

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Bonsai Exhibition**  
 Organiser: Bangladesh Bonsai society  
 Venue: WVA Auditorium, H-20, Rd-27 (old), Dhanmondi  
 Date: October 14-17  
 Time: 10am-8pm



## Painting and Installation Exhibition

Title: Dhaka Traffic: the City Can't Wait  
 Artist: Sulekha Chowdhury  
 Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, Dhanmondi  
 Date: October 4-28



## Group Art Exhibition

Venue: Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria  
 Date: September 24-October 15  
 Time: 10am-8pm



## Group Art Exhibition

Title: Rooted Creativity-5  
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
 Date: October 15-26  
 Time: 12pm-8pm



# Concert for Bipul Bhattacharya

*Fellow artistes sing for the ailing singer*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ailing singer Bipul Bhattacharya is fighting for his life at Delta Hospital, Dhaka. A platform featuring noted artistes arranged a concert at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, on October 11 for the Bangladesh Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Shangstha (BMSSS) singer. Noted artistes sang at the programme.

The programme was divided into segments. The first part featured the screening of Tareque and Catherine Masud's documentary "Mukhtir Gaan". The documentary follows a group of artistes including Bhattacharya as they made their way through camps to inspire the Freedom Fighters through songs during the Liberation War.

Footages used in the film were actually shot by American cinematographer Lear Levin during 1971. The Masuds found it 20 years later; the footages were in the basement of Levin's residence.

At the programme Tareque Masud said, "Many of our fellow artistes died without proper medical treatment. It would be a shame if Bhattacharya faces the same fate."

Tariq Ali, one of the trustees of the Liberation War Museum and a member of BMSSS recalled his days with Bhattacharya during the war. "When we first heard his voice, we were convinced that he would bring new life in our troupe," he said.

Another member of BMSSS, dancer Lubna Mariam, said, "He was an inspirational member of our troupe. If we try together for Bhattacharya, he will come back to us soon."

Nazrul singer Sadya Afreen Mallick said that cultural activists should form a platform so that they do not have to arrange fundraisers for an ailing artiste in future.

Among others, Timir Nandi, Dalia Nausheen, Shaheen Samad, Indra Mohan Rajbangshi, Swapon Chowdhury, Khairul Anam Shakil, Shawjeeb, Krishnokoli and Arifur Rahman (of LaserVision) spoke at the programme.

The concert started with a group rendition of the patriotic song "Dhono Dhanyo Pushpo Bhora". All the featured artistes of the evening took part in the chorus. Later the artistes performed solos.

Khurshid Alam sang "O Akash O Pahar". Other singers who performed at the programme were Dalia Nausheen, Indra Mohan Rajbangshi, Sadya Afreen Mallick,



Noted artistes sing together at the concert.



(From left): Solo renditions by Shaheen Samad, Indra Mohan Rajbangshi and Krishnokoli.



Shaheen Samad, Khairul Anam Shakil, Shawjeeb, Krishnokoli and Baul Lokman.

Different organisations and renowned individuals, including the Speaker of the Parliament, also came to Bhattacharya's assistance. The organisations include the

Cultural Ministry, Bangladesh Government; Bangladesh Muktijoddha Shangshad; Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro, Shangkritik Jote, Liberation War Museum and Chhayanaut.

As his condition worsened, Bhattacharya



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

was moved to the Intensive Care Unit of Delta Hospital, where he has been undergoing treatment since September 27.

Bhattacharya was among those who used their creative abilities to inspire the nation during the Liberation War.

## Radio Foorti stands by Bipul Bhattacharya



Radio Foorti officials hand over the cheque to Bipul.

Radio Foorti has extended its support to Bipul Bhattacharya, a Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro artiste, who is fighting for his life at a city hospital, according to a press release.

Bipul Bhattacharya, a renowned folk singer, has been ailing from lung cancer for the last few months. As his condition worsened, he was moved to the Intensive Care Unit of Delta Hospital, where he has been undergoing treatment. Doctors at Mumbai's Tata Memorial Hospital diagnosed him with lung cancer earlier. But he had to return home without receiving any treatment due to financial constraints.

Indra Mohan Rajbangshi, president of Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Parishad, and fellow singers have urged everyone, particularly the country's cultural community, to come to his aid.

Bipul's voice on the Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro substantially contributed to inspiring the nation at war in 1971.

Nasir Uddin Ahmed, chief financial officer of Radio Foorti Limited, visited Bhattacharya at the hospital and handed over a cheque worth Tk. 100,000 for the treatment. Among others, Daniel Afzalur Rahman, head of production of Radio Foorti, was also present there.

## Marginalised children stage play with a message

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR  
 TOPU, Pabna

Children of the Harijan community demanded their rights at a programme held at Pabna Town Hall premises last Sunday night. The programme, organised by Fair and Manusher Jonno Foundation, Pabna was held to mark International Children's Day. A play was staged on the occasion to voice the children's demand.

A discussion also featured on the occasion, chaired by Subhash Kumar Das, president of Harijan Shishu Forum. Among the speakers were Mohammad Badiuzzaman, Sagar Sen and Lakkhan Kumar. Dramatist Mustafizur Rahman conducted the programme.

The speakers said that children should not be segre-

gated according to the community they are born in. All children are the same. Today's children are the future nation-builders. It is imperative that we remove social discrimination against a section of children.

The speakers also emphasised that every child has the right to grow in the society with his or her complete rights. Education, health and other social facilities for the every child should be the same.

A cultural programme was held on the occasion. The Harijan children gave music and dance performances. In a street play, the children turned the spotlight on the phenomenon of social discrimination against Harijan children. The actors in the drama also vowed to remove discrimination and ensure a peaceful society for the children so that they could be assured of a better future.

## Stage set to celebrate Durga Puja

KONGKON KARMAKER,  
 Dinajpur

The stage is set to celebrate Durga Puja in Dinajpur and its 13 upazilas. While people are enthusiastically awaiting the big day, Puja organisers, idol-makers and other decorators are going in for last minute preparations to make the venues as attractive and colourful as possible depending on their budgets.

According to the Dinajpur Puja Celebration Committee, there are about 1016 pujas to be held this year here -- 100 more than the previous year.

Professor Tapan Chakrabarty, general secretary of the Committee, said that widespread security measures have been put in place by the police ahead of the festival.

Professor Chakrabarty also added that each Durga Puja organiser had received Taka 11,000 from the government.

A prominent feature of this festival is the idols of



An artisan puts last minute touches on a Durga idol.

PHOTO: STAR

Durga with artistic decorations. And the craftsmen are working overtime to complete their works as they are assured of handsome returns this year.

The artisans are from families who have practiced this art for many generations. Ramesh Paul

of Biral upazila, under Dinajpur district, has been in this profession from ever since he could play with clay. "Making idols for Durga Puja is a family tradition. My father and my grandfather were also into this," he said, adding that this year he had

earned far more than the previous year.

Dinesh is another master artisan, fortunate enough to have two skilled craftsmen to help him. "We make idols after bookings and this year we got booking for eight Durga Pujas," he said.



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