

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Monthly Discussion

Topic: Bangla Shomorkola  
 Roybeshy Nitter Karmashala  
 Discussant: Dr. Tarun Pradhan  
 Organiser: Chhayana  
 Venue: Chhayana Sangskrit Bhaban  
 Date: June 13  
 Time: 7pm



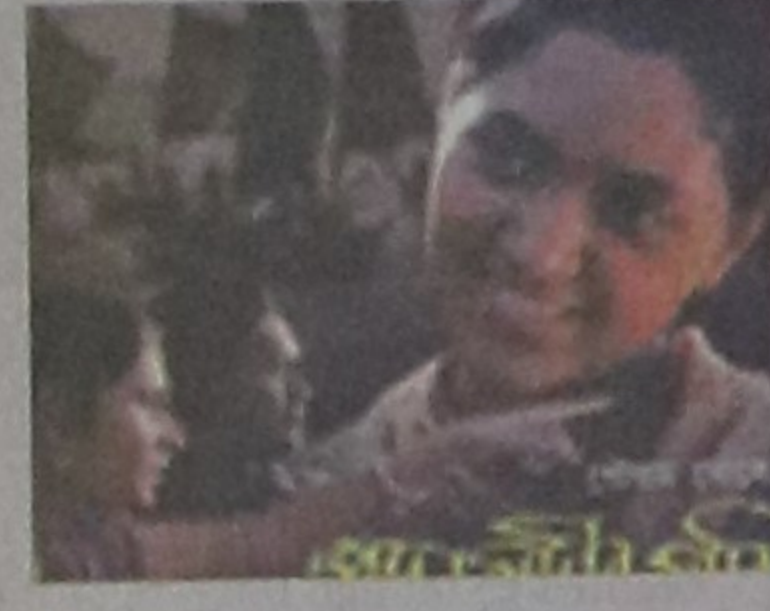
### Art and Craft Exhibition

Artist: Pintu Deb  
 Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU  
 Date: June 10-16  
 Time: 10:00 am - 08:00 pm



### Film Screening

Films from Salyajit Ray and Goutam Ghosh  
 Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalachchitra Kendra, 62, Science Laboratory Road  
 Date: June 13-14  
 June 13  
 "Joy Baba Fekunath" at 11am, "Dakha" at 5pm and "Padma Nadir Majhi" at 7pm



### Film Screening

Title: Pier Paolo Pasolini Retrospective  
 Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre, 110-112, Aziz Co-operative Super Market, Shahbag  
 Date: June 12-17  
 June 14  
 "Accattone" at 4pm and "La Ricotta" at 6pm



## Kathak performance by Abhimanyu in Chittagong

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Chittagong

Dance lovers of the port city spent a memorable evening on June 10. At the centre of their attention was an amazing presentation of Kathak dance by Guru Abhimanyu Lal from Delhi.

The Assistant Indian High Commission, in Chittagong, organised the programme in association with Indian Council of Cultural Relations at the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) auditorium in Chittagong.

Assistant Indian High Commissioner Subrata Bhattacharyya inaugurated the programme.

In his speech Subrata, expressed the hope that such programmes would be arranged regularly so that local dance enthusiasts could get acquainted with the bond between the two countries can be strengthened through these programmes.

In the two-hour-long solo performance, Guru Abhimanyu demonstrated different Kathak mudras (stances) such as *thaat*, *aman*, *poron*, *tukras*, and *jugalbandi* without a break.

Abhimanyu, the son and disciple of Geetanjali Lal who is recognised as one of the most accomplished Kathak dancers and gurus in India, has been performing for the last 15 years. He received training at the premier dance institution Kathak Kendra in New Delhi and from his mother. In his presentation he demonstrated the different styles of the genre.

The most interesting part of the presentation was a composition in which he improvised a Kathak piece, enacting a myth involving Vishnu and Brahma.

The packed hall cheered his spirited performance in different beats like *Tritaal*, *Chautaal* and



Guru Abhimanyu Lal performs Kathak at the programme

*Panchataal* with intricate footwork and graceful movements, maintaining adroit coordination with the percussion instruments.

Akhilesh Bhatta and Anupam Chowdhury played the *tabla* and harmonium respectively at the dance recital.

Abhimanyu also conducted a workshop on Kathak dance at the Assistant High Commission on June 9. With the participation of various institutions, the workshop attracted selected students of Kathak and other classical dances.

## Folk music programme at Shilpakala ends

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A two-day long musical programme, featuring different genres of folk songs, ended yesterday at the National Music and Dance Centre auditorium, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). BSA arranged the programme titled "Hridoye Bangladesh" to promote folk songs among urbanites. The two-day programme featured *Bhawaiyya*, *Gambhira* and songs of Radha Raman and Hason Raja.

On the first day (June 11), a brief discussion was held. Bikash Kishor Das, director of the department of Production, BSA gave the welcome speech. Renowned folk singer and researcher Mustafa Zaman Abbasi was the special guest. The chief guest of the programme, Dr. Muhammad Mahubur Rahman, secretary, Ministry of Communications inaugurated the programme. Director General of BSA, Bhuiyan Shaiful Islam presided over the programme.

On the first day, renowned artists performed *Bhawaiyya* and songs of Radha Raman. Noted *Bhawaiyya* artiste Nadira Begum started with a rendition of *Moishal Kisher badey*. The singer also rendered popular numbers *Mon tui janiao jano na*.

Ashutosh Adhikari rendered another *Bhawaiyya* song *Chharilen mor moyare*. Popular singer Subir Nandi rendered a couple of Radha Raman songs including *Binodini go* and *Karey dekhabo moner dukkho*. Among others, Dr. Nashid Kamal, Ifat Ara Nargis, Dilruba Khan and Md. Azizul Islam rendered songs at the programme.

On the second day, artistes including Akramul Islam, Selim Chowdhury, Jamal Uddin, Nurul Islam and Md. Abdus Samad Khan rendered songs of Hason Raja and *Gambhira*.

## New branch of Alliance Française in Uttara inaugurated

The Alliance Française (AF) de Dhaka, which is one of the links of a vast network of 1071 AFs across the world, opened a new branch in Uttara on June 11, according to a press release. The new branch will be the third of AF in Dhaka after the opening of the second branch at Baridhara in 2006.

The French Ambassador Charley Causeret inaugurated the Uttara Branch of AF has been functioning in Bangladesh since 1959, and is going to celebrate its golden jubilee next year.

The new branch includes six classrooms of which two are already in service.

Twenty-five students started the course at the beginning of April and the number of learners is expected to double from the next session, which will start in July. This branch will also propose cultural activities. Workshops on guitar and interior designing are being offered right now.

A cafeteria and a small library will soon start operating.

The main purpose of setting up a new branch of AF in the Uttara area is to help all the young people to get access to the French culture and literature and also provide them a space to get-together with friends and exchange ideas.

Every year AF welcomes 450,000 students, learning the French language, and also invites 6 million people to participate in various cultural activities.

## A voice poised to captivate

### Nandita Yasmin's debut album "Bajabo Swarnobeena"

KARIM WAHEED

As the *sarod* strums out its entrance and the artiste breathes life into Tagore's words *Ohey shundor-o momo*, you can immediately sense her conviction. The voice is certainly easy to the ear, or as renowned singer and Rabindra Sangeet exponent Kalim Sharafee would like to term it, "God gifted", but it's more than that.

As she continues into the song -- "*rekhechhi konok mandir-e*", it becomes apparent that it takes years of training and devotion to attain this kind of confidence. Nandita Yasmin's debut album *Bajabo Swarnobeena* is a treat not just to the avid Tagore enthusiast; it possesses all the aspects that can charm an average listener.

Nandita's initiation to music happened at the age of five, under *Gano Sangeet* artiste Moshad Ali. In 1983 she enrolled in 'Sangeet Bhaban' -- Kalim Sharafee's music school. Nandita trained in Rabindra Sangeet under the guidance of Sharafee, Aminur Rahman Nijhu, Sadi Mohammed, Rezwana Chowdhury Banya, Hashi Bishwas and Dr. Mridulkanti Chakraborty.

Though Nandita moved to the United States in 1999, she did not alienate herself from her music. She was active as an artiste and is a familiar face to expat Bengalis.



Cover of the album

During a visit to Virginia, US, Nandita's singing got Mita Haque's attention. The renowned Tagore artiste asked Nandita, "What are you doing living abroad?"

In 2006, Mita received a call from Nandita who said, "I've moved to Dhaka for good." "Why?" asked Mita, and the response was

"To sing. When do I start training with you?"

Sadi Mohammed evaluates Nandita not as a student, but as a fellow artiste. "She is an artiste of high calibre. Many sing but Nandita's rendition possesses a serene melody that satiates the senses."

Not an overstatement. Covers of unfamiliar Tagore songs like *Matir buk-er majhey bondi jey jol* and *Madhyadin-er bijon batayan-e* are intriguing. The artiste sounds poised to mesmerise, taking the listener on an untried journey to a familiar realm.

Even songs that have been heard and sung a million times or more, like *Bhalobashi bhalobashi* and *Bhalobeshy shokhi nibhritey jatoney* sound fresh, innovative.

Nandita subtly utters *Ami tokhono chhilem magano gahano ghum-er ghorey*, recalling one rainy night, making it the perfect song for every rainy night; her throwing of "*shaghano gagano*" and "*matto prolaapey*", immaculate. In the next song, *Shukhoheen nishidin poradheen hoye*, she sounds aptly resolute.

Music direction by Sadi Mohammed and arrangement of accompanying instruments by Amit Bannerjee are not experimental. The instrumental arrangement does not sound cluttered, neither does it try to overpower the vocals, and the quality that marks the arrangement is precision.

The album produced by 'Surer Mela' marks the emergence of a deft, powerful voice in Rabindra Sangeet genre. Nandita's homecoming is a gain for both the artiste and music lovers.

## New game show "Bhirer Chaap-e" on Banglavisión



Hosts of the show seen with the participants

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A new campus-based street show, *Bhirer chaap-e*, will start on Banglavisión from today. Produced by Kaonain Saurav, the show will be hosted by Mostafizur Rahman Samin and Atoshi.

The location of each episode will be the campus of a college or university. A comedian will gather a crowd of students and other people on the street, and the hosts will then engage them in various games of puzzles, IQ questions, etc. Participants will then be selected to take part in other contests and competitions.

The show will be telecast at 5:30 pm today.

## Load shedding addressed in "Sisimpur"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The 44th episode of *Sisimpur* will be aired on BTV at 9:05 am. *Sisimpur* is the Bangladeshi adaptation of children's television series *Sesame Street*. Today's episode will feature various happenings in the lives of the inhabitants of *Sisimpur* such as *Ikri*, *Tuktuki*, *Elmo* and *Grover*.



Muppets of *Sisimpur*

*Ikri* is alone in a room when the electricity goes off due to load shedding. Overcome by darkness, she is finally calmed down by the encouragement from a friend, and wanders away into the lands of her imagination. Meanwhile, *Mukul* tries to pacify *Tuktuki* who is extremely angry due to some reason. *Elmo* is sad having lost one of his most prized possessions; best friend *Grover* tries to cheer him up.

Rerun of the show will be telecast on Saturday at 2:15 pm; Wednesday and Thursday at 5:05 pm.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Young actors of Pragati Children's Theatre, Parbartipur staged the play *Jonmo Theke Jolchhi* at the ongoing "9th National And 1st International Children And Youth Theatre Festival" at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium on June 10. Five other children's theatre troupes -- Arunoday Sangskritik Sangstha, Jessore; Meeti Natya Shangho, Faridpur; Bihongo Shishu Natyadal, Jhinaidah; Shonchalok Natya Charcha Kendra, Munshiganj and Shurjolok Khelaghar Ashor, Dhaka -- also staged plays on the day. The festival has been organised by People's Theatre Association (PTA) in association with Swedish SIDA, Swedish ITI, Art Venture and ActionAid and will continue till June 20.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

A scene from Prachyanat's production *A Man for All Seasons*, which was staged at the Mahila Samiti Auditorium on June 10. The play is a translation, of English playwright Robert Bolt's work, by Shahed Iqbal. Azad Abul Kalam has directed the play. *A Man for All Seasons* is Prachyanat's 6th production.

**The window to your dream is open. Where are you?**

Come forward and take the spotlight. **Pantene You Got The Look 2008** is here.

The last date for registration is July 2, 2008  
 For queries, call 01 71 261 0295 / 9881 689 or log on to www.bangladeshinfo.com or e-mail at yglf@greybd.com

Sponsors:

Partners:

**Participant's information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  M  F  Age \_\_\_\_\_ Height (feet) \_\_\_\_\_ Weight (kg) \_\_\_\_\_ Education \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I have got the look because (complete in not more than 15 words) \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility Criteria:** Attach/include photocopy of any of the following -- Passport / Birth Certificate / SSC Certificate / Driving License  
**Male:** Height- 5'8" (minimum), Age-18-25, Qualification- HSC/A levels (minimum) **Female:** Height- 5'11" (minimum), Age- 18-25, Qualification- HSC/A-levels (minimum)  
 To register, send all supporting documents along with 3 photographs (1 profile, 2 full length) to Grey Dhaka, 8th Tower, 3rd floor, House# 1/A, Road# 23, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.