









Group art

honour of

exhibition in

On the occasion of the 36th birth anniversary

of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Bangladesh

Shilpakala Academy has organised a three-

day art exhibition. The exhibition was inau-

Begum Jahanara Abedin (widow of Zainul

Abedin) inaugurated the exhibition as chief

guest. Professor Nazrul Islam, former chair-

man of University Grants Commission; was

Liakat Ali Lucky, director general of Bangla-

desh Shilpakala Academy presided over the

Around 18 artists are taking part in the

exhibition. Participating artists are Afroza

Khondokar Beauty, Samina Nafiz, Farzana

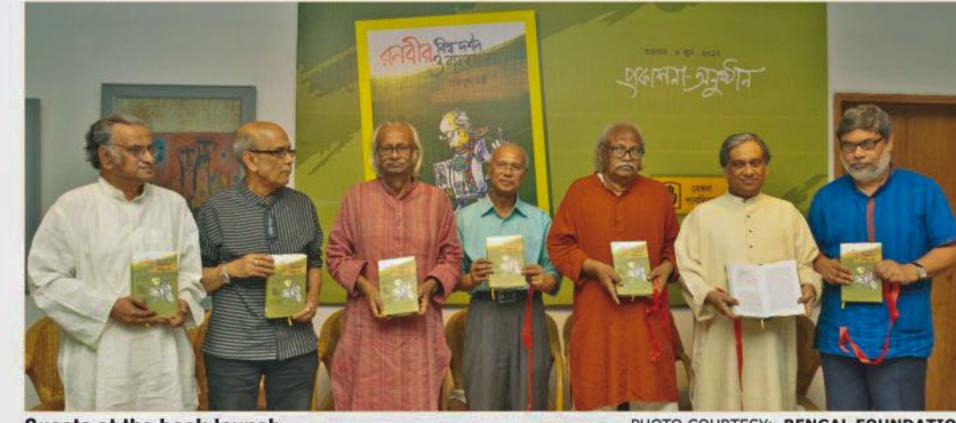
present as special guest on the occasion.

gurated yesterday at National Art Plaza of

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

## New horizon opens for Bangladeshi writers

Bengal Foundation publishes first book



ZAHANGIR ALOM

THEATRE

and "Debotar Grash".

immediate surgery.

Manipuri Theatre held three shows of its

monodrama "Kohe Birangana" in Dhaka to raise

fund for one of its ailing activists. The Dhaka

troupe based away from the capital held the

shows at Natmandal, Dhaka University and at

Academy for Lakkhan Singha, a key member in

the troupe's productions "Ingal Andhar Pala"

Shuvashis Sinha, troupe leader as well as

said that Singha has been suffering from a criti-

playwright and director of "Kohe Birangana",

cal illness related to appendicitis. He needs

evening at the Studio Theatre Hall.

The Natmandal show was held on June 7,

Based on Michael Madhusudan Dutt's

while two more shows were staged the following

"Birangana Kabya", the play features Jyoti Sinha

as the protagonist enacted the roles of four char-

acters articulated in the Michael literary work.

Michael's "Birangana Kabya" features the

"Mahabharat", while the play features stories of

The play is a narrative of letters written by

Dushyanta, who has seemingly abandoned her.

Shuvashis has written the play in a lyrical

these four characters to their respective hus-

bands. The play starts with Shakuntala, who

writes a moving letter to her husband

agony of female characters from the epic

Shakuntala, Draupadi, Dushala and Jona.

the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala

Bengal Foundation has opened up a new horizon for Bangladeshi writers with its first publication: Noted artist Rafigunnabi's book "Ranabir Bishwa Darshan O Rammokathon". A publication ceremony was held at the Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi in the capital on June 8.

Director General of Bengal Foundation, Luva Nahid Chowdhury welcomed all and emceed the event. The chief guest at the programme was versatile writer Syed Shamsul Haq. Writer Bulbon Osman, artist and writer Rafigun Nabi, chairman of Bengal Foundation Abul Khair, editor of the published book and also editor of "Kali O Kolom" Abul Hasnat and delivered speeches at the event. Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury presided over the programme.

"Artist Rafiqun Nabi is like a banyan tree in the Bangladeshi art scene. He is a renowned writer, a rhymester and a famous cartoonist. The book that is being launched today is equally important for students, teachers, art connoisseurs and above all for all because the book contains Rammokathon(humorous tales) incorporating rhymes," said Bulbon Osman.

"Today I am very glad for several reasons. First of all an artist's book is being launched today amidst an ambience where recently deceased Shilpaguru Safiuddin Ahmed's timeless artworks are being showcased around the walls of Bengal Shilpalaya. An artist becoming a writer is not an easy task; rather it is rare. Rafiqun Nabi's contribution to adding a new word 'Tokai' to the Bengali dictionary is also an extraordinary event. We have progressed technologically but have not brought forth qualitative change in writings. Again, marketing good books has become a challenge for publishers. Bengal Foundation should take up the challenge seriously," said Syed Shamsul Haq.

"We have been patronising art and music, publishing magazines like 'Kali O Kolom', 'Shilpa O Shilpi' for long. This time we have taken an initiative to publish books. Our upcoming venture is to make drama, documentary, tele-film and films. Meanwhile, shooting for the film 'Campaign', based on a Zafar Iqbal story, has begun," said Abul Khair.

"Ra'nabi has a pointed perspective where humour is closely associated with it. He comes from an artistic family. Once I told him that the byline of one of his rhymes published in the magazine 'Tapur-Tupur' was mistakenly given as Shafiqun Nabi. Nabi made it clear that the rhymester was his younger brother. Again, when I visited his hometown Rajshahi, I found many showcases full of sculptures. Then I asked him when he had done those sculptures. Nabi then told me these had been done by his father. I couldn't believe that a police officer could have done such sculptures!" said Qayyum Chowdhury in his speech.

staged for a noble cause

Kohe Birangana

## Priceless collection **Yale University Art Gallery**

While in the vicinity of New Haven in Connecticut this sum mer, I could not resist the temptation of visiting the Yale University Art Gallery. Mohammad Niamat Elahee, my sonin-law and professor at Quinnipiac University, took me to the Yale University Art Gallery recently. We were warmly welcomed at the reception desk at the art gallery. Founded in 1701, Yale is a prestigious Ivy League university. Its notable alumni include five US Presidents, 19 US Supreme Court Justices and several foreign heads of state. Forty-nine Nobel Laureates are associated with this University.

As the old gallery building is undergoing renovation, the exhibits are now located in the Louis Kahn Building. The old building is due to open to the public in December 2012. Renowned architect Louis Kahn taught at the Yale University in his early life and designed the new gallery building which bears his name. Louis Kahn is well known in Bangla desh as he designed the Parliament Building in Dhaka.

The Yale University Art Gallery has a permanent collection of over 1,85,000 works in ten curatorial areas. The Ancient Art section of the gallery contains over 13,000 objects d' art from Near East, Egypt, Greece and Greece. Many of the finds were collected by Yale University's own excavations in 1930s in Syria and Jordan. Paintings, sculptures and artifacts of daily life were collected from Syria and mosaic from the early Byzantine period in Jordan. The collection from Egypt includes pre-dynastic pottery, stone sculptures and bronze figures. About 1,000 vases were collected from Greece and Italy.

The African collection consists of about 1,000 art works in wood, metal, ivory and ceramic, among others.

The European art section includes nearly 2,000 objects comprising paintings, sculptures, textiles and some decorative art from the ninth through the nineteenth centuries. The painting collection is very rich with art from the Renaissance period up to the nineteenth century. The gallery proudly displays masterworks by Gentile da Fabriano, Pontormo, Hieronymus Bosch, Frans Hals, Rubens, Jean-Leon Gerome, Cezanne, Vincent van Gogh

The Asian collection consists of 6,000 exhibits from China, Korea, Japan, South-East Asia and the near East from the Islamic period. These include paintings, ceramics and other works from 500 BCE up to the contemporary period. The modern art gallery includes paintings and sculptures by Joseph Albers, Pablo Picasso, Marcel Duchamp and others from 1900 to the present. The gallery possesses one of the best collections of American art. Besides being open to the public, the gallery with its

varied collection of ancient, medieval and modern art from every corner of the earth provides a unique resource for teaching and research to the students and the faculty of university. The prized possessions of the gallery include Gentile da Fabriano's 'Virgin and Child', Antonio Pollaiuolo's 'Hercules and Deianira', Pontormo's 'Madonna del Libro', Hans Holbein's 'Hanseatic Merchant', Édouard Manet's 'Young Woman Reclining in Spa', Vincent van Gogh's ' Night Café ' and Pablo Picasso's 'First Steps'

A visit to the Yale University Art Gallery was truly a rewarding experience during my recent visit to the United States of America.



## Sheba Niketan's Nazrul celebration

The rendition of Nazrul's romantic and classical songs like "More Priya Hobe Esho Rani", "Chand Herichhe Chand Mukhu Tar", "Priovo Jai Jai Bolona", "Shaono Rat-e Jodi" and "Shunno-e-Buke" enthralled a huge audience at Muslim Institute auditorium on June 8.

The evening was organised by Mymensingh Sheba Niketan, a socio-cultural and voluntary organisation marking the 113th birth celebration of Kazi Nazrul Islam and 90 years of his poem "Bidrohi".

The artistes were Shah Saiful Alam Pannu, Samir Sarker, Rupa Sarker, Tahlima Alam Tandra, Bijon Topder, Nurun Nahar Lovely and Mozammel Haque Raza, among

Ustad Sunil Dhar, a veteran classical trainer, inaugurated the programme.

A discussion was also held with Dr. Hossain Ahmed Golandaj and Sheba Niketan's vice-chairman Md. Hafizur Rahman as discussants.

Among others Ustad Shahabuddin Khan, Dr. Ali Azam, Dr. Waliullah, Kazi Rana, Swapon Roy and Ibrahim Khalil were present at the programme.

The speakers were of the view that Nazrul's works should be disseminated to give due respect to the bard. They also said that to maintain the originality of Nazrul's songs, the artistes of the present generation should be more dedicated to classical music.

Nazrul's writings have enriched Bengali literature and music as well, they concluded. Advocate Abul Quasem anchored the programme.

## Commonwealth literary prize





Writers from Sri Lanka and New Zealand have won the Commonwealth Foundation's literary prizes

Shehan Karunatilaka from Sri Lanka picked up the £10,000 Commonwealth Book Prize for his debut novel "Chinaman: The Legend of Pradeep

The Commonwealth Short Story Prize, worth

The awards, which were presented at the Hay Festival, aim to showcase new literary talent in the

global prize that has recognised so many great writers over the years. I feel deeply honoured." His book tells the story of a retired hard-

drinking sports journalist who tries to track down the elusive Pradeep Mathew-- who he considers the greatest cricketer of all time. The chair of the Commonwealth Book Prize,

Margaret Busby, described Karunatilaka's novel as a "fabulously enjoyable read". Emma Martin, from Wellington, said winning

"Writing can be a solitary business, so to receive any award is immensely encouraging," she added.

Bernardine Evaristo, chair of the short story prize, said: "Two Girls in a Boat fulfilled the judges' brief that the winning entry has linguistic flair, originality, depth and daring."

by Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who won the Orange Prize in 2007.

Sheena Chohan

# The city makes her tick

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Sheena Chohan bagged the 'I Am Voice' award at 'Miss India Universe I Am She' pageant in 2010. She is also a former 'Lakme Miss Kolkata'. The Indian model is now in Dhaka for the second time. She first came here last February to host at the BPL T20cricket tournament. Now she is hosting "Grameenphone Presents Tune Factory" on Channel 9. The programme went on air on June

Sheena talked to The Daily Star recently.

What's your impression of Dhaka? Sheena Chohan: Frankly speaking, I really wanted to visit Dhaka again. When I came here last time, I left behind and took away many memories. Actually I don't feel that I am away from home; rather I feel like I am in

What draws you to Dhaka? Sheena Chohan: The love of the people. Bangladeshis are very warm and friendly; some of them have become my good friends. Their love drew me here once again. This time I came here on invitation from Channel 9. The concept of their programme is unusual. I am dealing with musicians and enjoying emceeing, which I also did during the BPL tournament.

Which else are you fond of in Dhaka? Sheena Chohan: I am very fond of shondesh, and the fish of Bangladesh. I can never forget the taste of these culinary delights. And I know Jamdani of Dhaka is world famous. I received a Jamdani sari as a gift. I am yet to go around the city; though I hope to do so.

Sheena Chohan: My father is a Punjabi and my mothe is from Kolkata. I grew up in Kolkata. That's why I can speak Bangla well.

You speak Bangla very well...

What else do you have up your creative sleeve? Sheena Chohan: I can play the violin, act on stage, and



Sheena's been busy on other fronts as well.

At present she works as a goodwill Ambassador for the Youth for Human Rights Programme of United Nations. Alongside she continues acting in films. She first acted in a South Indian film called "The Train". She has also recently acted in two Hindi films -- "Mukti" and "Patralekha", directed by Buddhadev Dasgupta. Sheena is also acting in Buddhadev Dasgupta's latest

### Wazed Ali's 61st death anniversary today

Today marks the 61st death anniversary of essayist and writer S. Wazed Ali. He was born in 1890 at Bara Tajpur village under Serampore in Hooghly, West Bengal, India. He began his education in a school in his village home in 1895. Later he studied at Shillong Mokhar High School, passing the Entrance Examination in 1906 with distinction and winning a gold medal. He passed the IA from Aligarh College in 1908 and BA from Allahabad University in 1910. In 1912 he went to England for higher studies and again completed BA as well as the Bar-at Law from Cambridge University. He started practising as a lawyer at the Calcutta(now Kolkata) High Court in 1915. He was appointed Magistrate of Calcutta Presidency in 1923 and retired from the post in 1945.

The progressive and liberal Wazed Ali expressed himself with supreme creative excellence in the fields prose, story-writing, translation, travelogues, etc. He edited and published a monthly English journal, Bulletin of the Indian Rationalistic Society, in 1919 an a Bangla monthly magazine, Gulistan, in 1932. He chaired the committee that was formed to accord a reception to Kazi Nazrul Islam at Calcutta Albert Hal on December 15,1929 and read the citation at the reception. The same year he presided over the annual conference of the Assam Muslim Student Society. He chaired the Nikhil Banga Primary Teachers Conference

Wajed Ali was a soft-spoken person with a reserved and contemplative nature. He was a unique and distinctive personality of his time with his aristocratic bearing, wide grasp of knowledge and intellectual pursuits. S. Wajed Ali possessed an exceptionally generous nature. With such a magnanimous, righteous broad-minded and pleasing personality, he was well loved by all he came into contact with. He had an extraordinary depth of perception. He loved talking to children and often listened to their stories, keeping them amused with his special simple magical simplicity and charm. Wazed Ali's writings reflect his love of truth and

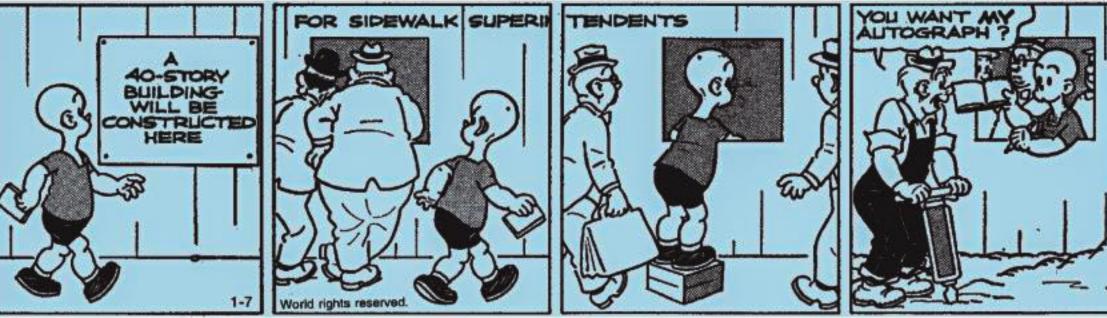
beauty as well as historical and moral sense. His major writings include the collections of essays: "Jibaner Shilpa", "Prachya O Pratichya", "Bhabisyater Bangali", "Akbarer Rastra Sadhana", "Muslim Sangskritin Adarsha"; the collections of stories: Guldasta, "Mashuker Darbar", "Badshahi Galpa", "Galper Majlish"; the travelogues: "Pashchim Bharat" and "Motar Yoge Ranchi Safar"; and the novel, "Granadar

Wazed Ali died in Calcutta in 1951.

Compiled by Correspondent

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





09:45 Tribute to the

11:45 Total Sports 06:00 Priyo Shilpir Priyo Gaan

11:15 Gaaner Jolsha News of the Day Maasranga Television

10:00 Euro 2012: Spain Vs Italy

07:00 Rong Bhuboner Nao

On ntv at 09:00pm





**CHANNEL 24** 08:20 Drama Serial: Ohongkai

08:15 Drama Serial:

Ladies First

Gaan R Gaan

10:15 Drama Serial: Ekaki Fox Movies

07:00 Pirates of the Caribbean: 08:00 Drama Serial: Istikuti 08:35 Fashion Haat BANGLAVISION

> 07:00 Lethal Weapon 3 09:30 Fast Five Star World 11:30 Satyamev Jayate

Sanskritir Sharadesh Drama Serial: DRAMA SERIAL

09:20pm Ognipath ATN BANGLA BANGLAVISION 08:40pm Chora Goli 09:05pm Long March HANNEL i 07:50pm Noorjahan

09:05pm Oloshpur 08:15pm Bondhu Amar Desh TV 07:45pm Sat Kahon 09:30pm Tattu Ghora Maasranga Television 08:00pm Sat Sawdagor

#### **NEWS BULLETIN** News (Bangla) at 10am,

2pm, 5pm, 8pm. News (English) at 10am, ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, News (English) at 9am, CHANNEL i News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.

News (Bangla) at 2pm 7:30pm, 10:30pm. News (Bangla) at 1pm,

News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm. News (Bangla) at 2pm News (Bangla) at 7pm,

News (English) at 9am,

News (Bangla) at 10am,

2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.

News (English) at 1pm,

BANGLAVISION

TALK SHOW 10:10pm Media Gossip Boishakhi TV 11:11pm Reporters Dairy

ATN BANGLA 4:20pm Prosango

12:00am Zero Hour 10:40am Tarokalap 07:40pm Our Democracy Desh TV

2:30am Lead News HANNEL i 9:45am Tritio Matra 12:00am Ei Shomoy

11:45pm Shoja Kotha

#### Celebrating Life Tune into **abc** FM 89.2 Every Sunday 2pm to 3pm

### Ahmed, Liton Bhuyan, Tasmin Chowdhury, Fatema Akhter, Golam Sarwar Khokan, Mohiuddin Ahmed and others. The mediums include oil, acrylic, watercolour, gouache, tapestry, installation, sculpture The exhibition ends tomorrow. Learn more about

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-day workshop on developing skills regarding cultural journalism begins today at the Goethe-Institut Bangladesh in Dhanmondi. Conducted by Berlin based German art critic Andreas Schlaegel, the workshop will firmly give priority on the expertise in cre-Hochschule der Künste-Städelschule, Frankfurt am ative criticism for cultural reports. Main. He also obtained an MA in Fine Arts from Gold-

cultural journalists from different print media will take part. The workshop will raise discussions, approaches and backgrounds on constructive writing on cultural programmes in print media. Apart from his critic identity, Andreas Schlaegel is

Goethe-Institut is organising the workshop where

Jyoti Sinha, as the protagonist, enacted

Other performers, who helped Jyoti in chorus,

Manipuri Theatre staged the shows of the play

included Smriti Sinha, Shukla Sinha, Sunanda

roles of four characters.

Sinha and Bhagyalokkhi Sinha.

after nearly eight months.

Workshop on cultural journalism

form known as poyar.

also known as an artist. He studied Fine Arts at the

smiths College, London.

lished regularly in international art magazines such as Frieze d/e (Berlin), Spike (Vienna) and Flash Art (Mi-

Since the late 1990s his writings have been pub-

As an artist he has created collaborative works in

exhibitions, sculpture and performance.

The workshop will continue till June 14.

winners named



Shehan Karunatilaka (left) and Emma Martin.

for 2012.

£5,000, was won by New Zealand's Emma Martin for "Two Girls in a Boat".

Commonwealth. Karunatilaka said: "It's a privilege to be part of a

the short story prize was "a wonderful and unexpected honour'

The awards were handed over at the Hay Festival

SOURCE: BBC