

NEWS bytes

Charlie Chaplin novella published

The only known novella by film star Charlie Chaplin has been published, 66 years after it was written. "Footlights", the basis for his 1952 film "Limelight", has been reconstructed by Chaplin's biographer, David Robinson. Drafts of the work were uncovered in the Chaplin archive at the Cineteca di Bologna in Italy. The novella will be launched on Tuesday at BFI Southbank in London during an event to mark the centenary of Chaplin's 'Little Tramp' character. "Footlights" is 70 pages



long and contains around 34,000 words. It took Chaplin around three years to adapt his book into a film script. "Limelight" is considered by many to be one of Chaplin's last great films.

It includes a sequence where Chaplin and Buster Keaton, who plays Chaplin's stage partner, appear on screen together - the only time they did so.

Source: BBC

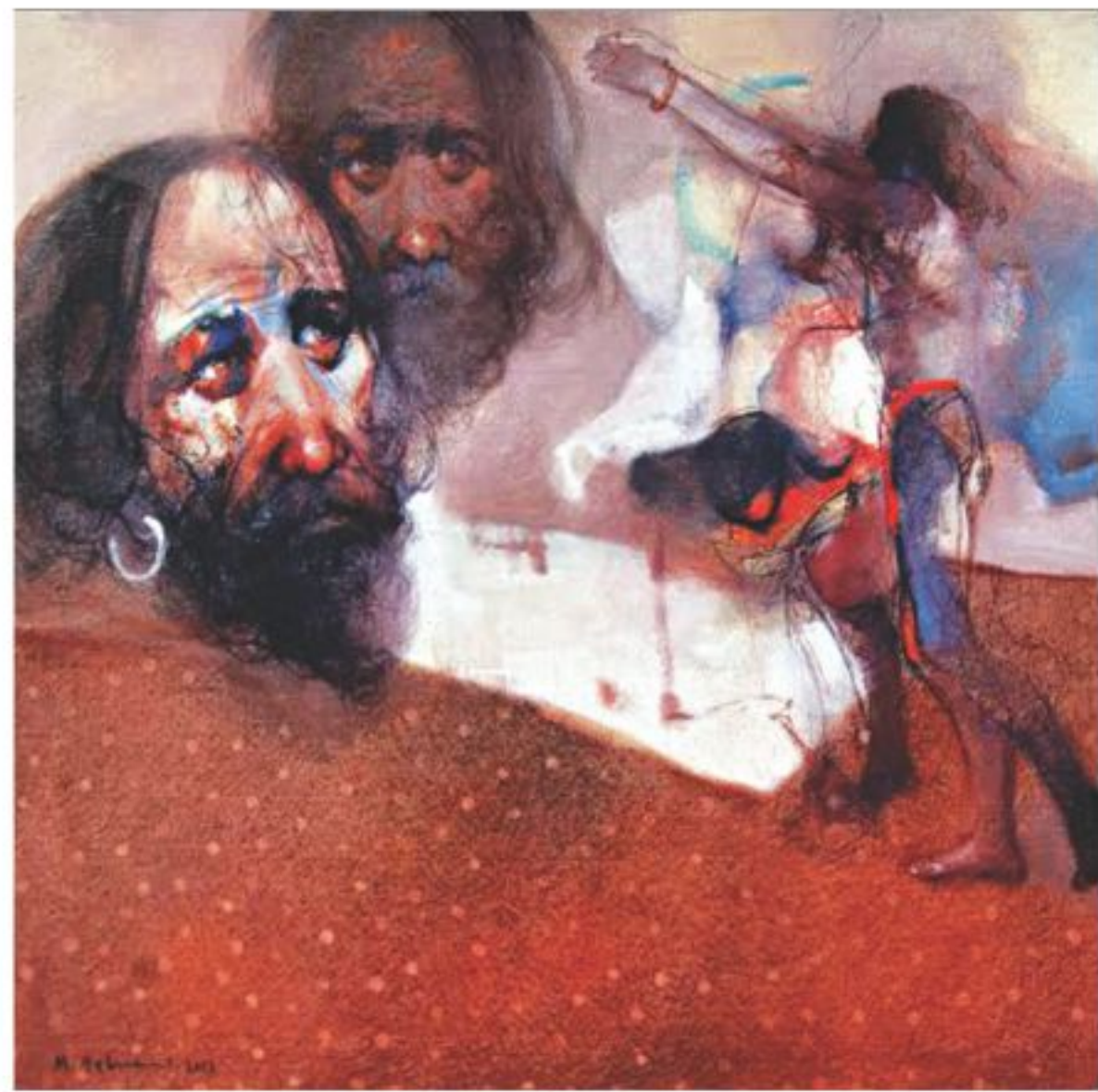
IT'S TRUE!



Henrik Ibsen -- the 19th-century Norwegian playwright, theatre director, and poet often referred to as 'the father of realism' and one of the founders of Modernism in theatre, is the most frequently performed dramatist in the world after Shakespeare, and his play "A Doll's House" became the world's most performed play by the early 20th century. Although most of his plays are set in Norway -- often in places reminiscent of Skien, the port town where he grew up -- Ibsen lived for 27 years in Italy and Germany, and rarely visited Norway during his most productive years.

Highlighting pastoral life and mysticism

Hashem Khan and Mohammad Iqbal's show begins at Gallery Twenty One



Paintings by Mohammad Iqbal and Hashem Khan.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gallery Twenty One in Dhanmondi is organising a duet art exhibition titled "Dui Bangal", featuring the paintings of Hashem Khan and Mohammad Iqbal -- the painters from two generations. The exhibition inaugurates today. This is a part of a two-series exhibition; one held here at Gallery Twenty One and the other at Gallery Chayamachi in Japan. The exhibition is also part of the Dhaka Art Summit which begins tomorrow.

Professors Burhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Muntasir Mamoon and Syed Manzoorul Islam, along with poet Rabiul Hussain will inaugurate the exhibition.

Vivacious colours, strong brush strokes, coarse lines and varied rural objects are the

prime elements of Hashem Khan's paintings at the exhibition. Khan is a noted painter who has been contributing to the Bangladeshi art arena for over 50 years.

At the exhibition, many of his paintings highlight rural panorama and life in pastoral areas. Simple lives of the common people, flying birds, fishing, harvesting, sailing, moonlight night, boatmen and other common images from countryside life are common features in his works. He says rural life, with all its riches, is his most powerful inspiration. The artist has made a great attempt to change the composition. Green, red and yellow have been mostly used in his works on display at the exhibition. Various abstract forms and compositions also find a place on his canvas. Most of his forms and compositions give a touch of nature and its varied fascinating aspects.

Mohammad Iqbal is distinguished for his philosophical theme and experimental paintings. At the exhibition, his canvases are populated with various visible and shadowy figures. His protagonists on canvas are frequently underprivileged people and mysticism. The dissimilarity between the economic structures of different communities leads him into portraying their lifestyles. At the exhibition, Iqbal has painted bearded faces along with red clothing, beads, horn of buffalo, animals, talisman, middle-aged figures, ancient motifs, rivers, vessels, hills, sky and more. The painter has also portrayed many children's faces in the same disposition. Through the oval shaped faces, Iqbal and focuses on eyes and seeks to convey children's dreams, yearnings.



Lakshyapar's classical music conference begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Narayanganj-based classical music group Lakshyapar is holding a nightlong classical music conference, for the fifth consecutive time. The event, beginning today (February 6) at 11am at the Convention Centre of Narayanganj Club, will continue till Friday morning. Chief adviser of Lakshyapar Kasem Jamal will inaugurate the conference. A roundtable on the title "Praner Gaan-e Biggaponi Achhor", will be held at 4pm.

The organisers will also honour veteran classical vocalist Pandit Amaresh Roy Chowdhury with a lifetime achievement award at the event. Marking the conference, a classical music competition will be arranged where students from selected schools and colleges of Narayanganj will take part. The best contenders from both school and college will be awarded the Haradhan-Sukhen Scholarship on classical music at the beginning of the conference.

Both vocal and instrumental music will be performed at the conference. Lakshyapar artists will set off the event with a choral performance at 6:30pm.

Sanjiban Sanyal, Barnali Saha, Supriya Das, Pandit Amaresh Roy Chowdhury, Rezwan Ali, Amin Akhtar Sadmani and Arindam Bhattacharya will perform vocal music while S Shantanu (santoor), Shahadat Hossain Khan (sarod), Dolan Kanungo (mohonveena), Shibnath Das (flute) and Ebadul Huq Shaikat (sitar) will present instrumental music at the conference.

The arrangement of the conference aims to popularise the practice of classical music and to generate interest in the genre, according to Ashit Kumar, coordinator of the conference.



Shrutinandan's tribute to Jnan Prakash Ghosh High-profile names set for West Bengal music fest



A CORRESPONDENT

The music institute of Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, Shrutinandan, is all set to host a grand daylong musical festival featuring some of the most revered musicians of the country, paying tribute to an all-time great of rhythm and music, Guru Jnan Prakash Ghosh. Set to be held at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Sunday, the festival will feature performances by Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma (santoor), Yogesh Samsi (tabla), Pandit Suresh Talwalkar (tabla), Ajay Joglekar (harmonium), Ustad Taufiq Qureshi (tabla), Bickram Ghosh and troupe (tabla), Arijit Singh (vocal), Kaushiki Chakraborty (vocal), Anol Chatterjee (vocal), Brojeshwar Mukherjee (vocal), Deborshee Bhattacharjee (vocal) and Ustad Zakir Hussain (tabla).

The event will be inaugurated by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tomorrow, with 100 Dhakis and 100 Shreekhola players performing, along with individual performances by Gopal Barman (Sreekhola), Harekrishna Halder and his troupe (Sreekhola) and Gokul Chandra Das and his troupe (Dhak).

Riton rhymes along

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Lutfar Rahman Riton is a very popular child literature of the country. He won Sikandar Abu Zafar Literature Award for his first book of rhymes "Dhutturi" published in 1982. The following year, he was awarded Agrani Bank Children's Literature Award for the same project.

The writer has over a hundred books to his name. He was accorded the prestigious Bangla Academy Award in 2007 and Dhaka University Award in 1984 for writing. Riton also received Television Nattoshilpi and Nattakar Sangsad Medal in 1997 and won Agrani Bank Children's Literature Award for the second time.

However, the child literature thinks that people's love is a great award for him, and wants to continue writing for readers lifelong.

Liberation War Museum initiator and an honourable fellow of Bangla Academy, Lutfar Rahman Riton was born in Dhaka. He also edited monthly juvenile magazine



"Asanna" published from Biswa Sahitta Kendro. Apart from this, he edited monthly magazine "Chhotoder Kagaj" for children.

He served at BTV as an anchor for long. He was also known as a dramatist. But he loved presenting himself as a writer and wanted to involve in writing till his last days.

Meanwhile, at this year's Ekushey Book Fair, five books by him have been published. Of them, the publication house, Anannya, published "Lilliputer Chhoto Bhai", "Jagoroner Chhora", "Bhuter Sathe Dekha Holo" and "Joy Bangla Joy Mujibur" while Bangla Prakash, another house, published "Tukro Smritir Malagulo".

Riton expressed his joy for holding the bigger portion of the fair at Suhrawardy Uddyan this time. "Due to the new set up, the readers can buy books in a relaxed mood," he said. He wished the fair a great success.

Drama and poetry festival begins in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A four-day theatre and recitation festival began in Barisal on Tuesday. The programme was arranged to mark the 35th anniversary of cultural organisation Barisal Natak and the 30th founding anniversary of recitation organisation Barisal Abritti Charcha Kendra at Ashwini Kumar Hall in the city.

Noted poet Asad Chowdhury inaugurated the festival as chief guest. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Azmal Hosseini Labu, president of Barisal Natak and festival organising committee.

Hasan Arif, secretary general of Bangladesh Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, Ahkam Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Abritti Samannoy Parishad, Shah Newaz, founder secretary of Barisal Sangskritik Sangannoy Parishad and Manobendra Botobayl, chief coordinator of the festival, also addressed the inaugural session.

The speakers said that the festival is a medium to express their solidarity with the movement for strengthening group theatre and the need for a healthy cultural scenario in the region that can combat cultural invasion from the West.

A colourful rally was later brought out from the venue.

The festival's participants are Prangone More Group Theatre and Kotha Abritti Charcha Kendro from Dhaka, Barisal Natak, Shabdaboli Group Theatre, Kobitar Class, Sanglap, Barisal Natak Abritti Proshikkhan Kendra, and Abritti Charcha Kendra from Barisal.

The pied piper chimes away ...

Komol Sarker back from Japan

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Komol Sarker, 68, a pied piper of Jhenidah left the country on a 45-day visit to Japan recently. As a member of the visiting cultural team from the country, Komol visited Japan on joint initiatives of governments of Bangladesh and Japan.

This was a first-time experience for the flautist to visit any foreign land.

Komol not only makes and play flute but also make fifteen types of flutes from the bamboo. Living at a remote village at Kumiradah, Komol collects the tail ends of the bamboo. "It is very difficult to procure the tail ends of the bamboo as the species are declining faster," he says. Due to new settlements both in rural

and urban areas, people are cleaning up bamboo-hedges. It has thrown the flute makers in great trouble, Komol said.

The owners of the bamboo clusters do not show eagerness to sell the tail ends apprehending any damage of the clusters which sometimes discourages flute makers, said Komol Sarker.

The artiste said he could not find any way to survive after completion of the SSC examinations in 1968, but was inspired by a renowned artiste named Niranjana Biswas at Bhatpara in West Bengal; and during his stay in Kolkata in the year 1971 he met Ustad Juron Thakur at Magura town, from whom he learnt several Ragas.

Sarker makes flutes and sells them at

various markets in Jhenidah and neighbouring districts. His high quality flutes have even made their way to different parts of Bangladesh. Komol Sarker was honoured on September 18, 2010 at the initiative of National Crafts Council of Bangladesh (NCCB) and Bengal Foundation where he won a musical competition. He also demonstrated the art of making a bamboo flute to the audience who had congregated there.

Since then, the foundation invites Komol twice a year for their various programmes.

In conversation with this correspondent, Komol Sarker said usually the aim of a student is decided during his secondary education. He had decided to become

an artiste of bamboo flutes to establish that cultural heritages could establish a man or woman when they work with confidence, perseverance and honesty.

Father of two daughters and two sons, Komol said people in our society do not treat artistes well, thinking they cannot bring money and honour for the family as well the society. But he said he was proud to prove that his work has established him in the society as a good citizen, capable to manage the family with honest income.

Sarker said, a Japan based NGO OISCA maintained the team of 38 at Khagaya city of Japan, where they performed every day. On the concluding day, they were given a certificate and a crest.



Komol Sarker (sitting, right) backstage in a show in Japan.