

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Javed Jali  
Venue: Exhibition Hall, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi  
Date: November 16-23  
Time: 11am-7pm



### Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Pala-Chitra  
Artist: Raghunath Chakraborty  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (New), Dhanmondi  
Date: November 14-21  
Time: 11am-8pm



### 13th Asian Art Biennale '08

Organiser: Bangladesh Shipakala Academy  
Venue: Bangladesh Shipakala Academy, Osmani Memorial Hall and National Museum  
Date: October 21-November 19  
Time: 11am-7pm (Fridays 3pm-8pm)



### CD Launch

Songs of Khan Ataur Rahman  
Title: Astitto  
Artist: Rumana Islam  
Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre  
Date: November 17  
Time: 5:30 pm



## Nabanno Utshab ushering in the season of harvest



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

(Clockwise from top left) Artistes sing at the event. Dancers in traditional clothes perform at the festival. Cultural personalities at a procession brought out on the occasion of "Nobanno Utshab."

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Nabanno" is the traditional annual event celebrating the harvest of new crop. The nation celebrated this occasion amidst a festive atmosphere on November 15.

Like every year, Jatiya Nabanno Utshab Udjapon Parshad organised a celebration at the University of Dhaka (DU). The festival was held at Bokultala, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU. The place has become a hub of various cultural and traditional festivals in our country. Every year the festival comes to us with new visions and dreams. The cultural programme included dance, recitation, songs and more. Prominent painter Mohammad Kibria inaugurated the festival. Enamul Latif was the main speaker.

The speakers expressed that "Nabanno" is an integral part of traditional Bengali culture. At a time when extremist forces are posing a threat to cultural practices in the country, all should be encouraged more to celebrate traditional festivals and events. They also demanded that the festival be observed at state level.

Thousands of men, women and children in traditional clothes attended the festival. The campus was in full festive mood and people from different parts of the city thronged the venue.

Though "Nabanno" -- celebrating harvest -- is closely linked to the rural culture, urbanites are getting more involved with the festival.



## Natyalok celebrates 9th anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Natyalok, an organisation of theatre artistes in Sirajganj town celebrated its 9th anniversary amidst much festivity and enthusiasm on November 15. On the occasion, the organisation arranged several programmes including processions, discussion, cultural and artistic events.

As part of the programmes, a colourful procession paraded the main streets in the town. Alamgir Rahman, Superintendent of Police, Sirajganj, inaugurated the procession at Natyalok's office premises.

Another procession was held at the Public Library premises, where hundreds of cultural personalities gathered.

A discussion and a cultural programme were held at Sirajganj Degree College auditorium. Ashraf Ali, Deputy Commissioner, Sirajganj, was the chief guest at the event.

Deobrato Shaha, convener of Natyalok, presided over the



Actor Zahid Hassan addresses the audience.

programme, while Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation; Akhtaruzzaman, assistant secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and renowned TV actor Zahid Hassan were also present at the programme as special guests.

Speakers at the programme conveyed that theatre is like a mirror

to the society. However they were concerned that performing art forms like theatre and 'jatra' are under constant threat from the aggression of the "satellite culture."

Speakers urged all to keep the traditions of theatre alive by encouraging the art form. They also addressed the issue of aggression on culture and freedom of expression from fundamentalist groups. Referring to the demolition of the sculpture "Achin Pakhi," they urged all to unite and confront the forces that present a threat to our traditions and cultural practices.

At the cultural programme, local artistes staged a play and baul singer Babul Sarker and his troupe from Dhaka performed songs.

Around 2000 people attended the programme. Among others, Abdul Hashem Anu, adviser, Natyalok; social activist Jahangir Alam Raton; Asaduddin Pablu, president of Sammito Sangskritik Jote, Sirajganj unit, spoke on the occasion.



Babul Sarker and his troupe from Dhaka perform at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

## Atif Aslam performs in Dhaka

## Concert at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference centre

NADIA SARWAT

At the Hall of Fame of Bangladesh China Friendship Conference centre on November 15, hundreds of young music lovers were eagerly waiting for Atif Aslam, the Pakistani rock singer whose popularity has transcended the boundaries of his country. When the star appeared on the stage, the crowd went wild. Atif did not waste a moment and started with a performance of his claim to fame number "Woh lamhey."

Fire Works Events & PR organised the concert titled "Atif Aslam: A Date in Dhaka." As matter of fact, this was Atif's second "date" with the Bangladeshi audience. He first performed in Dhaka in 2006.

Atif started his singing career

with the Pakistani Band Jal. The success of some of the band's most popular songs like "Aadat" and "Woh lamhey" depended largely on his exceptional, wide-ranged vocals. Bringing in some controversies, however, he left the band and retained his fame as a solo act.

He is now a regular playback singer in the Bollywood film industry and has produced a number of hit songs such as "Tere bin" from the film "Bas Ek Pal," "Peheli nazar mein" from "Race" and more. His solo albums are also quite popular among the young audience of the subcontinent.

At the concert, the audience had to wait for a while for the artiste, as the first one to take the stage was a Bangladeshi newcomer, Rumi. Rumi expects to release his debut album produced by 'Rage Audio'

next Eid. Though nervous, performing as the opening act, Rumi's melodious tunes were well appreciated by the audience.

Atif's interaction with the audience during his performance was vivacious. Another hit number, "Ehsass" was the second song he presented. "Mahi ve," a soft melodious tune followed -- the lyrics written by the artiste himself, dedicated to his fiancé. "Dorie" from his album with the same title was one that the crowd waited for. "Kuch is tarah," "Yeh meri kahani" along with Atif's other popular numbers kept the audience charged throughout the concert.

ATN Bangla, Radio Foorti, and Daily Ittefaq were the media partners of the event while Rage Audio and Neptune Advertisement Ltd were event partners.



Atif Aslam in his element at the concert.

## Rash Festival draws big crowd to Kantanagar Temple

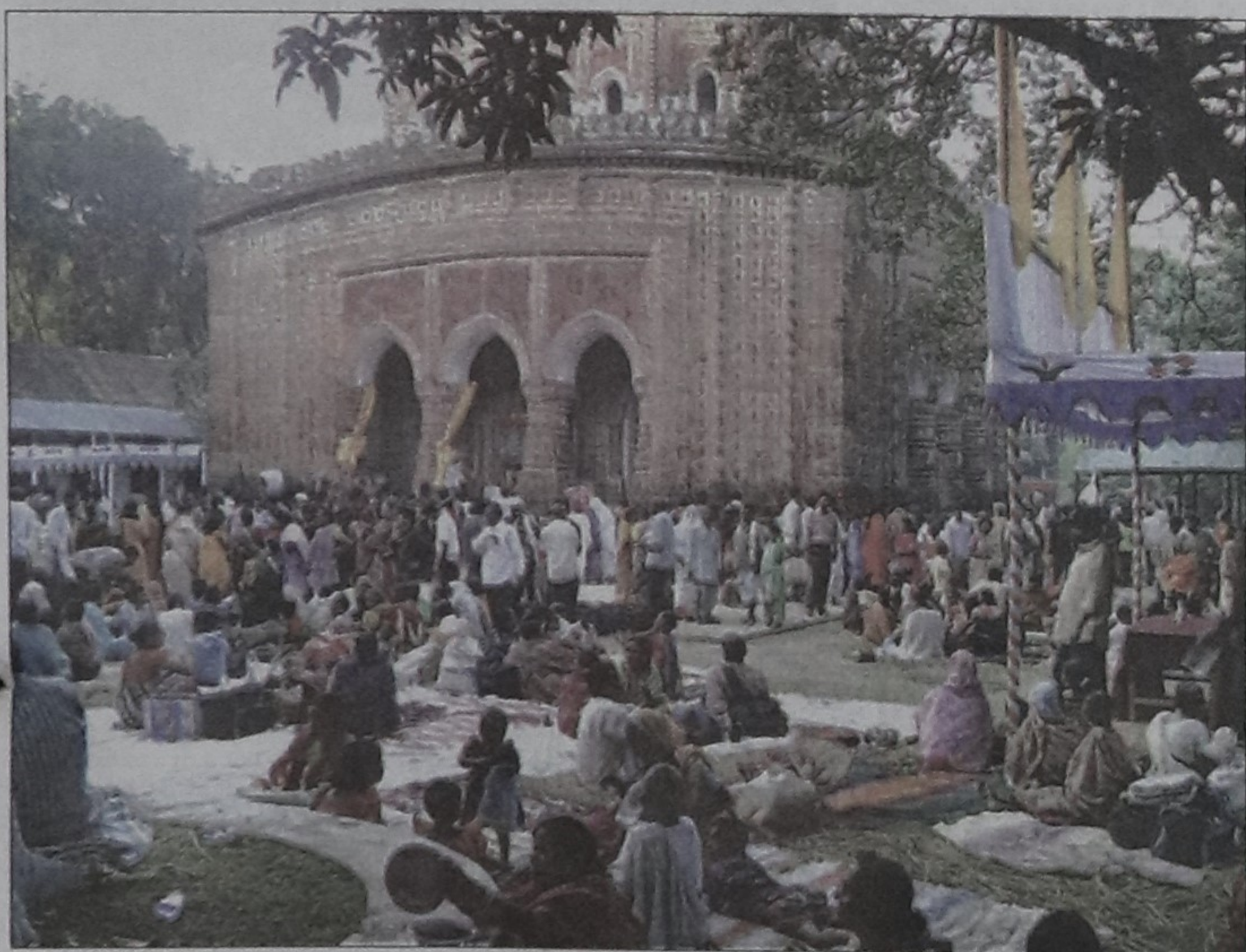


PHOTO: STAR

Call of faith: devotees throng Kantaji temple

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

The historic Rash Festival, a 500-year-old traditional religious festival of the Hindu community at Kantanagar Temple at Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur, began recently with much enthusiasm.

According to the organizers, at least two lakh pilgrims across the country gathered at Kantanagar temple to celebrate the religious

festival amidst tight security. Some of the devotees congregated from all over the subcontinent.

During the celebration, the Kantaji idol was brought from Dinajpur Rajbari to the Kantanagar temple. The idol had been taken to Dinajpur Rajbari from Kantanagar Temple last August as part of tradition.

On the eve of the Rash Festival,

the idol was brought to the Rash altar at midnight. Thousands of devotees gathered at the venue to carry out the key rituals of the festival.

The rituals are performed on the night of the full moon in accordance with a tradition that dates back 500 years, and was connected with the Rajas of Dinajpur.

The festival is observed by people from all walks of life.

Organisers said that this year the temple area turned into a veritable sea of human beings with thousands of devotees from India, Nepal, as well as across Bangladesh.

Magura, Mymensingh and Patuakhali, Nilphamari and Bhola. Many spent the festival night around the temple area, believing that such rituals can promote the welfare of society.

During this period, the temple authorities provide food and entertainment. The latter includes ritual songs and Radha-Krishna dances, much to the delight of the pilgrims and in keeping with traditional temple hospitality.

In addition to the rituals, the festival organisers also arrange a month-long mela at the temple premises. Hundreds of traders from different parts of the country bring along their products.

This year Mohammed Nabiul Haque Mollah, deputy commissioner of Dinajpur inaugurated the festival as chief guest while Mohammad Abul Kalam police super of Dinajpur was present at the inaugural session of the festival.

Minoti Bala, 75, a resident of Bhanga upazila of Faridpur, attended the festival at Kantanagar temple. She termed the festival as the best that she had ever seen. However, Anil Chandra Roy from Rangpur expressed his frustration at the performers rendition of circus and jatra, which he termed as obscene.

## Bipasha flees Kashmir shocking everyone



Bipasha Basu

Bollywood diva Bipasha Basu fled from Kashmir where she was shooting for the movie "Lamhaa" without informing anyone. This incident shocked the entire cast and crew as Bipasha was supposed to shoot with Sanjay Dutt who had just arrived in Srinagar to shoot the sequence. The movie is being directed by Rahul Dholakia and also stars Kunal Kapoor and Shermaz Patel.

Producer Bunty Walia was amazed how Bipasha could have managed to pack her luggage in just 15 minutes if it was not pre-planned. Bunty expressed hope that Bipasha will soon join them in Manali for the second leg of the shoot. Incidentally, only a few days back a policeman had proposed Bipasha for marriage on the set of the movie.

Source: Internet