

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**4th National Dance Festival**  
 Organiser: Bangladesh Dance Artists' Association  
 Venue: Plaza, National Art Gallery, BSA  
 Date: April 23-29  
 Inauguration on April 23 at National Theatre Hall  
 Time: 6pm



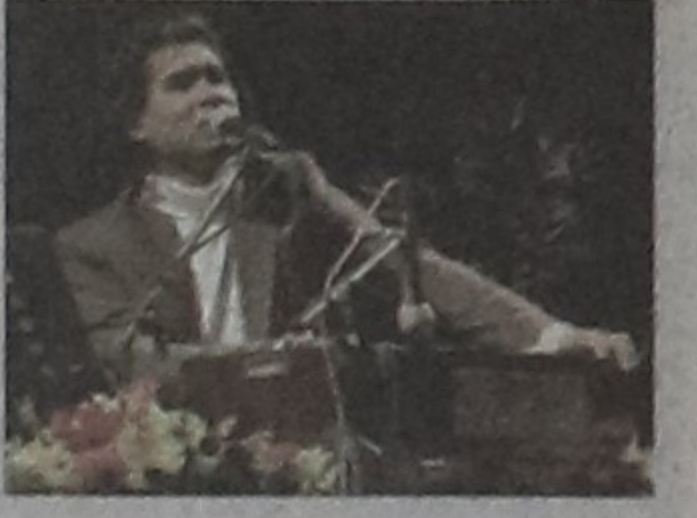
**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Searching  
 Artist: Nusrat Jahan Nazlea  
 Venue: Radius Centre-Bay's Galleria, 5th Floor, 57, Gulshan Avenue  
 Date: April 17- May 1



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Touching the Reality  
 Artist: Golam Faruque  
 Venue: Shilpangan, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi  
 Date: April 17-26  
 Time: 10am-8pm



**Ghazal and Thumri Concert**  
 Artist: Swarni Zubayer  
 Organiser: High Commission of India  
 Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, H35, R24, Gulshan-1  
 Date: April 24  
 Time: 7pm



## The lure of deshi craft

BSCIC Baishakhi Mela at Bangla Academy ends today



JAMIL MAHMUD

The ten-day 'Baishakhi Mela' (fair), arranged by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in association with Bangla Academy, at Bangla Academy premises ends today. Marking 'Pahela Baishakh 1416' (the Bangla New Year), the fair began on April 14.

This year, the fair has nearly 170 stalls offering different traditional products. Stalls featuring handicrafts, hand-woven fabric and sweets drew a good number of people everyday at the fair. A puppet show and 'nagordola' keep the children entertained.

Added attraction is musical programme -- featuring traditional Bangla songs -- at the Nazrul Mancho (stage) every evening.

Initiated in the early 1980s, the BSCIC Baishakhi fair failed to draw sizeable attendance during the initial years because it was not allocated one particular venue. This year's fair at the Bangla Academy premises did not see a lot of shoppers either, complained several stall owners.

One of the stall owners, Md. Shawkat Ali, informed that in the last couple of years, the fair was held at the Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Trade Fair ground -- better suited for the 'Baishakhi Fair,' according to stall owners and shoppers.

Shawkat Ali owns an outlet, selling traditional 'jamdani sari'. Ali has his own 'karigar' (weavers) and his business is based at Rugganj in Narayanganj. "As a result of changing venues randomly, organisers often fail to inform people about the fair in due time," he said. The price range of 'jamdani sari' at the fair is between Tk 2500 and 6500.

Ali's is among twenty stalls allocated for working craftsmen, who have come from different corners of the country. These stalls are the highpoint of the fair as they feature exquisite traditional handicrafts such as wicker and bamboo baskets, pottery and decorative items made of clay and 'shola' (straw), bangles, beautiful hand-held fans and much more.

Satya Gopal Dutta is another craftsman. Gopal has been selling his conch-bangles at the fair over the last two decades. A pair of the bangles sell for Tk 400.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

At the 'mela' (clockwise from top-left): Wooden horses get a coat of paint; carving out wooden horses and elephants and crafting conch shells.

## Drama serial Easy Marriage Media on ATN Bangla



A scene from the serial.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Easy Marriage Media" will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 8pm. Written by Farhad Hussain and directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim, the serial is aired every Wednesday and Thursday. This is the 13th episode of the serial.

The play revolves around Shahed, who hails from a middle class family in the city. After completing his studies, Shahed is determined to enter the job market. One day he spots a matrimonial ad in a newspaper. Since the to-be bride is a Canadian citizen, the prospective groom too will become a citizen of that country.

Shahed falls for the advertisement and before he has realised that the whole thing is a scam, he invests a lot of money in the future alliance. Together with Imran, another man cheated by the same ad, Shahed vows to take revenge.

Rounak Hasan, Tisha, Shuvo, Abul Hayat, Afroza Banu and others will act in the serial.

## IQBAL BANO (1935-2009) The voice passes, the ghazal lingers



Renowned Pakistani singer Iqbal Bano has passed away. She died in Lahore last Tuesday evening, DawnNews reported.

A pupil of Ustad Chaand Khan, Bano was born in 1935 in Delhi. She moved to Pakistan in 1952 where she started her career with Radio Pakistan. She married an affluent landlord the same year at age 17, who promised her that he would support her endeavours in music. Her first public concert was in 1957 at the Lahore Arts Council.

Although she is known more for singing ghazals, particularly those of Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Bano also did playback singing for Pakistani films such as "Gumnaam" (1954), "Qatil" (1955), "Inteqaam" (1955), "Sarfarosh" (1956) and "Ishq-i-Laila" (1957).

She was awarded the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Pride of Performance) medal in 1974.

"Iqbal Bano will always have a special place in the hearts and minds of our family," said Salima Hashmi, daughter of the legendary Pakistani poet Faiz, whose verses the late singer rendered most eloquently.

"She was one of the greatest inspirations during General Zia's dictatorship," said Hashmi, recalling that in 1985, when there was an unspoken ban on reciting Faiz's revolutionary poetry, Bano dared and performed "Hum Dekheingay!" to an ecstatic audience. "I still remember the repeated requests of the charged listeners for an encore from that evening," she added. The song later became her anthem, which she would sing at all of her concerts to the delight of her admirers.

"In fact," said Hashmi, "it was Bano who started singing Faiz's poetry for the first time in 1981 at a time when the poet himself was in exile in Beirut."

Artist Anwar Maqsood, who was also closely associated with the legendary singer, said that no one will be able to forget her beautiful renditions, not only of Faiz's poetry, but also Ghalib, Daagh and Nasir Kazmi.

Maqsood points out that Bano's talent lay not only in singing ghazals, but also in performing classical thumris. "Her command over the taal and sur of classical music was just perfect," he said.

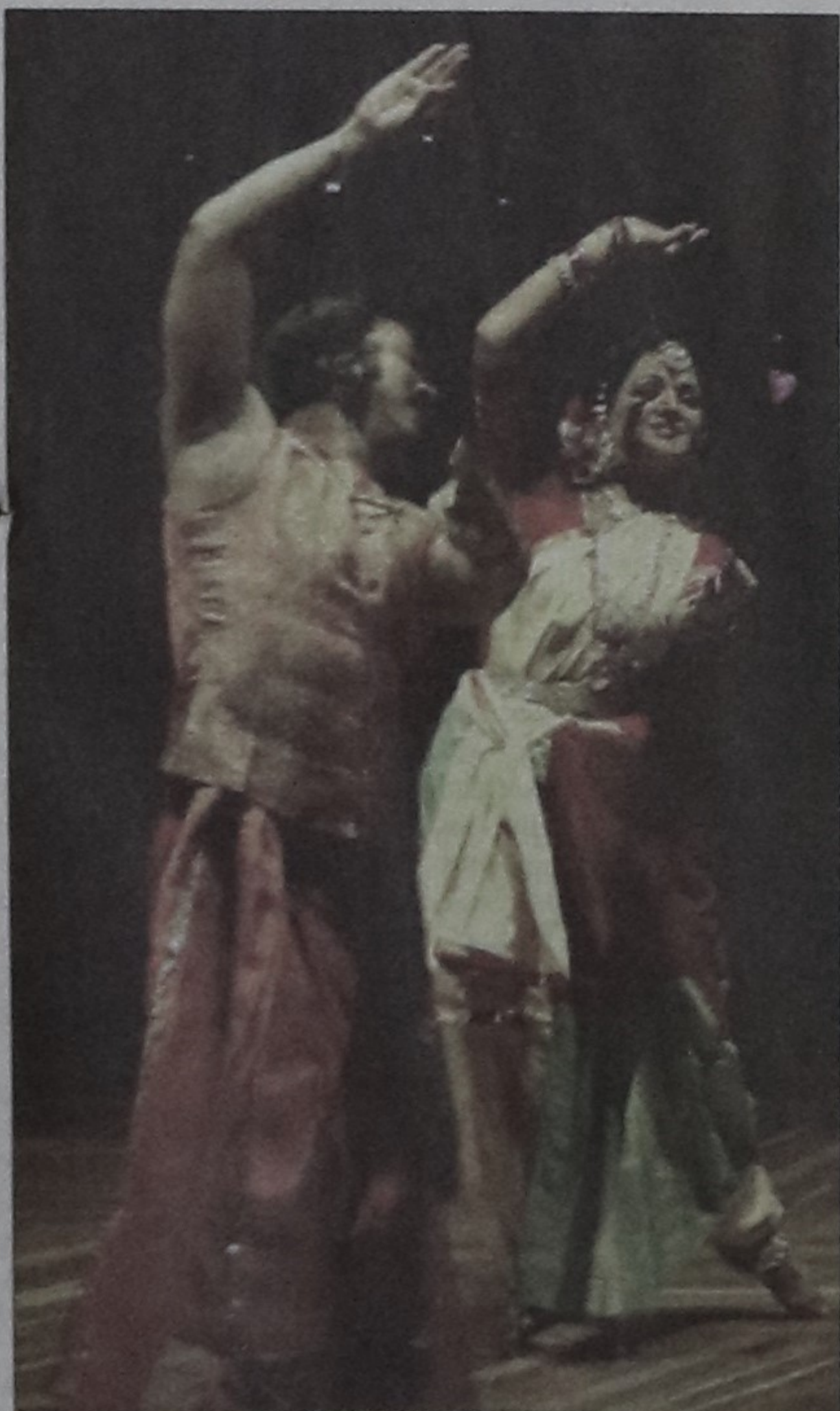
Indeed, Bano will be missed both personally and professionally. Composer Arshad Mehmood, who worked closely with Bano during her recording sessions with the label EMI, recalled, "She was such a thorough professional, always very particular about what she was doing."

Mehmood added, "People like her didn't sing out of compulsion, they sang because of a true passion for the arts." He recalled how, seven months ago, when she was not keeping in good health, Bano declined to perform because she could not do justice to her voice.

And that brilliance is what will be missed most of all. As sitar player Ahmed puts it: "You know, before we would say that apart from Iqbal Bano, there's no great ghazal singer left in Pakistan. But today, unfortunately, we can't even say that anymore."

Source: DAWN.COM

## RANGIYE DIYE JAO Bangla Nobo Borsho in Melbourne



Shibli and Nipa dance at the programme (left). Artistes of Shurolok celebrate the New Year with music.



Shurolok, a prominent music appreciation and performance group based in Australia, organised an evening of Bangla music and dance on April 18 in celebration of the Bangla Nobo Borsho 1416, says a press release. The theme song of the programme was "Rangiye Diye Jao".

This year's event saw a unique and enthralling blend of songs from the Poncho Kobi treasure trove (D.L. Roy, Rajanikanta, Rabindranath, Atul Prasad, and Nazrul) as well as a dance performance by Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad from Bangladesh. Local dancers of Melbourne joined them in a

number of sequences. Prominent composer and director Durbadal Chottopadhyaya from Kolkata directed the music. Firoz Khan, prominent sitarist from Dhaka and Indranil Chatterjee from Kolkata on the guitar, supported him.

The programme was planned and directed jointly by Chanchal Khan, the visiting Tagore singer from Dhaka, and founding member of Shurolok and Nirupama Rahman. Held at one of the prestigious centres of Melbourne, the BMW Edge, Federation Square, the event was attended by Australians and expatri-

ate Bangladeshis living in Melbourne and other parts of Australia. The two-hour performance by the local and overseas artistes enthralled the audience. Songs that deserve mention include "Akash Bhora Shurjo Tara" by Shahid Rahman; "Kholo Kholo Duar" by Nira Rahman; "Amra Emni Esho" by Priyanka Khan; "Pran Chaye Chokkhu Na Chaye" by Utpal Dhar; "Tumi Nirmolo Koro" by Moni Saha; "Aj Amar Shunno Ghore" by Sangeeta Haq; "Megho Bihin" by Adila Noor and "Jhore Jai Ure" by Chanchal Khan.