

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
Life and works of Tajuddin Ahmed
Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi
Date: July 19-September 8
Time: 12pm-8pm



Fundraising Exhibition
Appeal for Gaza
Organiser: Drik
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: August 18-20
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Watercolour Exhibition
Title: "Jol Chobi" by Shahanoor Mamun
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française De Dhaka



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: "Momentary History" by Niamul Bari
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: August 12-30
Time: 12-8pm



Album Launch
Album: Koto Chameli Britha Jaye
by Dia
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: August 22
Time: 6:30pm



NEWS bytes

Cash's childhood home opens to public

Country music legend Johnny Cash's childhood home has been opened to the public as part of a drive to revitalise the Arkansas town (USA) where he grew up. The Cash family moved to the house in Dyess in 1935, when Johnny was three, as part of a government drive to help families after the Great Depression. The five-room wooden home has been refurbished and features the family's piano as well as other period items.

The most meaningful item, his sister Joanne Cash said, was the piano. "We used to gather around that piano at night and sing gospel for an hour. That was our entertainment." The Cashes were among 500 families who moved to the new settlement under President Franklin D Roosevelt's New Deal. Cash began his recording career in 1955 later and went on to become one of the giants of American popular music. He died in 2003.

Source: BBC



IT'S TRUE!

US actor-producer Ashton Kutcher enrolled at the University of Iowa where his planned major was biochemical engineering, motivated by the desire to find a cure for his brother's heart ailment. During his time at UI, he was approached by a model scout at a bar and was recruited to enter the "Fresh Faces of Iowa" modeling competition. After placing first, he



dropped out of college and won a trip to New York City to the International Modeling and Talent Association (IMTA) Convention. After participating in an IMTA competition where he lost to Josh Duhamel in 1998, Kutcher signed with Next modeling agency in New York, appeared in ads for Calvin Klein, and modeled in Paris and Milan.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To raise awareness among people about the Israeli attacks on Gaza, and raise funds to help the victims of the violence in Palestine, Drik has arranged a three-day programme at Drik Gallery in the capital. The programme, titled "Appeal for Gaza" include an exhibition and sale of paintings and photographs donated by a number of artists and photographers. Alongside the artworks, merchandises carrying slogans for Gaza are also up for sale as part of the fundraising activity.

The inauguration ceremony took place on Monday evening, in the presence of Palestinian Ambassador Shaher Mohammad. The inauguration ceremony began with singer Kafil Ahmed's song "Praan e Praan Melaboi Bole Rakhi", Shahidul Alam,

Managing Director of Drik, Artist

Monirul Islam and Palestinian students living in Bangladesh expressed their thoughts at the opening programme.

Expressing solidarity with the innocents being killed in Gaza, a group of empathetic artists donated their photographs and paintings. Abdus Shakoor Shah, Abir Abdullah, Bishwajit



Kafil Ahmed performs (top); guests at the exhibition.

APPEAL FOR GAZA

Drik holds fundraising event

Goswami, Jamal Ahmed, Jannatul Mawa, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Mohammad Anisul Hoque, Monirul Islam, Nasir Ali Mamun, Rokeya Sultana, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Saiful Huq Omi, Shahid Kabir, Shahidul Alam, Shishir Bhattacharya, Swapan Chowdhury, Taslima Akhter,

Tapash Paul, Wakilur Rahman and many more are among the contributing artists and photographers.

On the first floor of the gallery, photographs are on display, while the second floor has paintings. Apart from the exhibition, the event also features cultural programmes. Yesterday evening, flautist Shanto Kumar Das performed at the exhibition, followed by recitation, and a musical performance by popular artiste Krishnokoli.

As part of today's schedule, Reetu Sattar will perform "A Bird of a Stone" at 6pm. Later in the evening, Waqel Ahad and Labik Kamal Gaurab's musical performance will take place along with recitation and instrumental music.

The event is part of Drik's "No more" public awareness campaign.

Dhaka on Europeans' canvas

19th century paintings by noted artists

FAYZA HAQ

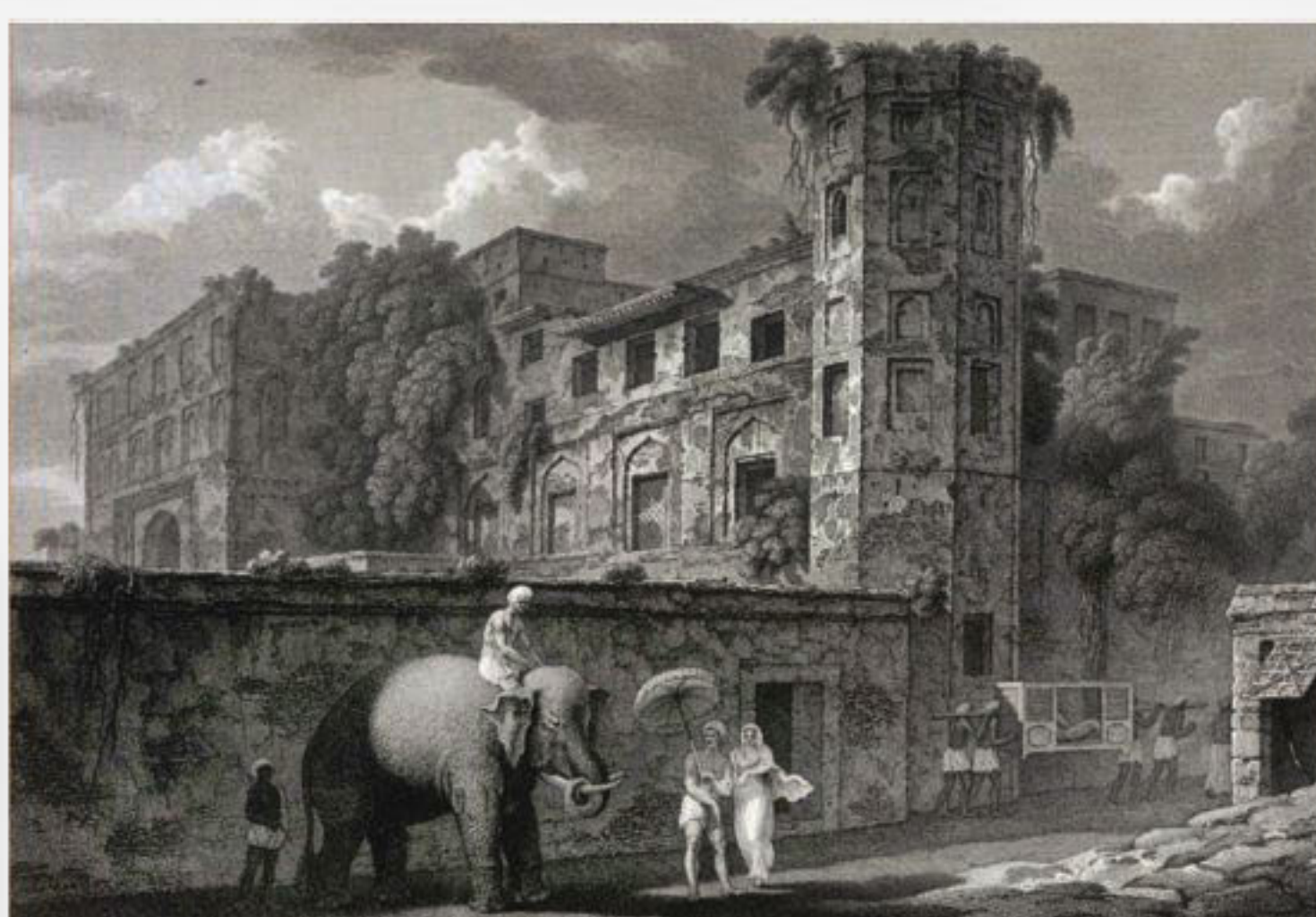
In 1808, Charles D'Oyly, Collector of Dhaka, wrote to Warren Hastings, "I shall offer you as companions, a few of the ruins of the city of Dacca which are exquisite for their magnificent elegance ..."

About a hundred years of British rule by the East India Company saw many European painters finding their way to India. Beckoned by the charm of the orient, artists sketched details of the everyday lives of the

Robert Home also spent much time in Dhaka. One of the most important paintings on Lalbagh Fort can be traced to colonial times. Great care is given to the gate, painted stray dogs, fruit sellers and passers-by. He recorded details of everyday life. He did sketches of the Third Mysore War and settled down in Calcutta (now Kolkata) for the next 20 years, making his living as a portrait painter. George Chinnery and D'Oyly together explored and sketched the ruins of Dhaka. In D'Oyly's "Antiqui-

sketches during his trip to the Sunderbans and Dhaka. His sketch of the late afternoon Ramna Park with the temple and the priest's hut was destroyed later by the Pakistan occupation army. Molesworth joined the Royal Navy as a cadet. He noted down his experiences in a diary. This contained drawings and illustrations of Fulbaria, Mirpur, Savar and the Tongi Bridge. Dhaka's first private school, the Pogose School, was built by the Armenians who came to trade in Bengal. Charles Pote made two

Dhaka -- has wild shrubs growing over the structure, while men, women and a cow sit or stand on the banks. The Remain of the Bridge near the Tantee Bazaar by D'Oyly has trees, people and Lotus flowers on the river, ground and on top of the bridge. The scenes are idyllic and romantic. His "Pagla Pool" and "On the Dholai Khal" are both beautiful and noteworthy for their historical importance. Judge Sherman is seen with an Indian Secretary, by George Chinnery in oil. De Fabeck's depictions of the "River



"Boro Katra" by Charles D'Oyly; "A Ruined Mosque at Dacca" by William De Fabeck.

natives, buildings, landscapes and festivals.

While English painters had to struggle for a living in their home in England, these Western painters were able make a living in the orient. Their newfound affluence led to a stream of artists in the eighteenth to the nineteenth century. These painters had the patronage of either Rajas or Nawabs. While they mostly did portraits, they did not ignore the inhabitants of the land or the landscape. Thus buildings and surroundings crept into the paintings.

Of the painters who came to Dhaka, the best known is Charles D'Oyly. Francesco Renaldi and

ties of Dhaka", he made records of buildings, riverscapes and landmarks of the city. He served the East India Company for 40 years. Chinnery earned well but he blew it up as fast as he got it. Of his known works in oils are Pagla Pool and the Boro Katara.

Arthur Lloyd Clay was another artist who flourished in those times. William Alexander De Fabeck's paintings of 1863 are preserved in the Victoria and Albert Museum. De Fabeck studied in Paris. He joined Bengal Service as an assistant surgeon. A painting of Neemtola Gate is an important record of the structure. John Scott Phillips did 46



pieces for the school. Much of the work is now missing. Charles' father, Edward Pote, lived in Patna, Bihar. Charles studied in Kolkata and later worked in London.

Colonial art was a subject of three London weeklies which carried the news of the Empire and its colonies. The Illustrated Times carried Lalbagh Fort, Nawab Bari, and Meghna outskirts.

The original works by Europeans are not in the country any more. People have little opportunity to enjoy the depiction of Dhaka's rich ancestry.

Lalbagh Fort by Charles D'Oyly (1816) Antiquities of

Buriganga" and a "Ruined mosque" by D'Oyly are magnificent. Both are from the Victoria and Albert Museum. The leaves of the trees and the minaret's of the mosques are done in minute details. The roofs of the houses are architecturally accurate in lines and forms. The lemon and earthy colours of the foliage are bewitching. The "Great Kuttra" and the "Small Kuttra" by the same painter are fascinating too for their accuracy.

Hunting scene with elephants and horse by Arthur Lloyd Clay and his Dhaka Jail Inspection, 1896, are indeed moving in the accuracy of the details.



Participants in a short story writing workshop pose for a photograph with noted writer-editor Moinul Ahsan Saber, facilitator of the workshop. Organised by Fazlul Huq Institute of Media Studies (FIMS), the workshop ran from August 15-17, where a group of young writers learned and discussed the various facets of short stories. The certificate-giving ceremony saw a turnout of notable personalities such as eminent writer-playwright Syed Shamsul Haq, Bangla Academy DG Shamsuzzaman Khan, actor-director Afsana Sultana, FIMS managing director Shahidul Alam Sachchu and chief executive Farzana Brownia.



STAR MELODIES' MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO NAZRUL ON AUGUST 24

STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To celebrate National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam ahead of his 38th death anniversary, Star Melodies is organising a special musical evening on August 24. The programme will feature a selection of the first recorded songs of Kazi Nazrul Islam by noted artists of his time -- including Nazrul himself, performed by reputed Nazrul artistes of our times.

The event, to be held at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, will have performances by Sumon Chowdhury, Dalia Nausheen, Fatema Tuz Zohora, Khairul Anam Shakil, Nashid Kamal and Sujit Mustafa, while eminent cultural personality Kamal Lohani will speak at the event. Noted Nazrul exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick will comper the programme.

Anyone interested to join the programme can contact the Administration Department of The Daily Star on 9144330 (Hunting) or 8124944 between 11am-5pm to enroll their names, on basis the of accommodation availability, as seats are limited.

The event is being held in association with Eastern Bank Limited.

Theatre for social awareness



PHOTO: STAR

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Lokhhmikunda union parishad in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna organised a street theatre festival, to promote awareness on the burning social issues of our time. The festival, funded by USAID, was held at the union parishad premises on Saturday morning and focused on child trafficking, early marriage, drug abuse, payment of taxes, importance of ward meetings and an open budget.

A discussion and cultural programme were also held. Chairman of Lokhhikunda union Parishad Anisul Haque Mollah inaugurated the special event for awarding people of the union while the programme was addressed among others by Debashis Majumder, Abu Zafar Siddik Milon both officials of RDRS, a local NGO.

While focusing on social issues, the performers called upon the public to do their bit for society so that the nation could forge ahead.

The actors at the street theatre festival were villagers and union parishad members.

"Often the people of the union do not have social commitment because of lack of awareness of key issues confronting society. The programme was initiated to correct this anomaly," said Anisul Haque Mollah, the UP chairman, adding that such programmes should be organised in all rural areas.

Sharmin Shathi to perform today at Arts Precinct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sharmin Shathi Islam will perform in a solo Nazrul Sangeet soiree at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct on August 20 at 6 pm. The artiste will perform songs composed by Kazi Nazrul Islam and other Bengali modern poets. Bengal Foundation has organised the programme.

An exponent of Nazrul Sangeet in Bangladesh, Sharmin Shathi Islam commenced her musical training under Aloka Das at a young age and subsequently enrolled at the Chhayanaut Sangeet Bidyayatan for a five-year course that concluded in 1998. At present she is a trainer at Chhayanaut.

She has also been a member of the Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parisad since 2007. Sharmin is a regular performer on television in India and Bangladesh, and has released three albums of Nazrul Sangeet -- "Khunji Tarey Ami Aponaye", "Sandhya Godhuli" and "Shokal Belar Sur".

