

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-January 27
 Time: 10am-8pm



Mudhu Mela 2010

Title: 186th Birth Anniversary of Madhusudan Dutt
 Organiser: District Administration, Jessor & Banglalink
 Venue: Sagordari, Jessor
 Date: January 22-28
 Time: 3:30pm onwards



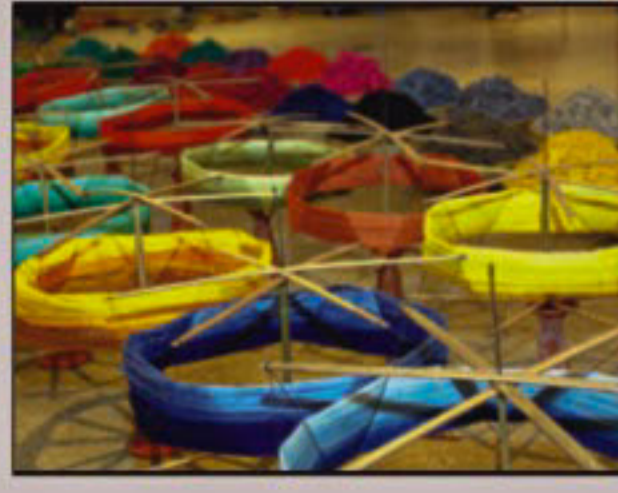
Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Staring Women
 Artist: Nazia Andaleeb Preema
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: January 15-26
 Time: 12pm-8pm



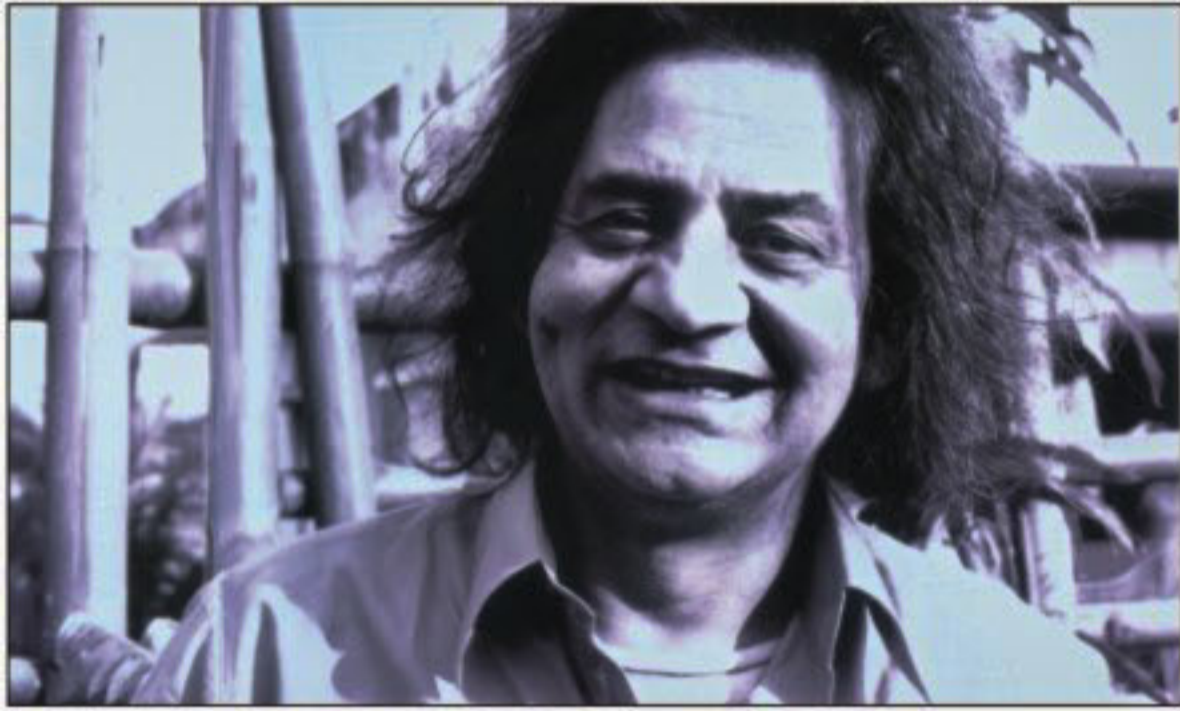
Exhibition

Title: Rang
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattachali Gallery, National Museum, Shahbagh
 Date: January 15-25
 Time: 9:30am-4:30pm & 4:30-8:30pm (Fridays)



Shahabuddin's impassioned drawings and lithographs

Solo exhibition at Saju Art Gallery



Shahabuddin Ahmed

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Shahabuddin Ahmed's solo art exhibition at Saju Art Gallery stands out for its featured mediums. The exhibition mainly includes drawings and prints. Ink has been predominately used for the drawings. A number of lithographs are on display at the exhibition. For litho, the artist has used metal plate to create bold prints. Litho is one of the complicated mediums but clearly visualises delicate lines and tones. The metal plate and the paper are positioned in a press and light pressure is used to transfer some of the ink. The original images are monochrome (pen and



Wild Horse (Litho)



Victory (Ink)

ink based). Needless to say, movement has been a recurring theme in Shahabuddin's works for the last three decades. Not only does the artist concentrate on human movements but his works also delineate a wide variety of animals. His drawings are engrossed with figures, which are the most central aspect of his drawings.

Shahabuddin perpetually focuses on the strength and power of the people of Bengal. His works depict contemporary life and times. He always tries to highlight the gallantry of our freedom fighters and their patriotism. He draws fearless figures and their bold movements. The artist uses space to increasingly interact with figures. The effective and aesthetic use of space brings about a sense of serenity in his works.

He frequently portrays Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Mahatma Gandhi, Satyajit Ray, Rabindranath Tagore and other legendary figures. He not only portrays their images, but also pours into them human emotions and expressions. His skilled hands can capture any kind of struggle, pain and passion.

Shahabuddin's work also expresses the aesthetic beauty of Bengali women, their varied moods and eternal beauty. His sketches are powerful in their tone of lines and serenity. The ink sketches, in particular, are very lively and provocative.

"The Bull Fighter" is an evocative work that delineates the movement of a powerful bull. The bull seems forceful and desperate to free itself from bondage. Through the drawing, the artist emphasises liberty.

"Departure" is another litho work that depicts a man moving forward. The image is not clearly defined. The pale backdrop seems appealing. But the movement of the figure denotes the subject's pain and struggle.

"Wild Horse" is a litho piece, which shows a number of horses on the move towards to an unknown destination. The movements' symbolise power.

"Muktijuddho" is a drawing where the artist has highlighted a number of freedom fighters heading to an operation. The fighters look very heroic and gallant. The exhibition ends on January 26.

A treat for foodies in town

'Jatiyo Pitha Utshab 2010' at Shilpakala Academy

MAINUL HASSAN

The weeklong 'Jatiyo Pitha Utshab 2010' (rice cake festival) at the Coffee House premises in Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) is in full swing. With Dhakaiites flocking the venue in hundreds daily, the festival has become a major affair. Starting from January 21, the festival will continue till January 28. The event has been organised by Jatiyo Pitha Utshab Udjapan Parishad.

"This is the third *pitha utshab* at BSA," informed actor Abdul Aziz, member of the Parishad.

"Apart from Dhaka participants, food connoisseurs from



Apart from delectable *pitha*, the festival also includes cultural programme (top). PHOTO: MUMIT M.



Comilla, Gazipur, Rajshahi, Jessore, Rangpur and Gaibandha are also attending this event," Abdul Aziz added.

A total of 26 well-decorated stalls have been set up at the venue, displaying a variety of mouth-watering rice cakes. From the all-time favourite *patishapta* to the *bhapa pitha*; the Old Dhaka classic *bakhorkhani* to the famed *nakshi pitha* and many more delicious *items* are available at reasonable prices at the festival.

"Through this event we hope to remind the city dwellers of our roots and introduce this culinary tradition, an inseparable part of our culture, to our youngsters," Abdul Aziz informed.

Vendors at the stalls reported satisfactory sales and well turnout.

"We are having a record sale," said Md. Rafiuzzaman, of 'Parboney Pithay' stall. "Almost all of our *pitha* -- 18 different types -- are sold out by 7:30 pm," he added. The festival remains open till 10 pm.

The same reaction was shared by 'Panchomela Pitha Ghar' from Gazipur, 'Comilla Pitha Ghar', 'Pitha Hut', 'Gram Banglar Pitha', 'Pitha Polli' and others.

"As the weather has improved, many visitors are preferring items like *kima puli* and *pakora* over the more familiar sweet *bhapa pitha* or *patishapta*," said Azizul Wahab of 'Chini Moni Pitha Ghar'.

The vendors have tried their best to keep their food as hygienic as possible, covering them with thin plastic covers or by simply keeping the cakes in containers.

Special prizes will be awarded based on presentation, quality, taste and cleanliness, informed the organisers.

Tablaraj Bangladesh, a group of university students, has also set up a stall at the festival.

"Proceeds from sales of our items will go to buying warm clothes for disadvantaged people who are badly affected by this brutal cold," said Ruhul Mahfuz, a member of the group.

Apart from delectable *pitha*, the festival also includes cultural programmes, featuring folk songs and street plays every evening. The festival starts from 3 pm everyday.

"Antaheen" wins top honour at 56th Indian Nat'l Film Awards for '08



A scene from the Bengali feature film "Antaheen".

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood ruled the roost taking away 12 honours, including a best actress trophy for Priyanka Chopra, even as Bengali feature film "Antaheen" directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury was adjudged the best movie when 56th Indian National Film Awards for 2008 were announced here on Saturday.

"Antaheen" -- a story about relationships -- starring Sharmila Tagore, Rahul Bose and Aparna Sen, was adjudged the best movie, which also brought the best female playback award for Shreya Ghoshal, best cinematography award for Avik Mukhopadhyaya and best lyrics for Anindya Banerjee and Chandranil Bhattacharya.

This was Aniruddha's second successive success in national awards as his debut feature film "Anuragan" starring Rahul Bose, Aparna Sen, Raima Sen, Rituparna Sengupta and Rajat Kapoor, had been adjudged the best Bengali film in 2007.

Rituparno Ghosh's "Shob Charitro Kalponik", starring Bipasha Basu and

Soni Tarporwala's film "Little Zizou" about the Mumbai Parsi community was adjudged the best film on family values while the Nargis Dutt Award for best feature film on national integration went to Manju Bora's Assamese movie "Aai Kot Nai", which deals with problems of the northeast.

Ashtosh Gowariker's epic love story "Jodhaa Akbar" won the best costume design award (Neeta Lulla) and best choreography (Chinni and Rekha Prakash).

Neeraj Pandey won the Indira Gandhi Award for first film of a director for his thriller "A Wednesday" starring Naseeruddin Shah and Anupam Kher.

Nandita Das' directorial debut "Firaq", a film on the aftermath of Gujarat riots in the year 2002, won the best editing award for A Sreekar and best art direction for Gautam Sen. The film stars Naseeruddin Shah and Sarika in lead roles.

Yashraj Film's "Roadside Romeo" won the award for best animation film.



Priyanka Chopra won the best actress award for her role in "Fashion".

Prosenjit, was adjudged the best Bengali film in 2008.

Upenra Limaye won the best actor award for 2008 for his role in Marathi film "Jogva" which also pocketed four other honours -- best film on social issues, music direction (Ajay and Atul), best male playback singer (Hariharan).

Tamil filmmaker Bala won the best director for his film "Naan Kadavul".

However, the 56th chapter of the National Awards for 2008 clearly belonged to Bollywood.

Delhi-based director Dibakar Banerjee's flick "Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!" was adjudged the best popular film.

Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra bagged the best actress award for her role of an aspiring model in Madhur Bhandarkar's "Fashion" while co-star Kangana Ranaut won the best supporting actress award for playing the role of a troubled model in the same movie.

Arjun Rampal won the award for best supporting actor for his role of a failed rocker in "Rock On" which also bagged the award for best Hindi feature film in language category.

In Focus

Naren Das: A skilled musical instrument maker



PHOTO: STAR

Naren Das at work.

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidaha

Naren Das is well known as a maker of percussion instruments in greater Jessore. Music fans and artistes flock to Naren for his quality musical instruments, particularly *dugi* and *tabla*.

Naren, 55, is the son of late Sakhi Chandra Das of Manikganj district. His father died in 1971. Poverty compelled Naren to take up his father's profession at a very early age. When he turned 18 he went to India and stayed at his maternal uncle Hari Das' home at Balughat village under West Dinajpur district in India. Eighteen months later he returned to Bangladesh.

He moved to Magura and began to make musical instruments. As business was lean in Magura, he settled in Jessore. Today Naren can make *dugi*, *tabla*, *dholok*, *nal*, *khol*, *dhak*, *congo*, *bango*, *dugdugi* and *khamok*. Naren

has now been working in Jessore for 30 years and has a flourishing business. His shop stands on BK Road in Jessore and attracts many a musiclover.

While talking to The Daily Star, Naren said that he sells 8/10 pairs of *dugi* and *tabla* per month. He also sells other instruments and earns a reasonable amount with which he can run his household comfortably. He sells a pair of *dugi* *tabla* for Taka 2,000 to 4,200. However, he cannot meet the demands for *dugi* *tabla* as he has a limited number of employees.

Naren's reputation extends to all corners of Bangladesh. He has trained at least 20/25 people to make musical instruments in Dhaka and Sylhet. Now his desire is to expand his shop and engage more employees. Meanwhile, he lives a contented life with his family.

৩য় আন্তর্জাতিক শিশু চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব, বাংলাদেশ

উৎসবে ১২ টি ভেনুতে ৫০ টি দেশের ২৪০ টি ছবি প্রদর্শিত হবে

সকল প্রদর্শনী শিশুদের জন্য উন্মুক্ত

মূল উৎসব কেন্দ্র

কেন্দ্রীয় পাবলিক লাইব্রেরী, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা

বিস্তারিত প্রদর্শন সূচি জানতে:

www.cfs-bangladesh.com