


WHAT'S ON

Book Launch

Book: Abhinatar Rangamancha (Featuring Life and Works of Ferdousi Majumdar)

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: June 19; Time: 7pm




World Music Day

Organiser: Bangladesh Sangeet Shomomny Parishad & Shilpakala Academy

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: June 21; Time: 7pm



Painting Exhibition


Title: Book is Light

Artist: Proshanta Karmakar

Venue: Café Gallery, R-72, H-3A, Gulshan-2

Date: June 1-July 24

Time: 10am-10pm



Tagore Dance Show

Troupe: Nritya Nandan

Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dharmamandi

Date: June 22

Time: 7pm

Theatre


Play: Shunagoriker Shondhaney

Troupe: Loko Natyadal

Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: June 17

Time: 7pm



# The quaint rickshaw art of Nobo Kumar

FAYZA HAQ

"I've been painting for 20 years. I began my career by learning to paint banners for films. In 1990 I took part in a group exhibition with 83 other participants. Later, I got a job in Alliance Francaise thanks to Lesnier, the then director. In 2010, I had a solo exhibition at Alliance. Now my second solo is on," says Nobo Kumar Bhadra whose rickshaw art is on display since June 14.

Born in Old Dhaka Nobo Kumar went to the East Bengal School till the sixth grade. He began painting cinema banners in 1982. In 1987 he leant under Sheitesh Shur. He has kept up the art of rickshaw painting for 25 years. His forte is painting the heroes and villains of old films. Their realistic and cinema poses have overwhelmed even experienced portrait painters. He deals with animals and birds along with scenes from the cinema. He is a favourite of foreign buyers because he does his art by hand. Each painting takes about a week. Along with his paintings, his trays, rickshaws and three wheelers are also popular as they are quaint and the prices are reasonable. People also appreciate the naïve art of birds, animals, flowers, and imaginary scenes of 1971.

He has done posters for "Nishan", "Amar Shongi" "Taj Mahal". Among the animals painted are lions, tigers, jackals, amphibians like crocodiles; and birds and swans, along with chickens and hens, as well as other birds like mynas. He has used plastic on melamine plate.

In one of the paintings we see a jackal carrying a crocodile along with a tiger and lion, pushing the cart through the town. In the background are high-rise buildings, clouds and birds.



Visitors at the exhibition.

In another painting, chicks are being stolen by a jackal, while the mother hen comes to the rescue. At the back are houses, haystacks and greenery of Bangladeshi villages.

There is again a large, fierce snake, being bitten by an eagle from the sky above. He has also shown birds

drinking deep of honeyx from the flowers.

Nobo Kumar combines humour in many of his delin-eations. His pictures and other artifacts like the cycle and taxi along with the trays sell like hot cakes. This is because of the reasonable price and the appeal of the art to foreigners.

## NEWS bytes

### A need for revival

#### Jatra pala staged in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

To revive the ancient jatra pala art form of Bengal, a jatra pala was staged at Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy auditorium Friday evening.

Netrokathan, a prominent theatre troupe in Netrokona district staged the modern jatra pala "Santrasher Dui Dana" (Two arms of terror-ism).

Written and directed by Professor Shafiqul Islam Khan, the pala entertained the huge audience gathered at the venue organised by Netrokona Samity.

Earlier, a discussion was held with Advocate Anisur Rahman Khan, Mymensingh sadar upazila chairman; Md. Fayzur Rahman Fakir, veteran jatra artiste and assistant secretary of Bangladesh Jatrashilpo Unnayan Parishad; Habib Sarwar; advocate Habibuzzaman Khurrom; convener of Netrokona Samity Professor M.A Hye and its member secretary Khandakar Nazir Ahmed, among others as discussants.

## It's True!



Psychedelic rock giants Pink Floyd released their 8th studio album "The Dark Side of The Moon" in March 1973, which went on to stay on the top 200 Billboard charts until 1988 – a whopping 741 weeks! With over 50 million copies sold, it is the band's most commercially successful album, and widely considered one of the greatest music albums of all time. It has been covered in entirety by multiple artistes -- including in a capella, string quartet and dub -- most notably by progressive rock legends Dream Theater, who have covered it live twice.

## The magnetic passion

### In conversation with Puspita Hossain

FAHMIM FERDOUS

When Puspita Hossain was admitted to Chhayanaut's dance class, she was in her first year of school. "It was 1993. I was very young, and to be frank, I did not start off as the most enthusiastic student; it was more for my parents' interest," she recalls. "But as I started learning, my interest also grew, and it was not long before that interest blossomed into my passion."

She carried on her education at one of the leading performing arts schools in the country, learning both the forms of Bharatnatyam and Manipuri. However, after she was diagnosed with bone tuberculosis in 2004, there was a gap, and her studies also caught up. "It was sad for me," says Puspita. "After my HSC, I joined Dhaka Medical College, and things got very hectic. Even after my day classes, we would have ward visits in the evening, and exams came thick and fast. Until my fourth year, I could not go back to my passion. But then in 2010, Warda Rihab (noted Manipuri dancer) got in touch with me; she had opened

her dance school, Dhriti, and asked if I was interested in joining her classes," says Puspita on her return to dance.

Was it difficult to have come back to it after the long hiatus? "Yes, it was very taxing. Especially with my studies and internship, it was difficult to manage time. But there's this magnetic force that drew me to the rehearsal rooms and stage; I could not overcome that, and somehow managed to continue with it," Puspita says.

Of her special memories, Puspita keeps the 2011 performance of "Taasher Desh" at the top. "It was my first major performance after resuming dance, and to work with a British choreographer and Shadhona (it was a joint effort by the British Council and reputed dance school Shadhona) and to perform in front of a large audience was special." Her other favourite dance memories are performing in front of the big names of Indian dance and music at Kolkata, and "Hey Ananta Punya" at an ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) in Delhi.

"Dance is something that allows me to be



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

me; I can forget whatever else is going on in my life, and just the idea of expressing myself just through movements is something that excites me," Puspita says. "Although I enjoy doing Bharatnatyam more -- because I think it is more bold and expressive, I have not had much opportunity to perform it, because the dancers I've worked with -- Sharmila Bannerjee and Warda Rihab, both specialise in Manipuri," says Puspita on her dance philosophy. "Although I know it's going to get tougher as I enter my field of profession, I want to continue dancing, even if just for myself, for as long as my body and mind allows me to."

## Lux and Locketts



A total of 93 winners of the "Buy a Lux and Win a Diamond Locket" campaign were handed their prizes in Khulna on June 14. Handovers of lockets to winners are continuing in other parts of the country as well, according to a press release.

A total of 2000 lockets are up for grabs under the campaign, in which consumers must send in the codes on the wrapper of Lux soap through SMS, and answer a simple question. A total of 500 lockets have been handed over so far in Dhaka, Chittagong, Mymensingh and Khulna.

## Retrospective of Rituparno's films at IGCC

In memory of late Indian filmmaker Rituparno Ghosh, a retrospective of his films was launched at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Gulshan in the city on June 13, according to a press release.

Acting Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Sandeep Chakravorty inaugurated the event.

Pijush Bandopadhyay, managing director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC); actress Rokeya Prachi; film director Tanvir Mokammel and noted journalist Abed Khan spoke at a discussion titled "Style of Film Making of Rituparno Ghosh" on the occasion as special guests.

Sandeep Chakravorty said, "Rituparno reached viewers beyond Bengali speaking movie lovers through the sheer quality of his films."

Pijush Bandyopadhyay recalled his telephone conversation with Rituparno just a few days before his untimely demise. Abed Khan talked about



Pijush Bandyopadhyay speaks at the programme.

Rituparno's writing ability and his praiseworthy films.

Beside the discussion, the opening day Rituparno's film "Unish April" was screened.

Three more of his films "Utsab", "Titli" and "Khela" will be screened on June 20, 27 and July 4, at the same venue.

IGCC, in association with the State Bank of India in Bangladesh, has organised the event.

## Veteran poet felicitated

### Bangladeshi immigrants' accord reception to Mahadev Saha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi immigrants in Canada recently accorded a reception to noted Bangladeshi poet Mahadev Saha. With the title "Hoye Ulthi Notun Manush", Ananda, a cultural organisation based in Calgary, Canada arranged the programme at Symons Valley United Church in Calgary.

The programme featured a discussion, musical soiree, recitation and dance performance. Artists of Ananda performed Tagore, Nazrul and folk music. Elocutionists recited some of his poems like "Boishakhey Nijorsho Sangbad", "Santir Gaan" and others. Naznin Newaz, general secretary of the organisation delivered the welcome speech at the reception. A number of Bangladeshi expatriate poets, writers and essayists spoke at the programme.

The speakers said that Saha has always fought for the people and his writings are an indictment of social evils like cruelty, injustice and communalism. Saha has worked to enrich Bengali literature with his lucid and courageous writings. Many of his poems depict our political and



Mahadev Saha speaks at the programme.

social setting. His poems are subtle and sublime. His poems focus on loneliness, love, Liberation War, nature, hardship and secularism. As a socially aware poet, he is deeply involved with several literary and progressive movements.

At the programme, Saha said that he felt happy to see that Bangladeshi immigrants are still greatly attracted to Bengali culture and heritage. In his speech, the poet said, "I never wrote for acclaim. Writing is for my own satisfaction and I wish to do it for the rest of my life."

Born on August 5, 1944 in Dhanghara, Sirajganj. He started writing poetry at an early age. For higher education he attended Dhaka College, Bogra College and Rajshahi University. He has published over 120 books of poetry.

## Nattya Teertha stage Dwip

### Ponchodosh-er Ponchodin ends today

SAURAV DEY

The ongoing theatre festival, titled "Ponchodosh-er Ponchodin" has seen a turnout of hundreds of people at Shilpakala for the last four days. On Saturday evening -- the third day of the festival -- organiser troupe Nattya Teertha staged its production "Dwip" at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Scripted by veteran theatre personality Utpal Dutta and directed by Tapon Hafiz, the play "Dwip" hinges on people's loss of faith and ideology and its serious consequences. The theme of the play is contemporary in the sense that the world we live in is now being threatened by our apathy and wrongdoings.

The playwright vividly depicts that a man with his intelligence can deceive others but he remains accountable to his own conscience. Thus a man who has lost his ideology is gradually hit by his conscience.

Director Tapon Hafiz appeared in the play as Milon Sarkar, while Sadia Islam Shanta played as Supriya. Among others, Shamsur Rahman, Mahmudur Rahman and Maruf Tomal also played roles in "Dwip". Thandu Rayhan designed lights for the play and stage design was done by Foyez Zahir. The festival closes this evening with the staging of "Kamola Shundori" by Nattya Teertha at the National Theatre Hall.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON