





<p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p>	<p>Music Festival Organiser: Department of Music, University of Dhaka Venue: TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University Date: July 30-31 Time: 5pm</p> 	<p>Art Competition 2010 Organiser: Zainul Abedin Art School, Tongi Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Date: July 29</p> 	<p>Theatre Play: The Communicator Troupe: Centre for Asian Theatre Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: August 2 Time: 7pm</p> 	<p>Art Camp Organiser: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts Venue: Bengal Centre, Airport Road, Dhaka Date: July 29-Aug 1</p> 
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Intrigued by the symbolic *Uttam's solo exhibition at Impressions Gallery*



Paintings by Uttam Kumar Roy.

A CORRESPONDENT

Uttam Kumar Roy's solo painting exhibition, titled "Agony," ended yesterday at Impressions Gallery of Standard Chartered Bank in Gulshan, Dhaka.

Uttam is one of the emerging painters in Bangladesh who likes to experiment with colours and forms. Previously he did a lot of work themed on the ozone layer and the symbolic spider's web. His previous works are more technique based and demonstrate his sense of craftsmanship. At the recent exhibition, his paintings on display feature rectangular and vertical lines. His focus, however, remains on textures and his interest in the expressive qualities of the surface has led him to use a technique where forms and

colours are the prime aspects. His recent works are seemingly influenced by German expressionists. Roy's originality lies in his freedom of applying techniques, in a spontaneous movement through which thick brushstrokes -- particularly in crimson and blue -- create vague shapes with a whimsical appearance.

The artist maintains continuity. Hope, agony, longing and dreams are invoked with passion. The artist allows all these ingredients to frequent his canvases in various symbolic configurations.

Uttam graduated in drawing and painting from Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts. He has held several solo and group exhibitions in different parts of the world. He has received National Young Artists Award in 2004 and 2006. He also won a National Award in 2007.

Readers' Column

Vocalist Girija Devi: Music that tugs at the heartstrings

DITHI HASNAT

I first heard Girija Devi in a live performance way back in 2006 at New Delhi's Nehru Park. It was organised by Spic Macay (also known as the Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth) New Delhi. It was an amazing experience since I had only heard her recorded performances before that.

Rumors were rife that she was in poor health. But when I heard her perform at Nehru Park, I felt that she had offered some really great music to her audience, laying to rest any fears of her diminishing musical capabilities. Before that performance she had just

had an open heart surgery. As a devoted fan of hers, I was excited at that time to listen to her live performance. I felt that her voice was like a sensitive seismograph. Equally astounding was her vivid imagination, which lent a new dimension to whatever she sang.

Although in her late 70s now, her music reflects the old involvement and abundance. At her performance, she sang a *khayal* based on "Raga Khamaj." She was accompanied on the *tabla* by Pandit Kishan Maharaj. It was a scintillating experience for me to listen to two maestros of Varanasi together. Subsequently she sang *Chaiti Kajri* and of course her specialty,

thumri.

Girija is one of the last masters of the *Purab ang gayaki* tradition of the Banaras *Gharana* (school of music). She has been equally effective singing in the traditional 18th century classical style of *khayal* as well as semi-classical styles such as *thumri*, *tappa*, *kajri*, *dadra*, and *chaiti*.

The recipient of the prestigious Padma Shri Award (in 1972) and the Padma Bhushan (in 1989), she has also received the Sangeet Natak Academy Awards of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Born in Varanasi (formerly Banaras), an ancient cultural/religious centre located on the left bank of the Ganges

river, Girija has been singing much of her life. Studying with influential vocalist and *sarangi* player Pandit Sarju Prasad from the age of five, she later continued her studies with Pandit Chandra Misra. She made her debut appearance in 1949 during a recital that was broadcast by the All India Radio station in Allahabad.

Girija performed in her first concert a year later. Teaching at the ITC Sangeet Research Academy from its inception in the early '90s, she served as guru for many students, including Dalia Rahut, Jayita Pandey, and Satyanarayan Misra, the son of her own guru, Pandit Sarju Prasad. Leaving the school after 12 years, she returned to Varanasi, where she became a visiting professor at Banaras Hindu University.

Her brilliant renderings of light classical music have tugged at the heartstrings of audiences worldwide. In her huge repertoire of *khayal*, *thumri*, *gul*, *naksh*, *prabandha*, *dadra*, *tappa*, *kajri*, *chaiti* and *bhajan* and many others, she emphasises the beauty of the lyrics. When in full flow, her voice, with its resonance and timbre, sonorously recaptures the rich melody of a *shehnai*. Her stimulating performances reveal her sensitivity, erudition and versatility as a vocalist. Endowed with a divine magic in the depths of her voice, every recital of hers blesses her listeners with a sense of profound fulfilment.



Girija Devi during a performance.

Three noted personalities receive 'Geetanjali Padak'

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury along with educationist Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and former director general of Bangladesh Television Enamul Haque were recently awarded with 'Geetanjali Padak 2010,' according to a press release.

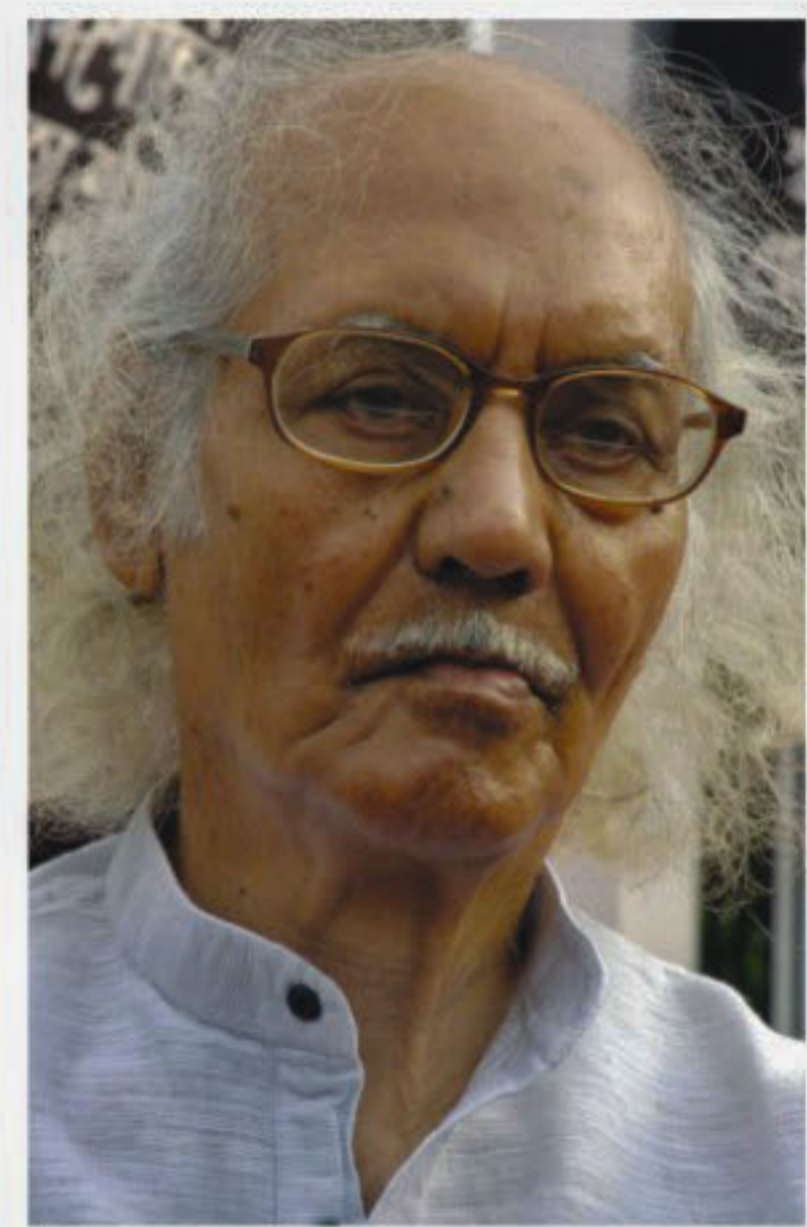
Cultural organisation Geetanjali Academy of Fine Arts arranged the award giving ceremony at the auditorium of Small and Cottage Industries Training Institute, Uttara, on July 23. The programme also marked celebration of the cultural organisation's sixth anniversary.

Noted researcher Professor Rafiqul Islam presided over the programme. After the award giving ceremony, members of the organisation took part in a cultural function. Since its beginning, Geetanjali has been honouring eminent persons for their outstanding contribution to the society.

Last year, Language Movement veteran Dr. Alauddin Al Azad and litterateur Imdadul Haque Milon received the



Zillur Rahman Siddiqui



Kabir Chowdhury

award. The award also went to filmmaker Soovas Dutt (2004), artist Mustafa

Monwar (2007) and Professor Rafiqul Islam (2008).

Shipra Khan performs at Shadhona Studio Theatre

Shipra Khan, wife of late sarangi maestro and guru of classical vocals Ustad Mohammad Sagiruddin Khan, recently performed at Shadhona's Studio Theatre in Banani, according to a press release.

A disciple of the late Ustad Sagiruddin and an accomplished classical singer herself, Shipra performed *khayal* in "Shyam Kalyan," followed by a short *khayal* piece in "Raga Miyan Ki Malhar" and *thumri* in "Raga Manjh Khamaj," "Desh" and "Tilok Kamod."

The *bandish* or lyrics highlighted the essence of monsoon. Shourabh Hossain (on *tabla*), Shumon (harmonium) and Iram Akhtar (*tanpura*) accompanied Shipra during the performance.

Prior to her performance,



Shipra Khan (centre) performs at the programme.

Shipra handed two recently released *sarangi* albums of Ustad Sagiruddin Khan to

Sadaf Saaz and Naila Khan, trustees of Shadhona. The albums feature recorded

performances recovered recently from the archives of All India Radio.

Impact of fishing on rural culture

Music, dance and play in Khagrachhari



Young dancers at the programme.

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) and District Fishery Office (DFO) jointly organised a cultural programme at Shilpakala Academy, under Sadar upazila in the hill district to generate awareness among farmers in fish farming.

Local artistes presented dances that highlighted fishing, village life and traditions. Singers rendered songs on a range of issues including the effects of

climate change, child labour and early marriage etc.

They artistes also staged a short play, titled "Machhey Bhathey Bangali," written by District Fishery Officer Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman.

The play featured how just 20 to 30 years back people fulfilled their people needs with ample fish and the shortfalls in the fish-farming sector now.

Earlier a rally paraded the main streets of the hill town.

Drama serial "Sheyal Pandit" on Rtv tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Sheyal Pandit" will be aired on Rtv on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:20 pm. Al Hazen is the director of the serial, which is scripted by Shahin Zaman.

The serial is set in Alamnagar village. The villagers are mostly robbers who have taken to crime hereditarily. Long ago, the village chief along with the villagers decided to part with a stipulated amount of paddy to the robbers. In return, the latter would spare the neighbouring 20 villages.

Eventually, the offspring of most of these robbers pursue higher studies. The gripping story unfolds with some humorous incidents along the way.

The cast includes A.T.M Shamsuzzaman, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Chanchal Chowdhury, Nadia, A.K.M Hasan and Nupur.



Chanchal Chowdhury (right) and A.T.M Shamsuzzaman in the serial.