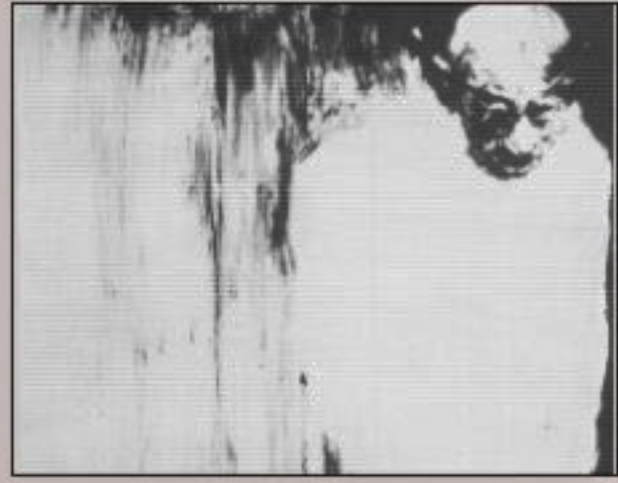


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Drawing Exhibition

Title: The Surge of Emotion
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Saju Art Gallery,
F/40-41, North Super
Market, 2nd Circle, Gulshan
Date: January 4-19
Time: 10am-8pm



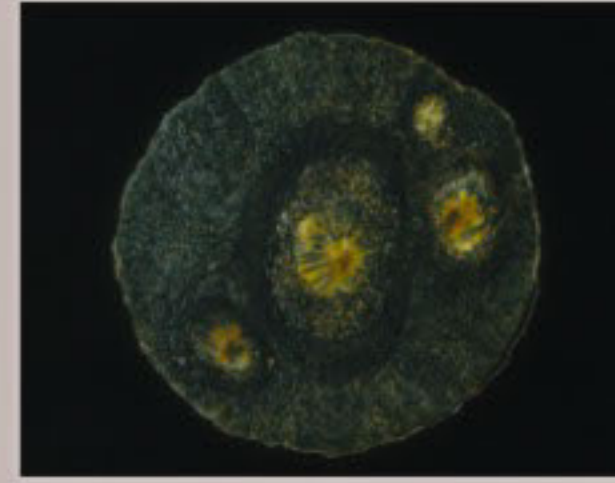
Jamdani Exhibition

As part of Aarong's 30th anniversary celebration
Organiser: Aarong
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 10-20
Inauguration: January 9 at 4pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Image
Artist: Mohamud Fakhru Islam
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: January 4-15
Time: 9am-12pm & 5-8pm



Painting Exhibition

Painter: Biren Shome
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: January 4-20
Time: 10am-8pm



Rabindra melody stirs souls in Sylhet ...

Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad's conference held



The event included group renditions of Tagore songs.

PHOTO: STAR

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A two-day district conference and cultural festival organised by the Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad ended in Sylhet Friday night.

A colourful procession was taken out in the city on Thursday afternoon marking the formal start of the programme. Later in the evening, eminent writer Selina Hossain formally inaugurated the event at the Sylhet stadium. The speakers included Professor Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University, treasurer of the central committee of the Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad-Mainuddin Nazir and Sylhet district convener Suprio Chakravarty. The speakers stressed the need to study Tagore for removing the ills from society and our day-to-day life.

Local and artistes from the capital participated in the cultural presentation on the first night.

The concluding day's programme included a discussion, contest, drama, prize distribution and individual and group renditions of Rabindra Sangeet.

Eminent educationist Professor Abdul Aziz formally inaugurated the day's event. Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and former

caretaker advisor Sultana Kamal also spoke among others.

Three chorus songs were presented in the inaugural session. Then the artistes, who secured first positions in the contest went on stage with their group presentation.

The junior artistes of the Sammilan Parishad successfully staged "Raja O Rajdroh" while artistes of local organisations like Sangeet Parishad, Nriyashoilee, Charubak and Udichi entertained the audience with their group performance. Solos were presented by Sharmin Sathi Islam, Shoma Rani Roy, Anupam Kumar Paul and Mainuddin Nazir.

Joyeeta Das, Nuzha Anjum Syed and Srabonti Dey Oishee came first, second and third respectively in the Rabindra Sangeet contest in 'Ka' group held in the morning session. Nuria Khondaker Nijhum, Upoma Urbashi and Swarna Roy were first, second and third respectively in the 'Kha' group.

Aminul Islam Chowdhury Liton and Debosri Dhar Puja conducted the function.

A 21-man committee of the district committee was declared with Professor Bahauddin Zakaria and Suprio Chakravarty as president and general secretary respectively.

Photography Exhibition

A glimpse of India through the eyes of BUET students

A CORRESPONDENT

A photography exhibition titled "India: Plural" was held recently at Drik Gallery. The works on display were the collection of 17 photographers, all third year students of BUET.

"Every year the students go to India to get a glimpse of its rich heritage and culture. We were batch five. After us batch six will be going," said Ishtiaque Ahmad. "The final 30 to be displayed in the exhibition were selected by eminent photographer Hasan S. Chandan."

The exhibition was divided into two parts in each hall. One hall displayed the works of the young photographers, and the other the pictures of the photographers themselves in India to reveal their diverse experiences in the land of diversity. "That's why the exhibition has been titled "India: Plural". India is throbbing with diverse cultures, languages, customs, et al; one cannot have a singular opinion or impression of the country. The only singular thing about India is its plurality," said Fahim.

The group travelled all the way across Kolkata, Delhi, Chandigarh, Shimla, Manali, Agra, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, among other places in 36 days. So they obviously had a lot of experiences to share through their photography.

A sample of the photographs on display: A Rajasthani woman adorned in her traditional dress (Ishtiaque), Victoria Memorial (Nabila Binte Nasir), hundreds of Muslims in prayer (Mohaimin Islam), lonely desert travellers (Azka Eshita), a bridge in the midst of the green valleys and river (Johirul Islam), a crowded city (Majharul Haque), temple (Azrin



(Clockwise from top): A speeding Ambassador presents a stark contrast with a rickshaw, a traditionally attired Rajasthani woman, lonely desert travelers, the faithful congregate at a mosque.

Alam), Taj Mahal and curious spectators (Ahmed Faisal), Jesus on a crucifix in a Church (Kumar Biswajit Debnath), castles and fortress (Moshfiqul Islam), Towers (Nabila Iqbal), The faithful congregate at a mosque (Santano Debnath) and much more.

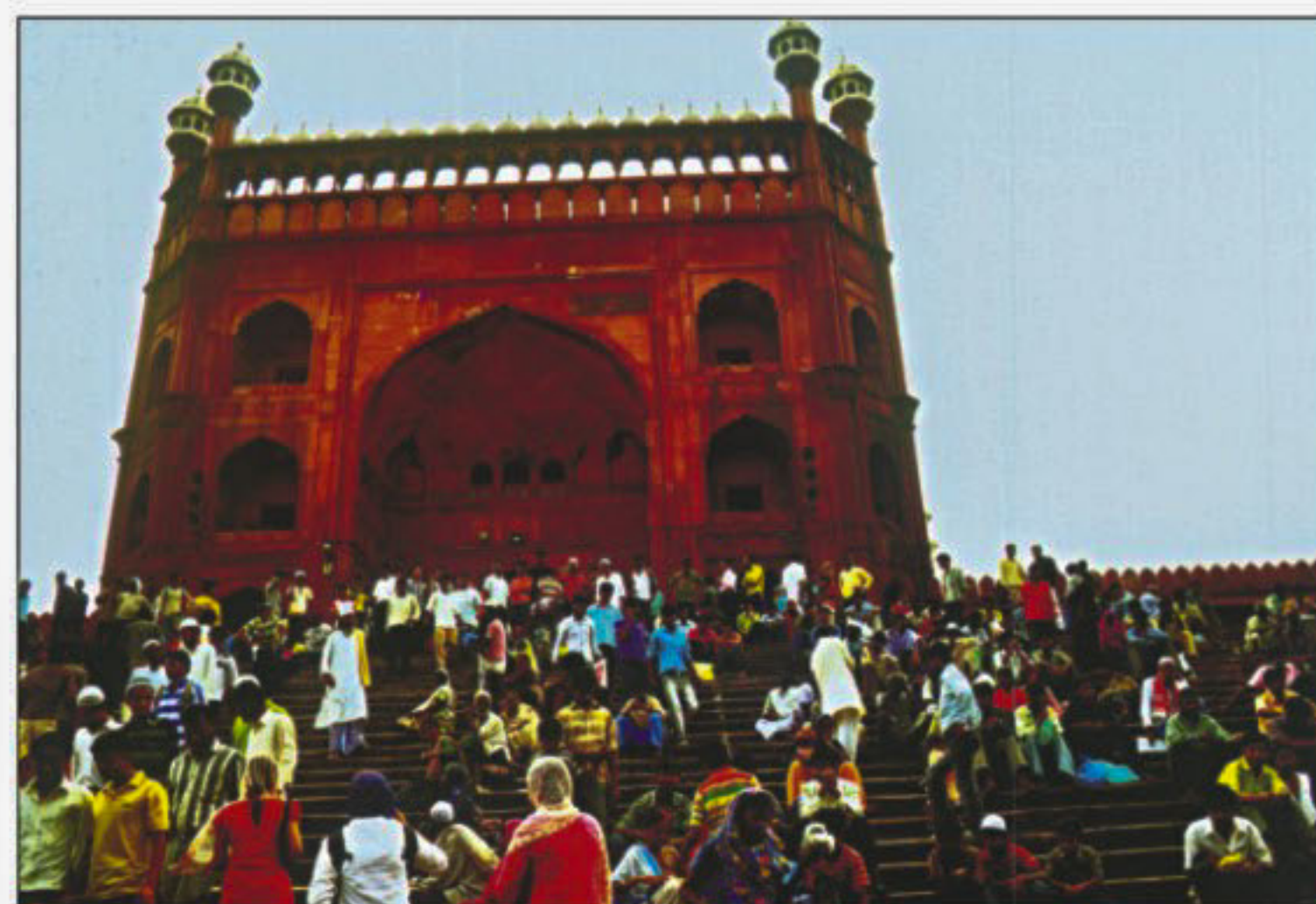
There was picture of a small boy aged five or six. In Kumar Biswajit's words, "The picture was taken before Asar prayers, when the boy was looking at the others. His eyes were reflecting belief, trust and religious fervour."

There was a picture titled "Parallel", taken by Ishtiaque in Kolkata that had a speeding Ambassador alongside a rickshaw. It depicted the tragic verity that these two aspects, that differ in

status and economy, stand side by side on the same land.

About a picture of a little girl, Ahmad Faisal said, "It was shot in a train. The girl was playing with a ring and entertaining the travellers. Although I took many shots, the girl remained expressionless." That is the feeling captured by this photo, of the girl who was supposed to be happy and lively but probably due to socio-economic obstacles, all her smiles had been erased.

Other than the works, the pictures of the photographers themselves was full of life as the group was caught in snapshots in the green jungles and the blue mornings, at work and in a state of exhaustion.



Reenat Fauzia: A passionate sitar player

A CORRESPONDENT

Reenat Fauzia is one of the noted sitar players of our country. She has been playing sitar for over 25 years now. Fauzia's first CD titled "A Touch of Love" was released in 2004. "I think that was the first CD on sitar in our country. The CD gave me much popularity and people began coming to me to learn the sitar."

Fauzia's second CD was released in 2007. "The CD was dedicated to my grandfather Ustad Ayet Ali Khan. The CD included the musical notation of my grandfather, my Ustadji (mentor) and me," adds Fauzia.

The sitar player began to learn the musical instrument when she completed her SSC.

Fauzia was born to a noted cultural family which has played a significant role in our cultural arena. Her father Mobarak Hossain Khan is a music researcher, and a musician of repute. He plays the surbahar, a string instrument.



Reenat Fauzia

Fauzia's paternal grandfather Ustad Ayet Ali Khan was a famous musician of the subcontinent. Ustad Alauddin

Khan was the younger brother of Ustad Ayet Ali Khan.

"I was very busy with my studies. It was my only pas-

sion. After completing my SSC examination, I managed to get some leisure time. At this stage, I requested my mother to buy me a sitar. I started learning sitar from a book by Ustad Abed Hossain Khan. The book has detailed information on the sitar. In fact, the book has greatly helped me. I took my basic education from Ustad Sahadat Hossain Khan, a veteran sarod player of our country. I learned several delicate techniques and methods from him," says Fauzia.

Afterwards, Fauzia took lessons from Ustad Khurshid Khan, who was also a teacher of Chhayanaut. "It was his suggestion that I seek admission at Chhayanaut. This is where I received my formal education. Though sitar is a vital musical instrument in our subcontinent, not many people are keen to train on it. It is however quite popular as a musical instrument in solo performances. As a sitar player, I feel very proud of that," concludes Fauzia.

Mini Screen

Premiere of new TV serial "FnF" held

Beginning from January 17 a new drama serial FnF (Friends n Family) will be aired on ntv, says a press release. The serial will be aired on Sundays and Mondays at 9:40pm.

Written and directed by Redwan Rony, the serial features Abul Hayat, Mosharraf Karim, Ahmed Rubel, Aupi Karim and Sumaiya Shimu in different roles.

The premiere for "FnF" was held at Emmanuelle's Convention Center, a new Cineplex at Rifles Square in Dhanmondi on January 9. Rupchanda, the premium oil brand from BEOL (Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited) is the sponsor of the serial. High up officials of BEOL including Lee Peng Kwang, general manager, BEOL; Asaduzzaman Noor, MP; Redwan Rony, director "FnF" and the artistes of the serial were present at the programme.

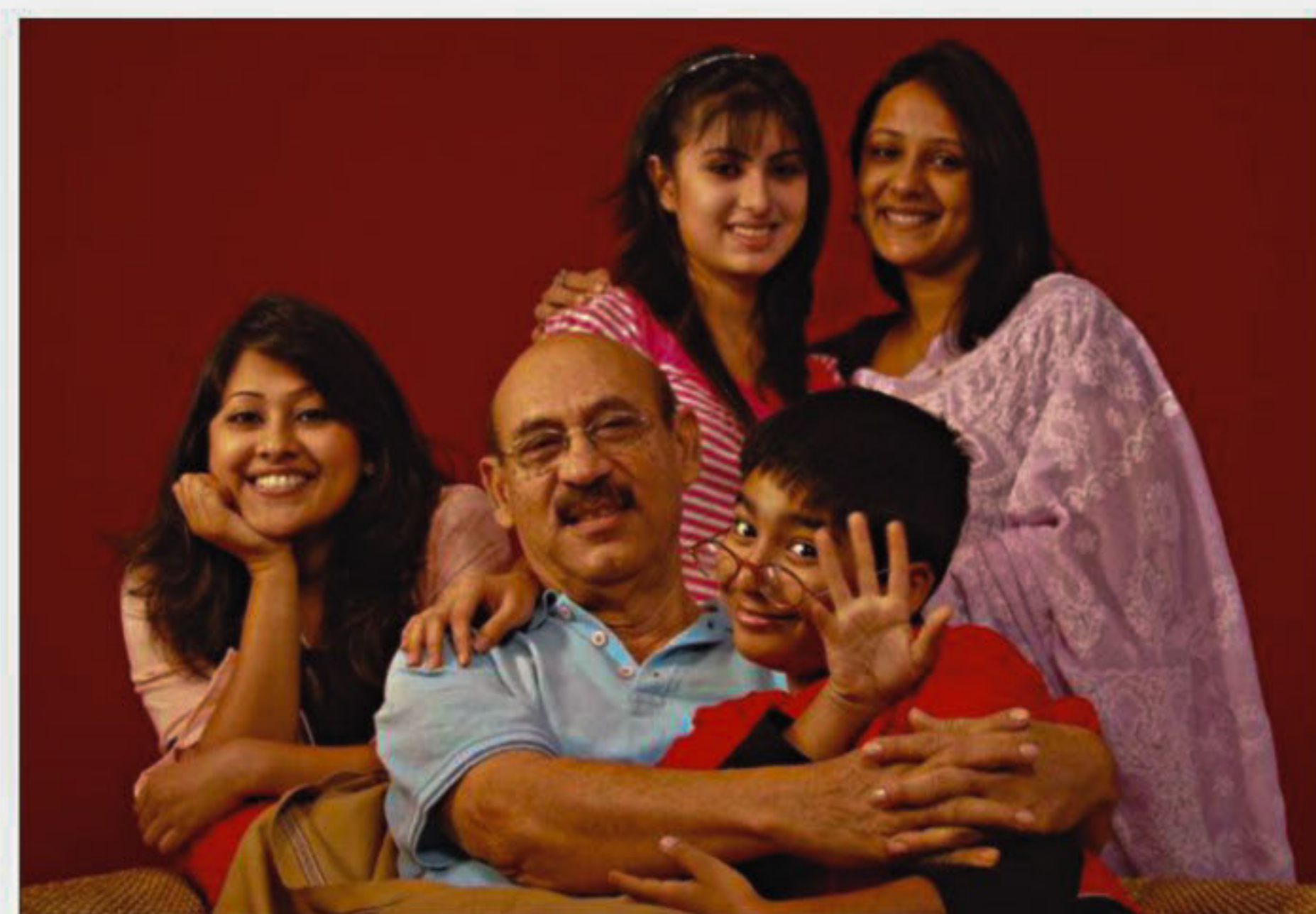
Speaking at the occasion Asaduzzaman Noor said, "BEOL works relentlessly to

ensure good health and happiness of every Bangladeshi family. That's why, we want healthy and happy entertainment for families and we believe that better cultural practices will live forever."

Speaking of the serial Redwan Rony said, "I am honoured being a part of such an initiative by BEOL. I also thank my full team on this occasion for their uninterrupted support. I hope the audience will appreciate the

serial, where some of the most renowned and sincere artistes have performed."

The programme was coordinated by Alauddin Talukder, GM- Media Operations of Bitopi Advertising Ltd.



A scene from the TV serial.