

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Classical Music

Artiste: Nirmalya Dey (India)  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: November 14  
Time: 6:30pm



### Exhibition

Title: Sculptures of Bangladesh  
Organiser: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh  
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi  
Date: November 2-6



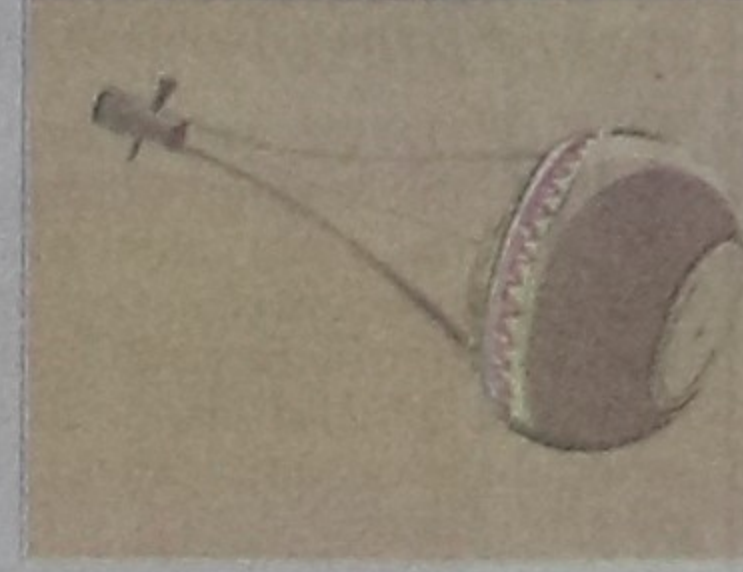
### 13th Asian Art Biennale '08

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Osmani Memorial Hall and National Museum  
Date: October 21-November 19  
Time: 11am-7pm (Fridays 3pm-6pm)



### Performance by Madhusudan Baul and his troupe

Organiser: High Commission of India and ICCR  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: November 4  
Time: 7pm



## Ode to the oxygen-givers

Slideshow by Noazesh Ahmed at Chhayanat



Photographs by Noazesh Ahmed



### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Noazesh Ahmed is a name that hardly needs any introduction. He is an internationally reputed plant geneticist and notable photographer. Ahmed started as a photographer in the '50s. He is a plant geneticist by profession and has made immense contribution to the agriculture sector of the country.

"Mahabanshapati Padabali," a photographic slideshow on plant life in Bangladesh by Noazesh Ahmed was held on November 1 at Rameshchandra Dutta Smriti Milankendra, Chhayanat Sanskriti Bhaban. The slideshow was enriched with quotations from Rabindranath Tagore and Jagadish Chandra Bose recited by Bhaswar

Bandyopadhyay and music of Beethoven and Ravi Shankar.

Plants are primitive assets of the earth. Trees are our best friends. But they constantly suffer destruction at the hands of humans. Plants provide us with food, shade, lumber and much more. Life itself depends on oxygen generated by plants.

In the slideshow, Ahmed revealed his passion for nature and his aesthetic sense. Plants of different species are available in our country but unfortunately extensive research has been rarely done in this field. The slides featured vibrant colour images of plants and the relationship between humans and nature.

## Abu Sayeed's "Rupantar" to participate in Kerala film fest

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladeshi director Abu Sayeed's latest film "Rupantar" is among 14 entries selected for the competition section of 13th International Film Festival of Kerala to be held in Thiruvananthapuram from December 12 to 19.

The announcement was made by Kerala Culture Minister M.A. Baby at a press conference on October 20 when he released

the list of films to be screened at the competitive and other sections of the weeklong prestigious annual event.

For Sayeed, India has been a happy hunting ground as his previous work "Nironor" had won a special jury award at the International Film Festival of India in Goa two years ago and another award at the Kerala festival soon after that.

Among other movies in the competitive section at the forth-

coming festival in Kerala are "Firaq" which marks directorial debut of critically-acclaimed Indian actress Nandita Das, "Gulabi Talkies" by veteran national award-winning Indian director Girish Kasaravally, "Hafe" (Iran/Japan), "My Marlon and Brando" (Turkey), "Dreams of Dust" (France/Canada), "Fire Keeper" (Iran) and "Machan" (Sri Lanka).



A scene from "Rupantar"

## Folk music festival in Rangpur

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

The Prothom Alo Rangpur Bandhu Sabha held a daylong folk festival at the local Shaheed Minar premises last Friday.

A total of 62 folk artistes from different areas of Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Rangpur districts performed at the festival.

The Shaheed Minar was thronged by a large number of people during the event.

Besides 'bhawaiyya,' 'pala gaan' and 'jari gaan' were also rendered at the festival. Artistes of 'Chhande Anandey Nritya Dal' of Rangpur presented a dance with popular 'bhawaiyya' songs.

Secretary of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Rangpur unit, Dr. Shashwato Bhattacharya; Professor Malay Kishor Bhattacharya and Rangpur Bandhu Sabha convenor Khalilur Rahman Shaheen spoke on the occasion.



Artistes dance with folk songs at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

## New music school in Maulvibazar



A group rendition at the inauguration.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Maulvibazar

A new music school was inaugurated in Maulvibazar last Saturday. A cultural programme marked the inauguration of 'Dhrubotara Lalitkala Academy.'

Eminent playwright and cultural personality Professor Momtazuddin Ahmed inaugurated the musical school. Dr. Shafiuddin Ahmed attended the event as special guest. Singer Himangshu Biswas, president of Maulvibazar Udichi Shilpi Goshthi and Advocate Maqbul Hussain, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Later, students of the Dhrubotara Lalitkala Academy performed songs. Artistes of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi units of Kulara, Srimangal and Maulvibazar also performed at the inaugural programme.

A special attraction was performance by Professor Momtazuddin Ahmed in the play "Folafol Nimochap."

Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Maulvibazar is running the music school.

## Cultural activists in Pabna protest demolishing of 'Baul sculpture'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna Drama Circle, a leading cultural organisation of the region, formed a human chain recently at the district headquarters protesting the demolishing of 'Balon sculpture' from in front of the Zia International Airport. Cultural activists, journalists and people from different walks of life took part in the human chain.

The human chain was formed at Abdul Hamid Road. Several hundred people carrying posters and banners condemned the removal of the 'Baul sculpture' and demanded its re-establishment.

President of Pabna Drama Circle, Gopal Sanyal and Secretary of the organisation, Wahidul Kawar led the human chain.

"Bauls are a part of our cultural heritage. Vandalising the sculpture is a threat to our cultural practices," said Gopal Sanyal.

## Madagascar

### Sequel strictly for kids

The pleasant but far-from-pioneering crew of DreamWorks Animation's cheerful 2005 hit "Madagascar" reunite for "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa" to similar results.

Essentially this sequel has settled down into a sitcom. Each of its major zoo-raised animals has a comical issue that must get resolved before the credits roll in 89 minutes. The film, like its predecessor, is aimed mostly at children and should score a direct hit. It opens, via Paramount, this week.

The situation at the end of the first film was this: Alex the performing lion (Ben Stiller), Marty the wisecracking zebra (Chris Rock), Melman the sensitive giraffe (David Schwimmer) and Gloria the ghetto-fabulous hippo (Jada Pinkett Smith), all refugees from the Central Park Zoo, are stranded on the shores of Madagascar. The tough-guy penguins, who came along uninvited, have now rehomed an old crashed airplane to fly back home. The plane gets as far as the central plains of Africa, where it again crashes.

The wreck fortuitously reunites Alex with his dad Zuba (the late Bernie Mac) and mom (Sherri Shepherd). This reunion sparks Alex's issue: His dad's rival, Makunga (Alec Baldwin), demands that the son perform the rites of passage to be allowed to stay in the pride. Misunderstanding the nature of this trial by fire, Alex performs the crowd-pleasing dance number from his zoo days, which results in his rival knocking the stuffing out of him. He therefore is banished from the pride because "real lions" don't dance.

Meanwhile, Marty discovers that all the zebras look, sound and act exactly like him -- or



to be specific, like Chris Rock. How can his best pal Alex tell him apart from the herd? Well, Alex can't, as a matter of fact. Which leaves Marty very angry.

Gloria's hot-and-very-heavy flirtation with the watering hole's extra-large Romeo, Moto Moto (will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas), sends Melman into a tailspin of jealousy. For in an implausible case of inter-species attraction, the giraffe turns out to be madly in love with the hippo.

Other characters return from the original film including the party-hearty lemurs (Sacha Baron

Cohen, Cedric the Entertainer and Andy Richter) and the vicious old lady (Elisa Gabrielli) with martial arts moves, as do the pop songs, ranging from Barry Manilow to Ennio Morricone, that put a goofy spin on all the action.

Cartoons can get away with being serviceable and skilful without much creativity since they have an endlessly renewing audience. "Mad 2" surfs along on such waves, entertaining youngsters while mildly amusing adults.

Source: Internet