

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

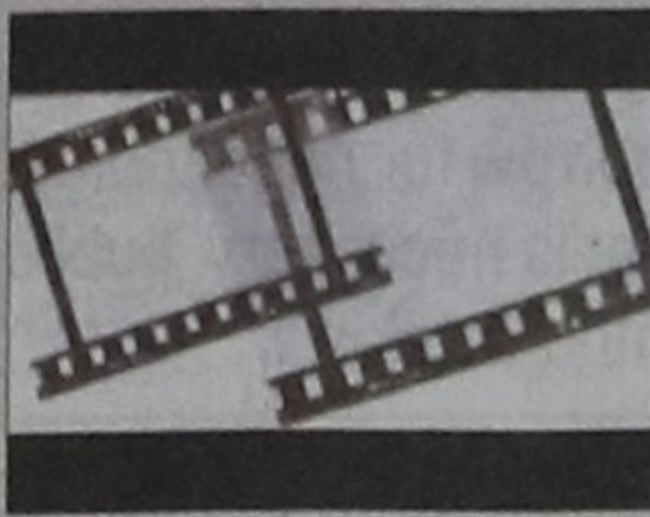
### Photography Exhibition

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



### Discussion

Organiser: Bangladesh Film Archive Alumni Association  
Venue: Auditorium, Bangladesh Film Archive, Shahbagh  
Date: August 17  
Time: 5pm



### Premiere Show

Film: Panjabwalla  
Venue: Star Cineplex, Basundhara City  
Date: August 16  
Time: 10:30am



### CD Launch

Title: Tabo Mukkhani  
Artist: Rebeka Sultana  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
Date: August 18  
Time: 6pm



## A repertoire of Nazrul's creations

Praner Khela at Bengal Gallery

MAINUL HASSAN

Seasoned artiste Ferdous Ara and upcoming singer Mafizur Rahman presented a brilliant repertoire of Nazrul Sangeet at this month's installment of 'Praner Khela,' the monthly musical soiree by Bengal Foundation. The event was held at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi on August 13. Eastern Bank Ltd was the sponsor of the event.

The evening's programme began with Mafizur Rahman rendering "Shedin bolechhiley shei shey phool bon-e," a *Kabyo Geeti* of Nazrul. A lecturer at the Department of Music, Dhaka University, Rahman graduated from the institution with a major in Nazrul's works.

Other songs rendered by the up-and-coming artiste included "Nilambari shari porey," "Shaon ashilo phirey," "Amar haatey Kali



Ferdous Ara sings at the programme.

mukhey Kali" (a *Shyama* "Ami baul hoilam dhulir Sangeet"), "Chand herichhey," pothey" (a folk song) and more.

"Arunkanti ke go jogi bhikhari" (a song based on *raaga Ahir Bhairo*).

Ferdous Ara opened her performance with a chorus of "Dao shourjo, dao dhoirjo." Students of Sur Shaptak accompanied her during the performance.

Next Ferdous Ara rendered "Barsan lagi badarya," a composition based on *Raaga Megh*. A performance of "Chanchal shyamol elo gaganey" followed.

Other songs performed by Ferdous Ara included "Khelechho ei bishwa loye," "Amar apnar chhey apon jey jon," "Phiriya jodi shey ashey," "O bondhu dekhley tomaye" and "Jaakna nishi."

The artiste also performed a *Kirtan*, "Baajey manjulo manjuro," some compositions on monsoon, Hindustani numbers, an Atul Prasad song "Ke tumi boshi," a Sandhya Mukherjee number "Ki kori shojoni" and more.

## Swapnobhumi to be screened at Film South Asia

Tanvir Mokammel's documentary on the Urdu-speaking community in Bangladesh, "Swapnobhumi" (The Promised Land), will be screened at the seventh Film South Asia. The festival will take place in Kathmandu, Nepal, from September 17 to 20, according to a press release.

"Swapnobhumi" will feature in the competitive section. Mokammel will attend the festival.

The 90-minute documentary is a story about the Urdu-speaking community in Bangladesh, who are also known as 'Biharis' or 'Stranded Pakistanis'. The documentary narrates the woes of the 'Biharis' and their dream of a better life.

The terms 'Urdu-speakers,' 'Non-Bengalees' and 'Biharis' are used interchangeably to refer to Muslim people who originally emigrated from India to the newly created East Pakistan in 1947 and afterwards. At present about 160,000 people from this community live isolated in 116 camps or settlements all over Bangladesh.

Film South Asia '09 will open on September 17 and will end on September 20 with the award-giving ceremony. The



A scene from the film.

festival will feature 36 films from south Asian countries. The best film will be conferred with the 'Ram Bahadur' award and will receive a cash prize of \$2000. The organisers will also select a new film

for the 'Best Debut Film' award.

Film South Asia, which features only documentaries, was inaugurated in 1997 and has been held biennially in the capital of the Himalayan country.

## TV serial Aladdin's Cherag on Desh TV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV serial "Aladdin's Cherag" will go on air on Desh TV at 8:15pm tonight.

The plot of the serial revolves around four families who live in a four-storeyed building.

The owner of the house uses upper two storeys as his residence while the new resident hires the first floor and a middle-aged woman hires the ground floor.

The elder brother of the owner, a bachelor, returns from Iraq due to the

war. He brings a lamp with him for his niece. One day a little girl from the first floor borrows the lamp-- from her. One day when the little girl rubs the lamp with ash, a giant emerges. Everything goes topsy turvy due to the gullible giant and the little girl. Al-Mansur, Mita Chowdhury, Taru Mostafa, Abdul Kader, Litu Anam, Nadi and Shanu play the lead roles in the serial.

The serial is written and directed by Al-Mansur.



Nadia and Shanu play lead roles.

## Lucky Thirteen on Banglavisision



Shokh and co-actor in the TV serial.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV serial "Lucky Thirteen" will be aired tonight on Banglavisision at 8:15pm. Written by Redwan Roni, the serial's director is Adnan Al Rajib.

The cast includes Sharmin Shila, Marzuk Russell, Sohel Khan, Shokh, Nova and Raha.

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, often stops by at her father's residence after quarrelling with her husband. While she is there, her one time close friend 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.

## Chhayanaut's monthly musical soiree

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Chhayanaut held its monthly musical soiree 'Srotar Ashor,' at Ramesh Chandra Dutt memorial auditorium on August 14. The programme featured rendition of Tagore and Nazrul numbers by leading and upcoming singers.

The event began with rendition of Tagore numbers "Amarey jodi jagaley aji," and "Heri ohoro ho toman" by Ummul Wayara Binte Nayim, a student of Chhayanaut.

Next, Nazrul artiste Sholok Hossain, a guest artiste at the *ashor* took to the stage. Songs rendered by Sholok included "Joy anondo bhairab," and "Shunyo ei bukey pakhi mor"

and "Shokhi sajaye rakholo."

Shumona Bardhan rendered "Pardeshi megh," "Ekono otheni cha(n)d," "Peye keno nahi pai," and a Nazrul composition on the monsoon "Ajo dharay barshajhorey."

Tagore artiste Auditi Mohsin presented a vibrant recital of Tagore songs. Her repertoire included "Bipul torongey," "Kotha hotey bajey," "Hridoyer eikul okul," "Shamol chhaya naiba gele," and "Emon diney tarey bola jai," and more.

The last performance of the evening was staged by Tagore singer Mujibul Quaiyum. Quaiyum performed "Bhoi hotey tobo obhoy," "Tomar darey keno ami," "Probu tomar lagi," and finally the popular Tagore number "Boro asha korey esheychhigo."



Moments in music.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

## AR Rahman's 'special album' for Michael Jackson

In a matter of few months, AR Rahman has lost two people he looked up to - sound engineer H Sridhar and Michael Jackson. Sound engineer H Sridhar passed away in December due to cardiac arrest and the cause of MJ's death is still a mystery.

Consequently, AR Rahman has decided to put together a special album as a mark of respect to MJ. Of late, AR Rahman has been making several trips to the US because his secret dream project is ready to take off. Artists from all across the globe will contribute to this album. It is believed that the album will have a few recreated songs of MJ, along with Rahman's original compositions.

The King of Pop's untimely and mysterious death unsettled Rahman. A source said, "The two deaths one after the other made Rahman realise the uncertainty of life. These tragedies have made him more spiritual."



Rahman had earlier said, "Artists and their art lives for ever. My late sound engineer Sridhar had brought me a video of the premiere of Michael's 'Remember the time' when I was recording the track 'Kadal

rojave" for my first movie "Raja." That afternoon, that video inspired all of us. Now, there is no Sridhar and no Jackson anymore."

AR Rahman was looking forward to working with MJ whom he had met during the Oscar Awards in Los Angeles earlier this year. Talking about his meeting with the pop star, AR Rahman had said, "MJ was concerned about contemporary developmental issues such as global warming, wars and their consequences. He asked me to compose a unity anthem on the lines of We are the World for him. I nodded in awe."

When asked about the album, Rahman, who is going LA this week, said cautiously, "It's too early to talk about it. Talking about it right now may jeopardise things."

Source: Internet

## Brad Pitt for mayor of New Orleans?

The idea of Brad Pitt running for New Orleans mayor has generated a lot of buzz around the city even though he is not eligible. It also generated some laughs for the actor in a Thursday television interview.

Many residents have been sporting "Brad Pitt for Mayor" T-shirts since mid-June, when a Tulane University professor and two brothers who own a New Orleans T-shirt shop joined forces to launch a quasi-campaign to convince Pitt to run. The actor founded the Make It Right organisation in 2007 to build houses for low-income residents who lost their homes during Hurricane Katrina.

"He's a family man, and you won't have to worry about him being corrupt," said Drew Cambre, 26, who works at a New Orleans pastry shop and has a "Brad Pitt for Mayor" sticker on his laptop computer. "Plus, he'll help the movie industry here in New Orleans and keep a light on the city."

Pitt said on NBC's "Today" that he's noticed the shirts but laughed off the idea of running.



"I don't have a chance."

He joked: "I'm running on the gay marriage, no religion, legalisation and taxation of marijuana platform."

Pitt is right about his chances, at least as far as the next mayoral election. He and his partner, Angelina Jolie,

bought a French Quarter mansion in 2007. To be eligible, mayoral candidates must be residents of New Orleans for at least five years before the date of the election. The mayoral primary is February 6, 2010.

So far more than a dozen homes have been built in the Lower 9th Ward through the Make It Right programme and another eight are under construction.

Josh Harvey, 31, who sells the shirts at his Storyville T-shirt shop is donating \$2 to the programme for every shirt sold. The shirts retail for \$20, and so far, more than \$2,000 has gone to Make It Right, Harvey said.

It's Pitt's charity work that has some hopeful for his candidacy, even if it's not this time around.

"He's already doing so much good for our city, so why not?" said Stephanie Schneller, 29, who was in the shop buying Brad Pitt T-shirts for herself and a friend.

Source: Internet