


### WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Theatre**  
**Play:** Raja Ebong Onyamo.....  
**Troupe:** Prachyanat  
**Venue:** Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA  
**Date:** September 12  
**Time:** 7:15pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
**Title:** Searching Our Roots  
**Organiser:** Alliance Française de Dhaka  
**Venue:** Gallery, Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** September 5-18  
**Time:** 9am -12am and 4pm 8pm (Only 4pm 8pm on Saturdays)



**Film Screening**  
**Title:** Importance of Wim Wenders: A Retrospective  
**Organiser:** Dhaka University Film Society and Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** September 15-17  
**Time:** 2pm onwards



**Exhibition**  
**Title:** Eid o Aamar Swopnobhumi  
**Organiser:** Nitya Uphar  
**Venue:** Gallery Nitya Uphar, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Aziz Co-operative Super Market, Shahbag  
**Date:** September 5-30  
**Time:** 10am-8pm



## Muniruzzaman: Linger on lyricism



(Clockwise from top-left) Md. Muniruzzaman; *Folk Mala*, oil on acrylic and *Childhood*, water colour.

FAYZA HAQ

Md. Muniruzzaman, director of Chittrak, is reputed for his watercolour and mixed media works. His patrons come from far and near to get his romantic images done on paper and canvas. His forte was seen in the recent past at the "Sunderbans" joint exhibit at his gallery. He helps conduct art lessons at Chittrak premises too. He combines nature with the eternal theme of man and his exploits. He excels in superb watercolour images of birds, beasts, the sky and eternally beautiful blossoms. Working in his studio at Mohanmadpur, he labours ceaselessly to present flamboyant and optimistic paintings to his viewers. Speaking of a cup of coffee, Muniruzzaman said, "I enjoy working with watercolour, oil and acrylic on drawing-based realistic and impressionistic images. What I

feel more relaxed with is watercolour. I get my materials locally, and depend on my friends and patrons to bring me imported brush, paints and other necessary materials. Thus the charcoal and "acrymin" (fabric paints) which I'm at present experimenting with are economical essentials."

Dwelling on how he goes about his work, he said, "There's room enough in my studio for my collection of paintings. I've tried, over the years, to get a collection of the works of most locally renowned artists. There are paintings of Indian artists too, such as those of M.F Hussain, Jogen Chowdhury, Sanatkar etc."

While working, like many artists, he listens to Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet and folk songs. His paintings are about objects and feelings from the past and present. Of course, he combines them with his current emotions, thoughts,

and imagination. Man, nature and society occupy his focal points of concentration, and thought-processes.

Painting, he says, is not a competitive matter. One expresses oneself to the best of one's ability, hoping that the viewers will find something meaningful and beautiful in the subjects one presents. At his fourth solo exhibit, held in Oman, he presented subjects from both Bangladesh and Oman. What he found interesting about that city was that there was no academic training on art and yet, the local artists came up with remarkable creations. Presiding over their workshop, he welcomed the exchange of views, ideas, and experiences.

"Normally Arabs don't do figurative work but, with courage and determination, I presented women's faces -- along with their dazzling costumes and nonpareil



jewellery -- with the backdrop of scenes from everyday life. These paintings were readily welcomed," he recalled.

Md. Muniruzzaman went to Japan (in 1939) to receive an award,

## Bangladesh-Thailand joint art exhibition to be held soon

On the occasion of the 36th anniversary of Bangladesh-Thailand diplomatic relations, the Royal Thai Embassy has planned a series of events to celebrate this historic milestone. As part of this, an art exhibition featuring watercolour paintings on Thailand as seen by young Bangladeshi artists as well as Bangladesh seen by a renowned Thai artist will be held soon, says a press release.

Celebrated Thai artist, Dr. Suchart Vongthong, will conduct

a special art workshop where he would share his experiences and skills with Bangladeshi youths. The three-day programme will take place at the Royal Thai Embassy, the Asiatic society and an outdoor location in Narayanjan on September 13, 14 and 15 respectively.

Bangladeshis up to 25 years old and currently enrolled in universities are participating at the workshop. Further information is available at [www.thaiddac.com](http://www.thaiddac.com).

Following the workshop, there will be a joint art exhibition from September 16 to 27 at the Drik Gallery in Dhaka. Some of the works of young Bangladeshi artists who participated at the "Colours of Thailand" painting contest will be displayed along with works on Bangladeshi scenery by Dr. Suchart Vongthong, as well as a collection of selected works from the art workshop.

## TV Watch

### Single-episode play "Motir Shopno" on ATN Bangla tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play *Motir Shopno* will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 8pm. Written and directed by Dibyendu Udas, the plot centres on the life of a cobbler named Moti.

Moti makes his living by fixing peoples' shoes. Moti is quite lazy, and his wife Salma is a shrew. The only part of the day that Moti enjoys is the night. Every night, he is invited to a palatial house where he is treated with mouth-watering dishes. Beautiful women serve him food and even chat with him. But the fact is, all these happen in his dreams. Moti's life gets a twist when he wins a lottery. With the money, he buys a palace-like house, just like in his dreams and has his favourite



A scene from the play.

ite foods made daily. Even his wife now seems very loving. But happiness seems to have swindled Moti, as he does not have any dream now.

Zahid Hassan plays the lead role. Other actors in the cast include Chandni, Rumana and Preeti.

## Fashion-based show on Channel i

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Second episode of *Veet fashion.com*, a TV show highlighting Eid fashion, will be aired today at 4:30 pm on channel i. The show is produced by Sayeduzzaman Mithu and hosted by Samia Afrin.

Designer Emdad Haque of 'Banglar Mela'; Konka Karim, editor of the *Trendz* magazine and singer Pritam will be present as guests in this episode. Noted beautician Kaniz Almas Khan and Shourav Hossain of 'Mantra' will also make appearances on the show.



(R-L): Emdad Haque, Pritam, Konka Karim and Samia Afrin on the show.

## Asha Bhosle: 75 and still going strong

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Seventy-five and still going strong. That is the message diva Asha Bhosle sent out as she celebrated her 75th birthday by cutting a big cake and releasing yet another album of her songs on September 8.

Showing little signs of fatigue, Asha sang a few lines from her innumerable memorable ditties recorded throughout a career spanning over six decades and reminding everyone that she does not like to be told of her growing age.

Asha was showered with birthday wishes from her elder sister, the legendary Lata Mangeshkar, and she then reminisced her association with her late husband and music composer Rahul Dev Burman.

It was also an occasion for Asha to compare the songs of yesteryears and the current numbers, particularly "item" numbers and how the present-day music was obsessed with rhythm rather than lyrics.

The singer's birthday was a big media event as TV channels played the film sequences featuring her songs and the two most used in this context were "Dum maro dum" from "Hare Rama Hare Krishna" and "Dil cheez kya hai" from "Umrao Jaan".

It was befitting that on her 75th birthday, Asha would come out with an album called "Precious Platinum", a collection of songs composed by Nitin Ramesh Shankar, that the singer wanted to be different from the current trend in film music.

Ever since Asha began singing at the age of 16, she has traversed a long way, her voice retaining the same originality and melody, delighting listeners of all ages down the generations. On the way, she has become the world's most recorded singer and the only Indian artiste to be nominated twice for the Grammy awards.

Most of all, she has been able to hold the centre stage of hearts of music lovers in the Indian subcontinent even in the 21st century.



## "Dark Knight" plans re-release for Oscar push



A scene from *The Dark Knight*.

Batman wants an Oscar. To be precise, Warner Bros. wants a statuette -- or 10 -- for *The Dark Knight*.

So the studio plans to re-release its blockbuster Batman sequel in January 2009, the height of Academy Awards voting season.

"It's just a matter of bringing it back as a reminder for people," a

studio insider explained.

Warner Bros. domestic distribution president Dan Fellman acknowledged ongoing talks with Imax executives over the prospect of restoring the Christian Balearrer to some giant-screen venues in January. It's uncertain if *"Dark Knight"* also will reap

pear in conventional venues at that point.

Directed by Christopher Nolan, the film's huge commercial and critical success has spurred talk of possible Oscar nominations for its director, producers and cast -- most specifically Bale's co-star, Heath Ledger, for the late actor's edgy performance as the Joker.

To date, *"Dark Knight"* has rung up about \$512 million domestically and \$440 million internationally, including more than \$55 million in Imax grosses. A pre-Oscars re-release would help assure its topping \$1 billion worldwide.

But with the title set to hit DVD in December, it's now apparent anyone hoping the Batman sequel would soar to *"Titanic"* heights will be disappointed. *"Dark Knight"* already ranks as the second-highest-grossing movie ever, after *"Titanic"*'s phenomenal \$1.84 billion -- a mix of \$600.8 million in domestic box office and \$1.24 billion in foreign coin registered in 1997 and 1998.

Source: Internet

## "The Duchess" holds its own without Diana parallels, says Keira Knightley

Keira Knightley's role in *"The Duchess"* sees her playing a fashion icon beloved by the English -- a vibrant young woman married to a much older nobleman who lets her down enormously in the Prince Charming department when he fails to show her any affection.

Some 200 years after Lady Georgiana Spencer endured a loveless marriage, her direct descendant Lady Diana Spencer would marry Prince Charles and eventually become the so-called "People's Princess".

Parallels in the lives of the two women have been drawn before, notably when the book on which *"The Duchess"* is based was published in 1998 -- the year after Diana's death.

But those parallels aren't particularly welcomed by Knightley or her director, Saul Dibb.

In fact, it seemed a bit of a sore point as they promoted *"The Duchess"* at the Toronto International Film Festival.

"We did very definitely intend to make a film about Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, not Diana," Knightley said.

"I didn't look into (Diana) as any sort of, I suppose, inspiration for the character, partly because we were basing it on such a wonderful biography. All the information we had was right there."

While there's no reason not to believe in the 23-year-old actor's sincerity, the publicity package handed to reporters certainly pulled no punches in the Diana department.

"If this story sounds decidedly contemporary, that might be in part because the Duchess of Devonshire, Georgiana Spencer, seems to have shared a twin destiny of fame and adoration, as well as adultery and controversy, with an ancestor who lived 200 years later: Lady Diana, the Princess of Wales," the package reads.

"The similarities between the two are striking."

It seems Knightley and Dibb aren't amused, to say the least, about how their film is being sold to the masses.

"Yeah, I thought you might ask about that," said Dibb, an affable Englishman who sounded more than a little weary as he fielded the question.

The fear is that people will think they approached the project "trying to make a coded film about Diana, which we absolutely did not," he said.

"All we want to kind of put forward against that is the film is strong enough to be judged on its own terms. We're confident that the film (will) ... live on its own terms and not be reduced to a parallel."

It turns out Knightley, born and bred in London, England, doesn't know all that much about Diana anyway.



Keira Knightley (centre) in *The Duchess*.

"I think I was about 11 when she died. You know, I'm very aware of the images but not really aware of exactly what her story is and certainly not enough to draw direct parallels," she said.

Anyone who gave a wit about Diana's story would more than likely be enthralled by Georgiana's and vice versa. It's a lavish period piece that plays out in grand English mansions and, of course, everyone's costuming is elaborate and regal.

Georgiana is wed to the Duke of Devonshire after her mother assures him that the girl is well equipped to provide the male heir he so desperately needs. When the illusions of a fairy-tale marriage are cast aside, the duchess turns to gambling and politics. She eventually grows close to an up-and-coming politician who will become the love of her life.

Source: Internet