

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 Natyatsabha
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sept 14-22
Time: 7pm

Solo Tapestry Exhibition
Artist: Tajul Islam
Venue: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Mirabai
Date: Sep 7-21
Time: 11am-7:30pm

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

Autumnal Musical Soiree
Organiser: Rabirag
Venue: Chhayanaout Auditorium, H-72, Rd-15/A, Dharmondi
Date: Sept 21, Time: 7pm

Theatre
Play: Eobong Bidyanagar
Troupe: Aranyak Natyashala
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sept 24
Time: 7pm

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

Group Watercolour Exhibition
Title: Water Rhythms
Venue: Galder Kays, H-20, R-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: Sept 15-25

Arindom honours Ferdousi Majumdar



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A scene from "Kobi"

SHAHENOUR AKTHER URMI, Chittagong

Arindom, a theatre troupe in the port city, honoured noted actress Ferdousi Majumdar with the Sadrul Pasha Award on the occasion of its 39th anniversary on Sunday evening at the open stage of the local Shilpakala Academy. A musical soiree was also held on the occasion.

The musical soiree began with four songs rendered by Shreoshi Roy and Alauddin Taher.

Ramendu Majumdar, president of International Theatre Institute; Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general of Group Theatre Federation; MA Malek, editor of the daily Azadi; Ferdousi Majumdar and Shishir Dutta, former president of Arindom, spoke at the programme.

In his speech, Ramendu Majumdar said, "Despite many limitations, Chittagong has the potential to groom dedicated theatre activists."

"Death of proper theatre venues is a big problem for theatre troupes in Chittagong and it is absolutely necessary



to build fully equipped halls. We should all work toward that end," he said. Accepting the award, Ferdousi

Majumdar said, "Receiving an award is always a happy occasion. I am pleased that Arindom has chosen to bestow this honour on me and I am grateful to all who admire me and my work."

Artists and members of Arindom, Ahamed Newaj and Subrata Barua Roni, presented an utorio (scarf) and handed the award to the veteran actress who was given a standing ovation by the audience.

After the award-giving programme, Arindom staged a play "Kobi", based on a novel by Tarashankar Bandopadhyay and directed by Shamim Hasan at the main auditorium.

Earlier on Sunday morning a roundtable, titled "Four Decades of Theatre in Chittagong", was held. MA Malek, editor of daily Azadi, moderated the round-table which was attended by Dr. Anupam Sen, Vice Chancellor of Premier University; Abul Momen, resident editor of the daily Prothom Alo; Ramendu Majumdar; theatre personality Ahmed Iqbal Haider and social activist Kamal Sengupta, among others.

Musical homage to Abdul Alim

Programme at Shilpakala Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A musical programme with a short discussion, highlighting the accomplishments and contribution of the legendary singer Abdul Alim, was held at national Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on September 17. Titled "Alok Shikha Joluk Pran-e", the event was arranged by University Cultural Foundation.

At the programme, the promising artist duo -- Mahfuzur Rahman and Yunusur Rahman -- performed both solo and duet covers of songs originally recorded by Abdul Alim. Noted folk singer and teacher Indra Mohan Rajbongshi shared his memories of his guru Abdul Alim. "Lucky are those who had the privilege of listening to the renditions of Abdul Alim live. I am really lucky in this regard. My musical mentor Abdul Alim had a great penchant for music. He became a legend because of his sonorous voice. If artists and audiences of this generation want to know Abdul Alim, they must collect his records. Abdul Alim had over 600 gramophone records while he did playback for 90 films," said Rajbongshi.

Mahfuzur kicked off the musical journey with the song "Allahu Allahu". A duet of the patriotic number "Amar Desh-er Moto" followed. The full-house was calling for flautist Gazi Abdul Hakim who had not reached yet due to traffic jam. When the flautist came, Mahfuzur was about to render a bhatiali song "Ujan Gaang-er Naiya". The singer did justice to the song. Yunusur performed a popular song "Porer Jaiga Porer Jamin" that earned him a big round of applause. Due to conveying exaggerated emotion, the singer forgot some of the words and missed the beat while performing the very popular "Preme Mora Jol-e Dobej Na".

The singer duo rendered several other songs including -- "O Amar Pongkhiraj Re", "Bodhur Bari Modhpur", "Aar Kotokal Bhabsho Ami" and "Padma Nadirey". They also performed another duet "Nangor Chhariya Nayer Dere Dey Majhi Bhai". The singer duo rendered several other songs including -- "O Amar Pongkhiraj Re", "Bodhur Bari Modhpur", "Aar Kotokal Bhabsho Ami" and "Padma Nadirey". They also performed another duet "Nangor Chhariya Nayer Dere Dey Majhi Bhai".



Yunusur Rahman



Mahfuzur Rahman

PHOTO COURTESY: RUPA



JAMIL MAHMUD

"Ekalabya" exits the stage

Dilip Chakrabarty, a bright theatre actor, dies at 44

Those who have seen Desh Natok's hugely successful play, "Nityapuram" (2001), will definitely recall its protagonist Ekalabya. The "Mahabharat" inspired production saw a superbly fitting, bold and energetic Ekalabya on the stage. Perhaps the indomitable character, the tragic hero Ekalabya will remain in people's mind forever but the actor within the character has left the stage -- for good.

Dilip Chakrabarty, our beloved Ekalabya, who was considered as one of the brightest actors in the Dhaka theatre scene, died on September 17 at his residence in Dhaka. He was only 44. He was found dead in the evening. Doctors suspect it was heart attack, though the final post mortem report is yet to be released.

After a public paying of respects at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday noon, his body was taken to his family home in Tangail for the last rites.

Chakrabarty's colleagues and friends informed that he never married.

After a hiatus, he made a comeback on the stage through Desh Natok's recent production "Arakkhita", written by Mahubul Leek and directed by Ishrat Nishat. Chakrabarty's last stage appearance was in the fifth show of the play on June 5 this year at the National Theatre Hall. He played the protagonist, Shukracharya, the arrogant and



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Chakrabarty (left) as Ekalabya in the 2001 play "Nityapuram".

alcoholic priest who blindly loves his daughter.

He did not perform in Desh Natok's previous productions -- "Prakrito Purangana" and "Bhaktor". Around this time he tried to make a career on television.

Right after the premiere of "Arakkhita", Chakrabarty talked to The Daily Star about his theatre career, Desh Natok's achievements and aims, the current trends in acting and more. Chakrabarty said that when he joined Desh Natok in 1989, theatre activists were highly involved in social and political movements.

He considered Shukracharya in "Arakkhita" as a major challenge. "I have just started to play the role of Shukracharya. It will take

time to fit into the role with ease. I hope I will improve gradually," he said during the interview.

Both as Ekalabya and Shukracharya, his diction, body language and spontaneity will be considered as fine examples of skilled acting.

Chakrabarty first appeared on stage at his village in Tangail in 1985, four years before he joined Desh Natok. "Ahor Kandal", a Janmushotra repertory production, is another good example of his performance. He also appeared in Desh Natok's "Darpan-e-Sharat Shoshi".

Desh Natok will hold a programme to pay tribute to Chakrabarty at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on September 21 afternoon.

British curators Jean Vacher and Aileen Burns in Dhaka

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Connections Through Culture (CTC) is a new British Council Arts project to develop curatorial skills and exchange information between galleries in the UK and South Asia. CTC has invited eight galleries from Bangladesh, Pakistan and 10 galleries from UK to take part in the project. The project aims to provide an introduction to key cultural institutions, and will give the participants an opportunity to meet several artists, curators and gallery directors from the UK.

To encourage interaction and dialogue between curators from Pakistan, Bangladesh and their British counterparts, UK curators visited Karachi, Lahore and Dhaka from September 10 to 17. The Bangladeshi and Pakistani curators will visit UK in March 2013. The curators from the UK galleries visited their partner galleries, different cultural institutions, and participated in seminar and discussion with the students of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, Bangladesh curators and visual artists.

Syed Masud Hossain, head of Arts and Society, British Council, Bangladesh expresses optimism that this tour will help in gaining a greater understanding of the cultural heritage of Bangladesh, while Bangladeshi galleries and curators are kept abreast with the contemporary UK visual arts scene.

Among the participating local galleries are: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Britto Arts Trust and Dhaka Art Center. Participating UK galleries are: Sidney Cooper Gallery, The New Art Gallery Walsall, Crafts Study Centre, Whitechapel Gallery, Cooper Gallery, De La Warr Pavilion and others. Participating Pakistani galleries are: VM Gallery, Mohatta Palace, Canvas Gallery, Rohtas 2 and National College of Art (gallery).

In a conversation with The Daily Star, curators and art historians Jean Vacher and Aileen Burns spoke on the many aspects of curating.

Every profession has its own code of conduct. What are the duties involved in curating?



Jean Vacher (left) and Aileen Burns.

PHOTO COURTESY: BRITISH COUNCIL

number of responsibilities. To build a bridge between audiences and artworks is one of the main duties of a curator. Other responsibilities include presenting artists' works with in a way that's visually appealing to the viewers. As a curator, you have to be enthusiastic and interact with the viewers. You have to interact with the patrons as well. You have to have strong research abilities and be familiar with the artists and their works.

What is the process of curating?

Aileen Burns: There are many processes of curating. My institute has a small team who supervise the artists all year round. Curating is a very delicate process. The curator also provides supportive information about the works and gathers relevant contents for the exhibition.

What type of skills does a curator need?

Aileen Burns: Curators should have enough knowledge about the elements of art management as well as preservation. A curator should be a good negotiator and skilled in fundraising. They need good writing skills as they write the exhibition's brochures and promotional materials. A museum

curator needs to be able to work with different people in different departments, including education, community of developers and others.

How do you preserve old paintings?

Jean Vacher: First of all, you have to make sure that the room where the painting is going to be displayed doesn't receive direct sunlight. Maintain the historical evidence of paintings. Make sure that the room has a steady temperature and good humidity level. Strong lights should not fall directly on the painting, which can hamper the quality of the painting and regularly clean the painting to keep intact its beauty.

What kind of education is appropriate for a curator?

Jean Vacher: To work as a curator at a museum, one needs a master's degree in museum studies and in art. Most of the time, curators have academic orientation in fine arts and art history. Independent curators may have more flexible academic affiliation. Today's curators even receive education in literature and history.

Lecture on 'digital poetry'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lecture demonstration by British poet Ross Sutherland on 'digital poetry' was held at the auditorium of University of Liberal Arts (ULAB) in Dhanmondi, Dhaka on September 17. The lecture, arranged by the British Council, was part of a series of programmes including a workshop featuring upcoming Bangladeshi poets.

In his lecture, Sutherland focused on new models of interactive writings, which according to him is a relatively new concept.

Growing use of the internet and multimedia perhaps opens a new window for the poets and this 'alternative' to pages has created opportunity for young poets across the globe to share their ideas. Sutherland shared that the web or network can play the role of 'interface' or 'publishers' between poems and readers.

Using multimedia projections, he talked about the current trends in poetry in the UK



Ross Sutherland during the lecture.

and other countries as well. The lecture marked the beginning of British Council's project on the development of

interaction between writers/poets and their readers. The aim of the project is to seek and promote artistic collaboration that explores different concepts involving literature and readership between UK and Bangladesh.

British Council has invited Sutherland to come to Bangladesh to hold a three-day workshop on digital poetry. The idea is after initiating the poetry making process, the 10 participants will have one month to work on their pieces. Ross will come back to Bangladesh for the second phase in October and will run a second workshop in Dhaka to finalise the works.

The workshop began yesterday at the British Council.

Ross Sutherland was born in Edinburgh in 1979. He was included in The Times' list of Top Ten Literary Stars of 2008. He has three collections of poetry: "Things to Do before You Leave Town" (2009), "Twelve Nudes" (2010), and "Hyakuretsu Kyaku" (2011), all published by Penned in The Margins.

Jyoti in Tanvir Mokammel's Jibon Dhuli



A CORRESPONDENT

Lux Anandadhara Photogenic 2004 Jyotika Jyoti is excited about her role in "Jibon Dhuli". She dons the role of the wife of a 'dhuli' (drummer). Shatabdi Wadud plays the role of the 'dhuli' in the film. The film is being directed by Tanvir Mokammel.

The shooting is due to start next month in Savar.

Jyoti has acted in Tanvir Mokammel's previous film "Rabeya". The story of "Jibon Dhuli" centres around an impoverished 'dhuli' family during the Liberation War in which Jyoti plays the role of Shondharani who is tortured by the occupation army.

After Savar the next shooting spot is Pubail from where the cast and crew will move on to Khulna. "I need

long tresses for my character," says Jyoti.

It will take around three months to complete the shooting, she says. How is she preparing for her challenging role? "For the time being I am going over the script," says the actress.

Jyoti's first role was in the film "Aaina", directed by Kabori. After this she acted in "Rabeya", followed by another film "Bedenir Meye".

Other than films, Jyoti is acting in TV plays such as "Bela O Bela", "Korta Kahini" and "Shunyo Shomikoron". For Eid Ul Azha, shooting is on for "Shoppo Bunon", "Biye Bheeti", "Bhalobashi Lal Pipra", "Jiyon Kathi", "Shomoyer Hath Ghor", "Shoppo Dekhar Shahosh" and more. Currently, serials featuring Jyoti such as "Palabar Poth Nei", "Apon Apon Khela", "Agni Path" and "Chhaya Mukhosh" are on air.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker



Henry by Don Trachte

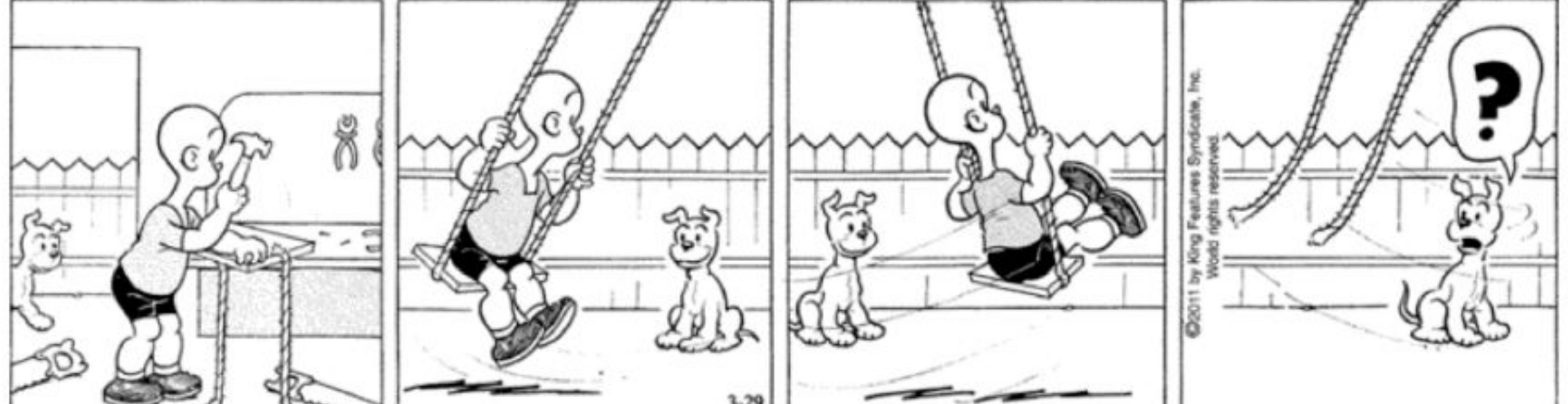


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