

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Inter-religious Film Session and Seminar**  
Organiser: The Embassy of Italy, Goethe-Institut & Rainbow Film Society  
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi  
Date: August 10-12  
Inauguration at 5pm



**Theatre**  
Play: Shapath  
Troupe: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: August 9  
Time: 8pm



**Group Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Perspectives  
Organiser: Pathshala  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi  
Date: August 7-12  
Time: 3-8pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Orchestra  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: August 2-10  
Time: 10am-7pm



## The Bard remembered

Musical soiree by Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha



PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

Celebrating Tagore through his songs.



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To commemorate the 68th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (BRSSS) arranged a musical soiree at the Shawkat

Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library on August 7. Over 50 artistes of the organisation, along with members of invited troupes, rendered solo and group songs of the Nobel Laureate Poet Tagore in the course of the programme. In the past BRSSS used to

arrange an annual two-day programme. However, this year they had to cut the programme down to one day due to unavoidable circumstances, asserted Tapan Mahmud, general secretary of BRSSS. To better observe the day and to feature more songs, the programme highlighted only the rendition of songs rather than the usual discussion session.

The programme got off the ground with a solo performance by Selina Huda. The artiste sang Tagore's number on death titled "Bajilo kahar bina."

Noted singer Iffat Ara Dewan sang "Ganer bhar diye." Mujibul Quayum's rendition of "Ebar amay dakley go" enthralled the audience. Pijush Barua, Nusrat Jahan Runa and

Farhat Hossain rendered "Tui pheley eshechhish karey," "Majhe majhe tabo dekha pai" and "Aaj akasher mon-er kotha" respectively.

Among others, Badrunesa Dahlia, Nahar Jamil, Sharmin Ahmed Lipi, Sharmila Chakrabarty, Azizur Rahman Tuhin, Himadri Shekhar, Nargis Chowdhury, Pramod Dutta, Golam Haidar, Mansura Begum and Chhaya Karmakar gave performances at the programme.

Among the invited organisations, Biswabina members performed a choral rendition of "E amar pulak ragey." Other troupes, including Rabirag, Geetanjali, Boitalik and Shurer Dhara, gave performances in the course of the programme.

## Bangla Academy pays homage

Tagore portrayed pain through songs

Bangla Academy observed Nobel Laureate Poet Rabindranath Tagore's 68th death anniversary at its seminar room on August 6, says a press release.

On the occasion, a discussion and a musical programme were held.

Fellow of Bangla Academy Hayat Mamud presented an essay titled "Byaktigato Rabindranath", while poet Manzure Mawla and Professor Sanat Kumar Shaha were discussants at the programme. Shamsuzzaman Khan, DG

of Bangla Academy, delivered the welcome speech. The meeting was presided over by Sanjida Khatun, Fellow Professor of Bangla Academy.

In his essay, Hayat Mamud depicted various aspects of Tagore's life and works. Sanat Kumar Shaha said, "In his works, Rabindranath Tagore turns grievances into peace and conveys that message to us."

In his speech, Manzurey Mawla said, "We have to explore Rabindranath and his

works to enrich our lives."

Sanjida Khatun said, "Rabindranath artistically portrayed his thoughts and pains through his songs."

In the evening, Mita Haq, Sadi Mohammad, Lily Islam, Sajed Akbar and Aditi Mohsin performed Tagore's songs.

Rabindranath Paal, Gazi Abdul Hakim, Almas Ali and Sayeed Hussain Sentu backed up the musical programme as instrumentalists.

## Aupi in her new avatar

She sings Chakma songs on BTV's Banalata

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A special single episode play, "Banalata," will be aired tonight at 9pm on Bangladesh Television. The play will be aired to mark the Int'l World Indigenous Day. It has been written and directed by Kamol Chakma.

The story zooms in on inter-relationship between the indigenous and Bengali people of the hilly region of the country. Mohsin Chowdhury is a respectable person of Rangamati. His elder daughter, Lata Chowdhury gets a job at a primary school in a remote village of the district. Lata, her father and his closest friend Debendra Chakma embarks on a journey to the school. Debendra Chakma is a renowned person of the



village and president of the school committee.

In a very short time after joining the school, Lata wins the hearts of the students and teachers through her good demeanour and passion for work. She, along with colleague Latika Chakma, elevates the school to high standard.

The story gets a twist, when a local goon and a Bengali settler come together to conspire against Lata.

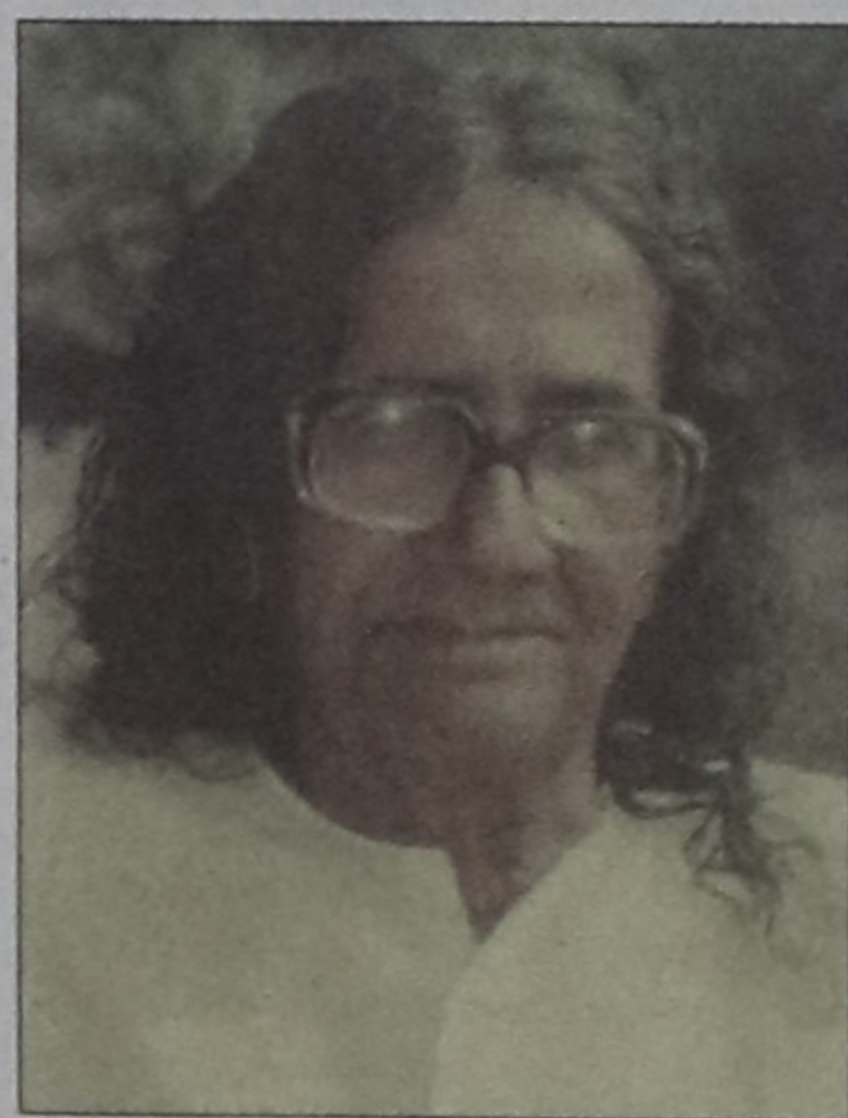
Aupi Karim plays the lead role of Lata Chowdhury. Among others, Anjalika Khisha, Mamunur Rashid, Ahsan Habib Nasim and Tarun Chakma play important roles in the play. The play also features a couple of Chakma songs rendered by Aupi.

## Sultan Utsab begins in Narail today

TAREK ALAM, Narail

A three-day Sultan Utsab, marking the 85th birth anniversary of legendary painter SM Sultan, begins today at Narail. SM Sultan Shishu O Karukala Foundation and Bengal Foundation have jointly organised the programme. The event is sponsored by Bangalink.

The programmes include art camp, art exhibition, placing of floral wreaths at the mazar of the artist, discussion on his life and works and cultural function. Md. Anwar Hossain, Deputy Commissioner, Narail, will inaugurate the programme while SM Fazlur Rahman, SP of Narail; Sukumar Kundu, Civil Seargon of Narail; Sharif Humayun



Kabir Sadar Upazila Chairman and Subhas Chandra Bose, district AL president will be present as special guests.

On August 10 a discussion will be held at Sultan Manch. Kabirul Haque Mukti, MP, will be present as chief guest. On the concluding day of the programme, renowned artist Kayyum Chowdhury will inaugurate the art camp participated by children at Shishuswargo. Singer Fatema-tuz-Zohra; Luva Nahid Chowdhury, DG Bengal Foundation and Subir Chowdhury of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts will also be present.

Another programme organised by Sultan Foundation will begin on August 10. The main attraction of the day, will be a 'Boat Race' on the Chitra river.

## Benu's evening at Bengal

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Veteran artiste Mahmudur Rahman Benu enthralled the audience with his perfor-

mance at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts on August 7.

A leading figure among his contemporaries, Benu (now settled in the UK), played an

active role during the Liberation War, inspiring many with his voice. The programme featured renditions of Ghazal, Thumri, Khayal, Tagore and Nazrul songs and several songs on the Liberation War.

The programme was jointly organised by Bengal Foundation and the artiste's friends.

The event began with a rendition of a raga 'Gour Sarang'. The piece "Allah teray naam, Ishwar reye naam," is a paean to the Creator and a call to spread universal love.

That was followed by an Atul Prasad Sen number "Shobarey bashrey bhalo," with the underlying message that true enlightenment rests in compassion, regardless of religion and sects.

In the course of his long musical career, Benu has had many mentors. He even had the opportunity to apprentice under the late Waheedul

Haque. "Waheed Bhai was more than a teacher to me; from him I have learned music in depth," said Benu.

As a tribute to late Waheedul Haque, Benu performed a Bengali classic "Eshey darao bodhuhey amar jibon nadir parey."

Recalling his days in 1971, Benu said, "We travelled from camp to camp and sang for the benefit of the Mukti Bahini, thereby boosting their morale."

"On December 1, Jessore fell to the Mukti Bahini. We went to Jessore at the invitation of Syed Nazrul Islam (acting president of the then Mujibnagar Government) on that day and performed the song 'Shonen shonen bhai shobey shotyoy ejey ghotona,' he recalled prior to rendering the song at the programme.

Benu also performed two other songs as well as some Nazrul and other songs.

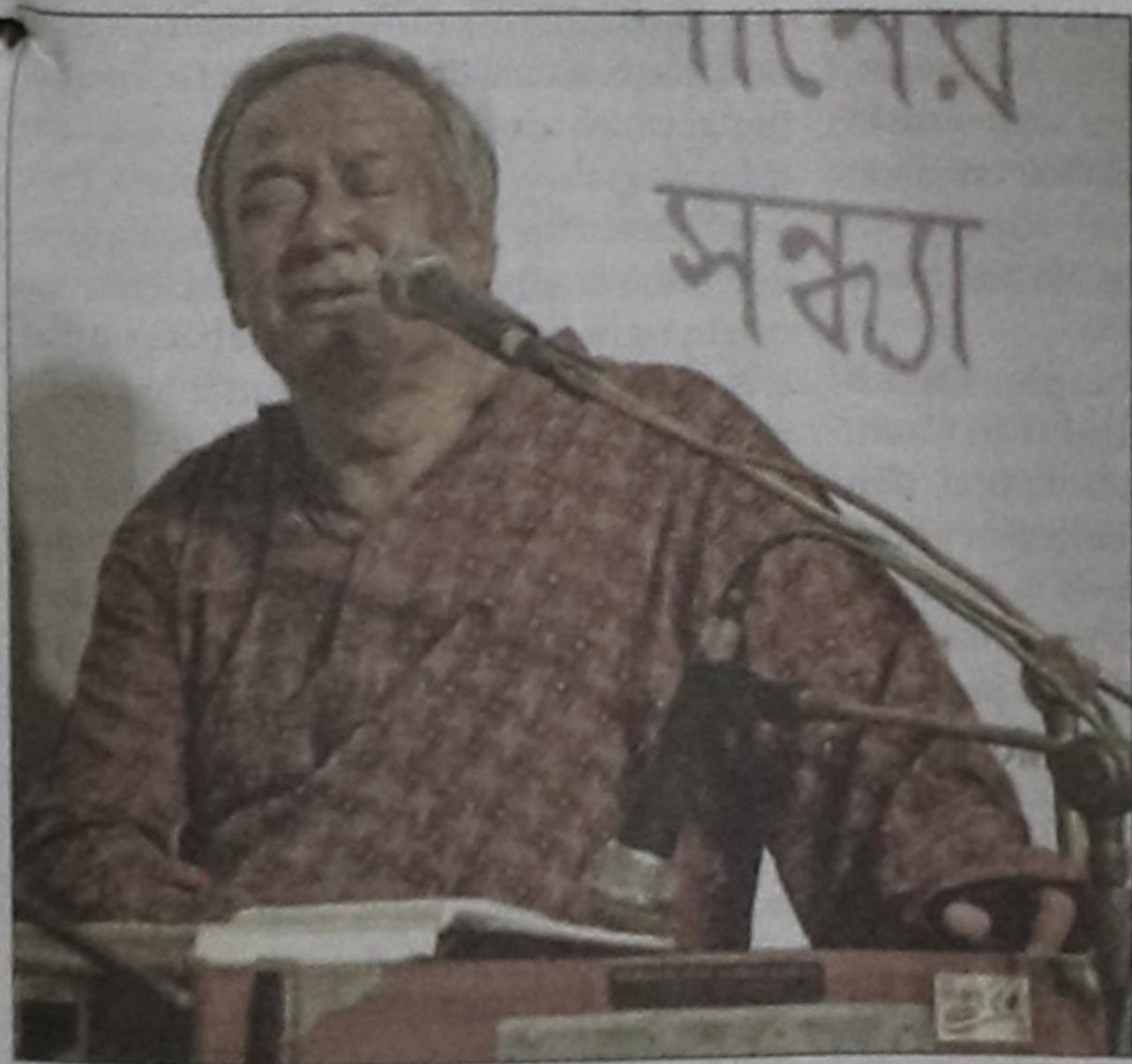


PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

Mahmudur Rahman Benu lost in his world of music.

A three-member World Dance Alliance (WDA) delegation, including Dr. Anis Nor, President WDA, Asia Pacific, and Dr. Urmimala Sarkar, Vice-President WDA, Southasia, is at present visiting Bangladesh.

Dr. Urmimala Sarkar conducted a six-day workshop on contemporary dance organised by 'Shadhona A Center for Advancement of Southasian Dance & Music' in which 30 young dancers of Bangladesh participated, says a press release.

The Bangladesh Dancers Association hosted a meeting between the visiting delegation and leading dancers of Bangladesh on August 8 at the Seminar Room of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy with the aim of forming a Bangladesh chapter of the WDA. Dr. Anis Nor expounded on the goals and various projects of the WDA, while Dr. Sarkar showcased the work of WDA's Indian Chapter. An interim committee of WDA Bangladesh was formed with Lubna Marium as Chair, Sharmila Banerjee heading the network of 'Creation and Presentation' and Minu Haque heading the network for 'Research and Documentation'. Senior dancer, Laila Hasan, was made the Patron of the interim committee.

The WDA has invited a 15 member delegation to its regional event in November being organised in Delhi, India. Of this six will be participating in choreography-labs and master-classes to be conducted by world-renowned dancers belonging to the WDA.

Dr. Anis Nor, on behalf of



Participants of the dance workshop organised by Shadhona.

WDA, also offered two projects to the Bangladesh chapter in the winter of 2010 - a three day dance workshop to be conducted by well-known

dancers from the Asia Pacific and simultaneously a seminar on research methodology and documentation.

If these projects come

through this will be the most important breakthrough, into the international arena, that dance and dancers in Bangladesh have ever got.

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Kelly Soo, Student Advisor, UTS will be conducting student interviews at VANTAGE Dhaka office:

**When:** Wednesday 12 August 2009

**Time:** 3pm - 6pm

**Venue:** 67/9 Pioneer Rd, Suite 5, Level 9, Eastern Mansion, Segunbagicha Dhaka 1000 Bangladesh

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