

WHAT'S ON

Film Show
Ritwik Ghatak Retrospective
Organiser: Chalachitram and BNM
Venue: National Museum
Date: Feb 13-16; Time: 4:30pm/6pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Censored Image
Artist: Wajidur Rahman
Venue: Kalakendra
Date: Feb 3-23
Time: 12-8pm




Solo Watercolour Exhibition
Title: Koto Ojanare
Artist: Saeeda Kamal
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 6-18; Time: 9am-8pm



Duet Art Exhibition
Title: Fragments of the Anthropocene
Artists: Zihan Karim & Shimul Saha
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan-1
Date: Jan 30- Feb 27; Time: 12-8pm



Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2016
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises & Suhrawardi Udyan
Date: February 1-29
Time: 3-8pm & 11am-8pm (Fri & Sat)



SAEEDA KAMAL'S solo exhibit at EMK Centre

“Nature has so many moods,” says Saeeda Kamal. The artist's ninth solo watercolour exhibit is now on at EMK Centre, Dhanmondi. “Nature has always drawn me. It is a part of our heritage,” she says. One of her paintings “Seagulls Worthing” depicts winter birds. The birds' wings have black tips as they seem to merge with the sky and the ground and water below. In another work titled “Silence”, is a range of bluish and greenish mountains, which appear to merge with the pale sky above. “My paintings are realistic renderings of nature. There are boats plying, rivers, waterfalls, tiny islands viewed from the shore. These are immense gifts of nature. Even in the darkest moment when nature vents its fury we reaffirm our commitment to the planet. Regardless of its moods, nature unleashes storms and earthquakes, and restores a balance,” says Saeeda. “If nature is a part of our heritage do we have a



Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya performs at the concert.

DSCC HOLDS 'Pranshokha Dhaka'

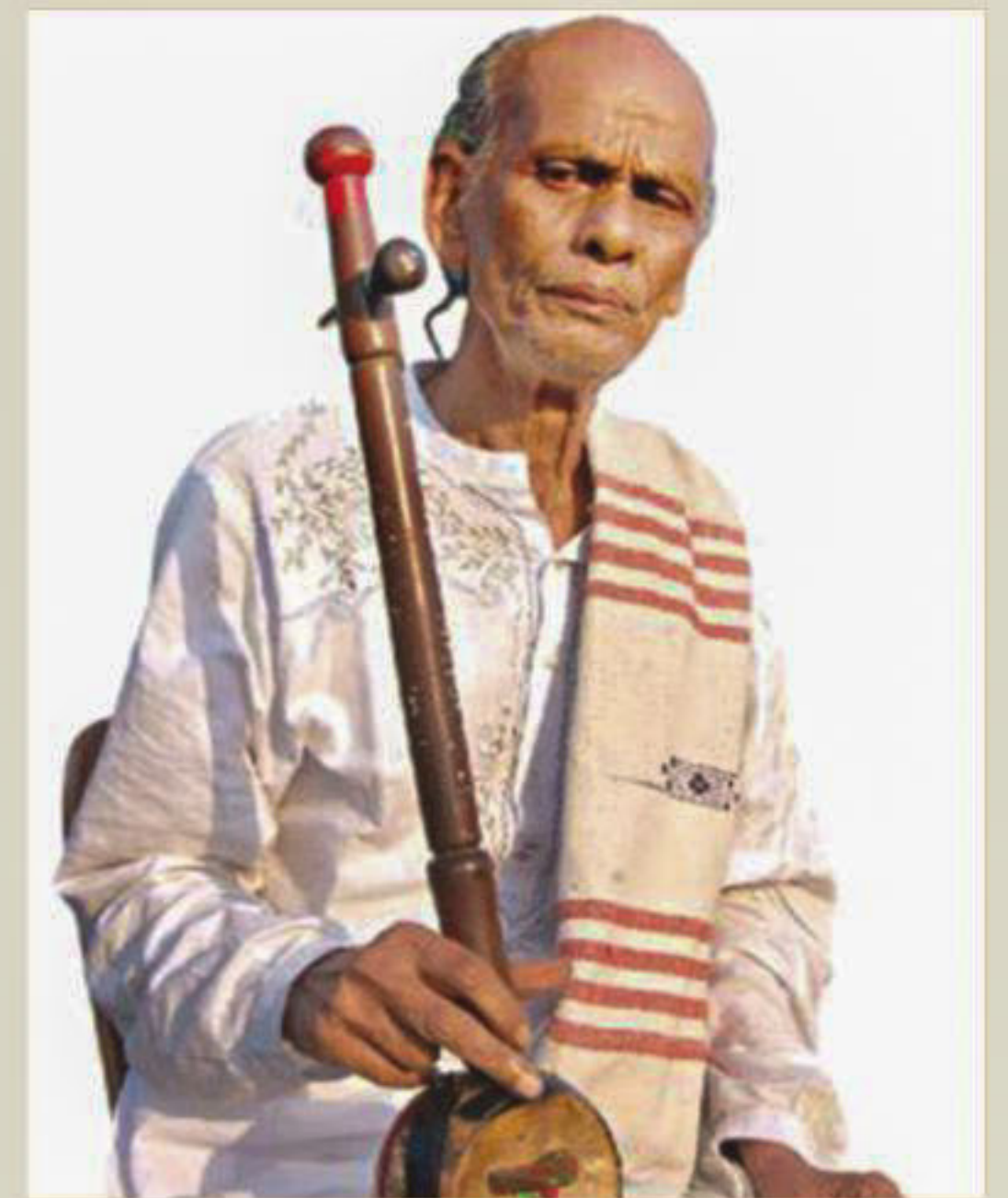
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
In a remarkable initiative, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) arranged a daylong open concert at Shahbagh intersection in the capital on Valentine's Day. The programme, “Pranshokha Dhaka”, is an initiative of DSCC that aims at encouraging dwellers to love their city and keep it clean. DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon inaugurated the programme in the morning along with other distinguished guests. The mayor observed that their initiative could position Dhaka as one of the world's beautiful cities. The programme began with celebrated Tagore artiste Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya's performance. Later, young singer Momo came on stage to present love songs which was followed by a dance number by Tushar and his troupe. The main attraction of the event was a performance by James and his band Nagar Baul. In addition, other popular bands including Shironamhin and Joler Gaan swayed the audience with their power-packed performance. At the event eminent cultural personalities, singers, actors, artists and writers shared their stories to inspire the youth. In addition to the concert, an exhibition features photographs of Dhaka. Channel i Tritio Matra, Gramephone, and Orion Group were sponsors of the event.



reason to despair it?” adds the artist. There is a representation of old Dhaka. There is a boat, with two people carefully balancing it. There is a part of an old green fence covered with green, giving a tranquil effect. There are tubs of flowers with palm trees at the back, and so the list of paintings appears endless. The show was inaugurated on February 6, and will continue till February 18.

Baul Samrat Festival begins today in Sylhet Birth centenary of Shah Abdul Karim

Sylhet will celebrate the birth centenary of one of their most prolific sons, Baul Shah Abdul Karim, through a host of programmes beginning today. A festival, organised by Shah Abdul Karim Birth Centenary Udjapon Parshad and assisted by The Daily Prothom Alo, will open today at Poet Nazrul Islam Academy in the city. Convener of the organising body, poet Subhendu Imam told the Daily Star that former Assam University VC Topodhir Bhattacharjee will formally inaugurate the festival. The Daily Prothom Alo editor Matiur Rahman, poet Sajjad Sharif, Signer Mousumi Bhoomik and Shah Abdul Karim's son



Nur Jalal will attend as speakers, he added.

On the other hand, another state-level three-day festival, titled 'Shah Abdul Karim Birth Centenary Festival' will begin in Sylhet city on February 17. Sylhet festival committee will organise the event at the District Stadium as part of the pogrammes. In a preparatory meeting held recently, committee convener Dr. Abdul Fateh Fattah announced that Finance Minister and chief adviser of the national committee AMA Muhith will formally inaugurate the festival. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor and former caretaker government adviser Sultana Kamal will be present as special guests. Moderator of the meeting Aminul Islam Chowdhury informed that famous folk band from Kolkata, Dohar, and other folk singers will join their Bangladeshi counterparts to perform on the occasion. The birth centenary celebrations of the folk music maestro will formally be inaugurated in Dhaka at 6pm tomorrow (February 16), at the Nandan Mancha of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Plans are underway to simultaneously organise it in India's Bardhaman, Shilchar, Kolkata and Karimganj. Baul Shah Abdul Karim, born on February 15, 1916 at the remote village Ujan Dhol of Derai upazila, was raised in the bhati regions of Sunamganj, Sylhet. He never received academic education, but the lessons he learned and taught from deep within his soul, are not the kind you find in school books. Growing up in an impoverished family could not hinder his search for the meaning of life -- in many ways, as Abdul Karim drew inspiration from nature and his surroundings to musically express himself from an early age. Under the tutelage of baul Shah Ibrahim Mastan Baksh, he absorbed the philosophies preached for centuries by spiritual bards, and delved deeper into them. He went on to write and compose over 1,500 songs. His magical songs have had a spellbinding effect on the mass for decades. Shah Abdul Karim found inspiration in the philosophy of mystics Lalon Shah, Panju Shah and Duddu Shah. The 'Baul Samrat' died on September 12 in 2009 at a private hospital in Sylhet.



People turned out in colourful attire took to the streets and adjacent areas of Dhaka University Campus, Rabindra Sarobar and Bahadur Shah Park of the capital to hail Spring. Artists rendered songs, performed dances, exchanged greetings and decked the city in a feast of colours.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Bangladeshi artistes perform in Singapore on Pahela Falgun

On the occasion of Pahela Falgun, Singapore Bangladesh Society (SBS) arranged a cultural programme for Bangladesh expatriates. The event, “Asian Group Annual Cultural Night Singapore”, was held on February 13 at Singapore Polytechnic Convention Centre, says a press release. The programme began with an eye-catching performance by Saira Ahmed and her dance troupe Bhongima. Later, the audience was swayed by the powerful performances of popular band LRB, noted folk singer Shafi Mondal, actress Badhon, singer Sajal, and model Naila Nayeem. Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed



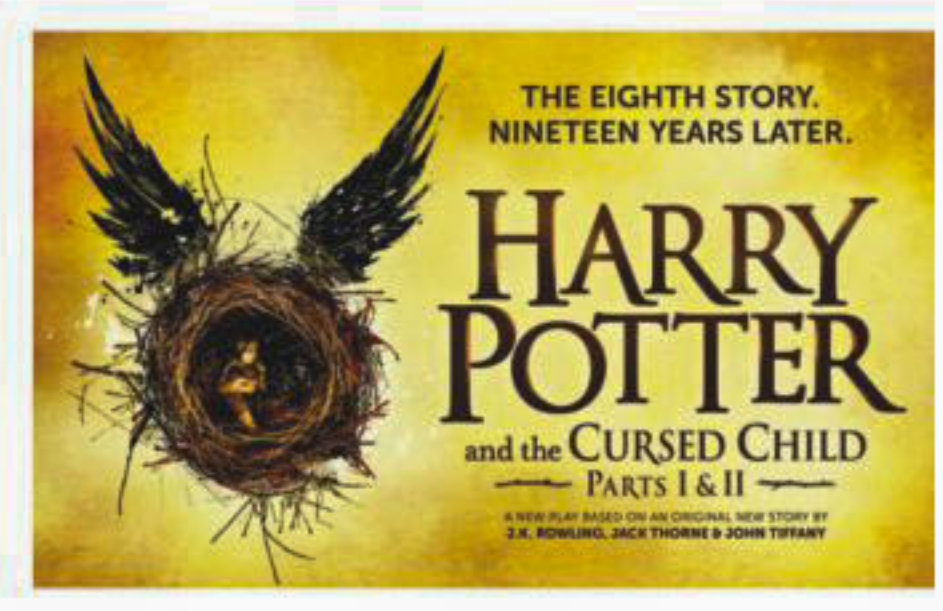
Shafi Mondal sings at the event.

Khan Menon was present at the cultural event as chief guest, while secretary of the ministry Khorshed Alam Chowdhury, and Bangladesh High Commissioner in Singapore, Mahub Uz Zaman were special guests. SBS president Mohammad Sahiduzzaman presided over the programme. Rashed Khan Menon thanked Non Resident Bangladeshis saying, “NRBs are greatly supporting us towards development of the country. We have large reserves of foreign currency which has been possible because of their contributions. I am very proud to be here at this programme.” The event was sponsored by Radhuni, Regent Airways and Prothom Alo.

“HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD” tops bestseller chart

The script for the forthcoming Harry Potter play has leapt to the top of bestseller lists, a day after its July release was announced. A hardback edition of “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” - Parts I and II will be released on July 31, the day after the play has debuted on stage in London. Following Wednesday's news, pre-orders have propelled it to number one on the Amazon and Waterstones book charts. The play sees Harry as a father and an overworked Ministry of Magic employee. The script is from an original new story by JK Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany. “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” will tell the ‘untold part’ of the boy wizard's story, including the story of the lives of his murdered parents, Rowling has said. In a statement, Waterstones said it expected pre-orders to break all records and were already exceeding those for

Harper Lee's “Go Set a Watchman” over the comparable period. Last year, “Go Set a Watchman” was the first title whose pre-orders reached the heights of those for “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” in 2007.



The special rehearsal edition of the script book will comprise the version of the play early in the production's preview period and is therefore subject to being changed before the official opening. The edition will, therefore, only be available

for a limited time, said the publisher, “to be replaced by the definitive collector's edition at a later date.” “The play, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child”, has already proved to be a success with an initial round of 175,000 tickets sold in October within 24 hours of booking opening. Producers released a second batch, available to fans who had registered for priority booking. A third set is still to go on sale but the date is yet to be announced. Previews of “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” begin in May at London's Palace Theatre, with both plays set to open on July 30. Jamie Parker will star as an adult Harry in the production. Noma Dumezweni, known for her 2006 Olivier Award-winning role in “A Raisin in the Sun”, will play Hermione Granger. “London Road” star Paul Thornley will play Ron Weasley. Source: BBC