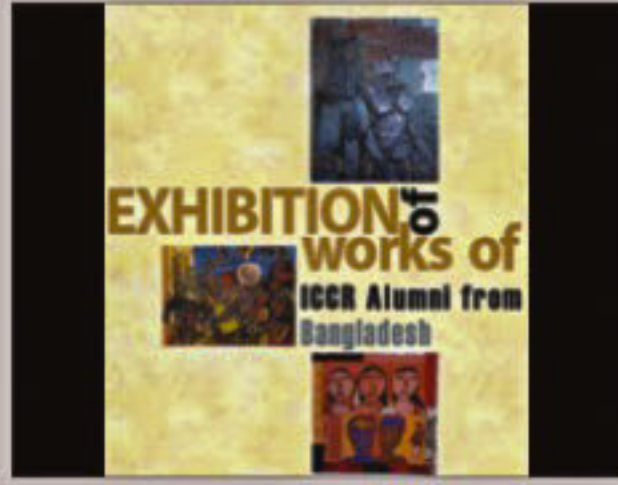


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Group Art Exhibition

**Organiser:** High Commission of India, Dhaka and ICCR  
**Venue:** Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1  
**Date:** March 10-23  
**Time:** 10am-6pm



### Solo Painting Exhibition

**Title:** Not Here  
**Artist:** Ali Akbar  
**Venue:** Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** March 13-27  
**Time:** 3-9pm (except Fridays and Saturdays)



### Solo Photography Exhibition

**Title:** Hridaye Bangladesh  
**Photographer:** Chanchal Mahmud  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R-27 (old), Dhanmondi  
**Date:** March 19-30  
**Time:** 12pm-8pm



### Boats Exhibition

**Title:** Traditional Boats of Bangladesh  
**Venue:** Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum  
**Date:** March 23-April 19  
**Time:** 10am -5pm



# Dhaka Padatik-UCB International Theatre Festival '10 in full swing

"Teen Number Chokh" staged on opening day



Actors of Lokkrishti in the play "Teen Number Chokh".

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



Abul Kalam Azad (centre), Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, inaugurating the festival; also seen are Indian High Commissioner Rajeev Mitter (behind Azad) and Swiss Ambassador Urs Herren (right).

MAINUL HASSAN

"Teen Number Chokh" (by renowned writer Samresh Majumdar) -- staged by Lokkrishti, a visiting troupe from India -- was the first play at the weeklong (March 19-

25) Dhaka Padatik-UCB International Theatre Festival 2010.

The play highlights the ill-effects of greed and self-interest. The plot centres on a family, with the elderly Satyaprokash Dutt (Falguni Chattopadhyay) as the patri-

arch. Satyaprokash, his son Arunprakash (Prasun Bhattacharya), daughter-in-law Protima (Rumki Chattopadhyay) and granddaughter Urmila (Monalisa Chattopadhyay) all have their individual goals. Satyaprokash wants his own

house, Arunprakash wishes to buy a flat and Urmila dreams of going to USA for higher education. These aspirations, however, cannot be realised as the family is cash-strapped.

Another important character in the play is Kanchan (Shampayan Lahiri) -- Urmila's friend and a well-wisher of the family. Kanchan's character represents conscience. Satyaprokash decides to commit suicide when he realises that his dream won't come true. Things worsen when Urmila wants to join her grandfather as her father chooses to buy a new flat rather than funding his daughter's education abroad.

In the midst of this entanglement, a lawyer shows up at their door, bearing a letter for Protima. The missive is a will from an anonymous individual bestowing a huge fortune on Protima, whom he claims to be his wife. The shocked family berates Protima for hiding the truth of her secret marriage. Everyone

turns a deaf ear to Protima's repeated attempts to explain herself and she is ordered to leave the house.

However, the greedy family members soon begin to realise that Protima could be their golden goose and help them realise their goals. Protima's husband tells her to go the lawyer's office posing as the dead man's wife and collect the cheque. This is the last straw for Protima as she sees the real faces of her loved ones for the first time. She decides to leave the house. At this point Kanchan makes a surprising entry and tells everyone the truth.

The play was directed by Phalguni Chattopadhyay.

Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, inaugurated the festival on March 19 at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Among others, Ramendu Majumdar, president, ITI world wide; Golam Kuddus, president, Dhaka Padatik; Rajeev Mitter, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh and Urs Herren, Swiss Ambassador to Bangladesh were present on the occasion.

Apart from "Teen Number Chokh", Lokkrishti also staged an experimental production "Acho Ontorey", highlighting the cultural harmony between India and Bangladesh, on the opening day. It symbolised the bond between the people of both countries in the form of two lovers separated by barbed-wires.

"The production has been specially planned for the festival. Through this production we hope to portray the bond and affection between the people and theatre activists of both countries. We're elated to be able to join this festival," said Monalisa Chattopadhyay, choreographer and director of "Acho Ontorey".

## Tribute to a musical genius

# Bicentenary birth anniversary celebrations of Chopin

KAVITA, New Delhi

A Philippines-born pianist, now a resident of New York, playing the music of brilliant Polish composer and pianist Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin in New Delhi? Globalisation is well and truly here in the cultural world.

This year as the world celebrates the bicentennial birth anniversary of Chopin (1810-1849), pianist Adolovni Acosta was in New Delhi recently as part of the Embassy of Poland's "Tribute from Asia". The evening included mazurkas, etudes, a nocturne, impromptu and Fantaisie in F Minor, Op 49. "These are painful chords as it takes time to resolve them," says Adolovni. A deep pain permeates his works, she says, an outcome of his turbulent life: leaving his beloved homeland after the outbreak of the November Uprising in 1830, a stormy relationship with famous French writer George Sand and debilitating tuberculosis.

Adolovni also played a few pieces of Isaac Albeniz, Robert Schumann and Felix Mendelssohn. Having taken her music

to Pune, Delhi and Kolkata, Adolovni is to perform in Bangalore on March 22.

The inaugural Delhi concert dedicated to Chopin is one of many such treats that the Embassy of Poland has up its sleeve. All year round

exhibitions and ballet performances. Says Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to India, Professor Piotr Klodkowski, "We believe that Chopin's revolutionary approach changed the history of music."

dance. "His music was not lofty and appealed to the common folk as well," says Professor Klodkowski, going on to add, "It is perfect music, which can be discovered again and again by all generations."

author Leo Tolstoy. Likewise French writer Honore de Balzac asserted, "Chopin is less a musician than a soul manifesting and communicating itself through all manner of music, even through simple chords."

The credit for the Chopin 2010 celebrations in New Delhi must go to the Embassy of Poland, the Delhi Music Society, India International Centre together with the Chopin 2010 India Celebration Committee.

One interesting experiment in the yearlong celebrations is likely to be a fusion of Chopin music with Indian classical dance.

Bangladesh could also figure in the bicentennial celebrations with Chopin films, lecture demonstrations and concerts in the second half of the year. Detailed programmes, venues and dates still remain to be worked out.

If all goes according to plan, Dhakaites can look forward to some spellbinding cultural fare dedicated to the perennial musical genius of Chopin.



Adolovni Acosta playing a Chopin composition at the programme.

Chopin will be celebrated in various cities in India, in tandem with prominent organisations, in the form of films, concerts, workshops, lecture demonstrations,

Chopin has also been variously described as a "poet of the piano" and a musician of the masses as he was greatly influenced by his national folk music and

Many world-renowned figures fell under the spell of Chopin's music. "You can love Poles for one thing itself, that they had Chopin!" remarked famous Russian

## Yesterday once more

Nibedon presents songs from the gramophone record era

A CORRESPONDENT

As a tribute to the renowned cultural personality Waheedul Haque, Nibedon, a musical group of the city, staged a programme at the main auditorium of National Museum on March 19. Titled "Phirey Chalo Apon Gharey", the programme featured popular songs from the gramophone record era.

Artists of Nibedon performed songs from 1900-1950 (known as the "golden era" of Bangla songs), originally recorded by Lal Chand Boral, Angur Bala, Indu Bala, Bechu Dutt, Krishna Chandra Dey, Kanan Devi, Sachin Dev Buman, Jagonmoy Mitra, Hemanta Mukherjee, Bela Mukhopadhyay, Sudhir Lal, Satya Chowdhury, Santosh Sengupta, Robin Majumdar, Shaila Devi and more.

Eminent composers -- Rai Chand Boral, Tulshi

Lahiri, Kamol Dasgupta, Himangshu Dutta, Shailesh Dasgupta, Salil Chowdhury, Hemanta Mukherjee and others composed those songs.

Prior to the renditions, eminent musical exponent Dr. Karunamaya Goswami and president of Nibedon, Anup Bhattacharya, spoke on the occasion.

Artistes of Nibedon -- Bishwajit Roy, Shahid Kabir, Shutopa Roy, Sanjay Roy, Sanjay Kabiraj, Jahangir Alam Hridoy, Sumona Das, Suma Roy, Ripon Mondol, Shantonu Shaha Roy and Afroza Khandakar performed "Khelaghar Mor Bhengey Gechhey", "Kono Ek Ga-er Bodhu", "Nai Ba Ghumaley Priyo", "Jhora Phuley Bhora", "Jodi Mon-e Porey", "Kader Kul-er Bou", "Piyashi Bhangilo Rey Mor", "Raater Mayur Chharalo", "Ei Ki Go Shesh Daan", "Naam-e Byathito Badol Shondhya" and more at the event.

## Nokia announces "Play Project" to remake Feedback classics



Feedback performs at the event.

A CORRESPONDENT

Mega-hits of the band Feedback are getting a makeover and "mix-master" Fuad Al Muqtadir is ready for the job.

Nokia would be presenting an album featuring the re-imagining of Feedback songs. The album will include 10 popular songs, which took the 80s' musical scene by storm.

The songs to be featured in the upcoming album will be selected through an online poll. Fans can vote for their favourite Feedback songs (out of twenty) like "Abar Mela", "Udashi Ei Mon", "Ek Jhak Projapoti", "Moushumi 1", "Janala", "Chithi", "Bidrohi", "Swadesh", "Geeti Kobita 1", "Geeti Kobita 2", "Palki 1", "Palki 2", "Gurur Bhab", "Kori Mana", "Prem", "Emoni Raate", "Ei Din Chirodin" and "Dur Thekey Durey". Music enthusiasts can vote on [www.nokia.com.bd/play](http://www.nokia.com.bd/play).

"I will definitely keep the original essence of the songs intact; the sound would get a

makeover," said Fuad.

"When I first heard of the project, I was a little nervous, and for good reasons. Feedback is one of the pioneers of contemporary Bangladeshi music. Remaking their songs would be a demanding job," he said.

"I will give it my best shot," he added. Talking about the project, Labu Rahman, vocalist and lead guitarist of Feedback said, "Original lyrics and compositions won't be tampered with. What the listeners would get is an updated sound and Fuad's magic. I'm optimistic that the album will be equally popular among the youngsters and old school Feedback fans."

The announcement was made at Hotel Sonargaon on March 20. Among others, Nowfel Anwar, head of marketing, Nokia Emerging Asia; members of Feedback and Fuad were present at the event. Feedback performed some of their songs at the event.

The project has been named "Play Project".

## Priyanka Chopra wins Indian National Film Award

Priyanka Chopra and Arjun Rampal joined an elite club of winners on Friday after being presented with the National Awards at a ceremony in New Delhi which also saw veteran cameraman V.K. Murthy receiving the Dada Saheb Phalke amid a standing ovation from the audience.

The award for best direction went to Bala for Tamil film "Naan Kadavul".

Priyanka, 28, received the Rajat Kamal Medal and a cash prize of Rs 50,000 for Best Actress for her role as an aspiring model in "Fashion" with her co-star Kangana Ranaut, also winning the award for Best Supporting Actress.

Rampal received the award for Supporting Actor for his role as a struggling musician in "Rock On" while the award for Best Actor was conferred on Upendra Limaye for the Marathi film "Jogva". It is a first national award for Rampal, Priyanka and Kangana.

Murthy, 87, who shot India's first cinemascope movie "Kagaz Ke Phool" and best remembered for his stunning camera work for all films of legendary Guru Dutt, is the first cinematographer to be given the Phalke since its inception in 1969.

Dibakar Banerjee's "Oye Lucky! Lucky



Oye!" was given the award for the best popular film providing wholesome entertainment.

Source: Internet