

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

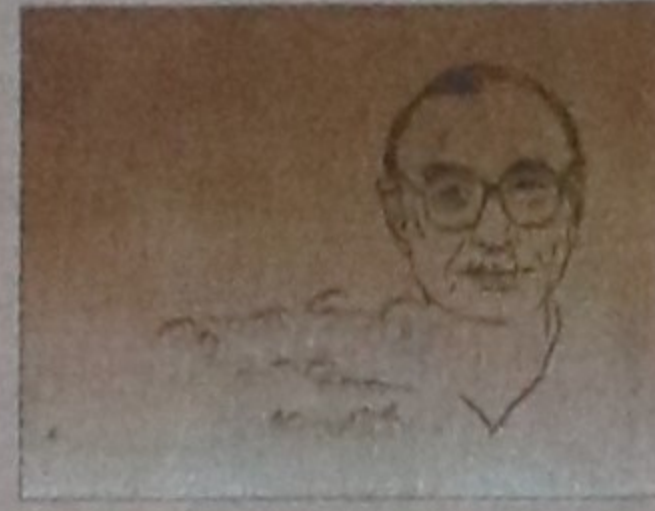
Musical Soiree
Title: Songs and Poems of the Four Winds
Artist: Sharmila Roy
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: January 5
Time: 6:30pm



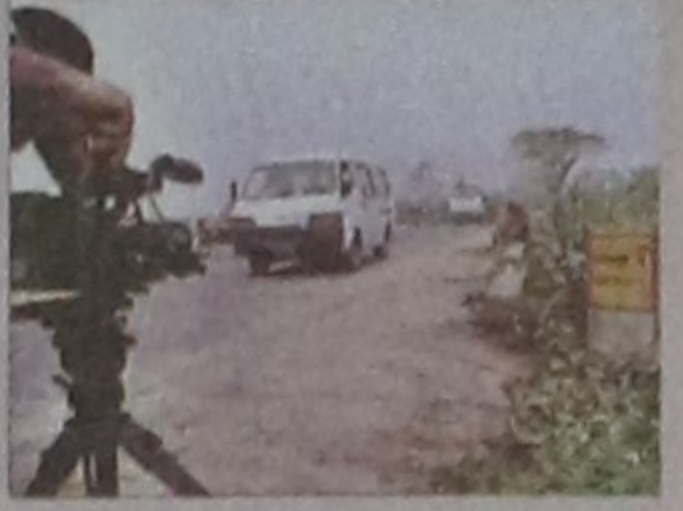
Group Drawing Exhibition
Title: Rhythmic Lines
Venue: Asiatic Society Art Gallery, Nimtoli, Ramna
Date: January 3-15
Time: 12pm-8pm



Mohammad Kibria Birth Anniversary
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: January 2
Time: 5pm



Documentary Screening
Film: Al-Badar
Director: Fakhru Arefin Khan
Venue: Liberation War Museum
Date: January 2
Time: 6:30pm



Raibeshey dance at Natmandal



NADIA SARWAT

An exquisite performance of 'Raibeshey' dance -- a martial dance form of rural Bengal -- was presented at Natmandal, Dhaka University on December 30. It was the concluding programme of a ten-day workshop on 'Raibeshey' dance, organised by Shadhona, a Centre for Advancement of South Asian Music and Dance, in cooperation with The Indian High Commission, Bangladesh. The participants of the workshop received their certificates at the event.

A folk dance form originating in West Bengal, 'Raibeshey' literally means 'royal bamboo'. It is actually a martial art that was practiced by the 'lathiyals' who used to defend their feudal lords. According to danseuse Lubna Mariam, general secretary of Shadhona, 'Raibeshey' was first documented as a dance form by Gurushodoi Dutta, an IAS officer in the last century. Dutta came across this art form in Birbhum (West Bengal). He incorporated the 'bolbani' (accompanying verses/words) of 'Raibeshey' from east Bengal. 'Raibeshey' is quite similar to what we know as 'Lathi Khela' in our country.

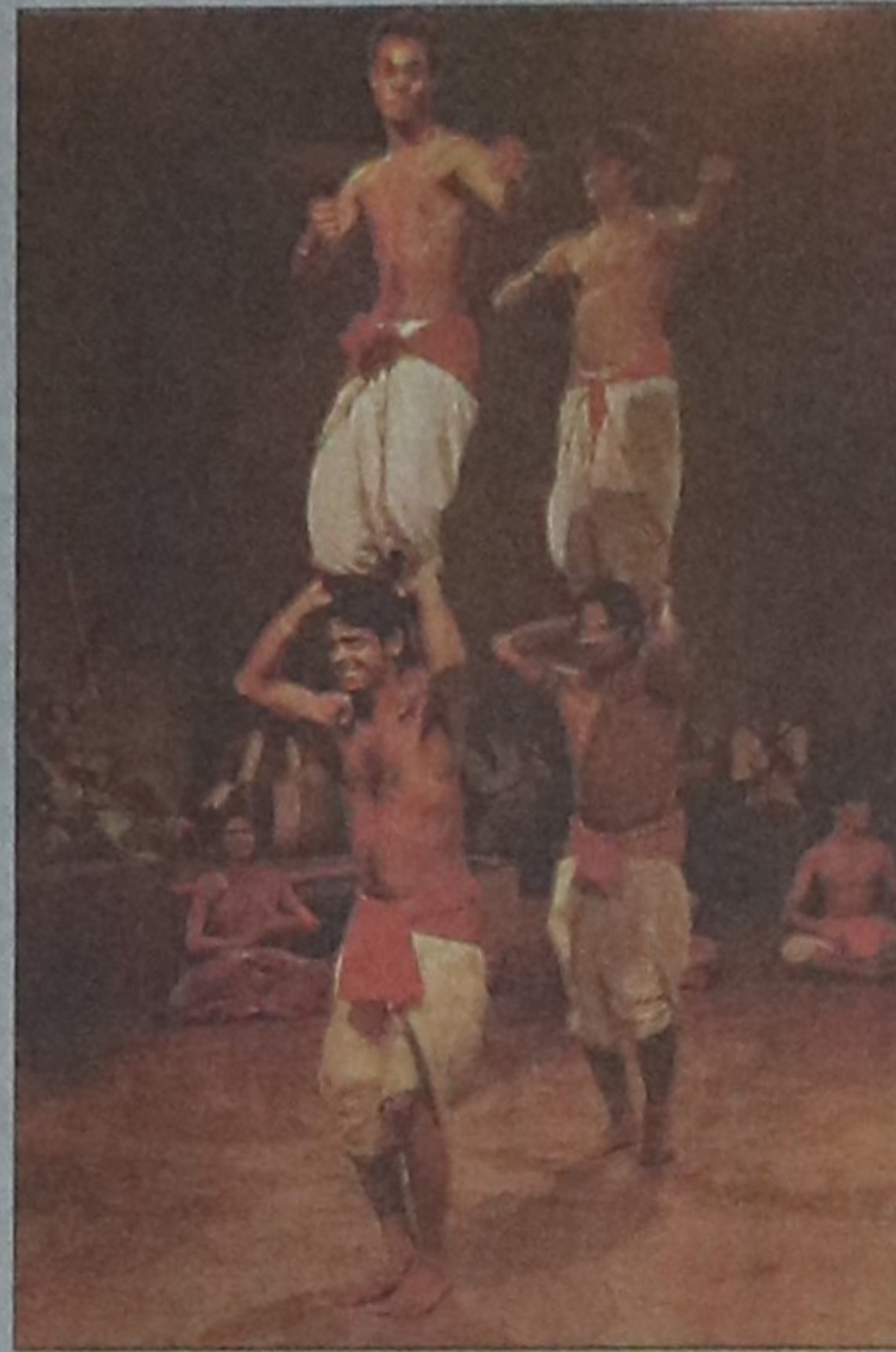
Along with 'Raibeshey' dance, the workshop also included lessons on other folk dance forms

such as 'Paik' (another martial dance), 'Pata Naach' (a dance exclusively for women, named after a rural ritual called 'Shoi Patano') and more. Dance artistes Dr. Tarun Pradhan and Sutapa Pradhan from Midnapore, West Bengal conducted the workshop.

At Natmandal, dancers presented a demonstration of what they were taught at the workshop. The presentations highlighted the basic styles of the dance forms; each has distinct costumes and choreography. The demonstration also included examples of how these dance forms can be used in modern choreography. Tarun and Sutapa Pradhan provided the 'Bolbani' and background information with each demonstration.

A brief performance of 'Jhumur' (a folk performing art form with erotic connotations) was presented by artiste Shakti Maiti. The song "Piriti koire le koirele sojoni," was accompanied by the artiste's spontaneous movement and the rhythm of 'dhol'. An excerpt from the dance drama 'Notir Puja' was performed featuring a blend of 'Rabindra Nritya' with folk dance styles. The remarkable performance ended with a chorus, "Thaki ekey onnyer aro kachha kachhi" -- addressing the inter-cultural harmony between the Bengalis of the two countries.

Poet-litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq and Deepak Mittal, first secretary, Indian High Commission in



Participants of the workshop perform 'Raibeshey' -- a martial dance form -- at Natmandal, Dhaka University on December 30, 2008.

Bangladesh, attended the event among other cultural personalities. Alim-ur Rahman Khan, chairperson of Shadhona, handed certificates amongst the 33 participants.

On behalf of Shadhona, Lubna mariam declared that the organisation is hoping to stage their new production featuring 'Raibeshey' dance and other folk dance forms soon. The production will be an adaptation of Syed Shamsul Haq's dance drama 'Chompaboti,' which is based on 'Palli Kabi' Jasimuddin's poem 'Beder Meye.'



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Style Icon on ATN Bangla tonight



Contestants of "Style Icon"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Beauty contest "Style Icon" finally hits the small screen tonight. Starting from tonight, the show will be aired on ATN Bangla twice a week. On Fridays, the show will be aired at 8 pm, and on Mondays at 8:45 pm.

Primary selection round of the contest started from November 25, 2008 where 16 judges selected 200 contestants from more than 20,000 applicants. Of the 200, 26 were selected for the grooming session, which was conducted at the Fantasy Kingdom theme park. Film director Chashi Nazrul Islam, beauty expert Kaniz Almas, fashion designer

Shahrukh Shahid and artiste Fahmida Nabi among others were the judges of this session. Twenty contestants were selected from this round who are now going through another grooming round in Chittagong. This session includes physical exercise, choreography, ramp, beautification, basic walk, regular lecture, discussion, lifestyle training and more. Five competitors will be eliminated from here and the top ten will be selected from the rest. These ten contestants will then participate in the Gala round.

Style Icon is jointly organised by ATN Bangla, Ittefaq group and Concord group. Koushik Hossain Tapash is the creative director and Mukaddem Babu is the producer of the show.

Aziz Market, Shahbagh on Ekushey TV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial, "Aziz Market, Shahbagh," will be aired on Ekushey TV tonight at 9:30 pm. The serial has been written and directed by Sakhawat Al Mamun. Stories of poets, actors and singers as well as people from different tracks of the society who hang out at the Aziz Market in Shahbagh are the highlight of the serial.

Musharraf Karim, Azad Abul Kalam, Pran Roy, Arup Rahi, Farah Ruma, Nafisa, director Mannan Heera, Shams Sumon and others play different roles in the serial.



Fazlur Rahman Babu (left) and co-actor in "Aziz Market, Shahbagh".

Quentin Tarantino's World War II saga in the offing

REUTERS, Los Angeles

Controversial director Quentin Tarantino's take on World War II will be released in August this year, the studios behind the highly-anticipated film called "Inglorious Basterds" said last Wednesday.

Tarantino often takes a long time between projects. His last movie was a 2007 combined feature called "Grindhouse" made with director Robert Rodriguez, but he has not single-handedly directed a film since the 2004 "Kill Bill: Vol. 2."

The director's oddly spelled World War II epic "Inglorious Basterds" stars actor Brad Pitt, and production began in Europe in October.

Pitt plays a U.S. army lieutenant leading a group of soldiers operating behind Nazi lines, terrorising the enemy.

"Inglorious Basterds" reportedly borrows

from Spaghetti Westerns, the mostly Italian-made films of the 1960s and '70s that combine brutal violence and lyrical, fairytale-like qualities in a different take on Hollywood cowboy movies.

The film was inspired by the 1978 World War II movie "Quel maledetto treno blindato," also called "The Inglorious Bastards," from Italian director Enzo Castellari.

Tarantino, who won an Oscar for his 1994 "Pulp Fiction" movie script, made the martial arts epics "Kill Bill: Vol. 1" (2003) and "Kill Bill: Vol. 2" (2004). The first film made \$181 million worldwide and the sequel grossed \$152 million, according to tracking firm Box Office Mojo.

Critics say Tarantino's films trivialise and stylise violence, but the director has a devoted fan base and has received numerous awards, including the Golden Palm at the Cannes Film Festival for "Pulp Fiction."

Architecture of the air

Nasirul Haque Khokon talks about light and sound design

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Light and sound shows involving architectural structures are increasingly becoming popular in the modern urban aesthetics. In Bangladesh however, this idea is quite new, due to so many reasons. A weeklong light and sound show on the newly constructed bridge over Gulshan Lake, linking Banani and Gulshan residential areas, was an opportunity for Dhaka-ites to witness this idea.

Gifted light designer Nasirul Haque Khokon was the director of the installation, which began on December 7, 2008 with the inauguration of the bridge by the Chief Adviser, Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed. The weeklong show gave the new-built bridge a major exposure and highlighted the design of the arch-bridge. In fact the adjacent area went through a recent beautification by the construction firm, Abdul Monem Ltd working in cooperation with Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

Nasirul Haque Khokon talked to The Daily Star recently about his designs. He also designed the laser-light and sound show at Lalbagh Kella, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Dhaka as a capital city. Nasir has been involved in light designing for almost two decades.

"I started as a theatre activist with the troupe Nagorik Natyo Sampraday. I participated in a workshop. After the workshop, newcomers had to stage a production on their own -- from direction to acting to technical aspects of a play. It was difficult to find someone who'd do the light designing, and I was interested. Apparently I did well, as the seniors encouraged my work a lot. And that's how I got into it. After years of experience, I can honestly say that I love my job."

About the light and sound show at Gulshan-Banani linking bridge, Nasir said, "In a riverine Bangladesh, bridges have a special connotation for



Nasirul Haque Khokon has done the light design for the new bridge linking Banani and Gulshan residential areas.

our people. It's not only a means of communication; it's a symbol of connecting people. The newly constructed arch-bridge has more facets than that. For the city dwellers, the beautiful bridge can be a recreational venue. While designing the lights, I kept all these aspects in mind. For the music part, I used flute and santoor. Authorities of the construction firm seemed quite impressed with my work, and they are considering making the light and sound show a permanent feature of the bridge."

Contemplating the cost and electricity use in these trying times, the designer said, "As we all know, Bangladesh is not an affluent country, and cannot afford a whole lot of electricity use for beautification purposes alone. Keeping that in mind, we've tried to come up with a design that is pretty cost-effective. We've used LED lights, which consume less power. There are many beautiful architectural structures in Dhaka. Lack of proper lighting, literally keeps them 'in dark,' and we overlook their impressive designs at night. I have plans to design lights for some of these structures."



Quentin Tarantino (right) at Cannes 2008.