


WHAT'S ON
 150th Birth Anniversary of DL Roy
 Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh
 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

Beatles albums finally go platinum

Classic Beatles albums including "Revolver" have finally gone platinum after the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) changed its sales award rules. Gold or platinum status has become synonymous with record success but the system has only been in place since 1973, after the Beatles broke up. Until last month, the BPI relied on a record company to request an award. This means that 13 Beatles albums will now be recognised for the first time, although the number of sales can only be counted from 1994, when the Official Charts Company began keeping records. That means that "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" is now a triple-platinum album, having sold more than 900,000 copies since 1994. In total, the album is estimated to have sold 5.1 million units in the UK since its 1967 release. The albums "Revolver", "Help", "Rubber Soul" and "The White Album" now also have platinum status. Classic albums from Bob Dylan, The Beach Boys and Marvin Gaye will also receive awards.

Disability is no barrier

Cultural programme for special needs students



A normal life is all that they need.

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Some of them can't hear, can't talk, can't walk, can't see but nature has given them the ability to feel and enjoy everything.

Meet a group of joyous special children who are young and capable students as well. This gives them the feeling that they are able to participate in activities that were once unthinkable. Most speech and hearing impaired, physical disabled and visually challenged persons believe that they can contribute to the society with adequate support.

This was in ample evidence when some special needs students displayed their prowess at a programme held at the village temple field in Kaliti tea garden of Kulaura Upazila in Moulvibazar yesterday.

Awed spectators marvelled at

the excellent performance of the children at a football match, art, dance and poetry competitions. The spectators included government officials, journalists, teachers, students, NGO representatives and locals.

The 'Cultural programme for special needs students' was organised by Moulvibazar Area Office of Light house Project, Caritas Sylhet Region.

Organisers Sajal Rozario and Mahmud Ali, education supervisor of Lighthouse project said that they were elated with the excellent performance of the special needs students.

A speech-impaired student of class two, Kartik Robidas, 13, said that he loved studies but found immense joy in playing football as well. He also dreamt of becoming a footballer when he was older.

"We are special needs students, but

we are no less than others. We want to exercise our rights in any form we can. Like other aspiring students, we need support and proper direction", said differently abled student Ramzan Ali of class three.

Regional manager of Lighthouse Project in Caritas Sylhet Region Pius Nanuar, said that he oversees all the special need students in the 101 education centers. He said "We should give priority to special children. I hope generous people would extend help to strengthen the position of such children. We support 220 special needs students at the primary school level."

Kulaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamsul Islam said that he was impressed by the children's performance at the cultural programme and football match. "They are very good at games, and also bright in studies," he said.

Through a daughter's eyes

Oindrila publishes biography of Bulbul Ahmed

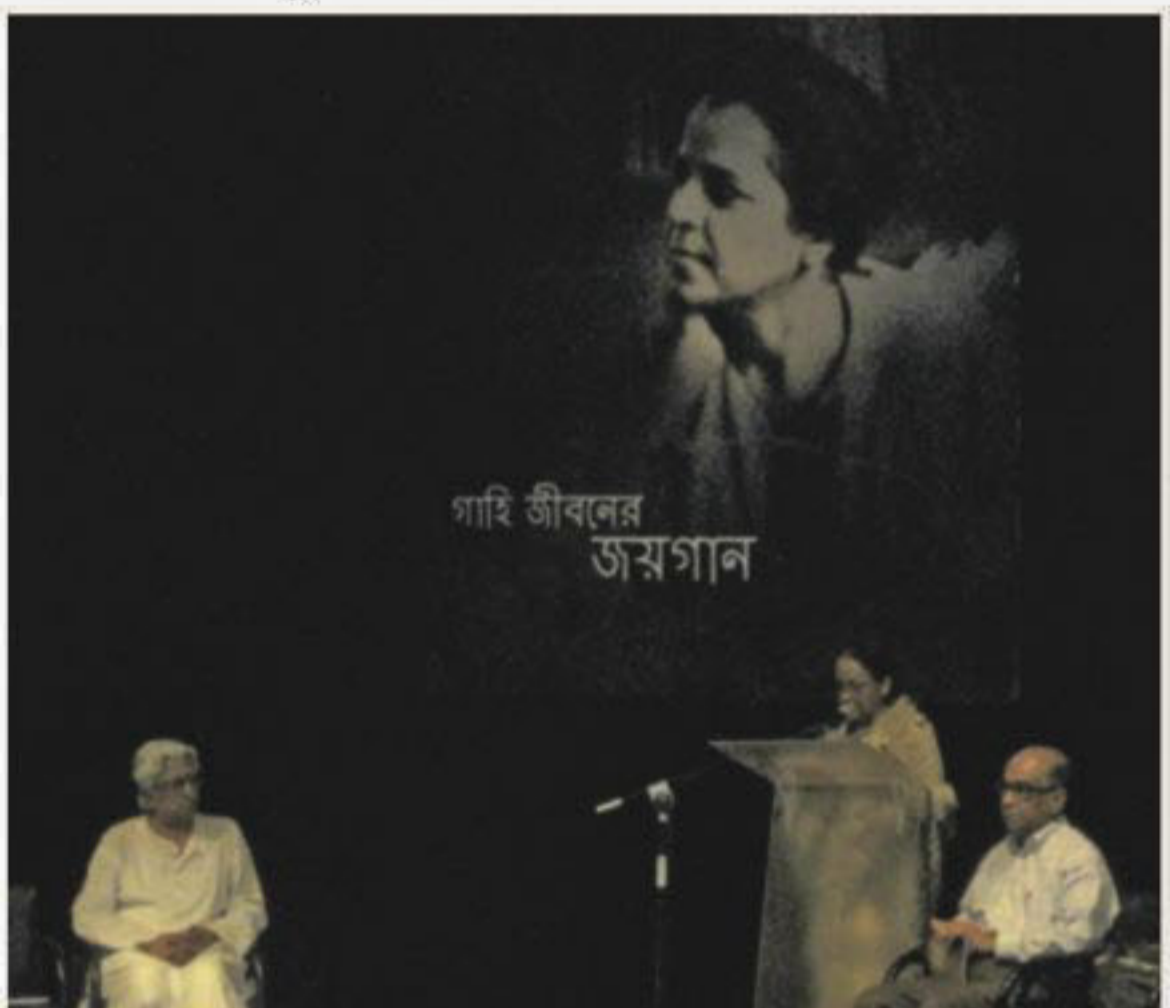
A CORRESPONDENT

Noted thespian Bulbul Ahmed's daughter, Oindrila, is publishing a biography of the celebrated silver screen artiste today, on his 72nd birth anniversary. Titled "Ekjon Mohanayok'er Kotha", the book has countless untold stories of Bulbul Ahmed dealing with his career as an artiste, his works on film, TV and radio, interviews published in various newspapers and magazines, and reminiscences by his contemporaries. Oindrila said her father wanted to write an autobiography, but could not find the time, and after she made a short biographical documentary film on him, he requested her to write the book.

The book, published by Boipetro Prokashoni, will be launched at the Channel i TV programme "Taroka Kothon" at 11am today. Oindrila will also speak on her father at TV shows on Ekattor TV and Rtv this evening.



REMEMBERING Noorjehan Murshid



(From left): Kamal Lohani, Selina Hossain and Shamsuzzaman Khan at the event.

A CORRESPONDENT

Observing the 10th death anniversary of noted social and cultural activist, and one of the organisers of the Liberation War, Noorjehan Murshid, the Noorjehan Murshid Smriti Parishad organised a discussion, recitation and musical soiree. The event was held at the Music and Dance Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on September 1.

The event was chaired by Professor Dr. Serajul Islam Choudhury, the president of the Parishad. M. Hamid, DG of Bangladesh Television delivered the welcome speech. Shamsuzzaman Khan, DG of Bangla Academy discussed on Murshid's life and varied contributions to our cultural and social arena. Noted author Selina Hossain spoke on Murshid's writing "Bangladesher Sangskriti Proshongey". Eminent cultural personality Kamal Lohani also spoke on her life and works. Protiti Devi (sister of renowned filmmaker Ritwik Kumar Ghatak), Murshid's daughters --Tazin Murshid and Sharmin Murshid also spoke at the event.

Renowned elocutionists Bhashwar Banerjee, Shimul Mustapha, Nishat Jahan Rana recited some of Murshid's poems. Tagore singer Shama Rahman rendered songs at the programme.

Solidarity with Rana Plaza disaster victims

Bangladesh High Commission Canberra organises "Pitha Utsab"



To lend a hand to the Rana Plaza disaster victims in Savar, the Bangladesh High Commission, Canberra recently organised a fundraising programme of "Pitha Utsab" followed by a cultural programme on August 31, says a press release.

The event, initiated by the Jasmine Masud, wife of the Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia, along with the spouses of personnel of the High Commission joined in enthusiastically to raise funds for the hapless victims.

Six stalls displayed traditional homemade Pitha of different shapes, names and flavours at the event drawing a large number of local foodies, expats along with members of the diplomatic corps. Culinary delights included "Bhapa", "Puli", "Khejuur Pitha", "Shuji Malpoa", "Dudh Chittoi", "Pati Shapta", "Nakshi" and more.

The evening also had another attraction. Sidney-based artists presented songs and recitation by organizations, Kobita'r Bikel and Eight Notes was also on the cards.

At the end of the programme, Jasmeen expressed her thanks to the participants. The donation acquired will be handed over to the victims soon, said Jasmeen at the conclusion of the event.

ALL TIME GREATS APARNA SEN

A cut above the rest

KAVITA, New Delhi

Celebrated actor-filmmaker Aparna Sen was 16 when she came into the limelight. Her defining moment was as model for New Zealand-born Magnum photographer Brian Brake on a visit to Calcutta (now Kolkata) to shoot for his Monsoon series. The outcome was one of Brake's most well known photographs--the shot of an alluring girl with her face to the first drops of monsoon rain.

Aparna's haunting beauty and talent attracted many stalwarts in the film world. She made her film debut also at the age of 16 when she enacted the role of Mrinmoyee in the Samapti portion of "Teen Kanya" directed by brilliant filmmaker Satyajit Ray who was an old friend of her father. Ray was clearly taken in by her talent because he went on to give her leading roles in many of his films, including the short film "Pikoo".

Director Mrinal Sen too gave her central roles in many of his films including "Aakash Kusum" which was subsequently remade into the Hindi film "Manzil" that starred thespian Amitabh Bachchan and Moushumi Chatterjee. Another of Mrinal Sen's works "Mahapritibi" gave Aparna a chance to play the challenging role of a widow.

From then on till the end of the 1970s, she was a leading heroine in the Bengali film industry. Her on screen pairing with stellar actors Soumitra Chatterjee and Uttam Kumar made her a famous name. In the Hindi film "Imam Dharam" she was cast with Bachchan, Shashi Kapoor, Sanjeev Kumar and Rekha.

Her crowning moment was in 2009 when she appeared with Sharmila Tagore and Rahul Bose in

the Bengal film "Antaheen". The film got her four National Film Awards.

Aparna's directorial ventures too led to a string of awards--among them for "36 Chowringhee Lane", "Paromitar Ek Din" and "Mr and Mrs Iyer". Her daughter Konkona Sen Sharma won an acting award for "Mr and Mrs Iyer". Lately Aparna has made "The Japanese Wife" based on a short story by Bengali author Kunal Basu.

Aparna Sen's films are largely women-centric. Joining the others is her latest film "Goyner Baksho" that released in Kolkata on April 12, 2013. The film stars big names such as Moushumi Chatterjee, Konkona Sen Sharma, Srabanti and Sawata Chatterjee.

"Goynar Baksho" (The Jewellery Box) marks a departure from Aparna's other films as it is a horror comedy film that focuses on three generations of women and their changing equations set against a box of jewels that are handed down the generations. The film is based on a novel "Goynar Baksho" and a short story "Rashmonir Sonadana" both written by Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay and published in Desh.

Aparna has a deep rooted connection with Bengal. She was born in Calcutta to a Bengali family, originally from East Bengal (now Bangladesh). Her father is veteran critic and filmmaker Chidananda Dagupta and her mother Supriya Dasgupta is the cousin of famous Bengali poet Jibanananda Das.

Aparna has successfully passed on the baton to her daughter Konkona Sen Sharma who is acknowledged as a fine actor in films such as "Mr and Mrs Iyer", "Page 3", "Omikara" and "Life in a ...Metro" and "Wake Up Sid".



Manipuri language day observed in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A discussion was held recently to observe the Manipuri "Bhasha Dibosh" at the Sylhet Zila Parishad auditorium. Considering its importance and historical value, the Indian authority recognised the Manipuri dialect as one of their constitutional languages on August 20, 1992. Since then, Manipuri people all over the world observe the day as "Manipuri Bhasha Dibosh".

Speakers at the discussion in Sylhet said Manipuri culture and language have a rich historical value. The Manipuri Bhasha Gobeshona O Unnayan Sangstha has played a vital and laudable role in the research and preservation of the community's language and culture in Bangladesh, they added.

The organisation's president Poet AK Sheram chaired the function. Vice-president Md. Abdul Matin; veteran cultural personality Anil Kishon Sinha; ADC, general Enamul Habib and Dr. Promode Ranjan Sinha also addressed the gathering.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, Ali Mostafa Chowdhury addressed the evening as chief guest. Thirteen Manipuri students were awarded for achieving golden GPA 5 in the SSC examination this year. A colourful Manipuri dance presentation by artistes of Academy for Manipuri Art and Culture followed.

Bengali fund raising in Chicago

DCII Chicago Illinois Chapter (Distressed Children and Infants International) held their Annual Fund Raising and Eid Celebration Event on August 24, 2013 at the Bartlett Community Center in Bartlett Illinois, says a press release.

The evening started with performances by children, followed by local artists and concluded with a performance by the featured guest artiste Dr. Nashid Kamal. Nashid mainly sang Nazrul songs, followed by folk songs. Attending guests made significant contributions towards the cause. A large number of new children were sponsored to support their education and prevent them from becoming child labour.



Tweaking the imagination

Dhaka Art Centre holds painting workshop

FAYZA HAQ

A painting workshop at Dhaka Art Centre, organised by artist Nasima Khanom Queenie, and run by Ranjit Das has promising artists as participants. Ranjit says that he is familiar with some of the painters, but with most, the exchange of ideas occurred at the workshop. Among them were painters like Kakoli, whose paintings one had seen earlier at Alliance Francaise and Shilpangan. There was Soheli, a senior artist. There was Shilu with her flowers and band of gray, and boys who painted like Dipu, with his cityscape, which was mature and touching. Queenie herself has taken part, and she had a plantation of trees of all shapes and sizes, in brown, emerald green and branches forking out in

different directions. A boy had painted a landscape with sky, sea and hills--replete with lush forests.

Some had painted Buddhist priests; some a delicate lady with an old fashioned style of draping a sari.

A few of them had come from The Dhaka Art College, while others from UODA and one or two from Bulbul Lalitkala Academy, says Ranjit. He says that he has been introduced to them only on Friday, and was unacquainted with their painting abilities. He says that he sat and assessed their thoughts and imagination. He next gave them a lecture on what was expected of them at the workshop. On Saturday, says Ranjit, he initiated their work on canvass. He clearly says that painting is to be enjoyed--it is meant to be

a work of imagination and joy. He says that what the young artists knew of Picasso, Braque and Van Gogh--they are meant to apply that to their work. Each painter continued their vision and style. If someone sees beauty in a wall that can be a painting as long as the texture is maintained. Through the window, with bushes and trees growing randomly--they have every right to go with their outlook and style. Even Queenie, who organised the event--got help from Ranjit. The guiding artist wishes to improve the "Language" of the artists. He wishes to improve the dimension, and make sure that the work left an impact on the mind of the art buff.

Ranjit says that the young painters must stick to their themes and not switch from

one topic to another, or they would be unable to master their vision and style. He said to the young, eager painters that each of the painters should have a signature and mood of their own. He says that seeing Aminul Islam or Mohamed Kibria's work one instinctively knows who the artist is.

The guide says their brush and pigment are fine but they must progress. Most of them have done their Masters. Speaking of the subjects of the young artists, he says that some have done interior designing while some have done portraits and others still life. "I only guide", he says. Ranjit says that if he is portraying a wall of bricks, and it does not have the effect that he desires, "my painting is no good. Similarly if the texture of the skin of a portrait is not captured, my attempts are in vain."