

WHAT'S ON

150th Birth Anniversary of DL Roy
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhamondi

Cultural Evening
Title: Bon Paharer Nityagetti
Organiser: Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhamondi
Date: Dec 30

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Life in Abstraction, Abstraction in Life
Artist: Biren Shome
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhamondi

Theatre
Play: Pakhi
Troupe: Byatikrom Natya Gosthi
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Musical Soiree
Artist: Lily Lalam
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: December 28
Time: 6:30pm

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

Concert
Artist: Quazi Krishnoki Islam
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: December 29
Time: 6:30pm

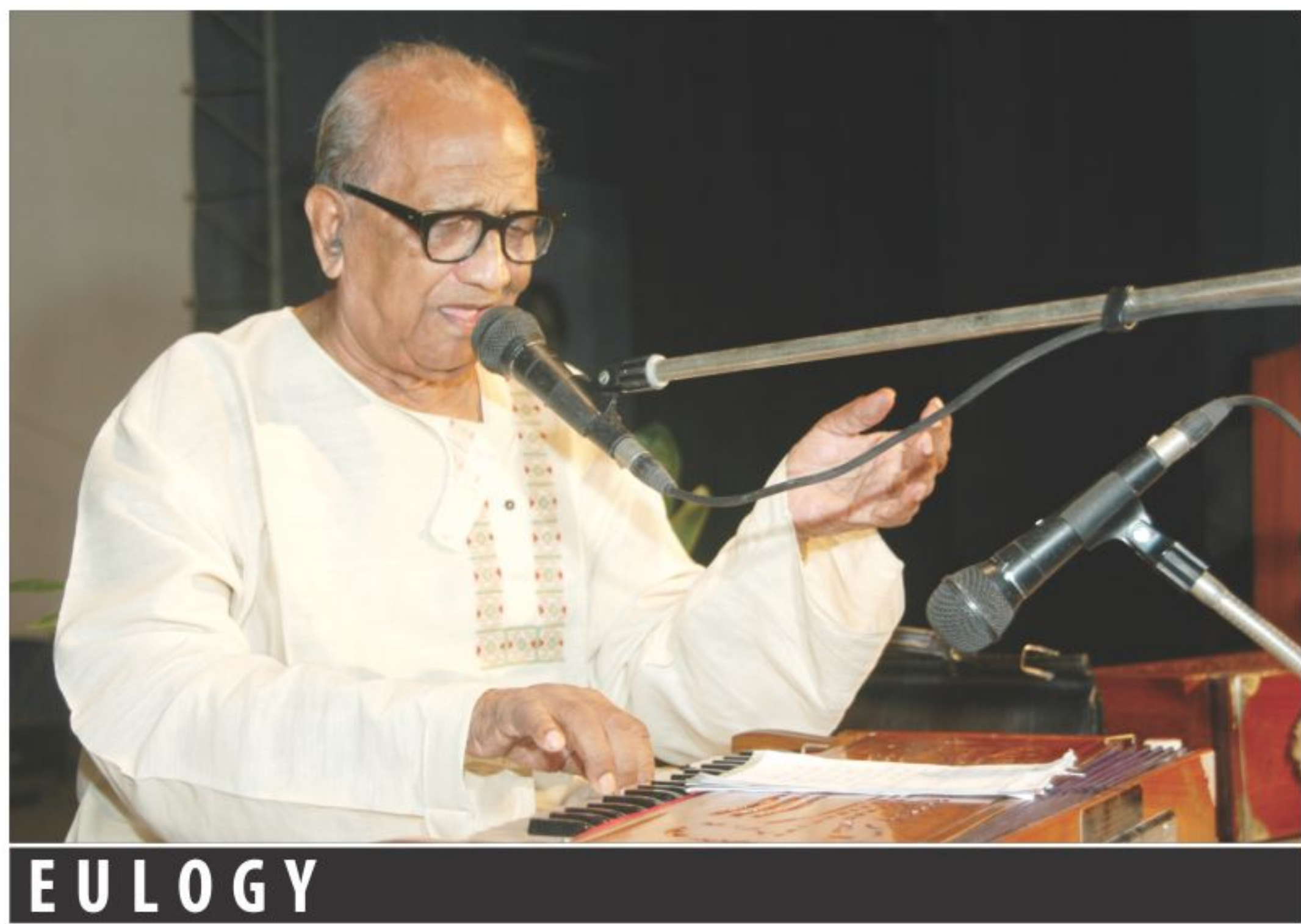
Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Sereen Dream and Reality
Artist: Av Shaukat Ali
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanamondi
Date: Dec 18-31
Time: 5pm-9pm

DID YOU KNOW?



Syed Shamsul Haq

- Apart from his poet-author identity, Syed Shamsul Haq is also a prominent playwright of the country.
- He wrote lyrical drama "Payer Awaj Pawa Jae" in 1976 and "Nurulidiner Sharajibon" in 1982.
- Both are considered to be groundbreaking plays in our theatre scenario.
- Haq married Anwara Syed Haq. She is a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in London. They have one daughter Bidita Sadiq and one son Dito Syed Haq.
- His father Syed Siddique Husain was a homeopathic physician. His mother was Halima Khatun.
- Traditionally they belonged to a Pir (spiritual leader) family. But Haq's father broke the family tradition and studied in the main stream course of English education and then took up Medicine.



EULOGY

SOHRAB HOSSAIN
Nazrul Sangeet artiste, guru extraordinaire

STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Calling Sohrab Hossain one of the pioneering Nazrul Sangeet singers of our country would not be an overstatement. After the Partition (1947), except for Abbasuddin, Feroza Begum, Laila Arjumand Banu, Bedaruddin Ahmed and Sohrab Hossain, there were hardly any accomplished Nazrul Sangeet artistes here. Hossain had been an integral part of the revival of popularity of Nazrul's songs and maintaining the correct notations of the songs after they went through major distortion during the 1940s and '50s. A generation of talented Nazrul Sangeet artistes that include Shaheen Samad, Dalia Nausheen, Sadya Afreen Mallick, Sabiha Mahbub and Kamol Rodrigues trained under him.

Hossain died at Square Hospital in the capital yesterday morning. He was 91. Family sources said he was admitted to the hospital on November 29 after he complained of neck pain. He was also suffering from various age-related complications. Hossain was born in Ayeshtola village, near Ranaghat of Nadia district, West Bengal, India on April 9, 1922.

As a 9-year-old, he first met Kazi Nazrul Islam at a gathering in Ranaghat. He heard someone singing and made his way through the crowd to take a look at the singer. He was fascinated not only by the words -- "Durgamo giri kantar moru dustar parabara hey", but also the zeal with which the artiste rendered the song. It was as if, one could not separate the singer from his song. According to Hossain, that song made an immense impact on him.

Sohrab Hossain was an artiste at peace with himself. No wonder, considering his commitment to music and his acclaim as a household name for

his rendition of Nazrul's songs.

Before the Partition, he used to go to Kolkata often. Artistes K Mallick, Bedaruddin Ahmed, Bazul Karim and Hossain would meet there. In a previously published interview with The Daily Star, Hossain recalled those days: "I had the opportunity to hear the legendary divas -- Angurbala and Indubala -- rendering Nazrul's songs. I'd also been to the staging of the popular play 'Navab Sirajuddaula'. Most of the songs featured in that play were written and composed by Nazrul. I used to like different genres of songs but as I heard Nazrul Sangeet more, I felt a strong affinity towards the poet's work."

Hossain's first lessons in Nazrul Sangeet during the pre-Partition days were from Zainul Abedin, a resident of Ranaghat, West Bengal. He continued his *taalim* under the guidance of Kiron Dey Chowdhury and Abbasuddin Ahmed, the undisputed maestro of folk songs. Ustad M Hossain Khusrro gave him lessons in classical music. Later, Girin Chakravarty gave him lessons in Nazrul Sangeet.

After Partition Sohrab Hossain settled in Dhaka. Nazrul researcher Professor Rafiqul Islam called Sohrab Hossain's voice "a gift from God." "The style of Nazrul Sangeet that is popular today in Bangladesh is perhaps best demonstrated in Sohrab Hossain's singing," added Professor Islam.

Hossain's favourite Nazrul Sangeet were: "Phooler jalshaye", "Ami chhitoroye durey choley jabo" and "Shobar kotha koiley".

The artiste and guru earned accolades and medals for his single-minded dedication to preserving and performing Nazrul's songs. He was honoured with the Swadhinata Puroshkar by the Bangladesh government in 1980.

REACTIONS...

MA Mannan

One thing that separated Sohrab Bhai from other artistes was his gayakee, his style of presentation. He always used to give us tips on singing styles of Nazrul Sangeet. I wish I had given more importance to his suggestions, and it's a mistake that I cannot rectify now.

Sadya Afreen Mallick

Sohrab Hossain was like a giant tree in the sphere of Nazrul Sangeet, providing shade to generations of singers. He, along with Sheikh Lutfar Rahamn and Sudhin Das, followed, preserved and taught the original tunes composed by Kazi Nazrul Islam. Today that nurturing, protective shade has been lifted. He was my guru at Chhayanaut. He simultaneously taught at Chhayanaut and Nazrul Academy and was closely associated with Nazrul Institute during the last days of his life. We would find the original essence of Nazrul Sangeet in his voice. Sohrab *Bhai* trained and groomed illustrious students including Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Nilufar Yasmin, Madmudur Rahman Benu, Shaheen Samad, Shabnam Mushtari, Yasmin Mushtari, MA Mannan, Parveen Mushtari, Rawshan Ara Masud, Rawshan Ara Mustafiz, Ismat Ara, Dalia Nawsheen, Sabiha Mahbub and his daughters -- Rahat Ara Geeti and Soma.

Khairul Anam Shakil

It is hard to accept the demise of such a great figure in Nazrul Sangeet. Despite the fact that he lived a long life, the void that is left behind by his exit cannot be fulfilled.

For decades, Sohrab Hossain contributed greatly to the cause of Bangla music, and older generations will agree that it was him who disseminated Nazrul Sangeet among households through his marvellous presentation. I feel fortunate and blessed to have had his guidance as a teacher and mentor, and even when we grew as artistes, he would give us invaluable advice on singing. More than that, he was always keen to share his vast experience that has helped us greatly in many aspects. I strongly believe that Sohrab Hossain will be remembered by senior and aspiring artistes of Nazrul Sangeet.

Khilkhil Kazi

It's a sad day for us. Nazrul Sangeet has lost a guardian. I visited him often. He used to tell me stories about my father and dadu (Kazi Nazrul Islam). Just a couple of weeks ago, he was reminiscing old times, and sang a few songs so beautifully, and his daughter was telling me how his memory was still serving him well. We were mesmerised, and I was regretting the fact that I did not have a recorder. He didn't seem unwell at all. It's like losing your father, and cannot be expressed in words. I pray for eternal peace for his soul, and I hope that Nazrul Sangeet artistes of today and tomorrow can follow his path and keep Nazrul's music in their hearts.

Yasmin Mushtari

I remember, when my father passed away, and I did not eat for two days. It was Sohrab Chacha who came and fed me with his own hands. We love Nazrul more than ourselves, and those who sing Nazrul Sangeet are also very close to my heart. I am a huge fan of his style of singing, and I feel that Nazrul Sangeet found a true devotee in him. Although we did not meet often, he was always an inspiration. I feel like an orphan once again today. He is not with us any more, but he will live on in our hearts, and we will all take forward his dreams of upholding Nazrul. All of us, who were his students, have learned something from him, and our promise today should be to pass it on. We will not let his memories fade away, and as long as Nazrul Sangeet will remain, Sohrab Hossain will be alive.

Syed Shamsul Haq
turns 78

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syed Shamsul Haq is considered one of the greatest Bangladeshi poets to have emerged in the 1950s. He has written poems, novels, short stories, essays, plays, travelogue and more. His relevant subjects and unique approach have fetched him admiration for six decades. His immense contribution to Bangladeshi poetry over the years has earned him international acclaim as well.

On December 27, this multifac-

eted personality turned 78. On the occasion, veteran novelists, poets, writers, publishers, cultural personalities and admirers greeted the poet with flowers, sweets, cards and gifts at his residence in Gulshan, Dhaka. A number of cultural and literary organisations also held discussions, recitation and cultural programmes.

Haq was born in Kurigram in 1935. In the early 1960s, he introduced unique themes and style through his poetry and novels. His poems are unpretentious and reach out to a wider readership. His style

and tone are unique. His poems focus on Bengali culture and tradition, romanticism, patriotism, nature and the Liberation War. In his novels and short stories, Haq delves deep into urban and rural life as well as social, political and economic issues.

The poet has been honoured with the Adamjee Literary Award, Shadhinota Puroshkar, Ekushey Padak, Padabali Kobita Award, Mazharul Islam Poetry Award, Nasiruddin Gold Medal, National Poetry Award and more.

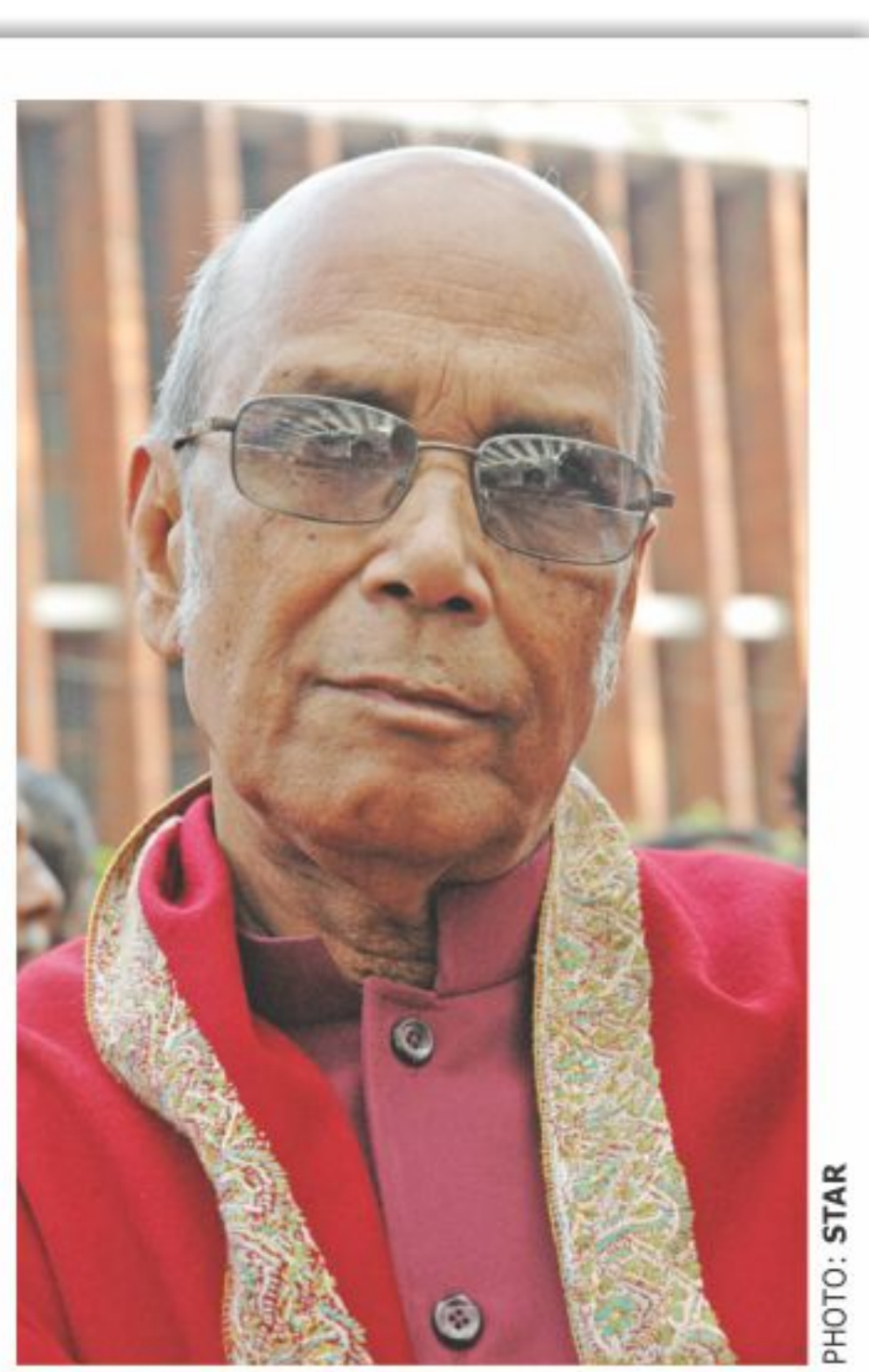


PHOTO: STAR

THEATRE
TEMPEST
on Cox's Bazar beach,
DHABOMAN
in Ramu



PHOTO COURTESY: SIMON KANE

A scene from "Tempest".

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Theatre will stage its adaptation of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" at Cox's Bazar, on the beach, this afternoon. The troupe will stage the Selim Al Deen play "Dhaboman" in Ramu on December 29. Moreover, Dhaka Theatre will stage the monodrama "Binodini" at the Cox's Bazar District Auditorium on December 30 as part of a month-long programme by Shammilita Sangskritik Jote.

Nasiruddin Yousuff, chief of Dhaka Theatre and director of "Tempest" and "Binodini", said that the "Tempest" show will be a unique event, as the actors will perform on a (70 ftx40 ft) stage built like a shampaan (a traditional boat) and the audience will be seated on the beach. Channel i will telecast the show live, starting from 3 pm today.

Yousuff's direction finds a language that complements the troupe's signature style. Rubayet Ahmed translated the play into Bangla.

Two Manipuri artistes Nil Moni Singha and Bidhan Chandra Singha, along with regular members of the troupe, will perform in the play in traditional Manipuri Natpala style. Guest actor Rubol Noor Lodi will perform as Prospero.

On the other hand, "Dhaboman" will be staged to empathise with the Buddhist community in Ramu who saw miscreants burning and looting their houses and temples on September 29 this year. Yousuff sees it as a "cultural discourse to understand the Buddhist community's wounds."

"Dhaboman" highlights an indigenous community's beliefs and myths as well as harmony among people of different faiths. The play has been directed by Shimul Yousuf.

Set in a village by the Someshwari river in the greater Mymensingh area, the play features a buffalo named Sohrab as its protagonist. In the Mandi tradition, buffaloes are honoured as a manifestation of the divine.

"Binodini" is a biographical play based on the life of legendary Bengali theatre actress Binodini Das. Saymon Zakaria, under the guidance of Selim Al Deen, did the dramatisation.



TAKIR HOSSAIN

After a hiatus, veteran artist Biren Shome is holding a solo painting exhibition. The exhibition, titled "Life in Abstraction, Abstraction in Life", will open at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanamondi, Dhaka on January 1, and will continue till January 12. His last solo art show was held at Shilpangan Contemporary Art Gallery in January of 2010.

Liberation War and the scenic beauty of Bangladesh are the major themes at the upcoming exhibition of Biren Shome. Shome is one of the major painters of the '60s who has been consistently maintaining a significant role in the contemporary Bangladeshi art scene. He was a freedom fighter as well. Throughout his illustrious career, the artist has worked on varied themes, portraying them in his personal style and technique. His themes have always been closely connected to the soil of Bengal and its people. At the upcoming exhibition, his works delve deep into pure abstraction. The themes emerge in his works symbolically and at times according to his paintings' characters. The painter feels that nature come into view in his works through his personal observations and experiences.

Shome works with acrylic, oil and collograph, and uses many mediums and techniques for bringing dimension to his works. Red, azure and emerald green are predominant in his works. Coarse lines and soft texture carry a distinct mark in his paintings. His compositions are neatly organised, demonstrating soothing tones and



aesthetic arrangement of space. Shome also likes to show a certain romantic concern for vivacious hues. He has also done many prints where simplicity seems to be the key trait.

Professor Anisuzzaman will



Beetle Bailey by Mort Walker

WHY DON'T YOU RETIRE AND GET MARRIED, SARGE? (BECAUSE I LIKE MY MISERABLE LIFE HERE WITH YOU MISERABLE LOSERS) GETTING MARRIED DOESN'T MEAN YOU'D NEVER BE MISERABLE AGAIN THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF

Henry by Don Trachte

NOVELTY BALLOONS

BTV	09:35 Tom & Jerry Tales	11:05 Shomoy Katuk Gaan-e Gaan-e
10:30 Theatre		
03:05 Bangla Feature Film		
11:00 Ronangon-er Dinguli		
ATN BANGLA		
03:05 Bangla Feature Film		
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor		
08:00 Diploma Misti Loral		
11:00 Tune with Us		
CHANNEL i		
12:05 Prokriti O Bion		
02:40 Telefilm		
07:50 Sherakontha		
09:35 Top Model		
ETV		
10:02 Sonamoni Shukh-e Oshukh-e		
01:30 Bangla Feature Film		
06:30 Tarana		
11:05 Bangladesh i West Indies (Live)		
09:00 Bangla Feature Film		
09:00 Power Voice		
11:45 Music Box		
Fox Movies		
10:00 The Muppets		
11:45 Men In Black		
01:25 Men In Black II		
02:55 The Beach		
04:55 The Grey		
12:00 Boier Poka		
02:00 Foorti Unlimited		
06:00 Bumper to Bumper		
08:00 Club Foorti		
01:00 Back to Back music		
RADIO TODAY FM 89.6		
08:00 Good Morning Dhaka		
08:10 Flash Back		
08:30 Islamic Program		
02:15 Ragul Gaan		
05:00 Today's World Music		

Oloshpur
On Rtv at 09:05pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Chanchal Chowdhury, Bidya Sinha Mim

Blade: Trinity
On HBO 12:10am
Genre: Action, Adventure, Fantasy
Cast: Wesley Snipes, Jessica Biel

Roshni
On Channel i at 11:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Meushumi, Lutfar Rahman

10:10 Drama	09:25 Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End
12:05 Phone & Live Studio Concert	12:15 Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
BANGLAVISION	
10:10 Bhulo Thakam	
11:05 Anarad Ramnagar	
06:25 Gan O Fun	
11:25 Anni Ekhon Ki Korbo (Live)	
ntv	
02:35 Tele-film	
06:45 Ropogmudhuri	
09:00 Close-Up One	
11:30 Drama	
Rtv	
12:35 Jadur Deche	
07:35 Glamour World Dot Com	
08:20 Drama Serial	
12:05 Phone Live Music	
Desh TV	
03:00 Priyogon-er Gaan	
08:15 Bindu Thekey Britto	
09:45 Drama	
11:45 Call-er Gaan	
Boishakhi TV	
05:30 Music Train	
08:00 Amar Guitur Amar Gaan	
08:35 Drama	
09:25 Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides	
HBO	
01:50 The Scorpion King 3: Battle for Redemption	
03:35 Lara Croft: Tomb Raider	
07:35 Cellular	
09:30 The Matrix Revolutions	
12:10 Blade: Trinity	
Star World	
03:30 The Dewarists	
04:30 Revenge	
09:30 Packed to the Rafters	
11:30 Two And A Half Men	
12:00 Last Man Standing	
National Geographic Channel	
05:30 Ultimate Wild	
08:30 Dangerous Encounters	
10:30 Banged Up Abroad	
11:30 Don't Tell My Mother	
Discovery Channel	
02:30 Time Warp	
05:30 Man vs. Wild	
09:30 Unchained Reaction	

ATN BANGLA	06:20pm	Bhorasha Coaching Centre
09:20pm	Chhayabrata	
Channel i		
11:30pm	Roshni	
ntv		
08:15pm	Mayanigam	
ETV		
09:30pm	Dhol	
Boishakhi TV		
09:45pm	Gulshan Avenue	
Rtv		
09:05pm	Oloshpur	
09:50pm	Mon	

ATN Bangla	12:30am	Lead News	ntv	12:30am	Hello America
CHANNEL i	09:45am	Trinito Matra	Desh TV	07:45pm	Mukh O Mukhorata
12:00am	Ajker Shongbadpatro		Rtv		
Boishakhi TV	12:30pm	Hridoye Jummabar	10:40am	Tanoklat	
12:00am	Zen Hour		Gtv		
BANGLAVISION	11:30pm	Maha Shatto Al	12:00am	Shonglad Shonglad	

ATN Bangla	12:30am	Lead News	ntv	12:30am	Hello America
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