

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

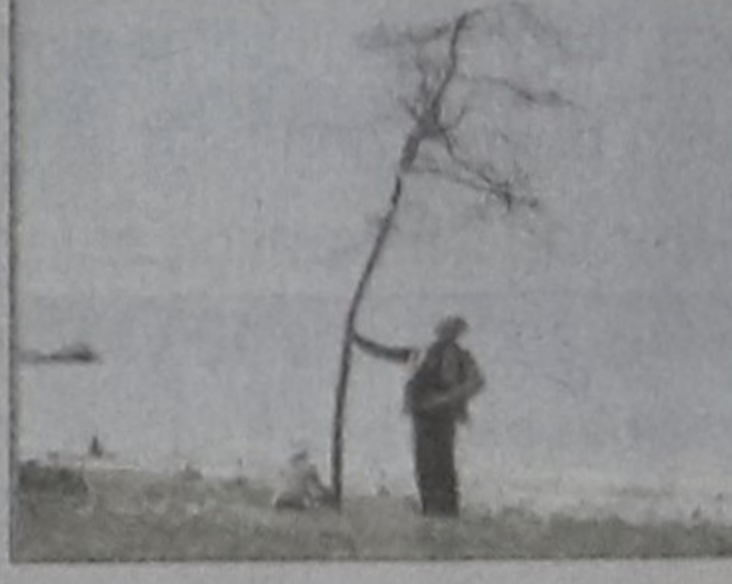
## Classical Music

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



## Film Screening

Title: Maestro: Tarkovsky  
Organiser: DUFFS  
Venue: Auditorium, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi  
Date: November 5-6  
Time: 3pm onwards  
November 6  
"The Sacrifice" and "Solaris"



## 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-8pm)



## Dhaka Nritya Utsab

Organiser: Bangladesh Nrityashilpi Shangstha  
Venue: National Music and Dance Centre, BSA  
Date: November 7-9  
Time: 6:30pm onwards everyday



## Mehreen's new album features music by Habib and Fuad

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Pop singer Mehreen's sixth solo album "Tumi Achho bole" -- produced by Laser Vision -- is being released today. The album features compositions by popular musicians including Habib Wahid and Fuad Al-Muqtadir.

The album will be launched today at ETC, Dhanmondi. Mehreen will share her thoughts on the album at the event and fans can collect the album autographed by the singer. Eminent artiste-composer Sudhin Dashgupta and artist Mustafa

Monowar will be present at the launching ceremony.

The album features songs titled "Tumi achho bole," "Amon korey noy," "Shunyota," "Mayabi e raat" and more. The songs are written by Saki Ahmed, Upal Islam, Jahangir Hyder Dipon and Shahan Kabandh and composed by Fuad Ibne Rabbi, Jahangir Hyder Dipon, Habib and Fuad. Internationally acclaimed DJ Ahs also has been featured in the album.

"This album is dedicated to all my fans. I strongly believe creative works should be audience-centric," said the pop diva about her new album.



Mehreen

## Songs of humanism

Bauls from West Bengal perform in Dhaka



Euphoric performance by Madhusudan Baul (R) and Jayanti Das.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

JAMIL MAHMUD

The High Commission of India in Dhaka in association with Indian Council for Cultural Relations arranged an evening of 'baul' songs at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on November 4. Madhusudan Baul and his troupe from West Bengal, India performed at the programme.

Adviser to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Rasheda K. Chowdhury and Indian High

Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty spoke prior to the programme. Rasheda K. Chowdhury was the chief guest.

Dressed in 'gerua' attire and a 'khamak' in hand, Madhusudan came on the stage with his troupe and started with the song "Ohey dine-bandhu." The next song was "Allah, Hari, Raam." The song addresses inter-religious harmony. Historically, bauls have been advocating this progressive idea of secularism. Madhusudan's renditions were not away from

that philosophy. "Bauls do not want divisions among human beings," said Madhusudan at the programme.

Ashok Das, who played 'dotara' alongside Madhusudan at the programme, rendered a couple of songs including "Norakarey ghurey bera" and "Madira-teyelo Muhammad." The latter is a Lalon song. Madhusudan too rendered a song of Lalon -- "Duble pory ratan pabi." Apart from Ashok, Kanu Parikhit and Jayanti Das accompanied Madhusudan on

'dhol' and 'mandira' respectively. Jayanti Das also rendered a song "Amar bondhu roilo kon deshey."

The baul tradition of rural Bengal draws spiritual inspiration from four major sources -- Islam, Sufism, Vaishnavism and Tantric philosophy. This mystic cult's popularity formed a folk religion that follows a unique spiritual and philosophical discipline expressed through songs of Lalan Shah.

Scholars date the emergence of bauls to 6th century AD, initiated by the Vaishnavite mystic Mahaprabhu Chaitanyadeva. Chaitanyadeva was the follower of poet Jaydeva, the author of the "Geet Govinda."

Madhusudan Baul was born in the village of Kosigram of Bardhaman district, West Bengal. His father was his first mentor and later he took lessons from Purnachandra Das Baul, Devdas Baul and Harekrishna Das Baul. Alongside baul songs, Madhusudan also performs Bengali folk songs belonging to other genres.

At the programme he rendered a couple of popular folk songs such as "Piriti kanthal-er aatha".

Madhusudan has a wide repertoire of songs that sources lessons from everyday life -- teaching people to differentiate between right and wrong. He sings baul songs based on the "deha tatwa" philosophy that has direct references to the human body ("deha") used as an allegory.

The baul ended the programme with his own composition "Ekta kharar petey tattughora".

## Atif Aslam to perform in Dhaka



Atif Aslam

Pakistani rock singer Atif Aslam will perform in a concert to be held at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre on November 15, says a press release.

Young urban music fans of the subcontinent place the artiste in high regard. Atif's song "Woh lamhey," featured in the Bollywood movie "Zeher" in

2005 catapulted him to international fame.

His other songs "Aadat," "Tera Bin" and "Dooree" are also equally popular.

Atif's last visit in Bangladesh was in January 2006. Atif will be accompanied by a troupe of accomplished musicians.

The event has been organised by Fireworks Events & PR.

## Registration for "Style Icon-'08" starts today

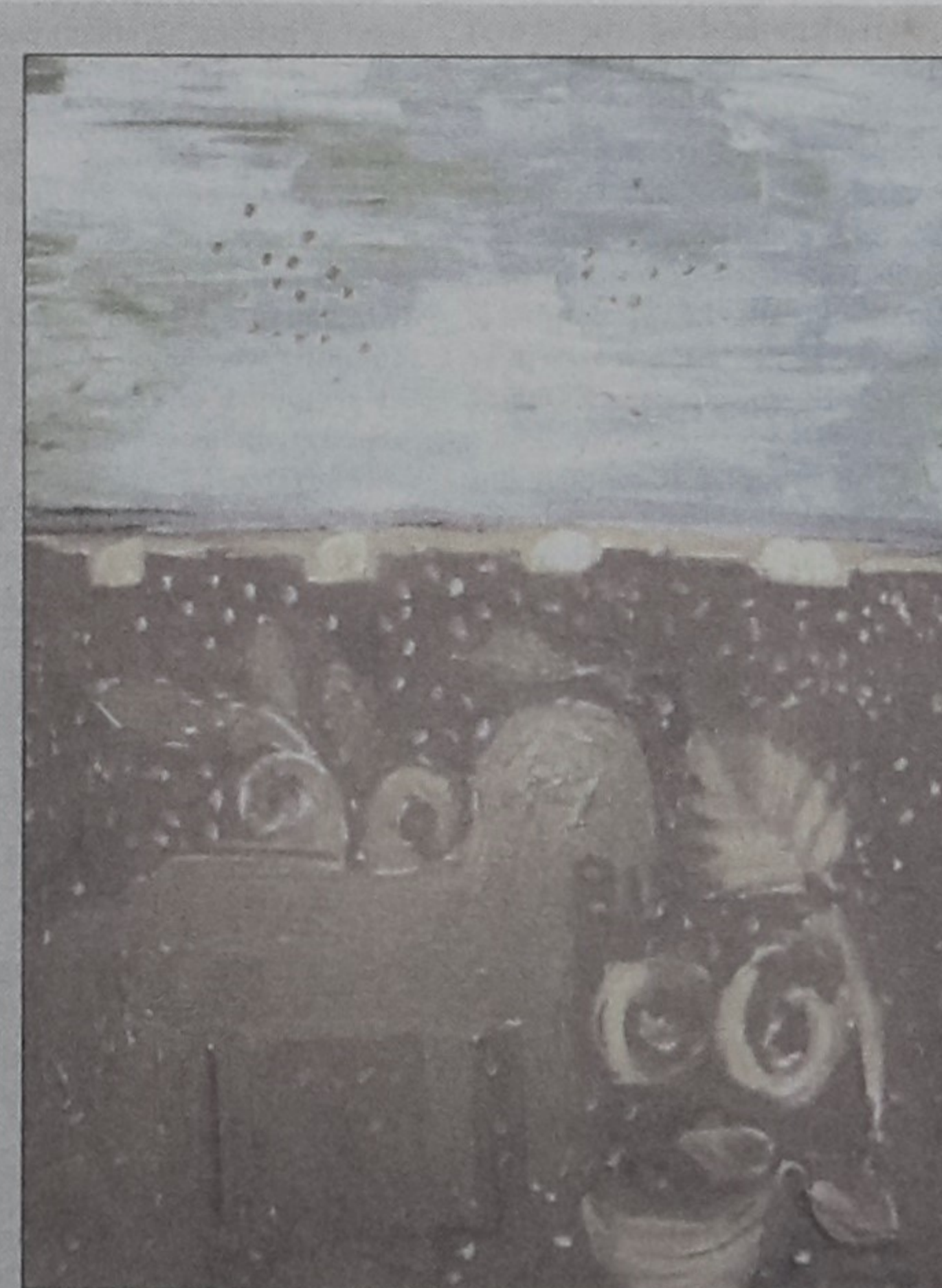
"Style Icon-2008," a beauty contest jointly organised by ATN Bangla, Daily Ittefaq and Fantasy Kingdom in association with ATN Record and Concord Communication, kicks off today as registration for the contest begins.

At a press conference held yesterday, Arshad Hossain, managing editor of Daily Ittefaq; Shahrar Kamal, deputy managing director of Concord Group and Nawazesh Ali Khan, head of programmes, ATN Bangla informed the media on several aspects of the contest. With some particular terms and conditions, women aged between 18 and 25 from all over the country can register through SMS or log on the website. Contestants can also collect the registration forms from Fantasy Kingdom. Registration will continue till November 19. With the gala round to be held at the amphitheatre of Fantasy Kingdom, the winner of "Style Icon-2008" will be crowned on January 23, 2009.



Speakers at the press conference.

## Exhibition featuring works of promising artists



(Clockwise from top-left): "Nakshi Katha," oil on canvas; "Seen beyond Sight," acrylic; "Unacceptable," mixed media on paper.

AHSAN KIBRIA

A group exhibition featuring three promising painters -- Mahmudur Rahman Dipon, Shahnaz Sultana and Aowliad Hossain -- is on at Kamranga Art Gallery. Rafiqun Nabi, dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University was the chief guest while artist Jamal Ahmed and columnist Farida Sultana were present as special guests at the inaugural ceremony.

Mahmudur Rahman's canvas is replete with various forms, symbols, textures, oval, triangular and rectangular forms and lines that take precedence over figures on his canvas. The lines are clear. His choice of colours is very vibrant. Different geometric forms and architectural shapes are innovative elements in his works. He is completely dedicated to his art.

Shahnaz Sultana delves into landscapes and portraits. She is fascinated by nature and the elements are always woven into her works. Soft, subdued colours also create a panoramic impact. Yellow, red, black, blue, ash, white and other bold and subdued colours are exquisitely used in her works.

Another promising artist, Aowliad Hossain, too is occupied with colours, forms and various tones. The forms are mystic and at times unfamiliar. The figures are vigorous and dynamic.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

## Kate Winslet could hit an Oscar double

When it comes to Oscars, the whole world is saying: "Why hasn't Kate Winslet won one?"

Well, maybe not quite. But that was the deliberately pompous lament of the Titanic star when she played herself as a blatant awards-craver on HBO's "Extras."

In all seriousness, she could have two chances at an Academy Award this season: for her supporting role as a woman hiding a secret in "The Reader" and for her lead role opposite Leonardo DiCaprio in "Revolutionary Road."

"I'm so lucky to play both of these women in my lifetime, let alone in less than a year," Winslet says. "It doesn't even add up that one person should have gotten to play both of these parts. It truly rocks my world."

"The Reader," directed by Stephen Daldry ("The Hours"), was scheduled for 2009 but was pushed up after a public battle between producers Scott Rudin and Harvey Weinstein. But the date shift never bothered Winslet. "I'm never involved, as an actor, with the release date of a movie," she says. "It's not my job. My job is just to play a character and be professional and do that job with a whole heart and to the best of my ability."

The two films, she stresses, "couldn't be any more different." In "The Reader," set in post-



Kate Winslet

World War II Germany, she plays Hanna Schmitz, who falls in love with a teen boy who reads books to her, all the while hiding secrets about her past. Ralph Fiennes plays the boy as an adult.

"At the beginning of the story, I am my age, and at the end, I am 68," the 33-year-old says. "So I age 35 years in the course of the story. There's a lot of mystery surrounding her. It's very difficult for me to talk about without giving the story away. It's like "The Sixth Sense" or "The Crying Game," one of those where you go, 'Oh, no, no, no, don't tell me...'"

In "Revolutionary Road," based on a novel by Richard Yates, she and DiCaprio play April and Frank Wheeler, a suburban couple in the late 1950s whose marriage is struggling under the weight of unfulfilled dreams. Directed by her husband, Sam Mendes ("American Beauty"), it began generating attention as soon as it was announced: It reunites her and DiCaprio on-screen for the first time since 1997's "Titanic," the highest-grossing film in history.

"We are very aware there will be a certain amount of expectation: Leo and I together. That's just a thing, a big old thing," Winslet says. "If it means more people will be prone to see this film, then great... But our hope is people will be able to fall in love with Frank and April in the same way they fell for Jack and Rose."

Source: Internet