

7th Oriental Painting
Exhibition
Organiser: OPSG
Venue: Zainul Gallery-1, FFA, DU
Date: Oct 9-14
Time: 11am-8pm



Duet Art Exhibition
Title: Diversity in Duality 2
Artists: Abdus Shakoor Shah & Ranjita Das
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dharmundi
Date: Oct 13-27, Time: 3-8pm



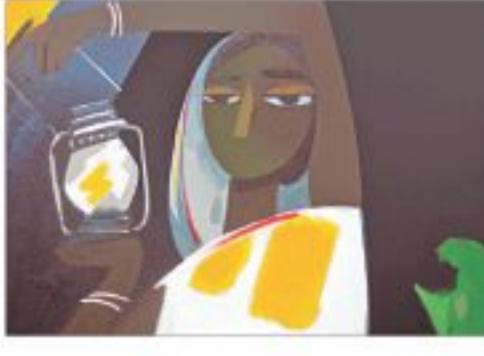
Solo Tapestry Exhibition
Artist: Tajul Islam
Venue: Gallery Cosmos
Date: October 7-13;
Time: 11am-8pm



Ganga-Jamuna Theatre & Cultural Fest
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Oct 6-15
Time: 7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Mrittika Maya by Samar Majumder
Venue: La Gallery, AFD
Date: Oct 13-26
Time: 3-9pm



Tanvir Mokammel (2-L) along with guests at the inaugural ceremony.

Bangladesh Film Festival in Bishkek

A three day Bangladesh Film Festival, the first of its kind, was inaugurated in Kyrgyz capital Bishkek on October 10, in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Kyrgyz Republic.

Deputy Minister for Culture of Kyrgyz Republic, Bekteneiev Muktaib Abdybekovich and DG, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ulan Djusupov were present at the inaugural occasion. Besides Foreign Mission representatives, other attendees at the inaugural show of the Festival included leading members of the Kyrgyz Cinema Union, Kyrgyz filmmakers, producers plus cultural activists. Bangladeshi Ambassador to Kyrgyz Republic Mosud Mannan (ndc) delivered the inaugural speech. Kyrgyz government representatives also made formal speeches and thanked Bangladesh for holding the Festival in Bishkek, says a press release.

On the first evening, Zahir Raihan's "Stop Genocide" and Tanvir Mokammel's "Chitra Nadir Pare" were screened. Director Tanvir Mokammel graced the occasion and also addressed the gathering.

This event was held at the historic cinema hall named after famous Kyrgyz author Chingiz Aytmatov.

On the second and third day of the Festival, "Matir Moyna" by Tareque Masud and "Jibon Dhuli" by Tanvir Mokammel were screened.

IN REMEMBRANCE

HAPPY AKHAND'S romance with music

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Shortly after Bangladesh's War of Liberation in 1971, Azam Khan -- a pop legend in the making -- along with his band Uchharon and the Akhand Brothers (Lucky and Happy) created hype in the music industry with their magnetic songs. Happy Akhand's "Abar Elo Je Shondha" remains a milestone in Bangla music. His untimely demise at the age of 27 (on December 28, 1987) was a big blow to all musicians who were inspired and influenced by the passion of a pioneering figure in Bangla pop music. If he was alive, Happy Akhand would turn 57 today (October 12).

Happy Akhand's contributions to folk, band and overall Bangla music are immense. Ignoring his own career, he worked for others, including noted folk singer Firoz Shah.

"Happy directed music for many timeless songs, including

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'Emon Ekta Maa De Na' (recorded by Ferdous Wahid) and 'Torey Putuler Moto Korey Sajye' (recorded by Kumar Bishwajit). Happy supported Ayub Bachchhu, James and Miles with his guitar, keyboard and practical lessons," said Happy's elder brother Lucky Akhand in a 2011 interview with The Daily Star.

In spite of his all-too-brief life,



Happy brought joy to other singers and musicians with his prodigious musical talent. He could not record many songs, but is remembered till date for songs like "Khola Akasher Moto Tomakey Hridoy Diyechhi", "Swadhinata Tomakey Niye Gaan Tho Likhechhi", "Ke Banshi Bajaye Rey", "Tumi Amar Prothom Premer Gaan", "Polatok Shomoyer Haat Dhorey", "Tumi Ki Dekhchho Pahari Jhorna", "Neel Neel Shari Porey", "Ei Prithibir Bukey Aashey Jara Nei Ki Tader Kono Asha" recorded by Happy.

"Happy could not leave behind an illustrious body of his own singing... or we could say it was the result of negligence towards him. My heart bleeds from the pain. The condition of radio and television was abysmal. Media had not flourished. I have plans to do something for Happy. I would like to arrange musical shows in his memory and institute a prize after his name," Lucky Akhand had dreams to celebrate his brother's

music.

"Happy could have been established as a legend in our musical scene. I received all the love, blessings and honour at HMV Calcutta (now Kolkata) where I worked with Manna Dey, Hemanta Mukherjee, RD Burman, Manabendra and other legends. I was the junior-most composer at HMV and composed songs for Gora Chand Mukherjee, Banashree Sengupta and others. I took the record of Happy's song 'Abar Elo Je Shondha' with me. One day in 1972, I played the record at Banashree Sengupta's residence. Hearing the song, Manna Dey and RD Burman were much impressed. Later, in 1975, Happy sang eleven songs at a concert in Durgapur, Birbhum in India. RD Burman and Asha Bhonsle were the main attraction of the concert. After the concert, RD Burman appreciated Happy profusely for his performance and guitar-playing," concluded the late legend Lucky Akhand.

Chanchal-Shahnaz to stage plays in Canada

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Before they became popular actors, Chanchal Chowdhury and Shahnaz Khushi were members of noted theatre troupe Aranyak, where they forged a close friendship. For a number of years, the duo have worked together on two independent productions titled "Matir Taane" and "Bhooter Shworgo", scripted and directed by Brindaban Das. For the first time, the duo is to stage the production in Montreal, Canada on October 14 and 15.

However, this is not the production's first overseas staging; eight years ago, the plays were performed in the US and Australia. "The plays are thirty minutes each in duration," informed Brindaban Das. "We have kept the duration short so it can be presented to audiences at different programmes."

The playwright also added the most recent performance of the plays took place at a programme for Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Chanchal Chowdhury informed that the two plays have transnational relevance. "Matir Taane" is about the lives of Bangladeshi immigrants in US, and 'Bhooter Shworgo' revolves around two people who die and emerge as ghosts, and decide to travel to the US in their supernatural state. Aside from acting, I will sing two songs during my performance," he said.

Shahnaz Khushi stated, "The plays have had a positive response so far, and I hope to see the same in Montreal."



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