

## NEWS bytes

### New music radio "Musica" launched

MultiSourcing Ltd., a mobile value added service provider, launched an exclusive mobile radio service named "Musica", on Friday at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel. The service will be exclusively available to Robi subscribers.

The service will allow users to listen to unreleased and exclusive songs by leading artistes like Bappa Mazumdar, Fuad Al Muqtadir, Kona, Iraj, Elita, Hyder Husyn and Arnob. Over 40 top artistes have already been signed up in this endeavour, says a press release.

Shafin Ahmed, Hyder Husyn, Bappa Mazumdar, Habib Wahid, Sheikh Monirul Alam Tipu, Balam, Porshee, Kona, Elita, and Mahmood Hossain Faisal were present at the event, and performed live.

### Folk festival concludes in Sunamganj

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

A three-day Radharomon Datta, Hason Raza and Shah Abdul Karim Loko Utsab, ended at Jubilee High School field in Sunamganj district town on yesterday.

This festival, introduced by Radharomon Datta, Hason Raza and Shah Abdul Karim, has now become a tradition. A large number of baul artistes take part in the event.

Meanwhile, a large number of devotees and admirers from all over Bangladesh and overseas have gathered to join the festival that highlights the philosophy of the mystic bards.

The district administration organised the programme.

## Searching for secrets of nature and life

Shawket Ahmed's exhibition at Dhaka Art Centre



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Artist Shawket Ahmed has a fascination for unearthing the mysterious aspects of nature, vastness of mountains, riverine life as well the emotional and psychological world of human beings. He maintains a secluded life and his curiosity appears on his canvases.

Through the exhibition, it is apparent that the artist's creative development is spontaneous, sensitive and wide-ranging. Emotions are the lifeblood of the protagonists on canvas. Without emotional attachment, the work is a mere portrayal of lives or events, which never draw the spectators into the canvas. But the painter has created an emotional ambience and thought-provoking optical illusions, making the viewers emotionally involved with his paintings.

Shawket's mode of expression is diverse and he feels comfortable working in different mediums like acrylic, prints and water-colour. He is an experimental painter and diverse ideas continuously bubble in his head. He is also a keen observer of his surroundings. The search for splendour is one of the key traits of his creations. At the exhibition, pure abstract, semi-realistic,

figurative and surrealistic imagery are very apparent. Many of his works are also quite noticeable for their botanical shapes, geometrical and animal forms. Fish and boats have also appeared in some of his works. He devises the figures, visages and various parts of the forms. Several animals have emerged on the canvases, along with figures and other diverse forms. He has used the animals to convey symbolism. Their torment, ecstasy, pleasure have come to the fore in a lively and intimate manner.

Shawket has a penchant for detailing the figures with objects. The artist also likes to work with amorphous forms and shapes -- transforming them amazingly into tangible expressions. He has used the spatula for most of his paintings which help him go into his desired tones and textures. Without much deliberation, the artist also applies colours and creates forms, lines and compositions. Sometimes he puts layer upon layer of paint, until he feels that he has achieved what he's opting for. The outcome is a thoughtful, subtly balanced arrangement of colours and space that draws an art enthusiast's eyes.

The artist's solo art exhibition titled "Crossing Through" is now on at Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi.

## Kali O Kalam awards young wordsmiths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

HSBC-Kali O Kalam Young Poet and Writer Award 2013 was held at Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad auditorium, Bangla Academy on April 4. This year, four young writers received awards in five categories. The programme commenced with a welcome speech by Luva Nahid Choudhury, director general of Bengal Foundation. Monthly literary magazine "Kali O Kalam" along with HSBC initiated the award in 2008.

The winners for the year 2013 are Masud Pathik (poetry; for "Ekaki Jamin"); Wahida Noor Afza (literature; for novel "Bitongsho"); Dr. Rabiul Hossain (essay-research; for "Samakal Potrikar Sahityik O Sangskritik Bhumika"); Masudul Haque (child and juvenile literature; for "Bilu Kalu Aar Gilur Romanchokor Obhijan") and Rajib Ahmed (Liberation War; for "Muktijuddhe Mujibnagar Dalil O Itihash").

Each winner received Taka 1 lakh along with a certificate and a crest.

Luva Nahid Choudhury highlighted the criteria

selecting the winners and their works, while Professor Bishwajit Ghosh and Professor Mahbub Sadik read out on brief life sketches and awarded works of the recipients.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP was the chief guest while eminent poet Nirendranath Chakraborty [of West Bengal] was special guest. He admired the initiative by Kali O Kalam and HSBC. Md. Mahbub-ur-Rahman, Corporate Banking Head of HSBC also delivered a speech at the programme.

Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, president of the editorial board of Kali O Kalam, presided over the programme. In his words, "This award will encourage the winners to continue their efforts with greater zeal."

Among other dignitaries, eminent educationist Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, the chairman of jury board with chairman of Bengal Foundation Abul Khair was present at the event. Abul Hasnat, editor, Kali O Kalam, delivered the concluding speech.

After the award ceremony, a solo musical event featuring popular singer Krishnakali and her troupe was held.

## SUCHITRA through the artists' eyes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the birth anniversary of Suchitra Sen, art gallery Shilpangan is organising a special exhibition titled "Serenading Suchitra" -- featuring artworks of 28 young and senior painters.

Shilpangan sources said the exhibition was conceived when a number of artists expressed interests in painting their favourite actress.

Participating artists include Hamiduzzaman Khan, Sheikh Afzal, Goutam Chakrabarty, Shamsuddoha, Ranjit Das, Kanak Champa Chakma, Jamal Ahmed, Syed Iqbal, Bikash, Aloptogin Tushar, Rashid Amin, Javed Jalil, Krishna Chattapadhyay and Gulshan Hossain.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by educationist Burhanuddin Khan Jahangir at the Shilpangan Gallery today, and will continue till April 19.



## Memories of another day Birth anniversary of Suchitra Sen to be observed

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

"In our younger days, Krishna, I, and our classmates used to splash around in the rain like in the movies. This was in the '40s. Later, all of us got scolded but that didn't deter us from enjoying it. Unfortunately, Krishna, my close friend is no longer with us," said Anjali Goswami, a classmate of 'Krishna' -- as Suchitra Sen was known.

Today is the 83rd birth anniversary of the legendary actress, also known as Roma Dasgupta, who passed away on January 17 this year in Kolkata. People of Pabna -- the place where she spent her early life -- are celebrating the birth anniversary of the legendary actress today.

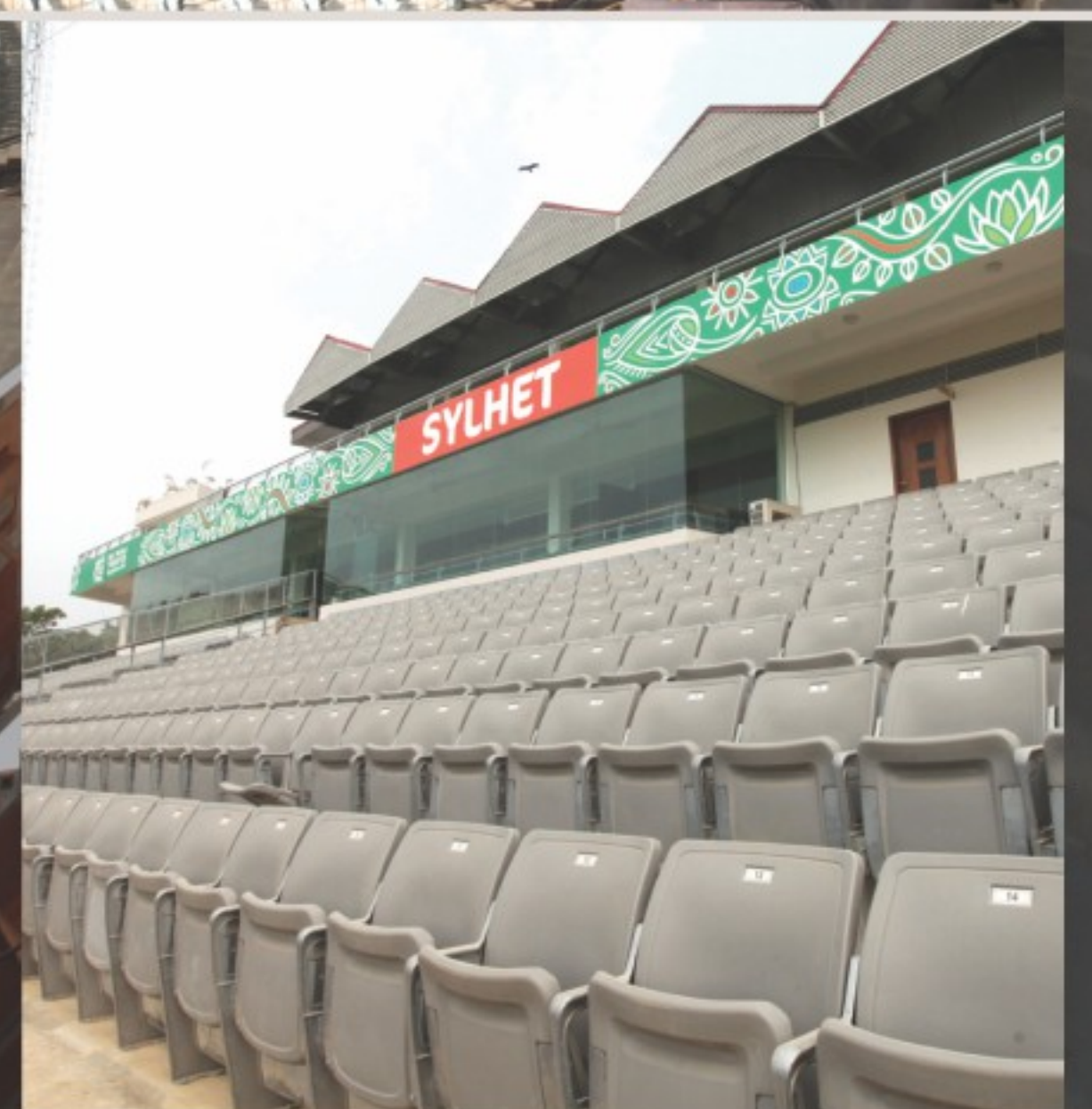
"A daylong programme has been chalked out by the students of Pabna Town Girl's High School, where Sen embarked on her schooling," Dr. Ram Dulal Bhoumik, secretary of Suchitra Sen Smriti Shangrakhhan Parishad (SSSSP), Pabna told the Daily Star.

"Krishna was very spontaneous and friendly. She came back on a short visit after leaving the country in 1947. That was the last time I saw her but her memory remains alive in my heart," Anjali said.

Suchitra Sen's home in Gopalpur of Pabna town has been occupied by Imam Gazzali Institute -- a Jamaat-backed institution -- for decades and the government has done little to recover, let alone protect it. Legal tangles have also come in the way. However, there is an organisation in Pabna that wants to preserve the home and memories of Suchitra.

Saidul Haque Chunnu, convener of SSSSP, said "Suchitra Sen is the pride of Pabna. Her home has historical value for us. We demand that her home be made into a museum."

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