

## GALA EVENT

## 'Bangladesh Festival' in Mumbai begins

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On September 26, TARA TV, the flagship Bangla television channel of Broadcast Worldwide Limited, held a fashion show bringing together eminent designers of Bangladesh at The Regal Room, Hilton Towers. The function was part of a first ever Bangladesh Festival to be held in Mumbai. The designers were big names such as Bibi Russell, Lita S Chowdhury, Aneela Haque and The Aarong

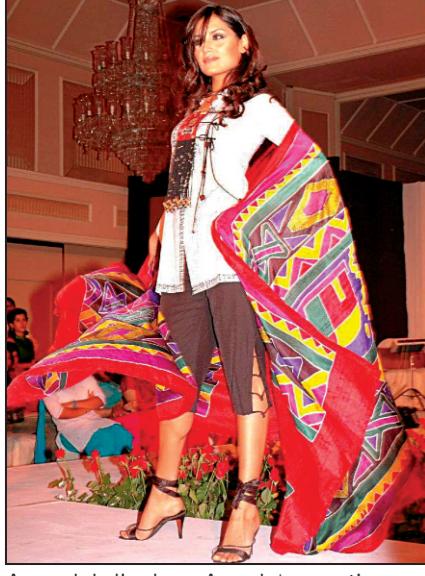
## House.

On the same day renowned Bangladeshi singers like Iffat Ara Dewan, Mita Huq, Shakila Zafar and Tanja Mannan enthralled the audience with their spectacular performance.

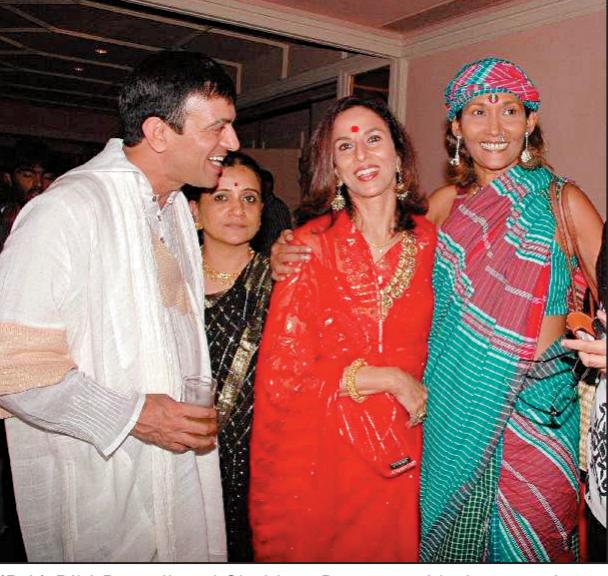
The Bangladesh Festival, which started on September 26, will be on till October 3, 2004, showcasing and introducing Bangladesh to Indian audiences through four components. Fashion, Traditional and Modern Music, Contemporary Art and Food.

Seen enjoying the fashion show were eminent personalities like Pandit Jasraj, Shobhaa and Dilip De, Neena Gupta, Anil Dharker, Ila Arun, Isshita Arun, Nisha Jhamwal, Krishna Mehta of Zeba, Gerson D'Cunha, Raveena Raj Kohli and Harish Bhimani amongst others.

The programme was telecast live from Mumbai. About 100 canvases are on view at the exhibition, most of which are on sale, providing a rare opportunity to collectors in Mumbai.



A model displays Aneela's creation



(R-L) Bibi Russell and Shobhaa De seen with the organisers



A sample of haute couture by Bibi

## DOCUMENTARY

## Nijhum Dwip: Far from the madding crowd

## AFSAR AHMED

SOLITUDE prevails over the small island raised from the heart of the Bay of Bengal and on the estuary of the Meghna. Only the sweet carols of a melange of birds and the suppressed roars of waves of the Bay of Bengal break that silence. So it is called Nijhum Dwip, the word 'nijhum' meaning silence. Through the footages of the documentary *Nijhum Dwip*, recently screened at the Spectra Convention Centre, director A. Masud Chowdhury takes us to this magical land.

Ballard Char, Kamolar Char, Char Osman and Char Muri create the

14,000 acres lyrical landscape of the island that is known today as Nijhum Dwip.

It was back in the 1960s when a small piece of alluvial land rose in the heart of the sea. Fishermen named it Baluar Char because of its sandy landscape. In time the name changed into Ballard Char.

There is a saying that a person named Osman first came to this remote area in search of a better future. Thus the island is called Char Osman after him. The island however got its present name in 1973.

People from other islands like Hati, Shabazpur and Ramgati were attracted to the fertile nature of this isolated land in the early 1970s

and came and settled there. Now 11,000 people live in the island where an engine trawler is the only means of communication with the mainland.

Masud's documentary projects footages of the canals heavily vegetated mangrove forest deep in the island. Kamolar Khal, Shataphul Khal, Dubai Khal, Chowdhur Khal and many more canals, all of them directly linked with the sea, flow across the island and give it a picturesque look.

'Lonabon'- as the locals call the manmade mangrove forest-is located on the north of the island. The forestation started in the 1970s with Keora, Bain, Geoya and other

trees and now the forest covers around 9,500 acres of land.

The forest is a sanctuary for the deer. Footages of flocks of *Chitra Horin* (Spotted Deer) roving on the banks of a canal transport the viewer to wild nature. Apart from the deer, there are seven different species of mammals and 16 species of reptiles with varieties of trees and plants.

With their periscope-like eyes, *Meowa*-the mud skippers-play around the muddy *lonabon*. Hottit, pigeon, kingfisher, crane-around 35 species of birds treat the island as a sanctuary. The fishing spree of the big white cranes is a delight for spectators. In the south, however, fearful sharks have often been spotted near the shore.

Around 85 percent of the island dwellers depend on fishing. *Cheowa*, a small snake-like fish, is a good hunt for the fishermen for making *shutki* (dried fish). Housewives and children of the fishermen also hunt for lobsters during January-April. The fishing technique of *Bata Machi*, a small jumpy fish, with special kind of nets is an amusing sight.

In the evening, solitude descends on Nijhum Dwip. The busy six bazaars are an exception in the otherwise quiet island. With 60-watt bulbs teeming, the shops in the market attract visitors.

The film has some brilliant footage and good narration. However to reach a wider audience it is necessary to have English subtitles. This would make it possible for people all over the world to get a glimpse of this enchanting island.

Flocks of Spotted Deer roving on the banks of a canal

10 30-09-2004 CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction	02:30 Drama Serial: Sopsher Bairey
09:45 Tritiyo Matra	03:05 Kichhu Katha
11:00 Agora Shopping Guide	03:45 Drama Serial: Sheola
11:30 Kichhu Megh	04:25 Gambhira
Kichhu Roddur	05:20 Mahilangan
12:00 Chithi Pelam	06:20 Shubho Shondhya
12:30 Aaj Dupurey and CityCell Taroka	06:50 Aain O Jibon
Kathon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat
01:25 Public Reaction	11:25 Dindarpur
02:15 Priyo Natok	
04:00 Banglar Gaan	
04:30 Dekha Gaan	
05:00 Shonar Gaan	
05:35 Jonopoder Khobor	
05:45 Shab-e-barat er Ranna	
06:10 Music Plus	
06:45 Aamar Chhobi	
07:50 Keboli Raat Hoye Jai	
08:25 Drama Serial: Porityakta Bari	
09:35 Drama Serial: Kathamrito	
10:00 Close Up Hit Wave	
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	
10:30 Annyodrishti	10:30: Annyodrishti
11:05 Magazine show: Ek Dui Teen	11:05: Magazine show: Ek Dui Teen
11:35 Islamic Programme	11:35: Islamic Programme
12:10 Sharanya Sadakalo	12:50: Sharanya Sadakalo
12:50: Sharanya Sadakalo	
<b>HBO</b>	
10:15 Diagnosis Murder	9:50 Dil Vil Pyar Yvar
12:00 Training Day	1:30 Shirdi Sai Baba
2:30 The Man Who Wasn't There	5:00 Ram Aur Shyam
3:30 Proof of Life	8:30 Soldier
4:45 Dafa 302	12:10 Dafa 302
5:00 ShaplaKuri	7:30 Kabhi Aaye Na
10:05 Dhakar Cinema	7:30 Dhakar Cinema
10:30	

## 30-09-2004 CHANNEL-i

02:30 Drama Serial: Sopsher Bairey	03:05 Kichhu Katha	03:45 Drama Serial: Sheola	04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur
03:05 Kichhu Katha	03:45 Drama Serial: Sheola	04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur	
03:45 Drama Serial: Sheola	04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur		
04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur			
05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur				
06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur					
06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur						
08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur							
08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur								
11:25 Dindarpur									

## 30-09-2004 CHANNEL-i

02:30 Drama Serial: Sopsher Bairey	03:05 Kichhu Katha	03:45 Drama Serial: Sheola	04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur
03:05 Kichhu Katha	03:45 Drama Serial: Sheola	04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur	
03:45 Drama Serial: Sheola	04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur		
04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur			
05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur				
06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur					
06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur						
08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur							
08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur								
11:25 Dindarpur									

## 30-09-2004 CHANNEL-i

02:30 Drama Serial: Sopsher Bairey	03:05 Kichhu Katha	03:45 Drama Serial: Sheola	04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur
03:05 Kichhu Katha	03:45 Drama Serial: Sheola	04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur	
03:45 Drama Serial: Sheola	04:25 Gambhira	05:20 Mahilangan	06:20 Shubho Shondhya	06:50 Aain O Jibon	08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	08:50 Special Programme on Shab-e-barat	11:25 Dindarpur		
04:25 Gambhira									