

CULTURAL FEAST

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)

Group Theatre

Festival 2007

Organiser: Group Theatre Forum, Chittagong
Venue: Chittagong Shilpakala Academy Auditorium
Date: May 9
Play: Daybhar
Troupe: Angon Theatre Unit

Date: May 10
Play: Pagla Ghor
Troupe: Protinidhi Natyo Shomproday

Date: May 11
Play: Chhayanabita
Troupe: Shobdo Natyo Chorcha Kendro

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

European Union

Cultural Festival

Title: Celebrating EU-Bangladesh Relationship
Organiser: European Commission, in association with partner organisations Photographic display
Title: Bangladeshi Matters: Capturing the EU's Development Co-operation
Venue: Drik Gallery
Date: May 8-12

Art Exhibition

Title: Muki
Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum
Date: May 7-20
Time: 10:00am- 8:00pm

Classical and Folk music evening

Organiser: The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka
Venue: The British Council, Bangladesh, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka
Date: May 18
Time: 6:30pm

Asian Film Session

Organiser: Cinepal Film Society, Rush Film Society, Satyajit Ray Film Society, Bioscope Film Society.
Venue: World Literacy Centre, Bishwa Shahitya Kendro, 14 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Date: May 9 & 10

Theatre

Play: The Miser
Troupe: Loko Natyadal
Venue: Mahila Shomiti Milonayalon, Bailyroad
Date: May 11
Time: 7:00pm

Play: Lilaboti Akhyan
Troupe: Loko Natyadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 9-10

Passion for Kabiguru's songs

Upcoming artistes Pijush and Adrita share their views



Adrita Anwar and Pijush Barua perform at a programme

AFSAN HABIB

UPCOMING Tagore singers Pijush Barua and Adrita Anwar are of the opinion that *Rabindra Sangeet* holds a firm place in the hearts of Bangladeshis in terms of exposure and practice. The two singers, in an

interview with *The Daily Star*, expressed their views on the current state of Tagore songs in the country and considered some of the challenges young singers of the genre face.

"It was immediately after the introduction of Cable TV in the early '90s, that not only Tagore songs but

the existence of Bangla music as a whole, were threatened. Singing Tagore songs was not met with an encouraging response. But the situation has changed drastically with the emergence of several TV channels in the country. Hindi songs have not been able to establish a monopoly in the music market.

ket, after all.

"Besides, several music schools devoted to Tagore songs have been established throughout Dhaka and in many parts of the country that are working towards developing a mass taste for Tagore songs," says Pijush, a Tagore singer as well as a teacher at Sangeet Bhaban and Shurer Dhara.

Pijush and Adrita are okay with the idea of using electronic musical instruments but are in favour of strictly maintaining the original notations. Changes in social environment and technology have triggered changes in the style of performing Tagore songs. As the notations of Tagore songs are defined and structured precisely, there is no scope for violating the lyrics or the tunes, the singers say.

Addressing the issue of freedom in interpreting Kabiguru's songs, Pijush says, "Every singer has his/her own way of expressing and conveying the central idea of the song. The reason that I sing Tagore songs is that they express my inner feelings."

"I enjoy the freedom of self-expression through the maestro's songs," Adrita explains what freedom means to her.

Although the expiry of Vishwa Bharati's copyright to Tagore songs have concerned many, both artistes are optimistic that many unfamiliar songs may now be available to the listeners. Releasing cassettes or CDs have become much easier now. They believe that the negative consequences cannot have a lasting impact as the audience is the supreme judge and they will not accept any deviation from the original structure in the long run.

Rabindra Mela on Channel-i

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Channel-i celebrated Tagore's 146th birth anniversary with a daylong 'Rabindra Mela', first of its kind, on May 8 at its Tejgaon office. The *mela* was also aired live on the Channel.

The event included an exhibition of Tagore's literary works, paintings and long play records of Tagore songs. Photographs and publications on Tagore were also on display.

Differently-abled artists along with children and noted painters drew portraits of Tagore. Proceeds from sales of the paintings will be donated to CRP (Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed).

The event also featured Tagore songs, recitation, dance performances and discussion. A number of stalls displaying traditional crafts were also a part of the *mela*.



Eminent cultural personalities at the Rabindra Mela (top), artistes of Shurer Dhara sing at the event

Professor Motajuddin Ahmed, Mustafa Manowar, Asad Chowdhury and Fahmida Khatun among other noted personalities, jointly inaugurated the programme.



'Gaaner Jhronatolay': Music festival at Bengal

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate Tagore's 146th birth anniversary, Bengal Foundation has arranged a music festival titled *Gaaner Jhronatolay*. The attraction at the festival is the launching of five music albums featuring songs of Tagore, Nazrul, Atul Prasad and Lalon -- all produced by Bengal Foundation.

As part of the festival, starting from May 6, every evening one album is launched at Bengal Shilpalaya. So far Ilora Ahmed

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