

WHAT'S ON

**Group Drawing Exhibition**  
Title: His Light, His Shadow  
Venue: Bengali Gallery of Fine Arts, H-42, Rd 16 (new), Dhamondi

**Kathak Dance Festival**  
Organiser: Kathak Dance Community  
Venue: Chhayanand Auditorium, Dhamondi  
Date: Dec 24-26  
Time: 6:00pm

**89th Birth Anniversary**  
Architect Muzharul Islam  
Organiser: Muzharul Islam Foundation  
Venue: Bakuhalu, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University  
Date: Dec 25

**Remembering Soovas Dutt**  
Film Screening  
Venue: Dance and Music Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Dec 22-27

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Scene Dream and Reality  
Artist: An Shukar An  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise (at Dhaka, Dhamondi)  
Date: Dec 18-31  
Time: 9am-8pm

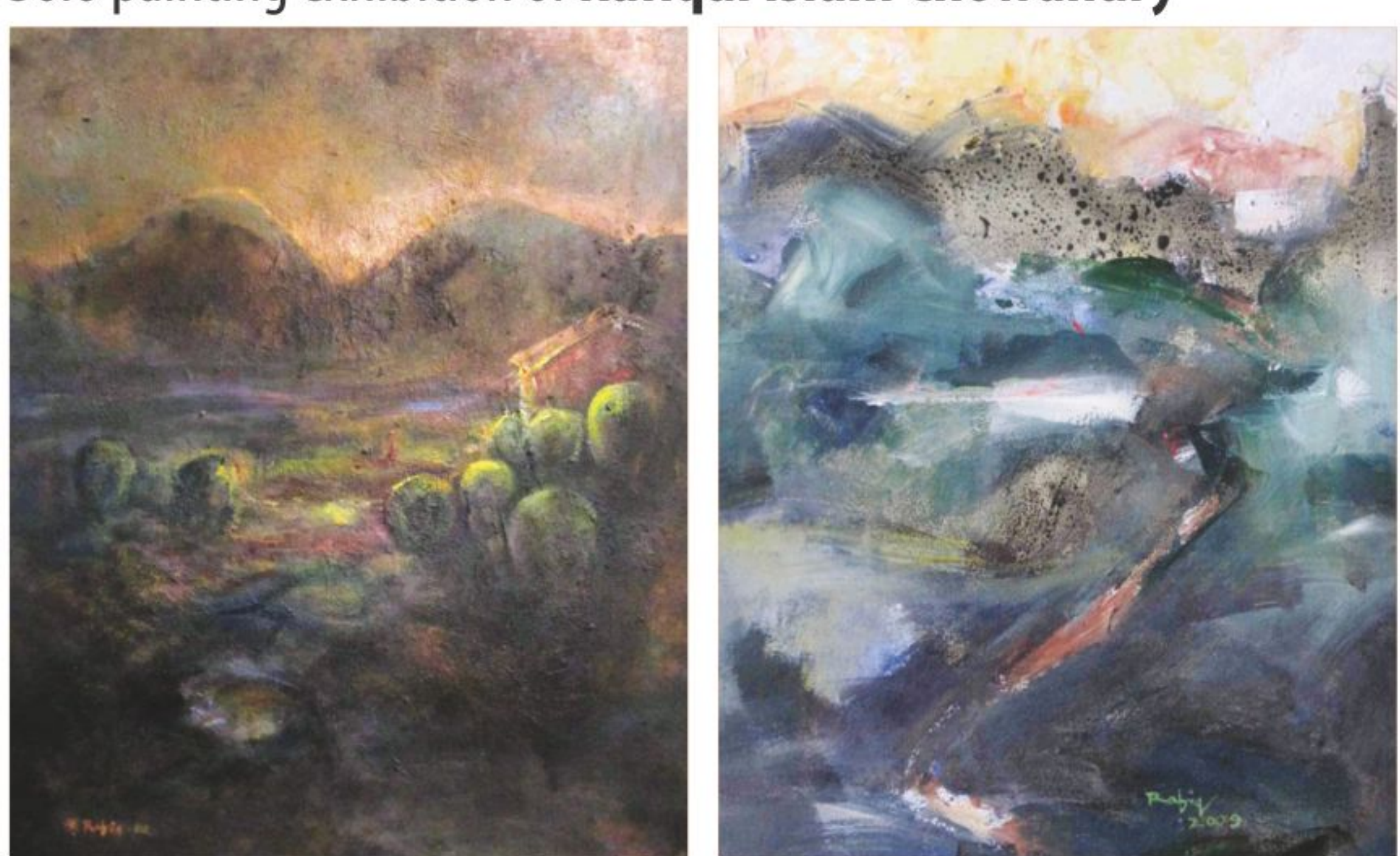
**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Kazi Ansham  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7A, Dhamondi  
Date: December 19-29  
Time: 3pm-8pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Pentagon- An Exploration of the Five Senses  
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, Al Heights, Cha 72/1/D, 2nd Floor, Progoti Shorani, Uttar Badda  
Date: Dec 22- Jan 22

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: The Story of Darkness  
Artist: Rafiqul Islam  
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Shahbagh  
Date: Dec 21-25  
Time: 10am-8pm

Highlighting human habitat

Solo painting exhibition of Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury



Artworks on display.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury is a budding artist who focuses on separation, love, romance, features relating to birth and death as well as nature and its mysteries. The artist strives to highlight the human habitat and its mystifying settings, where light and shade are prominent. In a bid to portray contemplation and isolation, colours and lines have formed a harmonic relationship in his paintings.

His solo painting exhibition titled “The story of Darkness” is now on at Zainul Gallery, the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.

Rafiq avoids confining his paintings to a particular mode of expression. His works don’t carry any specific expression or technique. But his works are reflections of his personality. At the exhibition, most of his works are considered to be non-objective.

Some of his paintings resemble calligraphic patterns with ambiguous forms. His mountain-based paintings are quite interesting where the painter sees the hills like a narrative expression, and mingling of mystifying hills with melodious skies.

Mohammad Rafi: In his songs was our melody

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Mohammad Rafi has a soothing effect on you, even when he is singing the saddest of songs. In his sadness as in his moods of good cheer, there is the exhilaration of romance which comes alive. It is a feeling which transfers itself into you, to a point where you know that Rafi sings for you, that his sentiments and yours are indistinguishable one from the other. Recall this heart-breaking number he sings, with Asha Bhonsle, in the movie Meri Soorat Teri Ankhen: tere bin soone nain hamare. It is symbolic of a sheer feeling of helplessness in a man who craves love and yet does not easily come by it.

Go back to that question of romance. How many of us have known what it is to love, to sing for the beloved: aap ke haseen rukh pe aaj naya noor hai / mera dil machal gaya to mera kya qusoor hai? Which takes us to the state of torpor, to the romantic inebriation Rafi inspires in us with his aise to na dekho ke hum ko nasha ho jaaye / khubsoorat si koi hum se khata ho jaaye. Go back in time, to the 1950s, when Rafi’s wo saadgi kahan isse diwangi kahan / un ka barha jo haath yahan dil luta diya touched upon feelings of love and poetry in our parents’ generation.

Rafi’s versatility is all. All these years after his sudden demise, it is the roundness of his musical character which continues to give a lift to our souls. Be it religion, be it love of country, be it the love of man and woman, Rafi steps lightly into the hall of brilliant mirrors, sings to us and leaves, with that indelible impression of immortality digging roots in our consciousness. In our school days, we heard him sing parwardigar-e-alam tera hi hai sahara / tere siwa jahan mein koi nahi hamara. It was a call to the Almighty. In that one song, we felt the presence of God in our lives, felt an entirety of Biblical tales spun through that song. In Rafi’s voice came that special touch of spirituality, along with an occasional sense of despair, as in Bhagwan ki qusoor ki itni barhi saza / duniya teri yehi hai to duniya se main chala. And, again, in that voice, there arose that defiant call to patriotism when he sang apni azadi pe hum sar jhuka sakte nahi / sar kata



sakte hain lekin sar jhuka sakte nahi. Again, he asks, in distinct tones of regret, through the accompanying disenchantment of Guru Dutt, kahan hain kahan hain muhafiz khudi ke / jinhe naaz hai Hind par wo kahan hain? And the paternal? Hum the notes of babul ki duwana leti jaan / jaa tujh ko sukhi sansar mile and you will have the father shaping itself in your being. And his peans to children? Here is one you might recall: main gaon tum jo jao / such sapnon mein kho jao. When you reflect on Mohammad Rafi’s range of melody, you note the deep classical undertones that gave his music a permanence not many can dream of attaining in their lives. In madhuman mein Radhika naache and Radhike tu ne bansri churayi it is the totality of artistic flair that reveals itself. Move on, to the ease with which this artiste of serious melody comes forth with numbers that are not just light but a dash naughty as well. Songs like lal chharhi maidan kharhi, kanto mein phansa anchal zulfon mein phansa ye dil, aiyaya karoon main kya suku suku,

asmaan se aaya farishta pyar ka sabaq sikhlane and badan pe sitaare lapete hue are even today tunes that are remembered. Rafi’s romanticism remains all-encompassing. That oft-sung number from Guide, tere mere sapne ab ek hi rang hain, takes you to the heights of passion generated by love for a woman. But if there’s ecstasy in that song, there are the sounds of the cracking heart in such numbers as kabhi khud pe kabhi halaat pe rona aaya and koi saghar dil ko behlata nahi and yaad na jaaye beete dino ki. Add to that his excitable romantic numbers --- diwana hua badal with Asha Bhonsle, tere husn ki kya tareef karoon with Lata, aaja re aa zara lehra ke aa zara, pukarta chala humn main gali gali bahar ki, paaon chhule ne do phoolon ko inayat hogi --- and you get to comprehend the poetry of love a little more. Perhaps you will not sing Rafi, but the throbbing which comes of his songs into you is the manner in which man has for centuries expressed his love for woman.

You are the oyster. And you sing for your pearl, the woman you do not want to lose: agar tu hai sagar to majhdar main humn / tere dil ki kashti ka patwar main humn. The mermaid in your life brings out the best in you, makes you feel forever young when it is to Rafi you go back, to retrieve those ageless rhythms: teri aankh mein hai khumar saa / meri chaal mein hai suroor saa / ye bahar kuch hai piye hue / ye sama nashe mein hai chhuur saa.

In Mohammad Rafi is endless joy. In him is endless pain, as in Bahadur Shah Zafar’s memorable na kisi ki aankh ka noor humn / na kisi ke dil ka qarar humn. There is plenitude of passion in him, the timelessness of beauty wrapped in the warmth of song. In the fading light of day, you wait for her who must come to you before the stars arise from slumber. For her you sing: aaja ke intezaar mein / jaane ko hai bahar bhi / tere baghair zindagi dard ban ke raeh gaye.

(Mohammad Rafi was born on 24 December 1924 and died on 31 July 1980).

The writer is Executive Editor, The Daily Star.

Bangla Theatre presents Che'r Cycle  
Four-day theatre festival begins

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh,

Bangla Theatre from Dhaka staged “Che’r Cycle” on the inaugural day of a four-day theatre festival at District Shilpakala Academy auditorium on December 21. Ensemble Theatre, a prominent theatre group in Mymensingh, organised the festival.

Other theatre groups, notably Lok Natya Dal from Dhaka, Mancha Kotha from Khulna and Ensemble Theatre from Mymensingh are slated to stage “Sonai Madhab” “Rupchand Sundari” and “Kunjush” (The Miser), at the festival. The festival will conclude on December 25

The extraordinary performance of eminent theatre artiste and playwright Mamunur Rashid; Chanchal Chowdhury and Rubly Chowdhury enthralled the huge audience gathered at the venue.

Written by Mamunur Rashid and directed by Fayez Zahir, the play was fourth performance by the troupe. Porimol Majumder, Habib Ahmed Sanjib, Ayun Ghosh, Abdul Alim, Tarek-bin-Salahuddin, Shamima Shavkat Lovely, Moni Pahari, Mitali Das, Mohammad Ali Babul and Bappiditya Chowdhury assisted in the drama.

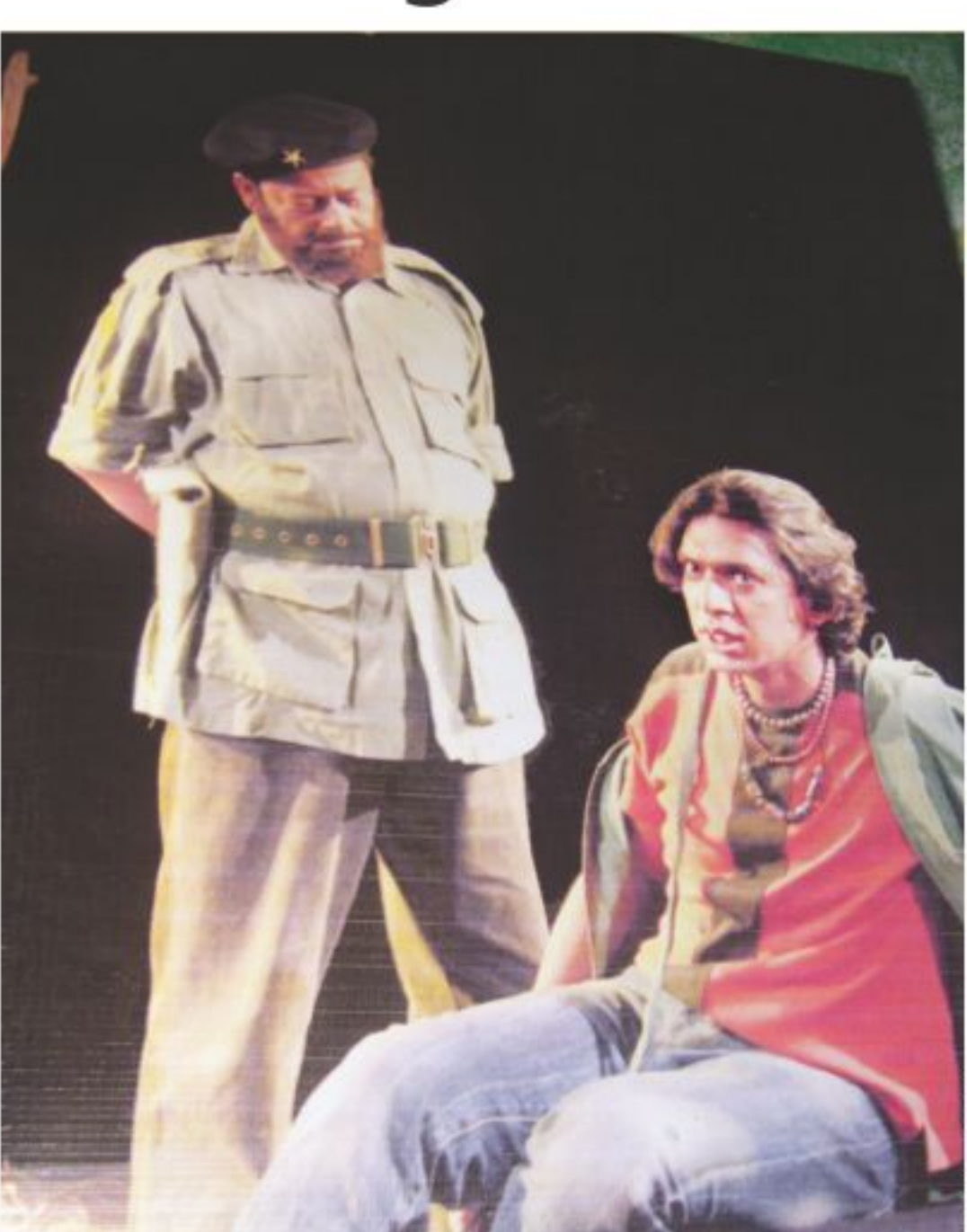
In the play, Che Guevara is depicted as a revolutionary who puts up a strong fight against injustice. The play also makes the point that the world needs a cycle rider like Che (who was an Argentine Marxist, revolutionary, physician, author, guerrilla leader, diplomat and military theorist) in the post-nationalism age because internationalism is a necessity against globalisation.

A revolutionary leader like Che is needed to drive out hired thugs in the field of politics and to root out militancy and plunder.

Earlier, a discussion was held marking the inaugural ceremony of the festival.

Mamunur Rashid; mayor of Mymensingh Municipality Ekramul Haque Titu; secretary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu; secretary of Mymensingh Nagorik Andolan, Nurul Amin Kalam and member secretary of the festival Abdul Mansur delivered addresses at the inaugural function, among others

The speakers said that from ancient times, theatre has been used as a tool to help raise voices against



Mamunur Rashid and Chanchal Chowdhury in a scene from the play.

oppression, repression and deprivation.

Once Mymensingh was famous for a range of cultural activities, including theatre, but now the practice of this ancient art is on the wane, lamented the speakers.

Through such festivals, theatre artistes and the younger generation will be enthused to join this field, the speakers went on.

Many young talents come to this field but due to lack of patronage and adequate facilities they drop out from the field, the speakers said.

Later, Mamunur Rashid inaugurated the festival. Saifuzzaman Dudu conducted the programme.

Artists Dr. Ayrin Parveen Lopa, Asaduzzaman Sarker, Qaimul Haque and Sharif Mahmudul Haque, Narayan Basak, Prodip Dey, advocate Sheikh Saifuzzaman Murad and Mozammel Haque Monju were also honoured at the festival.

Treasure-trove

“Songs of Tareque Masud” and DVD of “Naroshundor” launched

MOSTAK AHMED

Tareque Masud Memorial Trust together with Laser Vision Limited organised a launching programme of “Songs of Tareque Masud” and a DVD of “Naroshundor” at Sevenhill restaurant, in the capital on December 22.

After Tareque Masud’s untimely demise in August, 2011, the family and close ones of the deceased formed the Tareque Masud Memorial Trust, under which they have been undertaking various projects aiming at promoting and preserving Tareque Masud’s creative legacy.

“Songs of Tareque Masud” is a double-CD collection of 20 songs written by the late filmmaker over the course of his career. CD-1 contains modern and other songs written by Masud, while CD-2 is a collection of songs written and recorded in ‘marfati’ style. Many of the songs were recorded for use in various films such as “Mukti Gaan”, “Mukti Kotha” and “Matir Moina”. Other songs of the CDs were written as stand-alone pieces for different purposes. They were sung by well-known artistes such as Montaz, Bipul Bhattacharya, Anusheh, and Lucky Aakand as well as lesser-known traditional boyati singers.

Three songs have been newly recorded for this album, -- “Baul Bolte Bolo Bojhaye Karey”, “Mon Diya Por Ashol Madrassa”, and “Projonmo ‘71”, written by Tareque a few months before his death in 2011, is particularly well-timed. Composed and sung by Tanvir Alam Shawjeeb, Tareque’s lyrics are a call for justice for the war crimes of ‘71. Tareque



Guests at the album launch.

had long dreamt of being able to bring out an album of his collected songs.

“Out of modesty as much as humour, Tareque credited himself as ‘A.T.Masud’, which became his lyrical alter-ego. He went on to write many other songs, often taking inspiration from the rural folk music he loved, which is strongly influenced by the poetic and mystical tradition of the Bauls,” said Catherine Masud.

Two songs on the CDs in particular deserve special note, as they were not directly penned by A.T. Masud. One is “Jessore Road”, a “Trans-creation” of Allen Ginsberg’s famous poem “September on Jessore Road”, another song is written by Shah Alam Dewan, a

boyati singer and songwriter. Laser Vision Limited has produced and taken on the responsibility of distributing the CDs and the DVD making Tareque’s dream come true.

The DVD of “Noroshundor” (The Barbershop), a short film was made by Tareque and Catherine Masud in 2010, with Mishuk Munier as cinematographer. The film treats the subject of war crimes and the collaborators from an unconventional perspective. The DVD also includes the short music video “Ekush”, on International Mother Language Day, and a “making of” slide show tribute to Tareque Masud and Mishuk Munier.

Swedish connection with Bangladeshi orchestra

In conversation with Mats Moller and Eva Lindal

FAHIM FERDOUS

*The Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has taken up a project in collaboration with Swedish music Academy Statens Musikverk, to develop the country's first full-fledged orchestra. As part of the project, one of Sweden's most prolific flautists and opera orchestra expert Mats Moller, his son and award-winning guitarist Johannes Moller, and violinist Eva Lindal came to Bangladesh. The Daily Star caught up with Mats and Eva on a chilly afternoon, where they talked about the orchestra project, the culture of Western Classical music, and their experience here:*

**TDS: How was the orchestra project conceived?**

Mats: Two years ago, my son Johannes was stuck up here for five days. He was playing in a concert in Kolkata, and came here to meet Iftekar Anwar (from Classical Guitarists' Association of Bangladesh), and got stuck for a few days due to a visa problem. That was the first connection. Then, we had a connection through Swani Zubayeer. He contacted the academy, and we talked about an orchestra project.

**TDS: Tell us a little bit about the project.**

Mats: It is in two parts. The first is to teach students here, and the other is the ‘road to national orchestra’. We came here and discussed it in detail, and tried to chalk out a plan for it. We also played here in three concerts.

**TDS: What’s the culture like for classical music in Europe?**

Eva: If our parents have interest in



PHOTO: ART. AAKASH

classical music, we can go and hear live music in orchestras or operas on big stages - from a very early age. We grow up listening to it.

Mats: And kids can decide if it is something for them to do. Eva: Some kids think it’s boring, while some die for it, and chose to make it their profession. Chamber music is another important component of Western classical music. The kids learn to listen and play in intimate atmosphere; they should also be able to decide how the music is going to be, and close communication is important in a small group of three to four people. I think Chamber music should be part of the project, because orchestra music takes a lot of arrangement and energy, and chamber music can help artistes become better orchestra musicians.

**TDS: Share some experiences from your stay here over the week?**

Mats: Most of the students we met here are under the age of 15, so we have time. We can take it from the ground.

Eva: And in 10 years, it will be like the

mother is a piano teacher. I think the more you listen to the music at home, the more it feeds your talent.

Mats: Especially with classical music, and acoustic music, it’s not as good on Youtube, as it is on from up front. To be able to enjoy our music, you should be able to touch the musician. This trip was important for us because of that too.

Eva: Yes, the time I spent here and the things I taught, I could never do it on Skype over the internet. It’s so much about meeting the pupils.

**TDS: Mats, tell us about the Moller duo that is you and your son.**

Mats: Johannes started playing with me on stage me since he was 12. We played in some 250 concerts, but then he left for England for studies, so we haven’t played in a long time. We also played in a trio with his wife, who’s also a guitarist. And now here, we played as a new trio, me, Eva and him.

**TDS: How did Johannes take up the guitar?**

Mats: Because.... I played the flute (laughs). I don’t know, actually. We have music schools in Sweden, and he took it up with his friends when he was eight. And he’s carried on since. He actually won this big guitar competition in 2010, the GFA Concert Artist Competition. I’m learning from him too, because he’s not so Swedish. He has his own methods now. We’re very different people, and that makes us a good team.

**TDS: Do you have plans to come back here soon?**

Eva: I have to. I can’t think of not coming here and meeting the students.

Mats: We’ll keep on pushing it if we can get some funds from Sweden. Actually, with so little money we can do so much. It will take a lot of work from this end too, from Iftekar (Anwar), Swani (Zubayeer), and Shilpakala.

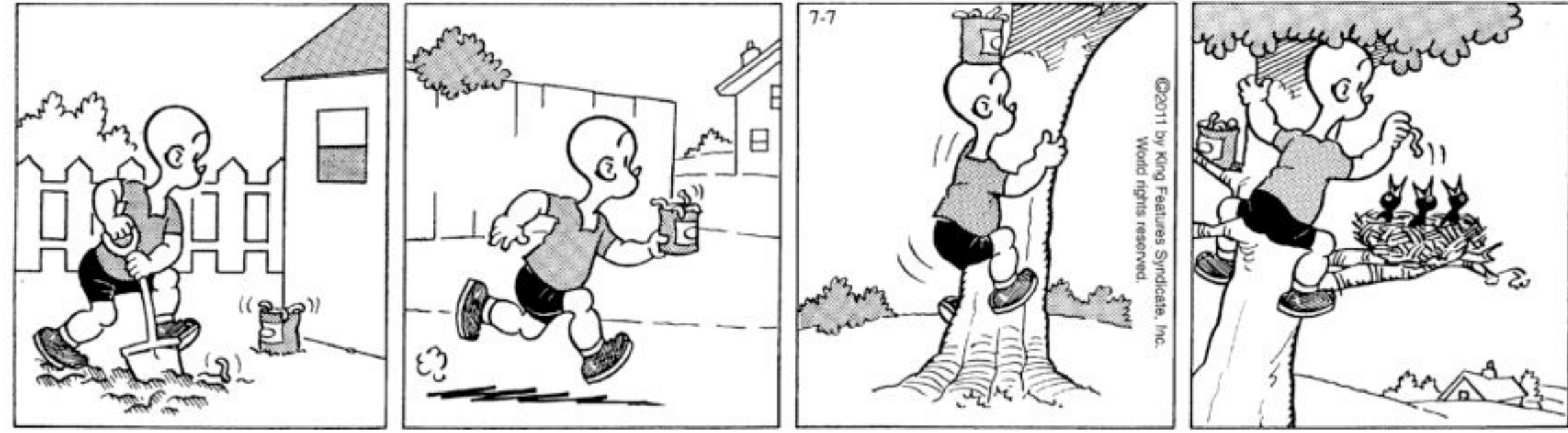
Bdesh Foundation holds annual Fundraising Dinner

Non-profit Bdesh Foundation recently held its annual Family Night and Fundraising Dinner at the St. Joseph Parish Hall in Herndon, Virginia, says a press release. The special guests at the event were Brother Tarif Shraim, Dr. Altaf Husain, Brother Adam Kareem and Ustad Abdur Rafa.

This year’s fundraising theme was “Help a Child, Help a Nation”. Bdesh is currently involved in a number of projects in Bangladesh; one of them is the Children Welfare Programme (CWP). The CWP provides basic necessities for children such as education, vocational skills, nutritious food, clean water, health care etc.

Bdesh Foundation has built a school house in Boalmara, a north eastern village in Bangladesh, to provide primary education for children.

The event was attended by a large number of guests comprising people from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds. Brother Solaiman Ahmed, Bdesh chief executive, shared his thoughts and goals of Bdesh for the coming years. Brother Tarif Shraim addressed the audience, asking them to give especially for orphans and under privileged children. This was followed by a video presentation on Bdesh activities and achievements. Then followed the fundraising event conducted by Dr. Altaf Husain.



ATN BANGLA		09:45	Cinema Express
11:20	Business and Finance	Maasranga Television	
01:25	Matir Subash	10:02	Bangla Feature Film
09:20	Drama Serial: DB	08:40	Drama Serial: Khonikalyo
01:00	Onno Drishti	09:20	Drama Serial: College
CHANNEL i		11:30	Shajir Baramkhana
09:45	Trityo Matra	CHANNEL 9	
07:50	BBC Bangladesh Shonglap	09:00	Bangla Feature Film
09:35	Top Model	07:20	Drama Serial: Bakurani
10:30	Alay Bhujan Bhora	10:30	Drama Serial: Idits
ntv		11:15	Daily Sports
08:45	Bangla Feature Film	CHANNEL 24	
05:30	Apnar Jiggasha	06:30	Life Style
09:00	Comedy Show	08:00	Musical Launch
09:45	Drama Serial: Ochna	11:30	Sports
	Protibimbo	Gtv	
ETV		11:30	Bangla Feature Film
11:30	Ekushey-er Business	09:35	Drama Serial: Mayajjal
		11:05	Aponi Kichhu Bolun

# RADIO

abc radio FM 89.2	10:00	Morning Express	
03:25	Laa Classic	12:00	My Time
05:30	Kachu Lanka	01:00	No Tension
06:30	Maha Kara	04:00	Dhaka Calling
07:20	GP Launch	09:00	Night Rider
07:45	Megh Barata	01:50	Back to Back Music
08:10	Adda	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6	
09:30	Love Hour	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
11:10	Shadha Golpo Drum	12:00	Today's Adda
Radio Foorti		04:00	U Turn
07:30	Hello Dhaka	07:00	Tobey Tai Hok

**Shakshi Durbal**  
On ETv at 08:20pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Masum Aziz, Humaira Himu

**Megamind**  
On HBO at 07:40pm  
Genre: Animation/ Comedy  
Cast: Will Ferrell, Jonn Hill & Brad Pitt

**Idiots**  
On Channel 9 at 10:30pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Chanchal Chowdhury, Purnima

04:30	Prabash Bangladesh	02:40	Click
07:50	Music Station	04:30	Armageddon
10:10	Cine Hits	07:00	Real Steel
Boishakhi TV		09:10	The Muppets
09:15	Bangla Feature Film	10:55	The Taking of Pelham
04:00	Shorashori Doctor	123	
08:00	Drama Serial: Boro Barir		HBO
	Chhoto Bou	01:00	Johnny English Reborn
11:00	Shubho Borodin	03:00	Batman Begins
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	05:40	The Scorpion King 3: Battle for Redemption
06:25	Front Line	07:40	Megamind
08:15	Drama Serial: Ladies First	09:30	Transformers: Dark of the Moon
11:25	Probuli Mukh		StarWorld
12:35	Bangla Feature Film	03:30	Two And A Half Men
09:05	Drama Serial: Boyra	08:30	The New Normal
Poribar		09:30	Packed to the Rafters
09:50	Bridal Show	12:00	Last Man Standing
12:00	Band Music		Discovery Channel
03:00	Gaan Pi Gaan	02:30	Squeamish
06:00	Kalpokoker Galpokatha	03:30	My Naked Secret
08:15	Drama Serial: Chhayamukhosh	08:30	Curiosity

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN BANGLA	09:05pm Long March
08:40pm	Jhulanta Babura
ntv	08:15pm Metro Life
08:15pm	The Side Effect
ETV	07:45pm Sat Kahon
08:20pm	Swakhshi Durbal
Boishakhi TV	08:30pm Heshbari
09:20pm	Ognipoth
BANGLAVISION	08:15pm Nagarik

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	Boishakhi TV
11:00pm	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm
ATN BANGLA	News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm
12:30pm	News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm
CHANNEL i	News (English) at 9am, 6pm
ntv	BANGLAVISION
09:30pm	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm
ETV	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm
09:20pm	Rtv
BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm
11:30pm	Desh TV
08:15pm	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
08:15pm	Maasranga Television
08:15pm	News (English) at 7pm, 1am

TALK SHOW	
BTV	Ekushey-er Raat
11:00pm	Oikyatoyor
ATN BANGLA	Boishakhi TV
11:30pm	Je Kotha Koi Boleni
CHANNEL i	11:30pm Our Democracy
12:30pm	Tarako Kothon
ntv	Maasranga Television
12:00am	Shangruti
ETV	CHANNEL 24
12:05am	Modhyater
	Muktakab