

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Calligraphy Exhibition

Calligrapher: Najib Tareque  
Venue: Impressions Gallery, 67, Gulshan Avenue  
Date: August 19-September 19  
Time: 9:30am-2:30pm and 4-5pm (Sunday-Thursday) and 10am-1pm (Saturday)



### Photography Exhibition

Title: Ramadan in the Middle East  
Photographer: Christel Becker-Rau  
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H-10, Rd-9, Dhamondi  
Date: August 9-September 9  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Group Art Exhibition

Title: Glory of Vision  
Venue: Zainul Gallery-2, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka  
Date: September 2-10  
Time: 11am-8pm



### Photo Exhibition

To mark Int'l Day of Tourism  
Title: Tourist Sights of Moscow and Moscow Region  
Venue: Modern Language Institute, DU  
Date: September 2-28



# The seduction of the flute

## World Flute Festival



The saffron clad Kiran Chandra Roy's Baul songs carried the day (above); as did the mellifluous strains of the flute rendered by Jalal Ahmed, Bazlur Rahman and Mohammad Moniruzzaman (Top right).

KAVITA, New Delhi

The recently concluded Love, Peace, Water Raasrang World Flute Festival in New Delhi was a reminder that music can transcend all geographical and linguistic barriers. On hand were flautists from countries like USA, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as well as artistes from various Indian states. Over a space of seven days, big names such as Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia,

James Galway, Steve Gorn and Ronu Majumdar, had the audience eating out of their hands.

Explaining the raison d'etre of the fest, Arun Budhiraja, founder trustee of the Krishna Prerna Trust, the organiser of the festival said, "The Trust believes that the flute is an instrument of 'divine seduction' and has the ability to draw one to the centre, including all kinds of instruments that get bound to the flute. Moreover, the

flute is an instrument played in almost all parts of the world."

The programme saw some truly marvellous performances. The evening featured the Manganiyar musicians from Rajasthan and an ensemble of Bangladeshi performers.

The first half of the programme showcased the eight-member Rajasthani ensemble. Clad in their traditional pleated attire, set off by colourful turbans, the folk

artistes presented individual and fusion pieces on little known but fascinating musical instruments such as the *algoza* (a double flute), *khartal* (a percussion instrument that consists of a pair of wooden blocks with jingles), *kamaycha* (a bow and string instrument used by the folk artists of the Manganiyar community) and *pungi* (an instrument played by snake charmers in India). The vocals too commanded attention, as did the *dholak*, *murali*

and *shahnai*. A truly seamless performance there.

Next came the Bangladeshi group of eight musicians. Despite invariable comparisons with the Rajasthani ensemble compounded by a faltering start, the troupe received a warm response from the audience. The saffron clad Kiran Chandra Roy's Baul songs carried the day as did the mellifluous strains of the flute rendered by Jalal Ahmed, Bazlur Rahman and Mohammad Moniruzzaman. The musical instruments were matched with the *Bangla dhol* (by Dashrath Dash), *tabla* (Mohammad Enamul Haque), *dotara* (Ratan Kumar Roy) and *shahnai* (Murtaza Kabir).

The star performers were, without doubt, Roy, Dash and Jalal Ahmed. However, while Dash's booming dhol with its sharp, staccato beats and his showmanship succeeded in conjuring up visions of rural Bangladesh, Roy was not altogether convincing as a Baul wandering minstrel.

The eight musicians were unanimous about the attractions of the Indian capital. "Delhi is a fascinating musical city," asserted Roy, adding that his favourite Indian singers were Lata Mangeshkar, SD Burman, Pandit Jasraj, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Shobha Gurtu, Girija Devi and Ustad Rashid Khan,



Clad in their traditional pleated attire, set off by colourful turbans, the folk artistes of Rajasthan present individual and fusion pieces on little known but fascinating musical instruments.

among others. Moniruzzaman and Kabir lamented the fact that electronic keyboards were gaining popularity at the expense of traditional musical instruments, which required years of practice to master.

# Tangail weavers rushed off their feet

## Eid and Puja festivals

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

As Eid and Puja draw closer, the weavers of Tangail are gearing up to meet the rush of orders. Drawing buyers from home and abroad are the new designs of Tangail sarees.

"It is necessary to change designs and colours every season to keep pace with new trends," said Raghunath Basak, a weaver in Pathrail and also president Tangail Tant Saree Traders' Association. Jamdani, ektari silk, dotari silk, half silk, and jute cotton sarees, he says, go for as much as Taka 1,000 to Taka 4,000.

Hot colours this season are magenta, ash, black, red, yellow, orange, violet, white blue, saffron and green.

"Weavers in other parts of the country try to emulate the style of Tangail weavers but Tangail sarees remains unparalleled," said

Raghunath.

Saree trader Farha Jabin of Natun Bazar in Mymensingh town certainly seems to think so. She comes to Pathrail regularly and says she has already bought Tangail sarees worth Taka 3,00,000 for her shop.

Aporna Basak, a saree trader from West Bengal in India, said she had come at Pathrail to buy sarees ahead of Puja. "Demand for Tangail sarees is gathering momentum in Indian markets as the sarees come in various designs and eye-catching colours. Moreover, they are priced lower than Indian sarees," she added.

The Tangail weavers have reasons to be happy on another front. According to Tangail Weavers' Rehabilitation Organisation insiders, around 3,50,000 workers are employed in around 80,000 handloom units in the district to meet the Eid and Puja rush.



Preserving a rich tradition: A weaver at his loom

PHOTO: STAR



Season of saris -- salesmen reveal their exquisite designs

# Drama serial "Jamai Mela" on Banglavision

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Jamai Mela" will be aired tonight on Banglavision at 8:15pm. Written by Brindaban Das, the serial has been directed by Azharul Karim.

The story of the serial revolves around a village. Most of the males from the village live abroad. As a result, the villager elders

often marry off their daughters and keep the in-laws at their house. The story takes a twist, when one day the in-laws want to arrange a 'jamai mela'.

Mosharraf Karim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Shamim Zaman, Azizul Haque, Dr. Enamul Haque, Nova, Alvi, Dihan, Shahnaz Khushi and Putul are the lead characters in the serial.



A scene from the TV play.

# "Samudrer Shandhaney" makes its appearance ...

CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The publication ceremony of "Samudrer Sandhaney", a book of poetry was held at Satkhira Press Club auditorium with Satkhira Kabita Parishad president Professor Shuvra Ahmed in the chair.

"Samudrer Sandhaney" is the first literary work of homemaker Masuda Mobarak.

The publication ceremony was organised by Satkhira Kabita Parishad on September 1.

Satkhira Press Club President Abu Ahmed was the chief guest, while the gathering was addressed among others by Professor Doly Sultana, Professor

Saleha Akhtar, Amjad Hossain and poets Mufti Abdur Rahim Kachi, Monmoy Manir, Masuda Mobarak and Aminur Rashid.

The speakers asserted that Masuda wrote the verse to inspire people towards patriotism, and fight against corruption and injustice prevailing in the country, they added.

Poets and litterateurs inspired people to take part in the struggle for Independence and fulfill the dream of the Language Martyrs for Bengali as a mother tongue in 1952, they said.

A recitation of poems from Masuda's book followed the discussion.