

WHAT'S ON

Syed Shamsul Haq
Natya Utsab
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Apr 19-27
Time: 6pm

Group Art Exhibition
Participants: 80 Noted Artists
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, DCC North Super Market, 2nd Circle
Date: April 19-May 20
Time: 10am-8pm

Mask Exhibition
Title: Masks of Bangladesh
Venue: Gallery Jolrong, Vikatan
Date: April 12-25
Time: 10am-8pm

Calligraphy Exhibition
Title: Articulation in Alphabets
Venue: Dhaka Art Centres, H-60, R-7/A, Dhamondhi
Date: April 19-26

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhamondhi
Date: April 12-30
Time: 3pm-8pm

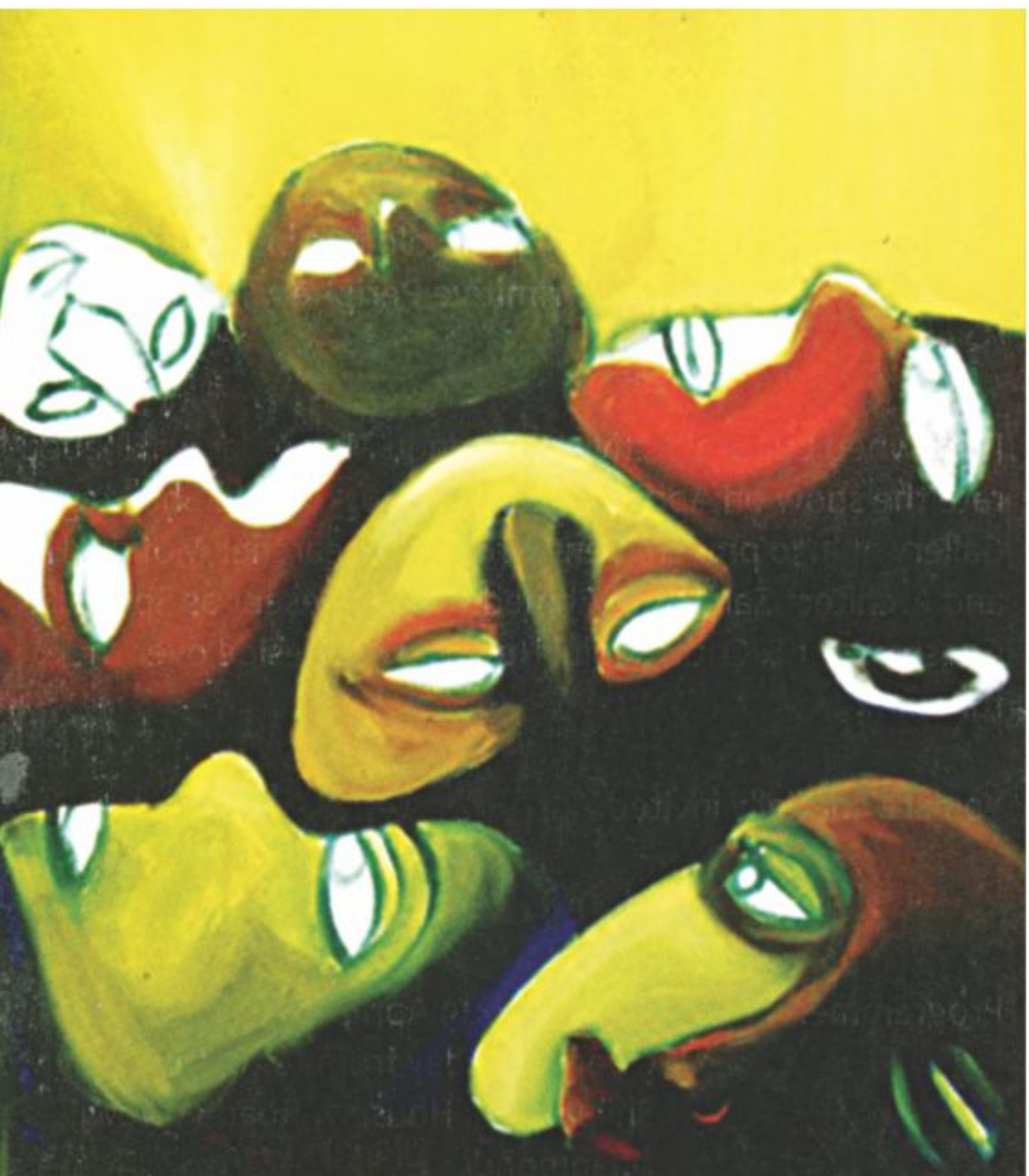
Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Bangla Shekore Swapno
Artist: Raghunath Chakroborty
Venue: Gallery Cosmos 2, R-6/H-115, New 0016, Mohababul
Date: April 19-28
Time: 11am-7pm

Group Art Exhibition & Inauguration of the Gallery
Gallery 21
Venue: Salmajid Road, Dhamondhi
Date: April 5-30

An introvert's imagination in geometrical shapes

Mehedi's solo exhibition

FAYZA HAQ
Munawer Mehedi's solo exhibition began on April 13. It had cultural activist, Ramendu Mujumder, architect Salauddin Ahmed and eminent writer Mofidul Haq as guests. Poet and art critic Rabiul Hussain also attended the inaugural. This solo painting show at Shilpangan in Dhaka, called "Primitive Periphery", was a joy to behold for art lovers. The colours used are subtle, and the lines powerful.
"I was born in Rajshahi. However, my school days were spent in Islamabad, and I studied Fine Arts in Lahore, Pakistan.
"I met friends of the Liberation War in Lahore, one of them is Ahmed Salim, who was decorated for his work in the Liberation War. He is a journalist and poet. I was looking for self-identity at that age; I was not looking for any fashionable expression in paintings. I got guidance from Najm Hussain Syed, who is a friend of the playwright Syed Ahmed. These people were progressive and open minded, and as a cultural activist, I had interchange of opinions with people who could give me the right directions.
I came to Bangladesh in 1990. This was a family arrangement when my father died," said Mehedi.
He had eight shows, some of which were solo exhibitions. Thus he had interactions with the artist community of Dhaka and with art lovers.



Mehedi says his works depict people immersed in their thoughts.

In the acrylic "Genocide" there is the use of *alpona* along with black figures, which represent tormented human beings. "I've tried to create an atmosphere, which invokes the elements of genocide," the artist said. There are curls, twists and dark, slim figures, almost like skeletons. At the background one finds orange and black trees.
There are the geometrical figures, with heart shaped faces. The backdrop is blue and mauve. Thus he brings in a depiction of a conventional family, in lines and colours that are semi-abstract. The man is done in shades of brown -- a mixture of yellow ochre, burnt umber and burnt sienna. The head of the girl is green and her face is in shades of pink. Thus we have two small, growing children before a set of parents. This painting is called "A family".
In the depiction of "Housewife" the woman has a stirring metal utensil (*khunti*) in her hand. From the surrounding grill pattern the artist depicts a figure of a typical house-maker. The lips, eyes, and nose along with shapely fingers are all clearly formed, with geometric precision.
The artist has done a laudable job of blending myths with reality.

PROFILE

Prothoma Bhattacharjee: Of Rhythm and Ghungroo

NAZIBA BASHER
Prothoma Bhattacharjee has been immersed in the dance form of Bharatanatyam for the past 22 years. She has been a keen student of Bharatanatyam guru, Shukla Sarkar. She received both her BBA and MBA degrees from Stamford University in the capital.
"I joined Dhruvad Kala Kendra, under the tutelage of Shukla Sarkar and her late husband, Komol Sarkar in 1991. We went through the whole process of learning as is taught in India. We started with adavus and slowly made our transition into each Bharatanatyam piece and then we moved on to some dance pieces on Rabindra Sangeet and more," she says.
Prothoma entered the world of dance at a very young age and had more than one helping hand to see her through her journey. Komol Sarkar had always played a very big role in her dancing career, whether it was saving her from getting scolded by her guru or treating her to her favourite snacks during practice.
Prothoma, along with Dhruvad Kala Kendra, got the opportunity to work for some great shows throughout her time in the institution, be it at Pahela Falgun at Ramna Batamul, or shows abroad.
In 2001, Prothoma was slated to have her Aranggram (debut on stage performance) but due to an unstable political situation it had to be postponed. Unfortunately, it did not pick up afterwards and Prothoma remained a student at the institution.
In 2009, she got married. Soon after, she had a baby boy and responsibilities grew. Prothoma was not able to give the same kind of time and focus to her dance. "I love my art, but I also love my family. Even though I want to take part in every show that comes up, unlike before, I have to think it through in terms of how much time I will be able to give to the show."
Soon after her marriage, Prothoma received a scholarship from the High Commission of India to go to an institution in India and pursue her career in Bharatanatyam, but due to family concerns, she was unable to go.
She eventually returned to the dance world and remained with Shukla Sarkar at Dhruvad Kala Kendra.



In quest of roots

Raghunath Chakroborty's solo exhibition at Gallery Cosmos-2



Enayetullah Khan speaks at the programme.
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A 10-day solo art exhibition titled 'Banglar Shekore Swapno' by artist Raghunath Chakroborty began at Gallery Cosmos-2 at the city's New DOHS on April 19. Gallery Cosmos has organised the event in observance of Pahela Baishakh.
Japan's Ambassador to Bangladesh Shiro Sadoshima inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Eminent artist Professor Abdus Shakoor Shah was present as guest of honour. Enayetullah Khan, chairman of Gallery Cosmos; Tehmina Enayet, director of the gallery and Afroza Jamil Konka, coordinator of the gallery, among others, were present at the inauguration.
Raghunath is among the few artists who has experimented with traditional scroll painting. His presentation is, however, different from traditional artists. The painter depicts the everyday life of rural people in his paintings and the beauty of the pastoral landscape. Each work depicts a complete story that highlights the Bengali identity. His works are closely related to local myths, beliefs and visions.
"I try to present my country (and its folk elements) in my works," says Raghunath. Blue, black, yellow, white, red and crimson are used predominantly, giving a contemplative approach to the artist's characters. The intense background gives the viewers an imposing view. His subjects are simple and denote clear unambiguous images. His style of painting is smooth and easily comprehended.
Over 20 pieces of artworks by the artist are on display at the exhibition. Works at the show depict different aspects of human life, varied deities, fishing, birds, Bauls, boatman, local animals and more.
The exhibition ends on April 28.

Shakespeare's birthday celebrated at Stratford-upon-Avon

Thousands lined the streets of Stratford-upon-Avon in glorious spring sunshine, to celebrate what is considered the 449th birthday of William Shakespeare on Sunday.
Just about every person appeared to be waving a flag, as the annual birthday parade was led through the playwright's home town by the Band of the Royal Engineers, from the town hall via the birthplace, and on to Bridge Street, for the traditional unfurling of the flags, before continuing on to Holy Trinity to lay flowers at the grave.
George Matts, from King Edward VI School, carried 'The Quill' in front of a 1,000-strong procession from Shakespeare's Birthplace to Holy Trinity Church - symbolising the dramatist's journey from cradle to grave.
The day was marked by celebrations around the town, from Elizabethan music making to theatre make-up workshops. Sonnet-reciting actors even entertained those taking a trip across the Avon on the chain ferry.
The town has been marking Shakespeare's birthday since 1824, and next year will be extra special as it will be the 450th anniversary of the Bard's birth.



Elizabethan music, sonnet-reciting and a colourful parade; a fitting celebration of Shakespeare's birthday.

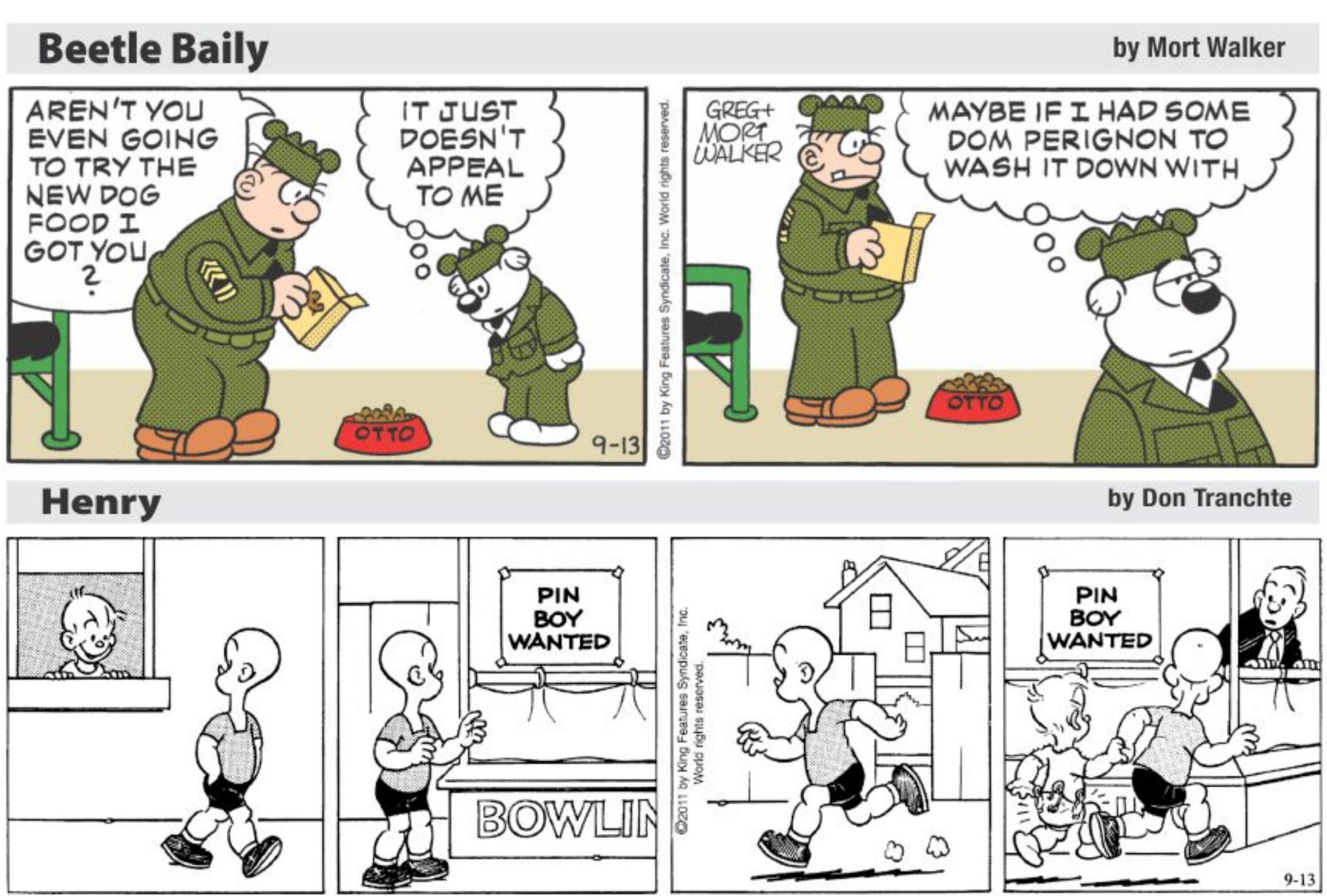
Natya Utsab-2013 held

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
Two plays -- "Banga Puran" and "Mantri Kadom Ali" -- were staged on the concluding day of the two-day "Natya Utsab-2013" held at Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium April 20.
Ensemble Theatre, a noted theatre group of Mymensingh organised the festival.
The festival began with the staging of the well known "Kokila", a drama based on the Liberation War, by Ensemble Theatre. The well attended play written by Abdullah Al- Mamun has been directed by Abul Mansur.
Sareng Theatre staged the comedy "Ek Je Chhilo Sonar Kanyaa" on the opening day as well. Written by Rezwanaul Hasan Khan, it was directed by Gazi Manik.
On the concluding day, Natyalaya, a theatre troupe of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) in Trishal, staged "Banga Puran", a drama based on the Liberation War. Written and directed by Al Jabeer, the play was assisted by Marzia Akhtar and Syed Mamun Reza of JKNIU.
The festival ended with the performance of Chhayanat Sangstha Sangskritik Dal's "Montri Kodam Ali". The play, written by S.M Solaiman, was directed by Sharif Mafuzul Hoque. All the plays staged at the festival gained resounding applause.
Earlier, Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, secretary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha and convener of the celebration committee inaugurated the festival. Fayzur Rahman Fakir, chairman of Mymensingh Sadar Upazila Parishad was the chief guest.
Secretary of Mymensingh Nagorik Andolon Nurul Amin Kalam, advocate Moazzem Hossain Babul, veteran journalist Ziauddin Ahmed, advocate Shabbir Ahmed Liton and Shankar Saha addressed the inaugural session, among others.
The speakers said that during the War of Liberation in 1971, cultural activists of the country played a very significant role in making people aware about their rights and responsibilities.

Young girls and boys stay in stride

Youth fair in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur
A daylong youth fair was organised recently in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat to promote rural culture and minimise gender differences in the upazila. The theme of the fair was, "Be aware to protect the rights of youth".
The fair was organised at the grounds of Mujibur Rahman College of Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat, with assistance of local administration and Brac.
The fair featured rural sports, pitha festival, cultural competition and display of pottery made by young people, from rural areas of different upazilas of Joypurhat district.
Shahidur Rahman, officer in charge of Akkelpur; Ayrin Parvin, senior sector specialist of Brac; and Farukuzzaman Faruk, UP member of Jamalpur spoke at the discussion, chaired by Nazrul Islam, Principal of Akkelpur MR College.



BTV 10:30 Mati O Manush 12:35 Shukhi Paribar 08:40 Drama Serial: Shubhagata 09:30 Tara Bhora Raatey ATN BANGLA 01:25 ATN Music 05:10 Bilhango Kotha 08:40 Drama Serial: Nir Khoje Gangchil 11:30 Shongshad Shamparko CHANNEL i 01:05 Ebang Cinemar Gaan 04:20 Amar Chhobi 06:00 Banglar Pothey 07:50 Khudde Gaanraj ntv 11:00 Rugmadhuri 04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey 08:15 Drama Serial: Metro Life Glamour World ETV 11:30 Ekushey-er Shingap 06:30 Desh Jurey Bangladesh	Desh TV 03:30 Gaan R Gaan 05:00 Durpath 08:15 Drama Serial: Radio Chocolate Redwood Concert for Victory Maasranga Television 08:00 Drama Serial: Mumbasha 09:20 Drama Serial: University 11:00 Modhyarater Train 11:30 Addar Gaan CHANNEL 9 09:00 Bangla Feature Film 08:30 Tele-film: Duburi 10:30 Drama 12:30 Moner Ronge Rangabo CHANNEL 24 06:20 Talk Show 08:00 Amar Joto Gaan 10:45 Sports 24 Fox Movies 03:30 Bounty Hunter, The 05:20 Wall-E 07:00 Brave
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Kutum Ashchhe
On Rtv at 09:05pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Shamim Zaman, Moushumi Hamid

Ocean's Thirteen
On HBO at 07:11pm
Genre: Crime/Thriller
Cast: George Clooney, Brad Pitt & Matt Damon

Duburi
On CHANNEL 9 at 08:30pm
Tele-film
Cast: Nisho, Moushumi Nag

07:50 Ruplalobony 09:30 Drama Serial: Shukhe Thakle Bhute Kilai Boishakhi TV 10:15 Bangla Feature Film 05:30 IT Talk 08:00 Drama Serial: Boro Barir Chhot Bou 09:20 Drama Serial: Ognipothi BANGLAVISION 01:05 Bangla Feature Film 06:30 Bichitra 09:05 Drama Serial: A-er Golpo Raat Biratey Rtv 12:35 Bangla Feature Film 09:05 Drama Serial: Kutum Ashchhe 09:50 Look at Me	08:35 Spy Kids: All the Time in the World Spider-Man HBO 03:15 Sanctum 05:20 No Strings Attached 07:11 Ocean's Thirteen 09:30 Happy Feet Two 11:27 Wrath of the Titans Star World 03:30 Arrow 09:30 Packed to the Rafters 10:30 One Tree Hill 11:30 Mad Men Discovery Channel 05:30 Man Woman Wild 09:30 Man vs. Wild 10:30 Dual Survival
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ATN BANGLA 09:20pm To To Company CHANNEL i 11:30pm Roshni ntv 09:45pm Ochna Protibimbo ETV 08:20pm Bhoramdar College BANGLAVISION 08:15pm Langonkhana	Rtv 08:15pm Chowmahal Desh TV 07:45pm Sat Kahon Maasranga Television 08:40pm Khonikaly CHANNEL 24 09:10pm Reality Show GVV 08:15pm Bagha Sher
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BTV News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm News (English) at 9am, 6pm CHANNEL i News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm ntv News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm ETV News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	Boishakhi TV News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm News (English) at 9am, 6pm BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Rtv News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm Desh TV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm Maasranga Television News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.
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BTV 10:30pm Shombhabaron Bangladesh 12:30pm Tarika Kothon ntv 12:00pm El Shomoy ETV 12:02pm Ekushey-er Raat Boishakhi TV	Rtv 12:00pm Our Democracy Desh TV 11:45pm Shuja Kotha 12:00pm Shamparko CHANNEL 24 11:00pm Muktabak Gtv
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