

## 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)



### Nazrul Sangeet Evening

Singer: Shaheen Samad  
Venue: High Commission of India Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1  
Date: September 24  
Time: 7pm



### Theatre

Play: Punarjanmo  
Troupe: Prachyanat  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: September 19  
Time: 7pm



### 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



## Dance of the divine

*Bharatanatyam performance by Nivedita Parthasarthy*



PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I. KHAN

(the art of conducting a classical Indian dance recital) course under Guru Seetharama Sharma. She participated in several dance ballets choreographed by the famed dancer Vijayanthimala Bali. Parthasarthy started her dance school 'Nivedanam -- A Cultural Centre for Performing Arts' in 1988 and has been training students in Bharatanatyam at Chennai, Bangalore and Bali, Indonesia. She has performed in Maldives, Europe, North America, Mauritius and Indonesia.

Bharatanatyam, originating in Tamil Nadu, is one of the eight classical Indian dances. One of the oldest of the classical dance forms, Bharatanatyam is usually accompanied by classical music. The term 'Bharatanatyam' comes from the words 'bhava' (expression), 'raga' (music), 'tala' (rhythm) and 'natya' (theatrics).

Parthasarthy began her performance with 'Pushpanjali'. The accompanying verses, written by one of India's greatest poets Subramanya Bharathi, are an offering to God, who is known to us by many names but it is to one source all our prayers go to. The 'mudra' (gestures) were restrained; there were no quick/jerky movements; the gait was subtle as if the danseuse was walking on clouds and each composition heavily relied on head, neck and eye movements.

In the next piece, 'Shabdham', the danseuse articulated the divine beauty of Sri Krishna, whose face, is likened to the full moon, and the passions of the enamoured 'gopika' (female cowherds).

Next was 'Varnam', a relatively long composition -- the centrepiece in the recital. The patterns in a 'Varnam' are considered to be characteris-

tic patterns of a particular raga or scale (in this case, Carnatic music). According to Parthasarthy, "this is a test of the dancer's expertise and the audience's patience."

Following that the danseuse performed 'Padam', where the dancer "spoke" of love and 'Thillana', highlighting complex footwork and captivating poses of Bharatanatyam.

Parthasarthy held a lecture-demonstration yesterday morning at Nat Mandal, Dhaka University. She and her troupe performed again at National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday at 7:30 pm.

On September 21, Parthasarthy and her troupe will perform at Theatre Institute Chattagram Hall in Chittagong. The artiste will perform in Sylhet on September 23 at Sylhet Auditorium.



Nivedita Parthasarthy (right) performs at National Museum; vocalists and instrumentalists of her troupe seen in the back.

### KARIM WAHEED

On September 17, dance enthusiasts of Dhaka had the opportunity to witness an accomplished Indian danseuse perform Bharatanatyam. The recital featuring Nivedita Parthasarthy and her troupe was organised by Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India in Dhaka and was held at the main auditorium of National Museum in Shahbagh, Dhaka.

Prior to the performance, Azizur Rahman, chairman of Board of Trustees, National Museum, welcomed the audience to the event.

In his speech, Indian High Commissioner Rajeev Mitter appreciated the Information

and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad's initiatives to encourage cultural exchange between Bangladesh and India.

The Information and Cultural Affairs Minister recalled India's significant contributions during the Liberation War and hoped that the friendly tie only gets stronger. Azad also informed that Bangladesh and India will jointly celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Parthasarthy, a leading exponent of the Bharatanatyam dance in India, started her career under Guru Smt Padma Ramanathan and Kum. R. Padma and completed her 'Nattuvangam'

## Actors turned directors shine at Toronto Film Festival

AFP, Toronto

Hollywood's biggest stars are carving out acclaimed roles for themselves behind the lens, but Toronto Film Festival audiences bemoaned seeing them less on screen as a result.

Several mostly American actors moonlighting as directors presented new movies at the film festival last week. Many also appeared in the films.

But the heavier workload of directing has often meant fewer overall roles in movies, said many of the actors.

Ben Affleck unveiled here his second film as a director, "The Town," to rave reviews. His younger brother Casey also was in town with his documentary "I'm Still Here," about Joaquin Phoenix's fledgling rap career.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, who won an Oscar in 2005 for his performance in "Capote," made his directorial debut with "Jack Goes Boating" and Clint Eastwood and Robert Redford premiered their latest gems "Hereafter" and "The Conspirator," respectively.

"I've always wanted to do both" -- acting and directing, said Emmy-



Ben Affleck attends the premiere of "The Town".

nominated actor David Schwimmer (Ross in the TV show "Friends"), in Toronto to premiere his film "Truth." But developing and "directing a film takes quite a long time."

"After realising just how much time and energy it takes to direct a film -- two, three, four years of your life -- I think I would only do films that mean something to me, that are personal to me," he said.

He noted, however, that he has not

been offered many roles since the hit television series "Friends" wrapped up in 2004 after a 10-year run.

Hollywood icon Robert De Niro, meanwhile, told a news conference for John Curran's film "Stone," also starring Ed Norton and Milla Jovovich, that he sees himself only directing three more films, at most.

De Niro made his directorial debut in 1993 with "A Bronx Tale" and followed it up in 2006 with "The Good

Sheppard," starring Matt Damon and Angelina Jolie.

Ben Affleck's "The Town," which premiered in Venice and was a gala presentation at the Toronto film festival, is only the second film he has directed, after his acclaimed "Gone Baby Gone" in 2007.

"I didn't come here (as a director) because others were doing it," he commented.

"I think maybe this trend is emblematic that there are terrific directors out there who also happen to be actors," he opined, adding: "This isn't something new."

Affleck pointed to Clint Eastwood, Warren Beatty, and "even Orson Welles did both." Other recent examples include Ron Howard, Sydney Pollack, Sofia Coppola and Sean Penn.

"From the outside, it looks like we've got these hard lines that we can't step over: you're an actor, you're a writer, you're a cinematographer, you're an editor, but in effect they're all part of the same soup and it's a sort of natural organic progression to go from one to the other," Affleck said.

"I love acting. I also like directing, so maybe I'm greedy... I see them as compatible," he said.



## Kanye West to beat Jackson's record?

Kanye West is set to release the longest ever music video. The Grammy Award-winning rapper will release a 40-minute epic for his new "Runaway" single.

The music video will be longer by 29 seconds, beating the record of the former titleholder, Michael Jackson's "Ghosts", which timed in at 39 minutes and 31 seconds.

West said that the movie will be an "Epic

piece of art" based on West's song debut on September 12 at the 2010 MTV Video Music Awards, the Herald Sun reported.

The song is inspired by the entertainer's own story. The story is severely criticised in which a phoenix falls to earth and then burns herself to escape.

Source: Internet

## Abdul Mannan Syed remembered

*Memorial programme at Bangla Academy*



National Professor Kabir Chowdhury speaks at the programme.

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangla Academy organised a memorial programme in honour of the recently deceased poet, writer and researcher Abdul Mannan Syed at the Academy premises on September 17.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury presided over the programme. Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, delivered the welcome speech. Noted educationist Anisuzzaman; Nazrul exponent Rafiqul Islam; essayist Ahmed Kabir; poet Asad Chowdhury; poet Arunav Sarkar; poet and journalist Ahmed Mazhar and Zinan Syed, daughter of Abdul Mannan Syed, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Abdul Mannan Syed was a multifaceted personality. He made significant contribution to almost all the genres of Bangla literature. We are indebted to him for his remarkable input -- discussants were of the view at the commemorative programme.

Asad Chowdhury said, "Abdul Mannan Syed was one of the finest contemporary

poets. He had a unique tone and style. I believe that his contribution as a poet and a fiction writer were more important than his contribution as a critic."

Ahmed Mazhar said, "Abdul Mannan Syed made his presence felt in every branch of literature. He was a true poet from his heart and soul. His poems are soulful and his narratives are blessed with a kind of poetic expression."

Rafiqul Islam said, "Syed's poems are symbolic and surrealistic. He translated and edited many books. He was a workaholic and contemplative by nature. He was recognised for his remarkable research on Jibananda Das and Kazi Nazrul Islam. He had also done researches on a number of iconic writers."

Kabir Chowdhury said, "Mannan Syed emerged as a short story writer, essayist, researcher, dramatist, poet and fiction writer. His writings have enriched our literary arena. When I first read his poems, I noticed the surrealistic mode and new technique. He was very selective about words. This trait is very rare in our literary arena."

### TV Watch

## "Ekti Onnorokom Premer Golpo" on ntv tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play "Ekti Onnorokom Premer Golpo" will be aired on ntv tonight at 9 pm. Written by Rumman Rashid Khan, the play has been directed by Kaushik Shankar Das.

The story centres on Joy and Poly. Their relationship is not an unusual love story, though Poly is haunted by her past, as her

ex-boyfriend Mamun didn't tell her that he was married. Joy tries to help Poly forget her past. He also promises her a happy future. Joy, however, is unemployed and needs money for his mother's medical treatment. Poly and her father stand by him, but does all turn out well?

The cast of the play includes Anisur Rahman Milon, Tarin and Hasan Imam.



Milon and Tarin in the play.