

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Painter: Zahura Sultana Hossain  
Title: Contemplation  
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-2  
Date: December 11-24  
Time: 10 am-8pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Painter: Rejaul Karim  
Title: Twilight Zone  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27, Dhanmondi  
Date: December 8-19  
Time: 12pm-8pm



**Documentary Screening**  
Film: Al Badar  
Filmmaker: Fakhrul Arefin  
Venue: Muktomancha, Jahangirnagar University  
Date: December 15  
Time: 7:30pm



**Photography Exhibition**  
Organiser: East West University Cine & Photography Club  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi  
Date: December 11-16  
Time: 3-8pm



## The universal language that is music

*"Songs of the Soul" at BICC*



Artists of Shurer Dhara and Gandharva Loka Orchestra perform songs of Tagore and Sri Chinmoy at the programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

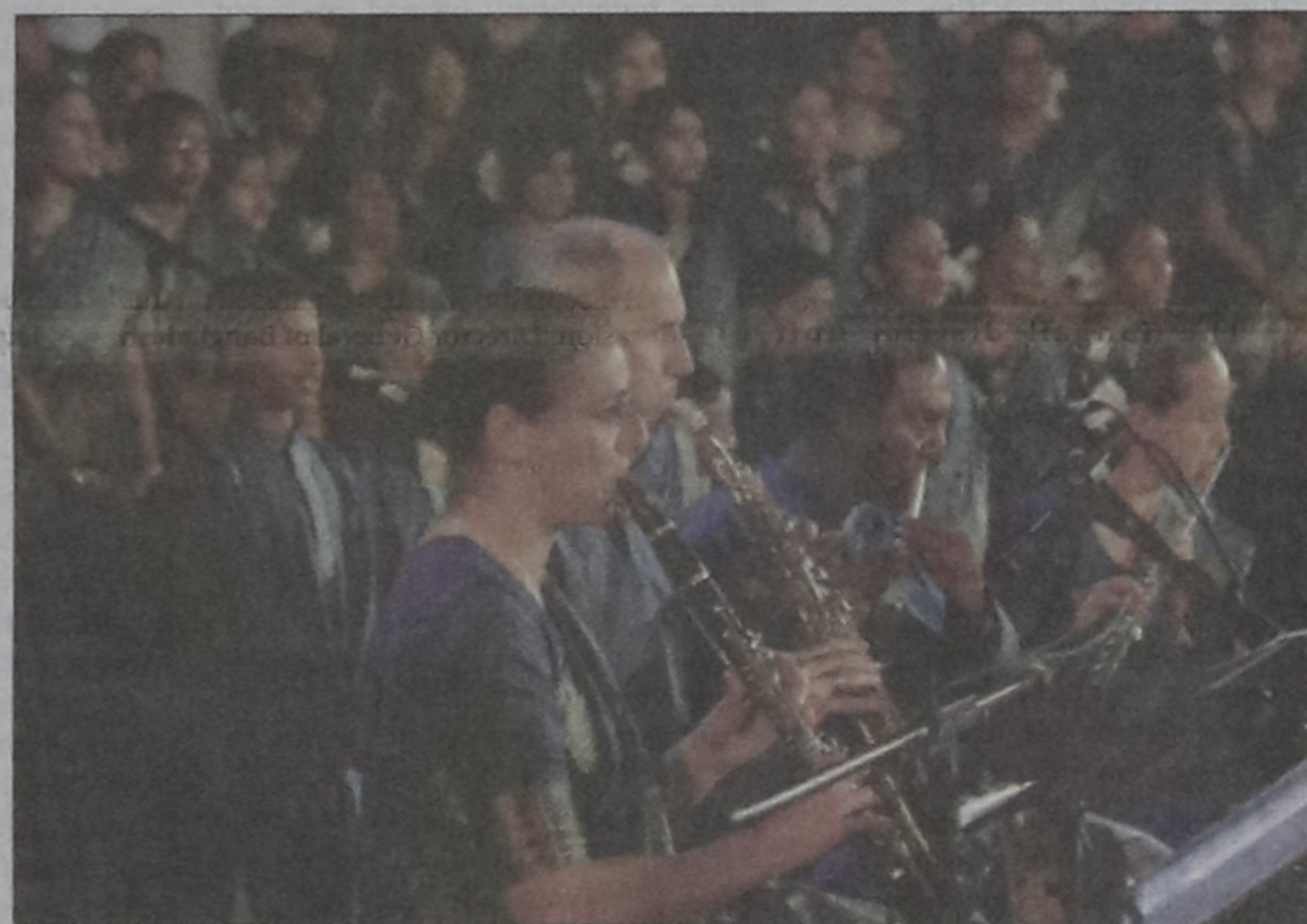
ZAHANGIRALOM

Shurer Dhara and Gandharva Loka Orchestra jointly held a musical soiree, titled "Songs of the Soul" at Harmony Hall of Bangabandhu International Convention Centre (BICC) on December 13.

Artists of Shurer Dhara and Gandharva Loka Orchestra performed songs of Tagore and Sri Chinmoy -- two Bengalis who earned wide recognition in the west.

Rabindranath Tagore -- a poet, novelist, musician, and playwright -- reshaped Bengali literature and music in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As author of "Gitanjali" he was the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize (in Literature, 1913). This recognition helped introduce Bengali literature to the world.

Sri Chinmoy -- originally from Chittagong -- wrote and composed a staggering number of 22,000 songs. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1964. He was best known for holding public events on the theme of inner peace and world harmony (such as concerts, meditations, and races). A spiritual teacher, lyricist and artiste, Chinmoy's teachings emphasise love for God, daily meditation, service to the



world, and religious tolerance (a view that "all faiths" are essentially divine).

The programme started with a choral rendition of "Anandalokey Mangalalokey" by Rezwana Choudhury Banna and eight disadvantaged children. A performance by artists of the Gandharva Loka Orchestra -- Tumi Alo/ Alor Shathe/ Alo Alo Alo (written by Sri Chinmoy) -- followed.

A number of both western and eastern instruments like

guitar, octopad, cello, mandolin, violin, Irish flute, clarinet, sarod, esraj, banshi, harmonium tabla and more were in perfect harmony, producing sounds with variation: from low to high, slow to fast -- touching the souls of the audience.

A hundred and fifteen singers and musicians -- all dressed in blue -- performing at a stretch was truly a vision of musical grandeur.

Artists and instrumentalists from Shurer Dhara

offered a number of songs including "Alo Amar Alo", "Shanti Karo Borishano", "Bhengeycho Duar", "Aaji Shubho Diney", "Aguner Paroshmoni", "Ondhokarer Utsho" and "Aloker Ei Jharnadharaye".

Rezwana Choudhury Banna performed a duet "Shokatorey Oi Kandichhey" with Renata Dessallien, resident representative of UNDP in Bangladesh. Later Banna rendered a solo "Durey Kothaye".

The 45-member Gandharva Loka Orchestra -- featuring musicians and singers from USA, Canada, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, UK, Scotland, Netherlands, Columbia, Brazil, Poland, Slovakia, Macedonia, Iceland and New Zealand -- performed songs of Sri Chinmoy Songs on the occasion. Renditions included "Tomar-o Paney", "Shonali Jyotir" and "OiAkashey".

Prior to the renditions, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui spoke on Rabindranath Tagore. Rezwana Choudhury Banna introduced Gandharva Loka Orchestra to the audience. The full-house audience included diplomats, cultural personalities and other dignitaries.

Vilupti Barineau and Nameera Nuzhat jointly anchored the programme while Rezwana Choudhury Banna and Renata Dessallien oversaw the total arrangement.

ATN Bangla, Prothom Alo and The Daily Star were media partners of the event.

Though the arrangement was much acclaimed, some in the audience felt that that repertoire could have included fewer songs -- making the programme compact.

## Honours

### Munier Chowdhury Shommanona and Zakaria Smriti Padak announced

CORRESPONDENT

Theatre (Topkhana) is one of the leading troupes in Bangladesh. The group confers two awards annually -- Munier Chowdhury Shommanona and Zakaria Smriti Padak.

This year the award giving ceremony was held at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on December 14. National Professor Kabir Chowdhury presided over the programme while Finance Minister AMA Muhith was present as chief guest.

This year's Munier Chowdhury Shommanona went to noted mime artiste Partha Pratim Majumder and Zakaria Smriti Padak went to theatre researcher Babul

Biswas. Ramendu Majumdar announced the names of the awardees at the programme. As part of the awards, Partha Pratim Majumder received Tk 25,000 and Babul Biswas received Tk 15,000. Kabir Chowdhury gave away the awards.

Majumder said, "This is a rare moment for me. I dedicate this award to Himangshu Kumar Biswas and Barin Majumder."

Babul Biswas said, "I'm elated! This award will encourage me further."

Kabir Chowdhury and Maher Kabir sponsored the Munier Chowdhury Shommanona; Ramendu Majumdar and Ferdousi Majumdar sponsored the Zakaria Smriti Padak.

After the prize giving ceremony, Partha Pratim Majumder staged mime performances.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

(From left) Babul Biswas, Partha Pratim Majumder, Kabir Chowdhury and Ramendu Majumdar at the event.

## Victory Day celebration by Gitanjali

CORRESPONDENT

To observe the month of victory, cultural organisation Gitanjali held a musical soiree "Swadesh Bhabnar Gaan" at Dance and Music auditorium, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy recently.

"Every year we celebrate Victory Day through special programmes," said Sajed

Akbar, noted singer and director of Gitanjali. Sajed Akbar led the performance of "Swadesh Bhabnar Gaan." Sajed was accompanied by Nahar Jamil, Salma Akbar, Promod Dutt, Sufia Zakaria, Ahmed Ziaur Rahman, Subah Akbar and Srea Zakaria.

The programme began with a rendition of the DL Roy number "Dhonodhanno pushpeybhora".

Songs performed at the programme included "Aji Bangladesh-er hridoy hotey", "O amar desher mati", "Gram chhara oi ranga matir path", "Jodi tor daak shuney keu na ashey," and more. The programme ended with a group performance of the S D Burman number "Ami takdhum takdhum bajai Bangladesh-er dhol."



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Gitanjali perform at the programme.



Ayub Bachchu (top) and Bappa Majumdar perform at the concert.

PHOTO: STAR

## Nokia Music Carnival rocks Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Music lovers, particularly those of the younger generation, swayed with the rhythm and tunes at a concert titled "Nokia Music Carnival" at King of Chittagong, a community centre here in the port city last Sunday.

Popular bands LRB, Dolchhut and Artcell enthralled their fans with their hit numbers.

Nokia organised the concert as a part of series of events to be held in Rajshahi (December 18), Khulna (December 22) and the capital (December 26).

The concert opened with performances by bands of Chittagong. Led by Bappa Majumdar, Dolchhut began with the song "Din Bari Jaye" and continued with the band's other popular songs. Artcell jolted the audience with heavy music and started with "Prarthona".

Finally, the senior-most of the bands, LRB -- led by Ayub Bachchu -- took the stage amid rounds of applause. The rock guru recalled two renowned musicians -- Happy Akhand and Niloy -- and began with covers of their songs.

LRB also performed its songs "Ekdin Ghum Bhanga Shohore", "Meye Tumi Ki Dukkho Chino" and others.

Nokia launched a promotion for six mobile phone sets - Nokia 5530 XpressMusic, Nokia 5800 XpressMusic, Nokia 5310 XpressMusic, Nokia 2730 classic, Nokia 2700 classic and Nokia 6303 classic at branded retail and other outlets all around the country last month.

With the purchase of these sets and upon activation, each consumer was given a concert coupon. The coupons were used to collect tickets for the concerts.

## Generating awareness against repression of women

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT Thakurgaon

A cultural team performed on Thursday at various places in Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila to generate awareness against the repression of women.

As part of a fortnight long campaign (November, 25-December 10) with the theme "Nirabota bhanga jago-jagao, Nari Nirjataner Biruddha Rukhe Darao" Thakurgaon NGO Cell, a forum of Thakurgaon NGOs, organised the programme.

On Thursday evening at Thakurgaon Cooperative market area a local folk artiste

Sanwar Haque Sanu rendered several songs relating to the repression of women.

At the end of the programme, a group of artistes performed "Jari Gan" against violence on women.

Earlier in the morning, Thakurgaon NGO Cell formed an hour long human chain to promote general awareness against the repression of women.

The programme was undertaken to observe International Women Repression Protest Fortnight.

A discussion was also held simultaneously with the formation of the human chain. The speakers emphasised the need to

empower women in every sector of the society.

They also called for a bond of love and elimination of gender inequities to curb violence against women.

The speakers said that the country will not progress until steps were taken for women's development.

The speakers urged the government to implement the Convention on the Elimination Of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Among others, Executive Director of CDS, a local NGO, Nurul Islam, NGO worker Moushumi Rahaman, Snigdha and others, spoke at the meeting.