

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**14th Asian Art Biennale 2010**  
 Organiser: Bangladesh Shipakala Academy  
 Venue: National Art Gallery (BSA) and Osmani Memorial Hall  
 Date: October 8-November 6  
 Time: 11am-7pm



**Theatre**  
 Play: Bhelua Shundori  
 Troupe: Centre for Asian Theatre  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shipakala Academy  
 Date: October 30  
 Time: 7pm



**Musical Soiree**  
 Artists: Chanchal Khan and Lily Islam  
 Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Indian High Commission, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1  
 Date: October 30  
 Time: 7pm



**Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Janmasthan  
 Organiser: US Embassy in Dhaka  
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A, H-60, Dhanmondi  
 Date: October 28-30  
 Inauguration: 6pm



# Celebrating Bangladeshi life through music and images

## The Daily Star and Standard Chartered launch CD, photo book

ZAHANGIR ALOM

It was an elating experience for the winners and participants of the "Celebrating Life" contest (for the years 2008 and 2009), as their creative faculties and visions came into the limelight once more through the launch of an audio album and an exclusive compilation of photographs.

As the guests arrived at the Windy Town Hall of Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on October 28, singers Biman Chandra Biswas and Bizon Chandra Mistry rendered a duet

"Amay Shapoth Porao Maa ... Amay Jeno Na Paye Kono Mondo Bhabona." Ridwan Chowdhury Pantham composed music for the award winning lyrics by Dulal Biswas. Rafi Hossain, coordinator of Celebrating Life and editor of Star Insight, welcomed everyone at the programme.

Editor and publisher of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam, and Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, Jim McCabe, along with special guests noted educationist Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed and renowned singer Runa Laila, formally launched the audio CD titled

"Celebrating Womanhood -- Music For Celebrating Life Volume-2" and the book titled "Bangladesh My Love -- Photographs from Celebrating Life 2008 & 2009".

Outlining the motto and mission of "Celebrating Life", in his speech, Mahfuz Anam emphasised on preserving and upholding Bangladeshi cultural heritage through exploring artistic talents.

"Our language Bangla has been blessed with iconic lyricists like Rabindranath, Nazrul, Atul Prasad, DL Roy, Rajanikant to today's [Kabir] Suman. The Nobel winning 'Geetanjali' is also a collection of lyrics. Though competition means some will win at the cost of some losing, I believe this initiative will bear fruit, as it celebrates life," Professor Sayeed said.

"The book is an exclusive compilation of photographs while the CD contains songs from the 'Celebrating Life' contest. Only culture has the power to connect people from all walks of life. The uniqueness of the beauty of Bangladesh and rare moments captured by the photographers are brilliant," Jim McCabe said.

Young singers Elita Karim and Nirjhor Chowdhury rendered another song "Mathar Porer Akash Ta Jaak" from the CD. Composed by Nirjhor Chowdhury, Chanakya Baroi wrote the award-winning song.

The album features eleven tracks, including an English song "Thy Name Mother" rendered by



Winners of last two years' contests and lyricist Rafiquzzaman (back row) with the dignitaries at the launch.

PHOTO: STAR

Runa Laila. Charu Modan wrote the lyrics. Other songs on the CD have been rendered by Ferdous Ara, Fahmida Nabi, Shakila Zafar, Subir Nandi, Krishnakoli, Tanvir Alam Shawjeeb and Nipo Rose; Kumar Bishwajit and Fahmida Nabi recorded a duet.

The book contains participating photographs, including the award-winning entries, from "Celebrating

Life" contests for 2008 and 2009.

The book has been dedicated to the memory of Dr. Nowazesh Ahmed -- scientist, academician, and veteran photographer. Dr. Ahmed passed away at the award giving ceremony of "Celebrating Life 2009" last year, right after he had announced the winners of the photography competition. He was the head of the jury board for the

photography competition. In his memory, "Celebrating Life" is introducing a lifetime achievement award this year onwards, which will pay homage to veteran photographers of Bangladesh.

The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh jointly launched a contest on films, lyrics and photography in July 2008 under the title "Celebrating Life".

Winners of last year's contest were Shormin Akhter from Tangail (Bangla lyrics), Charu Madan from Dhaka (English lyrics) and JA Akash from Chittagong (photography). No film was chosen for award that year by the judges.

Zaheen Music, Channel i, Shaptahik 2000, Radio abc, Urmi Group and Dots & Marks were the partners of the event.



The first prize winning photograph by JA Akash from Celebrating Life 2009.

## Sandhya Mukherjee hospitalised

A CORRESPONDENT

Considered an institution in both West Bengal and Bangladesh, veteran singer Sandhya Mukherjee was admitted to the ICCU of Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan in Kolkata last Tuesday. She was complaining about a chest pain.

During the Liberation War Mukherjee joined the mass movement among Indian Bengali artistes to raise funds for the millions of refugees from the then East Pakistan. On the occasion of the release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, she released a song "Bangabandhu Tumi Phirey Ele".

She later became one of the first foreign artistes to visit Dhaka, performing at an open-air concert in Paltan Maidan to celebrate the first Ekushey February after independence.

She also recorded several songs for Bangladeshi films "Dhirey Bohey Meghna" and "Roktakto Bangla".

Mukherjee's best-known collaboration is arguably with Hemanta Mukhopadhyay with whom she sang numerous duets, primarily as a playback singer. Hemanta and Sandhya became known as the voices behind the mega-popular actor duo Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen.



Sandhya Mukherjee

## End of an era

## R.I.P. Sony Walkman

Sony Walkman has reached the end of side two. Its batteries have run out. The rewind button is broken.

Lovers of music overlaid with hissing have reacted with sadness to news that Sony has ceased production of its celebrated portable cassette-playing audio device. It is survived by its neater, slicker, more junior MP3 descendants.

But the Walkman will be fondly remembered as the contraption, which transformed listening to music from an activity conducted principally in one's own room, to a means of irritating other people on public transport.

"Chk. Chk. Chk. Chk. Chk. Chk. Chk. Chk. Chk."

That was how it sounded when you sat next to a foam-headphoned user on the bus, overlaid with the faint but recognisable vocal inflections of Pat Benatar.

Friends of Sony Walkman may have predicted its demise when digital technology offered a more compact alternative, one which did



than shoulder pads.

Tailor-made for that decade's widespread aspiration for conspicuous, miniaturised consumerism, the Walkman meant no user needed to get home to listen to that latest Johnny Hates Jazz long-player.

Joggers could motivate themselves with the assistance of the "Rocky" theme.

Alas, technological progress and the dawn of the CD meant the decade was barely complete before the general public started to recognise that audio cassettes were not, in fact, the medium of the future but a cumbersome, chewing-up-prone source of much annoyance.

CD and MP3 versions of the Walkman will remain in production, but it is via the ubiquity of the music played on Apple iPods leaking beyond their users' headphones into the earshot of other public transport users that its spirit truly lives on.

No flowers.

Compiled by Correspondent

Mercedes-Benz The best or nothing. LEOPARD CAPITAL city bank making sense of money

p r e s e n t s

## A SOCIAL CAUSE A SOCIAL BUSINESS A SOCIAL NIGHT

### PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 7PM

Prepare for the International fashion event of the year. 12 models from the UK are flying in to showcase major international brands on the ramp for the first time in Bangladesh.

featuring

By-Deshi

Signature

GITANJALI LIFESTYLE

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