

A family of artistes: Sujit, Munmun and Aporajita

KAVITA CHARANJI

SINGER Sujit Mustafa, Kathak dancers Munmun Ahmed and Aporajita Mustafa are a close-knit family with a passion for their chosen art form. Dropping into *The Daily Star* office the other day, the couple Sujit and Munmun and their daughter Aporajita (a student of class four at Sunbeams School) were in high spirits as they described their recent -- and first performance as a family -- in Brisbane and Sydney, Australia.

Talking to the trio was an eye-opener as they talked about what makes them tick, their achievements and future goals. Excerpts: **The memorable visit to Australia**

Aporajita: My trip to Australia was wonderful. What was remarkable was that rules are followed--for instance the traffic rules and systematic running of the polity. I also loved the scenery and the hospita-

ble people. In fact I was so much in love with Australia that I began to cry when it was time to leave.

Munmun: I had been to Australia previously for the Commonwealth People's Festival in Brisbane three or four years ago. That was organised by the government. This time the programme was organised by a private group of Bengali expats. The Kathak and Nazrul songs were appreciated by both the Indian and Bangladeshi audience.

I have been offered teaching assignments in UK and USA but we stay here because we love our country.

Sujit: When I travel overseas, I feel a pain. This feeling has its roots in my tendency to compare the situation of other countries with that of Bangladesh. We have the manpower in our country but we can't use it properly.

However, we took the decision to stay here. Our mission is to learn music and dance from better gurus

and subsequently teach our students.

On the preference for their medium

Munmun: I love Kathak. In Kathak the dancer can interact with the audience and create spontaneous movements, circles and footwork. Other dancers usually perform composed items. Thus in Kathak one gets freedom and the ability to improvise.

Aporajita: I really go for the footwork, movements, circles and costume jewellery that go with Kathak.

Sujit: My forte is classical, modern and Nazrul songs. My passion is to sing, listen and learn songs. Indian classical music is different in the sense that it has a spiritual component. Ultimately what counts is that ultimately it is an expression of devotion. For me singing is a sort of prayer.

Achievements

Aporajita: The high point in my life was the recent Notun Kuri competition on BTV where I attained the first prize in classical dance. I have also performed in various school productions. What's more, in Australia I was interviewed by Brisbane Radio. I would say that my biggest achievement is that I am already a well-known dancer.

Munmun: What gives me impetus is the love and admiration of my fans. I am a known face to even new entrants to my dance school, Rewaz Performers' School because many of them have seen my dance programme on BTV. I also draw pride from the fact that many of my students have attained recognition at the national level.

Sujit Mustafa: I'd like to talk about my failures first. My first modern Bengali cassette was released in Kolkata in 1994. In 1995 I released two cassettes of Nazrul songs. After that there have been no productions in the market. I think the basic reason is that I am too critical about myself.



Munmun and Aporajita strike a Kathak stance (top), Sujit Mustafa practicing at home

However having said that, I think my contribution has been to teach voice culture in Bangladesh. In the course of my musical career, I discovered that we lack proper scientific voice training. Therefore I studied the western technique of such teaching. In my view nobody else is teaching this in the country.

Future

Aporajita: I want to learn ballet; the pirouettes and circles of ballet appeal to me greatly.

Munmun: My plan is to do a dance ballet with the children from my school. When I die I hope that my students will continue my dance tradition.

Sujit: My plan is to sing better.

Sweets: A must have on Eid

AHSAN HABIB

Sweets occupy an important place in the diet of Bengalis and at their social ceremonies. It is an ancient custom among Hindus to distribute sweets at pujas and among Muslims to prepare sweets on Shab-e-barat and Eid days. Sweets add a special touch to festivities -- be it marriage, celebrating good results or birth of a child.

During Eid days guests are entertained with different types of home-made traditional sweets such as *laddu*, *halwa*, *firni*, *roshogolla*, *shemai*, *zarda* and *shondesh*. Besides these traditional items, some sweets originated in the west like pudding, custard and ice cream are also among the favourites of the urbanites. In addition to homemade sweets and desserts people also buy sweets prepared by *mairas*, or sweet and dessert makers.



Delectable sweets available at the stores in Dhaka

In the rural areas Eid fairs are organised regularly. These fairs are basically gatherings that strengthen the ties among the rural people. Handicraft and food items such as *chira*, *muri*, *khai* and sweets are available at the fairs. For centuries folk fairs have been an accompanying source of recreation during Eid. Now at least twelve fairs are held on the occasion in different regions of Bangladesh. Various types of home-made *mitha*, *shemai*, and *zarda* are sold at these fairs.

In the Eid menu, homemade sweets get prominence. Among the ready-made sweets *doi* is the most demanded item during Eid, according to a salesman. Various methods are used to make sweets appealing and delectable. Special attention is given to flavour, variety, and decora-

tion. Different colours and moulds are used to give attractive designs and shapes to sweets.

Different regions in the country are renowned for different types of sweets. Porabari in Tangail is famous for *chamcham*, Muktagachha in Mymensingh for *monda*, Comilla for *pera* and *rasmalai*, Faridpur for *malaikari*, Natore for *kanchagolla* and Dhaka for *amriti*, *jilapi* and *pranhara*. *Rasmalai* is also made in Dhaka and Rangpur. *Raskadam* is common in Rajshahi. *Bogra Doi* is especially rich. *Roshogolla* of Savar is also famous. *Balish* of Netrokona is another awesome treat. *Jogar mishti* of Patuakhali, *Ghuthiar*



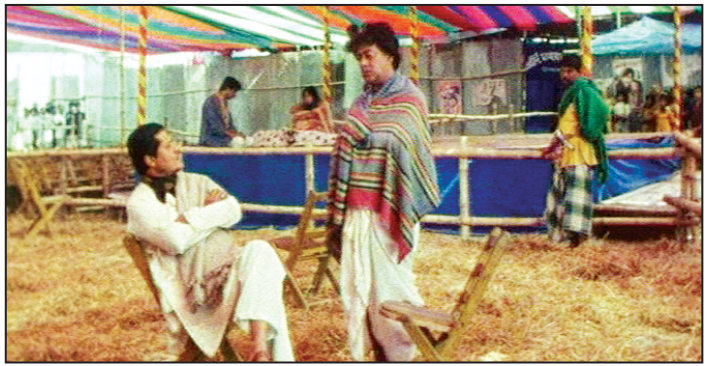
EID SPECIALS

Feature film 'Kittonkhola' on ATN Bangla

CULTURE CORRESPONDENT

National award winning feature film *Kittonkhola* directed by Abu Sayeed will be telecast on the day before Eid at 12:15pm on ATN Bangla.

Highlighting lives of *jatra* artistes



Pijush Bandhopaddhay (L) and Mamunur Rashid in the film

List of 'Seven Wonders' to change

REUTERS, London

Only one of the ancient wonders of the world still survives -- now history lovers are being invited to choose a new list of seven.

Among 21 locations shortlisted for the worldwide vote is Stonehenge, the only British landmark selected.

The 5,000-year-old stones on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, will be up against sites including the Acropolis in Athens; the Statue of Liberty in New York; and the last remaining original wonder, the Pyramids of Giza in Cairo.

An original list of nearly 200 sites nominated by the public was narrowed to 21 by the organizers and experts, including the former director general of UNESCO Professor Federico Mayor.

The vote is organised by a non-profit Swiss foundation called 'New7Wonders' which specialises in the preservation, restoration and promotion of monuments, and the results will be announced on July 7,



A view of the Colosseum in Rome

2007, in Lisbon. About 20 million votes have already been lodged, including many from India, for the Taj Mahal;

China, for the Great Wall and from Peru for Machu Picchu, the fortress city of the Incas.

The only criteria for the new list is that the landmarks were built or discovered before 2000.

Votes can be made online, at www.new7wonders.com.

The 21 finalists for the New Seven Wonders of the World are: Acropolis (Greece), Alhambra (Spain), Angkor Wat temple (Cambodia), Chichen Itza Aztec site (Mexico), Christ the Redeemer (Brazil), Colosseum (Italy), Easter Island Statues (Chile), Eiffel Tower (France), Great Wall (China), Hagia Sophia (Turkey), Kyomizu Temple (Japan), Kremlin/St. Basil's (Russian Federation), Machu Picchu (Peru), Neuschwanstein Castle (Germany), Petra ancient city (Jordan), Pyramids of Giza (Egypt), Statue of Liberty (USA), Stonehenge (UK), Sydney Opera House (Australia), Taj Mahal (India), Timbuktu city (Mali).

4x2

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTB
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTB news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11 pm.
News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm
Telecast of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangladesh) (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTB
08:30 Esho Gaan Sikhi
09:15 Satellite Broadcast
11:15 Bangla Feature Film
01:45 Shongbadpotrer Pata Thekey
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 ICC Champions Trophy: Sri Lanka vs West Indies
04:30 Mahe Ramjan
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia

CHANNEL i
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone Tritio Matra
11:05 Naa Bola
11:30 Mukto Bazarhai
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh
02:40 Shat Rang
03:20 Dhaka Guide
05:00 Ramjanur Mubarak
05:42 Vim Monohar Ittar
06:35 Shorstar Shakhor
06:35 Shath Goenda
07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Jhora Patar Kabyo

12:00 Grameenphone
Ajker Shangbadpotro

ATN BANGLA
10:30 Anyodrishti
12:15 Musical Programme
03:45 Islamic Programme
04:15 Mubarak Ho Mahe Ramjan
06:20 Business This Week
08:00 Drama Serial: Jol Pore Pata Nore
08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shobuj Opera
09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Bagune
09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Jonome
10:40 Shushitho Thakun

ntv
08:35 Ajker Shokal
09:00 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhe Jabo
Jabo
10:05 Magic Magic
10:30 Hip Hip Hurrhah
12:05 Apnar Jigyasa
01:05 Muktangon
02:35 Mohimannito
Rajani
03:50 Alokpat
04:25 Hridoye Ramjan
05:10 Din Darpan/
Ithasher Ei Diney
05:20 Al Quran
05:45 Jibon Gorar Ashor
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri

PICK OF THE DAY

ICC Champions Trophy 2006
On BTB at 2:40pm
Australia v England
Live from Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur

Nat Geo Utsav
On National Geographic Channel at 8:30pm
A series of festivities ranging from the most unique to the most absurd.

08:25 Ramizer Aaina
09:10 Drama: Dhar Uthar
11:25 Dindarpan

Rtv
08:00 Ei Shokal
09:05 Aj Potnikay
09:30 Sa Sa Dhin Tai
10:00 Ami, Tumi, R...
02:30 Islamic Programme
03:40 Bangla Feature Film
05:10 Oishajomoy Mahey Ramjan
05:50 Monohar Ittar
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh
06:35 Talk Show
06:40 Wide Angle

08:00 Aktel Gopsop
08:50 R-music
10:50 Special Programme On Shab-E-Kadar: Onnono Shob-E-Kadar

HBO
08:30 Friday Night Lights
10:45 Passenger 57
12:30 The Big Preview: World Trade Center
01:00 Dinocroc
03:00 50 First Dates
05:00 Timeline
07:15 Bird on A Wire
09:30 The Interpreter

12:00 Resident Evil: Apocalypse
08:45 Bio-Dome
10:30 Raging Bull
12:45 Ice Princess
02:30 Marked For Death
04:00 My Favorite Martian
05:35 Garfield The Movie
07:00 Animal, The
08:30 Coyote Ugly

STAR MOVIES
10:30 Viraasat
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:55 V First Day First Show-Starplu
01:00 Mirch Masala
01:30 Shararat - Thoda Jadu Todi Naz
02:00 V First Day First Show-Starplu
02:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kora Kagaz
05:00 Karm Apna Apna

06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:25 V First Day First Show-Starplu
05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen
06:30 Buzz On Maggie
07:00 Timon And Pumbaa
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
07:30 Shararat - Thoda Jadu Todi Naz
08:00 Saathii Re
08:30 Jodee Kamaal Ki
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Nach Baliye 2
11:00 Thegreatindialaughter-terchampion2

STAR WORLD
09:30 Parkinson
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
12:30 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
01:00 Travel Asia
01:30 My Wife And Kids
02:00 Yes Dear
02:30 Wild Card
03:30 The Simpsons
04:00 Life Isn't All Ha Ha He He
05:30 Criminal Minds
06:30 Ghost Whisperer
07:30 The Simple Life
08:30 Tna Xplosion
09:30 World's Most Amazing Videos
10:30 Enterprise
11:30 Cops

SONY
09:00 Telebrands

Teleshopping
09:30 Chart Busters Movie Based
10:00 Music Mantra Music
10:30 Music Beats Music
11:00 Cadburys Bourvita Quiz Contest Drama
11:30 Akela Thriller/ Horror
12:00 Akela Thriller/ Horror
12:30 Jhalak Dikhla Jaa - Gala 7 Dance
02:00 Boogie Woogie Dance
03:00 Mailnee - Satte pe Satta Movie
03:30 Contd. Contd.
06:30 Music Beats Music
07:00 Music Mantra Music
07:30 Chart Busters Others
08:00 Khushi Ki Duniya Drama
08:30 Sunday Zabardast Blockbuster - Kishen Kanhaiya Movie
09:00 Contd. Contd.
09:00 Current Bollywood Movie Based
09:30 Wild Discovery
09:30 Discovery Spotlight
10:30 Discovery Spotlight
11:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids
12:00 StuntDawgs
12:30 Discovery Week
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:00 Discovery's Biggest Shows
03:30 Discovery's Biggest

Shows
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 Discovery Marquee
06:30 Discovery Marquee
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Discover India
09:30 Destination India
10:00 Destination India
10:30 Discovery Week
11:00 Finest Hotels In The World
11:30 Deadliest Catch

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 Wild
09:30 Untamed
10:30 Going To School In India
11:00 Dogs With Jobs
12:00 Nat Geo Junior
12:30 Seconds From Disaster
01:30 Air Crash Investigations
02:30 Naked Science
03:30 Is It Real?
04:30 MegaStructures
05:30 Frontline Of Construction
06:30 Wild Safari
07:00 Nat Geo Encores
07:30 Rated W
09:30 Unwind
10:00 Nat Geo Utsav
10:30 Delhi In Flames
11:00 Sunday Night Specials