


WHAT'S ON
 150th Birth Anniversary of DL Roy
 Venue: National Museum, Shahbag
 Date: Sep 6-7
 Time: 5:30pm



Contemporary Film Screening
 Venue: International Cultural Archive (Lift-5), National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy



Grand Musical Concert
 By Shillong Chamber Choir
 Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre
 Venue: Mirpur Indoor Stadium, Dhaka
 Date: Sept 6; Time: 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Ganesh Haloi
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 28-Sep 8
 Time: 12-8pm



Solo Water-colour Exhibition
 Artist: Shahnoor Mamun
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 23-Sep 6
 Time: 3-9pm



NEWS bytes

Lady Gaga

opens iTunes festival



Lady Gaga has opened the iTunes festival in London, playing a set of entirely new material. The 60-minute show marked the pop star's comeback, after a broken hip caused her to cut short her "Born This Way" Ball tour earlier this year.

"To say that I've missed you, it's a bit of an understatement," she told her fans on stage at London's Roundhouse. In the audience were celebrity fans including Adele, Niall Horan from One Direction and TV personality Arlene Phillips. The show was also streamed live around the world.

The performance marked the opening night of the month-long iTunes festival, which will also see concerts by Elton John, Justin Timberlake, Queens Of The Stone Age and Katy Perry.

Curtains rise to theatre festival in Chittagong

Shabda Natya Charcha Kendra stages "Tritiyo Ekjon"



PHOTO: STAR

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Bhranto Shomproday, a Chittagong-based theatre troupe, has organised a three-day theatre festival in the port city that kicked-off on Sunday on its third anniversary.

The troupe has chalked out elaborate programmes including a discussion, presentation of plays, conferment of special honours on distinguished theatre personalities of Chittagong and staging plays at District Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong.

Asim Das, a noted theatre personality and teacher of the Department of Dramatics at Chittagong University, inaugurated the festival. Shahinur Sarwar, a distinguished

theatre personality of Chittagong, was conferred with a special honour at the inauguration ceremony. Cultural officer of District Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong Moslem Uddin Shikder and theatre personality Moshir Rahman Adnan were also present at the inaugural held at the academy premises.

Later, Shabda Natya Charcha Kendro, Dhaka staged their acclaimed production "Tritiyo Ekjon" at District Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong.

The play centred on the oppression of women in the domestic scenario. Penned by Sameer Dasgupta, the play had parallels with famous Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House".

The protagonist in the play was a housewife Tuli, a good actor and a dance artiste in her student days, who was virtually imprisoned within the four walls of the house by her domineering husband. As events unfold, the couple's lives are transformed by Tuli's determination to carve her own identity.

Ananta Hira was the director of the play and played the role of Sami. Rawshan Jannat Rushni enacted the part of Tuli.

According to discerning viewers, the interesting concept of the play was marred by a weak script and acting, but nonetheless thanked the troupe for their tremendous effort in bringing the burning issue of women's oppression by men to the stage.

Fifth death anniversary of Professor Zia Hyder observed

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The fifth death anniversary of renowned dramatist Professor Zia Hyder was observed yesterday in his home district of Pabna. Family members and cultural activists placed floral wreaths at his burial site in Arifpur. Family members also called out a milad mahfil at his Doharpara residence.

Pabna Drama Circle, a leading theatre organisation of the district, arranged a discussion focusing on his life and contribution to theatre. Noted dramatist Sayed Hassan Dara, poet Murshad Subhani, Dr. Sarwar Jahan Foyaz among others spoke on the occasion.

Theatre director Mostafizur Rahman Russell, secretary of Pabna Drama Circle presented the keynote paper focusing on the life and work of Hyder.

Hyder, a leading theatre organiser brought about a revolutionary change in the theatre movement of the 1980s. He played a vital role in modernising our theatre, said the speakers, adding that the death of Professor Hyder was a great loss to our theatre. Bangla theatre and television plays acquired new contours through his brilliant concept of modern drama, they added.

Hyder, also the founder professor of the Department of Drama in Chittagong University, passed away on September 2, 2008 in a city hospital after a cardiac arrest.

Founder President of theatre troupe, Nagorik Natya Sampraday, Hyder made a remarkable contribution to the neo-theatre movement of Bangladesh shortly after the country's independence. Nagorik Natya Sampraday was formed at his initiative in 1968, and he was the troupe's president until September 1982.

Professor Hyder is also renowned for his books on theatre, such as "Theatre-er Kotha" (a series on the history of world theatre), "Stanislavski-er Abhinoyotow" and "Natyakolaye Bibhinyo Ism O Epic Theatre". Most of these books are used as references at the theatre departments of public universities in Bangladesh as well as Rabindra Bharati University in India. Moreover, Professor Hyder worked with determination to introduce theatre as an academic subject at the university level in Bangladesh.



IT'S TRUE!



Samira Makhmalbaf, daughter of noted Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf, left high school at the age of 14 to study cinema at her father's film house. She made her first film "The Apple" at age 17, and was first nominated for one of the most prestigious international

film awards, the Palme d'Or at Cannes Festival, at the age of 21 for "Takhté siah" ("Blackboards"), and again two years later for "Panj é asr" ("At Five in the Afternoon"). She won the UNESCO Award of Venice Film Festival in 2002 for her film "11.09.01 - September 11". She was also the youngest ever jury member at the Moscow International Film Festival in 2000, at age 20.

Talent hunt for Tagore artistes

A CORRESPONDENT

To observe the 89th birthday of eminent Tagore exponent Kanika Bandopadhyay (October 12), Mitali (India), India Bangladesh Sanskriti Sangsad and Padatik Bangladesh are jointly organising a talent hunt to discover talented Tagore singers.

Any resident of Bangladesh and India between 16 - 25 years can sign up for the competition. A total of 21 contestants will be selected from the seven divisions in Bangladesh and a final round in Dhaka will home in on the top seven, who will go to India to compete against 10 top talents from West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. The grand finale will be held at ICCR, Kolkata, India on October 27, where the six best singers will be given the Kanika memorial award and cash prizes.

The last date for those applying from Bangladesh is September 15.

Bannya entertains IGCC audience



Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya sings at the programme.

A CORRESPONDENT

Renowned Tagore singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya recently enchanted an audience at an evening of Rabindra Sangeet at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in the city.

Bannya held the audience spellbound with her rendition of popular songs like "Amare Tumi Oshesh Korechho", "Borisho Dhora Majhe", "Nibiro Ghano Adhare", "Anondo Dhara Bohichhe Bhubone" and more.

The singer was accompanied by Bimal Hawlader on tabla, Dipak Paul on octopad, Shakil Mohammad Dipan on guitar, Ruptanu Biswas on keyboard, Gazi Abdul Hakim on flute.

Bannya has achieved popularity and fame for her outstanding contribution to music in the country. Her love and passion for Rabindra Sangeet intensified and flourished at Shantiniketan where she went to continue her music training on an ICCR scholarship.

IGCC, in association with the State Bank of India in Bangladesh, organised the event as part of its regular cultural programmes.

PHOTO COURTESY: IGCC

Seminar on traditional musical instruments held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seminar titled "Exposition of Traditional Musical Instruments and Musical History to the Youth" was held at the seminar room of the Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate building of the University of Dhaka, on Friday. The event, organised by Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA), was inaugurated by Dhaka University's Vice chancellor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, while the Norwegian ambassador to Bangladesh, Ragne Birte Lund, was the chief guest. Executive Director of BITA, Shishir Dutta presided over the programme. The event was organised as part of the programmes by the Norwegian Embassy and concert Norway, to document, preserve and display traditional instruments.

A group of musicians from Bikrampur performed tradi-



Norwegian Ambassador Ragne Birte Lund speaks at the event.

tional instrumental music before the commencement of the seminar.

In his inaugural address, Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique expressed regret that the younger generation could not use the traditional musical instruments due to lack of patron-

age, and thus the transfer of intellectual property from generation to generation was being hampered. He also applauded BITA's efforts as timely.

Dhaka University's part-time lecturer Dr. Sayeem Rana presented a research paper at

the seminar. He informed that he has been to various parts of Bangladesh, including flatlands and Santal regions in Rajshahi, hilly district Bandarban, the central zone of Manikganj-Narayanganj-Dhamrai and Patuakhali and Khulna in the south, and

found names of some 100 instruments. Dr. Sayeem also discussed the subjects of ethnomusicology, folklore, non-instrumental lyric-based music, new theories in classifying instruments, perspective of musical history to the youth and other topics.

Norwegian Ambassador Ragne Birte Lund, in her speech, urged universities, private and public institutions to come forward and preserve the powerful and culturally rich musical instruments that are an indispensable part of Bengali culture.

The open discussion on the research paper was attended by Ahmed Mazhar, Dr. Abdul Wahab, Bhaswar Bandopadhyay, Ahsan Habib, Simon Zakaria and other academicians and cultural personalities, and conducted by professor of Dhaka University's Theatre Department, Dr. Israfil Shaheen.

Andrew Biraj (R) receives the "Young Achievement Award" of the Bangladesh Freelance Photographers' Association (BFPA) from AAMS Arefin Siddique, on the opening day of "Exploring Bangladesh 2013" on Friday. Noted photographer Anwar Hossain (L) and Din Mohammad Shibli (Pathshala/Counter Photo) were also given special honours.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

In memory of five greats
Musical programme in Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A spellbinding musical programme in memory of five legendary poets and lyricists (Pancha kobi) was organised here in Dinajpur on Friday.

The Dinajpur unit of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi organised the event titled 'Pancha Geetikobir Gaan' at Dinajpur Shilpaka Academy auditorium, with artistes of Dinajpur unit of Udichi performing songs, recitation and dances.

The five poets are Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Dwijendralal Roy, Rajani Kanta Sen and Atul Prasad Sen.

Ahmed Shamim Al Razi, Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur, inaugurated the programme as chief guest.