

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

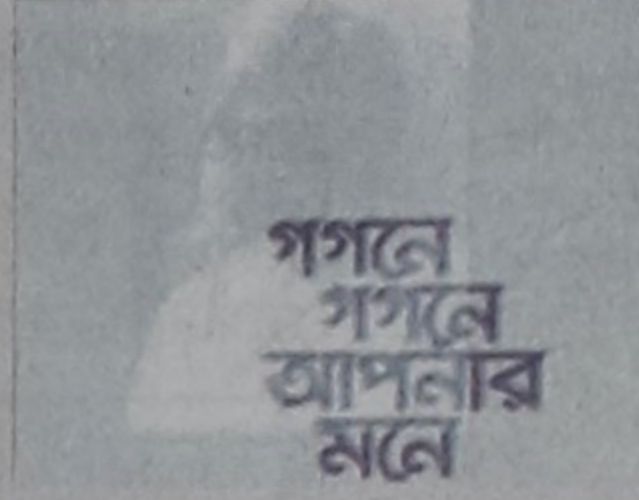
Art Exhibition
Title: 18th National Art Exhibition
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 24-June 12
Time: 11-8pm (3-8pm on Fridays)



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangla Theatre
Play: Chet Cycle
Venue: Studio Theatre, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 4-8
Time: 6-30pm



Musical Soiree
Organiser: Dakkhini Rabindra Sangeetangan
Venue: National Music & Dance Centre, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 13
Time: 7pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Appointment 2009
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: May 28-June 12
Time: 12-8pm



TV Watch

Singers to hold sway in new programme

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A new musical programme is set to go on air on ATN Bangla at 8:45 pm on alternative Mondays. The first episode begins tonight. The programme is directed by Rumana Afroz and hosted by singer Bappa Majumdar. Each

episode will feature a guest singer who will discuss his or her experience in the course of their career. Close colleagues as well as fans would get to express their views on the selected artistes. Shakila Zafar is the guest of the first episode. The noted singer will talk about her 30-year innings in the world of music.



Shakila Zafar, the guest of tonight's episode, seen with host Bappa Majumdar.

Chandana Majumder: A link between the audience and the divine

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A significant part of the success of the recent blockbuster "Monpura" can be credited to its soundtrack, and accolades go to playback singer Chandana Majumder for making the song "Jao pakhi" one of the biggest hits of this year. The song, a folk ballad, has captured many a heart.

Chandana is primarily a folk singer. She renders songs of the great rural bards such as Radharaman, Hason Raja, Shah Abul Karim and Bijoy Sarkar. They can be termed as metaphysical poets, as their compositions seek to unite themselves with unbound limitations or the Divine. And not only with divinity, they express "adhatwa" (enlightenment).

Lalon is a continual source of inspiration for Chandana. According to music exponents, Lalon represents a same and secular voice in this era of hatred, paranoia and religious fundamentalism.

Chandana had an early exposure to music through her father, Nirmal Chandra Majumder, a well-known



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singer himself. She also drew inspiration from her mother, Anjana Majumder. Later, Chandana was trained by Lalon disciple, Moksed Ali Shai, who was from Lalon's

'akhra' (den) in Kushtia. Another teacher was Khoda Buksh Shai, also from Kushtia.

Lalon singers and other folk musicians used to flock

to her father's home in Kushtia. Chandana had the rare fortune to collect the lyrics and songs of these great singers. She also managed to collect songs from Lalon's

akhra. Now Chandana resides in Dhaka. After her marriage to renowned folk artiste Kiron Chandra Roy, she changed her name to Chandana Roy Majumder.

Chandana's past successes include her 23rd album of folk songs, titled "Bandhu Doyamoy," which was released on last Pahela Baishakh. A CD called "Bhabher Ghat-e" was released by the reputed Bengal Foundation. Chandana bagged a City Cell-Channel i Music Award for her contribution to Lalon songs in 2007. Recently she performed to an enthralled audience in New Delhi.

Chandana has also ventured into performances around the globe. Among the high points of her musical career was a performance in Zurich (Switzerland). The mixed audience enjoyed her Lalon songs to such an extent that they garlanded her. Thus it is apparent that the singer has a mass appeal, so that even when people who don't understand the lyrics, enjoy the rhythm and tune. In a sense, say her fans, her music is a chain from the audience to the Divine.

Family game show Bari Bari Jombe Khela

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A new family game show "Bari Bari Jombe Khela" will be telecast on Ekushey TV at 10:10pm on Mondays. The programme is directed and scripted by Masudul Hasan Rony and anchored by Puja Sen Gupta.

The game show is divided into five segments: 'Shapta Banjan' on general knowledge;

'Golla Chut' on household chores; 'Openti Bioscope' a quiz on bygone songs; 'Hatey Hari'- the flaws of family members; 'Panchamukhi' a round of self-admiration. The lucky winners of every round are to get a gift-hamper and a 'Star of the Family' would be nominated on the overall performance basis. The game show is geared for families across the country.



The game show will be aired on Ekushey TV tonight.

Jai Ho! Time for millionth-word tag

Subhash Ghai reacted with surprise and pleasure when told by The Telegraph today that the expression Jai Ho, which he had suggested to A.R. Rahman for inclusion in a song, was now a candidate to be declared the millionth word in the English language.

The choice will be made by the Global Language Monitor, a group of academics based in Austin, Texas, who have been tracking the birth of new words in English, "the first truly global language", since 2003.

Their announcement about which word enters the Oxford English Dictionary as the 1,000,000th word will be made on Tuesday, June 10, at 10.22am local time (2.52pm in India) in Shakespeare's birthplace of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Although Jai Ho is two words in Hindi, the sound, as heard by westerners, turns the expression into one word.

The meaning of Jai Ho is given as "it is accomplished", which demonstrates how difficult the whole art of translation is.

It has several strong competitors to enter English as the millionth word, though.

Jai Ho has entered western consciousness as the Oscar-winning song, which runs over the end credits in Slumdog Millionaire and is accompanied by dancing led by the movie's stars, Dev Patel and Freida Pinto.

In London, where the DVD of the film was released on June 1, segments of Jai Ho are being promoted on advertising boards, for example at London Underground stations, where it is technically possible to play film clips.

In Cannes last month, Ghai, who had come for the film festival, said he got into a taxi only to hear a French version of Jai Ho.

Source: Internet

Nihar Ranjan Gupta's birth anniversary observed



PHOTO: STAR

The ancestral home of Nihar Ranjan Gupta in ruins.

TAREK ALAM, Narail

The 98th birth anniversary of popular novelist Nihar Ranjan Gupta was observed on June 6. He was born on June 6, 1911

in Kolkata where his father Satya Ranjan Gupta worked. His ancestral home is at Itna village under Lohagara upazila in Narail. As a physician he specialised in skin diseases.

His career as a novelist overshadowed his image. He wrote more than two hundred novels. Among them Mayur Mahal, Chowdhury Bari, Devjani, Niltara, Ulka, Bonhishikha, Uttar Falguni, Kamal Gandhar, Kalo Bhromor, Lalu Vulu, Maya Mrigo and Nishi Padma are notable.

About 45 novels of Nihar Ranjan Gupta were made into cinema by famous film makers. He breathed his last on January 20, 1986.

Itna Seba Samity and Itna Public Library organised a daylong programme to mark his birth anniversary in his ancestral home. The two storied building is under the supervision of the district administration and is now in ruins. In 2005, the Archaeological Department took up a programme to acquire the building but the effort has not yielded results.

Venice Biennale opens to public

The Venice Biennale-- the world's oldest and most high-profile contemporary art exhibition-- is opening its doors to the public.

It was founded in 1895 to celebrate new developments in international art.

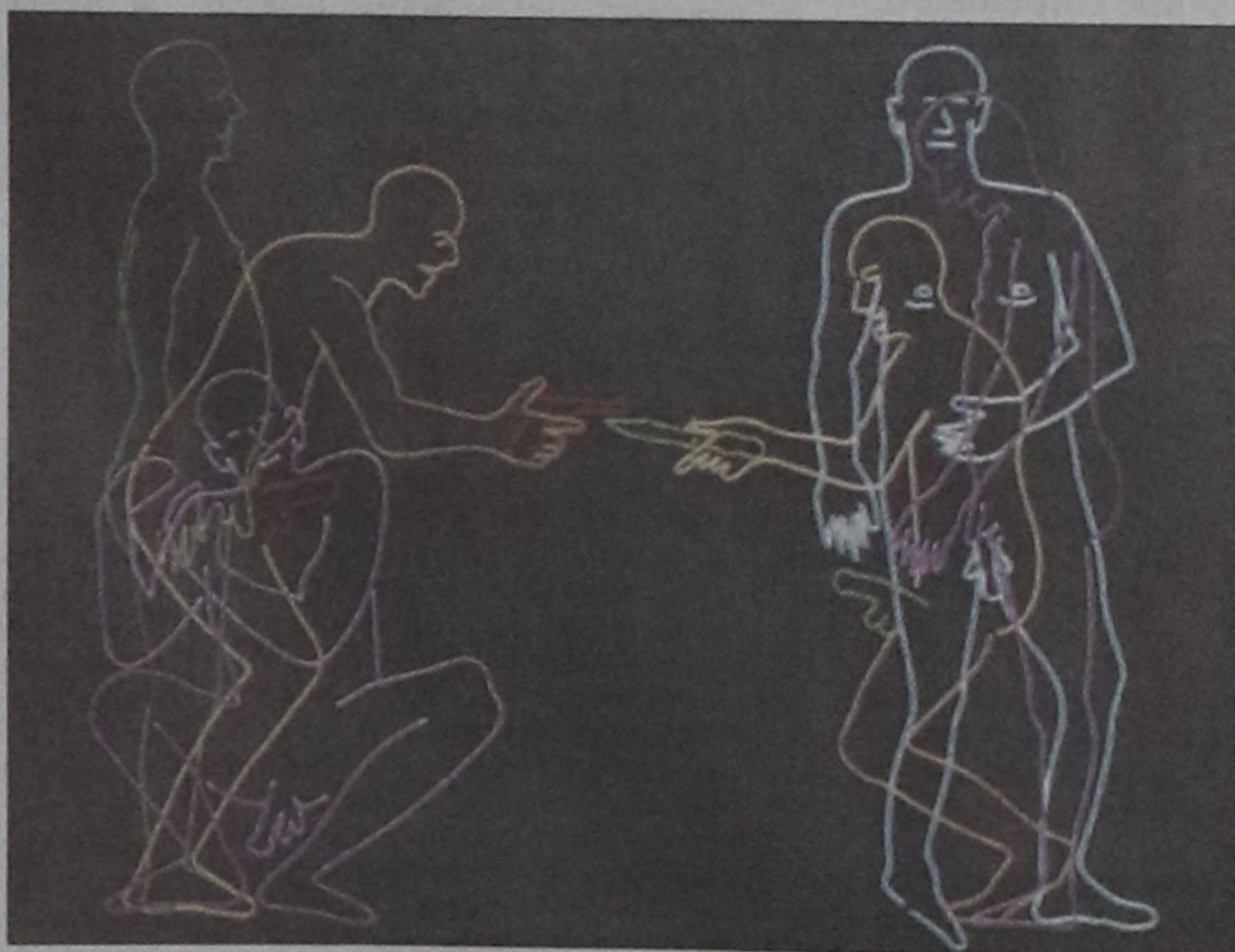
National pavilions were built in the Giardini - or public gardens - to house exhibitions from each participating country's chosen artists.

But as more and more countries wish to take part, the Biennale has spread across the Italian city.

It has been described as the Olympic games of the art world - 77 countries from Armenia to Venezuela are showcasing the work of their leading artists.

All are hoping to win the top prize - the Golden Lion.

The United Arab Emirates is one of several nations taking part in the Biennale for the first time with an exhibition curated by Tirdad Zolghadr.



Seventy-seven countries are taking part in this year's Biennale.

"I think it's important for artists, critics, curators, to be able to point to a pavilion and

to say, look, this has accomplished something at a place like the Venice Biennale, let's

take this seriously here in the country too," Zolghadr says.

Just a boat ride away are

hundreds more exhibitions, spread all over Venice.

There is also a larger, more far-reaching, international show that has been organised this year by Swedish curator Daniel Birnbaum.

"With all the big museums and all the art fairs and festivals and triennales, still the Biennale has this attraction. It has magnetism," Birnbaum says.

"The Venice Biennale is not here to be loved, it's here to be discussed. And if people keep coming back to discuss it, that's the best result that we can have," he says.

There are plenty of familiar sights and sounds in Venice too, like the cafe orchestras in Piazza San Marco.

Whatever else, the Biennale offers an unprecedented opportunity to see vast amounts of modern art in one of the world's most historic cities.

Source: BBC



Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT), will stage a street play "Rupkumar- Julekhar Pala" at the Mirpur Jalladkhana premises at 4 pm today. Designed and directed by Saidur Rahman Lipon, the folk play centres on a tragic love story that encompasses a prince and a village belle. The play will throw open questions on social inequity and human rights. A repeat performance of the play is to be held beside the Mirpur Buddhijibi Smritishoudho premises tomorrow at 4pm.