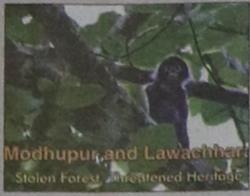


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photography Exhibition

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



Exhibition

Organiser: Fashion Pathshala
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15/A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: June 26-27
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Form of Nature
Artist: Asif-Uz-Zaman
Venue: Dols Contemporary Art Centre, 191/A, Haque Tower (2nd floor), Tejgaon-Culshan Link Road, Tejgaon I/A
Date: June 20-27
Time: 11am-8pm



Ceramics Exhibition

Title: Penia Dots: A Group of Artists
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Date: June 24-30
Time: 12pm-7pm



Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy honours leading artistes



From left: Sabina Yasmin, Shahanz Rahmatullah and Zeenat Barkatullah receiving their awards



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) honoured seven renowned artistes -- Shah Abdul Karim, Runa Laila, Sabina Yasmin, Shahanz Rahmatullah, Niaz Muhammad Chowdhury, Subal Dutta and Zeenat Barkatullah on June 25, in recognition of their contribution to music and dance.

The programme was held at the Dance and Music auditorium, BSA. Adviser to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Rasheda K. Chowdhury, was the chief guest at the programme.

Mohammad Sharful Alam, secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs was present as the

special guest.

Titled "Guniyon Sangbordhona 2008", the programme was organised by the Department of Dance and Music, BSA. BSA has been honouring artistes for their contribution to music and dance since 1989.

The event was divided in two sessions. The felicitation ceremony was presided over by Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, director general, BSA. A cultural programme followed.

Each awardee received a crest and a cheque for Tk 10,000. Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam greeted the awardees with flowers, Rasheda K. Chowdhury presented the crests while Mohammad Sharful Alam gave away the cash prizes. Sunil Chandra Das, director, Department of Dance and Music, BSA was

also present at the programme.

The award-giving ceremony started around 7:35 pm. First to receive the award was Shah Abdul Karim (the elderly folk music icon couldn't attend at the programme due to his illness). His son, Shah Noor Jalal, accepted the award on his behalf. Umena Anzalin, daughter of artiste Anjuman Ara Begum, accepted Runa Laila's award on her behalf.

Sabina Yasmin was the third awardee at the programme. Sabina said, "Awards are recognitions of an artiste's hard work and they inspire the artiste to work harder and give more." Next was Shahanz Rahmatullah. "An award means a lot to an artiste, but it very important that s/he receives the recognition

in his/her lifetime. Artistes receiving posthumous awards are quite common nowadays. This is not a good trend," said Shahanz Rahmatullah. Niaz Mohammad Chowdhury's award was accepted by his son Faiyaz Muhammad Chowdhury.

The cultural programme started with a dance presentation with the Rabindra Sangeet *Anandaluara bohichhey bhuboney* performed by artistes of BSA and directed by Deepa Khondokar. Fahmida Nabi, Munir Khan, Nabid Shafiqul Islam and baul Kala Mian rendered songs at the programme. The event wrapped up with a duet dance performance by Farhana Chowdhury and Abdur Rashid. The duo danced with the Nazrul Sangeet *Amayenoheygo*.

Model-actor Nirob to make his film debut

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Model turned TV actor Nirob, who is known for the Banglalink TV commercials, is set to make his big screen debut. Recently Nirob has signed a film to be directed by mainstream filmmaker duo Shahin-Sumon. The film will be called *Mon Jekhaney Hridoy Shekhaney*.

The film revolves around a triangular love story. The cast of the film will likely include Bobita, Apu Biswas and Shakib Khan.

About signing the film, Nirob said, "A few days ago, the directors of the film called me and said that they want to cast me in their next venture. After reading the script, I decided to sign the film."

Nirob added, "I've always dreamt of becoming a film actor. Growing up, I was a fan of Salman Shah. I always told my mother that I want to be a hero like Salman Shah. When I told my mother about signing the film, she was very happy. It's like a dream come true!"

According to Nirob, shooting for the film is expected to start from July 10 at different locations in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar.

Though this will be a new atmosphere for him, Nirob has a positive outlook. The actor said, "Many things and aspects of our film industry have been discussed over the years. I hope fans, who know me as a model and TV actor, will accept my new role positively."



Nirob

Experts debate lure of 'train-wreck' female celebs

AP, London

Topics included "Britney's Tears: The Abject Female Celebrity in Postemotional Society" and "Hooker, Victim and/or Doormat: Lindsay Lohan and the Culture of Celebrity Notoriety."

European and American academics met last Wednesday to examine society's fascination with "train-wreck" female celebrities and why the public and the media seem to get a kick out of Britney Spears' meltdown, Lindsay Lohan's drink and drug arrests and Amy Winehouse's rehab struggles.

Diane Negra, one of the organisers, said participants wanted to study why we take "pleasure in seeing women brought low."

"The massive coverage these women draw is only a little bit about themselves," said Negra, a professor of film and television at the host university in Norwich, northeast of London. "These women operate as lightning rods for a lot of other concerns."

There's nothing new in society's fascination with celebrities. But the Internet and the spread of "tabloid" culture into the mainstream have created a whirlwind in which rumour, claim and rebuttal swirl and feed off one another.

A Google News search for troubled soul diva Winehouse on Wednesday produced almost 10,000 stories. In British newspapers, the story of the singer's erratic public appearances, struggle with drugs and health worries is played out almost daily.

There are plenty of male celebrities, from Pete Doherty to Robert Downey Jr., whose personal and legal difficulties also make headlines.

But Negra said the coverage of women is more judgmental, casting wayward female celebrities as "cautionary tales." She said coverage of female celebrities is less likely to celebrate a troubled star's triumphant comeback, the way Downey has been lauded for "Iron Man," or Owen Wilson has been shown returning to work after a reported suicide attempt.

"We seem to have a lot more fixed ideas about what women's lives should be like than we do of men," she said.

"When we use female celebrities this way, we see them failing and struggling, they serve as proof that

for women the work-life balance is impossible. Can you have it all? The answer these stories give again and again is 'absolutely not.'"

Unsurprisingly, celebrity journalists disagree. Gordon Smart, who edits The Sun newspaper's celebrity pages, said the preponderance of troubled female stars in the news was a coincidence.

"I just think at the moment there just happens to be a cluster of female celebrities that are going through difficult times," Smart told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Cary Cooper, a professor of

shows, who are famous simply for being famous. The criticism is a way of addressing troubling questions about the link between talent and fame.

"Do we expect people who are famous to be talented?" she said. "How do we deal with the ubiquity of reality TV?"

She thinks much of the hostility to Paul McCartney's ex-wife, Heather Mills -- depicted as a self-serving gold-digger by the British press -- arose "because of the sense that her fame was unearned," in comparison to that of the former



Amy Winehouse is one of several female celebrities who gain attention with every move

psychology and health at Lancaster University in England, said negative celebrity coverage is not the media's fault -- readers and viewers want to watch celebrities struggle.

"It makes people feel good," Cooper said. Celebrities "look like they lead a golden life, and yet it doesn't make them happy. So in a way it justifies our humdrum existence."

Negra suggested the negative tone of much coverage reflects public concern about the growing number of celebrities with no obvious talent -- people like Paris Hilton or the stars of reality-TV

Beate. Veteran celebrity publicist Max Clifford doesn't believe women get a harder time from the media. He thinks the knives are out for all celebrities.

"The media don't mind whether it's a male or a female -- if they can assassinate them and sell newspapers, they will," Clifford said. "The sad thing is, bad news is news and good news isn't."

"When I started out in the business in 1962, it was all about promotion. Now most of my job is about protection -- protecting celebrities from an ever-more voracious media."

Three members of Miles on "Aainaghar" tonight



Shafin, Hamin and Manam with the host Aupi Karim

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Members of the popular band Miles -- Shafin Ahmed, Hamin Ahmed and Manam Ahmed -- will appear on tonight's episode of *Aainaghar*. The show will be aired on Ekushey TV at 8:15 pm.

The programme offers an insight in lives of successful indi-

viduals. In each episode celebrities are invited as guests. They take part in interactive sessions sharing their personal life and more. Among them two takes part in the conversation and one evaluates them.

The show is produced by Shameem Shahed and hosted by Aupi Karim.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Members of the Dhaka University Cultural Troupe sing on the fifth day (June 25) of Fete de la Musique '08 held at Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi. Alliance Francaise in association with TSC, DU arranged the fortnight long music festival to celebrate the World Music Day, which will end on July 2. The highlight of the programme was renditions of Rabindra, Nazrul Sangeet and Adhunik songs.



The premiere show of *Lailir Joto Kotha*, a short film by director Mamunur Rashid, was held at the ballroom of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on June 24, says a press release. Arranged by United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the show was inaugurated by Quamrunnesa Khanam, director general, Family Planning. Also present were Professor M.A. Faiz, director general, Health Services; Arthur Erken, UNFPA Representative, Bangladesh and Mamunur Rashid. The film highlights issues like safe motherhood, gender equity and the importance of education in family planning.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

A scene from Centre for Asian Theatre's (CAT) latest production *Amputation*. The play was staged at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on June 25. *Amputation* is a translation of Norwegian dramatist Jens Bjørneboe's play by Raihan Akhtar. The play portrays the level of freedom an individual enjoys in a state under a dictatorship.