

## CULTURALFEAST

## Art Exhibition

Organisers: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy & Shilpi Rashed Smriti Parshad  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: September 9-18  
Time: 3 pm- 8 pm

## Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Distant Skies



Artist: Mohammad Iqbal  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpala, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi  
Date: September 4-18  
Time: 12 pm to 8 pm

Title: Drohe Nari, Nirbane Nari  
Artist: Maksudul Ahsan  
Venue: Shilpgram, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi  
Date: September 7-21  
Time: 12 pm to 8 pm

Book Launch  
Title: Rangin Phul  
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh  
Date: September 17  
Time: 11:30 am

# Bengal Foundation remembers Nitun Kundu

## FAYZA HAQ

THE first death anniversary of noted sculptor Nitun Kundu was observed at Bengal Gallery on September 16. Ramundu Majumdar, noted actor and cultural personality, said, "Nitun Kundu was a multi-faceted artist. He was also an entrepreneur who helped design furniture of international standard for his organisation 'Otobi'. He was a self-made man who achieved what he set out to do through his hard work, will power and genius. He devoted a lot of his time to arrange a solo exhibition last December, but unfortunately he passed away before that. We hope to organise the exhibition in the near future. His sculptures -- in particular, *Shabash Bangladesh* in Rajshahi University, The SAARC fountain in Dhaka, and *Sampan* at Chittagong Airport -- are examples of his creativity as a sculptor. Through them his memory would be kept alive."

Syed Shamsul Haq, noted litterateur, said, "Whenever I think of Nitun Kundu, I think of enterprise and dream which are two elements which worked within him. He was committed to the culture and history of our country. That dedication seems to be missing now. With his absence, there is a vacuum in our society. As an artist, he was a better sculptor than a painter. It is a pity that in our country the art form, sculpture, has not yet received the kind of appreciation it deserves. After Noverta Ahmed the best noted



Artist Hashem Khan speaks at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

sculptor was Nitun Kundu."

Professor Anisuzzaman said, "Nitun Kundu was a remarkable man of our times. He came from Dinajpur without knowing anyone. He got admitted in the Institute of Fine Arts, overcoming all difficulties by sheer determination. He was able to establish himself as one of the successful entrepreneurs in our country. As an artist he made figurative works in the beginning and he later switched over to abstraction. He tried his hands in sculpture and some of his works have been greatly admired. He was

a genuine patriot and an exceptional friend."

Omiti Kundu, daughter of Nitun Kundu, said, "My father loved to work and enjoyed everything he did from the bottom of his heart. He worked hard to get to the position he achieved. He had an impeccable aesthetic sense which he applied everywhere -- both in his creative and professional work. Through many mediums -- graphic designs, paintings and sculptures -- he established his identity through amazing confidence. The Liberation War inspired him greatly and

during the war he designed the well-known poster 'Shoda Jagruto Multi Bahini'. The SAARC fountain was one of his last notable works and he worked so hard that at the end he became ill. As an architect I know how difficult it must have been. Despite his busy schedule he always made time for us."

Also speaking on the occasion were artists Hashem Khan, Mahmudul Haque and Kalidas Karmakar.

The programme wrapped up with poetry recitation by Kazi Arif and Bhashwar Bandyopadhyay.

# A touch of Shantiniketan in Delhi

## In conversation with Sinjini Acharya

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

There was a touch of Tagore's Shantiniketan in New Delhi recently when artiste Sinjini Acharya mesmerised a large audience at the verdant lawns of the India International Centre. Clad in a bright silk sari of yellow and purple, she took the eager audience on a fascinating voyage of Tagore's melodies ranging from well-loved songs of romance, nostalgia, patriotism and more.

Where the concert broke new ground was in Sinjini's presentation of 'The influence of Western tunes and folk melodies in Rabindra Sangeet'. Much to the delight, particularly of non-Bengalis, her repertoire included original western songs followed by Tagore's renditions of the same tunes.

A day before the concert at the spacious green precincts of the Kali Bari temple in New Delhi, she took the time for a one on one. The focus was on the influence of Scottish, Irish and English melodies on the great bard. Among the pieces Sinjini sang for the benefit of *The Daily Star* were the Scottish folk tune, *Ye banks and braes* (rendered by Tagore as *Phule phule ahole dhole*, celebrating the affluence of spring) and *Auld lang syne* (transformed into the nostalgic *Purano shei dinor kotha*). Then there was the Irish love song, *Robin Adair*, presented in Tagore's dance-drama *Kalmrigaya* (1882) as *Shokoli phuralo*. From England came the love song, *Nancy*



Lee (which Tagore deftly adapted into *Kali bolo re aaj* and featured in his 1881 musical, titled *Valmiki Pratibha*). Another song in *Kalmrigaya*, *O dekhbi re bhai* was derived from the English *The vicar of Bray*.

However, as Sinjini is quick to add, "Tagore didn't blatantly copy these melodies. He was inspired by these tunes and presented his own creation."

Another facet of Sinjini's passion for Tagore is the poet's adaptation of original Bengali folk songs such as *Hari nam diye*

*jagat matale amar ekla nitai into Jodi tor dak shune keu na ashey*.

Quite clearly, Sinjini's long standing fascination for Tagore -- and her complete immersion with her medium -- was infectious at the concert. Though no one in the audience volunteered to dance as in some of her shows, her soulful presentation and intense vocal range got people clapping and singing along. The function was organised by India International Centre in collaboration with Impresario India.

However, one would have liked to see more of the younger generation at the performance. Yes, the pop/rock/remix and western trends may hold the younger ones in their grip, says Sinjini. "However, presentations such as this may go a long way in luring them," she adds.

She is confident about the future of Rabindra Sangeet: In her words, "Tagore's songs are intellectually complex and deep but some songs have universal appeal."

Sinjini, who is steeped in Rabindra Sangeet and is a long time resident of Shantiniketan, juggles many roles successfully. A teacher of English literature, she runs music workshops, performs as well as teaches Class XI and XII students near Shantiniketan. Confesses, Sinjini, "It is true that I am overloaded and have to do a balancing act but singing and teaching are my twin passions."

# "I Can't Find Dhaka" on FM Ferry Experiment

New York based artist collective 'neuroTransmitter' has launched "FM Ferry Experiment", a public art project that transforms New York's historic Staten Island Ferry into a radio station on the water, says a press release.

In 1967, Charlotte Moorman's New York Avant-Garde Festival was held on the Staten Island Ferry. In the same spirit, "FM Ferry Experiment" integrates broadcast and performance into one of New York's most travelled public spaces, expanding its architecture out into the airwaves, engaging commuters on the ferry and listeners.

The project includes a contribution from Bangladesh: a collaboration between Salahuddin Ahmed (Atelier Robin Architects) and Naeem Mohaiemen. In "I Can't Find Dhaka", they ruminate on becoming strangers in their own city, forty years after Amitav Ghosh's timeframe ("She said: what a pretty road, it's so much more open than Calcutta. But as for my grandmother, she kept saying: 'I've never seen any of this. Where's Dhaka?'").

"She went after she finished her tour, for the summer," Shakira's manager Fifi Kurzman told *The Associated Press*.

For years the 30-year-old has studied on her own, also taking tutorials on the history and languages of the countries she visits, Kurzman said.

The singer, known for last year's *Hips Don't Lie* and other hits, released her first album at age 14 and later took time off to finish high school.

She decided to take a musical rest this summer following her worldwide *Oral Fixation* tour to focus on social causes, Kurzman said.

The class began August 6 and ended last week, though Shakira didn't attend the last few classes, according to course lecturer Robert Cleve. Cleve said he hadn't known she was a celebrity during the course and was astonished to learn she was a pop star.

"She told me she was visiting from Colombia and that she was just doing this for her own enlightenment and enjoyment," Cleve said. "She looked like an ordinary student. She wasn't flamboyant ... she didn't act like a big celebrity or anything."

# Shakira rests hips to study at UCLA

Shakira may get high grades in singing and swivelling her hips, but what about ancient Western history?

For the past month, the Colombian pop star has been taking a class at the University of California, Los Angeles, called "Introduction to Western Civilization: Ancient Civilizations from Prehistory to Circa A.D. 843."

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Source: Internet



artists for "FM Ferry Experiment" can be heard 12-4pm (New York time) until September 29th on the Staten Island Ferry, and on WSI

88.9 FM New York.

## ON AIR

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

## News Bulletin

**BTV**  
08:15 Musical Programme  
08:45 World Roundup

11:15 Documentary Programme

12:00 *Maa O Shishir Kotha*

12:30 *Onu Poromana*

01:30 *Shukhi Poribar*

02:15 *Alor Pather Jatri*

03:05 *Cartoon*

04:05 *Agrodot*

04:30 *Bansuri*

05:25 Documentary Programme

06:10 *Matri Bhasha*

06:50 *Mati O Manush*

07:30 *Musical Programme*

08:35 *Chhayachhondo*

09:30 *Agricultural Programme*

10:30 *ICC World Twenty 20*

11:05 *ATN Commentary BOX*

11:35 *Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey*

12:15 *Motamot*

01:25 *Cocola Cholchitro Golpo*

08:00 *Concert*

08:30 *Drama Serial: Hitlu*

09:30 *Drama: Manush*

04:20 *Islamic Programme*

05:00 *Gram Gorjer Khobor*

05:10 *Khotomey Quran*

05:30 *Islamic*

11:45 *Reporter's File*

12:00 *Ekushe Raat*

**ETV**

10:20 *Hamd- Nath*

08:00 *Drama Serial: Kathi Koylar Chhobi*

08:45 *Kothamala*

11:30 *Musical Programme*

**CHANNEL-i**

09:30 *Selected Programme*

11:05 *Selected Programme*

## PICK OF THE DAY



## ICC World Twenty 20

On BTV at 10:30 pm

Pakistan v Sri Lanka

Live from Johannesburg



## Kotha Mala

On ATN Bangla at 8:45pm

200 episode of the talkshow

11:00pm

**BANGLAVISION**

04:00 *Cine Tune*

04:30 *Amar Nayokera*

05:00 *Islamic Programme*

06:45 *Ithasher Path*

07:00 *Dhorey*

07:30 *Cookery Show*

08:15 *Drama Serial: Ghodhuli Belay*

09:00 *Drama: Manush*

09:30 *Chena Day*

09:30 *Bioscope*

10:00 *Stop n Rock*