

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Colour of Time
Venue: The Institute of Art and Culture, Gulshan
Date: Sept 7-20
Time: 12pm-8pm

Theatre Festival
Title: Ganga-Jamuna Natyashub
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sept 14-22
Time: 7pm

Solo Tapestry Exhibition
Artist: Tajul Islam
Venue: Artists Society of Bangladesh, Helioli
Date: Sept 7-21
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: REM
Artist: Rajul Das
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: Sept 7-28

Group Art Exhibition
Title: 5th Friendship Art Exhibition
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sept 7-16
Time: 10am-7:30pm

Memorial Programme on Abdul Alim
Organiser: University Cultural Foundation
Venue: Music & Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

Group Drawing Exhibition
Title: Darw: Turning Thoughts into Lines
Venue: Athena Gallery, Propriety Sherani, Uta Badda
Date: Sept 15-Oct 15
Time: 10am-7:30pm

Lecture on Digital Poetry
Unstable Poetry: what happens when poetry leaves the page?
Organiser: British Council
Venue: ULAS auditorium
Date: Sept 17 at 6pm

Path-breaking singer Ajit Roy recalled

Discussion, album launch and musical soiree held at National Museum

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Marking the first death anniversary of iconic artiste Ajit Roy, Abhyyudoy Sangeet Angan arranged a memorial programme at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on September 14. Roy was founder of the musical organisation Abhyyudoy Sangeet Angan. The event featured a discussion, launch of an Ajit Roy album and musical soiree by several noted troupes. Shreyoshi Roy, daughter of Roy, delivered the welcome address at the event. In an emotionally charged speech, she said, "My father Ajit Roy occupies pride of place for me. He, who placed Tagore in his heart, will be with us eternally like the red-gren flag of Bangladesh. My father loved Abhyyudoy like his beloved children."

exponent also shared his personal memories of Roy in their days at the Betar (radio) during the turmoil of the '60s and the Liberation War. "Ajit Roy was a person with a rare ability of remembering others with his personality and sagacity. He would perform Tagore songs in all their resplendent beauty," said Tapan Mahmud. Bengali Foundation released two audio CDs -- "Ami Tomakei Dekhi" and "Hey Mahajibon" featuring records of Roy at the event. Sudhin Das with others unveiled the CDs at the programme. "Ami Tomakei Dekhi" features patriotic songs written by noted lyricists -- Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, Mohammad Rafiquzzaman, Munshi Wadud, Zahidul Haque, Nazrul Islam Babu, Akram Hossain, Masud Karim and Mohammad Muzakker. "Hey Mahajibon" unveils timeless poems by Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Michael Madhusudan Datta, Sukanta Bhattacharya, Jibanananda Das, Shamsur Rahman, Sikander Abu Zafar and Kaikobad. Roy set the poems to tune and recorded songs on the CD. A choral song recorded by the artists of "Abhyyudoy Sangeet Angan" is also included in the CD. Romancho Roy, son of Roy, supervised the recording of the album.



Artistes perform at the programme.

Later, artistes from music troupes Abhyyudoy, Chhayanaut, Rabirag, Surtirtha, Baitalk and Udichi Shilpi Goshtih paid their musical homage to Roy by performing choral songs at the programme. The artistes predominantly performed Tagore songs and spirited songs set to tune from poems at the event. Artistes of Abhyyudoy set off the musical soiree with several Tagore numbers. The rendition of Tagore songs "Pran Bhoriyee Trisha Horiye" and "Bojre Tomar Bajer Bashi" by Chhayanaut artistes won the hearts of many. Rabirag's performance of the song "Kanna Hashir Dol Dolano" generated melancholy in rhythm. Artistes of Surtirtha, Baitalk and Udichi performed "Mon Majhi

Shamal Shamal", "Amar Matha Noto Kore Dao", "Hey Mohamanob Ekbar Esho Phirey" respectively and more at the event. Led by Shreyoshi Roy, artistes of Abhyyudoy took the stage again. They presented several vibrant songs from the album "Hey Mahajibon" at the event. Born in 1938, Roy was inspired by the Language Movement and took to singing in 1952. In 1963 he began to perform for radio and TV. He has composed several timeless patriotic songs, including "Ekti Bangladesh Tumi Jagroto Jonotar", "Opomaney Tumi Shedin Joley Utthechhiley", "Banglar Mukh Ami Dekhiachhi", "Hey Bongo Bhandarey Tabo" and more. Roy joined Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (SBBK) in 1971 and inspired the nation to combat the Pakistani occupation forces. He rendered "Amar Shonar Bangla", "Jago Onoshon Bondi" and composed several inspirational songs for SBBK. He composed the first song announcing the victory of Bangladesh: "Shadhin Shadhin Dikey Aaj". In 1972 he joined Bangladesh Betar (radio) as a music director, and retired in 1996. Roy had several awards to his credit: Shadinota Padak, the highest award of the country (in 2000) and many others.

Romancing nature



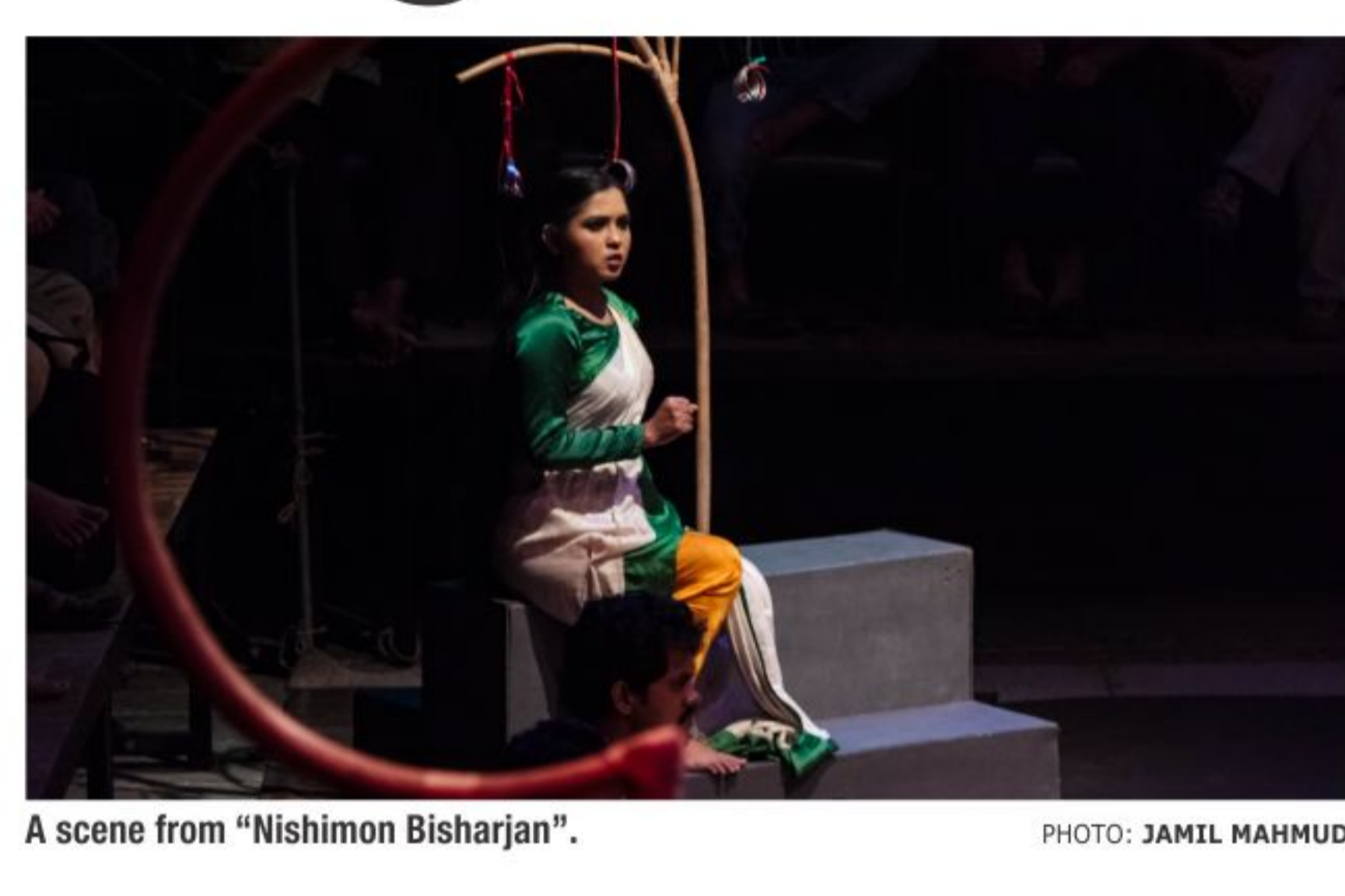
Margaret Mitchell sets the rich romance amid the natural beauty of Georgia in "Gone With the Wind".

TULIP CHOWDHURY Think of those days when the cinemas couldn't end without taking the hero and the heroine to the seaside, to the meadow or the park. The rushing and thunderous sea was like the storm that swept through the hearts of the lovers. They had to be shown near each other as waves rolled one upon another. In another scene the hero and the heroine rushed on the beach, their footsteps leaving tracks on the sand and finally collapsed in each other's arms. The love scene often would be heightened with merry tunes and the waves spraying out in white foams. The mystery of the underwater world would always find a ground in the secrets that romance in life holds. Or else the hero and the heroine would rush towards each other across the valley and find love in each other's arms. These days love scenes often find place on the computer screen, in the glory of words and or with the mobile texting. For instance the movie, "You Got Mail" the eyes are forever on the alert on what the hero, Tom Hanks and the heroine, Meg Ryan are writing on the computer screen. These days marriage proposals are taking place in a fabulous restaurant after a lavish dinner. But go back, and you will see that in the old movies you would see a beautiful park or a garden is the place where the hero kneels down to ask for his love's hand in marriage. At that time we would see the butterflies and birds surrounding the lovers. Just at the moment of their deep kiss the largest rose would bloom and the butterfly would find its nectar from the flowers. In real life scenery the lovers found romance in the surroundings of valleys and mountains. They found romance blooming when the wind blew the hair of the lovely young maiden and the man would bury his face within the soft strands. And when the wind blew with full gusto the young woman would run as if rushed by the wind into the arms of the waiting lover. The blue sky overhead would be full of white clouds and the sparkling sun would bless the lovers with its illumination. Prose, poetry, songs or works of art often depict the setting of a romantic scene within the abundance of nature. As Robert Burns in his poem "A Red, Red Rose" has said,

Down in the valley, valley so low, Hang your head over, and hear the wind blow, Can't you hear the wind blow, my love? Can't you hear the wind blow? Down in the valley, valley so low..... Through the ages nature has been like an essential and inseparable part of romance. People in love are supposed to be living in a world where their aesthetic senses are roused and they even hear and feel the silent music of nature. As Rabindranath Tagore has sung in his love song, 'godhuli logone meghe dhekechilo tara amar ja kotha chilo hoye gelo shara...'. And again, 'akashe aj kon choroner asha jaoua batashe aj kon porosher lage haoua...'. In the Pulitzer winning 1939 novel "Gone With the Wind", the writer Margaret Mitchell sets the rich romance within the natural beauty of Georgia. The story becomes all the more engrossing as one goes through the rich tapestry of the nature in the story. The main characters Scarlett O'Hara, and Rhett Butler and Ashley Wilkes move through the story and give it a real life like picture as we read about the winter, spring and autumn making their picturesque appearances. The famous drama movie "From Here to Eternity", based mainly in Hawaii becomes all the more fascinating with the spell binding natural scenery as romance between the characters Deborah Kerr and Burt Lancaster blossoms. Beyond what vision implies, one can find romance in nature. There is romance with the love birds flirting, between rivers meeting the sea and the formation of seeds. You can find clouds and earth meeting to make lightning. There is pulsating romance in the weaver bird's attracting its mate. The male weaver builds the intricate nest with different pockets and all. Then he flutters around the nest singing cheerily for the female weaver to be attracted and mate with him. There is romance in the dispersal of seeds and pollination and how reproduction takes place among the plants. The seaside never seems to tire people with its beauty. Beach weddings are quite common among romantic couples. And elsewhere a couple had the wedding ring exchanged under the sea. Honeymooners search for places with exotic natural scenery. Love seems to blossom when they are with each other among the trees, flowers, birds and the sea. A romantic dinner night on a lake surrounded by rippling water can set the heart on wildest dreams. Imagination, the supreme faculty of mind reaches its zenith when fed with rich natural beauty. A person in love will often find recalling the loved person and happy moments while surrounded by the beauty of nature. Add romance and nature to life and it gets richer still!

The writer is a poet and a teacher.

Ganga-Jamuna Theatre Festival begins



A scene from "Nishimon Bisharjan". PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The eight-day Ganga-Jamuna Theatre Festival began at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy with the staging of Mahakal Nityasampraday's "Nishimon Bisharjan", on September 14. A committee has been formed to arrange the festival that features nine plays by eight troupes from Bangladesh and India. Yafes Osman, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology, inaugurated the festival as chief guest. Among others, Amalesh Chakrobarty, secretary, Anik Natyadal and Liaquat Ali Lucky, chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy spoke as special guests. Golam Kuddus, convener of the

festival committee presided over the inaugural ceremony. The guests expressed the hope that such festivals would be held regularly to encourage theatre activities both in Bangladesh and India. As it is, a festival with the same title has been held in Kolkata over the last few years. "Nishimon Bisharjan", based on Rabindranath Tagore's "Bisharjan", is written by Anan Zaman. Ashiq Rahman is the director of the play which is a statement against extremism in a contemporary setting. The play narrates the story in the pala form. The actors started with vandana (homage to Divinity) as done in pala performances. The curtains go up as Nishimon, a girl from northern Bangladesh, narrates her tragic story to the river Gonti. She has lost her beloved,

Tarataj, who was killed during a suicide bomb attack. Later, it is revealed that Tarataj was a member of an extremist group, and was carrying the bomb. As the contemporary story of Nishimon and Tarataj unravels, two characters from the original "Bisharjan", King Govindamanikya and Raghupati, are also introduced. Though initially these characters from two different times get their individual stage space, at one point they meet at a crossroad. The performers included Poly Biswas, Mir Zahid Hasan, Hasan Al Mamun, Bithun Ahmed and Arif Hossain. Apart from direction, Ashiq Rahman also designed the set, light and props. Today Aranyak Natyadal will stage its popular play "Raraang".

TORONTO INT'L FILM FESTIVAL Assange film Underground focuses on early years in Australia

REUTERS, Toronto

When Australian film director Robert Connolly went looking for some truth about WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange, he didn't turn to government documents or leaked emails of the sort that Assange's website is famous for making public. Instead, he focused on Assange's past as a teenage hacker and young father growing up in suburban Melbourne, Australia, more than a decade before the launch of the website that has made him both famous and notorious.



The film focuses on Assange's past as a teenage hacker and young father growing up in suburban Melbourne.

Equadorean embassy in London to avoid extradition to Sweden. But Assange was already on the radar screen of law enforcement agencies two decades earlier, when under the hacker handle "Mendax" he was part of a Melbourne-based hackers group called the "International Subversives."

The group hooked into several corporate and government systems, including the U.S. Pentagon, while maintaining a "look, but don't touch" policy. "They had a moral code that was not to steal, not to damage, just to look. I think that's fascinating that these young kids had that at a time when other hackers were stealing stuff and going to jail," said Connolly. At home, Assange's life was no less chaotic, as he struggled to balance his nocturnal hacking activities

with his responsibilities as a teenage father. Actress Rachel Griffiths stars as his mother, a free-thinking anti-nuclear activist and steady influence. The film paints a picture of a pre-Internet era of clunky dial-up modems and lax corporate security standards. Connolly, who has never met Assange, considers the film an unauthorized portrayal, though he noted the two have friends in common and Assange has not voiced any objections to it. The film relies heavily for its source material on the 1997 book "Underground: Tales of Hacking, Madness and Obsession on the Electronic Frontier" by Suleite Dreyfus, as well as records related to Assange's ultimate guilty plea to 25 hacking-related charges in 1995.

Sylhet remembers Shah Abdul Karim

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The third death anniversary of Baul Shamrat Shah Abdul Karim was observed at his birthplace Deral in Sunamganj district and in Sylhet on Wednesday. It began with placing floral wreaths at the grave of the late bard by his followers and villagers in the morning followed by milad mahfil and distribution of alms. A discussion was arranged at his village home

with his son, artiste Shah Nur Jalal in the chair. The speakers said Shah Abdul Karim will remain alive in the hearts of common men for his extraordinary creations. His songs inspire us in moments of crisis they asserted, adding that the great mystic poet is our pride. In Sylhet, Shah Abdul Karim Parishad arranged a discussion themed 'Ronger dunia tere chai na' and a cultural function at the district Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Cultural personality Ambarish Dutta,

Mihir Kanti Chowdhury, Dr.Moshtraque Ahmad Deen and writer Sumon Kumar Das addressed the meeting chaired by Subhenduo Imam. The speakers called upon the new generation of artistes to take a leaf from the original compositions of the great poet. Later, Lovely Dev, Shamim Ahmed, Linkon Das and others rendered Shah Abdul Karim songs. A musical based on Shah Abdul Karim songs, directed by Bipul Sharma was also presented.

Kareena hedges on her wedding

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor is of late making news more for her reported plan to marry actor Saif Ali Khan than her movies. One of the questions she faces from the media whenever she goes for promoting her forthcoming films is not if she will marry Saif but when it will happen. There is a strong buzz that Saif's mother-actress Sharmila Tagore has been sending out invites for the wedding of her son and Kareena but Kareena chose to remain mum on the issue as late as Wednesday last.



Sharmila Tagore had converted to Islam after her marriage to cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, the Nawab of Pataudi. When asked if she would follow the same, Kareena said "it's a very personal question and I cannot answer it." Saif and Kareen had last appeared together in the Bollywood film "Agent Vinod" but the film did not do well at the box office.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker and Henry by Don Trachte comic strips.

Table with TV channels and programmes: ATV, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, CHANNEL 9, CHANNEL 24, ntv, etc.

RADIO table listing frequencies and station names: abc Radio FM 89.2, 99.30, 65.30, etc.

Poth Bhule Dekha On ntv at 09:00pm Single Episode TV Play Cast: Kollan Korlish, Aparna Dev

The Help On Fox Movies at 07:00pm Genre: Drama Cast: Emma Stone, Viola Davis & Octavia Spencer

Onno Drishti On ATN BANGLA at 01:00pm Talk Show Host: Shyamal Dutta

Table with TV programmes and times: 04:10 Jamar Achhey Bolar, 09:00 Drama: Poth Bhule, 11:30 Ideas Change Lives, etc.

DRAMA SERIAL table listing programmes: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ntv, etc.

NEWS BULLETIN table listing news programmes: ATV, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, etc.

TALK SHOW table listing programmes: Boishakhi TV, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, etc.