

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Classical Music Festival

Organiser: Chhayanaut  
Venue: Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban, Dhanmondi  
Date: December 24-26  
Time: 6:30pm onwards



### Solo Art Exhibition

Painter: Zahura Sultana Hossain  
Title: Contemplation  
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-2  
Date: December 11-January 27  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Theatre

Play: Shikhandi Katha  
Troupe: Mahakal Nitya Shampraday  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: December 25 & 26  
Time: 7pm



### Painting Exhibition

Painter: Biren Shome  
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi  
Date: December 25-January 5  
Time: 10am-8pm



## The stars of bricks, cement and paint



(From left) Riaz, Momtaz, S.I. Tutul, Fatema-tuz-Zohra and Tina on the show.

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Innovative, fun, colourful and one of the most talked about TV shows in the country right now -- "Shah Cement Nirman Taroka" -- stands out from all the other musical competitions because its participants are all construction workers. Here's what the judges and organisers of the show had to say:

**Fatema-tuz-Zohra:** "Being involved from the very beginning, I've been a part of this talent hunt all the way down to the district level. One would not expect these contestants -- masons, carpenters, painters etc -- to have musical skills but they sing beautifully. Their passion for music was demonstrated through enthusiastic participation; there were around 300 participants at each venue, we had to choose 15!"

"At one venue, I asked a participant to write his name, and he hesitated. I again asked him and then he told me he was not literate. I was moved! Their determination, sincerity, effort all shine through their performances. They were so disciplined that I was speechless! Not only the participants but also the teamwork of the organisers, and judges etc made it a wonderful experience. We judges also did

not have any disagreement. The initiative is really auspicious. One participant represents his/her community. This competition can also encourage a social change."

**S.I. Tutul:** "I didn't want to do it in the beginning as I was busy and had a lot of commitments in other areas. I also considered the notion of whether I could really be a judge on a reality show. In my opinion I really didn't think I could be a judge although my friends and family said otherwise. Then I considered the contributions of these people, the bed where I sleep, the house where I live and much more -- they are the ones who provide these comforts. Shouldn't I have a commitment towards them, I asked myself?"

"I found the environment and attitude of the organisers very amiable as well as professional. I asked them that I would like to check on the participants before the show. When I did take a step towards the programme I didn't want to leave any stone unturned but explore all the facets. They were amazing! Even though they were not professional singers, as they could not receive proper training, they had sky-high potentials. Lyrics would have to be read to them as they could not read, but they were sharp and picked up the songs fast.

"All of us were deeply involved with this programme. We judges had so much fun. I was so moved by the elderly participant Shahana and others that I just had to show them my respect. Now when I go to the rural areas, I still get the love and blessings not only from the participants' families but also of the many fans they have. This is incomparable!"

**Momtaz:** "There are musical competitions now on almost every TV channel but there is a humane aspect of this programme. I couldn't miss this one! No matter how far we have progressed in life, in whatever positions we occupy, we couldn't have moved a step without the contribution of these people. Through this show, at least for a while, I could be with them. It was a small effort from my part, and I wish I could do more for them. Before this I was also a judge on 'Tin Chakar Taroka'."

"No one can deny the contribution of the hard working labourers. They do not have the basic training, so in my opinion for their performances they should be given 100 out of 100. Perhaps they learnt the songs from listening to the radio in between work, but the way they render the songs, with such compassion -- it was really moving! Sometimes may be the vocals or tunes were not accurate. Yet there were profound emotions, a soulful element that made the songs magical."

"Different genres of songs suit different singers, like there is modern, classical, folk, pop, etc. The winner should be versatile and should be able to render all kinds of songs. The selection was based on the performance, expressions, posture, rhythm and style. A 'Nirman Taroka' is a superstar to his/her community and to the thousands of people in the same profession."

"We begun the venture through Advance Developments many days ago. I had the concept in my mind for a pretty long time. Then Shah Cement came forward to turn the dream into reality. We decided to have film star Riaz and his wife Tina as hosts of the show, as most of the contestants are Riaz's fans," said **Shahid Rayhan**, organiser.

**Ibrahim Khalil**, brand manager of Shah Cement said, "Basically the programme aims at inspiring people who work at construction sites. They make a major contribution to the society, so we should also show some appreciation. If they are recognised at work, and they in turn recognise the importance of their work, it would only benefit all."

"Shah Cement Nirman Taroka" is aired on Mondays 8:45 pm on ATN Bangla.

The writer is a freelance contributor.



The contest features construction workers who have no formal training in music.



## A kaleidoscopic vision of Nepal

Photo exhibition at National Press Club



Enthusiastic visitors at the exhibition.

A CORRESPONDENT

National Forum of Photojournalists and Bangladesh Photojournalists Association jointly organised an exhibition titled 'Maitri Nepal Photo Exhibition 2009' at the National Press Club in the city.

The exhibition features 60 colour images by Nepalese photographers -- focusing on Nepalese life, traditions, culture, festivals, scenic beauty and more.

One of the images shows mass participation in celebrating *Bisket Jatra* in Bhaktapur. *Bisket Jatra* is one of the most colourful and vibrant celebrations in Bhaktapur, Nepal. The locals celebrate it by brining out the palanquins, carrying Hindu deities.

Children are seen playing under a big tree in another image, depicting the uniqueness of Nepal.

A photo shows Hindu devotees in red attire celebrat-

## Christmas special on ntv



A scene from the show.

A CORRESPONDENT

To mark Christmas, a special programme will be aired on ntv tonight at 4:10 pm. Titled 'Jai Paromeshwar-er Jai', the programme will include music, dance and special features.

A group of singers from the Bangladesh Christian Community will render 'Saint Mary's Cathedral Choir'. Another group will sing 'Anandey badyo bajao' -- a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Baby Zenith Hawladar and Jhota Sylvester will perform a dance on the programme.

A couple of special features will emphasise on Jesus' message of love, peace and freedom and the tradition of celebrating Christmas in Bangladesh.

Christmas tree is an integral part of celebrating the day. Usually the tree is decorated with lights of different colours. The show will also feature the history and use of Christmas tree.

Fayez Reza has produced the programme.

ing the *Teej* festival, an occasion especially for women. The image shows women in contemplative mood. Ashesh Rajbansh took the photo.

Women taking a dip in the warm water lake at Myagdi in Dhaulagiri district, are the subjects of another photo. Radiating with glee, the women have a serene look about them.

Morning light passes through the roof of a thatched house -- one of the images at the exhibition. Old furniture and some unusual items are seen crammed in the room. A cat resting on the floor is also noticeable.

Another photo shows a number of Hindu devotees seen making a cake; the mood is jovial. The photo by Deependra Munni Bajracharya was shot in the countryside.

The exhibition ended yesterday.

