

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

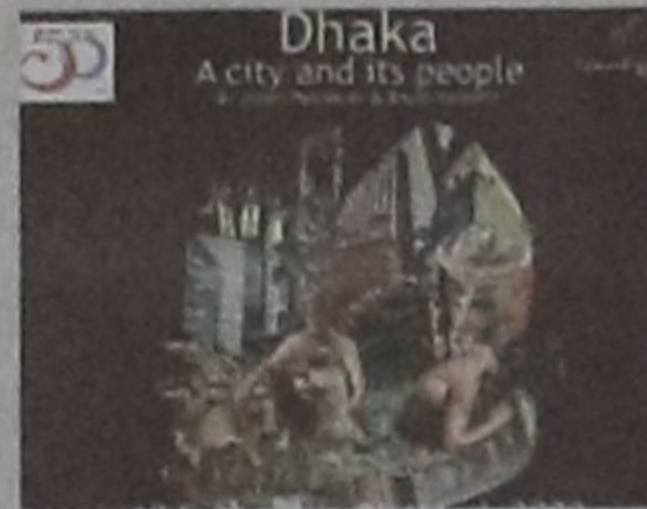
Ekushey Boi Mela '09
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 01-28



Exhibition
On February 21
Title: Dali & Others
Organiser: Bangladesh Heritage Foundation & Bangladesh Research and Publications
Venue: Billa Auditorium, H 22, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: February 20-28
Time: 10am-8pm



Photography Exhibition
By Julian Pannetier and Bruno Valentin
Title: Dhaka, a City and its People
Venue: AFD, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: February 19-March 5
Time: 9am-12pm, 5-8pm (Saturdays 5-8pm)



Award
Title: Shilu Abed Master Craftsperson Award '09
Organiser: National Crafts Council of Bangladesh
Venue: BRAC Inn Centre Auditorium, 75, Mohakhali
Date: March 5
Time: 6pm



The age-old tradition of portrait painting

Maksudul Ahsan's impressive repertoire



The exhibition included portraits of iconic South Asian personalities by Maksudul Ahsan.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Painting portraits is considered to be one of the oldest forms of art. Considering history, from ancient times this art form was predominantly used to glorify the influential and powerful in the society. All high-ranking families had a personal painter, who only did portraits of each family member. Sometime, the painter travelled with royalty on hunts. Many distinguished artists in the world were commissioned by monarchs. Gradually, this art form crossed the territories of royalty and became popular among the masses the world over.

Maksudul Ahsan is one of the notable Bangladeshi painters of the '80s who likes to make portraits of renowned man and women representing different eras in the sub-continent. These individuals have left legacies. They have reformed and reshaped the South Asian society. They are no



The artist (centre) at the exhibit.

more today but their contributions remain relevant in our daily lives.

Maksudul has managed to capture their unique expressions in the portraits. His recent solo exhibition, held at Dhoomimal Art Gallery in Delhi, delved into

this aspect. Certain issues like underage marriage, religious and social bigotry, superstition, social injustice, inequality, oppression and more have also been featured in his works. Maksudul brings in romanticism and nature in his works as well.

He tries to synchronise colours and themes. His colours are often bold, which can translate the significance of the themes. Then there are times when the shades appear dreamy and romantic. Observing his works, one gets the feeling that his acrylic furnishes the typical watercolour tonalities -- appearing subtle and translucent. The artist tries to express himself through simple compositions and hues. He has used charcoal, pastel, pencil, watercolour and acrylic on paper and canvas.

Those who are usually good at drawing, excel in portraits. There is a serious dearth of portrait painters in the local art scene despite the art form being well-established globally. Our painters, for some reason, have not shown enough interest in this drawing-based form. Hopefully, talented young artists will show more interest in drawing, which is perhaps one of the most significant aspects of art.

'Ekushey' programme in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Satkhira District administration, Shilpakala Academy and Sangskritik Parishad jointly organised a two-day programme featuring a discussion, competitions on handwriting and painting, prize-giving ceremony and a cultural function to mark 'Amar Ekushey' (International Mother Language Day).

The discussion was held at Shahid Abdur Razzak Park premises with Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-general) Mukesh Chandra Biswas in the chair. Satkhira Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Mizanur Rahman was the chief guest. Among others, Satkhira Municipality Mayor Sheikh Ashraf Haque; ASP Tofayel Ahmed; Satkhira

Government Mahila College Principal, Prof. Abdul Wahed; Prof. Abu Ahmed; Prof. Abdul Hamid and Syed Firoz Kamal spoke on the occasion.

Speakers conveyed that the Language Movement martyrs sacrificed their lives for ensure the right to speak our language, Bangla. The movement also spearheaded the independence movement, which gave birth to a sovereign Bangladesh.

Speakers also lauded the initiative of the organisers for generating interesting among youngsters in our history through competitions. Students of various educational institutions took part in the competitions and received prizes. Later a cultural function was held at the venue.

Raisul Islam Asad on tonight's "Amar Ami"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Renowned actor Raisul Islam Asad is the guest on tonight's episode of the talk show "Amar Ami." The programme is aired on Banglavision at 9:05 pm every Saturday.

Asad is a familiar face in our cultural arena. He is equally popular in TV, film and a theatre. Throughout his successful career, Asad has received numerous awards both at home and abroad.

On tonight's "Amar Ami," Asad will share experiences both from his professional and personal life.

Produced by Ananta Zahid, the programme is hosted by Munmun.



Raisul Islam Asad is tonight's guest on "Amar Ami."

Fiftieth episode of "Aim in Life"



Raunak Hasan and Kusum Sikder in "Aim in Life."

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Aim in Life" will be aired tonight on ntv at 8:15 pm. This is the 50th episode of

the serial written and directed by Masud Sezan.

The story centres on a retired government officer who decides to write a book titled "Aim in Life." Irritated by the

actions of his own offspring, he comes to the realisation that it's a must for every individual to have an aim in life. He wants to explain this in his book. Looking for material for his book, he starts fieldwork by interviewing people. Interviewees include even beggars, whether they have a goal or not. The serial moves forward with interesting incidents.

The cast includes Mosharrar Karim, Kusum Sikder, Raunak Hasan, Tinni, Challenger, Nafisa, Rifat Chowdhury, Kochi Khandakar and others. In different episodes of the serial, the former captain of Bangladesh National Cricket team, Khaled Masud Pilot; artiste SI Tutul and illusionist Jewel Aich had done cameos.

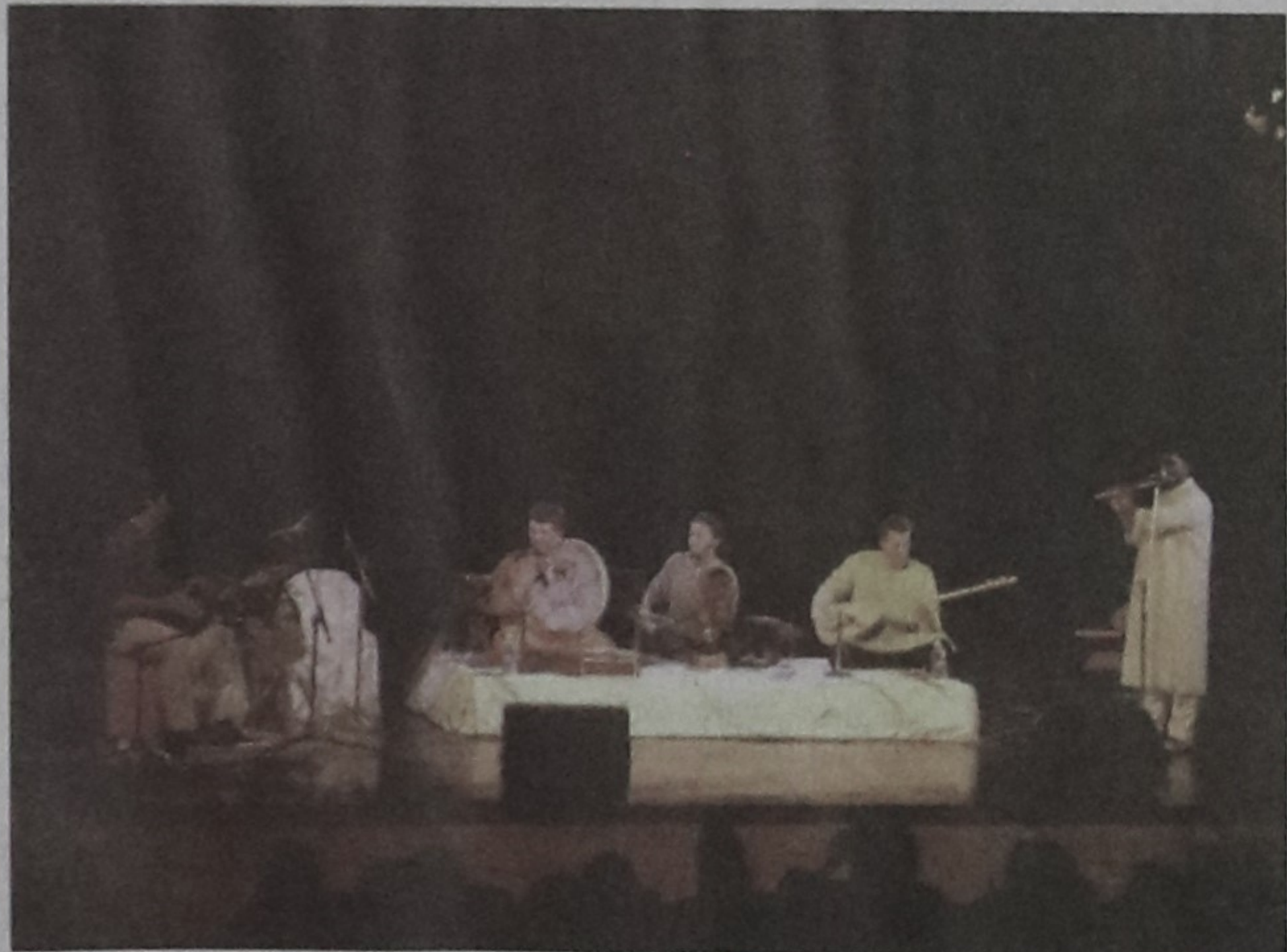
Mystique concert in Delhi: A show-stopper

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

The band 'Mystique' truly lived up to its name. Bringing together, among others, exotic percussion music, 'ney' (Iranian flute), 'santoor,' 'tombek' and 'def' (both Iranian percussion instruments), 'Sephardic' music along with the 'bansuri,' electric guitar, violin, 'saz' and 'rebab' it was an evening that lingered in the memory.

The show opened with a 'ney' solo, ably rendered by Andrey Demidenko, who also played the 'santoor,' 'tombek' and 'def.' Then followed Neo Yusuf, a slow song, played by the whole band. Among the other show-stoppers were 'Japong,' a song from the group's first CD and a rendering of 'def' and 'darbouka' (Egyptian percussion) by Suchet Malhotra.

Also in the spotlight were special guest Anna Hoffman, who sung songs in the 'Sephardic' tradition (Jewish Gypsy music from Spain) and



The band, Mystique, performs instrumental pieces from India, Iran, Turkey, the Middle East, near East and Eastern Europe.

Rajesh Prasanna, a superb 'bansuri' player.

A mellifluous instrumentalist, the 22-year-old Rajesh Prasanna entranced the audience with his 'bansuri.' Belying his young age, he is

already a seasoned performer and described as "versatile, virtuoso and very down to earth."

Mystique's core members are Gennady Lavrentyev (violin, guitar), Lionel

Dentan ('saz,' 'rebab') and Malhotra. Definitely centre stage was Suchet Malhotra on percussion. Trained in Hindustani vocal music and 'tabla,' with two years of western band music (bugle,

trumpet, jazz and march drums), he has avidly learnt to play the 'darbouka' from Egypt, the 'duembe' from Ghana, the 'NGA' from Tibet, the 'cajon' from Peru and many others.

The credit for the unforgettable concert must go to Mystique, which performs instrumental pieces from India, Iran, Turkey, the Middle East, near East and Eastern Europe.

Each of the musicians has a distinctive touch -- be it Hindustani and folk to western classical and jazz. Having performed in Pakistan, Spain and Switzerland, Mystique is at the cutting edge of fusion. For their gigs, musicians from India and elsewhere, often augment the core group of Mystique (who are also part of another band called 'Da Saz' that plays electro-acoustic Sufiana music).

Mystique's CD, "Melodies of the Orient," showcases the superb talent of eight musicians.

"Sakin Sarisuri" on Channel i

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Sakin Sarisuri" will be aired tonight at 7:50 pm. Written by Brindaban Das, the serial is directed by Salauddin Lavlu. The serial is aired on Saturdays and Sundays.

The plot is set in a village called Sarisuri. Interestingly enough, the residents are all thieves. The village is home to Muslims, Hindus and Christians who live in harmony, respecting and celebrating each other's creed and festivals. The village is virtually isolated from neighbouring areas for its natives' reputation of being swindlers. The local administration is well aware of the villagers' "profession" but does not take severe legal



The plot of the serial is set in a village that is home to Muslims, Hindus and Christians who live in harmony.

actions, as election is close.

The serial advances with a conflict among the villagers when the daughter of the local godfather falls for a young thief.

The cast includes

Mamunur Rashid, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Masum Aziz, Nazmul Huda Bachchu, Salauddin Lavlu, Azizul Hakim, Golam Farida Chhanda, Chanchal Chowdhury, Mosharrar Karim and Rawnak Hasan.