

Drik turns 23

Photography still to come of age in country



JAMIL MAHMUD

Photography agency and gallery Drik turned 23. With a daylong programme at its premises in Dhammond, Dhaka on September 4, the gallery celebrated the occasion. Visual artist Wakilur Rahman delivered a memorial lecture, named after one of the pioneering photographers Golam Kasem Daddy, while National Geographic Fellow and photographer Reza

Deghati spoke as the guest of honour. Shahidul Alam, director of Drik, delivered the welcome speech. "We have exhibited the best works of world renowned photographers from across the globe at our gallery with the aim of bringing about a change in society through an understanding of photography. Yet we regard our achievements as minuscule since people still have to understand the importance of photography as a medium of arts," said Alam. Artist Wakilur Rahman delivered the memorial lecture on



PHOTO: RAMAK MARTIN/ORKNEWS

(From left) Shahidul Alam, Reza Deghati and Wakilur Rahman cut the celebration cake.

the topic "Curating contemporary art and art practice in Bangladesh". Articulating the history, growing necessity and possibility of curating in our country, Rahman said, "Organised curating can dominate a visitor's perception regarding a particular exhibition and can arouse his/her interest in an artwork." Rahman pointed out that not too many galleries are practicing this concept in our country but said that its necessity is increasing day by day in other countries.

He used images of his own works as references that projected on a screen during the lecture.

Reza Deghati was the man of the evening. He shared his experiences gleaned over a three-decade-long career, and told the audience why he chose this particular sphere of arts as his profession.

"It was during the pre-Revolutionary Iran, when I was captured by the secret police for photographing the country's poverty. After I got free, I shared my passion for photography with my parents who said 'If you love it then go for it'," said Reza, whose best works include the National Geographic series "Frontline Diaries".

Reza was the creative director for the National Geographic's most viewed documentary "Inside Mecca", and portrayed political personalities such as the former PLO leader Yasser Arafat, former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the charismatic Afghan rebel Ahmad Shah Massoud.

As part of the celebration, an exhibition titled "Insider, Outsider?" began at the gallery. The exhibition features photographs that challenge perceptions of the developing world. Representatives of Drik's recent initiative Rural Visual Journalism Network (RVJN) shared their impressions gathered from the workplace.

Featuring rare collections from the archive, few reprints are on display for sale as well. These reprints include works by former students of Drik's educational wing Pathshala.

The exhibition will continue everyday till September 12 from 3 to 8pm.

THEATRE FESTIVAL

Lucky Enam's 60th birthday celebration begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Featuring six plays directed by one of the veteran theatre activists, Lucky Enam, a six-day theatre festival has begun at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Enam's troupe Nagarik Natyangan in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has organised the festival that celebrates the 60th birthday of the seasoned actor-director as well as marks her four-decade long career in theatre.

On the opening day Nagarik Natyangan staged the Arthur Miller satire "Pussy Cat and a Real Man".

Talking about her goals, Enam said, "I want to continue my journey in theatre till my last breath. I want to shed light on the darker side of the society through theatre activism."

Enam's colleagues and fellow activists greeted her and held a discussion on her life and work at the beginning of the festival. The programme was presided over by the convener of the festival committee, Ataur Rahman. Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy was the chief guest. Nasiruddin Yousuff, president of Shammilita Sangskritik Jote, and Dr. Enamul

Haq, president of Nagarik, spoke as special guests.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, formally inaugurated the event, while 30 underprivileged children lit candles at the opening.

Proiti Haq translated the Arthur Miller play into Bangla, with the title "Pussy Biral Ebong Ekjon Prokrito Manush". Through the shenanigans of a pet cat, the play satires corrupt individuals in the society. The cat, named Tom Thomas, aspires to be the city mayor, as it is aware of the misdeeds of senior officials. It also looks for an ethically motivated person who is worthy to occupy the post of city mayor.

Shazu Khadem played the role of the cat; he also designed the set. Sazzad Reza, Ferdousi Riya, Kanta Zaman, Habib Bahar, Pralay Zaman, Jubayer Hillol and Noman Sharif played other roles. The seemingly big budget production was jazzed up with some group dance by actors.

Today, "Pragoitihashik" will be staged at the National Theatre Hall. Apart from staging of plays, the festival also highlights a photo and poster exhibition featuring images of plays and off-stage activities.



PHOTO: JANIL MAHMUD

"Pussy Cat and a Real Man" satires corrupted individuals of the society.

A recapitulation of Ustad Allauddin Khan

TANVIR A. KHAN

BTV had invited me through the good office of Ustad Shahadat Hossain Khan to deliver a talk on Ustad Allaiddin Khan on August 23 and the programme would be aired on his death anniversary, which falls on September 6 (today). Memories resurfaced of the '70s when my sitar teacher, Ustad Mir Kashem Khan, used to tell his students at Jago Art Centre about his mentor. He learnt the sitar along with his other siblings in Kolkata.

Wasn't the mentor a sarodist, one exclaimed! Yes, but he not only played the sarod, but he was equally good at all instruments including the sitar, surbahar, sursringar, tabla, pakhawaj and violin.

The great Ustad Allaiddin Khan was born in 1881 and died in 1972. What he did in one lifetime (being close to 100 years) could not have been accomplished in 300 years. His father Ustad Sabdar Hossain Khan (also known as Sadhu Khan) and elder brother Fakir Aftabuddin were inclined to music and performed for themselves. They knew very well that to make a career of this profession was tantamount to living hand to mouth. Young Alam, as Ustad Allaiddin Khan was called, was restrained from the musical instruments.

The more these two gentlemen wanted Alam to go to school at Shibpur village in Brahmanbaria (now in Bangladesh) where he was born, the more the young lad rebelled. At the age of eight or ten, he ran away from home to join a 'jatra party'. He played all the instruments (dhol, tabla, pakhawaj, shehnai, clarinet, cornet and trumpet) and was delighted at finding his forte.

A narrative about his life for nearly a decade is missing until we observe that at the age of 14 he presented himself at the feet of a great vocalist named Nulo Gopal, otherwise known as Gopal Krishna Bhattacharya. Many know him as Charavarty. His strict instructions to Alam at first bewildered the young lad. He had to be groomed the same way Nulo was groomed for strictly 12 years in the 'Guru-Shishya Parampara'. Young Alam agreed with fascination. The grooming commenced and he never looked back.

Unfortunately for him, Nulo passed away seven years later. Alam then worked for the Star Theatre in Kolkata where he became a disciple of Amritalal Dutt (known popularly as Habu Dutt), a close relative of Swami Vivekananda. Young Alam also participated in the frequent orchestral parties held by Habu. He also met Lobo, a bandmaster from Goa, who taught him other stringed instruments like the violin. Habu and Lobo's influence on Alam with lessons in Eastern and European classical music (both used all the western instruments, specially violin as well as a few Indian ones) led to the formation of the 'Maihar Band'.

The pedagogy pursued by the maestro was shaped from an early age as he played many instruments apart from presenting concerts in sarod. Indian instruments were used, to put together an orchestra, popularly known as the Maihar Band.



Alam got interested in the sarod after a concert by Ustad Ahmed Ali Khan at Jagat Kishore Acharya's zamindari court at Muktagachha (now in Bangladesh).

When his Guru Nulo passed away, he took a vow never ever to take lessons in vocal music. The seven years of strict learning the 'Paltas' and 'Sargams' made him a young guru of sorts. He could think about the notations in his head and could reflect these notations in writing as well. Thus it made it easier for him to learn the stringed instruments. Now you had to use your fingers instead of the voice. Any good stringed musician can sing as well.

Ustad Ahmed Ali knew that young Alam had the capacity to overtake his guru. A day came when he was told that he had to move forward and encounter a greater ustad (following the tradition of shikha, dikha and pariksha meaning training, initiation and evaluation). He was taken to Rampur where Ahmed Ali's roots were.

This was a place of great musicians. At least 500 musicians were competing against each other. A short-list of 50 was really the best and of that the King of Kings was the great Ustad Wazir Khan, the greatest veena player of the time, and the direct descendant of Mian Tansen. He belonged to the court of the Nawab of Rampur.

But how to get to him? A Maulana Sahib had suggested that he would write a letter in Urdu introducing Alam, but

he had to market himself. The spirit was such that he did not even need to meet the Great Wazir Khan, he would take two ounces of opium and end his life. He stationed himself on the road and as the Nawab's vehicle approached, he threw himself in front of it. The rest is history. His devotion to music was acknowledged. He was told to play the instruments. He played them one after the other. The Nawab sang a very difficult gamak taan but Alam meekly replied that such a taan would be difficult to write down. He was a keen observer and not an egomaniac. He observed the annoyance in the eyes of the Nawab that he knew more than he. The Nawab called for Ustad Wazir Khan and the binding ceremony took place.

Ustad Wazir embraced Alam after two and half years, observing that although he lied that he was an orphan, which he was not since a letter came to the Nawab's court stating that the wife of Alam was about to commit suicide. The love for music was enough to keep young Alam even from his wife. After his return from his home, Ustad Wazir Khan considered Alam as his foremost and best disciple outside of his own family. He taught him all the secrets of the art of music that the members of the Tansen family possessed. He was permitted to play the veena (also called 'been') since it was traditionally restricted to the Beenkar gharana. Before Wazir's death, the ustad blessed his student stating that Alam's name and the names of his disciples would live forever and carry on the great tradition of the Beenkar gharana and the glory of Mian Tansen.

Ustad Allaiddin Khan was fond of compound ragas, and created many ragas of his own, including Arjun, Bhagabati, Bhim, Bhuvaneshwari, Chandika, Dhabalashri, Dhanakoshi, Dipika, Durgeshwari, Gandhi, Gandhi Bilawal, Haimanti, Hem-Behag, Hemant, Hemant Bhairav, Imni Manjhi, Jaunpuri Todli, Kedar Manjhi, Komal Bhimpalasi, Komal Marwa, Madanmanjari, Madhabasri, Madhavgiri, Malaya, Manjhi Khamaj, Meghbahar, Muhammed, Nat-Khamaj, Prabhakali, Raj Bijoy, Rajeshri, Shobhavati, Subbhavati, Sugandha and Surasati. Many of these have not become common Maihar repertoire; Manjhi Khamaj is perhaps the best known.

Allaiddin stayed at Maihar from 1918 to his death. In 1955, he established the Maihar College of Music. He was given the Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 1952, and the Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan India's third and second highest civilian decorations -- in 1958 and 1971, respectively.

He experimented with his disciples as his son Ali Akbar Khan was taught the sarod, his daughter Annappurna Devi learned the surbahar, Ravi Shankar and Nikhil Banerjee played the sitar, Rabin Ghosh played the violin and Baijnath Singh and Panna Lal played the bansuri (bamboo flute).

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IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Shaheed Altaf Mahmud

Shaheed Altaf Mahmud is widely known for his composition of the song "Amar Bhai-er Rokte Rangano Ekushey February", which has become the unofficial anthem of the International Mother Language Day (February 21). This composition, along with others, has given him a unique position in the hearts of Bangladeshis.

Mahmud's house served as a hiding place for arms caches and he provided food and money to Freedom Fighters during the Liberation War. During a combing operation (in August, 1971) in Dhaka city by the Pakistani army, Mahmud was arrested along with his brothers-in-law and a friend. He was tortured and believed to be killed in September. Mahmud is regarded among the Martyred Intellectuals.

A talented painter as well as composer, Mahmud wrote and composed many patriotic songs which were played by the Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the Liberation War. His composition was used in the movie "Jibon Theke Neya" and other popular Bangladeshi movies. Some of his notable creations include "Satyer Joi", "Bolo Bir" and "Ami Manusher Bhai Spartacus".

Mahmud was born in Patachar village under Barisal district on December 23 in 1933. He finished his matriculation from Barisal Zilla School. He gained admission to BM College before he went to Calcutta (now Kolkata) to study painting at the Calcutta Arts School. Mahmud started singing when he was in school. He received his first music lessons from famed violinist Suren Roy. He learnt to sing Gano Sangeet (inspirational songs) that earned him popularity at that time.

Mahmud came to Dhaka in 1950 and joined Dhumketu Shilpi Shongho. Later he became the music director of the organisation. In 1956, Mahmud was invited to Vienna Peace Conference. But he was unable to attend as his passport was confiscated by the government in Karachi. There he stayed until 1963 and took taalim in classical music from Ustad Abdul Kader Khan. After returning from Karachi to Dhaka, Mahmud worked in 19 films: along with the famous "Jibon Theke Neya", he also worked in films like "Kaise Kahu", "Kar Bou", and "Tanha". He was also worked with political and cultural organisations.

During the 1950s he sang Gano Sangeet in many places to inspire activists of the Language Movement. Along with his singing, Mahmud continued to support the movement.

Mahmud took part in the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. He created a secret camp inside his house for the freedom fighters. But as the secret leaked out, the



Pakistan Army captured him on August 30, 1971.

To keep his memories alive, Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Foundation was established in 2005 at the personal initiative of the martyr's family. The foundation annually confers the Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Padak to eminent personalities. From 2005 onwards, seven personalities -- actor Dr. Enamul Haque, singer Bipul Bhattacharya, music exponent Sudhin Das, music director Alam Khan, veteran actor Razzak, Nazrul exponent Professor Rafiqul Islam and noted singer Sabina Yasmin -- have received this award, according to Altaf Mahmud's daughter Shawan Mahmud. The award winner receives Taka 10,000 and a crest. The foundation has also launched a website: www.shaheedaltafmahmud.com.

Mahmud was (posthumously) awarded the Ekushey Padak in 1977 for his contributions to Bengali culture and the Bangladesh Liberation War. In 2004, he was also conferred the Independence Award for his special contribution to Bengali culture.

Compiled by Correspondent

Ranjit Das' solo painting exhibition at Bengal Lounge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted painter Ranjit Das' solo exhibition will open tomorrow at Bengal Art Lounge in Gulshan, Dhaka.

Heather Cruden, Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Veteran painter Qayyum Chowdhury will be present as special guest on the occasion. Das and Nawshin Khair, director of Bengal Art Lounge, will also deliver speeches at the programme.

After a hiatus, Das is holding a solo exhibition. His last solo art show was held at Galleri Kaya. The specialty of his paintings is an in-depth observation of the socio-political and economic aspects of society.

At the exhibition, his figurative works will have a touch of realism but also a bit of a distorted look. The painter is now playing with figures, visages and various forms and compositions. It is an intense journey through experimentation. He is seemingly searching for a new look for his paintings. At the show, the mediums will include acrylic, pen and ink. The exhibition will continue till September 28.



Beetle Baily

by Mort Walker

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Henry

by Don Trachte

DS Café

Popular actor and model Apurbo is the featured celebrity of this month at DS Café. He will be on the hot seat and take your calls at The Daily Star Centre on September 9, between 5 and 6pm. Readers, fire away all your questions at him! The best question will be highlighted in the transcription. Call 8126155, 01711623915 and 01711623917 to speak to Apurbo.

BTV	03:05 Bangla Feature Film	06:00 Durpath
	06:35 Mati O Manush	06:00 123 Soimpur
	07:00 Rupali Porda	09:45 Style & Fashion
	09:05 Drama: Oripa Asha	11:55 Drama
ATN BANGLA	11:20 Business and Finance	Diganta TV
	12:15 Shundor Jibon-er Jonno	11:30 Diganta Orushandhan
	03:05 Bangla Feature Film	Kamphulir Teer
	08:00 Destination Unlimited	11:05 Music Hour (Live)
CHANNEL i		Maasranga Television
	11:05 Ami Maa Hote Cholechhi	11:02 Bangla Feature Film
	11:40 Shanti Pottery	05:02 Amazing Animals
	02:40 Hridoye Mati O	08:00 Tele-film
	Manusher Daak	11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
03:30 Bangla Feature Film		CHANNEL 9
11:30 Drama Serial: Roshni		08:45 Bangla Feature Film
		08:40 Drama
ntv		09:50 GP Time Factory
	Janar Achhey Bolar	11:15 Music Box
	Achhey	CHANNEL 24
	06:10 Shubho Shondhya	01:05 Travel Show
	09:00 Amaro Gaite Ichchhe	03:05 Drama Serial: Jichchibi
		08:10 Dawn Out with Us

Ekti Script O Kichhu Khola Pata

On Maasranga Television at 08:00pm

Cast: Shojoel, Zakia

School Rock

On HBO at 07:15pm

Genre: Comedy/ Music

Cast: Jack Black, Mike White & Joan Cusack

Bipashar Oitithi on BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm

Celebrity Talk Show

Guest: Joya Ahsan

11:30 Holo Music Euphony	11:40 Sports 24
ETV	Gtv
11:30 Ekushey-er Business	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
04:30 Shamskrit Shomachar	04:35 Z-documentary
07:50 Drama	08:05 Drama Serial: Pandam
09:30 Ekushey-er Chokh	11:00 Ghor Mon Janala
Boishakhi TV	Fox Movies
04:15 Shorashori Doctor	21
06:20 Carrier Path	04:40 Spider-Man 3
08:00 Drama	07:00 Spy Kids: All the Time in the World
11:00 Reporters Diary	08:30 Rio
BANGLAVISION	10:10 X-Men: First Class
02:35 Shokal Belar Roddur	HBO
03:05 Music Club	03:05 Bridesmaids
06:05 Shyamol Bangla	05:35 Yogi Bear
09:05 Bipashar Oitithi	07:15 The School of Rock
Rtv	09:30 Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	11:35 Final Destination 2
05:00 Cinema R Gaan	Star World
08:15 R Music	04:30 Glee
11:30 Drama	09:30 Master Chef Australia
Desh TV	03:00 Gaan R Gaan
	10:30 Grey's Anatomy

ATN BANGLA	08:40pm Chond Phul	09:20pm Ognipath
	Amaboshya	11:30pm Nat Bolto
	09:20pm Chayabrita	BANGLAVISION
CHANNEL i		08:15pm Bokulpurer Jatri
	09:25pm Bayanno Goler Ek Gol	Rtv
	09:35pm Boeing 757	09:55pm Oloshpur
ntv		10:55pm Mon Rangla
	08:15pm Mayanganam	Desh TV
	09:45pm Dakshinyaner Din	07:45 Saatkahon
Boishakhi TV		08:15pm Radio Chocolate
		CHANNEL 24

BTV	10:25pm Unayane Bangladesh	12:00am Zero Hour
ATN BANGLA	Lead News	BANGLAVISION
CHANNEL i	12:30pm Tareka Kothon	06:30pm Talk of the Week
ntv	12:10pm Ei Shomoy	10:40am Tanakpal
ETV	10:10pm Toboo Radhoun	10:30pm Desh E Golpo
Boishakhi TV		CHANNEL 24
		12:00am Hothdipatra
		Muktakab
		Gtv