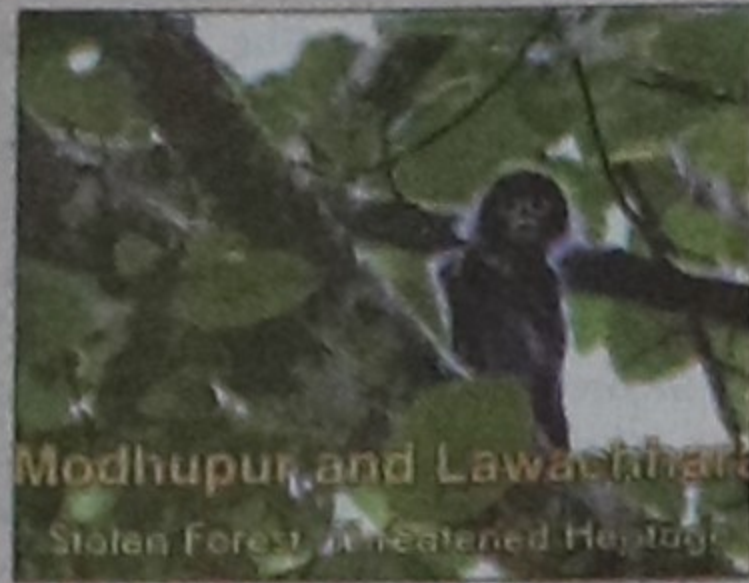


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photography Exhibition

Title: Modhupur and Lawachhara: Stolen Forest Threatened Heritage
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: June 21-27
Time: 3pm-8pm
An hour-long documentary screening (6pm-7pm) will feature everyday



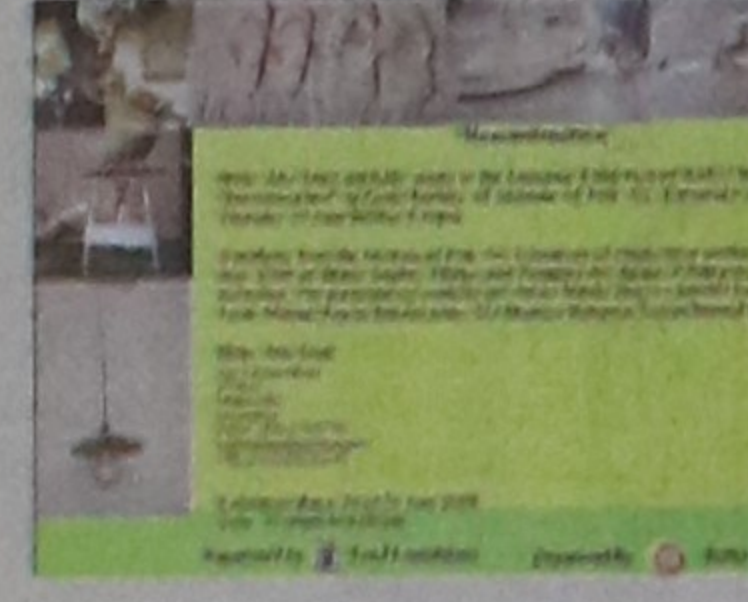
Photography Exhibition

Title: Child Rights in Action!
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15 A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: June 19-25
Time: 3pm-8pm



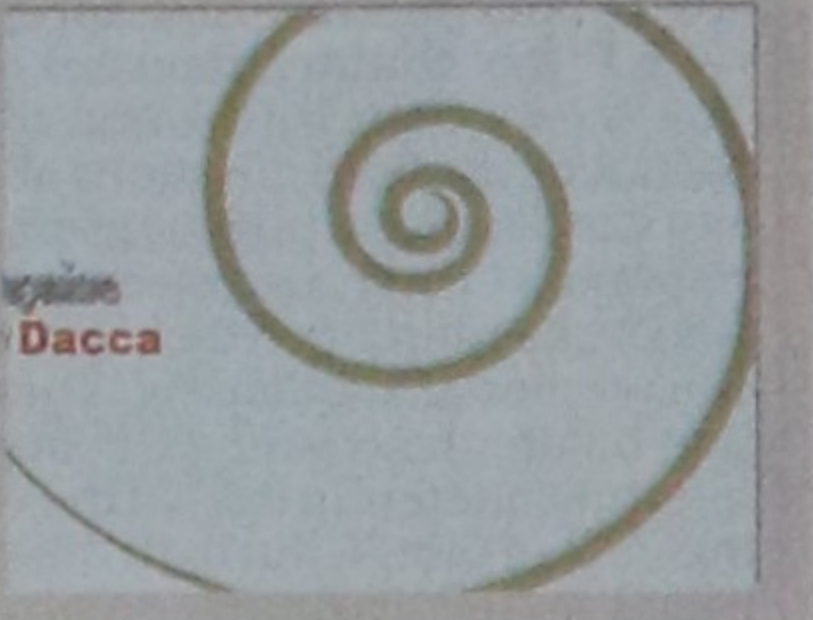
Exhibition

Title: Reconstruction
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Date: June 19-23
Time: 12pm-8pm



Oriental Art Exhibition

Artist: Abdul Aziz
Venue: Gallery Zoom, Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: June 19-July 2
Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm (Saturdays 5pm-8pm)



Exuberance in the air

In conversation with RJ Nawsheen



Nawsheen Nahreen Mou

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Radio jockeying is a relatively new profession in our country and among the familiar voices on the radio, Nawsheen is a popular name. *The Daily Star* recently caught up with the RJ: How did you get started?
It was middle of last year, when I had just finished my honour's exam. I was somewhat bored and decided to drop my CV at Radio Today, as I was keen to work in the media. After being selected, I found my career in radio quite interesting and challenging.
My show's name is "Today's Adda and Saturday Special World Music" (an interactive show, on air every-

day from 1 to 4 pm).

People have the notion that the target audience of the FM stations are youngsters. To what extent is this true?

I don't think that's true. I feel that FM stations provide entertainment to music lovers from all age groups. I have come across middle-aged people who regularly listen to my show and send me text messages.

What qualities should an RJ have?

Firstly, I would say you have to be friendly, and have a good sense of humour. In my view, an introvert cannot be a good RJ. Just be yourself. Don't try to take on a new persona on the microphone. You have to love this job.

On radio, your voice is your

only mode of interaction with the listeners. Does this make it difficult for you?

Well, it is difficult, but it's also very interesting. It is easy to win over people when you have a visual presence, but an RJ has to keep the audience engaged only through his/her voice. It was tough in the beginning, but then everything fell into place for me when I realised that it's an achievement if I can attract the listeners merely with my voice.

How far do you see yourself from where you started?

Life has its uncertainties. However, I would say that to be a part of the first private FM station in Bangladesh, starting at a time when the "FM culture" was just catching on, makes me proud. Though it's still not considered a "hot" profession like in our neighbouring country, it is becoming popular among the young. About myself, I would like to get the love and affection of my listeners for as long as possible.

Radio stations have become very popular again. What is your take on this?

Yes, listening to the radio is considered "cool" again. And this has become possible because of the FM stations. In this context I would like to mention the name of Rafiqul Haque, managing director of Radio Today fm 89.6. He has promoted this trend widely.

What are the major differences between state-owned and private radio stations?

The only difference I see is that private radio stations have a richer and diverse collection of recent music and preppy style of presentation. But this doesn't mean that state owned station doesn't meet the standards, it certainly does.

What is your academic background?

I have finished my O and A levels and am currently doing my LLB under the University of London (external programme). I want to be a barrister eventually.

What are your hobbies?

I just love music. I also like writing lyrics and dancing is my passion; I did train in classical dance for a while. In my free time, I like to hang out with my family.

'World Environment Day' celebrated in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A cultural function was held at the local Shilpakala Academy on June 18, marking the concluding session of the 15day celebration of 'World Environment Day'. The programme was chalked out by Mymensingh Municipality.

The cultural programmes included musical soiree, dance sequences, play and *Chambhira* on environment issues participated by cultural organizations. The play on environment, titled 'Firica Dau Shei Aronnya' enthralled the audience at the jam-packed Shilpakala auditorium.

A debate competition on 'Not the municipal authority but the role of municipal dwellers is more effective to remove water logging problem here' was also held. Mukul Niketon High School and Bidhamoyee Govt. Girls High School took part in the competition.

Earlier, a discussion was held marking the concluding session. The discussion titled 'Kick the Carbon Dioxide Habit: Towards a low Carbon Economy' was addressed by Mayor of Mymensingh Municipality, Advocate Mahmud Al Noor Tareq as

chief guest with Chief Executive of the municipality Md. Khaibar Rahman in the chair. Among others, Engineer ABM Israil, Superintendent Engineer of LGED, Mymensingh, Dr. Mohammed Shariful Islam Khan, Medical Officer of the municipality also spoke on the occasion.

Prof. Dr. MA Sattar of Environment Science Department of Bangladesh Agricultural University, also President of Bangladesh Association for Environment Development was the main speaker on the occasion.

The chief guest later distributed prizes among the winners.



Band artistes enthrall the audience at an open-air concert at the Bhaluka Degree College premises. The concert was part of the campaign for prevention of AIDS. PHOTO: STAR

Mingling craft with art

FAYZA HAQ

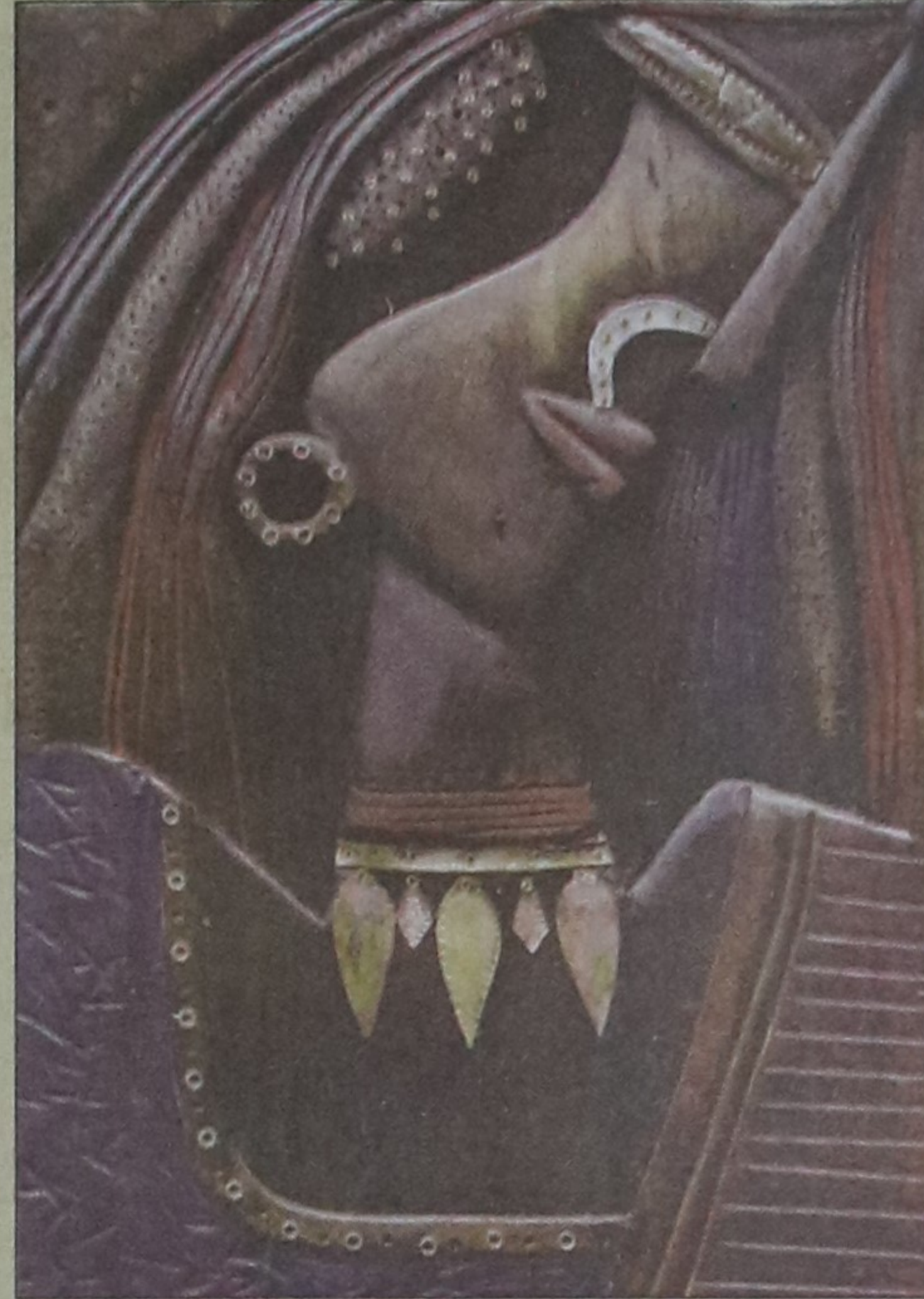
Pintu Deb's recent exhibition of art and craft at Zainul Gallery included many fascinating creations in the shapes of women, flowers, animals and birds. He created his compositions from wood, metal, skeins of wool and paints.

The shapes are stylised and oriental combining the beauty of the east with the charm of the west. The figures and shapes are stylised, sometimes simplified and at others worked in detail.

In "Poetry of Wood-02" we see the figures of a couple, looking away from one another. A pink lotus and a head of a cow are included in the composition. "Poetry of Wood" depicts a seated woman with a metal sheet for a skirt, complete with bangles, anklet and amulet. Beside her is another female character, bending over and listening to the conversation of the first. The figures are outlined with delicate wire strips, while the background is of dark brown wood.

A woman in shades of pale wood, with flowing hair, done in shades of brown, blue and red, has a delightful, tiny bird on her shoulder. She wears a sequined, blue blouse and has only the right half of her face done in detail. A humped bull with sharp horns, with a crescent moon and a flag at the back are presented in brown red and blue in "Poetry of Wood-15".

The portrait of a woman is brought in "Poetry of Wood-12". She has hoops in her ears and a choker at her neck, while her long straight hair flows down. A semi-abstract piece is seen in "Poetry of



Artworks on display

Wood-13'. Flowers, a pink and blue bird, segments of a woman's face and a tree trunk can be seen in it.

A resting peacock and a striding elephant are seen in the next two compositions. Triangles, dots and lines decorate the bird, while the



elephant has a gold and pink seat on its back.

Appliqué work brings in a still life with a pineapple, slice of the red heart of a water-melon, an orange, apple and other fruits. A red jug with a handle is included along with streaks of the blue and

grey curtain behind and in front. Jute cloth, beads and strings are seen in "Mohua 19" and "Mohua 20". The faces are triangular while the ears and nose are seen as

geometrical forms. A wood relief presents fruits and vegetables in a basket. All the works are imaginative and mature.

Mike Myer's new film "The Love Guru"



In "The Love Guru", Mike Myers plays an American brought up in India who is trying to make it big in Hollywood.

In "The Love Guru", he plays an American guy who was brought up in India and is trying to make it big in Hollywood. But if Mike Myers wasn't Canadian through and through, the madcap multicultural comedy might never have occurred to him.

The seeds were planted when he was still a kid, devouring everything local television had to offer.

"As long as I can remember, as long as there was cable, there have been Bollywood movies on Toronto TV," says the native of the Toronto suburb of Scarborough. "They were on Channel 47 at two o'clock in the morning. I'm an insomniac and I have been since the age of, like, 11. I can't remember his last name, but Rakesh would come on and it would be Indian Cinema Night and he would say things like, 'Still awake? This next adventure...' and I would watch it and go, wow. This is just a tapestry."

"I thought it was so amazing that I lived in a country that views itself not as a melting pot, but as a salad bowl," Myers, 45, adds. "A country that has a ministry of multiculturalism and they have a multicultural channel and at two o'clock in the morning I got to see Indian movies."

The Bollywood influence is, naturally, all over the new movie -- Myers's Guru Pitka aspires to be the next Deepak Chopra, and it's got dance numbers that come out of nowhere, elephants, weird scenes inside the ashram, you name it. The

primary inspiration, however, came from Myers' father, Eric, who instilled a love of British humour that propelled Mike directly from high school to "Second City", then on to "Saturday Night Live" and movie superstardom as Wayne Campbell, Austin Powers and Shrek. It was the elder Myers' death 17 years ago that got his son thinking about the meaning of it all, checking out Indian philosophy and finally coming up with the wacky Pitka.

"My friends would ask, 'What are you reading?' and I would say, 'This wonderful thing called 'The Only Way Out Is In', Myers says in a mellifluous, South Asian accent. "This voice started happening and I went, 'Huh. What?' Then friends would call me up and say, 'I'm feeling depressed. Talk to me in the voice.' I'd tell them, 'You're a beautiful creature. The universe loves you.'"

However cosmopolitan its origins may be, make no mistake, "The Love Guru" is the most Canadian movie Myers has ever made, even if it does co-star Jessica Alba as the owner of the Maple Leafs (a professional ice hockey team based in Toronto) and Justin Timberlake as a goalie from Quebec.

The film was shot entirely in Ontario (even the India sequences); remarkably, for a guy who has a street named after him in Scarborough, he's never done that before.

Local artistes awarded in Khagrachhari

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Sampriti, a local cultural organisation awarded 17 veteran artists recently for their contribution to the local cultural arena of Khagrachhari.

The award recipients are Bibhuti Bhushan Tripura, of Panchmail village; Amar Krishna Shil, Dakkhin Matha (Khagrachhari Bazar); Samratsu Chakma, Madhupur village; Mongsathowai Chowdhury, No-1 Kadamtali area; Abul Kashem, Khagrachhari Bazar area; Kajol Chowdhury, Shalban area; Jibo Roaza, Prabakar Das, Kawsar Alam from Masterpara area; Snehomoy Chakma, Ananta Masterpara

village; Prabhakar Barua, Kallayanpur village; Ratan Tripura, Mohajonpara; Sanjit Dey, Bazar area; Jibon Roaza, Kadamtali area; Erina Chakma, Mohajonpara; Amili Dewan, College Gate; Suchorita Roaza, Khagrachhari; Amalendu Majumder, Ramghor and Nanda Rani Chakma, Mohalchhari.

Before the award-giving ceremony, a discussion was held at Khagrachhari town hall presided over by Sadar Zone Commander Lt. Colonel Ihtesham-us-Samad Chowdhury. Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura was present as chief guest.

Speakers expressed the view

that these artistes are working to preserve and uphold the indigenous culture and heritages.

Speakers also praised 'Sampriti' for taking such initiatives to honour these individuals. They also agreed that it is necessary to encourage the artistes from all the indigenous communities living in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

President of Sampriti, Juma Chakma; Vice President, Nazrul Islam; Secretary, Ruposhi Talukder; Joint Secretary, Azhar Hira; Organising Secretary, Roy Tripura; and government officials were present at the programme.



Reception accorded to veteran artistes at the Town Hall in Khagrachhari. PHOTO: STAR