



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Art weekend held at three embassies

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Ambassadors of Denmark, Germany and Norway, hosted Art Weekend 2017 on July 21-22 at their respective residences.

The weekend largely highlighted and exhibited the works of Bangladeshi artists. The aim was to build bridges between the Bangladeshi art scene and the international community. The event provided an opportunity for promising talents to exhibit their works for a select audience.

Danish Ambassador Mikael Hemniti Winther exhibited artworks by -- Lumbiny Dewan, Nomosta Rema and Sudhip Chakma -- indigenous artists from Chittagong Hill Tracts. Maria Sultana Mumu, designer and founder of the Maria Mumu Fashion House, displayed her design works inspired by the spirit of the Bangladeshi youth, weaving Persian, European and Bangladeshi motifs on Muslin. Tenzing Chakma also showcased his

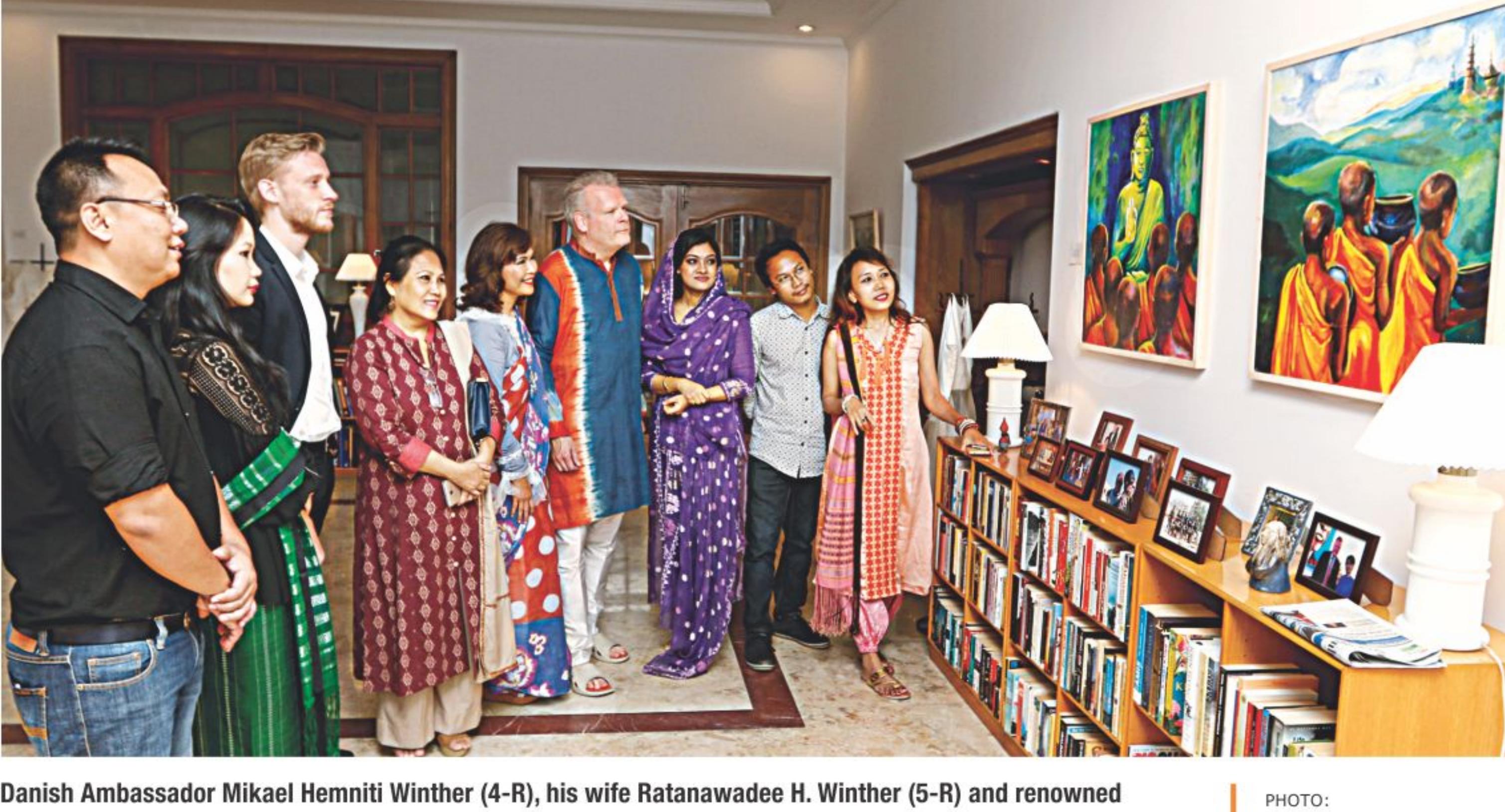
beautiful works inspired by indigenous motifs and designs at the residence.

Shamim Sharif Sosom is a young aviator and photographer whose works were exhibited at the German ambassador's residence. The Norwegian ambassador's residence showcased works by 13 artists of the Fine Arts Institute, Khulna University. They displayed drawings, paintings and sculptures inspired by renowned Norwegian author and freedom of speech advocate Henrik Ibsen.

Assuring more such art weekends in the coming years, Danish Ambassador Mikael Hemniti Winther, a passionate musician, said, "I hope that through this initiative, the friendship between Bangladesh and Denmark will reach new heights as both countries have many common interests. Culture, art and music are all about connecting people. In Bangladesh we always talk about the various challenges hindering development, but sometimes we need to remember the beauty tal-

ented Bangladeshi artists can generate. Denmark has been engaged in CHT for many years for women's development, human rights and reducing poverty, and so we have showcased their artists' works as well. CHT is a special place and the indigenous people need to raise their own voices not only at the backdrop of landslide, flooding and land grabbing but also through the art and the beauty they have."

"The watercolours by Sudhip Chakma and Nomosta Rema, a Garo artist, are beautiful. They have depicted pure nature as well as its affects by urbanisation. The theme of Lumbiny Dewan's work (images of Buddha) is nice though her drawings are not mature enough. The indigenous artists tend to engage in their own arena. They have to come out of their cocoon and participate in workshops, outdoor works, competitions and exhibitions with the mainstream art scene," said renowned artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma.



Danish Ambassador Mikael Hemniti Winther (4-R), his wife Ratanawadee H. Winther (5-R) and renowned artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma (6-R) with participating artists and visitors at the exhibit.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya

to receive Feroza Begum Commemorative Gold Medal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent Rabindra Sangeet artiste and chairperson of the Department of Dance at University of Dhaka (DU) Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, who has earned international fame and acclaim through her rendition of Tagore songs for decades, is all set to receive the "Feroza Begum Memorial Gold Medal-2017".

To pay tribute to the legendary singer Feroza Begum, Dhaka University launched a musical award last year named after her. Celebrated singer Sabina Yasmin received the maiden "Feroza Begum Commemorative Gold Medal and award". On behalf of Dhaka University's Department of Music, Vice Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique will give away the award.

Marking the 91st birthday (July 28) of Feroza Begum, the award giving ceremony will be held at 3 pm on July 27 at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique will grace the occasion as chief guest while Dr. Abu Md. Delwar Hosain, dean, Faculty of Arts, DU will be present as special guest. Feroza Begum Commemorative Gold Medal Trust fund sponsor and chairperson of ACI Foundation M. Anis Udd Dowla will deliver welcome address.

Dr. Mohsina Akhtar Khanam, chairperson of Music Department, DU will deliver vote of thanks while Professor Dr. Md. Kamal Uddin, Treasurer, DU, will preside over the programme. A cultural programme will follow.



Star Melodies' Homage to Sudhin Das and Karunamaya Goswami today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To pay homage to two eminent music exponents - Sudhin Das and Karunamaya Goswami, Star Melodies will hold commemorative programme at AS Mahmud Hall of The Daily Star Centre at 4pm today.

Professor Emeritus Rafiqul Islam will elaborate on the contributions of Sudhin Das and Karunamaya Goswami at the event. Apart from that, renowned cultural personalities and singers will share their fond memories of the recently deceased exponent duo.

Several promising singers will pay their musical homage. The programme is open to all, but seats are limited and allotted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

National Art Exhibition 2017 opens tomorrow at BSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 22nd National Art Exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA), opens tomorrow at the National Art Gallery of the academy. This year's exhibition will display 384 artworks (265 paintings, 63 sculptures, 47 installations including nine videos and nine new media works) by 332 artists.

A press conference was held yesterday in this regard at BSA where BSA director general and director of Fine Arts Department of the academy were present. They elaborated on this year's arrangement.

To find the 10 award winners, a five-member jury committee consisting of artists--Syed Abul Barq Alvi, Monsur ul Karim, Jamal Ahmed, Kanak Chanpa Chakma and art critic Moinuddin Khaled was formed. Members of artwork selection committee were artists--Taran Ghosh, Ranjit Das, Nasreen Begum, Mustafa Zaman Mithu and Rafi Haque.

To inspire artists in their practice, BSA gives away 10 awards to deserving artists. The awards include the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy Best Award in all types of media; honourable mention awards in four media;

Bengal Foundation Award; AB Bank Award; Bhasha Shainik Gaziul Haque Award; Begum Azizunnesa Award and Dipa Hoq Award.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest at 4pm on July 26. He will also hand over awards to the award-winning artists. Cultural affairs min-

ister Asaduzzaman Noor; secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Md Ibrahim Hossain Khan and renowned artist Syed Jahangir will attend the inaugural programme as special guests. Liaquat Ali Lucky, DG, BSA, will preside over the programme while director of Fine Art Department BSA Md Muniruzzaman will deliver welcome address at the event.

The objective of this exhibition is to bring together artists belonging to different age groups, working in different media and techniques. The event has also become a platform, encouraging exchange of ideas between artists, critics and art enthusiasts.



Apurbo in "Uronchondi"



A CORRESPONDENT

Last Eid, telefilm "Bhai er choritro phuler moto pobitro", directed by Sheikh Selim, gained much popularity. This Eid as well, Sheikh Selim has directed many plays that will delight viewers. Among them is "Uronchondi", starring Apurbo, Sujana, Abdullah Rana, Shampa Nizam, and others. The play was written by Farhad Limon, and was produced by Rashed Alam.

Apurbo plays a nature loving vagabond poet. His serenity is disturbed when he meets a young woman named Tuli. A girl from an affluent family, Tuli puts up strong opposition to familial pressure to get married. She tells a friend she will marry her friend's brother, but just for a year. When the poet meets Tuli, he forgets about nature and falls in love with her.

To find out what happens next, keep your eyes out for "Uronchondi", this Eid.



A CORRESPONDENT

The 42nd session of Khamkhali Shobha took place in the capital's Biswa Sahitya Kendra recently. Chaired by Mahmud Hashim, the event was titled "Chitroshilpi Rabindranath: Rong-Rekhar Maya-e".

Member of the group Moyeen Uddin Shikdar presented a paper on the same title at the discussion, coming in on Rabindranath Tagore's work as a painter.

Also present at the intellectual gathering was eminent Tagore researcher and Khamkhali Shobha's chief advisor, Ahmed Rafique. In his address, he mentioned how the bard's works were subject to criticism during his lifetime, which has remained a constant to this day. He also added that like Tagore's literary

Tagore's artistic self Khamkhali Shobha holds 42nd session

works, his paintings remain timeless. Consequently, intensive discussions and practice are imperative to protect Tagore's invaluable contributions to the art world. Other members who graced the occasion were Dr. Mahua Mukhopadhyay, Secretary Shafi Ahmed and artist Abdul Mannan.

A cultural event was also held as part of the discussion, with the performances focusing on songs of the 'Thakurbari' (Tagore's family home). Two teachers of Chhayanaut, Sukanta Chakrabarty and Shejuti Barua, along with West Bengal-based singer Abhijit Majumdar rendered songs composed by the various members of the Tagore family.

The programme was dedicated to eminent researcher and musicologist, the late Dr. Karunamaya Goswami.