

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

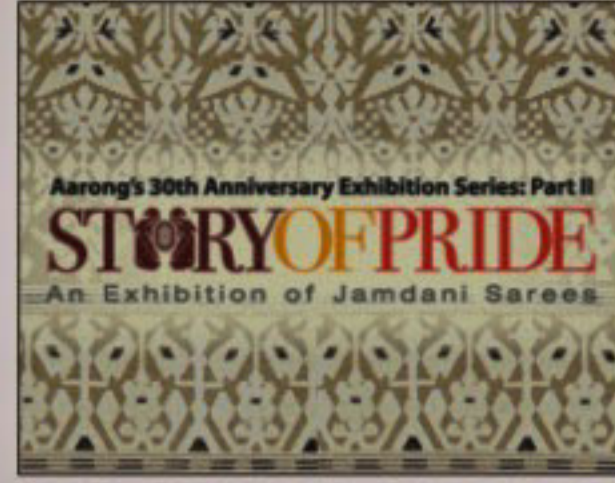
Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: The Preceptor and the Disciple
Photographer: M A Taher
Venue: Dharmarajik Maha Buddha Vihara, Mayakanan, Kamalapur
Date: January 15-22
Time: 3pm-8pm



Exhibition of Jamdani

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



Theatre

Play: Shesh Sanglaap
Troupe: Shomoy Natyadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 23
Time: 6:30pm



Drawing Exhibition

Artist: Aminul Islam
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H 21, Rd 4, Dhanmondi
Date: January 9-18
Time: 10am 8pm



Magical strings

In conversation with guitarist Neel Ranjan Mukherjee

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Neel Ranjan Mukherjee, a talented guitarist belonging to the 'Seniya Gharana', recently performed at a musical programme at National Press Club with *ghazal* singer Akhil Kumar Das of 'Indore Gharana'. Mukherjee's performance featured "Raaga Maru Behag" and a *dhun* based on "Raaga Mishra Khama". After his performance, Mukherjee talked to The Daily Star (TDS) about the *gharana* (school) he belongs to and his instrument of choice.

Unlike other Indian *gharana*, 'Seniya' is grounded in classical music involving instruments, a tradition set by Miyan Tansen, legendary court musician of the third Mughal emperor Akbar (1542-1606). Maseet Sen (Khan) emerged as a direct descendant (6th generation) of Tansen, and founded 'Seniya Gharana'.

Though *sitar*, along with *surbahar*, has long dominated this *gharana*, Neel plays Hawaiian guitar (seven strings; four octaves) and *santoor*. Since age nine, he has been learning to play the guitar under Dr. Shivnath Bhattacharya (Varanasi). He also took *sitar* lessons from his maternal uncle Dr. Dyuti Kishore Acharya Chaudhuri (Varanasi), a disciple of the

late Ustad Alauddin Khan (Maihar). His know-how of the *sitar* earned him an opportunity to pursue 'Seniya Gharana' where he studied music under Pandit Debu Chaudhuri (Padma Bhushan).

The way Mukherjee interprets Indian classical tunes on guitar produces a mingling melody of *sitar* and sometimes of piano as well but the *raaga* he plays remains almost the same.

How has he made it possible?

"Playing *raaga* on *sitar* requires complete mastery over *gamak* and *meend* as *sitar*. *Sitar* players can produce almost perfect tunes as vocalists do, in respect of *bandish*, *alaap*, *taan* and patterns of melody. Again, though the concept of chords is totally absent in Indian classical notation, subtle alteration of chords of guitar actually helps to produce

such a flavour. Besides, practice purifies everything in the long run," Mukherjee asserts.

GM Records of India has produced Mukherjee's four albums so far, namely "Tunes of the Sky" and "Anandam" (both featuring fusion compositions involving western musicians); "Swarang" featuring pure Indian classical tunes and "Swaras" featuring folk tunes of Bengal, Rajasthan and Punjab.

Asked about his favourite *raaga*, the music cited "Raaga Bageshree", "Raaga Rageshree", "Raaga Madhabia", "Raaga Kaunsi Kanhara" and "Raaga Bhairavi".

Apart from playing with his guru Pt Debu Chaudhuri in a number of concerts, Mukherjee has performed with many renowned musicians like Ustad Shafaat Ahmed Khan (Padmashri), Pt. Nikhil Banerjee, Ustad Sabir Khan and Pt. Sandeep Das.

At present Mukherjee leads a musical troupe in India, called Sky Group. He has bagged several awards and scholarships and established himself as a noted musician in India.

The artiste's maternal lineage can be traced to Muktagachha, Mymensingh, Bangladesh.

"The future of Indian classical music is bright. My dedication to classical music will remain constant but I'd like to create something new with my guitar," Mukherjee hopes.



Neel Ranjan Mukherjee

Building awareness on modern and scientific education



Students of Khagrachhari Cantonment Public School and College in the play.

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Performers of Khagrachhari Cantonment Public School and College recently staged a play at the college auditorium. The aim was to raise awareness of students, teachers and the masses about the need for modern and scientific education. They also pointed out how the modernisation of the educational system had been blocked by vested interests and its adverse effects on the country and society.

Through the play they also pre-

sented social evils like dowry and domestic violence. Spectators in thousands turned up to watch the show.

Earlier, Khagrachhari Army Region Commander Brigadier General Md. Emadul Haque *psc* handed over crests to students who were nominated for Academic Talent Award-2009 and co-curricular Talent Award-2009 at the annual cultural show on January 12.

School authorities said, that they had awarded 52 brilliant students for their outstanding performances in International Art Competitions, National Math Olympiad and



A dancer demonstrates a balancing act.

National Sports. They had also awarded a Primary Scholarship, Junior Scholarship as well as recognised those who had excelled in the SSS and HSC examinations.

Those present at the function included Khagrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Ruhity Karbary; Sadar Zone Commander Lt Col Morshed; Cantonment Public School and College Principal Lt. Col Mohammad Golam Kibria Chowdhury; Khagrachhari Municipality Mayor Joynal Abedin and Major Lokman.



All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

On Air

ATN BANGLA

- 08:30 Talka National Dance Star
- 09:45 Kandeey Amar Maa
- 10:30 Hello Bangladesh
- 11:05 Talk Show: Asian City Top Spin
- 11:35 Notun Chhobir Gaan
- 12:15 Motamot
- 01:25 Choloচিত্র Golpo
- 02:30 Drama Serial: Ghar Jamai
- 03:15 Drama Serial: Manik Ratan
- 03:45 Chhotoder Prithibi
- 04:25 Banijya Mela Protidin
- 05:15 Kandeey Amar Maa
- 05:20 Aaynar Shamney
- 06:15 The Lost World
- 08:00 Drama Serial: Mike
- 08:45 Shah Cement Nirmaner Taroka
- 11:30 Talk Show: Jay Katha Keu Boley Ni
- 12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

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- 08:05 Rabindra Sangeet
- 08:30 Shokaler Gaan
- 08:40 Aikjer Chakri
- 09:30 Shanbadpotrey Bangladesh
- 09:45 Public Reaction
- 09:50 Grameenphone Tritio Matra
- 11:05 Educational Programme
- 12:30 Talk Show: Citycell Taroka Kathan
- 01:05 Musical Programme: Ebong Cinemar Gaan
- 01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma

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- 02:30 Banijya O Orthonity
- 03:05 Medha Bikash
- 03:30 Study @ UK
- 04:05 Mukti Judhyo Protidin
- 04:30 Business Talk
- 05:30 Amar Chhobi
- 06:00 Udyog
- 06:20 TV Series: Super Man
- 07:50 BBC Bangladesh Shanglap
- 09:35 Drama Serial: Moneybag Fantasy
- 10:00 Drama Serial: Alo Chhaya
- 11:30 RC Travel on
- 12:00 Grameenphone Aikjer

ETV

- 09:00 Cookery Show: Pran Gura
- 09:25 R Music
- 11:30 Drishyokalpo

Shangbadpotro

- 08:25 Swastho Protidin
- 08:45 Drama Serial: Rong
- 09:30 Selected Programme
- 10:05 Gallery
- 10:30 Rup Madhuri
- 11:00 The Challenge
- 11:30 Tifiner Phakey
- 12:10 Ei Shomoy
- 01:05 Japan Video Topic
- 02:30 Drama Serial: Chakkar
- 03:15 Dhupchhaya
- 04:10 Quiz Show: Janar Achhey
- 05:30 Apnaar Jigyasha
- 06:10 Shubho Shondhya
- 06:40 Tomader Pelo Bangladesh
- 08:15 Drama Serial: Mamuli Ekta Manush

Rtv

- 08:00 Ei Din
- 09:00 Trade Talk
- 10:00 Drama Serial: Dorakata
- 10:45 Taroka Alap
- 11:30 Share Update
- 12:30 Drama Serial: FDC
- 02:03 Bangla Feature Film
- 06:03 Protidin
- 06:45 Crime Focus
- 07:45 Road To Democracy

03:30

- Deho Ghari
- Best of Dhum Ta Na
- Sports Plus
- Desh Jurey
- Cookery Show: Tommy Mianr Recipe
- Drama Serial: Ghorar Dim
- Drama Serial: Lolita
- Talk Show: O Bondhu Amar

04:30

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- Sports Plus
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05:45

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06:30

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07:50

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08:20

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09:30

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10:10

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