

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Master Painters**  
Artists: Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan, SM Sultan  
Venue: Art Gallery, National Museum, Shahbagh  
Date: October 8- November 6  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Praner Khela Instrumental Music

Artists: Gazi Abdul Hakim and Feroz Khan  
Venue: Bengal Shilpakala, 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
Date: October 27  
Time: 7 pm



### Film Festival

Eric Rohmer Retrospective  
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society and Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD)  
Venue: Auditorium, AFD, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: October 21-29  
Time: 3pm onwards



### Painting and Installation Exhibition

Title: Dhaka Traffic: the City Can't Wait  
Artist: Sulekha Chowdhury  
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi  
Date: October 4-28  
Time: 10am-8pm



## Abbasuddin Ahmed: Voice of the delta

Today marks the 109th birth anniversary of legendary folk singer Abbasuddin Ahmed (October 27, 1901-December 30, 1959). He was born at Balarampur under Tufanganj subdivision in the district of Cooch Behar, now in West Bengal. His father, Zafar Ali Ahmed, was a lawyer at the Tufanganj Subdivisional Court.

Abbasuddin's interest in music grew through attending cultural functions at school and college. He was self-taught, except for a brief period when he trained under Ustad Jamiruddin Khan in Calcutta (now Kolkata) and Ustad Kader Buksh in Murshidabad. He sang different genres of songs, such as folk, *adhunik*, patriotic and Islamic. But Abbasuddin became renowned mainly for his folk songs.

Initially, he earned recognition for his renditions of *bhawaiya* and *chatka* songs. He became increasingly popular with his *jaari*, *shari*, *bhatiali*, *murshidi*, *bichchhedhi*, *marsia* and *pala gaa*, especially when these were made into gramophone records. No other singer could surpass his emotional, full-throated rendition of folk songs.

The fact that the virtuoso artist played a key role in popularising Islamic songs in Bangla is often overlooked. "Ramzan-er Oi Rozar Sheshey Elo Khushir Eid", a song that has become the unofficial harbinger of Eid-ul-Fitr, was



Abbasuddin Ahmed

originally recorded by Abbasuddin. This song, composed by Kazi Nazrul Islam, brought about a cultural renaissance among Bengali Muslims.

According to Ferdousi Rahman, daughter of Abbasuddin and a renowned artist: "In those days Abba was singing in Kolkata with HMV; he had also recorded several songs composed by Nazrul by that time. He wanted to sing Islamic songs and told Nazrul about his

desire to record *qawwali*, which were very popular at the time. In those days conservative Muslims considered singing, and even listening to music, sacrilege. Bhagabati Babu, the rehearsal manager of Gramophone Company, was approached, but he angrily rejected the idea. At a suitable moment, Bhagabati was requested again and this time he gave his consent."

Nazrul composed the song within half an hour and Abbasuddin picked it up the

very next day. The song became an instant hit and this marked the beginning of an era of Islamic songs in Bangla.

Abbasuddin stayed in Calcutta from 1931 to 1947. In 1947, after Partition, he joined the Department of Information and Broadcasting as an additional song organiser. He participated at the South East Asia Conference in Manila in 1955 and at the International Folk Music Conference in Germany in 1956.

Abbasuddin wrote an account of his life as a singer in "Amar Shilpi Jiban-er Katha" (1960). For his invaluable contribution to music he was posthumously honoured with the Pride of Performance Award in 1960, Shilpakala Academy Award in 1979 (posthumously) and Shadhinota Dibosh Puroskar in 1981 (posthumously). Apart from Ferdousi, Abbasuddin's son Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and his granddaughter Nashid Kamal are also renowned singers.

To mark the iconic singer's birth anniversary, Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Dhaka has arranged a solo performance by Mustafa Zaman Abbasi on October 29 at the centre in Gulshan. Abbasi's repertoire at the programme will feature his father's classics.

Compiled by Correspondent

## Theatre (Arambagh) arranges weeklong festival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong festival by Theatre (Arambagh) is now on at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), Dhaka. The festival began on October 23. Six plays by four troupes, including one from India, are being staged at the festival.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Dipu Moni, was the chief guest at the inaugural programme. Kamal Lohani, director general of BSA, and Liaquat Ali Lucky, chairman, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, were special guests.

On the inaugural day, Indian troupe Onnopesha Natyadal (from Kolkata) staged its production "Virus e-Bhoot". The troupe also staged "Abbulish" at the festival the following day. Both plays were staged at the National Theatre Hall. Apart from National Theatre Hall, plays are also being staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall.

On October 25, Loko Natyadal (Siddheshwari) staged its much acclaimed play "Kanjush". An adaptation of Moliere's "The Miser", "Kanjush" was directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky. Tariq Anam



A scene from Theatre's (Arambagh) latest production "Jonmoshutro".

Khan adapted the play. A comedy of morals, "Kanjush" addresses the hypocrisy, greed, dishonesty and opportunistic tendencies of the elites through the story of a tightwad named Haider Ali.

The organiser, Theatre (Arambagh), is staging two plays at the festival. Today the troupe will stage its latest production "Jonmoshutro".

"Jonmoshutro" has been

written and directed by Gazi Rakayet. The play depicts two different eras and connects them with a common theme -- the diminishing class struggle. The first part of the story is set against the backdrop of undivided Bengal, while the second takes place in recent times. The cast includes Jahangir Bhuiyan, Khaled Anand, Oliur Rahman, Eusha Antara, Khan Jahangir and Tahmina Akhter.

Theatre will also stage

"Bolod" on the last day of the festival. Shomoy Natyadal will stage "Shesh Sanglap" on October 28.

Apart from plays, a seminar on the topic "Manchanatak: Shomokalin Prekkhit" was also part of the festival. The seminar was held yesterday at Theatre's office at Guide House, Natak Shoroni. Renowned theatre personalities attended the seminar.

The festival will end on October 29.

## Tenth anniversary of Badhan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

To mark the 10th anniversary of Badhan, a blood donation organisation at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), a day long programme was chalked out at the university campus on October 23. The programme included a colourful procession, a discussion, boating, a feast and a cultural programme.

The cultural show included rendition of songs, staging of a play and a dance sequence performed by Nayim, Tofazzal, Ashik, Jahid, Rikta, Nisat, Basar and Prince. The show was anchored by Kollol and Soma.

The programme began with a colourful procession at the university campus which was joined by hundreds of stu-

dents and teachers.

Earlier a discussion was held at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium of BAU. Chaired by Badhan BAU unit president Kazi Moshir Rahman, it was addressed by Vice-Chancellor of BAU Professor Dr. M.A. Sattar Mandal at the chair. Students Affairs Adviser Professor Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman and Proctor Professor Dr. Abu Hadi Noor Ali Khan were present as special guests. Mohammad Shohel Rana, general Secretary of Badhan conducted the discussion.

The speakers said that such initiatives taken by various educational institutions of the country under the banner of Badhana are noble as the organisation voluntarily collects and donates blood for the ailing. Though voluntary work is

not always available, the students have taken it on themselves to support the critical patients, said the speakers.

Praising their tremendous effort, the speakers also expressed the hope that such ventures would continue to involve the students in social work that would help them greatly in later life.

Badhan set out on its journey at BAU on September 9, 2000. From then on, Badhan has donated 15,554 bags of blood as a lifeline for critical patients, said the secretary.

Representatives from Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University, Eden College, Ananda Mohan College, Dinajpur University College and Carmichael College in Rangpur also joined the celebrations.

## Trick or treat

### A performance by magician Wasel

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Illusionist Wasel amused a huge audience at Aloka Nodi Bangla Complex auditorium with his repertoire of magical acts on October 22.

Before beginning his performance, the young magician of the district told the audience that magic is nothing but a combination of tricks. Contrary to popular belief, no supernatural power is involved in such magic acts, rather a perfect magician uses a lot of tricks to make an illusion appear as reality, said Wasel. The ancient art of magic is increasingly in demand all over the world and Bangla-



Magician Wasel (centre) during an act.

desh as well, he added.

Principal Motiur Rahman, MP was the chief guest at the event. Among others, Mayor (in-charge) of

Mymensingh Municipality Syed Shafiqul Islam Minto; Mohammad Nasir; Jahangir Alam; Sushanta Kumar Chowdhury and Advocate

Moazzem Hossain Babul spoke on the occasion. Manzur Elahi, chairman of Nodi Bangla Group, presided over the discussion.

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.	
<p><b>ATN Bangla</b></p> <p>12:15 IT Zone 01:25 Band View 03:15 Nupurer Chhondey 06:15 Take Care 08:00 Rexona Destination Unlimited 10:45 Documentary Programme: Bihongo Katha 12:30 Grameenphone Lead News</p> <p><b>Channel i</b></p> <p>01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 01:30 Sa Re Ga Ma 04:05 Bashundara Theke Sorasori 05:30 Galpo Noy Natok</p> <p>06:20 Mayer Haat-er Ranna 12:00 Grameenphone Aajker Shongbadpotro</p> <p><b>ntv</b></p> <p>02:30 Drama Serial: Romizer Aayna 04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey 05:30 Apnar Jiggasha 06:10 Shubhoshondhya 06:45 Rupali Pordar Golpo 09:00 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan</p> <p><b>ETV</b></p> <p>04:02 Drama Serial: Bismriti 05:30 Drama Serial: Biprotip 06:30 Fashion And Tune</p>	<p>10:10 Ciney Hits 12:02 Ekusher Raat</p> <p><b>RTV</b></p> <p>10:45 Bashudha Tarokalap 12:05 Bashudha Tomar Jonno Amar E Gaan 02:30 Bangla Feature Film 05:30 Drama Serial: Alta Shundari 11:45 Crime Focus</p> <p><b>DESH TV</b></p> <p>04:30 Dur-er Janala 05:30 Durpath 06:25 Jolkatha 07:45 Ekoi Brintey 12:30 Total Sports</p> <p><b>Banglavisoin</b></p> <p>11:05 Shudhui Gaan 12:05 Drama Serial: Fifty-Fifty 03:30 Cinebit Rongin 09:05 Shoundarjo Katha 11:30 Walton Amar Ponyo Amar Desh</p> <p><b>ATN NEWS</b></p> <p>11:30 Sports Insight</p> <p>02:15 Amader Katha 05:15 Pramanno Shomoy 07:30 Saat Rang (Live) 08:30 Visual Diary</p> <p><b>HBO</b></p> <p>10:30 The Adventures Of Pluto Nash 12:30 Jackie Chan's Thunderbolt 02:30 You Don't Mess With The Zohan 04:30 The Phantom 07:30 Beethoven 09:30 The Skeleton Key 11:30 Bloodsport</p> <p><b>Zee Studio</b></p> <p>10:50 Mean Girls 01:30 It Runs in the Family 03:45 Dead Poet's Society 07:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement 09:30 Two Lovers 11:50 Cast Away</p> <p><b>Star Movies</b></p> <p>09:55 No Bad Days</p> <p>11:40 There's Something About Mary 01:45 Snake Eyes 03:30 The Longshots 05:10 Transporter 3 07:00 Never Back Down 09:00 Pandorum 10:55 Snake Eyes</p> <p><b>Star World</b></p> <p>09:30 How I Met Your Mother 10:30 Best of Koffee With Karan 01:30 The Bold and The Beautiful 02:30 Friends 03:00 The Simpsons 08:30 Best of Koffee With Karan Lie To Me 10:30 How I Met Your Mother 12:00 The Simpsons</p> <p><b>National Geographic</b></p> <p>10:30 Creative Vision 12:30 True Stories 04:30 Monkey Thieves 06:30 Big: Apache Helicopters 09:30 Big: China 10:30 Wild Russia: Arctic</p> <p>11:30 True Stories</p> <p><b>BBC World</b></p> <p>09:30 HARDtalk 10:45 BBC World News 12:30 World Business Report 03:45 GMT Today 05:00 Sport with George Alagiah 07:00 Impact Asia with Mishal Husain</p> <p>09:30 HARDtalk 10:00 The Hub with Nik Gowing 11:30 World Business Report</p> <p><b>CNN</b></p> <p>10:00 World Report 10:30 BackStory 02:30 Earth's Frontiers 03:00 Larry King Live 05:30 Talk Asia 09:00 The Brief 09:30 World Sport 10:00 Prism 10:30 Earth's Frontiers 11:00 International Desk 12:00 Quest Means Business</p>

News Bulletin	Radio	TV
<p><b>BTV</b></p> <p>News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 am. News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 2:00 pm-5:00 pm-8:00 pm. News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm. Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels). <b>CHANNEL-i</b> News (Bangla): 7:00 am,</p> <p>9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am <b>ATN BANGLA</b> NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am News (English) at 6:00pm <b>Rtv</b> News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am <b>ntv</b> News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm,</p> <p>1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am <b>ETV</b> News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm <b>abc radio</b> News: 08:00 am, 12:00 pm, 03:00 pm, 06:00 pm, 09:00 pm, 12:00 am; English Bulletin: 1:30pm, 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>RADIO FOORTI</b></p> <p>07:30 Hello Dhaka 10:00 Morning Express 12:00 No Tension 04:00 Dhaka Calling 09:00 Knight Riders</p> <p><b>abc radio fm 89.2</b></p> <p>06:00 Bhorer Janalay 09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney 12:00 Darun Dupurey 03:00 Duranto Bikeley 05:00 Shondha Tara 07:00 Shaj-er Maya 09:00 Raat-er Akashey 11:00 Galper Shesh Nei</p> <p><b>RADIO TODAY</b></p> <p>07:15 Good Morning Dhaka 11:00 Masti Unlimited 01:00 Today's Adda U-turn 04:00 Dhaka Calling 08:00 Tobe Tai Hok 11:00 Raal Vor Gan 02:00 Back to Back</p>	<p><b>Mukim Brothers</b> On Channel i at 07:50pm Drama Serial Cast: Tisha, Israt Jahan, Hasan Azad</p> <p><b>Two Lovers</b> On Zee Studio at 09:30pm Genre: Romance Cast: Joaquin Phoenix, Gwyneth Paltrow</p> <p><b>Dyrectaar</b> On Banglavisoin at 08:15pm Drama Serial Cast: Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shashi, AKM Hasan</p>