

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

August 10-15
Gallery Chitrak (House # 21, Road #4, Dhamondi) is holding an exhibition of print-works by four artists - Sadiuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Kibria, Rafiqun Nabi and Monirul Islam, from 10-9 pm.

August 15-16

A children's book illustration exhibition is going on at the British Council. The display is open for visitors everyday from 10pm to 6pm.

August 15-28

An exhibition of artist Mostafa Kamal will start on 15th August at the Gallery of Alliance Francaise.

August 17-28

Shilpangan Gallery has arranged a 12-day-long solo etching and drawing exhibition of artist Monirul Islam. The inauguration of the show will be held on August 17 at 5pm at the gallery and show will be open for the visitors daily from 10 am to 9 pm.

Book launching

August 13

The launching of a new book *Under the Krishnachura* by Niaz Zamam will be held at the Alliance Francaise at 6 pm. The book is published by UPL.

Musical Evening

August 21

A French musical evening will be held at the cafeteria of Alliance Francaise on 21st August.

Drama Lane

Bangladesh Mahila Samity
4 Natok Soroni,
New Bally Rd.

Group	Plays	Date
Prachyanat	Kannya	13
Dhaka		
Theatre	Banopangshul	14
	Balad	15
(Natok Soroni)		
Nattaykendra	Pratisaran	16
Padatik	Sojan Badhier	
	Ghat	17
Nattayan	Bhaboner	18
	Ghat	
Dhaka Sadak	Tahader	19
	Katha	
Dhaka Drama	Ami Gadhia	20
	Balchhi	
LokoNattayadal	Mazrater	23
	Manushera	
Samay	Bhager	24
	Manush	

Face to face

Mita and her melodies

All about Mita Haque

NOVERA DEEPIKA

The Daily Star (TDS): Tell us how did you begin your career as a singer?

Mita Haque (MH): It all started in my own house when I was very small. Music was popular in both my maternal and paternal grandfathers' places. I was born in an environment of music. My paternal uncle Wahidul Haque was my first guru.

TDS: When did you start taking formal music lessons?

MH: My passion for music was natural and I used to learn very informally. At the age of eleven I participated in the International Children's Festival at Berlin. Later in 1976, at the age of thirteen, I started to learn music formally from one of the gurus named Mohammad Hossain Khan who was a great Tabla player of this subcontinent.

TDS: How did you get influenced by Tagore songs?

MH: There was always an influence of Nazrul song in my maternal grandfather's house. My uncles used to sing Nazrul, Classical, DL Roy and Atul Prashad. I used to sing such songs as well. When I was about fifteen, I became very inclined to Tagore songs. The urge to sing Tagore songs came from within. It was since then that I started to sing Tagore songs seriously.

TDS: What would you be if you were not a Tagore singer?

MH: I liked the subject chemistry. If I were not a Tagore singer I might have concentrated on becoming a Chemistry teacher.

TDS: Share with us a memorable event of your singing career.

MH: Shailaja Ranjan Majumdar was the direct apprentice of Rabindranath Tagore. He came to Dhaka in 1981. He is one of those special people with whom Tagore carried on his works of notation. I had the honour of getting very close to Shailaja da. Before leaving the country, he told me, 'Don't be proud of your achievements. Someday you will become a great singer.' This is a memorable piece of advice, which I try to follow whole heartedly.

TDS: Which countries have you travelled so far for singing?

MH: Definitely first of all India. I have travelled to some cities of the USA like Washington, North Carolina and Virginia. I have also been to some countries of Europe. In UK I performed at Leeds, Manchester and London.

TDS: How did you come up with the idea of running a music school?

MH: I started *Shurirtha*, my music school, a few years back.

Initially, many students would come to my house to learn music. Gradually the number increased and I could not give them enough space in my house. So I decided to rent a

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