

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Sensation Within  
 Artist: KMA Quayyum  
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
 Date: July 24-August 4  
 Time: 12-8pm



## Photography Exhibition

Title: Survivors  
 Artists: GMB Akash  
 Organiser: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka  
 Venue: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
 Date: August 14-27



## Photography Exhibition

To mark the 84th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmed  
 Organiser: Liberation War Museum (LWM)  
 Venue: LWM, 5, Shegunbagicha  
 Date: July 23-29



## Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Poet Nirmalendu Goon  
 Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbagh  
 Date: July 25-30  
 Time: 10-8pm



# Heart to heart with Burhan and Rehana Siddiqui

A shared passion for music

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Ex-Police IG Burhan Siddiqui and his wife Rehana have been in the news lately. Their duet album, titled "Ami toh tomari achhi", was released this month.

Burhan Siddiqui's profession never stood in the way of his passion for music. Even after his retirement from the service, though he served in several important positions in the government and was ambassador of Bangladesh to Namibia, he did not distance himself from the world of music. It meant hard work but he kept practising regularly. Today Burhan is an A grade artiste both on Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar and a familiar name in the musical arena.

Burhan shares his passion for music with his wife Rehana. She is a distinguished artiste in both Nazrul Sangeet and Adhunik and earned recognition much before she married Burhan. In fact, it was her musical talent that attracted Burhan to her. Today the duo have devoted themselves full time to music, more so after Burhan's retirement.

They have overcome several obstacles along the way: Finding a lack of recording



facilities in the country, they have established a full fledged recording studio in the basement of their house. Both the artistes have released several albums: solo, duet and with other reputed artistes.

Recently The Daily Star had the opportunity to chat with the couple on a range of issues:

Can you tell us about how you developed an interest in music?

**Burhan:** In my younger days in Chittagong, singers were few and far between. However, since my home environment was favourable for music, I discovered that I

had a natural talent for singing to the strains of a harmonium.

On completion of my college studies, I moved to Lahore where I resumed my singing. At that time, though Rabindra Sangeet was virtually banned in Pakistan, I decided to immerse myself in this genre. I even performed Tagore songs for Lahore Television. However, when I joined the police, the demands of my job did not allow me to devote as much time to music as I would have liked. In fact, people were sceptical as at that time it was unusual for a police officer to

sing as well. I only returned to the world of music when Rehana inspired me to.

In fact, it was our common interest in music that drew me to Rehana. At the time she was a familiar face on TV. It was Rehana who insisted that I pursue my interest in music and with her help I began again. I had to stay out of the country for long stretches of time. However, wherever I was, I never put music aside ever since Rehana came into my life.

**Rehana:** My story is somewhat different from Burhan's. I grew up as a singer from the very beginning. I was fortunate as there are many enlisted radio and TV artistes in my family, including my aunt, noted artiste Hasina Mortaz. I was a student of Chhayanaut, but could not finish my course, as my father's job required him to move around. There is a general belief that it is hard for a woman to carry on with her music after marriage, but in my case, as you can see, it only fuelled my interest in singing. As a matter of fact, both of us had to compromise on our passion as we had to stay abroad for long stretches of time.

Today I am busy on another front: I have devoted myself to social work and run two organisations. One that promotes women's empowerment and the other an old age home for women.

What were the hurdles in pursuing music as a police officer?

**Burhan:** Indeed the two tended to clash sometimes. To practise music, one needs peace and tranquillity. In the police service you can expect anything but this. There were times when I was beckoned from my recording studio for my duties. I am a perfectionist; I always found it hard to satiate my passion for music. Today when I have the time, I am no longer young.

## TV Watch

# Remembering Rajnikant

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Desh TV will telecast "Tumi Nirmol Koro", a special programme celebrating the 144th birth anniversary of poet Rajnikant Sen, tonight at 7:45pm.

One of the five major poets (Rabindranath, Nazrul, D L Roy, and Atul Prasad being the other four) in Bengali literature, Sen was born in the then Sirajganj under Pabna district in 1865. His songs speak of the divine, patriotism, love and more. Iffat Ara Dewan, Nilotpal Shadhyo, Azizur Rahman, Luva Nahid Chowdhury and Shoma Rani Roy will render some of the timeless compositions of Sen,



Iffat Ara Dewan sings at the programme.

programme will be hosted by Directed by Bulbul Islam, the Auditi Mohsin.

# Lucky Thirteen on Banglavisision



Sharmin Shila and co-actor in the serial.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV serial "Lucky Thirteen" will be aired tonight on Banglavisision at 8:15pm. Writ-

The serial centres around a group of individuals.

For one there are two close friends, Ratan and Samrat, who fall for their landlord's younger daughter Shokh. To complicate matters, Sharmin, the elder daughter of the landlord Sharmin often stops by at her father's residence after quarrelling with her husband. While she is there, her one-time lover, Shafiq Shafiq frequents the house.

Sharmin turns the upstairs flat into a women's hostel. Shanti, Nova and Raha rent the hostel. The story unfolds with various humorous incidences on the way.

# Monica's intimate journey

Solo painting exhibition at Alliance Francaise, Dhaka



TAKIR HOSSAIN

Monica Jahan Bose is an artist who is not quite familiar in the Dhaka art circuit. Her first exhibition in Bangladesh, titled "Drowning: Is there time for Love?" is now on at Alliance Francaise, Dhaka.

The artist has lived in many countries and has acquired diverse experiences throughout her career. At present, she lives and works in Paris. Though she lives abroad but her umbilical cord with Bangladesh is still seemingly intact. Monica is a figurative and

objective painter. Her images pulsate with life: provocative and dramatic. These elements make her works seem a veritable part of our surroundings with all the conflicts and achievements. Her figures hint at many untold stories. Her thought process is seemingly eloquent and has a touch of contemplation.

The themes of her paintings range from Language Movement to women's rights, illiteracy and fundamentalism. Her works plunge deep into Bengali culture and heritage. Bangla alphabets, women's tops, rickshaws, Shaheed



Artworks on display.

Minar and the map of Bangladesh are some recurring motifs in her paintings.

The motifs simplify her works, and helps create a personal hallmark. She portrays common peoples' beliefs, notions and expressions. A noticeable aspect is many characters, each demonstrating individuality.

Monica is well aware of the present socio-economic and political scenario in Bangladesh. Her artistic mind engrossed with the people and their bliss, sorrows, contentment and visions -- all clearly projected in her works.

Her works project development and progress as well.

The artist feels comfortable working on a large canvas according to her theme and composition. Her work is clarified by a powerful engagement with figures, objects and space -- with bold and sweeping brushstrokes. She plays with texture and illusion for the surface effects.

The paintings appear to chart the artist's own intimate journey through religious, linguistic and geographical boundaries, while also commenting on the role of these boundaries in our society.

The exhibition ends on August 5.

# Lennon's lost lyrics

Lyrics penned by John Lennon at the height of Beatlemania have been unveiled for the first time.

Scribbled on a postcard sent to fellow Beatle George Harrison by a fan in Japan, the mysterious seven lines read...

"Little girl I've come to stay/And this time I just have to say, I love you 'If she turns you down and you're rejected/Try again the best you can 'Call to see her when you're least expected/Tell her now she'll understand."

Experts believe the lyrics were penned in 1966 - the year the band released their critically acclaimed "Revolver" album.

It was also the year that Lennon met Yoko Ono and it is thought the "little girl" he refers to could be her. Lennon's eldest son Julian, 46, has now said he would consider setting the lyrics to music in tribute to his late father.

He said: "If the time was right, I'd consider maybe trying to work with them and write something. But obviously only in honour of Dad."

The lyrics are on display at the Beatles Story exhibition in Liverpool.

Source: Internet



John Lennon

# Katrina Kaif: A film career on the rise

Katrina Kaif is a picture of charm and confidence. Lately she has been in the news for her roles in "Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya", "Namaste London" and "Singh is Kinning". Coming up now are "Blue", "Ajab Prem Ki Ghazal Kahani", "De Dana Dan", "Rajneeti" and "Padosan (remake)".

Born on July 16, 1984, Katrina has had an eventful career in films. The Hong Kong born British-Indian actress and model first appeared in Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam films. Her film career took off in 2007 when she starred in several commercially successful films, which launched her as one of the most popular actresses in Bollywood.



Katrina Kaif

Katrina's work as a model in London led to her discovery by filmmaker Kaizad Gustad, who gave her a role in his film, titled "Boom" (2003). On her move to Mumbai, she was offered a number of modelling assignments though her film career did not take off since she was unable to speak Hindi.

The tide turned for Katrina in 2005 when she played a brief role in the film "Sarkar", as Abhishek Bachchan's girlfriend. The next successful film was "Main Pyaar Kiya" (2005) where she paired opposite Salman Khan. The film earned her many accolades and she earned an award at the Stardust Award for breakthrough female performance.

In 2007, she appeared in the hit movie "Namste London". Then followed box office hits such as "Apne", "Partner" and "Welcome". The year 2008 proved a watershed when she played a negative role for the first time in Abass-Mustan's hit action thriller titled "Race" where she played the role of Saif Ali Khan's secretary who is secretly in love with his hostile stepbrother, ably played by Akshay Khanna.

Next followed the famous "Sing is Kinning", Anees Bazmi's box office super hit. This time she was cast against Akshay Kumar for the fourth time.

Her fourth release of the year was Subhash Ghai's "Yuvraj", which was regarded widely as mediocre. Her first release for 2009 was "New York", where she featured with John Abraham. This film proved a critical and commercial success. "New York" was made with a budget of \$ 4.6 million. The film was based on the 9/11 Twin Towers attacks and stars Katrina and John Abraham in the lead roles.

Katrina has made ripples in the media: She was voted Asia's sexiest woman in 2008 and also the most searched celebrity on Google. Recently she has been seen in reality show "10 Ka Dum" along with Neil Nitin Mukesh for the promotion of her film "New York". She also appeared on the singing talent show "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa" with Salman Khan to promote her film "Yuvraj". And that's not all: She is the model for Mattel's Bollywood Barbie, to be released in September this year.