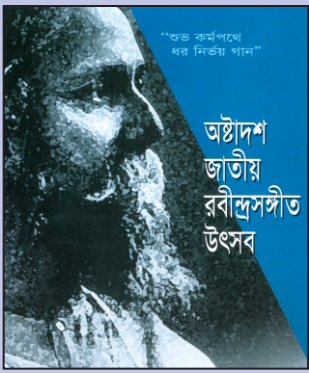


CULTURALFEAST

18th National Tagore Song Festival



Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindrasangeet Shilpi Shangstha  
Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library  
Date: May 5, 6, 7 & 8

Group Theatre Festival 2007

Organiser: Group Theatre Forum, Chittagong  
Venue: Chittagong Shilpakala Academy Auditorium  
Date: May 5  
Play: Shampun Naiya  
Troupe: Uttaradhikar

Date: May 6  
Play: Koroti  
Troupe: Kathak Theatre

Date: May 7  
Play: Ekti Obastob Golpo  
Troupe: Gonayon Naty Shomproday

Date: May 8  
Play: Modhuchokro  
Troupe: Theatre Workshop Chittagong

Date: May 9  
Play: Daybhar  
Troupe: Angon Theatre Unit

Date: May 10  
Play: Pagla Ghora  
Troupe: Protnidhi Naty Shomproday

Date: May 11  
Play: Ohayabrita  
Troupe: Shobdo Naty Chorka Kendro

Date: May 12  
Play: Chader Omabosya  
Troupe: Theatre Guild

European Union Cultural Festival

Title: Celebrating EU-Bangladesh Relations Through Culture  
Organiser: European Commission, in association with partner organisations  
Date: May 3-16

Pata painting exhibition  
Artist: Shambhu Acharya  
Venue: Alliance Francaise  
Date: May 3-16

Photographic display  
Title: Bangladesh Matters: Capturing the EU's Development Co-operation  
Venue: Drik Gallery  
Date: May 8-12

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Cryptic Reality  
Artist: Abdus Sattar Taufiq  
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University  
Date: April 30-May 6  
Time: 11am-8pm

Grand Group Art Exhibition

145 art works of renowned Bangladeshi artists on display  
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, D.C.C. North Super Market 2nd Circle, Gulshan  
Date: April 28-May 28  
Time: 9:00am to 7:00pm (Friday closed)

# Sister act: Pramila, Mridula and their love for music

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

It runs in the family, as the saying goes. Singing duo, sisters Pramila Chakraborty and Mridula Bhattacharjee, exponents in the field of *kirtan* music, have been immersed in the tradition since childhood, growing up in their ancestral home in Barisal. They were initially trained in classical music by their parents and uncle, followed by mentors Narayan Chandra Saha and Ramesh Chandra Chakraborty.

There has been a history of *kirtan* in Bengal spanning 1200 years; its roots steeped in ancient, Vedic times. The music is a folk-based form of story-telling, drawing from the medieval poems of Gobindo Das and Chandi Das, the pool of songs later enriched by the *Panchakabi* (Tagore, Nazrul, Dwijendra Lal, Rajnikant and Atul Prasad). The songs -- devotional in nature -- explore the role of Krishna as a deity, lover and son. The sisters' speciality is recounting songs glorifying the *Amar Prem* or eternal love between Radha and Krishna. It is their excellence as doyens of *Padaboli kirtan* of the *Navadeep gharana* that has earned them their well-deserved reputation. Shamsur Rahman once poetically described Pramila as one of the foremost vocal artists of Bangladesh.

*Kirtan* underwent a popular surge in the 14th Century when Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (Nityai) set the ancient texts to melody. The songs became a tirade against the rigid caste system, focusing on love for one's fellow man. The genre was revolutionised by Krishna Chandra Dey (Manna Dey's uncle) in the 1940s by the addition of modern tunes and beat. *Kirtan* has a classical base containing all the elements of *sur, taal* and *bani*; accompanying musical instruments include *mandira, khol, banshi* and harmonium.

Pramila and Mridula left Barisal to attend Dhaka University in the '80s. They are currently professors of Bangla literature and language at Notre Dame University, and Central Women's College, Viquearunissa College respectively. Music has remained their lifelong companion. They are indebted to Rafiqul Islam, their guru in the early Dhaka years, and his wife Jahannara Islam, for unflinching support. Pramila recorded a solo album *Shobarey Bash Rey Bhala*, to name one of many. Mridula has contributed to the album *Hajar Bochorer Bangla Gaan* (A



Pramila Chakraborty (L) and Mridula Bhattacharjee singing together

Thousand Years of Bangla Gaan). There have been numerous radio and television appearances, and regular live performances. Pramila has found deep satisfaction from her live performances. "Nothing beats direct audience participation," she confesses.

There have been performances all over the world. One of the most notable was held in London in May 1986 to mark Tagore's 125th birth anniversary. Pramila was part of the Bangladeshi delegation in an all-star cast, which included artists from across the sub-continent. Ten years later, in 1996, Pramila went to the US to perform at the *Bango Sangskriti Sammilan*, shows held for the Bengali Diaspora across ten states. More recently in 2002, she was sponsored by private organisation Ananda Dhara, to perform at London's Mahatma Gandhi Hall.

As far as memorable performances are concerned, both sisters have effusive recollections. Once, performing at a programme organised by the *Mahila Smriti Manch* back in the '80s when *kirtan* had a pretty low profile, Pramila recalls

much applause following a song with a prolonged chanting as the climax. She was deeply touched by the audience's thundering response. The sisters have received similar standing ovations on many other occasions; one other that they fondly recount was at the Shilpakala Academy following a twenty minute rendition of the *Prabhash kirtan*. While they have tended to mostly perform together, Mridula has branched out, writing for various newspapers during the 1990s.

So, what is the future of *kirtan* music? Pramila and Mridula are convinced that lessons are not the answer and therefore do not take on students; one has to "love the *kirtan*". "The secret lies in being able to love the music passionately," they claim. The sisters are attempting to revive the flagging *kirtan* tradition in Bangladesh. They believe that *kirtan* transcends national boundaries and touches the heart with its universal theme of love. In this age of great global unrest, *kirtan* could indeed pave the way to a more harmonious world.

# Shilpakala pays tribute to Khan Ataur Rahman

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Department of Theatre and Film of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) arranged a discussion and a staged a play on May 3 at the National Theatre Stage to pay homage to Khan Ataur Rahman (1928-1997), a multifaceted talent whose contribution to Bangladeshi Film industry is immense.

Khan Ataur Rahman was omnipresent on several levels in our cultural arena as a leading filmmaker, producer, actor, singer, music composer and lyricist. Noted film director Chashi Nazrul Islam, director general of BSA Quamrul Hassan (ndc), director of the Department of Theatre and Film of the academy Abul Kamal Shafi Ahmed and Nazmul Hossain -- a relative of Khan Ataur Rahman -- were the discussants at the programme.

The programme ended with a performance of the play *Eksho Bosta Chaal* (One Hundred Sacks of Rice) by Japanese playwright Yuzo Yamamoto. Directed by



Chashi Nazrul Islam speaks at the programme

Golam Sarwar, the play was staged by the Department of Theatre and Film of BSA.

# Enigmatic computerised art

## Rabi Khan's first solo exhibition

FAYZA HAQ

Rabi Khan, who has been doing digital painting for five years, had an exhibition of his work at the Alliance Francaise, Dhaka recently. He had studied computer graphics at Montreal. He worked with paintbrush in the pre-requisite course for graphic art, where he studied the philosophy of colours and model drawing. Like most other artists, he was fond of painting and drawing as a child.

"I have mainly dealt with different aspects of womanhood. When I began working for the exhibition, my wife was expecting, and she was the source of my inspiration. In the beginning I worked with the colour palette and the mouse. I didn't have a scanner at that time," Rabi says.

In an image of a woman we see gold, brown and red. Colours appear as if they emerge from a fountain and at the side is a golden blossom. The subject is done with variations of red and yet it is quite clear what the artist is dealing with. *The Kiss* brings in an embracing couple, with their faces, limbs and bodies merging with one another. There are shapes like curls and lines within. While the woman is in shades of brown the man is in orange and red. The background is in turquoise and jade. *The Two*, also introduces a hovering couple. At the outset one might



Maiemoor (top) and Against the Wind by Rabi Khan

feel that one is facing some gliding lines, but on concentrating, one finds the romantic figures.

*Sun-kissed* is a female form that brings in trailing tresses, leaving the face to the viewer's imagination. *The Horse* is equally pulsating with joie de vivre despite the minimisation of lines and colours. Works like *The Waterfall* brings in abstract shapes.

The way in which the colours have been separated, creating powerful lines and shapes, would have been almost impossible by hand, as noted artist Syed Jehangir puts it. Rabi himself comments, "I try to incorporate a sense of reality. There are two distinctive types of paintings that I have created -- abstract art with geometrical figures, and colourful images with fluid impressions. In case of the former, my inspiration is futuristic figures while for the latter I was inspired by ripples on water and the effects of oil on water."

Rabi has had exhibitions in Canada and Japan. This is his first solo exhibition.

# Regional Theatre Workshop by ITI, Bangladesh held

AHSAN HABIB

Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), in association with ITI Theatre Education Committee, organised a Regional Theatre Workshop, titled *Encountering Images*, for young theatre practitioners from April 25 to May 3 in Dhaka. The closing programme of the workshop was held at the Experimental Theatre Stage of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

At the workshop young theatre practitioners from India, Nepal and Bangladesh came together under the leadership of Christine Schmalor from Germany. With special attention to developing acting skills, Christine directed the participants to enable them to form their individual opinion on theatre and put those views into action.



A view of the performance on the last day of the workshop

On the closing day, parts of the exercises from the workshop were performed in the presence of leading theatre personalities of the country. After the performance, Christine and three participants shared their experiences of the workshop. "It was an open rehearsal...it was a celebration of the strange people called 'actors'," said Christine about the performance.

UNESCO Country Representative in Bangladesh, Malama Meleisea, was present at the event as the guest of honour.

Noted theatre personalities Ataur Rahman, M Hamid, Ramendu Majumdar and Professor Shafi Ahmed lauded the performance. They had words of encouragement for the experimental performance, as well as the efforts of the director and the participants of the workshop.

# TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

**BTV**  
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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.  
**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.  
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am  
**BANGLAVISION**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm  
News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

**BTV**  
09:05 Shomapi  
11:15 Musical Programme  
11:40 Sukhi Poribar  
12:05 Drama Serial  
12:30 Ma O Shishur Kotha  
01:00 Bishwa Protidin  
01:30 Ma O Shishur Kotha  
02:15 Sisimpur  
02:40 Bangla Feature Film  
05:05 Nobo Anondey  
06:40 Matri Bhasha  
07:05 Musical Programme  
07:30 Shobar Jonno  
08:35 Documentary Programme  
09:00 Drama: Hridoye Tumi  
10:30 Musical Programme  
**ATN BANGLA**  
10:30 Talk show  
11:05 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha  
12:15 Shurer Madhuri  
12:45 Shathidin  
01:30 Nari  
03:45 Shobar Jonno  
04:20 Shesh Okhor  
05:30 Talk show  
06:20 Musical Programme  
08:00 Mega Serial: The New Sobuj Opera  
08:40 Mega Serial: Laal Neel Beguni  
09:20 Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey

**Channel i**  
09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Tritomatra  
11:10 Na Bola Kotha  
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan  
01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh  
01:45 Public Reaction  
02:40 Shath Rang  
04:50 Sholyer Shondhaney  
05:30 Muktiudho Protidin  
06:00 Talk show  
06:20 Amar Bangladesh  
07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat  
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush  
10:00 Drama Serial: Rang Mahol  
12:00 GrameenPhone Aiker Shanbad Potro  
**Channel 1**  
08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh  
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi  
10:00 Cartoon  
10:30 Bagan Bilash  
11:00 Drama  
12:05 Telefilm  
02:00 Olpo Sholpo Golpo  
04:30 Music Music  
05:15 Fusion for Baul  
06:00 Saaj Bela  
06:45 Iltahasher Path Dhorey  
07:00 Shurela Lagan

PICK OF THE DAY



**The New Sobuj Opera**  
On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Mamunur Rashid, Tomalika

**Grey's Anatomy**  
On Star World at 9:30pm  
TV Serial  
Cast: Patrick Dempsey, Sandra Oh

08:15 Drama Serial: Shunney Boshobash  
09:00 Shondhi Khoney  
09:30 Expression  
**BANGLAVISION**  
10:10 Apnar Ki Kichhu Bola Achhey  
11:10 Shomoy Ashomoy  
11:40 Media Bhubon  
02:40 Drama Serial: Kachhey Durey  
03:10 Drama Serial: Dokhinayon  
04:15 Public Forum  
05:00 Ebong Classer Bairey  
05:40 Diner Sheshey  
06:25 Music Moment  
08:15 Drama Serial: Krishnopokho  
08:55 Amar Ami  
09:30 Drama Serial: Bachelor Dompoti  
**STAR MOVIES**  
09:45 Million Dollar Baby  
12:00 Elektra  
01:40 Flavors  
03:40 Shall We Dance  
05:30 Dr. Doolittle  
07:00 The Pacifier  
08:40 Lord Of War  
10:35 The Sixth Sense  
12:30 Swept Away  
02:00 Never Say Never Again  
**STAR PLUS**  
09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus  
09:30 Saans  
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus  
10:30 Aladdin  
11:00 Timon And Pumbaa  
11:30 Sonpari  
12:00 Karishma Ka Karishma  
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus  
12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus  
01:00 Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi

10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby  
10:30 Aek Chabhi Hai Padoss Mein  
11:30 Thegreatindialaughterchampion2  
**STAR WORLD**  
09:00 The Apprentice  
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
12:30 The Kumars At No. 42  
01:00 Travel Asia  
02:30 My Wife And Kids  
02:00 Grounded For Life  
02:30 Crumbs  
03:00 8 Simple Rules  
03:30 Prehistoric Park  
04:00 My Name Is Earl  
04:30 Frasier  
05:00 Fashion House  
06:00 30 Rock  
06:30 The O.C.  
07:30 Tha Xplosion  
08:30 Desperate Housewives  
09:30 Grey's Anatomy  
10:30 Heroes  
11:30 Fashion House  
**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**  
08:30 Wild Discovery  
09:30 Discovery Spotlight  
11:30 Extreme Machines  
12:30 Extreme Engineering  
01:30 Wild Discovery  
02:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows  
04:30 Wild Discovery  
05:30 The greatest Ever  
06:30 Planet Earth  
07:30 Wild Discovery  
08:30 Discover: Beyond the Limit  
10:30 How do they do it?  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
09:30 Oceans in Glass  
10:30 Inside Jerusalem  
12:30 Bite Force  
01:30 Dangerous Encounters  
02:30 Cass, Buddy, Mercedes  
03:00 Lesser Flamingos  
03:30 Explosive Force  
04:30 Mad Labs  
05:00 Jassel, Ingrid, Hogan  
05:30 Big Bang  
06:00 Loggerhead & Green Turtle  
06:30 Paris Train Crash  
07:30 Hunting Hounds of Arabia  
08:30 Hunter Hunted  
09:30 Hidden Worlds  
10:30 Eternal Enemies  
11:30 Osama Rising  
**STAR SPORTS**  
10:30 Tna Impact  
11:30 Cricket Crazy  
12:30 The Ubs Golf Club  
01:00 Pine Valley Beijing Open  
02:00 A1 Grand Prix Highlights  
03:00 Nike Football Locker  
03:30 Room  
04:00 Road To Beijing  
04:00 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2007  
05:30 History Of Indian Hockey  
06:00 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2007  
07:30 Club Epl  
07:55 English Premier Football League  
10:00 Club Epl  
10:10 English Premier Football League  
**ESPN**  
09:30 Here We Go  
10:30 Sportscenter Week In Review  
11:00 Kia X Games Asia  
12:07 - Day 3  
01:00 First Edition  
01:30 Remember The Titans  
02:00 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2007  
03:30 Nba Special: The Game- Amare Sto  
04:00 Remember The Titans  
04:25 Sportscenter Week In Review  
04:55 Sportscenter Weekend  
05:00 Premiership Saturday  
05:40 English Premier Football League  
07:45 Premiership Saturday  
07:55 English Premier Football League  
10:00 Final Score  
10:30 English Premier Football League