time: 5pm

Photography Exhibition
Photographer: Najmul Huq
Venue: Interior Depot, H-7, R-14, Gulshan-1
Date: May 11-19
Time: 11am-8pm

Classical Concert (Instrumental)
Performers: Notes Quartet, Germany
Venue: Berlin Hall, Goethe-Institut, H-10, Rd-9 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: May 24, Time: 7:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: Shako
Venue: Radius Centre, 57, Gulshan Avenue
Date: May 4-18
Time: 10pm-5pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: World Press Photo 12
Venue: Dik Gallery, H-58, R-15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: April 26-May 18
Time: 3pm-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Intija Shohag
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: May 10-22
Time: 2pm-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Minimal Kandy Das
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-26
Time: 3pm-9pm

Workshop on Bratachari at Shilpakala Academy



Dr. Sanjida Khatun speaks at the programme.

A CORRESPONDENT
Marking the 130th birth anniversary (May 10) of the initiator of Bratachari Movement, Gurusaday Dutt, a five-daylong Bratachari Workshop is on at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Bratachari, Bangladesh in association with BSA is organising the workshop. Director General of BSA, Liaquat Ali Lucky inaugurated the workshop as chief guest on May 15. President of Bratachari, Bangladesh, Dr. Sanjida Khatun, presided over the inaugural event of the

workshop. A Bratachari cultural programme will be held on the concluding day (May 19) of the workshop at National Music and Dance Centre Auditorium of BSA at 5pm. Being an administrator of the British Government, Gurusaday Dutt, a valiant son of Sylhet, never compromised with his conscience. Along with collecting different motifs of folk-art, roaming every nook and corner of Bangladesh, Dutt learned folk music and dance. As a zealous patriot, Gurusaday Dutt tried to unite Bengalis with Bratachari music and dance.



THE HERITAGE OF ALKAP SONG

DR. HARUN-AR-RASHID

Over the years, Alkap songs have gained much popularity among the rich sub-genres of Bengali folk music. Around 50 or 60 years ago the genre was developed by both Hindus and Muslims of the country. Alkap song is the folk heritage of northern parts -- Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi and Natore -- of Bangladesh. The people of this region are closely acquainted with this tradition that is a great source of amusement for them. The word 'Alkap' is believed to be derived from Arabic or Persian languages. The meaning of 'Alkap', especially in Nawabganj area, is that which evokes fun and laughter. Like 'Gambhira', Alkap songs carry no depth of meaning. An Alkap song has two noteworthy elements -- melody and rhyme. The first part expresses the dalliance of Radha-Krishna and Rangpachali of folk song while the second part deals only with Rangpachali.

Incorporation of contemporary skits and jokes form the base of these songs. The main objective is to create temporary sensation in the minds of the audience. So, no quality or good poetical work is associated with it. Gambhira song has a sweetness of its own which is absent in Alkap.

On the contrary, Alkap songs often invoked questionable taste and sensual connotations and the genre is often performed with Khyamta taal and/or dance. So, Alkap song has become unfit to be presented in civilised society.

Middle class people, local shopkeepers, grocers and farmers of the regions generally sing Alkap song. Men dressed as women usually perform these songs and dances. The organisers usually make a stage in an open field for the performance. There is no specific time to perform Alkap song. Singers can perform either at daytime or at night. Once the musical programme starts, it continues for long time.

The performers usually use instruments like harmonium, kartal, dhokol gububi, juri, tabla and dugi etc for performing Alkap songs. Kaharba and Khemta (Jhumur) taal are frequently used in the presentation of the songs.

Music experts are of the view that Alkap song has no content related to religion and the rhymes of Alkap songs have a history with regard to a Guru who is thought to be the creator of such rhymes. The rhymes pertaining to Radha-Krishna or Ram-Sita have been composed later in the pattern of tarja, a type of rhyme. The rhymes below will provide such ideas:

Dialogue of Radha:
Ami bhora janoataye par hobo kimotaye
Bosh-e bosh-e taha bhabi
Majhihaye ohay majhi
Toma binay bhai par korbar keu nai
Osto jachchhey sondhya robi

Dialogue of Krishna:
Chare Kanya, nouka paray haldherib shokto kore
Bhoy korona rajak kumari
Chara baitha balya joray pouchaye dibe eiparey
Bolo bolo kanya, ki naam tumar hey

In the past, Alkap songs were closely associated with Hindu mythology, especially of Radha-Krishna. For the sake of the enrichment of our folk culture, collection and preservation of Alkap song should be greatly encouraged.

The writer is an Associate Professor at the Department of Classical Music, Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology.

A keen observation of life

Najmul Huq's photo exhibition at Interior Depot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Interior Depot, a newly opened lifestyle gallery in Gulshan, Dhaka, houses one of the most diverse collections of artworks. Khan Rezaul Hoq aka Bulbul runs the gallery. He said, "The gallery itself is less than a year old. The gallery exhibits a changing selection of paintings, antique furniture, ceramics, crystals and sculptures by major artists and artisans. Though most of the paintings and sculptures belong to local artists, the rest of the pieces (different periods) have been collected from several continents."

At present, the gallery has organised a photography exhibition, titled "Patience and Admiration" featuring the works of Najmul Huq. Eminent artist Monirul Islam inaugurated the exhibition on May 11. Artist and designer Kuhu Plamondon spoke on the occasion.

Photographer Najmul Huq is a retired IT professional. He embarked on photography at a very young age, armed with his uncle's Kodak box camera. Huq's initial subjects were ducks in a neighborhood pond in Eskaton, Dhaka. So began his interest in nature photography, which has endured for over four decades.

At the exhibition, nature is Najmul's treasure trove. He is a photographer who discovers possibilities and beauty in unnoticed or ignored objects. His images remind us about abundant resources of nature. He focuses on local birds, flowers, insects, discarded roots, silent streets, dew drops, greenery and more. His works display his fascination with nature, especially trees, leaves, bushes, branches and dry twigs. Close shots of tree trunks, insects and various wild flowers reveal an intimate connection with realism. Cloudy sky, fog, crimson sun and other panoramic views are also in focus in a number of his images. The images have been taken from different locations of the country.

Over the years, Huq's skills as a photographer were sharpened through experimentation with different styles. Most of his images are vibrant and light is the predominant aspect in his works. The exhibition ends on May 19.



Images by Najmul Huq.



Monirul Islam (C) inaugurates the exhibition.

CANNES 2012

Saudi Arabia's first female director brings Wadjda to fest

Wadjda, the first-ever film shot in Saudi Arabia, hits the Cannes market as The Match Factory begins pre-sales at Cannes' Marche du Film on the coming-of-age drama from Haifaa Al Mansour, the first female Saudi filmmaker.



Haifaa wrote and directed Wadjda, which tells the ordinary but uplifting story of Wadjda, an 11-year-old girl growing up in the suburbs of Saudi capital city Riyadh. Wadjda's dream is to get and ride a green bicycle, a treasure forbidden to women in the restrictive Islam state. "I'm so proud to have shot the first full-length feature ever filmed entirely inside the Kingdom (of Saudi Arabia)," Mansour said. "I come from a small town in Saudi Arabia where there are many girls like Wadjda who have big dreams, strong characters and so much potential. These girls can, and will, reshape and redefine our nation."

Mansour used an all-Saudi cast for her film, including Reem Abdulla, one of Saudi Arabia's best known television actresses. But the Wadjda crew came from both Germany and Saudi Arabia and included award-winning Source: **The Hollywood Reporter**

German cinematographer Lutz Reitemeyer (White Deer Plain). Gerhard Meixner and Roman Paul of Berlin-based Razor Film, whose credits include Oscar nominees Paradise Now and Waltz with Bashir, produced Wadjda with financing help from Rena Ronson of the UTA Independent Film Group.

Ronson first kicked off financing for the project when she met with Mansour at the Abu Dhabi Circle Conference in 2009. Saudi partner Amr Alkahtani of Rotana Studios provided additional financial and logistical support on the ground during the shoot. "We are excited that we have successfully shot the very first feature film in a country where going to the movies is forbidden," said Meixner and Paul of Razor Film. "Experts on the region told us we would never be able to make a movie like this in such an environment."

"We are excited that we have successfully shot the very first feature film in a country where going to the movies is forbidden," said Meixner and Paul of Razor Film. "Experts on the region told us we would never be able to make a movie like this in such an environment. Wadjda is Mansour's first feature-length drama but the director has shot three short films as well as the award-winning documentary Women without Shadows. All of her work is focused on giving a platform to Saudi woman to tell their unheard stories."



To mark the 151st birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Nagarik Natya Sampraday staged one of their acclaimed production "Achalayatan" at National Theatre Hall, BSA on 15 May, Tuesday. The play depicts the eternal conflict between old, rigid, restraining values and rebellious, free spirited, revolutionary ideas. The play is about an institution steeped in ancient traditions that has not seen any change throughout the decades. Veteran theatre and media personality Aly Zaker has directed the play.

Children stage Tagore's Kal Mrigaya

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Music lovers of the port city flocked to see "Kal Mrigaya", a dance-drama composed by Rabindranath Tagore at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) on May 14.

Presented by children, the performance enthralled the audience. In observance of the 151st birth anniversary of poet Tagore, Fame Dance, Drama and Kids Theatre, arranged the programme.

Chittagong's noted dance artist Tilottama Sengupta choreographed the dance-drama.

Based on the epic "Ramayana", "Kal Mrigaya" depicts the tragic story of King Dashrath who went out hunting in a jungle where Andhamuni, a blind sage, lived in a hermitage with his son and daughter. On one stormy night the sage's son went out to fetch water for his father. The sound of the water being filled misled the king and he shot an arrow at what he thought was an animal. The



A scene from the play.

arrow hit the sage's son, who died. The incident, later, brought ill fortune to King Dashrath. The creative Tilottama successfully presented the dance-drama by the young ones. "I am happy working with children," said Tilottama adding, "Tagore experimented and used many western melodies in the dance-drama like 'Phule phule dhole dhole' and 'Purano shei din-er kotha' which are very dear to the hearts of the children." Tilottama also designed costumes, light and stage of the musical drama.

Cultural function by Sunshine School and College

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Students of Sunshine Grammar School and College enthralled the audience as they showcased their talents at the school's annual cultural function on Wednesday.

The programme began with the national anthem followed by group presentation of Nazrul songs "Tora shob joidhwani kar" and "Ei shikhal pora chhal". The audience gave a big round of applause to the participants.

Later, three girls came on the stage to perform a group dance with the song "Dokhechho ki take."

Then, Tashfiq-al-Mukit, a student of class five, gave a widely appreciated dance performance. On the heels of the dance, 13 students from class four presented a song titled "If you give one the sunny side of life."

Students of class six captivated the audience with their comic show. Another fascinating item was the song, "I have a dream" performed by class five students. Then it was turned for a fashion show where students of class four, five and six put their best foot forward.

Students of class five came on stage to perform a group dance to the accompaniment of a Tagore song "Ami chini go chini tomare."

Muntasi, a student of class seven, performed a solo dance.

Students of class four enacted different roles in a play based on Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer", a classic. The function concluded with a fashion show that visualised the aspirations of Mina (The symbolic character of an indomitable girl of Bangladesh).

Tagore short story staged

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Rabindranath Tagore's noted short story "Chutti" was staged in Santhia Upazila Parishad auditorium on Tuesday, marking the 151st anniversary of Tagore. Child artists of Santhia Theatre staged the play, organised by Santhia upazila administration.

A discussion was another feature of the event. Santhia Upazila Nirbahi officer Enamul Haque chaired the discussion. Among the discussants were Professor Abdud Dain, Ashrafal Alam, political figure Hedayet Ali, journalist Abul Kashem and Jahangir Alam Salim.

The speakers said that through his short stories, Tagore focused on the reality of contemporary society and the human soul.

Later, Santhia Theatre staged Tagore's short story "Chutti" directed by Ratan Das. The child artists of the organisation staged the play and also performed Tagore songs.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker

Henry by Don Trachte

ATN BANGLA	12:05 Music Fest	Desh TV	05:00 Durpath
11:20 Business and Finance	05:00 123 Srimpur	06:00 Dur Durantey	06:30 Style & Fashion
03:45 Shundhor Jiboner Janno	06:30 Dur Durantey	09:45 Style & Fashion	11:55 Drama: Baghar
06:15 Amra Korbo Joy	06:00 Dur Durantey	09:45 Style & Fashion	11:55 Drama: Baghar
08:00 Drama Serial: Not Out	06:30 Dur Durantey	09:45 Style & Fashion	11:55 Drama: Baghar
11:00 Drama: Shwapno Ebong Bhalobasha	06:30 Dur Durantey	09:45 Style & Fashion	11:55 Drama: Baghar
CHANNEL i	11:05 Shantir Pothey	10:02 Bangladesh Television	10:02 Bangladesh Television
01:05 Ebong Cinema Gaan	10:02 Bangladesh Television	05:30 Amazing Animals	06:30 Binodon Sharadin
02:40 Hridoye Mati O	10:02 Bangladesh Television	08:00 Shaokha Kaha	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
03:30 Bangladesh Feature Film	10:02 Bangladesh Television	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
07:50 Spelling Bee	10:02 Bangladesh Television	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
ntv	04:10 Jamar Achhey Bolar	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
04:10 Jamar Achhey Bolar	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
06:15 Shubho Shondhya	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
06:45 Concert	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
09:00 Amaro Gaite Ichchhe	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
Halo	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
11:30 Shur Bhora Nilima	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	08:30 Shaokha Kaha	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo

abc radio FM 89.2	10:00 Morning Express
06:00 Bhoros Janalay	12:00 My Time
09:00 Mukhorho Jiboner	01:00 No Jention
12:00 Barun Dapurey	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00 Dhanera Boley	09:00 Night Rider
05:00 Shondhuras	01:00 Back to Back music
07:00 Shajer Maya	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
09:00 Raat-er Akashey	06:00 Green FM
11:00 Golper Shesh Nei	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
Radio Footi	12:00 Today's Aada
07:30 Hello Dhaka	04:00 U Turn

Bhalo Thakish Maa
On CHANNEL 9 at 08:30pm
Single Episode TV
Play
Cast: Shojol, Ishana

I Am Number Four
On Fox Movies at 10:30pm
Genre: Action/
Sci-Fi
Cast: Alex Pettyfer,
Timothy Olyphant

Shwapno Ebong Bhalobasha
On ATN BANGLA at 11:00pm
Single Episode TV
Play
Cast: Sayeed Babu,
Sadia Islam Mou

11:30 Ekushey-er Business	02:45 Open Season
04:30 Shanskrit Shomachar	04:15 Reign of Fire
05:40 Sports Plus	07:00 Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son
07:50 Drama	08:50 Love and Other Impossible Pursuits
09:30 Ekushey-er Chokh	10:35 I Am Number Four
Boishakhi TV	HBO
11:10 Bangla Feature Film	03:10 Mega Shark vs. Giant Octopus
04:15 Shearshori Doctor	05:05 Batman Returns
05:30 Shudhu Cinema Gaan	07:50 Final Destination 2
06:15 Carrier Path	09:45 Frozen
08:00 Drama Serial: Pathorer Kanna	11:45 The Mummy Returns
BANGLAVISION	Star World
11:05 Shokal Belar Roddur	03:30 Missing
02:20 Cinebit	05:30 Castle
06:05 Shyamol Bangla	07:30 Coffee with Karan
09:05 Bipashar Othhi	09:30 Supernatural
11:25 Gaane Gaane Deshe Deshe	10:30 Unforgettable
Rtv	National Geographic Channel
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	11:30 Rock Stars
05:00 Cinema R Gaan	03:30 Built for the Kill
05:20 Jular Deshey	08:30 Dangerous Encounters
11:30 Drama	

ATN BANGLA	08:15pm Rupkhata
08:40pm Chand Phul Amaboshya	09:45pm Dikhhinayonin Doin
09:20pm Red Dragon to Rajangandha	Rtv
CHANNEL i	09:50pm Dushpur
09:35pm Bhorot Bahir	05:50pm Hira Bangla
Boishakhi TV	BANGLAVISION
09:20pm Gngapath	08:15pm Bekhupurer Jatri
ntv	07:45pm Sat Kahan

BTV	10:10pm Toboo Badhon
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.	12:50pm Fushley-er Raat
News (English) at 10am, 6pm, 10pm.	Boishakhi TV
ATN BANGLA	10:50pm Reporters Diary
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.	12:50am Zero Hour
News (English) at 9am, 6pm	Rtv
CHANNEL i	10:40am Tanklap
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm.	06:30pm Talk of the Week
ntv	07:40pm Our Democracy
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	

ATN BANGLA	10:10pm Toboo Badhon
12:30am Lead News	12:50pm Fushley-er Raat
CHANNEL i	Boishakhi TV
09:50am Titilo Mista	10:50pm Reporters Diary
12:30pm Tanika Kothon	12:50am Zero Hour
11:30pm Shwapno Otar Din	Rtv
BANGLAVISION	10:40am Tanklap
06:30pm Talk of the Week	07:40pm Our Democracy
ETV	Desh TV