

CULTURAL FEAST

Dhaka Book Fair 2007
Organised by: National Book Centre
Venue: National Parade Square, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Date: December 1-16

Art Exhibition

Title: Nitun Kundu: The Creative Mind
Artist: Nitun Kundu
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpaliya, H 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: December 3-17
Time: 12pm-8pm

Exhibition

Title: Jhara Shishir Gaan
Inauguration: 4pm, December 1
Venue: Nitya Upahar, 50, Aziz co-operative super market, 2nd floor, Shahbagh
Date: December 1-10
Time: 12pm-8pm

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Nandan
Venue: Chhayanaut Shangskriti Bhaban, House 72, Road 15A, Dhanmondi
Date: December 3
Time: 5:30pm

Film Screening

Film: Tajuddin Ahmed: An Unsung Hero
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: December 1
Time: 5pm

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Tokai
Artist: Rafiqunnabi
Venue: Gallery Chitrek, Road 4, House 21, Dhanmondi
Date: December 1-7
Time: 10am-8pm

Title: Erity- Sketches of Heritage
Artist: Sejjid-Bin-Doza Bonny
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: December 3-16
Time: 9am-12pm & 5pm-8pm except Saturday (5pm-8pm)

Photography Exhibition

Titled: NSUPC-A DECADE
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: November 28- December 1
Time: 3pm to 6pm

Photo Exhibition

Title: Arktos-Antarktos
Photographer: Enam Ul Haque, and
Tina Quraishi
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: November 30- December 4
Time: 3pm-8pm

Theatre

Title: Bhager Manush
Troupe: Samay Natyadal
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium
Date: December 1
Time: 6:30 pm

Title: Dakghar
Troupe: Swapnadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 1
Time: 7pm

Solo Painting
Exhibition

Artist: Shyamal Roy Chowdhury
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road 36, House 18, Gulshan
Date: November 30- December 16
Time: 11am-8pm

Musical soiree

Sarod maestro Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta performs at Chhayanat



Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta (C) on sarod performs with Mita Haque (R)

NADIA SARWAT

On November 29, at the Rameshchandra Dutta Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanat arranged their regular monthly musical soiree, *Srotor Ashor*. The highlight of this programme was performance by Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta, the 76-years-old sarod maestro.

Noted artistes Mita Haque, Khairul Anam Shakil, Anup Barua, Audit Mohsin and Partha Tanvir Nived performed Rabindra and

Nazrul Sangeet at the programme. Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta on sarod provided sangat with his masterful *bistaar* of the respective raga.

Dr. Sanjida Khatun, president of Chhayanat, opened the evening, saying, "It has been long since the artiste (Buddhadev) wanted to come to Chhayanat, but we were unable to arrange a programme for him for some unavoidable reasons. I am glad that we could finally make it happen. My sincere regards to the maestro." She also provided a

brief introduction to the artiste's life and career.

Regretting the belated visit to Chhayanat, the maestro said, "My fascination with Rabindra Sangeet began at an early age. The artistic application of *raga* in Tagore songs are unrivaled. Of late I've been intrigued by Nazrul Sangeet, thanks to encouragement from Haimanti Shukla and Khairul Anam Shakil. I hope the audience will be able to find the essence of these songs in my performance."

The first song of the evening was *Shedin dujoney dulechhini boney* -- a chorus performance. The rendition was followed by the Pandit's *bistaar*, seemingly moving both the singers and the audience. Next was Partha Tanvir Nived's rendition of *Shey kon boner harin*. The Pandit did the *bistaar* on *Raga Adiavas*.

Mita Haque sang *Shukhoheen nishidin paradhin hoye*. After the rendition, Mita repeated the *dhun* while the maestro was playing *sarod*. Last Tagore song of the evening was *Tabo doya diye*, performed by Audit Mohsin.

Khairul Anam Shakil's rendition of the song *Meghey meghey* was the first Nazrul Sangeet of the programme. The audience was delighted to see how effortlessly the maestro harmonised with his *sitar*.

Anup Barua rendered two songs, *Shunyo e bukey* and *Barosha, oi elo barosha*. The Pandit apologised for not being able to play with the latter.

The last song of the evening was *Din-o-tarini dukh-o-harin*, rendered by Khairul Anam Shakil. According to the Pandit, Kazi Nazrul Islam instantly composed the song at a courtly musical soiree, at the request of Gyan Goswami. Apparently Gyan Goswami was fascinated by a *gothi* played by Ustad Md. Aamer Khan on *sarod* and asked Nazrul to compose a song based on it. Pandit Buddhadev played the *gothi* for the audience.

Even after the songs were over, the maestro continued his music for a while at the request of the audience.

PHOTO STAR

Pre-teen prodigy

Shiropa Purna wins 'Jury Award' from Canada

FAYZA HAQ

Shiropa Purna, nine, the talented daughter of artists KM Mithu and Kanak Champa Chakma, has recently



Shiropa Purna

won the Jury Award for her film *Jellyfish* at the Canadian competition 'Kids for Kids'. Earlier, Shiropa created a buzz with her film titled *Five Finger Puppets*, screened at the Bengal Gallery.

The young filmmaker has an artistic sensibility, watching her parents paint and make films from her early childhood. She takes lessons in classical music, dancing and French.

Her elder brother Arjo Sreshtha helps her with the films. Arjo won an award from Europe for his *Lost Love Story* at a tender age as well. His paintings were on display at the age of three at Gallery Tone, years back.

Giving the story line of her film *Jellyfish*, Shiropa speaks of how she, Arjo and her cousins went to Cox's Bazaar, on a holiday trip in January, this year. There she came across a wounded jellyfish, stuck in the sand that could have been hurt by some passing animal or man, as Shiropa puts it. She called her playmates, Bushra, Farisa and Samit, rescued the fish, and together they set it free in the sea.

"Life is important to every one," Shiropa comments with alacrity, "and it was imperative that we rescued that endangered creature. God would be happy with this act of compassion."

Returning home, she pondered on the incident and penned out the story line of her five-minute-long film, giving the direction with time, she says.

Apart from the above mentioned two films, Shiropa has directed and acted in yet another short film. This is based on her imaginary adventures in Sonargaon, set in the time of the Liberation War.

Fashion designers from SAARC countries to get together

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The cultural saga of SAARC countries continues. After the rock groups from the eight member-countries came together here recently, in a few days it would be the turn of fashion designers of the region to weave their magic at two shows in the Indian capital early next month.

On December 7, coinciding with the SAARC Foreign Ministers' meeting here, leading fashion designers of these countries will gather in Delhi to showcase their collections in two separate fashion shows.

Bangladesh's Rina Lateef and Nasrin Karim will join Ritu Kumar and Anamika Khanna of India, Ather Hafiz and Saadia Mirza of Pakistan, Kesang Ananyat of Bhutan, D Keertisena and Senaka D Silva of Sri Lanka, Shakun Shairchan of Nepal, Zolaykha Sherzad and Mina Sherzoy of Afghanistan among others in the shows.

The theme of the fashion show is aptly called "Threads of Unity" that is expected to enhance exchange of ideas among SAARC countries.

The idea of the show involving fashion designers of South Asian countries was suggested by Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

Devoted to dance

In conversation with Rekha

MAHMUDA AFROZ

Perseverance and patience are what helped Rekha achieve her artistic skills. Being the 6th among 10 siblings was not simple. The budget was always short and there was never enough to indulge in extra-curricular activities. Her father was the typical conservative middle class Muslim Bangladeshi. But Rekha's dogged determination conquered not only her father's sternness but also got many to take notice.

It all started when she was a student of the Shishu Academy at the age of eight. Three years went by before her father objected to the dance lessons. So the lessons stopped. However she resumed classes in 8th grade without letting her father know. But once again she had to stop as eventually her father found out.



Investigative programme "Prapok" on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla will telecast the investigative programme *Prapok* today at 1:30 pm. Earlier, the programme was aired on Sundays at 5:10 pm.

In every neighbourhood some kind of mismanagement takes place. *Prapok* tries to bring these problems to the limelight by documenting them. Each episode addresses a particular problem by zooming in with an investigative approach. Interviews of the local people are included. A special segment of the programme features letters describing the plight of the people, which get published on the national dailies.

Today's episode will feature two investigative reports. One will highlight the issue of the sculptures honouring the Liberation War being neglected throughout the year. These sculptures get special attention only in December.

The second report will be on Dhaka University (DU). Recent findings of students who were able to get admission illegally at DU have raised serious questions

After completing her HSC exams Rekha began living with her elder sister. She finally got the chance to explore her talents without the overbearing and intimidating presence of her father. She enrolled in BAFA (Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts) and graduated after three years.

Since then she has performed in the BTV program *Nitter Taley Tale* and hugely popular shows *Itadi* and *Shubhechcha* on several occasions. Numerous TV commercials followed (between 1997 and 2001): *Singer Television and Refrigerators*, *Lipton Taza tea* and more. Rekha has also modelled for music videos of songs by Asif, Biplob, Kumar Biswajit and others.

In the meantime Rekha was also busy representing Bangladesh on the world platform with her dance troupe 'Anondo'. She toured cities in Germany, France and Switzerland, staging performances that highlighted the various social issues of Bangladesh. In her own words, "It was our way of trying to educate the western world of the problems we face in Bangladesh."

However, Rekha realised that she should focus more on her dancing and hone her skills further. She was with the cultural organisation 'Nrityanjali' for a year before she won the ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) Scholarship in 2002 to do her masters in *Kathak (Lucknow Gharana)*.

From then on it was a journey of self-exploration. While *Kathak* was her major subject, Rekha also completed a one-year course in *Odissi*, *Indian Ballet* and *Mayurbhanji Chhau* dance, all from the Shriram Bhartiya Kala Kendra in New Delhi.

In her own words, "I completed five years of theory and training before I was awarded a first class masters degree. I had to travel to various parts of India, to other institutes, to perform under the guidance of my guru and even to Singapore to prove my worth."

After successfully completing her degree Rekha came back to Bangladesh.

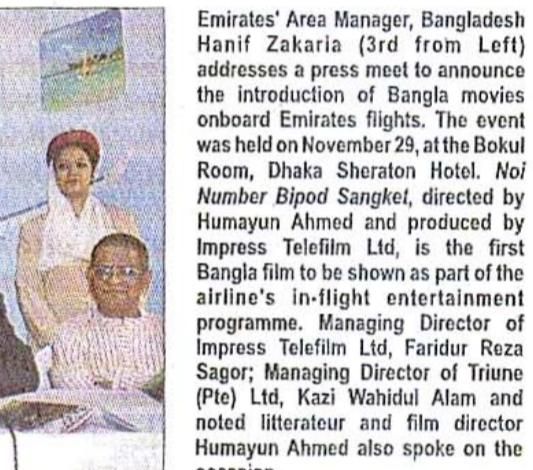
Rekha has again joined Nrityanjali but this time as a dance instructor. She is also an enlisted dancer at BTV. In her free time she choreographs, and teaches Bengali folk dance to expatriates living in Bangladesh.

According to her, "I want our culture to be represented abroad. Teaching foreigners in Bangladesh is a step closer. The best part is that there is no language barrier as dancing knows only the language of rhythm."



A scene from the show about the effectiveness of the entire DU admission system.

The programme is produced by Amjad Kabir Chowdhury and hosted by Rawnak Jahan.



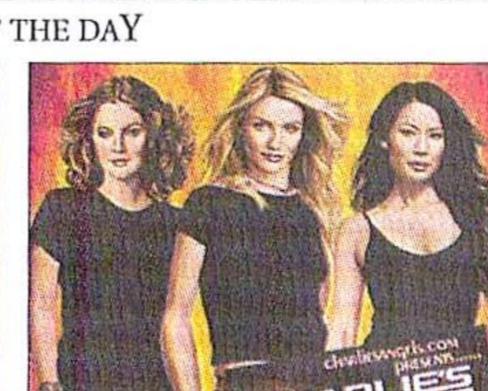
Emirates' Area Manager, Bangladesh Hanif Zakaria (3rd from Left) addresses a press meet to announce the introduction of Bangla movies onboard Emirates flights. The event was held on November 29, at the Bokul Room, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. *No Number Bipod Sangket*, directed by Humayun Ahmed and produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd, is the first Bangla film to be shown as part of the airline's in-flight entertainment programme. Managing Director of Impress Telefilm Ltd, Faridur Reza Sagor; Managing Director of Triune (Pte) Ltd, Kazi Wahidul Alam and noted litterateur and film director Humayun Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Ghar Kutum
On Channel i at 07:50 pm
Mega Serial
Cast: ATM Shamsuzzaman, Fazlur Rahman Babu



Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle
On Star Movies at 09:25 pm
Genre: Action
Cast: Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore, Lucy Liu

STAR MOVIES

10:30	American Dragon: Jack Long	09:30	Ugly Betty
11:00	101 Dalmatians	10:30	Miss World 2007
11:30	SONPARI	12:30	Kyle XY
12:00	Karishma Kaa	09:30	Discovery Theatre
12:30	Karishma	10:30	Oil Sweat and Rigs
01:00	V Trailers - Star Plus	11:30	Passport to Space
02:00	V Trailers - Star Plus	12:30	Extreme Engineering
02:30	Bidaal	01:30	Wild South America
05:00	V Trailers - Star Plus	02:30	Discovery's Biggest Shows
05:30	Suhag	03:00	Hunters
08:30	Nach Bally 3	04:30	Prithviraj Chauhan
09:30	Prithviraj Chauhan	05:30	Man Vs. Wild
10:00	Baa Bahoo Aur Baby	10:30	Star VOI Chhote Ustaad
10:30	World Aids Day	11:30</td	