

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Suchitra Sen Retrospective

**Organiser:** Suchitra Sen Smrity Sanrakshan Parishad, Pabna  
**Venue:** Mukto Moncho, Pabna  
**Date:** November 26-December 3



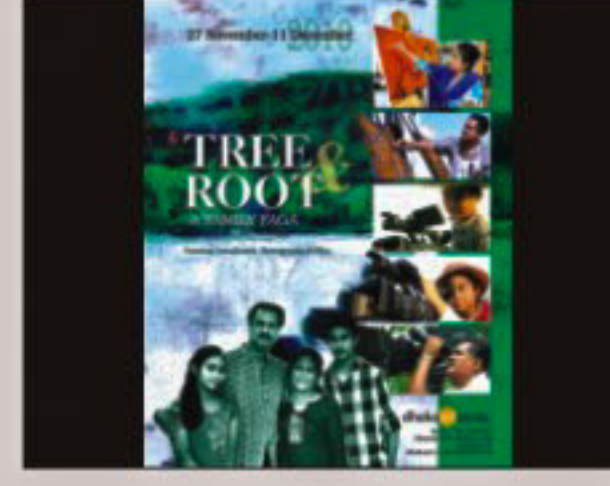
### Drawing Exhibition

**Artist:** Rafiqun Nabi  
**Venue:** Gallery Chittrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** December 3-20  
**Time:** 10am-8pm



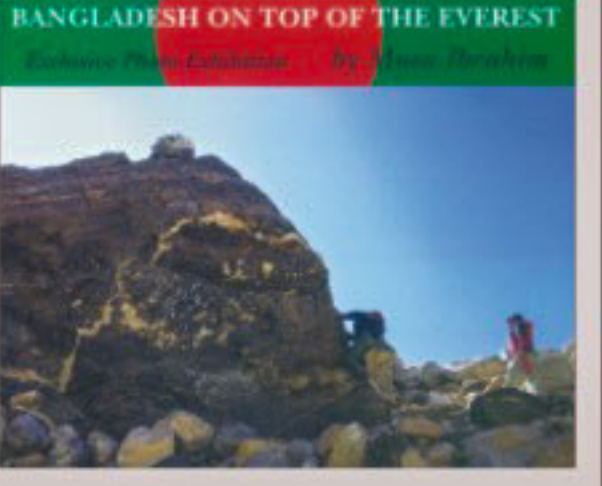
### Group Art Exhibition

**Title:** Tree & Roots  
**Artists:** Mithu, Kanak Champa, Arjo and Shiropa  
**Venue:** Dhaka Art Centre, R-7/A, H-60, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** November 27-December 7  
**Time:** 11am-8pm



### Solo Photography Exhibition

**Title:** Bangladesh on Top of the Everest  
**Photographer:** Musa Ibrahim  
**Venue:** Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** November 26-December 9  
**Time:** 9am-8pm



# Indian cultural festival at Shilpakala Academy

## Classical vocalist Rita Ganguly enthral Dhakaites

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Indira Gandhi Culture Centre (IGCC), High Commission of India, Dhaka, in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) inaugurated "Ananda Jagya," an Indian cultural festival, at National Theatre Hall of BSA on November 26.

Featuring Hindustani classical music (vocal and instrumental), dance, theatre, fine arts and handicrafts, the festival is being held in Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi and will continue till December 3.

Following brief remarks, Speaker of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangshad Mohammad Abdul Hamid as the chief guest along with Rajeev Mitter, High Commissioner of India in Dhaka; Kavita Mitter, wife of Rajeev Mitter; Suresh Goel, Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) as special guests and Director General of BSA Kamal Lohani formally inaugurated the festival through lighting mongolprodip on the occasion.

"This grand Indian cultural festival 'Ananda Jagya' will definitely strengthen our bilateral cultural relations further in their diverse forms between the two countries," said Speaker Abdul Hamid.

"I would have certainly missed it if I had not come here. Cultural practices like classical music, Kathak, Manipuri, Bharatnatyam are in full swing in Dhaka. Our common cultural idiom will be enriched through the exchange and practice of cultural elements of the same origin," said Suresh Goel.

A highlight of the evening was a classical music (vocal) performance by eminent artiste Professor Rita Ganguly and her troupe. Bangladesh's noted singer Nashid Kamal presented a profile of Rita Ganguly before the audience.

The audience, packing the National Theatre Hall of BSA to the brim, hailed the artiste as the curtains came up.

"I am at a loss for words. I have just come here to say my Pronam. I have heard



Speaker Mohammad Abdul Hamid (R) and Kamal Lohani formally inaugurate the festival.

of various kinds of movements being waged across the world. But the language movement has taken place only in Bangladesh. I feel proud that Bangla is my own language," Rita Ganguly said.

Set on a romantic raga, "Kaunshik Dwani," Rita Ganguly set off the event with a thumri performance. Her brilliant style of rendition was rather poetic. With the bandish "Terey Bina Balam Katena Moso Ratia," the artiste also presented several bol bistar on jaut taal. Her expressions and body language during her performance epitomised her artistic fullness.

Another thumri on raga "Tilak Kamod" followed. "Mora Saiya Bulawey Adhiraat Ye Nadia Bairi Bhayi" was the bandish that superbly went on adha taal. Tabla artiste Kaushik Chattapadhyay from the Lucknow gharana mingled several tabla rela (roar of the sea) with her performance.

"Kaise Khelu Main Hori" was another

romantic bandish resting on raga "Kafi" that Rita Ganguly carried on in jaut taal. She provided different allusions, information and excerpts in between her performance. "Abir Gul Rang Charey Na, Na Charey Pichkari" (Krishna appears to be so dark that the game of Hori finds it hard to reach ecstasy) was such an allusion mentioned by the artiste. Kaushik Chattapadhyay presented laggi rela on Kaharba during bistar performance by Ganguly.

Rita Ganguly then narrated a story of how she got close to her guru Begum Akhtar. A folk themed raga "Jhinjhuti" then followed. Ustad Ghulam Ali Khan with his sarangi took the audience to a height that reverberated with romantic tunes in the spaces between mountain valleys. "Gagori Umara Rey, Gagori Utara Rey, Aila Banwari" was the bandish of the thumri. "Banwari is another name of Lord Krishna," noted the artiste.



Rita Ganguly's expression during performance epitomised her artistic fullness.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

through performing raga "Puria Kalyan" on his sarangi.

Lata Shah (tanpura), Dhiman Paul (Harmonium), Satish Solangki (octopad) and Suprodip Banjee (keaboard) were others who accompanied Rita Ganguly during her performance. Classical singer and Padma Shri Professor Rita Ganguly is not new to our country. She has given performances in Bangladesh as well as erstwhile USSR, UK, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Canada, Pakistan and Afghanistan. And that is not all. She has conducted extensive research on Sufi saints, Baba Bullehshah, Kabir and Meera and produced a musical with artistes from Bangladesh, USA, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Professor Rita Ganguly's mastery over her medium has won wide recognition.

Her outstanding contributions in the field of classical music brought her the Padma Shri in 2003. Her achievements

include the Sangeet Natak Academy Award for Ghazal Gayaki in 2000.

Rita Ganguly trained under some of the greatest of Indian musical gurus. She is among the few musicians in the country who continue to cultivate and popularise traditional modes of music. Her greatest contribution is towards preserving traditional Thumri, Dadra, Tappa, Hori, Chaiti and Ghazal and allied forms of music.

A great honour for Rita Ganguly was her selection by the queen of Thumri, Sidheshwari Devi, as her first 'gandaband shagird'. Ganguly has a special ability to transform profound lyrics into declarations of life's most precious experiences in the manner of Begum Akhtar. Her music rises from 'mere sensuous experience to caress the heights of Sufism'.

Kavita Mitter presented bouquets to Rita Ganguly and her troupe members at the end of the performance.

## Creativity runs in the family

### "Trees and Roots" exhibition



Artworks by Khalid Mahmud Mithu and Kanak Chanpa Chakma.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Rarely are all members of a family involved in artistic endeavours. Khalid Mahmud Mithu and Kanak Chanpa Chakma along with their children Arjo Shrestho and Shiropa Purnais are a notable exception as familiar names in our cultural arena and their creative expressions are almost a genre of art.

Artist couple Khalid Mahmud Mithu and Kanak Chanpa Chakma, are mainly recognised for their artworks. They have won several awards for their contributions to Bangladeshi art.

Their son and daughter, Arjo Shrestho and Shiropa Purna, have made a number of praiseworthy films. The themes are very touching and document the marginalised people and their ways of life. Their works also feature inequity and inhumanity in our society.

The current exhibition of Dhaka Art Centre titled "Tree and Roots" features the works of the artist couple and their son and daughter. The exhibition includes paintings, installation, photography and films.

Kanak Chanpa Chakma has been working on ethnic themes for a long time. Her works invariably feature indigenous people and their daily chores. Imposing texture and mellow surface with meticulous space provide a personal hallmark to her works. She is inspired by the vivid colours of indigenous attire, the hills, forests, 'jhum' cultivation, pristine blue waterfalls, dance and music in other words, anything that defines life in the hilly areas of Bangladesh. Her works also capture the serene moods associated with Buddhism and its various spiritual aspects. The semi-realistic and the abstract mingle in her works. The figures in her paintings are lively and easily communicate with the viewers for their expressive traits.

Apart from her exotic and beautiful ethnic background which is reflected in the simple but beautiful lifestyle, Kanak has always been especially influenced by impressionists. Several of her work deals with indigenous women bathing in the dim light of sunset, indigenous girls gossiping, scenes of the waterfall on a moonlit night.

As a pure abstract painter, Khalid

Mahmood Mithu's works feature pure forms and compositions. His colours are subdued and the forms are not well defined. It is very noticeable that Mithu has made a great attempt to produce some alien features through his paintings. Space has played a vital role in his thought-provoking artworks where varied form movements are observable.

Besides being a painter, Mithu has produced a number of documentaries, TV plays and tele-films. Most of his films usually address contemporary socio-economic and political issues. Some of his works highlight the Liberation War, Language Movement, secularism, social injustice as well as romance.

Both Arjo Shrestho and Shiropa Purna are acclaimed for their films and still photography. Their images at the exhibition highlight street people, vendors, the Bede (gypsy) community and their lifestyle. The promising young photographers have taken many snaps at different locations in the country and abroad.

The exhibition will continue till December 7.

## Social messages through social dramas

### Street theatre festival kicks off

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

An eight-day street theatre festival kickstarted in Faridpur on November 26, and will continue till December 3 at the traditional Ambika Maidan in the town.

Boishakhi Nattya Gosthi in Faridpur arranged the event. The fair is named after Bijon Bhattacharja, the pioneer dramatist of street theatre (Gono Natak).

Acclaimed dramatist Mannan Hira, president of Bangladesh Patho Natak Parishad inaugurated the fair on Friday afternoon.

Theatre researcher Babul Biswas inaugurated an exhibition at the fair. Meanwhile Liakat Ali Khan Lucky, president of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation launched a folder on street theatre.

A seminar was arranged in the afternoon titled "Patho Natak - Gononatak theke Sampratit". Professor Dr. Israfil Shahin of Dhaka University read the key note speech. Dramatist Mannan Hira, professor Abdul Motaleb, Dr. Bilop Bala, Munshi Mohammad Ali Rumi, the president of



Around 20 troupes participate at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Boishakhi Nattya Gosthi discussed the topic with Professor Altaf Hossain in the chair.

The discussants were of the view that Bijon had initiated and enriched Bangla drama with his unique creation of "Nabanno". Street drama is an expression of Bijon's political ideology and activism and it is a theatrical language of politics, they asserted.

The fair, held for the first time in the area is undoubtedly unique and social drama will play a vital role in convey-

ing social messages, said the discussants.

Around 20 troupes including Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Dhaka University (Drama department), Biborton of Jessore, Shabdaboli of Barisal, Padma theatre of Rajbari, Bangla Theatre, Kheyali Natya Sampradoy, Shaheed Sufi Natya Chakra, Fulki, Kheyali, Suniom Natya Chakra, Boishakhi Nattya Gosthi in Faridpur, Bot Tala, Sanglap Group theatre, Swapna Dal, Shabdo Natya Charcha Kendra of Dhaka partici-

pated at the programme.

Their productions to be staged are: "Gohona"; "Sidhanto"; "Dojokh Theke Bolchi"; "Purushkar"; "Omanush"; "Baddo Bhumite Shesh Drisho"; "Bibi Shab"; "Adhar Theke Alo"; "Fulee"; "Hasan Hosener Maa Kande Baromash"; "Jadu"; "Fera"; "Amra Mukti Chai"; "Smiriti"; "Ekjon Ruhul Amin"; "Festoone Lekha Smriti"; "Trunkrohoso" and more.

The programme witnessed a huge and enthusiastic audience everyday.

## "Walton Amar Pono Amar Desh" on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

Phone in and live studio concert "Walton Amar Pono Amar Desh" will go on air on Rtv on November 29 at 11:30pm. A press conference to this effect was held at Rtv office recently.

Executive director of Rtv Syed Ashik Rahman; head of programme Minhazur Rahman and programme manager Rabi Shankar Moitri of Rtv; director of Walton Mizanur Rahman, marketing manager Lokman Hossen Akash and President of Bangladesh

Chamber of Industry Shahedul Islam Helal were present at the press conference.

Folk themed songs with songs of the soil will get priority for the live concert. Spectators can also participate in the concert through phone calls.