

<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Photography Exhibition Marking 91st Birth Anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmad Venue: Gallery Twenty One, 751, Satmasjid Rd, Dhanmondi Date: Jul 23-Aug 22, Time: 12noon-8pm</p> 	<p>Open Studio Marking Aminul Islam Young Artist Award 2015 Venue: Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Bidyapeeth, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanmondi Date: Jul 23-Aug 12, Time: 11am-7pm</p> 	<p>Solo Painting Exhibition Title: "Water Journey" by Artist Karu Titus Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi Date: Jul 29- Aug 12 Time: 12noon-8pm</p> 	<p>Solo Painting Exhibition Artist: Proshanto Karmakar Venue: Bay's Gallery, Radius Centre, 57, Gulshan-1 Date: Jul 30-Aug 30 Time: 12am-8pm</p> 	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: "Shilper Aloye Bangabandhu" Venue: Gallery 3, National Art Gallery Plaza, BSA Date: August 1-31 Time: 11am-8pm</p> 
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PHOTO: STAR

ALEXANDER CASTLE

Rich in Tagore's memories but poor on preservation

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Alexander Castle, a two-storied tinshed house with a banyan tree, now known as Rabindra Botomol, is replete with memories of Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. However, despite its rich history, not many of the present generation are aware of the castle's glorious past. And not much has been done to create awareness either. No programmes were held at the Botomol to mark the 75th death anniversary of the bard. Maharaja Suryakanta Acharya Chowdhury constructed the castle, popularly known as "Luhar Kuthir" or "Rang Mohol" on 27.50 acres of land at a cost of Tk 45,000 in 1879 in Mymensingh town. Many great personalities including Russian Grand Duke Boris, Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose and others

stayed at the castle, sources said. After partition in 1947, the house has been used as the library of Teachers Training College for men and teachers' dormitory. The two-storied house has 14 rooms on the ground and first floors. Seven rooms on the first floor of the house were used as the dormitories for around 60 years. Now the floor has been abandoned as it is in a precarious condition, college sources said. While visiting the campus on August 6, this correspondent talked to students and their guardians about the castle but most of them had little knowledge about how closely it is linked with Tagore. Tagore arrived in Mymensingh by train from Dhaka on February 15, 1926, on a four-day visit. The then Zamindars of Muktagacha arranged special programmes in the district town

to welcome the poet at the castle. People from different quarters gathered at the venues to get a glimpse of the poet. Tagore was accorded several receptions during his stay there. The poet also visited the palace of Maharaja Shashikanta Acharya Chowdhury, one of the prominent Zamindars of Muktagacha. The place, known as "Shashi Lodge" in the district town is now under the wing of the Department of Archaeology. The poet also visited the Zamindar palace of Atharabari in Ishwarganj upazila of Mymensingh on February 18. He was accorded a grand reception at Atharabari Railway Station and he gave a short but emotional speech for the gathering. Mymensingh Municipality, Mymensingh Sarswato Samity, Mymensingh Nagorik Samaj,

Vidhyamoyee Girls School, City Collegiate School and Mohila Samity also accorded receptions to the poet. When contacted, Professor Md Rezaul Karim, principal of TTC said, some five months ago, officials of Ministry of Cultural Affairs contacted the college authorities with a proposal to renovate the castle. However, there was no follow up, informed the principal. When asked why the college authority does not hold programmes marking the birth and death anniversaries of the bard, the principal explained that as a training college they find little respite time from academic pressures. Nevertheless, the principal suggested that as the site has rich historical interest, it should be preserved from ruin for the benefit of the new generation.

ADIBASHI SANSKRITIK UTSHAB

held in Kulaura

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Muroicherra punjee

A daylong cultural festival, including traditional dances of Indigenous communities of Moulvibazar, was organised at the remote Muroicherra punjee area field of Kulaura upazila, under Moulvibazar district on August 7. The competition was held to promote indigenous culture in the locality, organisers said. Human rights defenders and indigenous people's development services organised the festival. Children from different parts of the tea garden took part in the competition in groups. Hundreds of people from the tea gardens and punjee in



Artistes dance at the programme. PHOTO: STAR

the vicinity gathered at the venue, mostly in traditional attire. Saleh Elahi Kuti spoke at the discussion as chief guest and Silvester Pathang, local Union Parishad member of the area, presided the discussion. The speakers said that cultural competitions encourage children's creativity. The speakers added that the traditional culture and lifestyle of ethnic communities are endangered. Group dance performances enthralled the persons gathered in the area. After the competitions, the chief guest and other dignitaries distributed prizes to the winners.

ESHA GUPTA

Hollywood is my next plan

Actress Esha Gupta might be taking slow steps to establish a strong footing in the Hindi film industry but the 'Raaz 2' star is already eyeing Hollywood and says it is next on her wish list. The 30-year-old actress, whose looks have long been compared with Hollywood star Angelina Jolie's, says she is hoping to begin a career in the West soon. "I would really love to do a Hollywood film. I have not tried anything now. Not even given any audition or meeting but I am looking forward to it. I think that's my next plan," Esha told PTI. Heaping praise on Bollywood

stars Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone, who are gearing up for their big Hollywood debuts, Esha said the two actresses have taken India to the next level, globally. "I respect Priyanka and Deepika and where they have reached. They have taken not only themselves but India to a different level," she said. "People may not know who the Prime Minister is but they will know which country a particular star comes from. Now, people are going to say Priyanka and Deepika are from India." Esha will be next seen in Akshay Kumar-starrer 'Rustom', which hits theatres on August 12.

Source: Times of India



Dragonflies and Damselflies of Bangladesh

Photography exhibition at AFD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A photography exhibition "Dragonflies and Damselflies of Bangladesh: Inventory First Phase", organised by Jiban Bikash Karjocro (JBK), has begun at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition and book launching programme was held on August 5.

Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmed, country representative, IUCN Bangladesh; Ashit Ranjan Paul, conservator of forests, Wildlife and Nature Conservation Circle, Department of Forest and Professor Abdul Jabbar Howlader, Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Jahangirnagar University were present among others as guests on the occasion.

Dragonflies and damselflies play key roles in both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. They are the indicators of different biotypes and habitats, and have been used as tools to assess the biological health of aquatic habitats. They are also considered model organisms to assess the effects of global climate change.

Jiban Bikash Karjocrom (JBK), a non government organisation in association with Department of Forest and IUCN Bangladesh took the initiative to uphold the importance and conservation awareness of these insects.

The inventory first phase spans from November '13 to May '16 and covered 30 districts of Bangladesh. The phase is impera-



tive not only in terms of conducting baseline surveys of large geo-locations of Bangladesh but also the ability to work on areas that are considered hotspots of these species within the Chittagong and Sylhet Divisions. The study also particularly covered Lawachara National Park, Satchari National Park, Razkandi Reserve Forest, Kaptai National Park, Himchhari National Park, Bhawal National Park, Char Kukri Mukri Wildlife

Sanctuary, Madhabkunda Eco Park and National Botanical Garden at Mirpur. A total of 30,0972 images comprising 62 species under nine families have been documented during the initial phase of this study. Among them, several species are considered as new species. The exhibition is open till August 13 from 3pm to 9pm and 9am to 12 noon and 5pm to 8pm (Fridays and Saturdays).



"Magic Bauliana" 2016 set to launch

To scout for the next folk singing sensation, "Magic Bauliana 2016" is all set to launch its second season on Maasranga Television, says a press release. At a press meet on August 8, the mnemonic and the name of the judges of Magic Bauliana 2016 were announced. Malik Mohammed Sayeed, head of market-

ing of Square Toiletries Limited; Sarwar Hossain, AGM (accounts and finance) of Maasranga Television, Square Limited and judges of the contest, eminent singers Farida Parveen; Indramohan Rajbongshi and Shafi Mandal oversaw the press meet. Noted singers Kiran Chandra Roy, Chandana Mazumdar,

Anima Mukti Gomes, Devprasad De and Shahnaz Belly were present as special guests. "Magic Bauliana" is open to all Bangladesh citizens. The registration for the competition began on August 8. To register dial 08000888000 or visit the Magic Bauliana website— www.magicbauliana.com