

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

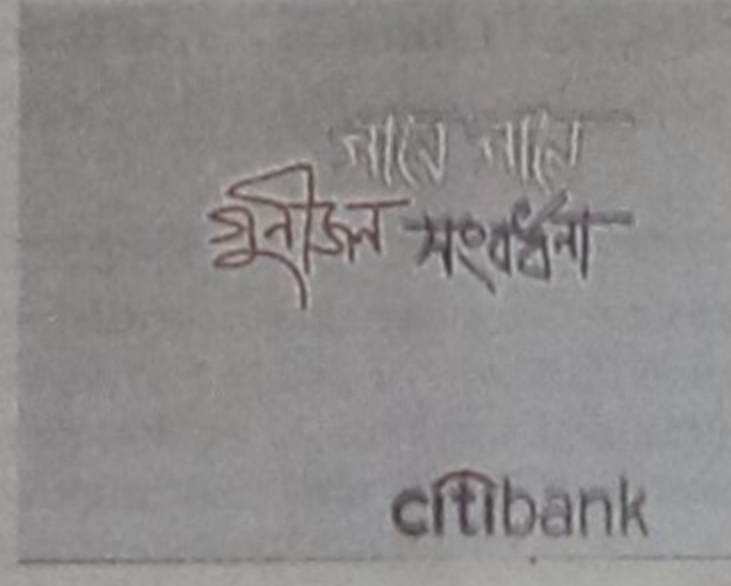
Solo Exhibition

Title: The Limitless Luminosity of Lines
Artist: Safiuddin Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: June 23-July 13
Time: 12pm-8pm



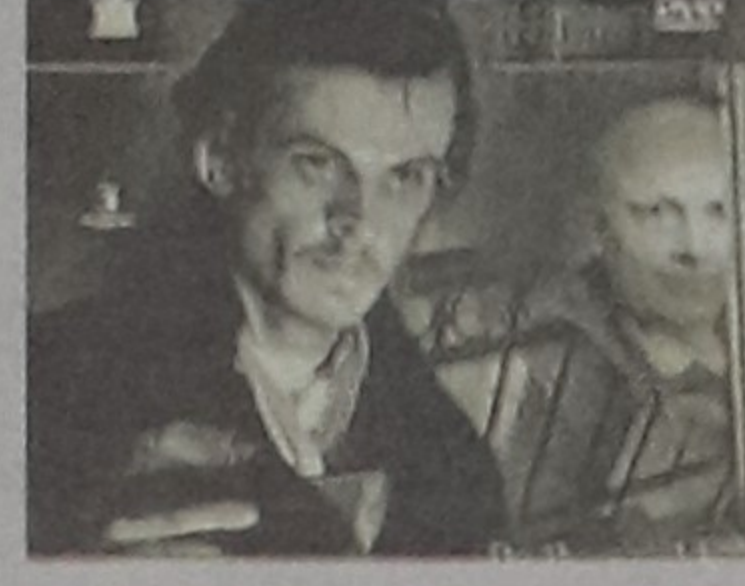
Award Giving Ceremony

Title: Gane Gane Gunjon Sangbarhana
Organiser: Citibank
Venue: Utsab Hall, Radisson Water Garden Hotel
Date: July 11
Time: 5pm
Invited guests only



Film Screening

Film: Crime & Punishment
Venue: Library, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: July 8
Time: 12pm



Solo Exhibition

Title: Labyrinth of Abstraction
Artist: Nazia Andaleeb
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: July 3-16
Time: 9am-12pm, 5pm-8pm (Saturdays 5pm-8pm)



Mosharraf Karim | A prolific character-actor

JAMIL MAHMUD

Mosharraf Karim is one of the most talented actors of his generation. His ability to internalise a character and histrionic ease in various roles have create a niche for him on the small screen. Recently the prolific character-actor talked to The Daily Star about the saga of his success.

"In my childhood I used to emulate the body language of people. Beside this, I was a common figure in my school theatre. In 1986, my love for theatre took a new dimension, when I joined the theatre troupe Natyakendra. To date I am a member of Natyakendra though at present I cannot give sufficient time to the troupe," asserted Mosharraf. "Natyakendra has given me my best schooling in the field of acting," he added.

After over a decade in theatre, Mosharraf emerged on the small screen in 1999. Mosharraf said, "Probably *Atithi*, Ferdous Hasan's single episode TV play aired on channel i, was my first TV appearance in 1999."

However the early days were a challenge. According to Mosharraf, his turning point was 2004. That year he played two important roles in two different TV works which established him as a



Mosharraf Karim

promising actor. One of those is in the tele-film *Kyaton*, where he performed with co-artist Tisha. Mosharraf said, "Actually *Kyaton*

took TV acting seriously until 2004; rather I was enjoying working in theatre. In the latter part of 2004, I had to change my decision and take to TV acting professionally due to a family crisis."

Mega serials -- *Bhober Haat* and *Ghor Kutum* -- and drama serial *420*, aired on channel i, distinguish him as a successful actor.

Explaining his technique, Mosharraf said, "At first I read script of a play thoroughly and delve into the demands of my character. If I find that the character will not suit my personality then I will not opt for it."

About the differences between TV acting and stage performance, Mosharraf said, "On the stage, you can merge yourself with a character because you get sufficient time to practice day after day. On the other hand, in TV plays there is no opportunity to go deep into the character."

At present he is working in the drama serial *Houseful*, aired on ntv, jointly directed by Iftekhar Fahmi and Redwan Rony. His role in the serial is that of a highly suspicious tutor.

"My wife has been an important support in my acting career," said Mosharraf, who is the proud father of a five-month-old son Rayan.

In Focus | Paving the way for differently-abled



Sirajul Islam (in the back) overseeing the work of his employees

PHOTO: STAR

AZIBOR RAHMAN, *Jheridaha*

There was a time when Differently-abled Sirajul Islam went from door to door, looking for work. But no one gave him any work as he was considered "handicapped" by many.

At one stage, he went to India and got a job in a factory where flowers were made with *shola*. While working there he came up

with a plan that would enable him to earn his own living and in the process create job opportunities for others like him in Bangladesh. After several years, he came back to Bangladesh with a complete training on how to make toys and items with *shola*. He set up a cottage industry called Regal Handicrafts and Dry Flowers. Around 50 differently-abled individuals work here. Flowers made with *shola* by the workers are sold at different

outlets including Aarong in Dhaka. Sirajul Islam is the son of Jamal Haq of Shaheganj bazaar under Faridpur upazila in Chandpur district.

Sirajul said, he took up a job at a printing factory in 1966 and worked as a composer at different newspapers. He became unemployed in 1980.

After several years he married Marjana Begum. He has four children. At one stage, not being

able to find a job, he left the country in 1989 and took up a job in a printing factory in south Chobbbish Pargana, West Bengal. Later, he moved to Kolkata. There he made flowers with *shola* for an Australian company in India.

Sirajul said that the differently-abled are neglected and often considered burdens on the society. He set up his factory in 2004 with the help of his brother-in-law who is also differently-abled.

Sirajul said that he gets *shola* from the canals. The villagers sell *shola* to him. Initially he trained five of the villagers how to cut the *shola* and how to make flowers with it. Gradually he managed to train over 100 of the villagers. Of them 40 were differently-abled.

He has set up another factory in Barobazaar under the same upazila as business picked up. At present the two factories have 100 workers, half of whom are differently-abled.

One of the differently-abled workers, Aklima Khatun, is a student of class VII. Her parents are day-labourers. Apparently her family members did not want her to continue her studies. With her income from working at Sirajul's factory, Aklima can now afford to study.

Sirajul said, "At present around one lakh flowers are made everyday." He added that these *shola*-flowers are in great demand in the market. The entrepreneur feels that if he gets financial assistance from the government, he can extend his business and create more jobs for the differently-abled.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Nagorik Natyasampradaya staged *Chhayanaut* on July 4 at the Experimental Theatre Stage. Set against the backdrop of the film industry scenario of 1950s Kolkata, Utpal Dutt's play *Chhayanaut* represents the fate of the so-called stars. One glamorous star replaces another and displaces him from the viewers' mind. The aim of the play is to show that everything in the glamour world is simply repetitive. Aly Zaker directs the play.

Abstraction in black and gold

Nazia Andaleeb's solo exhibition at Alliance Francaise

FAYZA HAQ

Nazia Andaleeb Prema's current exhibition at Alliance Francaise gallery contains a mass of gold and black. Andaleeb explains, "I want to give a new dimension to my work. Gold and black are colours which artists often wish to avoid. I want to take my work into a different direction. Black actually has many hues in it if you look closely. Earlier I used black with other colours. Now I combine other colours on my basic of black. The gold is there to diversify one's attention span and make the painting more vibrant. I'm veering into something new, subject wise, and as regards colour composition, I'm now doing paintings which are a far cry from my work which has gone earlier."

Andaleeb says her art is not limited to her painting only: the whole creative process, the elements, experience and artist's journey make up the art work. She takes paintings beyond the rectangular frames in her search of new horizons in abstract art. In her transition period, she has used different colours and different materials. She has included items like a high-heeled shoe, electric wires, and a pair of glasses in her work to give it the effect of installation. "I want to shift my paintings closer to real life," says Andaleeb. She is always in quest of something new and does not rest even though what she did before was a success.

Taking advantage of her experience of her travels in her eight residences, she pauses to ask, "Can we really capture the true meaning of things? My intellect and my thought, as depicted in my work, rarely follow a straight path. Aren't we all caught in a web of maze searching for the way out? I've tried to weave a common thread through the varied paths. I hope it will lead you through a labyrinth of meditation and deep examination."

"An artist," says Andaleeb, "changes the space around him/her, as Alok Roy does with his amazing sculptures. Paintings sometimes reflect the emotional turns in the life of an artist." Andaleeb lost her father, and had many



(R-L) Nazia Andaleeb explains her work to artist Aminul Islam and art critic Hasnat Abdul Hye

vicissitudes in her life, and her present diving into abstraction is to reflect the many occasions of pain in her life. Through abstractions, she interprets life, living and the purpose behind existence. "An abstraction speaks for itself," she insists, "It is an inner strength."

She says that the artists Soulages and Bosch influence her. From Bangladesh, Mohammed Kibria and Safiuddin Ahmed remain her favourites, along with Shishir Bhattacharya, Tracey Amin and Shireen Nishat also go to formulate her style.

Taking part in workshops, Andaleeb has been to Sri Lanka, India (New Delhi and Kolkata), USA (New Jersey and New York), Japan and Thailand.

"The best part of the workshops is the exchange of ideas and views with artists from numerous countries, which naturally goes to widen one's vision," she says.



An artwork by Nazia Andaleeb

Mamma Mia! Abba reunite for the first time in 22 years for film premiere



Circled from left to right are Abba's Benny Andersson, Agnetha Faltskog, Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Bjorn Ulvaeus

Pop supergroup Abba have reunited for the first time in 22 years for the premiere of hit musical *Mamma Mia!*

The band, which had a string of hits in the 1970s and 80s, joined film stars Meryl Streep and Pierce Brosnan for the gala screening in Stockholm, Sweden.

Anni-Frid Lyngstad - known as Frida - and Agnetha Faltskog danced on the red carpet with Streep to the cheer of thousands of waiting fans.

Moments later, Benny Andersson, 61, and Bjorn Ulvaeus, 63, joined them on the cinema's balcony to wave to fans.

Streep and co-star Brosnan wanted the Abba musical, which premiered in London and Berlin this week, to have a special showing in the band's home country.

The full reunion was not certain until the last minute because of the reclusive lifestyle of 58-year-

old Agnetha, the former blonde bombshell of the group which sold 370million records.

In 2004, the singer pulled out of a performance to mark the 30 years since the group won the 1974 Eurovision Song contest with the hit *Waterloo*.

The foursome split in 1982 and last performed together in public in 1986, although there were reports they sang together at a private birthday party for a friend in 1999.

They were once reported to have been offered \$1billion to reunite for a concert tour.

At news conferences, Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan and Colin Firth enthused about Abba's music while discussing the challenges of singing and wearing figure-hugging Spandex costumes for their roles.

"Once I started singing, I kind of rather enjoyed it," said Brosnan,

better known for James Bond films than musicals.

"The Spandex was a bit of a challenge and the boots were. But I had the time of my life making this movie."

Co-star Firth, star of two Bridget Jones's Diary films, said the most frightening aspects of the film were also the most motivating.

"There's an old Miles Davis quote which I've always cherished, which is 'Don't play what you know, play what you don't know'," Firth said.

Ulvaeus had high praise for the actors' vocal abilities. "Most of them don't think they can sing, but they can, I assure you."

The Spandex outfits were a different matter.

"You're going to get bulges that you didn't want and not really developments you did want," said Firth, who performed as Mr Darcy in the BBC mini-series of *Pride*

and *Prejudice*.

Streep said she had been excited by the prospect of singing since she had performed in high school musicals such as *Oklahoma!*

"That was my beginning so it was kind of like coming home to the thing that I loved very, very much," she said.

The movie follows the success of the stage musical *Mamma Mia!* which features 22 Abba songs, including *Dancing Queen*, *Take a chance on me* and *The winner takes it all*.

Oscar winner Meryl Streep heads the cast playing single mother Donna Sheridan. Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgard play the three potential fathers of Donna's daughter Sophie, played by Amanda Seyfried.

Source: Internet