

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

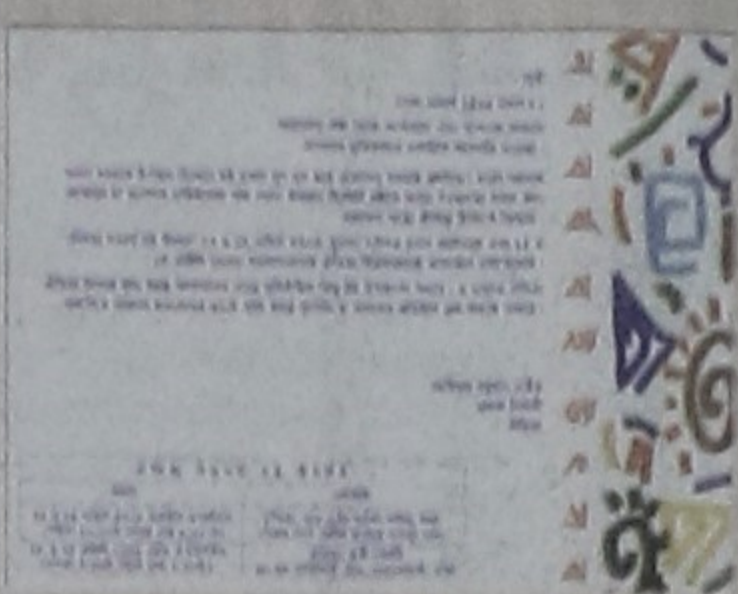
### Barshabaran Utsab

Organiser: Chhayanat  
Venue: Ramana Batamul, Ramana Park  
Date: April 14  
Time: 6:30am onwards



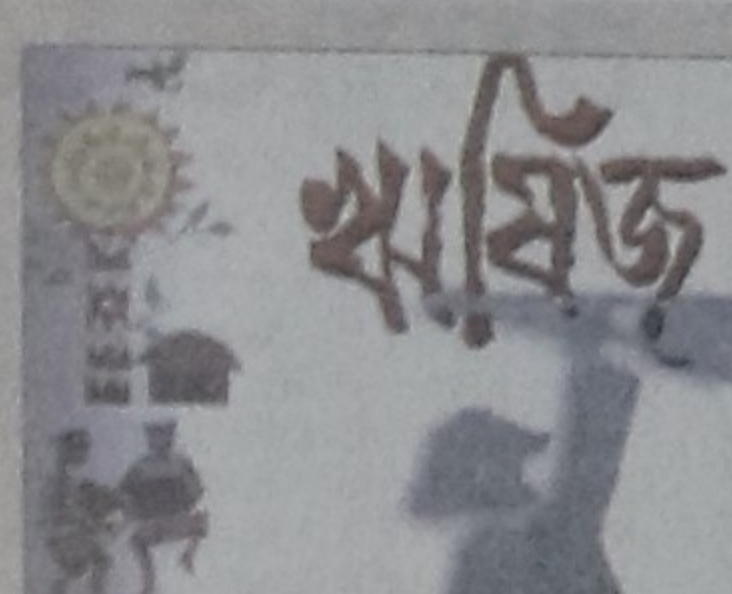
### Nababarsha Boi Utsab

Organiser: Oitihya  
April 11-12 Oitihya, 3/1-H  
Purana Pallan  
Time: 10am-8pm  
April 14-15 Oitihya, Rumi  
Market, 68-69, Pandas  
Road, Banglabazar  
Time: 9am-9pm



### Nababarsha Utsab

Organiser: Rishij Shilpi  
Goshthi  
Venue: Narket Bithi  
Chattar, Bhashani Road  
Date: April 14  
Time: 7am onwards



### Baishakhi Surela Utsab

Organiser: Showbiz  
Entertainment  
Venue: Kalabagan Play  
Ground  
Date: April 13-15



## "Nobin Praan-er Bashontey"

Celebrating the season of blossoms with music and dance



Singer of Protiti present a chorus rendition



Dancer duo Nipa and Shibli during a performance

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Protiti, arranged a programme celebrating the season of spring on April 10. The programme was held at the Shaukat Osman Auditorium, Public Library. Titled "Nobin Praan-er Bashontey", the programme included performances by the artistes of Protiti and Nityanchal.

The programme began with an energetic dance performance with the song *Mor beena othey*. Artistes of Nityanchal danced accompanied by the vocals provided by singers of Protiti. Director of Protiti, Mansura Begum's effortless, solo rendition of *Etodin jey boshey chhilem* was applauded by the audience. The evening proceeded with solo, duet and chorus presentations of songs like *Tumi kon pothe jey eley*, *Bashonta mukhor aji*, *Phoolfaguner elo morshum*, *Aj khela bhangar khela* and so on.

Popular artiste duo, Shibli Mohammad and Shamim Ara Nipa, danced to *Aai rey bashonto* and *Jhoro jhoro*. The performance was a perfect blend of grace, precision and energy. The last performance of the evening was a dance sequence by Shibli and Nipa along with the artistes of Nityanchal to the song *Rangiyee diye jao*. At the end of the performance, the dancers descended from the stage to shower the audience with flower petals. A deafening round of applause from the crowd marked the successful end of the show.

Artistes of Protiti who performed at the programme included Kuntala Shabnam Parama, Bithi Farzana Rahman, Ishmam Nawar, Madhuri, Minu, Ashish Kumar Sarker, Shiv Narayan Biswas, Bijan Chandra, Pia and Saifullah Parvez. Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay hosted the programme and presented recitations in between the songs and dances.

The artistes were accompanied by Firoz Khan on *sitar*, Jhuton Kumar Roy and Gautam Sarker on *tabla*, Rajan on keyboard and Debashish on *mandira*.

## An evening of Rabindra Sangeet

Fahim Hossain Chowdhury performs at Shilpakala Academy



Fahim Hossain Chowdhury sings at the programme

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To promote and uphold traditional Bangla songs, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) took an initiative to arrange solo musical programmes on a regular basis. In this regard, on April 10, BSA arranged a programme featuring solo renditions by noted Tagore singer Fahim Hossain Chowdhury at the auditorium of National Music and Dance Centre.

Fahim Hossain Chowdhury performed nineteen Rabindra Sangeet at the programme. He started with a rendition of *Akash bhora*. *Dhaye jeno mor* and *Kon*

*shubhokhaney* followed. Other songs performed by the artiste were *Ekhono ghor katey na*, *O bhai kanai*, *Amar Hiya majhey* and *Ami joneyshuney*.

Secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Sharful Alam; noted Tagore singer and general secretary of Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (BRSSS) Tapan Mahmud and Director General of BSA, Bhuiya Shafiqul Islam were present at the programme. Tagore artiste Salma Akbar hosted the programme.

Fahim Hossain Chowdhury is a regular artiste on Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh.

He trained under Pranbandhu Saha and Selim Majumdar. He learnt classical music from Ustad Nitai Roy.

On promoting and performing Rabindra Sangeet, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury said "Organisations like Shilpakala Academy or Bengal Foundation take some initiatives to promote Rabindra Sangeet as well as traditional songs. But the government should take a more decisive role in this field."

At present, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury is the joint secretary of BRSSS and cultural secretary of Dhaka University Alumni Association.

## Citibank organises talent competition for children

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate and usher in the approaching Bengali New Year, Citibank, N.A. Bangladesh organised a talent competition for children at the Plaza Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) yesterday. Around 500 participants took part in the event titled *Agamir Alo Shishu Kishore Sanskritik Protijogita*.

Eminent artists Mustafa Monwar, Abdus Shakoor and Rafi Haque; dance artistes Shibli Muhammad, Shamim Ara Nipa and Kajol Ibrahim; and noted singers Khairul Anam Shakil, Azizur Rahman Tuhin and Biman Chandra Biswas were present as judges at the competition divided into three parts -- painting, dance and music.

From early morning, children between the ages of 5 to 15 started gathering with their parents at the plaza. The judges were tireless in observing the artworks and performances and provided their evaluations. The names of the winners were announced right after the competition.

"We feel that we have a lot to give back to the society. We hope that this event functions as a platform for talented youngsters," said Tawfik Ali, vice president and head of financial institution, Citibank N.A.

"Art is fundamental. But our education system has totally become a medium to prepare each child for material success. Without grooming of the soul, education remains incomplete," said Mustafa Monwar.

Abdus Shakoor said, "In the context of the 'apartment culture'

in the city, there is hardly any recreation for the children. To encourage their creativity, Citibank's initiative is commendable."

Shibli Mohammad said, "It is disconcerting to see that the children are often mimicking obnoxious 'Bollywood' dance. It is not their fault as the children learn from whatever they see. I earnestly request the parents to supervise what their children watch on TV."

The winners of the competitions were: Shaira Islam and Tasneem Ahmed (painting); Tasin Tasnuva Abha and Shobhona Sajid Prema (dance); Rafsan Sayed Ahmed and Sayeeda Rehnema Tabassum (music).

According to Mamun Rashid, Citibank's managing director and country officer, "Citibank is hoping to arrange such competitions every year."



Mustafa Monwar congratulates one of the winners

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MUMIT M.

## Objects in Mirror: Closer than they appear

Exhibition at Drik ends

### KARIM WAHEED

Strums of guitar broke the mould. Musicians Rahul Anand, Krishnokoli, Sawjib and others were jamming; the setting at Drik Gallery on April 10 was informal. The exhibition "Objects in Mirror" wrapped up with music.

The exhibition featured works of four photo-artists -- Munem Wasif, Amirul Rajiv, Sanjida Shaheed and Bruno Ruhf -- and was organised by Britto Arts Trust.

Much has been said about the (non-existent) blurry line between photography and art. Over the course of 182 years photography has come a long way and the interaction between science and art in the medium has become more profound. Photo-artists have created an identity for themselves.

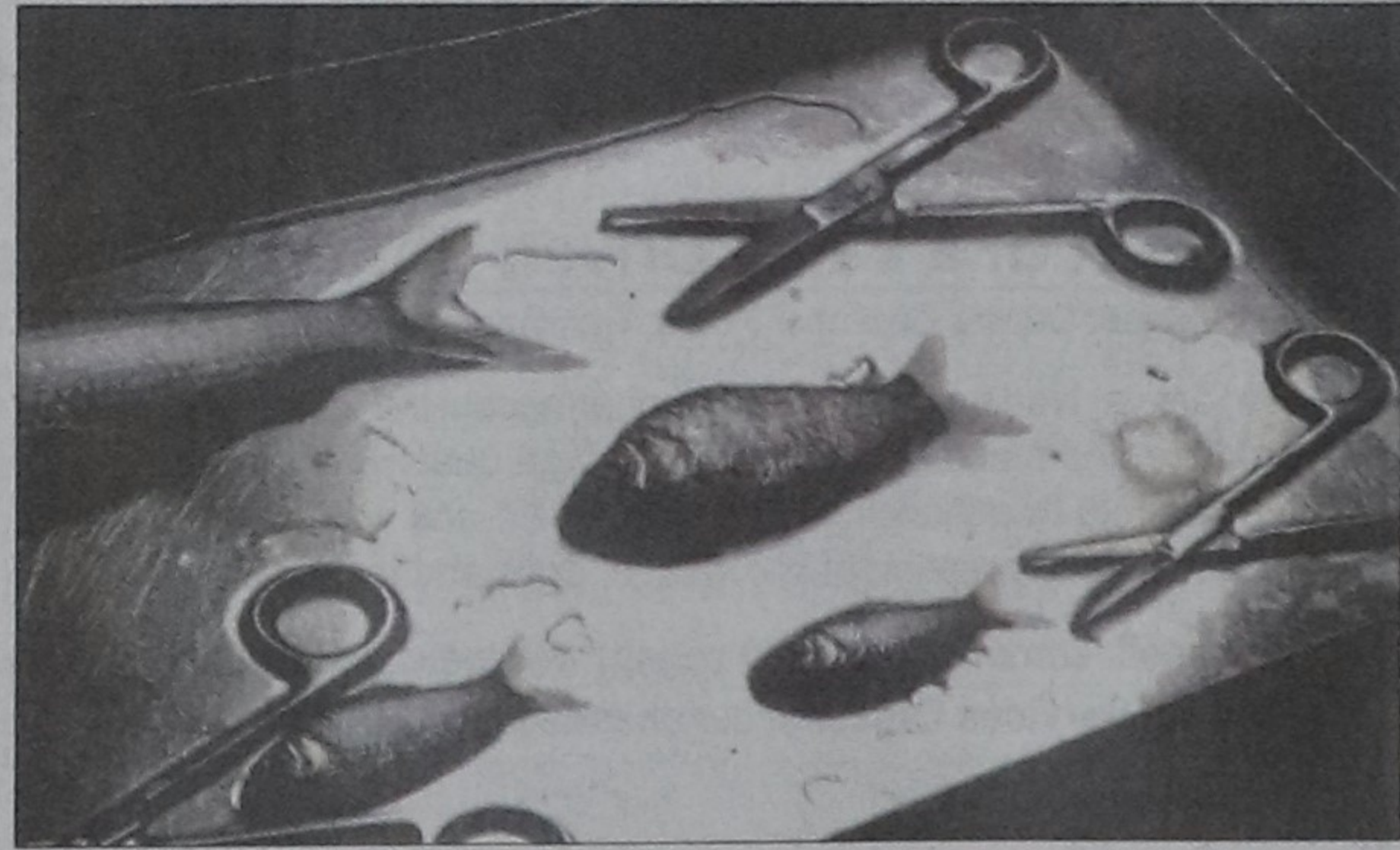
In Bangladesh however, this trend is yet to catch on. Very few artists have experimented with photography. This exhibition is a step towards grasping that idea. Going by the inquisitive photo-enthusiasts and conversation with the photo-artists, this endeavour seemed to have worked out well.

Munem Wasif, whose black and white images of Old Dhaka earned him international recognition, is back with another series on the crumbling part of the city. These images however, are as similar to his previous works as apples and pineapples.

Titled "In Transition", Munem's series at the exhibition highlighted details and close shots of objects. All photographs are in colour (medium format). A portrait hung lopsided on a blue wall, some hangers and a picture of the goddess Kali towards the right end of the frame -- make an interesting image. Toast biscuits on a tray in a bakery look surreal with the jade green top part of the oven and its blue base. Imprints of footsteps created when someone split water -- makes perhaps, the most evocative shot in the series.

French artist Bruno Ruhf's series highlighted the giant boats plying the river Buriganga. Bruno's collection of artworks on 'the walls of Dhaka' (2005) was lauded by the local art enthusiasts.

The images of boats on Buriganga have been manipulated by the artist to give them a feel of painting. One of the images has been 'mirrored' while some have been 'cloned' and 'feathered'. The output: Buriganga like



Photographs by Munem Wasif (left) and Amirul Rajiv

no Dhakaite has seen before.

Finding the 'exotic' in the 'mundane' seems to be the artist's forte.

Amirul Rajiv's "Intelligent Metal Empire" was perhaps the most provocative collection at the exhibition. Through the use of metal

objects (mostly sharp ones), Rajiv delves into the duality of human existence.

A self-proclaimed devotee of Tarkovsky, Rajiv is "intrigued by the everyday use of sharp (metal) objects". The same surgical knife that is used in medical operations can

also be used to kill. Razors that are used in shaving can also cut veins. Rajiv, an impulsive photo-artist who tried to commit suicide in the past, has a steady job. Sharp metal objects then, are extensions of our dual nature.

In one of the images fish and scissors on a tray create symmetry; another frames a skinned chicken, accompanied by three eggs and star-fish. Rajiv appears in some his works.

"The response has been great!" -- says Rajiv. "People have been shocked, appalled, moved, inspired. What's most important is that these images make the viewer think."

Sanjida Shaheed's series "Of Loneliness and Solitude" came across as installation. All photos were framed in cardboard boxes, making the viewer come closer to see them.

The photos present isolation in different settings. One image shows a young boy taking a nap on the sidewalk by the beautifully decorated walls of IFA (Institute of Fine Arts). In another photo, a woman in veils waits at the entrance of a photo-developing store.

These "images in mirror" may have overwhelmed the viewer, coming across as distant and mysterious. But a second (or third) look reassured that the objects (and subjects) are closer to us than we think.



Musicians jam at the closing of the exhibition