

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Jai Bangla
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 27-Oct 10
Time: 12-8pm



Exhibition
Title: Poshakey Ronger Utshab
Venue: Gallery Nitya Upahar, Aziz Cooperative Super Market, Shahbagh
Date: August 28-September 19
Time: 10am-8pm



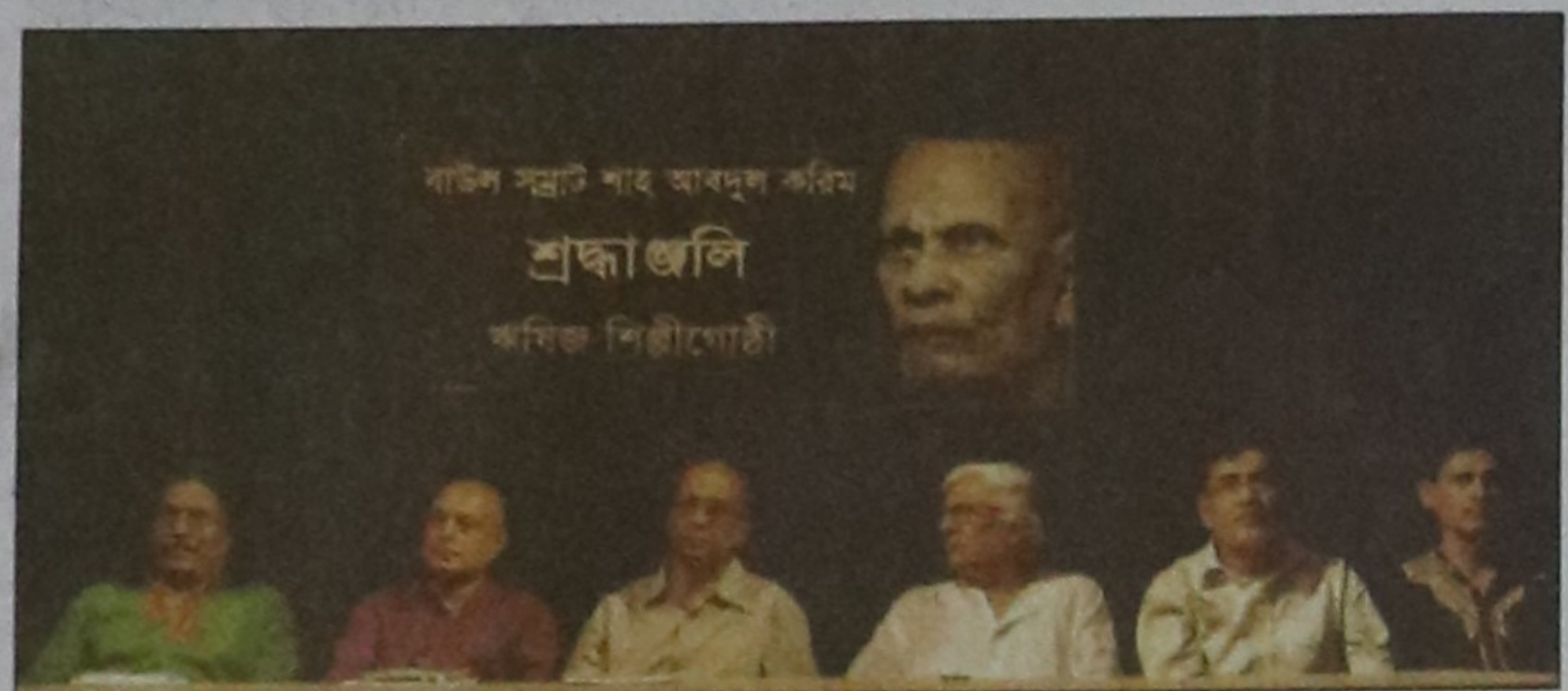
Photography Exhibition
Title: Heritage Inspiration
Photographer: M. Shamsuzzaman
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: September 15-19
Time: 3-9pm



Iranian Film Festival
Film: The Circle
Director: Jafar Panahi
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62 Science Laboratory Road
Date: September 18
Time: 5pm



Wrishiz in homage to Shah Abdul Karim



Kamal Lohani and Shamsuzzaman Khan seen with other discussants at the programme.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Wrishiz Shilpi Goshthi arranged a programme to pay homage to 'Baul Samrat' Shah Abdul Karim on September 15 in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The programme was held at the National Music and Dance Centre, BSA.

Director General of BSA Kamal Lohani, noted folklorist and director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dr. Shamsuzzaman Khan, Professor Mridul Kanti Chakrobarty of Department of

Music, Dhaka University and general secretary of Shammilita Shanskritik Jote, Golam Kuddus spoke on the life and works of Abdul Karim at the programme.

In his speech Professor Mridul Kanti said, "Shah Abdul Karim was a bard of the masses. He inspired people through his highly-rated songs."

In his remarks, Golam Kuddus urged the authorities, such as the Bangla Academy, and the Shilpakala Academy, to uphold and promote Karim's songs in authentic manner.

Noted ganosangeet artiste

and head of Wrishiz, Fakir Alamgir presided over the programme.

Members of Wrishiz also performed songs at the programme. The performance included Karim's ever-familiar number "Agey ki shundor din kataitam" and Hemanga Biswas' "Ei shamadhitalay."

Among others, ganosangeet artiste Fakir Shahabuddin and lyrist Shahidullah Farazi paid tributes to the bard at the programme.

Shah Abdul Karim passed away on September 12 at the age of 93.

Sisimpur steps into fifth year

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

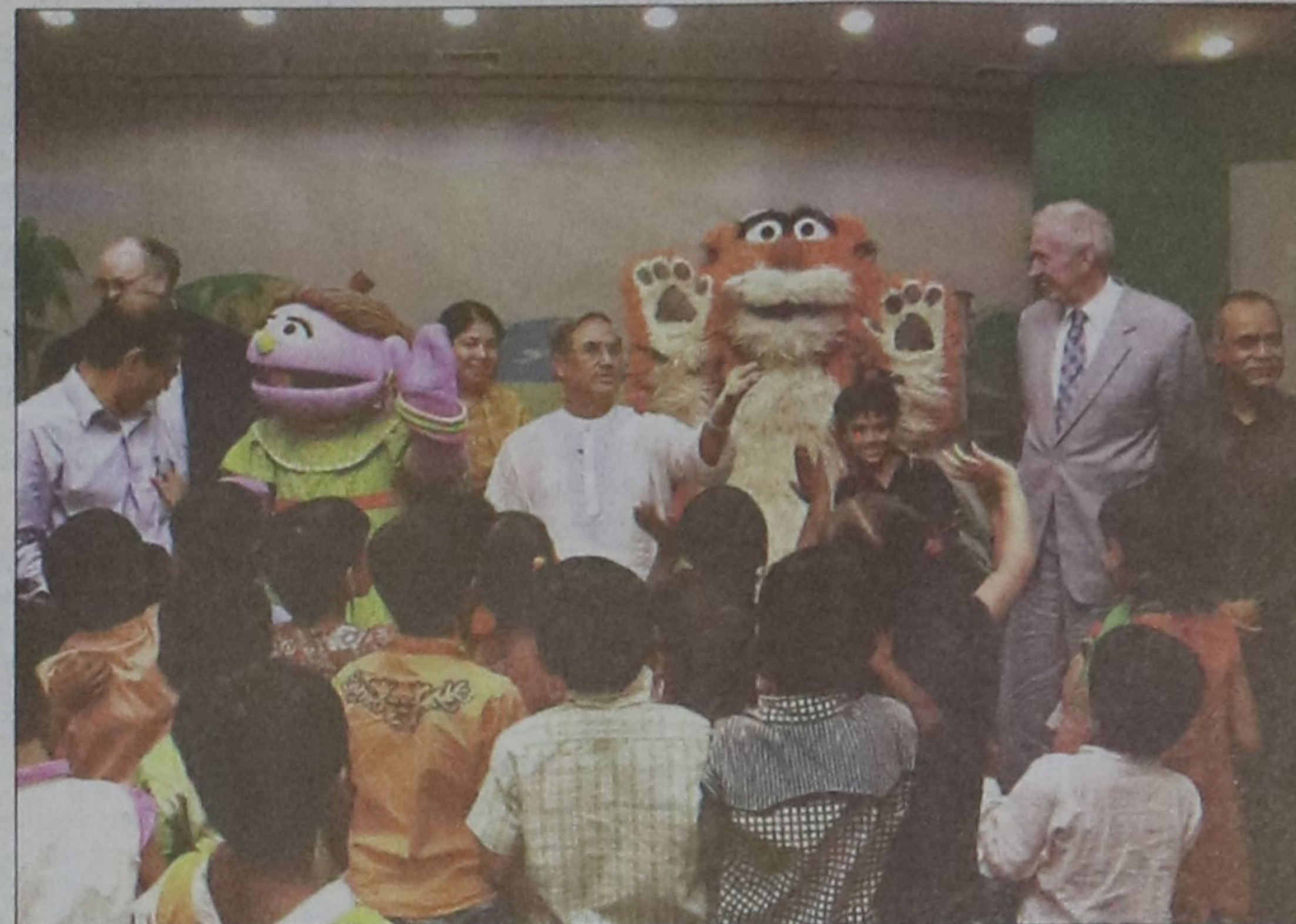
'Sisimpur', the popular household show on Fridays, has stepped into its fifth year. To celebrate the occasion, Nayantara Communications arranged a 'Utshob' at Bongobondhu International Conference Centre on September 15.

Young children, the main attraction of the event, attended the programme to spend a few hours with 'Tuktuki' and 'Halum', two popular Muppet characters in the show. Other characters in Sisimpur are -- 'Ikri Mikri', 'Shiku' and 'Aby Kadabi'. The programme, an adaptation of non-profit educational children's TV show Sesame Street and produced by sesameworkshop and Noyontara Communications in Bangladesh. The project is funded by USAID.

Singer Mehrin and popular writer Zafar Iqbal joined the children at the celebration. Abul Kalam Azad, minister for Information attended the event as chief guest. James F. Moriarty, ambassador, United States of America to Bangladesh; Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, state minister for ministry of women and children affairs; Don Donohue, country director, sesameworkshop; Asaduzzaman Noor MP; Aly Zaker and Sara Zaker, project head, Nayantara Communications; Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, secretary, ministry of information and others were also present at the programme.

Abul Kamal Azad congratulated Sisimpur and hoped that in future the programme will keep contributing in providing education for the young children.

James F. Moriarty said "Sesame Street, the inspiration for Sisimpur, originated in the US 40 years ago. It has grown by leaps and bounds and become popular with children and adults all over the world. Sesame Street's unique brand of pro-



Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad (C) and US Ambassador James F. Moriarty in happy Sisimpur company.

gramming combines entertainment and humor with education reaching millions of children worldwide. Utilizing a highly effective approach in improving the basic education and social skills, Sisimpur has successfully embraced and adapted this very special approach."

"One of the main reasons for its extraordinary popularity is that Sisimpur makes learning fun for children. With characters like Halum, Ikri-Mikri, Tuktuki and Shiku -- the programme uses a combination of Muppets, animation and live actors to

teach children the fundamentals of literacy, numeracy, colours and concept of time -- helping the young develop critical thinking abilities" he pointed out.

Speaking on Sisimpur, Sara Zaker said "The programme aims at providing children with many critical basic information through entertainment. Such programmes are very helpful to the development of the young and we hope to run the show on a regular basis for the many more years to come."

Sisimpur is aired on BTV on Fridays.

A differently-abled artist's dreams laid waste

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

"My ultimate aim is to set up an excellent art school in Bogra town for the differently abled," says Mohammad Imamul Hassan, an award-winning student of the Bogra Deaf and Dumb School in the course of an interview to The Daily Star mediated by his teacher.

"It was largely my mother Sufia Khatun who encouraged me to go in for painting and other extracurricular activities like outdoor and indoor games," says Imamul.

Md. Abdur Razzak, an employee of the state-run Sonali Bank, enrolled his son to the school in nursery class in October 1992 so that he could hone his artistic skills.

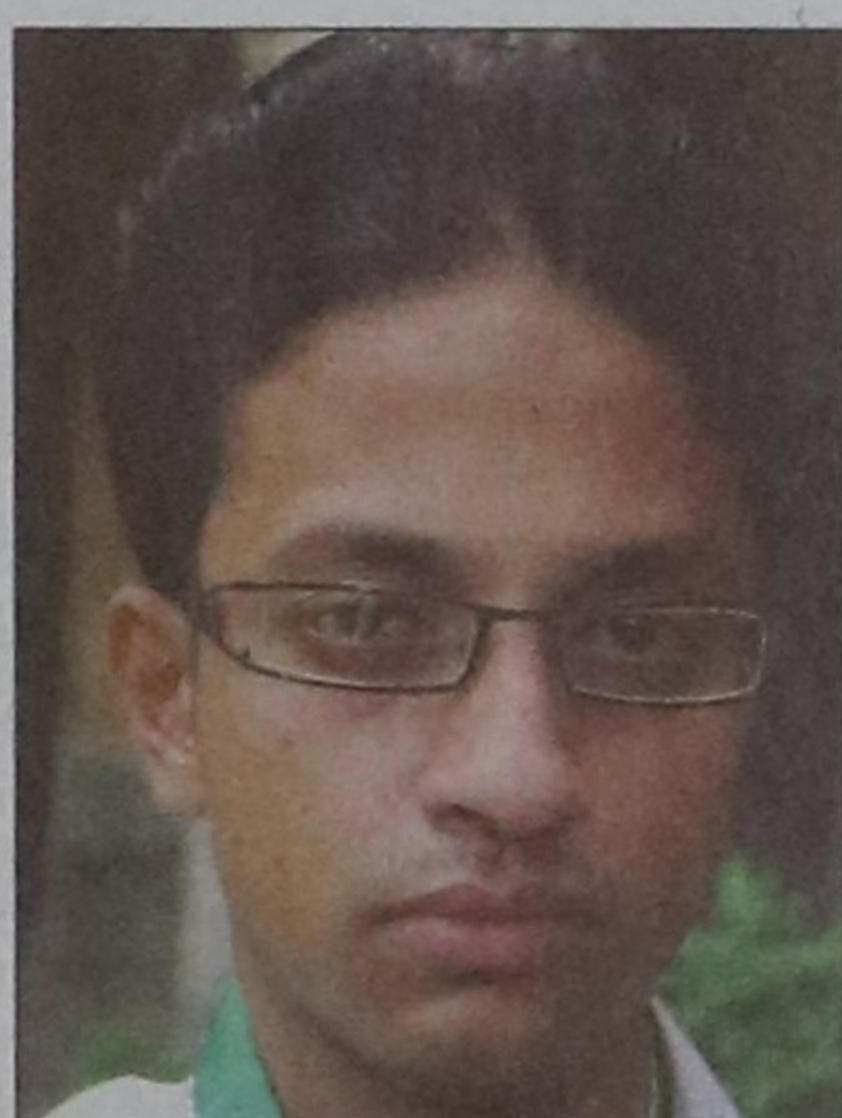
Acting Headmistress of the school Hosneara Choudhury says that Imamul's artistic skills are way ahead of other students of the same class. Imamul has won many prizes, including 11 national and international awards, says Razzak.

"My son asked me to help him set up an art school for the differently abled at my residence. However, I am unable to accomplish this with my limited earnings," says Razzak.

Imamul won a bronze medal as the third prize at the "5th International Children's Art Competition" arranged by the Bangladesh Shilpa Academy in Dhaka this year. He also won a gold medal as first prize at the "4th National Children's Art Exhibition" arranged by the Zainul Abedin Art School last year.

He also won other prestigious prizes in events such as the "Mutual Trust Bank Ltd Art Competition 07," "Toyota Dream Art Competition" arranged by Toyota Company and the "Creative Art Competition 2007-2008" arranged by Faber Castle, Bangladesh Ltd.

Unfortunately despite his formidable artistic talent, it is unlikely that Imamul will achieve his dream of establishing an art school due to the lack of funds as well as no scope of higher training in art.



Mohammad Imamul Hassan. A couple of medals awarded to him.

Sonam Kapoor: A new milestone

The 22-year-old newcomer Sonam Kapoor is making it big in the media these days. For one she is busy shooting for Aisha, the Indianised version of Jane Austen's Emma. This home production of her father Anil Kapoor is currently being shot on location in parts of New and Old Delhi. Like Jane Austen's classic work the story revolves around a too clever woman whose obsession with matchmaking for other people almost ruins her own chances of her own match.

Aisha is wooed by three men well played by Abhay Deol, one film old Arunodaya Singh and popular VJ Cyrus Barucha. The film is being produced by her sister Rhea, while the director is Rajshri Ojha, screenplay writer Devika Bhagat, dialogue writers Ritu Bhatia and Devika, production designer Shruti Gupta, costume designer Pernia Qureshi. Says Sonam, "I'm the lead actress. Of course, there are a few talented men on the project like Javed Akhtar saab (lyrics), Amit Trivedi (music) and Manurishi (dialogues) but, by and large, it's going to be one big hen party."

After two flops, Saawariya and Delhi-6, it is not surprising that Sonam has become extra cautious before signing new films. According to an insider, Anil



Sonam Kapoor

thoroughly goes into the fine print--enquiring about every detail such as script, budget, promotional plan and, and also analyses its box office prospects before Sonam steps in to take up a role.

Though her two films may not have done well in the box office, on the whole Sonam hasn't fared too badly. She was

nominated for the Filmfare Best Female Debut Award for Saawariya in 2008 as well as the 2008 Sony Head N Shoulders Fresh Face of the Year Award for the same film in 2008. Other nominations that have come her way are the Star Screen Awards and Zee Cine Awards for Saawariya.

The next year should see her equally busy. The budding actress is part of Dharma Productions' I Hate Love Stories, which stars Imran Khan and Samir Dattani.

A recent report in The Indian Express also describes a less known facet of Sonam as a social activist. She was appointed the young ambassador for NGO Khushi's programme called 'Joy of Giving Week'. The aim of this endeavour is to spread awareness about women and child welfare, healthcare, primary education, animals and the environment. The long term objective is to help NGOs who work on these causes by raising funds to further their outreach programmes. Says Sonam; "I hope my credentials can convince a few people to lend generously to the cause of the underprivileged."

Her fans just have to wait and watch out for the fortunes of her latest film, Aisha.

Compiled by cultural correspondent.

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