

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Solo Art Exhibition

**Abdur Razzak Retrospective**  
Title: Rhythms of Figures, Forms and Nature  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
Date: October 10-29  
Time: 12pm-8pm  
Inauguration: October 10 at 6pm



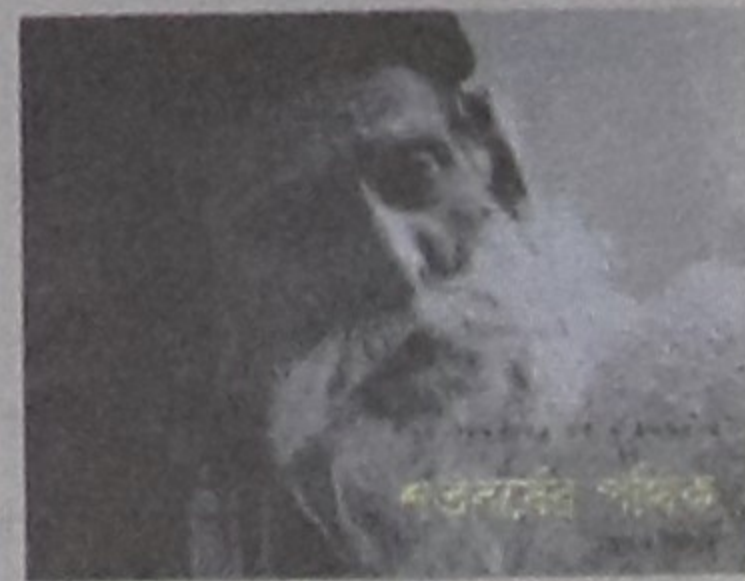
### Film Screening

Title: Russian War Films Festival  
Organiser: Russian Centre of Science and Culture  
Venue: BRAC University  
Date: October 11-13  
October 11  
"The Cranes are Flying" at 1pm and "Ballad of a Soldier" at 2:45pm



### Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: The Journey of a Legend  
Photographer: Shahadat Parvez  
Venue: Zainul Gallery-1, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU  
Date: October 10-16  
Time: 12pm-7pm  
Inauguration: October 10 at 4pm



### Solo Musical Soiree and CD Launch

Title: Chhara Gaanar Dhoom  
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag  
Date: October 12  
Time: 5pm



## Durga comes to New Dhaka

A celebration for everyone



The mandap at Banani.

KARIM WAHEED

Nabami night. Soothing fall breeze. Around 10:30 pm things should be slowly winding down. Approaching the Banani ground on Kemal Ataturk Avenue suddenly changes the mood. Subtle white fairy lights illuminating the venue, which does not resemble its usual self. The queue moving fast and in an orderly manner through the entrance. The ground has been levelled with bricks and carefully covered. Beautiful pillars have shot up; *alpana* and set by Amity Kundu (the late artist Nitun Kundu's daughter) and Amit Chando, are anything but gaudy -- a spectacular vision.

To Her right, on a separate platform, artiste Nasima Shaheen delivering an impassioned rendition of Nazrul's *Shyama Sangeet*, *Shyama naam-er laaglo agun amar deher dhooopkathi-tey*; Debu Chowdhury's superior *tabla* skills



Detailed alpana and set design were admired by all.

providing an apt *sangat*. Surprisingly, for a major public event, the sound system is unusually well managed. The crowd swaying to the song. And there she was... with Lakshmi and Ganesh to her right, and Saraswati, Kartik to her left...the celebration marks her arrival... "The Goddess with feet of clay" has arrived in New Dhaka.



A painting exhibition at the venue added a new dimension to the celebration.

PHOTO: SAYED ASIF MAHMUD



The *mandap* (canopy) is a grand affair. And why shouldn't it be? The "Sharbajanin Utshab" (a celebration for everyone), was the first of its kind in the Gulshan-Banani-

Baridhara-DOHS-Niketan-Uttara locality. The event has been arranged by Gulshan Sharbajanin Puja Udjapan Parishad.

Everything has been meticulously planned. There's refreshment, balloons and other knick-knacks for kids, even a first-aid corner. But the highlight after the *shandhya aarti* was music. Popular and upcoming artistes appeared one after another and the crowd welcomed them with cheers and applause. Caste no bar, creed no bar. The celebration truly lived up to its name.

The dazzling ornaments on the deities are made of *shola*, the theme seems to be pristine, white and silver.

Sharadiya Durga Puja celebrations have been traditionally confined to Old Dhaka. This year's celebration at Banani marks a new beginning. New Dhakaites will certainly be looking forward to the arrival of Durga next year.

## Differently-abled display their artistic prowess

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

Shreekanth Dubey, 39, whose right hand is amputated, has done a brilliant painting of Lord Ganesh. Mostly black and white, it depicts the elephant god in all his glory.

Another work by the hearing impaired Pradeep Kumar Tare, 40, captures the varied hues of nature.

Meanwhile the hearing impaired Sidhartha Sankar Sukla, 31, has rendered a work called "Grand Town." The work is rendered in collage form and depicts the hustle bustle of a city street that juxtaposes the old with the new in the form of busy shops.

A tigress with cubs is the subject of hearing impaired Imamuddin, 29. The artist is hearing impaired but has effectively caught the tigers of Ranthambore wildlife sanctuary.

Sheela Sharma, who has had both upper limbs amputated, now paints with her toes. Her work, titled "Nature to Enjoy," has brilliant hues of colours such as orange, yellow, green with the moon in one corner.

The aptly titled exhibition, "Beyond Limits 2008," brought together 90 works by 36 differently-abled artists from all over India -- among others, Allahabad, Rajasthan, Chennai, Orissa, Delhi, Haryana, Kolkata, Bihar and Lucknow. The aim was to showcase the talents of the differently-abled artists while focusing on their strengths and their passion for art.

The exhibition in New Delhi was sponsored by the Academy of Fine Arts & Literature, New Delhi along with the Krishnan family from Surajkund, Haryana. The venue was the Arpana Art Gallery, run by well-known artist Arpana Caur. While gallery space was provided free of cost, the organiser of the exhibition was Family Of Disabled (FOD), an NGO committed to the cause of the disabled. The exhibition was the fifth in the series. Says



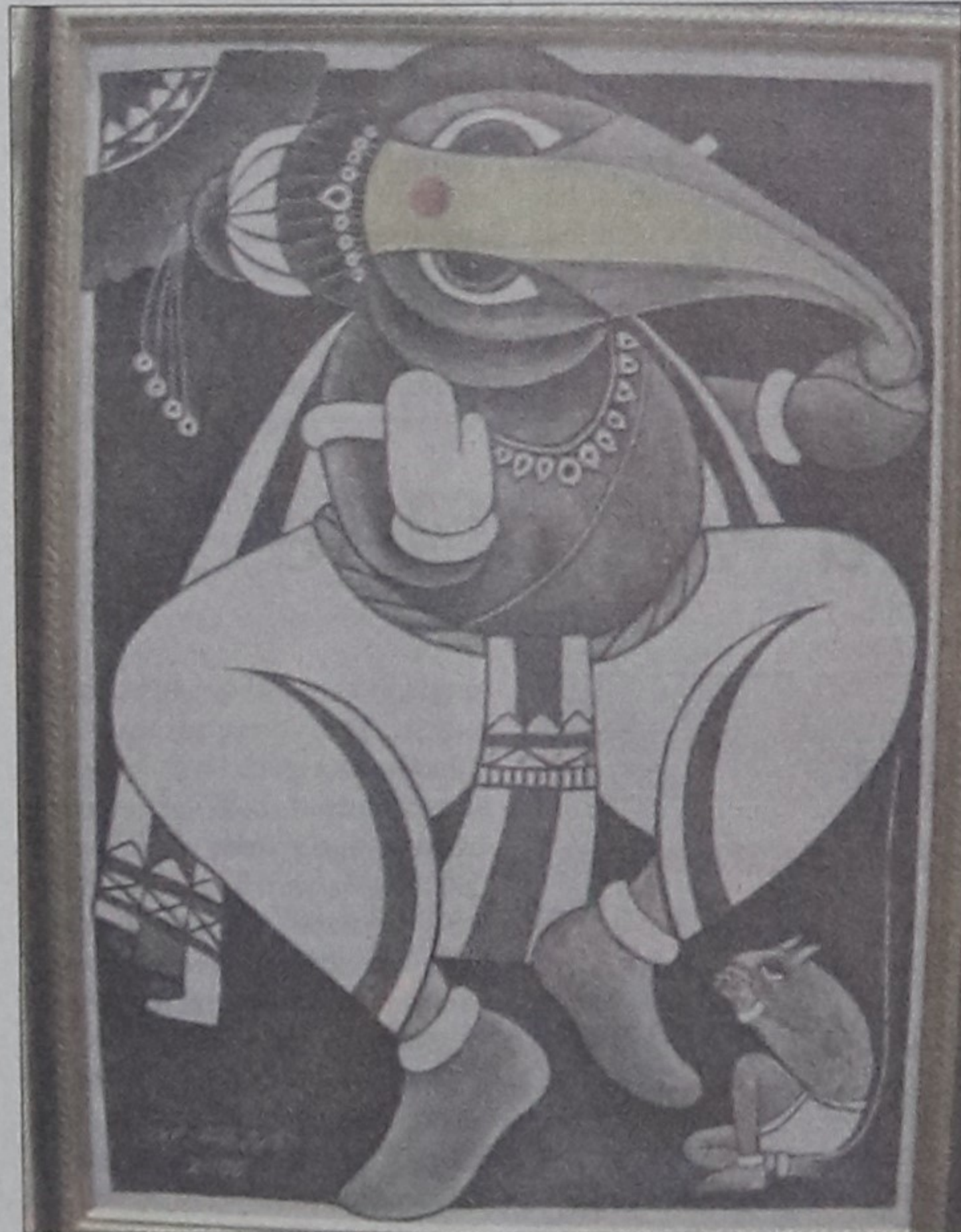
Painting at the exhibition.

a pleased Preeti Johar, senior executive of FOD, "Many of the paintings on display have won appreciation such as those of the tigress and Sukla's works. So far we have sold 19 paintings." And, she goes on to add, "We do not want to sell the works on grounds of sympathy. We have to maintain the quality and strive to improve the works every year."

FOD is the brainchild of Rajinder Johar, the differently-abled father of Preeti. His is a tragic story -- 23 years ago the then senior occupational therapist in King George's Medical College in

Lucknow was rendered quadriplegic when he suffered bullet injuries in his spine, the result of a shootout by some miscreants who intruded his home. At the time, the then three-year-old Preeti was seated on his lap and was rushed to safety by her injured father.

Despite his formidable handicap, says Preeti, her father remains "cheerful and humorous." Johar keeps himself busy by editing a biannual magazine on disability called *The Voice*, the only one of its kind in India. FOD also runs the Apna Rozgaar Scheme (ARS) for



economic rehabilitation of the poor, illiterate and differently-abled individuals. The modus operandi is to provide the target groups with financial assistance so that they can initiate or expand their micro trades such as tea stalls, general merchandise, PCO/ STD facility and tailoring. The scheme to provide self-employment to the weaker sections of society now has 400 beneficiaries.

Yet there are many hurdles to cross, say NGOs in Delhi. While government census figure say that only 2.1 percent of the population

of India is disabled, the actual figure (according to those in the know such as Dr Amartya Sen and WHO) is more likely to be 10 percent. There is a big question mark over government figures of disability particularly since the figure is around 7-8 percent even in developed countries.

Hopefully there is light at the end of a dark tunnel. Today with the Indian government having ratified the UN Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities, these marginalised people can look forward to a better future.

## Sharat Chandra's "Bindur Chheley" on ATN Bangla tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Saradiya Durga Puja, special TV play *Bindur Chheley*, based on Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's story with the same title, will be aired on ATN Bangla at 8pm tonight. A.D. Dulal has directed the play.

The story follows incidences between two siblings Jadav-Madhav and their families. Since childhood, younger brother Madhav adores and worships elder brother Jadav and sister-in-law Annapurna. Under Jadav's guidance, Madhav becomes a lawyer. Eventually Madhav marries a zaminder's daughter Bindu.

Since her arrival, Bindu brings about drastic changes in the household. With her ingenious ideas, Bindu improves the dismal living conditions of the family. The childless Bindu's love and affection go towards Annapurna's son



Rokeya Prachi and Dipa Khandakar in the play.

Amulya.

The harmony turns into a discord when Jadav and Madhav's sister Elokeshi fires and argument. The brothers' separate. Out of

depression, Bindu becomes seriously ill. Dipa Khandakar, Litu Anam, Rokeya Prachi and Shahrir Nazim Joy play the lead roles.

## Top ten round of "Close Up 1" on ntv

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Musical talent hunt *Close Up 1: Tomakei Khunichhey Bangladesh* will be aired tonight at 9:30pm on ntv. Tonight's episode will highlight performances by the top ten contestants.

Purna, Bappi, Saju, Liza, Apurba, Atique, Shoshi, Parul, Poran and Leon are the top ten contestants, who have survived the top twelve round. Viewers can SMS in favour of their favourite contestants till 2pm on Saturday.

The results will be announced next Sunday (October 12). Ahmed



The top ten contestants of Close Up 1.

Imtiaz Bulbul, Fahmida Nabi and Partho Barua are the judges of the programme. Supon Roy has directed the show.

## Worst movie dialogues ever

Some of the most regrettable lines in Hollywood history come from the mouths of gorgeous damsels, Oscar nominees, and superheroes. Here are some of the all-time silliest.

**The movie:** Notting Hill (1999)  
**The scene:** Famous Hollywood actress Anna Scott (Julia Roberts) is attempting to convince bookish William (Hugh Grant) to give her another chance.  
**The line:** "I'm just a girl, standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her."

**The movie:** Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith (2005)  
**The scene:** Natalie Portman's Amidala tries to get her hubby, Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen), to give up his megalomaniacal Dark Side ways.  
**The line:** "Hold me, like you did by the lake on Naboo."

**The movie:** Jerry Maguire (1996)  
**The scene:** The hard-hearted sports agent (Tom Cruise) drops his emotional armour and declares his love for Dorothy (Renée Zellweger) in front of all of her friends.  
**The line:** "You complete me."

**The movie:** Ever After (1998)  
**The scene:** Danielle (Drew Barrymore) -- the purported inspiration for Cinderella -- is trying to explain to, of all people, Leonardo da Vinci (Patrick Godfrey) why her romance is impossible.  
**The line:** "A bird may love a fish, signor, but where will they live?"

**The movie:** Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me (1992)  
**The scene:** Laura Palmer (Sheryl Lee) tearfully breaks up with her boyfriend and heads to her death.  
**The line:** "I'm gone, like a turkey in the corn. Gobble gobble!"

**The movie:** X-Men (2000)  
**The scene:** Weather-mistress Storm (Halle Berry) finally gets the upper hand during a fight with fellow mutant Toad (Ray Park) and delivers this très witty bon mot.  
**The line:** "You know what happens when a toad gets struck by lightning? The same thing that happens to everything else."

**The movie:** Sin City (2005)  
**The scene:** Gutter avenger Dwight

(Clive Owen) is watching lovingly as the woman of his dreams (Rosario Dawson) guns down a bevy of prostitute-hating baddies.  
**The line:** "My warrior woman. My valkyrie. You'll always be mine, always and never. Never. The Fire, baby. It'll burn us both. It'll kill us both. There's no place in this world for our kind of fire."

**The movie:** Pretty Woman (1990)  
**The scene:** Hooker-with-a-heart-of-gold Vivian (Julia Roberts) looks down her fire escape to see her favourite "John" Edward (Richard Gere) climbing up to "rescue her" from her crappylife.  
**The line:** "And she rescues him

ing to say you're sorry.  
**The movie:** A Cry in the Dark (1988)  
**The scene:** Aussie mom Lindy (Meryl Streep) is on the witness stand, giving testimony about the disappearance of her infant daughter during a camping trip.  
**The line:** "A dingoo ate my baby!"

**The movie:** As Good as It Gets (1997)  
**The scene:** Simon (Greg Kinnear) gets his groove back as an artist by sketching the hopeful waitress Carol (Helen Hunt).  
**The line:** "You're why cavemen chiselled on walls."

**The movie:** City of Angels (1998)  
**The scene:** Maggie (Meg Ryan) waxes philosophically as she's in bed with Seth (Nicholas Cage), an angel who's become human.  
**The line:** "We were made to fit together."

**The movie:** Four Wedding and a Funeral (1994)  
**The scene:** After a whole movie of romantic comedy-related obstacles, Carrie (Andie MacDowell) ignores the weather as she finally hooks up with Charles (Hugh Grant).  
**The line:** "Is it still raining? I hadn't noticed."

**The movie:** Love Story (1970)  
**The scene:** After Oliver (Ryan O'Neal) spends all day searching the Harvard campus to apologise to his doomed lover (Ali MacGraw), she delivers the most luntheaded inaccurate romantic proclamation ever.  
**The line:** "Love means never hav-

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Compiled by Cultural Correspondent