

<p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p>	<p>Nazrul Birth Anniversary Organiser: Nazrul Institute (Ministry of Cultural Affairs) Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh Date: May 31 Time: 5pm onwards</p> 	<p>Dhaka Fashion Week Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi Date: May 28-29 Time: 10am-7:30pm</p> 	<p>Solo Photography Exhibition Title: Soulscapes- Ontor Bhumi Photographer: GMB Akash Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi Date: June 1-10 Time: 12-8pm</p> 	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Rooted Creativity-2 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275/F Dhanmondi Date: May 18-29 Time: 12 pm-8 pm</p> 
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Breaking the confines of social discrimination

Installation exhibition at National Art Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fortnight-long installation exhibition, titled "Khachar Bhiton Auchin Wrishi" is on at the National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Jointly organised by the NGO Paritran and non-profit organisation Di+, the exhibition began on May 25.

The aim of the exhibition is to generate awareness in the Wrishi community of the country. At present, larger groups of Wrishis live in Khulna division and Dhaka city. Locally, they are known as muchi or charmar and historically they have been classified as lower caste. The exhibition showcases the cultural aspects of the community. Generating awareness against social discrimination is another intention of the exhibition.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promod Mankin inaugurated the exhibition. Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Itala Occhi and human rights activist Sultana Kamal were present as special guests at the inaugural programme.

Among others, Milan Das, executive director, Paritran and Laura Morelli, president, Di+ were present at the programme.

The exhibition is the brainchild of three Italian artists Laura Morelli, Jua Gargano and Giovanni Diffidenti. The gallery premise is being used for the installation. Fences have been put up at usually vacant spaces of the gallery, such as the entrance and windows -- giving the viewer the illusion of being in a cage.

Inside the cage or the gallery, artistes have used artworks and everyday items used by the Wrishi



The installation features everyday items used by the Wrishi community. PHOTO COURTESY: GIOVANNI DIFFIDENTI

community as well as photographs [by Giovanni Diffidenti]. The installation is divided into two sections -- male and female.

As part of the campaign, street performances were also held prior to the exhibition.

The exhibition is open till June 8, everyday from

11am to 7pm (on Fridays from 3 pm to 8 pm).

The Xaverian Fathers, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Dalit Parishad are supporting the exhibition, with patronage from the Italian Embassy. Ogilvy and Mather Communications Pvt. Ltd. is the communications partner of the exhibition.



An enchantress casts her spell

Shreya Ghoshal performs in Dhaka

KARIM WAHEED

People started pouring in Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka before 5pm on May 27. Both floors of the Hall of Fame were getting packed. Dhakaities were eagerly waiting for a Bollywood night-ingle to take the stage. There was added enthusiasm however; this particular 'Bollywood Sensation' is Bengali.

As minutes turned into hour, the stage needed to be engaged. Kuntal Banerjee, an upcoming singer from Kolkata, was the opening act. Kuntal is a capable vocalist, no doubt, and he belted out a decent cover of Kailash Kher's Sufi hit "Teri Deewani" but unfortunately for him, it was a tough audience who were there for the main course and were not really appeased by the appetizer.

As he tried to work the audience, the singer rendered a Rabindra Sangeet, "Ami Chini Go Chini Tomarey"; a Kishore Kumar classic, "Neele Neele Ambar" and a Bappi Lahiri hit du jour, "Chirodin-i Tumi Je Amar".

Around 7:30 pm, the wait was over. Four Indian National Film Awards winner, multilingual Bengali singer Shreya Ghoshal took the stage and like butter the full house seemingly melted under her charm.

Shreya began with a rendition of the song that gave her the seminal big break in the Mumbai-based film industry -- "Silsila Ye Chaahat Ka" from the film "Devdas".

The songstress's rise to fame has not exactly been a Cinderella story but more of a steady recognition of her talent. As a child she won the children's special episode of the talent

hunt "Sa Re Ga Ma" (now "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa") on Zee TV. Renowned musician Kalyanji who judged the competition, convinced Shreya's parents to move to Mumbai. She caught the attention of filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali when she participated in "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa" for a second time. In 2000, he offered her the opportunity to lend her voice to Paro, the female lead of his film "Devdas". This soundtrack earned her a Filmfare Award (her first) for Best Female Playback Singer. She also won her first National Film Award for the song "Bairi Piya" (from "Devdas").

She has done playback for over 140

films and worked with all major Indian music directors, including Ilayaraja, AR Rahman, Anu Malik, Himesh Reshammiya, MM Keeravani, Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy and Pritam. Besides Hindi and her mother tongue Bangla, Shreya also sings in Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu.

What sets Shreya apart from her contemporaries is perhaps the same quality that distinguishes iconic singer Lata Mangeshkar -- an innate ability to channel a sort of inner purity, and turn up the heat when necessary with equal ease.

For the soundtrack of "Delhi-6" AR Rahman superimposed the original rendition of Raga Gujari Todi by the legendary Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan with the vocals of Shreya. There must be a reason why Rahman chose Shreya. The late Ustad is undoubtedly a maestro, last heard in an Indian film almost half a century back ("Mughal-e-Azam"). But what's astounding is how Shreya keeps up with the legend with a kind of poise that can only come from a solid background in classical music.

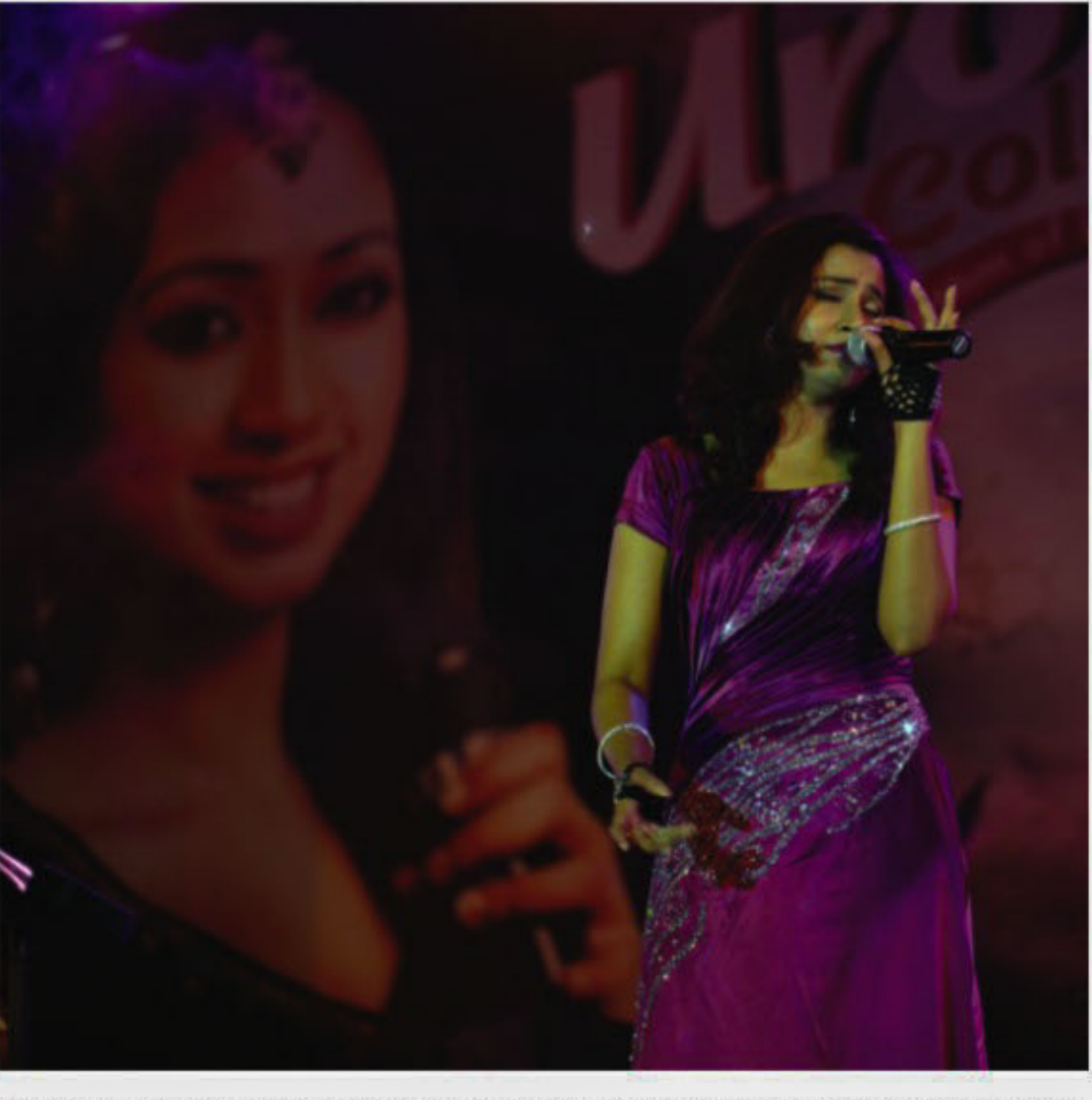
Shreya's repertoire at the Dhaka concert included her recent and not-so-recent popular songs from films. With "Chalo Tumko Lekar Chale" (from "Jism"), she invited the audience to set out on a musical journey. With "Wada Raha Pyar Se" (from "Khakee"), she professed her love for her fans.

The diva continued to segue from one hit to another: "Agar Tum Mil Jao", "Jaadu Hai Nasha Hai", "Tujh Mein Rab Dikhta Hai", "Teri Ore", "Shukran Allah" and more.

The Rabindra Sangeet inspired "Piya Bole" (from "Parineeta") was greeted with rounds of applause and cheer. But what brought the house down was a spirited rendition of "Ami Je Tomar/ Mere Dholna". "Spirited" because it was as if the crooner was invoking the much-feared spirit, Manjulika, from the film "Bhool Bhulaiyaa". Haunting indeed.

In between, the audience sang along with the artiste and Shreya had this to say about the Dhaka music enthusiasts at the show: "Not one of you is out of tune! Incredible!"

The show was managed by Mirror Media & Production Ltd and organised by The Financial Mirror, a national business weekly.



Shreya Ghoshal sings at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka on May 27, 2010.

Documentary on Nilufar Yasmin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Foundation has recently released a documentary featuring the life and works of noted singer Nilufar Yasmin. Titled "Shurer Swajan", DVD of the documentary is now available in the market.

Nilufar Yasmin was born on February 13, 1948 in Kolkata, West Bengal. She was the fourth of five Yasmin sisters, famed in the Bangladeshi music scenario. Her siblings are Farida Yasmin, Fauzia Yasmin, Najma Yasmin, and Sabina Yasmin.

Nilufar Yasmin excelled as a Nazrul Sangeet artiste, although she was equally proficient as an adhunik and playback singer.

She received Ekushey Padak (posthumously) in 2004. Nilufar Yasmin was married to the multi-talented Khan Ataur Rahman. Their son Agun is a popular singer-composer. Yasmin died in 2003.



Cover of the DVD.

TV Watch

"Titas Ekti Nadir Naam" on Channel i today

A CORRESPONDENT

Channel i will air Ritwik Ghatak's "Titas Ekti Nadir Naam" today at 2:30 pm. The film narrates the lives of fishermen who eke out a living from an unpredictable river that either dries up, or wreaks havoc with angry floods and communities that fall prey to modernisation, avaricious outsiders and political conflict.

"Titas Ekti Nadir Naam," is based on a book by Adwaita Malla Burman. The story zooms in on the lives of the Malo community whose existence is inextricably



Kabori (right) and Probir Mitra in "Titas Ekti Nadir Naam".

intertwined with the Titas river in Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.

The film features Kabori, Probir Mitra, Rosy Samad, Rawshan Jamil in the main

roles. Noted cinematographer Baby Islam, who passed away on May 24, has done the cinematography of "Titas Ekti Nadir Naam".

DeWyze triumphs over Bowersox on "American Idol"

Simon Cowell says goodbye

AP, Los Angeles

Lee DeWyze, a paint store clerk who overcame his shyness to impress "American Idol" judges and viewers with his spirit and soulful voice, triumphed Wednesday over bluesy musician Crystal Bowersox in the contest's ninth season.

When asked by host Ryan Seacrest how he felt, an emotional DeWyze said, "I don't know. It's amazing, thank you, guys, so much... I love you. Crystal, I love you."

The finalists had closely matched fan bases, with just a 2 percent voting gap between them coming into the finale, host Seacrest said. DeWyze's victory was based on votes cast after Tuesday's performance show, which drew more judges' compliments for Bowersox, 24, of Toledo, Ohio, than for DeWyze, also 24, of Mount Prospect, Illinois.

"It's okay to put yourself out there and to take risks. Before all this I wasn't always open to big risks like this, and now I'm just like ... I'm going to run with it. And you only live once," DeWyze said.

As for the judges' lukewarm appraisals he got Tuesday, he said it's possible to "nitpick" anything but he's happy with the songs he selected and how he did.

He called Bowersox "amazing" and said, "I love her to death. I know she's going to be successful."

Bowersox was downright Zen about the results. "I knew Lee was going to win. People seemed surprised by that, but I just had a feeling.

I couldn't be happier for him. He deserves every minute of this," she said backstage, looking as calm and cheerful as she has throughout the season.

"Both of us are going to have very successful careers and we're going to be friends for a long time," she said of DeWyze.

The finale made the most of Simon Cowell's last appearance as a judge. A film package recounting highlights from the Cowell years was shown and comedian Dane Cook came on stage to sing "Simon

appearance. "I didn't think I was going to be this emotional and I genuinely am. ... Everybody asks who's going to replace me, who going to be the next judge. The truth is," he told the audience, "you guys are the judge of this show and you've done an incredible job over the years."

Kris Allen, last year's winner, sang "The Truth," with Carrie Underwood, Michael McDonald, Christina Aguilera, Hall & Oates, Robin and Barry Gibb, Janet Jackson and Joe Cocker were among

those whose performances were scattered throughout the two-hour show. Bowersox, with a distinctive, Janis Joplinesque-voice and whose status as a single mom and warmth earned her the nickname "Mama Sox," had basked in praise Tuesday.

"You took that song and you absolutely nailed it," Cowell said of Bowersox's rendition of "Black Velvet," a song he said he's normally "allergic" to because it gets murdered.

Cowell, in turn, shed his usual cool in an on-stage



(From left) Lee DeWyze, host Ryan Seacrest and Crystal Bowersox at the "American Idol" Season 9 finale.