

Story of Stitches: The Art of Nakshi Kantha

Exhibition celebrating 30 years of Aarong Venue: Plaza, National Art Gallery, BSA Date: July 16-29 Time: 11am-7pm, (Fridays 3pm-7pm)

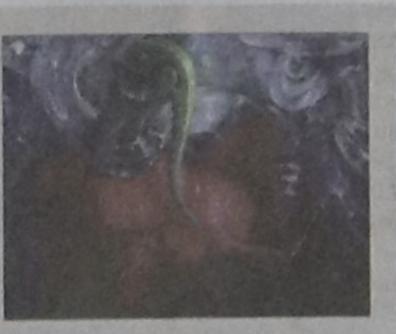


Classical Music Artistes: Haripada Sutradhar (vocal), A. K. Chakravarti (vocal) and Mrittunjay Das (flute) Organiser: Shudho Sangeet Proshar Goshthi Venue: SEL Centre, 29, West Panthopath Date: July 31

Time: 7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition Title: Perception II Artist: Subrata Das Venue: Alliance Française, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi Date: July 25-August 6 Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm (Saterdays 5pm-8pm)



Film Screening Organiser: Dhaka University Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 51, Road 7, Dhanmondi Films: House of Fools Director: Andrei Konchalovsky Diamond Arm Director: Leonid Gaidai Date: July 28, Time: 3:00 pm



## Rain songs of 'Panchokobi' at National Museum





Clockwise (from top-left) Papia Sarwar sings and Sadi Mohammad on the harmonium, Shaheen Samad and Mahiuzzaman Chowdhury perform at the programme



JAMIL MAHMUD

Cultural organisation Dakkhini Rabindra Sangeetangan in association with Connecting Dots and Sampriti arranged a musical soiree titled Aapon Gaaney Matao Bhuban at the Shaheed Zia Auditorium, National Museum on July 26. Noted singers performed songs on rain at the programme.

Tagore singer Fahim Hossain Chowdhury started with his rendition of four songs including Srabon gagon toley.

Educationist Mustafa Nurul Islam inaugurated the programme.

mances the organisers informed that the programme would feature songs composed by the 'Panchokobi' (Rabindranath Tagore, Dwijendra Lal Roy, Rajanikant Sen, Atul Prasad Sen and Kazi Nazrul Islam), the artistes mostly selected Rabindra and

Nazrul songs.

Artiste Shaheen Samad sang three Nazrul Sangeet and a song of Atul Prasdd. Her repertoire included Megh medur baroshaye, Rumjhun rumjhun and Neend nahi aakhipatey.

Between the performances, artiste Jayanto Chattyopadhyay's narratives from backstage helped the audience understand the context of the songs.

Artistes Mahiuzzaman renditions included Godhuli gaganey megh, Ke tumi momo anganey, Ogo shaotali chhely and Aaji jharer raatey. They also ren-Though prior to the perfor- dered songs of Rajanikant and Atul

> It should be mentioned that among the five poets, Rajanikant Sen never wrote a song on rain, though Mahiuzzaman rendered Aami akriti adham at the programme.

Noted Tagore singer Sadi rendered by Shakil.

Mohammad was the next performer. Sadi's voice sounded a bit of dimmed at the programme. Perhaps, that's why he rendered only two songs -- Mon-e ki dwidha rekhey geley choley and Borsha aailo.

Next, Sadi invited renowned Tagore singer Papia Sarwar to come to the stage. Papia Sarwar rendered two songs -- Aaj kichhutei jay na and Bondhu raho Chowdhury and Auditi Mohsin shathey. Her impeccable rendition rendered Rabindra Sangeet. Their of the latter accompanied by violin, made an impression on the audience.

> Noted Nazrul singer Khairul Anam Shakil was the last to perform at the programme. He rendered two Nazrul Sangeet --Shonar-o hindoley and the overly familiar Shaono raatey jodi. The programme wrapped up with a rendition of the Atul Prasad song, Srabon jhulatey badal dolatey,

## Udichi Shilpi Goshthi remembers Samudra Gupta

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON,

A musical soiree was held in Sirajganj town last Friday, remembering eminent poet Samudra Gupta, who passed away recently.

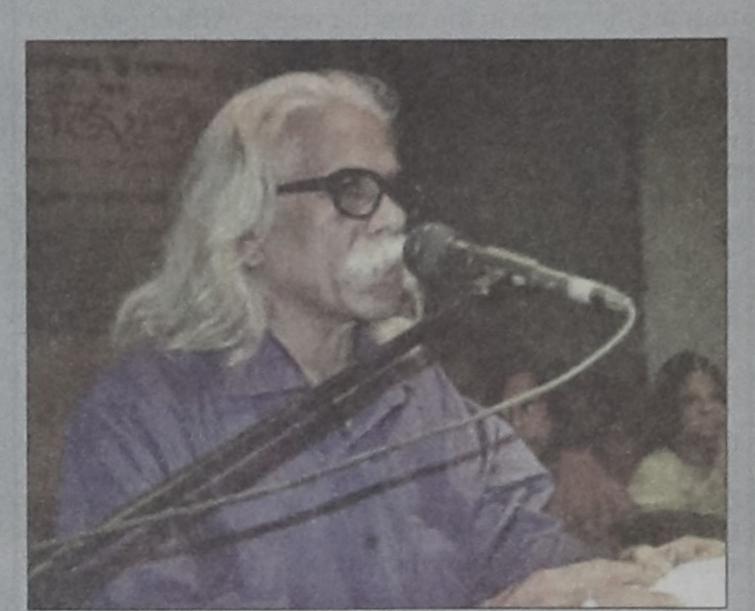
Udichi Shilpi Goshthi arranged the programme and Sree Kamol Sangeet Bidyalay provided financial assistance. The programme was held at Sirajganj University College auditorium. Ferdaus Robin, district

correspondent of Channel-i, Principal of Sree Kamol Sangeet Bidyalay and Vicepresident of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi inaugurated the programme. A one-minute-silence was

observed in honour of Samudra Gupta.

programme. During the songs, Ashif Imran, a local artiste child artistes danced on the Mahmudul Momen Shamim performed songs on different stage.

themes including love, nature



Samudra Gupta

The programme was and patriotism at the conducted and instructed by Moinul Islam Limon, Sheikh and Hirok Goon.

FILE PHOTO

## Shilpa Shetty turns producer, alcohol brand ambassador

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Actress Shilpa Shetty may have been absent from Bollywood limelight for quite some time but she says it does not mean that her career is not going anywhere. In fact, according to the actress, her hands are full with assignments.

Shetty has joined the likes of Bollywood superstars Shahrukh Khan and Aamir Khan to turn producer to make "good commercial cinema", doing a movie with Sunny Deol, launched a vodka brand and her own DVD containing lessons in Yoga, preparing for a Hollywood film and waiting for the telecast of her next television show.

Draped in a red dress, the tall actress, who was in Delhi last week to become the brand ambassador of a vodka brand, said that this is the first time an Indian woman would be endorsing alcohol and she liked the idea.

Replying to a question, Shetty said that while she was not encouraging the youth to take up drinking, "I would definitely champion the cause of responsihowever did not answer is that actorabroad. who decides "responsible drinking" and how she can preach Yoga the same time.

Be that as it may, the actress said she was launching her home production whose first offering would be a romantic comedy to be directed by Manish Jha to go on the floor later this year.

Shetty said it was wrong to conclude that she is turning a film producer because her career as an actress was going nowhere. She insisted her experience as an actress would come in handy to make her home banner a successful name in the film industry.

The actress denied reports that she was leaving Bollywood and settling abroad, particularly in Britain where she became a hit after her victory in the controversial reality TV show "Big Brother"

"I was offered to host TV shows, films and serials in the UK. But I could not devote my full time there because of my commitments in Bollywood", Shetty said.

Also denying that she is going to act in a James Bond movie, the actress said she preferred to work in India and live like a first class ble drinking." The questions she citizen rather than as a struggling

"My last films 'Metro' and 'Apne' were successful and peoand endorse an alcohol brand at ple recognised me as an actor. What more could I want?" she

> However, what Shetty did admit was that she was going to feature in a Hollywood project but declined to disclose details of it as it was at scripting stage. She said she had rejected sev-

eral international project offers and returned to Bollywood to further her career here. Her next movie is "The Man"

opposite Sunny Deol and she plays the role of a violin player. She is taking lessons in playing what she terms as the "toughest" musical instrument.

A fitness freak, Shetty said her Yoga DVDs have drawn an "overwhelming" response in Britain where "celebrity fitness DVD is a

She said Yoga was the main reason behind her glow and fitness. "I had suffered spondilitis a few years ago because of too much stress and overwork and routine practice of Yoga helped me overcome that problem", she

## Saving Pompeii from the ravages of time and tourists

Citing threats to public security and to the site itself, the Italian government has for the first time declared a yearlong state of emergency for the ancient city of Pompeii.

Nearly 2,000 years after Mount Vesuvius buried Pompeii under pumice and steaming volcanic ash, some 2.6 million tourists tramp annually through this archaeological site, which is on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Frescoes in the ancient Roman city, one of Italy's most popular attractions, fade under the blistering sun or are chipped at by souvenir hunters. Mosaics endure the brunt of tens of thousands of shuffling thongs and sneakers. Teetering columns and walls are propped up by wooden and steel scaffolding. Rusty padlocks deny access to recently restored houses, and custodians seem to be few and far between.

This month the government drafted a retired lawman, Renato Profili, the former prefect of combat neglect and degradation at the site. Profili has been given can bypass the Italian bureaucracy and speedily bolster security and stop the disintegration.

The hope is that many houses and villas now closed to the public and exposed to looting and vandalism will soon be opened and protected.

"Pompeii is a calling card of Italy



A visitor at the temple of Apollo in the ancient city of Pompeii.

souvenir vendors who aggressively

approach tourists. management" in which private and then finally the work begins. sponsors might be recruited to

finance improvements. Government red tape is blamed

Naples, to map out a strategy to that their impression be positive," Pompeji. "If I have to fix a broken about the problems at Pompeji," said Italy's culture minister, wall," said Pietro Giovanni Guzzo, Sandro Bondi. He directed Profili the superintendent of the ruins, "I special powers for one year so he' to crack down on "blatant abuses" first have to put out a tender for an haven't been able to control it." like unlicensed tour guides and the architect to evaluate the damage.

for a company to fix the wall. Then I more acres or so are underground), Bondi also said that Profili would have to see if I have enough money explore "new forms of innovative in my budget to pay for the repair,

would be very positive."

Guzzo added. "The situation here is so immense that ordinary means

"Then I have to put out a tender eighth the size of Central Park (50 are severely understaffed. Workers on which a fresco is painted. "This are prone to wildcat strikes that is an area with high unemploycan leave visitors standing outside ment and that shouldn't be the "If he can bypass all that, it locked gates. Local criminal case, because it has an immense organisations must constantly be "Is there an emergency? I don't kept at bay when bids are solicited for foreigners, and it's important for some of the inefficiencies at know, I've always been very clear for maintenance work or for oper- Source: Internet

should operate Pompeii. The ruins should "be put in a condition where people can best appreciate

their beauty, because that's money to the area," said Antonio Irlando, an architect and the president of a local conservation group that meticulously monitors Pompeii's The 109-acre ruins, about an cracking walls, falling stones, abandoned work sites and flaking intonaco, the thin layer of plaster

ating public concessions at the

Still, Guzzo said he had made

some progress since he assumed

his post in 1995. Visitors now have

access to 35 percent of the ruins.

compared with 14 percent when

he first arrived. He admitted, how-

ever, that this improvement was "a

Ticket-sale proceeds and

financing from the European

Union and local governments

have not met Pompeii's bottom-

less financial needs. "Modern

cities are constantly plagued by

unforeseen expenses," said

Giuseppe Proietti, the culture

ministry's secretary general. "Just

put that in the context of an enor-

mous ancient site exposed to the

brought suggestions that investors

That chronic shortfall has

drop in the bucket."

elements."



Shilpa Shetty