

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

## Solo Art Exhibition

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



## Solo Water Colour Exhibition

Title: My Country My Love  
Artist: Md. Abu Salim  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (New), Dhanmondi  
Date: October 18-21  
Time: 3pm-8pm



## Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Beauty of Nature  
Artist: Kantideb Adhikari  
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU  
Date: October 17-22  
Time: 10am-8pm



## Publication Ceremony

Title: Artist K G Mustafa and his exceptional designs  
Organiser: Theme-O-Graph  
Venue: CIRDAP Auditorium, 17, Tophkhana Road  
Date: October 21  
Time: 5pm



In conversation with Kumar Bishwajit

## Ongoing trends in music -- positive and negative



NADIA SARWAT

Celebrated singer Kumar Bishwajit is now appearing on a talent hunt for children titled *Khudey Gaanraaj* as a judge. His previous experiences as a judge on the first two seasons of the hugely popular talent hunt *Close Up 1* were positive -- Bishwajit's expert analyses were appreciated by the contestants and the audience. The artiste however is reluctant to judge contests that often. It was his interest in and concerns for the talented youngsters that persuaded him to join the show *Khudey Gaanraaj*. The show has already become quite popular among children and adults. *The Daily Star* recently caught up with the singer about the show, his next solo

I," Bishwajit says.

"An unfortunate aspect is that the winner on such shows often find themselves in a position they perhaps are not ready to maintain. And the risk of not being able to maintain that position is quite dreadful. Success without hard work cannot last long," the artiste explains.

"As for the show *Khudey Gaanraaj*, I had no idea we have so many talented kids in our country. About the show, my first concern was to inspire the children to learn Bengali music. I am hopeful that we have enough potential talents on the show and if they continue training in music with conviction, they would go to a long way," says Bishwajit. The show is aired on Channel i on every Tuesdays and Fridays.

Bishwajit's new album *Meghleena* keeps him busy these days. The album will be released in November. "I'm eager to find out how the audience responds to this album. For the first time, in some of the songs in the album, I've allowed some technological support to my vocals. It's kind of complying with the ongoing trend. I believe in the purity and power of vocals," the artiste says.

"The songs are lyrically rich. Asif Iqbal, Zulfikar Russell, Prince Mahmud, Kabir Bakul and Liton Adhikari Rihit have written the songs. Prince Mahmud did the compositions for the album. There is an adaptation of a poem by the late Shamsur Rahman titled *Tumi jodi phirey na asho*. The music is experimental and the audience will get to hear some original love songs, which are quite different from the typical 'you and me' ditties."

Though he is positive about his new songs, the artiste never indulges in complete gratification. "After every album, I feel that I could do even better, that's what keeps me going. I don't take financial success as a determinant of good work. Good work will outdo time and remain in the hearts of people. It'd be stupid to judge the quality of an album going by sales, though that's what everyone does now," Bishwajit smilingly says.

**"It'd be stupid to judge the quality of an album going by sales, though that's what everyone does now"**

album and more.

"I'm sort of reluctant about appearing on too many talent hunts. First of all, it's a bit tiring, as it continues for months. My personal schedule gets disrupted. Again, the concept of talent hunt has both its positive and negative sides. Now it's a popular trend on TV worldwide. Direct involvement with the audience is the main attraction of these shows. In our country, I feel, it initiated a surge of interest in the apparently drooping music industry; in particular the young are drawn to our own musical heritage through these competitions. Even some expatriate Bangladeshi youth, who cannot speak Bangla well, went for learning traditional Bangladeshi songs to participate in *Close Up*

## TV Watch

## "Khudey Gaanraaj" on Channel i



A young contestant on "Meridian-Channel i Khudey Gaanraaj '08."

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Channel i will telecast *Meridian-Channel i Khudey Gaanraaj '08* tonight at 7:50 pm. The first musical talent hunt for children in the country, the programme has generated a huge response.

Currently the fourth round of the contest is at progress. A total of 24 young contestants are taking part in this round. Artiste Kumar Bishwajit and Samina Chowdhury are the two main judges on the show. Singer Ela Majumder will be on tonight's episode as the guest judge. The young singers competing are: Lami, Dibya, Anonya, Amlan, Ridyo, Parishhi and Jhuma. The programme is directed by Ejaz Khan Shopon and hosted by Tanisha.

The programme is aired on Channel i every Tuesday and Friday at 7:50 pm.

## "Jyotsna Kaal" on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla will telecast the 13th episode of drama serial *Jyotsna Kaal* tonight at 9:20 pm. The story the serial revolves around a village lad Shajol who moves to the city in search of livelihood and a better future. A complete stranger to the urban life, Shajol finds people in the city very strange. He tries to understand them but fails. At one point he discovers a similarity -- all of them also dream of a better life just as he does. Shajol manages to get a job and the serial progresses forward.

The cast includes Tauquir Ahmed, Abul Hayat, Bipasha



(From left) Abul Hayat, Bipasha Hayat and Tauquir Ahmed in the serial.

Hayat, Richi Solaiman, Mosharraf Karim, Fazlur Rahman Babu and others. The serial is written by Bipasha Hayat and directed by Tauquir Ahmed.

## Facebook eyes digital-music business



Mark Zuckerberg, founder and CEO of Facebook.

Social networking site Facebook's founder and Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg plans to enter the digital-music business in the wake of the launch of News Corp's MySpace Music last month, the *New York Post* said.

Zuckerberg is talking to a number of song-streaming services and music community sites, including Rhapsody.com, iMeem.com, iLike.com and Lala.com about an outsourcing deal, the *Post* reported, citing sources familiar with the situation.

Facebook executives have been busy meeting major record companies about the strategy, the

paper said on its website. The *Post* quoted sources saying that unlike MySpace, which traded equity in its music venture in exchange for licenses to stream ad-supported songs, Facebook doesn't want to secure licenses to distribute music, or build a proprietary service from scratch.

Sources further cautioned that nothing was imminent, and Facebook may ultimately walk away from the plan altogether, the paper reported.

Facebook did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

Source: Internet

## Artist Camellia Shishir passes away

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Artist Camellia Shishir passed away at LabAid Cardiac Hospital on October 19. She was 43. She left behind a daughter Srabonti and husband, noted artist Shishir Bhattacharya. Camellia completed her MFA in Oriental Art from the Institute of Fine Arts (now Faculty of Fine Arts), Dhaka University.



PHOTO: STAR

Child artistes of Charupath Lalitkala Academy perform in a play, *Shonali Swapno*, at a cultural function held in Tangail recently on the occasion of Remittance Fair 2008. Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) organised the fair with the help of its associate organisation Rural Poverty Deduction Organisation (RPDO). Manusher Jonno Foundation sponsored the programme.

## Day of culture: Tajikistan holds forth

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

An array of photographs, artworks and fascinating dances. Right from the word go, the audience in New Delhi was in for a cultural feast. Entering the foyer of the auditorium, at the Day of Tajik Culture in India, one was greeted with a whole host of photographs of Tajikistan. The photographs depicted Tajik President Emomali Rahmon with Indian dignitaries such as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, President Pratibha Patil and Sonia Gandhi. In addition there was a peep into Tajik landscapes and a reclining Buddha. A Tajik beauty in rich traditional attire was another photograph worth mentioning.

As for the artworks, many viewers voiced their appreciation of Kenjaev Ibdullo's painting titled "Somon's Mausoleum". What really attracted the art lovers was that this work was fashioned out of straw. Then there was "Spring in the Mountains," a decorated work of Ashurova Zulfuya with hills in the background and a river flowing along with many trees. Meanwhile, "Violet Iris," a work of Saturina Zemfira, captured the unparalleled beauty of flowers.

Many in the audience went for the painting of the mausoleum. Said Issahatu A Razak, from Ghana who is in India for a course at Institute of Government Accounts and Finance, "This exhibition gives us a glimpse of the rich art of Tajikistan. Before this show, I didn't have a clue of this country



Tajik dancers perform at the show.

and I really like the work in straw."

Then there was Mohruksor Du from Tajikistan, an MA in linguistics: "I am impressed by the painting fashioned out of straw. To create such works one needs patience and hard work."

Solleva Mehrunisa, a Tajik journalist-indologist, is expert in Hindi and shared some ideas about the evening. In her words, "I am most impressed by the exhibition and I think it captures

the richness of culture in our country."

Rounding off the evening was a short dance recital. The curtains went up on a spectacular dance with whirling energy. The group was dressed in black and white with gold embroidery. There were also two men with traditional music instruments; the duo was somewhat akin to a "jugabandi". A number of singers too captivated the audience with haunting melodies that

embraced sentiments such as loneliness, sorrow, joy and verve.

The 14 dancers at the concert were members of a dance ensemble called 'Gulrez'. The troupe's dance was an embodiment of nature with all its surprises, mountains and the astonishing culture and tradition of Tajikistan.

The curtains went down with a full line up of dancers, musicians and singers who were at their creative best.