

Seminar and Folksong Festival

Organiser: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh
Venue: Auditorium, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 5 Old Secretariat Road, Nimital, Ramna
Date: February 27-29



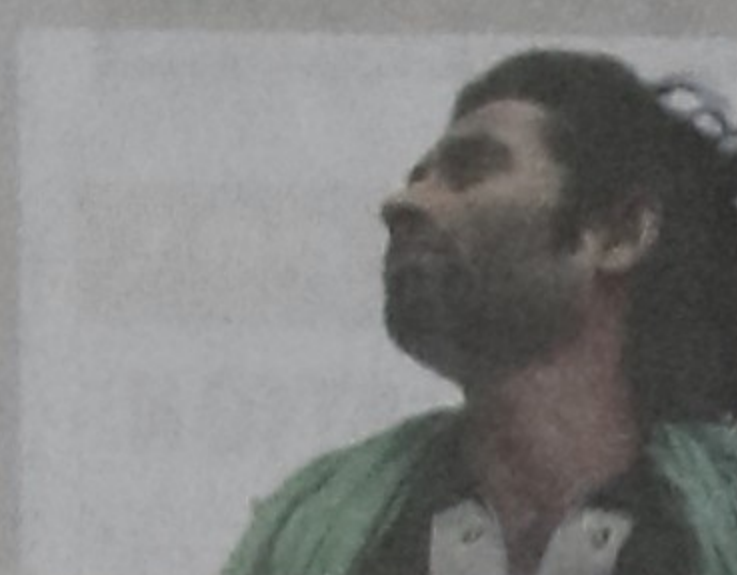
Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Rejuvenation of Womanhood
Artist: Habiba Akhter Papiya
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Date: February 25-March 2
Time: 12pm-7pm



Exhibition

Title: Golden Fibre & Our Culture: Glorious Bangladesh
Organiser: Khivoo Fashion House
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Date: February 23-29
Time: 11am-7pm



Solo Exhibition

Title: Epitaph To My Soul
Artist: Biplab Biprodas
Venue: RADIUS Centre, Bay's Galleria, 57, Gulshan Avenue.
Date: February 29-March 15



Folk Music Festival '08

Eleven troupes perform on the opening day



Artists present an indigenous art form at the folk music festival

ERSHAD KAMOL

Diverse traditional performing art forms of the different ethnic groups are highlighted at the ongoing Bangladesh Folk Music Festival '08. Bangladesh Asiatic Society (BAS) has arranged the three-day folk music festival.

The festival was inaugurated at the BAS premises on February 27. Eminent folklore exponent Professor Ashraf Siddiqui was the chief guest at the inaugural programme. General secretary of BAS, Professor Mahfuza Khanam delivered the welcome speech. Coordinator of the festival, Muhammad Nurul Huda also delivered a speech. The inaugural programme was presided over by Professor Sirajul

Islam, president of BAS.

The festival is a part of the 'Bangladesh Cultural Survey' project conducted by BAS and is being documented.

On February 27th morning, eight research papers were presented at three seminars. Three research papers -- 'Folk Song of Greater Rajshahi District' by Mazharul Islam Taru; 'Folk Song of Greater Pabna District' by Paritosh Kundu and 'Folk Song of Greater Bogra District' by Shaheed Sarwar Alo -- were presented in the first session.

'Folk Song of Greater Dinajpur District' by Nazmul Haque and 'Folk Song of Greater Rangpur District' by Motahar Hossain Sufi were presented in the second session. And in the third session, 'Folk

Song of Khulna Division' by Mizanur Rahman; 'Folk Song of Barisal Division' by Debashish Chakroborty and 'Santali Folk Song' by Mazharul Islam Taru and Cornelius Murmu were presented.

Researchers in the papers pointed out the different genres of the traditional music of these areas -- a brief introduction to the genres and names of the troupes and leading artists performing the art forms. Moreover, a list of the decaying and extinct art forms have also been included. Besides, the researchers in the seminars offered the recommendations to preserve the traditional art forms.

In the evening session of the programme, 11 troupes performed. The event began with a *gambhira*

presentation by Mahbul Alam and his troupe from Chapainawabganj. *Gambhira*, an art form featuring light comedy by two characters: Nana and Nati, was enjoyable. The performance was a satire to the contemporary socio-cultural milieu of Bangladesh. The rural artists highly criticised the current trend of urban poetry and cinema. Faizur Rahman Manik in the role of Nati performed well. Sohrab Ali and his troupe from the same district staged Mir Mosharrar Hossain's *Bishad Sindhu* through *jhandi gaan*, a decaying performing art form. With the improvised instrument made of bamboo, the troupe presented the initiation of the war between Imam Hossain and Yazid in a *jarituna*.

With the acoustics of *nagra*, *maddo*, harmonium and *banshi* Cornelius Murmu and his troupe performed the rituals of the Santal community.

Though it was announced that Malek Sarkar and his troupe from Pabna would perform the indigenous art form *panchali*, the choir presented a *debor-bhabi* song, another genre of folklore, at the programme.

Rowshan Ara Rashed and her troupe from Khulna staged *pot-er gaan* and Abu Daud and his troupe from the same district performed *palagaan*.

A presentation of the *Behula-Lakhindar* myth through *royani gaan* by Nemat Dewri and his troupe from Barisal was impressive. Performances of *parban*, *marshidi* and *bhatiali* songs by Jalil Bayati and his troupe from the same district was the last performance of the day.

The performances were recorded by the organiser, for digital documentation, which hampered the acts by the rural artists. Moreover the small stage at BAS premises was not an ideal venue for group performance.

Children's fair in Pabna ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A two-day children's fair, titled 'Shishuder Jonno Ha Bolun', concluded on February 26 in Pabna. The fair was jointly organised by the District Information office and the upazila administration at the Athgoria Upazila Parishad premises. The objective was to build awareness on children and women's rights, gender equality, the hazards of early marriages and violence against women and children. A colourful rally was organised on the inauguration day.

Students from various schools, along with NGO representatives participated in the fair. Discussions, meetings and the cultural functions on the above issues marked the event. Twenty stalls were set up with the above messages, along with the need for cleanliness and vaccinations.

Drawing, singing and recitation competitions were held in the course of the fair. Over 150 students from 25 schools participated in the children's competition. Prizes were distributed on the concluding day by chief guest, Athgoria upazila Nirbahi officer Mohammad Sekhbabur Rahman.

Explaining the fair's objective, District Information Officer Mohammad Mohsin Reza said, "We arranged the children's fair to generate greater social awareness. The event will help build the children's mindset against violence and discrimination at an early age."

The fair attracted children as well as adults.

"Hridayaragam"

String of melodies by Alif Laila

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Sitar player Alif Laila's audio-visual production, *Hridayaragam*, *Melodies of the Heart*, will be released at the Smithsonian Institute at Washington DC on March 23. The album, recorded in Kerala,

India, includes renditions of three ragas and features Nitin Mitta on the tabla.

"Musical vibrations imitate those of the earth," said Alif Laila. "A raga is a melodic structure that depicts the changes throughout the day and seasons. It is a microcosm of the experiences in life and affects individuals in different ways. I explore the intricacies of life through the sitar, and this is a physical endeavour. This album is the culmination of my experiences so far, and is a reflection of my present mindset," says the artist who is now training under the guidance of Pandit Krishna Bhatt.

Bageshri is a 22-minute North Indian late evening *alaap* (a slow non-rhythmic introduction), composed in *rupak*

and *teen taal*, with a *jhala* (a very fast finale). Its mood is tinged with pathos and devotion. The dominant note is "M" and the second dominant note is "S". *Kirwani* is a 22-minute South Indian late evening *alaap* in *teen taal*, with the mood defined as romantic. The dominant note is "R" and the second dominant note is "S". The *Hameer* is a 15-minute early evening *dhun* (folk melody) based on a Nazrul song. It's a joyous tune. The dominant note is "D" and the second dominant note is "G".

"My long cherished dream is to perform on the steps of the Taj Mahal, but it is extremely difficult to get permission," she added.

She described her latest endeavour as "extremely challenging" and yet "exciting". The making of the album took about six months, a period during which her perseverance and concentration were tested to the hilt. There were some obstacles, as the South Indian audience did not understand Hindi too well. But her fans were remarkably cooperative and warm. "It was a tough job putting the music and visuals together, designing the cover, and making a few other changes to the composition in a very short span of time," she said.

However, the end result of this "unusual" music expedition is heartening, she concludes.



"Ittyadi": Two decades of entertainment

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

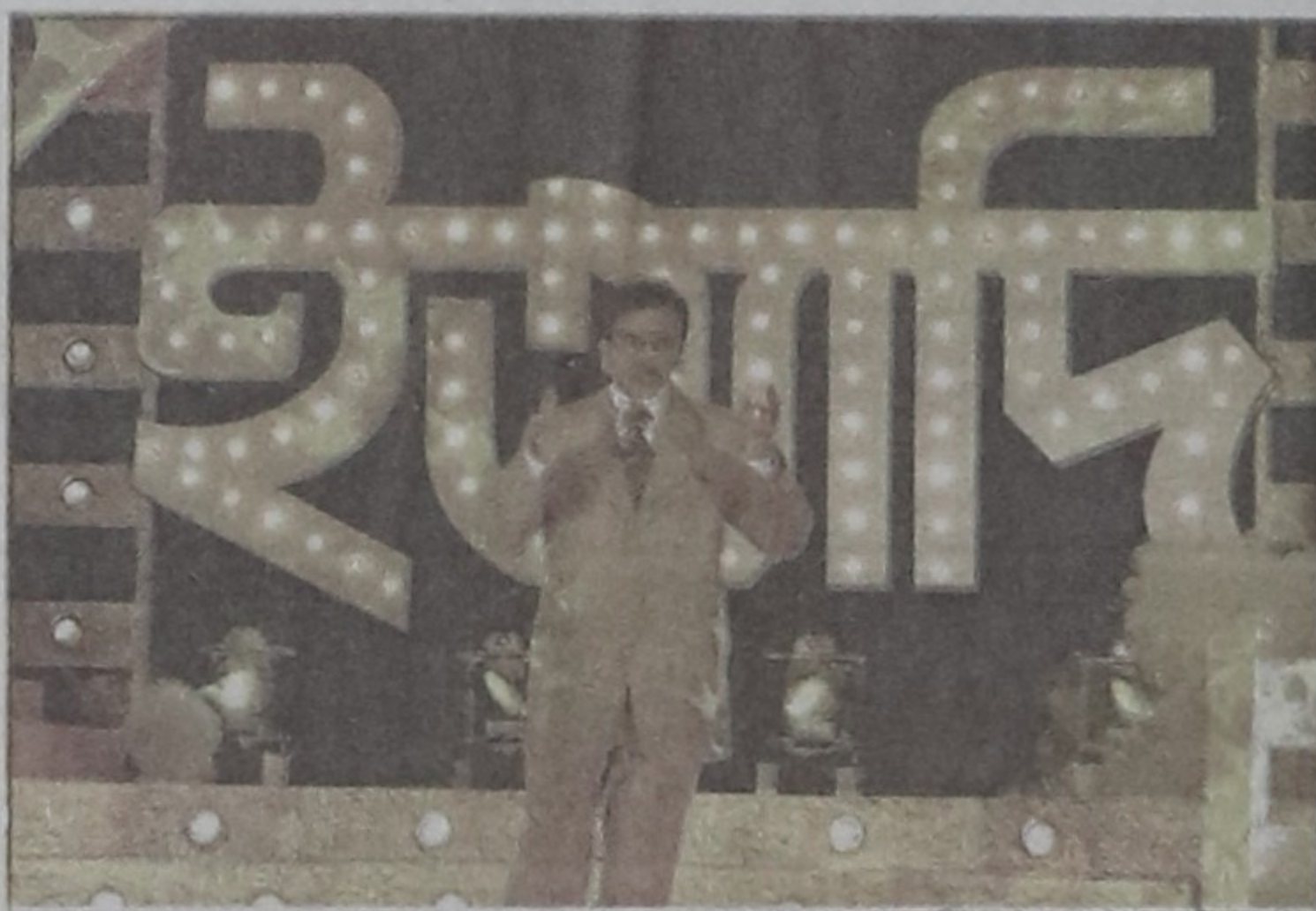
Popular TV show *Ittyadi*'s new episode will be aired tonight at 9pm on BTV. With this episode, the show will be completing its twenty years. The show, hosted by noted TV personality Hanif Sanket, has been at the peak of popularity for twenty years at a stretch, which is a rare achievement.

According to the maker of the show, Fagun Audio Vision, "Every episode of the show is executed with equal dedication and precision.

Apart from the wholesome family oriented entertainment, over the years *Ittyadi* has come up with new ideas to convey social message, generating awareness among the masses, reminding them of their social responsibilities. Tonight's episode will feature a

song by Mahmuduzzaman Babu. This will be the singer's first appearance on the show. Actor Aniful Haque will also appear on the show. The veteran actor, who used to be a regular part of the show, has been living in Canada for the last eight years. Several other leading artists will also be present in the show.

Ittyadi is written and directed by Hanif Sanket and produced by Fagun Audio Vision.



Hanif Sanket hosts the show

Roundtable Discussion

Community radio and access to information

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A roundtable discussion was held on "Community Radio and Access to Information" at the BIAM Foundation Auditorium on February 27. The discussion was organised by UNESCO Bangladesh, in partnership with Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) and Mass-line Media Centre (MMC).

Rasheda K Chowdhury, adviser to the ministries of Primary and Mass Education, Women and Children, Cultural Affairs, was present as the chief guest. The special guests were Malama Meleisea, director and representative of UNESCO Bangladesh and Syed Margub Murshed, former chairman of BTRC. The discussion was chaired by Professor Sakhawat Ali Khan of DU.

A survey on the content of community radio was conducted on about 163 people from Allenga in Tangail and 10 other villages from June to November 2007. The keynote paper and power point presentation were based on the findings and were presented by Mubarak Hossain, programme officer, MMC. A CD transcript of an imaginary radio broadcast in rural dialect was also played.

BNNRC is registered as a trust and NGO Affairs Bureau with the Ministry of Law, Parliamentary and Justice Affairs. On February 6, 2008, the organisation submitted a proposal to the ministry to initiate

community radio.

Shamim Ahsan Khan, communications officer of UNESCO, delivered the introductory speech in which he said that community radio is an effective tool for assisting rural communities and UNESCO promotes it throughout the world. He stated India, which is expected to have 4000 community radios in a few years, as an example.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, in her concluding speech, said that she would recommend the initiative to the Ministry of Law, Parliamentary and Justice Affairs to aid the programme in following the proper process of the regulatory framework.

Shamim Reza, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, DU, expressed his enthusiasm regarding the initiative. He also pointed out a few possible flaws in the survey and the government's eligibility criteria, and suggested ways of correcting them.

The other participants at the discussion were Kamrul Hassan Monju, executive director of MMC; Dr. Ahmed Kamal, Department of History, DU; AHM Bazlur Rahman, CEO of BNNRC; Professor Sheikh Abdus Salam, chairman, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, DU; Taleya Rahman, executive director of Democracy Watch; Professor Golam Rahman, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Daffodil University; Manzoor Huda Talukder, registrar, Open University and Md Arifur Rahman, executive director of YPSA.

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Career Opportunity

The Smiling Sun Franchise program is recruiting for the following position. Interested candidates should send their CV with a cover letter indicating current salary to jobs@smilingunhealth.com. Please specify the position interested in the subject line. Closing date is 4 March 2008.

Contract Manager: This is a leadership position responsible for the overall administration and operations of the Grant and Subcontract Team that administers the Smiling Sun Franchise Program grants and subcontracts in particular to local NGOs who will become franchisees. This position reports to the Chief of Party and supervises two professional staff and two support staff. Specific duties include:

- Leads the procurement, award, negotiation, and administration of NGO grant awards and amendments.
- Responsibility for the management of contractual matters pertaining to NGO grants including the establishment and implementation of financial and administrative systems related to grants and subcontracts.
- Ensures grantee and subcontractor compliance with USAID rules and regulations

Qualifications: An advanced degree accounting, business, or public administration or a related field. At least 10 years successful previous experience working in with USAID grants and subcontract rules and regulations.

"Women are especially encouraged to apply"

A joint venture textile company is looking for you

Background: Echotex Limited is a new build composite textile, currently under construction which will eventually employ up to 10,000 workers. Production is planned to start in September 2008 by which time the first 1000 workers will need to be employed. The factory's vision is to be a unique and green commercially viable Community Development Company (CDC) with people at its heart. Its mission will be to develop as a CDC and industry role model through employing passionate people with a desire to produce the best product, in the best way, for the best reason: caring for the workforce and enriching their lives. Echotex is an equal opportunity employer.

Job Title: Senior Manager, Industrial Engineering (IE)
Working for: Echotex Limited, Chandura, Shafipur, Gazipur, Bangladesh
Business area: Garment manufacture
Reporting to: General Manager, Garments & Production Planning
Job description: We are looking for a person who has an exceptional and proven background in a garment factory (preferably jersey) with regard to increasing production efficiency. You will have an in depth knowledge of how to bring about the highest levels of efficiency, in terms of production planning, system design, material usage, production methods, people ability forecast and management, labour resource planning and allocation. You will be responsible for improvement of garment manufacturing processes (work study, time study, standard times setting, lean manufacturing, sewing line Balancing, process balancing, efficiency reporting, costing). The role involves working with the production planning managers, the production managers, quality managers and merchandisers to ensure production targets are met without sacrificing quality standards. It also will involve working with the HR team to devise and implement appropriate production and efficiency related incentives for employees. It is intended that the factory is Fairtrade certified and run on completely ethical lines therefore an appreciation of how your work will help maintain the factory's commerciality whilst allowing it to operate within the law and ethical codes of conduct is important.

Responsibilities: To measure and analyse current production methodology and develop processes to significantly improve performance in terms of garment production and workflow with reference to output productivity and efficiency.
 Working with various production, planning, quality and merchandising managers to improve workflow and planning processes to meet production targets within budget
 Implement a system of measurement and reporting which will clearly inform both management and employees of progress against targets and highlight what needs to be improved where there is a shortfall in output
 Work with HR team to devise fair systems of incentivising production workers based on meeting or exceeding productivity and efficiency targets.
 Work with HR team to ensure necessary training is given to bring about productivity and efficiency improvements

Profile: Educational background - degree or equivalent in industrial engineering, production engineering, garment engineering, industrial management from a reputed local/international institution
 At least 10 years experience of which 5 years in managerial position ideally in a multinational manufacturing company (preferably garments)
 Knowledge of work and time study, lean manufacturing, production planning and control, quality engineering, plant and machine layout, safety engineering, industrial cost analysis, total quality management, line balancing
 Demonstrating the following management skills; conceptual thinking, change management, cost management, analytical thinking, forecasting, planning & organising, continuous improvement, decision-making, follow up, presentation
 Good written and spoken English
 Numerate and analytical
 Demonstrating a strong curiosity and passion to understand how to achieve the best from individuals and an ability to implement the necessary programmes to achieve this
 Excellent people, communication and listening skills
 Ability to motivate and lead others
 Demonstrating discretion, confidentiality, diplomacy and integrity, honesty and openness
 Able to demonstrate excellent team player and team building skills
 Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, Powerpoint). Internet and job specific programmes as well as ability to develop customised programmes
 Able to demonstrate a systematic and common sense approach to his/her role
 Forward thinking in how working standards can be improved given the commercial pressures of manufacturing
 Understanding, believing in, and demonstrating a passion to play a vital role in contributing to and delivering the Echotex Vision

If you think you are the right person, please apply with confidence with a recent CV and photograph on or before 15 March 2008 to Echotex Limited, House-134, Lane-5, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1206 Or E-mail to: recruitment@echotex.com Please mention your post on the top of envelope.