

**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**

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



**Duet Art Exhibition**

Artists: Tajuddin Ahmed and Syed Iqbal  
 Venue: Tivoli Art Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2  
 Date: November 5-15  
 Time: 10am-8pm



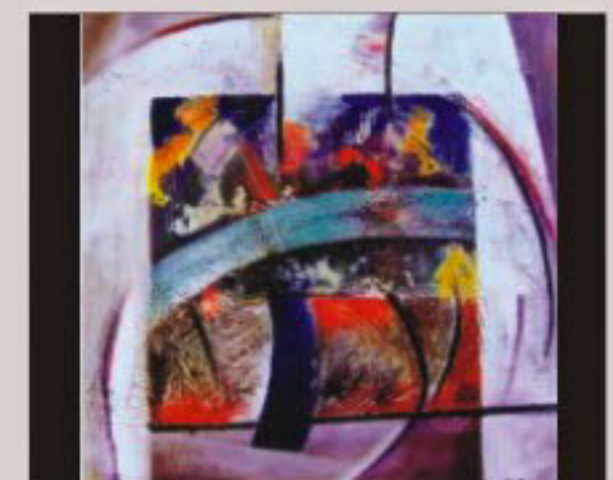
**Solo Musical Soiree**

Artist: Nandita Yasmin  
 Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1.  
 Date: November 6  
 Time: 7pm



**Solo Painting Exhibition**

Artist: Khurshid Alam Saleem  
 Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, H-26, R-3/A, Dhanmondi  
 Date: October 31-November 10  
 Time: 10am-8pm



## Forging ahead

*In conversation with Moushumi*

A CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star recently caught up with popular movie actress Moushumi at FDC. Here are highlights from the conversation.

"I'm coming to FDC after an eight month break to act in 'Ek Cup Cha' -- a film which marks the debut of my good friend and fellow actor Ferdous as a producer. Shooting for the film is on at floor number nine," said Moushumi.

Asked about her minimal movie appearances in recent times, the actress says it is time to move over for new aspirants. Her plan was to quit altogether, says Moushumi, but people close to her, including her husband Omar Sunny, convinced her otherwise.

Currently Moushumi has a full plate: as Chondromukhi in Chashi Nazrul Islam's "Debdash"; the same director's "Dui Purushi" and Mohammad Mustafa Kamar Raj's "Projapoti" are awaiting release, while Mushfiqur Rahman Gulzar's "Kushum Kushum Prem" and Jahid's "Jibon Jontrona" are in the final stages of their making. Moushumi says "Dui Purushi" is an ATN Bangla production where Shobeb acts opposite her. Shakib Khan stars in "Debdash", a Channel

i film, while she pairs up with Zahid Hasan in the ntv production "Projapoti". "Jibon Jontrona" is a state funded film and Ferdous stars in his own production "Ek Cup Cha".

The actress does not regret her

**The actress does not regret her few appearances on the silver screen, rather she cherishes the chance to be closer to her family.**

few appearances on the silver screen, rather she cherishes the chance to be closer to her family.

Despite appearances in over 150 films, Moushumi has only two directorial ventures to her credit: "Kokhono Megh Kokhono Brishti" and "Meher Negar". She says directing is more difficult than acting and she has no immediate plans of trying her hands as a director. Moushumi has two movies from her production house Kopotakho

-- "Goriber Rani" and "Bou-er Shomman", with no future production plans. The production of TV plays, however, continues from Ariyan Production and Shadin Production houses, also belonging to the actress.

The versatile actress' latest endeavor is as a fashion designer through her fashion house "The Levis" -- something which she says is a hobby.

Moushumi regards her strong will and determination for her continuing success since debuting in "Keyamat Theke Keyamat". The love of people and fame are Moushumi's gains from her career, while the actress says her greatest loss is losing her simple self as the price of stardom.

In her illustrious career Moushumi has won a national award once -- for her performance in Nargis Akhter's "Meghla Akash", which she regards as one of her greatest achievements.

Despite the lack of silver screen time, Moushumi is regularly appearing in TV plays. Due to requests from her peers, she is currently acting in TV serials "Eka" and "Amader Nurul Huda". Two TV plays starring Moushumi will also be aired this Eid.

## Rapper Kanye West hurt Bush's feelings



George W. Bush



Kanye West

Kanye West probably shouldn't look for an invitation to any of former US President George W. Bush's coming book parties.

Of all the critics who took aim at Bush in his eight years as president, West seems to stand out in his memory. In Bush's new memoir, "Decision Points," to be released next week, he recalls with anger and resentment West's accusation after Hurricane Katrina that "George Bush doesn't care about black people."

In the book, Bush writes that he was "disgusted" and "deeply insulted" by the accusation, telling his wife, Laura, that it was the lowest moment of his presidency. He expanded on that in an interview with Matt Lauer of NBC News.

"I didn't appreciate it then. I don't appreciate it now," Bush told Lauer. "It's one thing to say, 'I don't appreciate the way he's handled his business.' It's another thing to say, 'This man's a racist.' I resent it. It's not true. And it was one of the most disgusting moments in my presidency."

Bush's recollections of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath form one of the 14 decisions he analyses in the book. While rejecting accusations that he did not care enough about the suffering in New Orleans, Bush acknowledges that he did not respond as effectively as he should have.

"I should have recognised the deficiencies sooner and intervened faster," he writes. "I prided myself on my ability to make crisp and effective decisions. Yet in the days after Katrina, that didn't happen. The problem was not that I made the wrong decisions. It was that I took too long to decide."

He adds: "I made an additional mistake by failing to adequately communicate my concern for the victims of Katrina. This was a problem of perception, not reality. My heart broke at the sight of helpless people trapped on their rooftops waiting to be rescued."

Meanwhile Kanye West responded to Bush's revelation.

West replied with a seemingly newfound sense of empathy for the former president, "I definitely can understand the way he feels to be accused of being a racist in any way, because... the same thing happened to me. I got accused of being a racist, and... with both situations it was a lack of compassion..."

West compared criticism of Bush following Katrina to criticism West received after he rushed the stage at the 2009 Video Music Awards announcing that Beyonce deserved to win an award rather than Taylor Swift. He said, "It was a lack of compassion with him not taking the time to rush down to New Orleans. With me it was a lack of compassion of cutting someone off in her moment. But nonetheless, you know I think we're all quick to pull, like a race card, in America. And now I'm more open and the poetic justice that I feel to have went through the same thing that he went through, and I really more connect with him on just a humanitarian level."

Compiled by Correspondent

## Delicate footsteps

*Kathak performance by Manjari Chaturvedi*

KAVITA, New Delhi

"This is where I find solitude and can leave my worries behind," says petite danseuse Manjari Chaturvedi as one meets up with in her basement-studio in a busy South Delhi locality. The room is sparsely finished with several photographs of her dancing, a couple of bookshelves and a striking glass painting of Banke Bihari (Lord Krishna) from the holy land of Vrindavan. She settles down on floor cushions to talk about her upcoming Kathak concert, titled 'Radha Raas'.

Though primarily known as the creator of the mystical Sufi Kathak dance form, she explains her choice of the Kathak for the recital. "The concept I had in mind was best represented in Kathak. While Sufi Kathak is a dance for the Formless Almighty, in this concert I plan to focus on the Form of Krishna. So I cannot perform Sufi Kathak because that goes against the basic philosophy of what I have conceived," she says.

Seeing was believing. At her recent concert the audience remained glued to their seats as she staged 'Radha Raas' a celebration of the divine love between Radha and Krishna as seen through the eyes of renowned Muslim poets such as Wajid Ali Shah, the last Nawab of the princely kingdom of Oudh and Nawab Sahib Rampur.

Manjari captivated everyone present with her strenuous whirls, intricate footwork and perfect rhythm, other attractions were her accompanists: well-known Indian singer Radhika Chopra and the qawwals from Awadh. In fact there were times when attention was diverted to the sonorous mystic qawwalis, so typical of Awadh. "Qawwalis have been sung for Krishna whilst experiencing devotion towards him, like never before," says Manjari, adding that the concert aimed to reflect the deep secular traditions of India. "It is most important to let people know about the existence of such traditions. As an artist I feel responsible to society to relate these historical instances when

Muslims wrote freely about Krishna and at the same time Hindus wrote the most heart-rending 'marsiya' for Moharram which are sung in the Awadh region even today," she says.

It has taken Manjari years of painstaking research to unearth the "divine love of Krishna as imagined and written by Muslim poets" Sometimes the links were fortuitous, as for instance when she found a beautifully written composition by Nawab Sahib Rampur with a kabariwala in Jaipur, and another old diwan (collection of poetry) in Kakori.

"The interesting feature is that when a Muslim poet imagines Radha, she has a distinct Islamic appearance," says Manjari, who represents the Lucknow Gharana of Kathak.

As for the widespread denigration of Darbari Kathak, she says, "Court dance was a beautiful art form on its own. For some reason the word Mujra came to be used in a derogatory manner. In the process of the filmi interpretation of mujra, the beauty and grace of Kathak have been lost."



Manjari Chaturvedi



One of the leading contemporary Bengali litterateurs, Mani Shankar Mukherjee, popularly known as "Shankar", visited Bangladesh recently. Shankar wrote nearly 100 books, which include 37 novels, five travelogues, children's stories, essay collections, devotional works, and even two books on Bengali food and gastronomy. His most famous books are "Chowringee", "Asha Akankha", "Katha Manthan", "Swarga Martya Patal", "Kato Ajanare", "Ek Bag Shankar" etc. In the course of Shankar's visit to Bangladesh, many socio-cultural organisations held receptions in his honour. He also made a rare visit to Dhaka University Alumni Association office at Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan.

**WHAT TO WATCH**



## The Dark Knight

Today on HBO at 3:15pm

Genre: Action/Adventure

Storyline: It's been about a year since Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) saved Gotham City in the form of Batman. Everything is peaceful with the disappearance of the Scarecrow. Bruce is enjoying being a millionaire and planning to revive his romance with Rachel (Maggie Gyllenhaal). But all hell breaks

loose, when The Joker (Heath Ledger) begins terrorising the city with his eerie grin and maniacal laughter. Will Batman be able to drive out this psychopath?

Cast: Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Heath Ledger, Maggie Gyllenhaal and Morgan Freeman

Directed By: Christopher Nolan

Awards: The late Heath Ledger won an Oscar in 2009 (posthu-

mous) for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his performance as The Joker

Nominated For: Best Achievement in Sound for Lora Hirschberg (Oscar 2009); Best Music award for Hans Zimmer, James Newton Howard (BAFTA 2009).

Trivia: The Joker's distinctive tongue flip grew out of Heath Ledger's own habit of doing that.