

WHAT'S ON

Musical Soiree
Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangsad
Venue: Music & Dance Centre Auditorium, BSA
Date: May 10
Time: 6:30pm



Concert
Richard Marx Live in Dhaka
Organiser: Creinse
Venue: BICC
Date: May 16
Time: 7pm



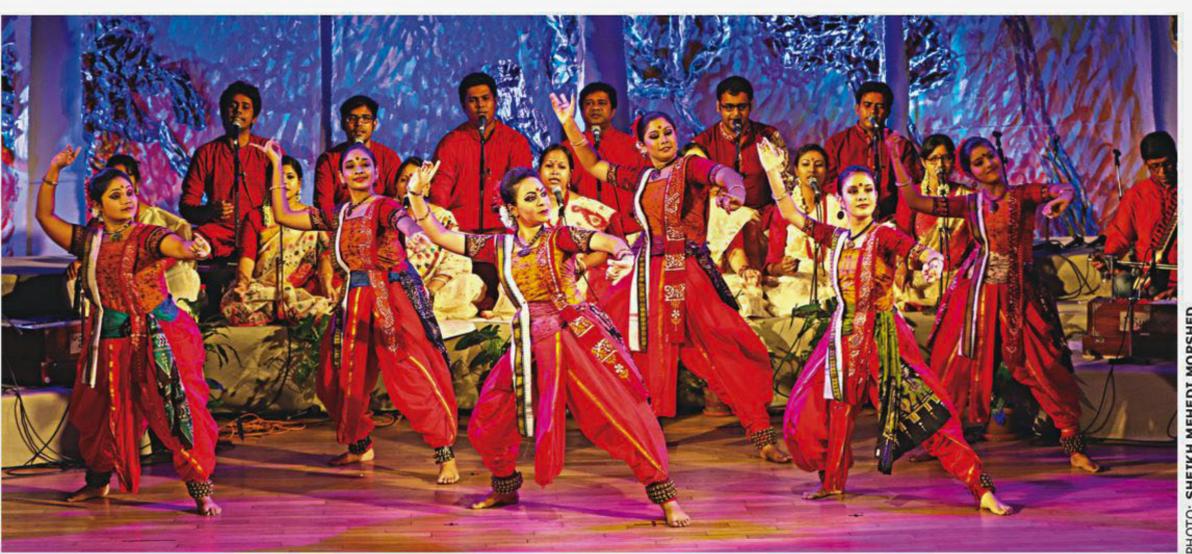
Group Art Exhibition
Title: Can the Divine Presence be Felt So Easily?
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka
Date: May 5-17; Time: 3pm-9pm



Group Art Exhibition
Marking 13th Anniversary of Galleri Kaya
Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
Date: May 5-28
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Golden Doors
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha
Venue: Radius Centre Art Gallery, 57 Gulshan Avenue-1
Date: May 6 - June 1
Time: 3-10pm

Channel i holds "Robi-Channel i Rabindra Mela"

A CORRESPONDENT

In commemoration of Rabindranath Tagore's 156th birth anniversary, Channel i organised the annual event "Robi-Channel i Rabindra Mela 2017" on May 8. Each year, the event recognises a Tagore exponent and an academic researcher with a lifetime achievement award. This year, the award - a honorary crest and a cheque of Taka 50, 000 - was conferred on eminent Tagore singer Mita Haque and Professor Sanat Kumar Saha.

The award was handed to Mita Haque by managing director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagor, veteran journalist Kamal Lohani, theatre personalities Ataur Rahman and Mamunur Rashid, singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, CEO Supun Weerasinghe, managing director Mahatab Uddin Ahmed and project director of Robi Shihab Ahmed, CEO of NRB, and its man-

aging director MA Chowdhury. Sanat Kumar Saha was unable to attend. The award will be handed over to him later on.

Upon receiving the honour, Mita Haque stated, "There are no words to describe how I feel right now, but I would like to send a message among present and future generations to never stop practising Tagore songs, and to preserve his legacy."

The event also witnessed the launching of eminent Tagore exponent Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya's music CD titled "Barsha'r Gaan", as well as the release of two more CDs by London-based singer Imtiyaz Ahmed and Tagore artist Bidisha Dewanji, who lives in USA. "What touched me the most about today's event is to witness the love for Tagore of those who live abroad. To witness the CD launching of artistes residing outside Bangladesh has given me more pleasure than my own achievements," said Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya.



Mita Haque (4-R) receives award from Faridur Reza Sagor.

HOMAGE TO THE GREAT BARD

Chhayanaut's two-day Rabindra Utshab concludes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In celebration of Rabindranath Tagore's 156th birth anniversary, Chhayanaut organised a two-day Rabindra Utshab on May 8-9 at its main auditorium. The event saw performance of songs, dances, and poetry recitations.

The opening day's event started off with a choral rendition of the song "Bhubonjora Ashonkhani", followed by a welcome address, delivered by Vice President of

Chhayanaut Dr. Sarwar Ali. Abul Hasnat graced the stage after to deliver a speech. Chhayanaut artistes presented special geeti-nritya-naksha (musicals) set on the songs -- "Ogo Poth-er Sathi" and "Uriye Dhwoja Abhrobbedi Roth-e". Young artistes of the organisation rendered two choral songs -- "Amader Khepiye Beraye" and "Bujhechi Ki Bujhi Nai Ba" while singers of "Proteeti" presented -- "Tumi Jagichho Ke" and "Ami Tarei Jani, Tarei Jani".

The opening day's proceedings also included performances of several solos by

Saikat Mukherjee, Mostafizur Rahman Turja, Iffat Ara Dewan, Abdul Wadud and Partha Pratim Roy.

Several noted artistes like Md. Sifayet Ullah, Tania Mannan, Aniruddha Sengupta, Kanchan Mostafa, Aditi Mohsin and Fahmida Khatun performed solos at the programme.

Two young singers -- Sheikh Rahat Ayon, from Khulna, and Shipra Talukdar from Comilla also rendered solos at the festival. Shamima Nazreen read out excerpts from "Raajpoth-er Galpo" while Jayanta Roy recited "Paye Cholar Poth" at the event.



"Can the Divine Presence be Felt So Easily?"

Group art exhibition at AFD

A CORRESPONDENT

A group painting exhibition titled "Can the Divine Presence be Felt So Easily?" is on at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD). The exhibition was inaugurated on May 5.

Architect and critic Mustapha Khalid Palash and Dr Rashid Amin, Associate Professor, Department of Fine Arts, Jagannath University attended the opening ceremony as special guests. Bruno Plasse, director, AFD presided over the opening ceremony.

The group art exhibition featuring artists Al-Akhir Sarker, Farzana Haque and Shah Syed Khwaja Mukaddas Shadi Ahmed puts forward the titular question.

Akhir looks deep at the inner world and tries to find his own place in the wider land of imagination through his specific

theme of paintings. In his concept, Akhir has a clear view in depicting beauty, taking inspiration in a combination of Bengali people's traditions, feelings, customs, religious behavior and thoughts.

Farzana Haque deals with the theme of feminism. Her paintings stem from a philosophy of 'beauty'. Women's empowerment is central to her work. The artist personifies woman as an embodiment of faith, love, determination, commitment and sacrifice.

Shadi Ahmed Mukaddas's artworks are greatly influenced by Sufism tradition and Islamic calligraphy. The techniques and mediums in his work are versatile and rich.

The exhibition is open daily from 3pm to 9pm on weekdays and 9am-12 noon and 5pm to 8pm on weekends till May 17. It is closed on Sunday.

OPEN HOUSE

celebrated at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC

Enthusiastic foreigners and local residents, in thousands, visited Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on Saturday (May 6) in celebration of the "Passport DC's Open House" programmes, an annual festival that commemorates the International Cultural Awareness Month.



The US Department of State proclaimed the event as International Cultural Awareness Month in May, says a press release. This was the 10th anniversary of Passport DC that celebrated the DC's thriving international community and its lively and varied culture with scores of international events and activities.

Visitors from all over the USA and other countries joined the Open House programmes at embassies organised in collaboration with Cultural Tourism DC, a Washington- based non-profit organisation.

The programmes were aimed at showcasing cultural diversity through holding of such events in liaison with the foreign embassies.

As many as 42 embassies from Asia, Africa, Oceania, the Middle East, and the Americas participated in the programmes with artists and artisans, performers, lecturers, teachers,

and others provide a range of educational and cultural programming.

Throughout the day participants, braving drizzle experienced food, art, dance, fashion and music of different countries.

Bangladesh Embassy, in celebration of the day for the 10th consecutive year, organised a cultural show and other activities presenting Bangladesh's rich culture and heritage at the Bangabandhu auditorium.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA

Mohammad Ziauddin and officials of the embassy welcomed the guests.

The Open House programmes included a display of Bangladesh's handicrafts, tourism destinations, historical places and cultural programme.

The embassy took the opportunity of showing Bangladeshi culture and heritage, its history of independence, contribution to the UN peacekeeping missions and current developments in potential sectors.

Tagore birth anniversary celebrated in Bogra



Artistes perform at the event.

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Amra K'jan Shilpi Goshthi, a cultural organisation of Bogra, arranged a programme titled "Robir Alo" at its temporary office at Pouro High School.

Noted poet and literary personality of Bogra district Professor Shahidullah inaugurated the cultural programme.

President of the organisation Abdu Salam Polash presided over the programme. The event began with the song "Hey Nuton Dekha Dik Arbar" and ended with the song "Borisho Dhora Majhe Shantir Bari" with its call for world peace.

The speakers were Professor Hasina Akhtar, Profssor Anamika Paul, Lion Abdul Mobin, Rayhanul Islam and others.

"Dev Bhoomi" causes stir

Bari Film Festival in Italy

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

"Dev Bhoomi" (Land of the Gods), a feature film by noted Serbian director Goran Paskaljevic and starring Indian actor Victor Banerjee in lead role in a story portraying gender inequality and cast divides, has been adjudged the best film in the International Panorama competition at the Bari Film Festival in Italy.

Set in a village in the Garhwal Himalayas, the film revolves around Rahul Negi (played by Victor) who returns from exile in England to his village after four decades, which sets off commotion among the villagers who have never forgiven him for his "sins" in the past.

Beside Victor who has also co-authored the script of the film with the director, there is a strong India connect to the cast of the "Land of the Gods" with Geetanjali Thapa and Uttara Baokar in it.

The award citation of the film, which has dialogues in Hindi, Garhwali and English and is entirely shot in the Himalayan state of



Uttarakhand, commends the director for a high quality cinematic tale." The Bari International Film Festival was held from April 22-29.

In its review of the film, the Hollywood Reporter praises Victor as "convincing here as an English-bred sophisticate whose percep-

tion of the sacred is probably no longer that of his compatriots."

A director of 16 feature films, Paskaljevic's "The Powder Keg" (1998) is his most acclaimed movie winning a number of awards including the International Critics Prize at the Venice Film Festival.