

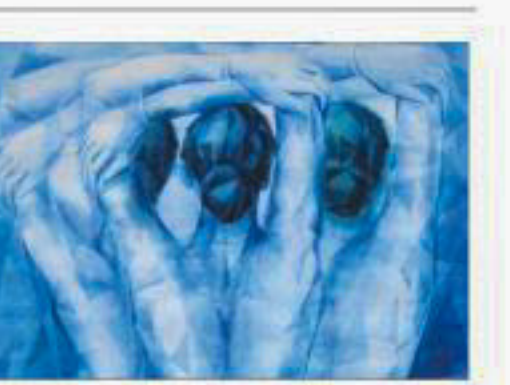
WHAT'S ON
20th National Art Exhibition
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 22-July 12
Time: 11am-8pm



Domestic Film Festival
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segunbagicha
Date: July 3-10
Time: 5pm



Painting Exhibition
Title: Passion for Blue
Artist: Gopal Chandra Saha
Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives, Gulshan-2
Date: July 5-15
Time: 12pm-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Whistle
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, R-13, Dhanmondi
Date: July 5-14
Time: 12pm-8pm



Celebrating 100 years of National Museum
Venue: Main Auditorium, N. Museum
Date: July 7-9
Time: 4pm



NEWS bytes

El Greco painting sold for £9m

A painting by El Greco, appearing at auction for the first time, has fetched £9.15 million at an Old Masters sale at Sotheby's, in London. "St Dominic In Prayer", painted in the artist's hometown of Toledo in the seventeenth century, set a record price at auction for the Spanish painter. Another El Greco oil painting, Christ on the Cross, sold for £3.4m.

More than 40% of the lots sold achieved prices above their lower estimates, with new records set for eight artists, including Claude-Joseph Vernet and Giandomenico Tiepolo. The money raised from the sale of "St Dominic in Prayer", alongside the Tiepolo and another work by Corneille de Lyon - part of the private collection of German industrialist Gustav Rau - raised more than £12m for Unicef, to whom the collection was donated in 2001.

Source: BBC

It's True!



Disney turned down the chance to make the film "Back to the Future" claiming the mother/son relationship was too risqué. The film was later taken up by Amblin Entertainment, who made a fortune through it. The 1985 film became the most successful film of the year and received great critical acclaim, along with major awards. It eventually made way for a trilogy -- the next two films -- in '89 and '90. The franchise also branched to an animated series, video games and even theme park rides.

Tagore-Nazrul anniversaries observed

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Tagore and Nazrul birth anniversaries was observed at Zila Parishad auditorium on Saturday. The function was arranged by Bogra Press Club and supported by Walton.

A discussion on the two bards was followed by a cultural programme by the off-spring of the press club members.

DC of Bogra Safiqur Reza Biswas was chief guest at the programme. The keynote paper was read out by Assistant Professor Dr. Taif Mamun Majid, Press Club secretary Prodid Sankar Battacharyay and dramatist Toufique Hasan Moyna. The programme was presided over by the press club President Rejaul Hasan Ranu.

Artists of Bogra Theatre staged "Shesher Ratri" by Tagore, dramatised by noted dramatist of Bogra, Toufique Hasan Moyna.

Rabirag embraces monsoon with music and dance

ZAHANGIR ALOM

It resembled a replica of Tagore's Shilaidah Kuthibari on the banks of the mighty river Padma; artistes of Rabirag along with several instrumentalists were on board and they were about to set sail for a musical journey titled "Borsha Mongol". But who would create the rhythmic union of timeless Tagore songs and dance in tune with the rhythms of rain? Yes! The artistes of Nriyanchal were there too to embellish the bliss of monsoon in exquisite styles.

The packed audience thoroughly enjoyed the event at Shawkat Osman Memorial auditorium of Central Public Library, Shahbagh on July 6.

The monsoon was greeted in Kabiguru's time in Shantiniketan with the programme "Barsha Mongol", referring to the blessings of rain. The poet caught the many glorious moods of the season of clouds and gave lyrical and musical expression to the innermost whispering of the clouds, the rains, and the human soul.

The images that the songs sketched in the new production brought out the fervour of the season. The tune blended well with the images and emotions. In some songs, baul and bhatiyali imparted the deep philosophical essence of life that the sea-



Artistes of Rabirag perform a chorus. (Below) Shameem Ara Nipa mesmerises with her grace and poise.

son sometimes evoked. Traditional and folk tunes added colour to the monsoon songs. The mood of the rains as sketched by the poet with marks of different colours, reflected intricate hum an reactions to a seas on.

Director of Rabirag, Sadi Mohammad set off the event with a shloka (verse) and welcomed the audience by

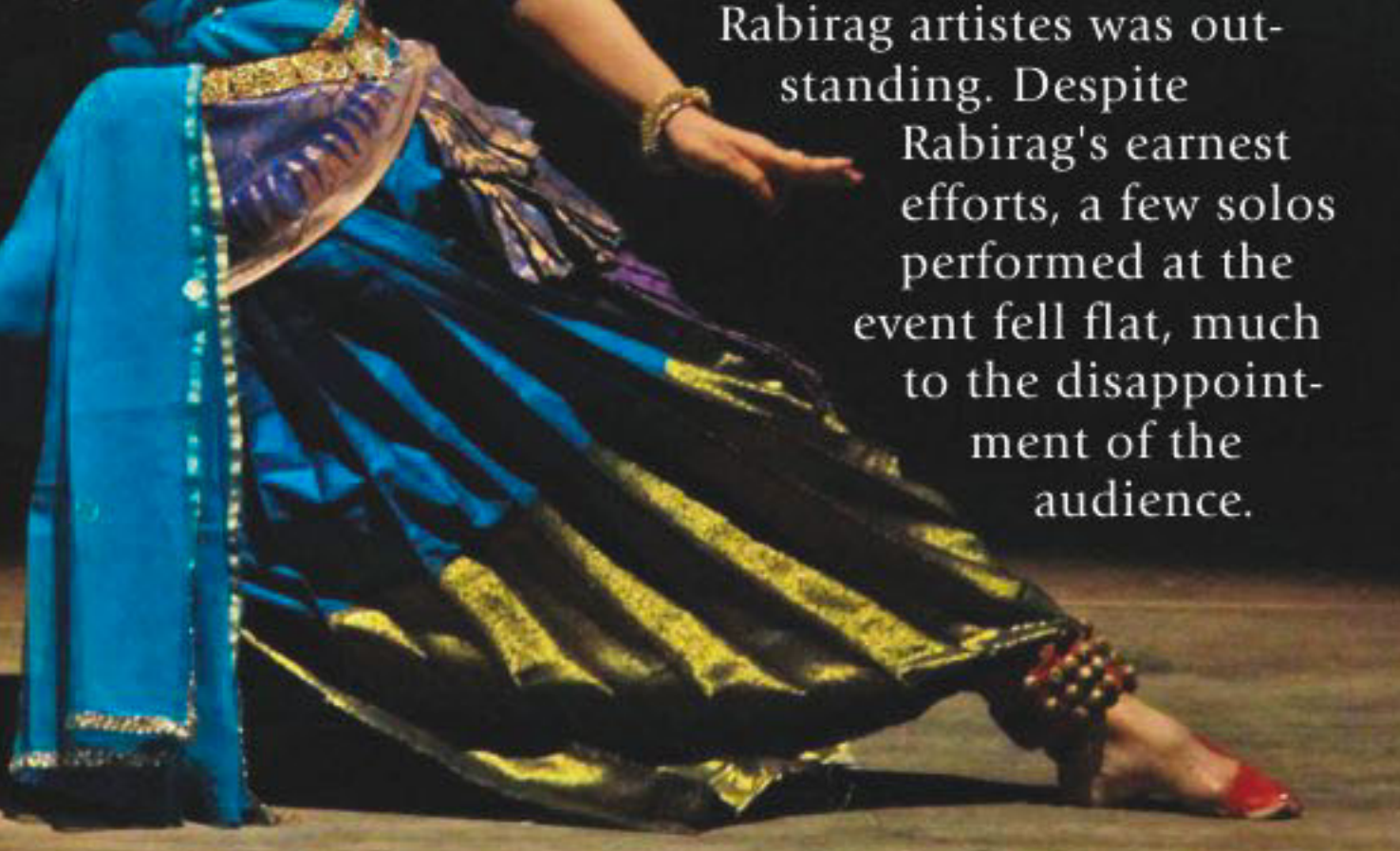


PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

rendering the song "Abar Eshechhey Asharh". The seasoned artiste also drenched Tagore enthusiasts with his melodic strains presenting solos including "Krishnakoli Ami Tarei Boli".

The event had a number of choral songs including "Prochondo Gorjone", "Bojro Manik Diye", "Aaji Nahi Nahi Aankhi Patey" and more.

The performance of solo songs including "Jatobar Alo Jalatey Chao", "Swapney Amar Mon-e Holo" and "Gahon Kushum Kunja Majhey" and a duet number "Hridoy Amar Jaye" by Rabirag artistes was outstanding. Despite Rabirag's earnest efforts, a few solos performed at the event fell flat, much to the disappointment of the audience.

Sadi Mohammad planned, compiled and directed the programme sponsored by New Zealand Dairy. Maasranga Television recorded the entire event.

Led by Shibli Mohammad and Shameem Ara Nipa, several Nriyanchal artistes bearing oars vibrantly danced to a Tagore song "Kharobayu Boye Begey".

Sahmeem Ara Nipa seemed brisk like a butterfly while dancing to a medley of Tagore melodies performed by Rabirag artistes. The artiste's throwing of aesthetic mudra coupled with graceful expression made her part enchanting.

Several promising artistes of Nriyanchal superbly showcased a piece set on the song "Mon Mor Megher Shongi". The artistes, dressed in light blue, appeared as nymphs of clouds.

The Nriyanchal artistes wrapped up the event dancing to the popular Tagore song "Pagla Hawar Badol Din-e". Nriyanchal director duo -- Shibli Mohammad and Shameem Ara Nipa -- led a number of artistes of the troupe in brilliantly showcasing the piece. Several artistes with madol and mondira on stage and several others with ektara in hand at the audience corner fashioned a rumble of graceful rhythms resonating with the romance of thunder. The artistes danced their way into the audience thereby mingling with them.

Sadi Mohammad planned, compiled and directed the programme sponsored by New Zealand Dairy. Maasranga Television recorded the entire event.

Architect par excellence

Remembering Muzharul Islam



Professor Anisuzzaman speaks at the programme.

On the occasion of the first death anniversary of architect Muzharul Islam, Muzharul Islam Foundation, Bangla Academy and the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB) jointly organised a memorial meeting at the auditorium of Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad in Bangla Academy on July 6.

Noted educationist Professor Emeritus Dr. Anisuzzaman, artist Qayyum Chowdhury, architect Rabiul Husain, Institute of Architect president Mobassher Hossain, writer Nazia Jabeen and others spoke at the programme. Rafique Muzharul Islam, president of Muzharul Islam Foundation delivered the welcome speech at the programme.

Rafique Muzharul Islam said, "The foundation has been established in honour of the architect. His contribution to our architecture was immense. We want to preserve his architectural works and other valuable things." He called on public support towards this end.

The speakers said that Islam was the pioneer of modern architectural culture in our country, from the 1950s onwards. His works reflect our culture, tradition, landscape and climate. Blending heritage and modernism, he created a distinct and time bound language in our architecture.

Architect Rafiuddin Mahmud recited a poem on the iconic figure. Artistes also performed a number of songs in the programme.

Islam was born on December 25, 1923, in Murshidabad, now in West Bengal. His major architectural works include Jahangirnagar University, Chittagong University, Central Public Library, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, Azimpur Estate, Joypurhat Housing, Rangamati township and a number of Polytechnic Institutes. He designed the master plan of Dhaka City and also created the logo for the government of Bangladesh.

Islam passed away on July 15, 2012.

Celebrating 100 years of National Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 100 years of Bangladesh National Museum (BNM), the museum has arranged a two year long programme featuring exhibitions, discussion, seminar and more.

The main programme of the festival begins today. President Abdul Hamid will inaugurate the programme as chief guest. From July 8 to 9, BNM will arrange a two day seminar where internationally acclaimed historian, archaeologist, museologist, gallerists will take part. Souvenir currency and stamps will also be released on the occasion. The concluding ceremony will be held on August 7.

Dr. Pranab K. Chattopadhyay, principal investigator, History of Science, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi; Dr. Bharat



Speakers at the press conference.

Raj Rawat, director of National Art Museum, Nepal; Professor Dr. Shahhaj Husne Jahan, Centre for Archaeological Studies, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh; Swadhin Sen, associate professor, Department of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University; Suchandra Ghosh,

associate professor, Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Kolkata; Dr. Mohammad Yusuf Siddiq, Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore; Saber Ali, former keeper of BNM; Jahangir Hussain, current keeper of Department of

Contemporary Art and World Civilization, BNM; Dr. Ayesha Begum, Department of Islamic History and Culture, Dhaka University; Rajarshi Chakraborty, Professor, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Kolkata and others will present their papers.

On the occasion, BNM arranged a press conference at the Seminar Room on July 6.

M Azizur Rahman, president of Bangladesh National Museum's Board of Trustees; Prokash Chandra Das, managing director of National Museum; architect Rabiul Husain; Sonia Nishat Amin, Professor, Department of History, University of Dhaka; Abul Barq Alvi, dean, the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka; Jahangir Hussain, keeper, Department of Contemporary Art and World Civilization, BNM spoke at the conference.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's (BSA) Theatre and Film department hosted a two-day puppet theatre festival at its dance and music department auditorium from July 5, as part of BSA's programme titled "Development of our culture and integration with international culture". The productions by Multimedia Puppet Theatre -- led by noted artist and puppeteer Mustafa Monwar -- were thoroughly enjoyed by children.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Theatre troupe Swapnadal staged their lyrical play adaptation of Tagore's "Chitrangada", at the Studio Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Saturday. The production was staged in honour of late filmmaker Rituparno Ghosh, whose film adaptation of "Chitrangada" was his last released film.

In search of the next folk talent
Reality show Magic Bauliyana begins soon

A CORRESPONDENT

"Magic Bauliyana", a new television reality show to find out talented folk singers will commence soon on Maasranga Television. The announcement was made on July 7 at a press meet at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. The talent hunt from "Magic" -- a renowned oral care brand of Square Toiletries Limited, will launch the essence of our traditional folksongs to the young generation.

"Magic Bauliyana" will be the platform to reintroduce the rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh. The contest is not only restricted to 'Baul's, but to any singer who is influenced by folk music. Chief guest at the press meet, Chief Editor and Chief Executive Editor of Maasranga Television Syed Fahim



Guests at the press meet.

Munaim said, "One of the most positive sides of 'Magic Bauliyana' is that it will encourage young generation to know about our musical culture and to practice folk songs more." Noted singers Kanak Chapa, Subir Nandi and Kiran Chandra Roy were also present at the event as special guests.

To participate one has to register through SMS or phone call. For SMS

registration, a contestant has to type MB<SPACE>NAME<SPACE>DISTRICT and send it to 16239. To register through phone call, one has to dial 09666-71-6969.

For primary selection, the country will be divided into 10 zones. Noted folk artistes will primarily select 60 singers through auditions, from which further rounds will decide not one, but three winners of the show.