

WHAT'S ON

**Aerial Photography**  
Photographer: Yann Artus-Bertrand  
Venue: National Parliament  
Date: Dec 19-Feb 19

**Sadat Ali Akhond**  
Shahitya Puroshkar '10  
Recipient: Mahabud Saha  
Venue: Bangla Academy  
Date: Jan 11, Time: 3:30pm

**Exhibition**  
Title: Paintings of the Past  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka  
Date: January 6-17  
Time: 3-9pm

**Solo Tapestry Exhibition**  
Artist: Tajul Islam  
Venue: Shilpakanga Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 3-14  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Play With a Tiger  
Troupe: Dept. of Theatre, DU  
Venue: Natmandal, DU  
Date: January 6-12  
Time: 6:30pm (everyday)

**Seilm Al Deen Festival**  
Organiser: Dhaka Theatre, JU and Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy and JU  
Date: January 14-16

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre  
Date: January-1-15  
Time: 11am-6pm

**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Aditi Mohsin  
Venue: IGCC, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: January 14  
Time: 6:30pm

# BANGLADESHI MAGICIAN'S GLOBAL FEAT

## Ali Raj Receives Merlin Award



**AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN**  
In the international community of magicians, the much-coveted Merlin Award can be compared to the Oscars, or the Grammys. It's a matter of pride that Bangladeshi magician Ali Raj has received the 2010 Merlin Award. Raj received an invitation to join the award giving ceremony, to be held at Las Vegas (in the US) in March, this year. But he had to decline as he is scheduled to perform around that time. So, the International Magicians' Society (IMS) conferred the award on Raj on January 4, 2011 at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka. International Magicians' Society (IMS) was founded in 1968. The organisation gives the award, once every three years, to magicians who have achieved the highest level of excellence both at national and international levels. The President of IMS, Tony Hassini (a New York based magician) gave away the award to Raj in Dhaka. The awardee was selected based on showmanship, originality, and above all the ability to entertain under any condition. Former Merlin Award winners include Harry Blackstone, David Copperfield and Criss Angel. "No one knows more than your peers the hard work and dedication that you have invested in your acts. To be honoured by your peers is the greatest compliment you can receive," said Hassini to Raj at the award giving programme. Raj said, "When I regretfully notified them (IMS) that I can't attend the award ceremony, to my surprise, they expressed their willingness to come to Bangladesh and asked for a convenient time to organise the event. And it wasn't until much later that I learned that I was the one to receive the award." Raj received the award for Best Family Magic Show. "There are several types of magic -- namely, close up, illusion, conjuring, and sleight of hands," said Raj, adding, "In the west, the magicians who are famous for one type of magic would rarely try other type of acts. But in our country, for some practical reasons, we do all types of acts. First of all, the arrangements required for a large-scale illusion often exceeds the capabilities of local organisers. Then, unlike the west, we do not have auditoriums and venues designed particularly for magic shows. As a consequence, in our country we just try to entertain the audience, regardless of the size of crowd, and the conditions under which we perform." Raj looks forward to entertain the Bangladeshi audience more often and fetch more glory for the nation in future.

# A Taste of Success

In Conversation with Mahfuz Ahmed



**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**  
A combination of self-confidence and hard work always pays off. Actor Mahfuz Ahmed is living proof of this aphorism. Tasting success in TV dramas, modelling and movies, the talented performer has earned a well deserved spot as one of the top actors of the time. Despite only a few appearances on the silver screen, Mahfuz has already picked up a National Film Award. Asked if he is currently the top actor, a modest Mahfuz replies that it is not up to him to decide. Mahfuz terms his hard work and integrity as the key factors for his success. Although compliments on his acting skills make Mahfuz happy, he has never forgotten his humble beginnings and the constant struggles that he overcame with his confidence. Before Mahfuz became a star, he had to be content with smaller roles in TV plays. His first taste of success came with his appearance in "Kothao Keu Nei", while subsequent roles opposite Bipasha Hayat soon after, cemented his status as a favourite among the viewers on the small screen. Mahfuz has been working non-stop for the past few years, gaining much acclaim for his portrayal of the character 'Nurul Huda'. Many also know him better as 'Choita Pagol' because of his role in the eponymous serial. Mahfuz has made his mark on the silver screen as well, with brilliant performances in "Debdash", "Strabon Megher Din" and "Bangla". His role as a Marxist youth -- 'Bodhon' -- in Tauquir Ahmed's "Joyjatra" was also greatly appreciated by critics and viewers alike. The actor says some wonderful acting opportunities in the movie arena have helped his career. The versatile performer has also modelled for products like Fizz Up and Nasir Glass. Asked if the different mediums in which he appears hamper his performance, Mahfuz says he does not crowd his schedule with multiple works simultaneously, allowing him to focus on the work that he has at hand. Mahfuz recently travelled to Rajshahi to shoot for his latest role in Arannya Anwar's serial "Rupkothar Golpo". The actor says he has cut his hair short to portray the role of a thug in the serial. Recollecting his first TV appearance as "Bodi Mastan" in "Kothao Keu Nei", Mahfuz says the viewers will find him as a different kind of thug in the new serial.

# Classical Vocal Performance by Shipra Khan



**SWANI ZUBAYEER**  
To make a performance seem effortless is not that simple at all. Eminent Hindustani classical vocalist Begum Shipra Khan Sajeda, widow of the late Ustad Sagiruddin Khan, captivated the Dhaka music connoisseurs with her effortless performance last Friday. The performance was held at and organized by Indra Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in Dhaka. Khan started off with a rendition of "Raga Maru Bihag". During her rendition, she demonstrated the unique identities of both the *madhyams* (i.e. Pa Ma Ga Ma Ga Re Sa). She performed as many as six items, some on request as well. Her interaction with the audience was warm and informal -- making it the perfect *jalsa*. This actually helped the audience get more involved. She then presented a rather uncommon Thumri based on two South Indian ragas -- "Charukeshi" and "Kirvani" in *tala adhdha*. She continued with Thumri and Dadra based on Ragas "Manjh Khamaj" and "Bhairavi". The Dadra, "Ab Maan Jao Saiyan" in "Manjh Khamaj" was one of the highlights of the evening. The concert ended with a Bhajan, "Prabhu Mere Ab". The two-hour performance seemed inadequate to satiate the audience's thirst for quality music. Gautam Sarkar was on tabla; Alok dey and Shaveena Anam were on harmonium and tanpura respectively. The Director of IGCC deserves kudos for providing classical music enthusiasts with this opportunity.

Members of the cultural organisation 'Amra Kojon Shilpi' dance at the Tito Hall in Bogra to celebrate the conferring of 'Writer Romena Afaz Award' to Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Channel i. Editor of Bogra based newspaper 'Daily Karatoa' and adviser to the cultural organisation handed the award.



# Honouring the Great Bard

Kali O Kalam celebrates Tagore with music and publication

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, monthly literary journal Kali O Kalam held a publication ceremony and musical soiree at Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi in Dhaka on January 6. The journal recently published a special issue featuring the articles of Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Professor Anisuzzaman, Professor Ahmed Rafique, Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Hasnat Abdul Hye, Abul Momen, Professor Hayat Mamud and others. Besides this, Kali O Kalam also launched a folio. The folio is a collection of reproductions of artworks by some noted Bangladeshi and Indian painters including Aminul Islam, Ganesh Halui, Bijon Chowdhury, Lalu Prashad Shau, Murtaja Baseer, Robin Mondol, Qayyum Chowdhury, Sunil Das, Jogen Chowdhury, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Dhiraj Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Shahid Kabir, Monsurul Karim, Farida Zaman, Shishir Bhattacharya, Rokeya Sultana, Ranjit Das and Rafi Haque. The artworks feature portraits of Rabindranath Tagore in various styles. The sketches have a distinct touch of realism and focus on every detail of the poet's visage -- articulation of his dreams, passions and aspirations. Most highlight compositions and the character's dynamism. Professor Nazrul Islam, Chairman of University Grants Commission and Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman jointly unveiled the folio and special issue. Abul Hasnat, editor of Kali O Kalam, delivered the welcome speech on the occasion. Abul Hasnat said, "This issue of Kali O Kalam has a lot of articles on Rabindranath Tagore, which, I think, prove readers with a wide view of the life and work of the bard." "Rabindranath Tagore combined man and nature in his creations. He dreamt of a world that has no war or injustice. Sublime and moving expressions, individualism and humanity are recurring subjects in his writing. We should remember that besides being a true patriot, Tagore was also a global personality. He remains a major source of inspiration for us," he added. The musical programme featured Rabindra Sangeet renditions by Iffat Ara Dewan and Laisa Islam Lisa. They performed songs "Tumi Kemon Korey Gaan Koro", "Ganer Bhetor Diye", "Likhon Tomar" and more.



Iffat Ara Dewan (right) sings at the programme.

# Enlightenment Through Music

Baul Haat and cultural programme in Jhenidah

**AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah**  
A two-day Baul Haat (congregation) and cultural show were held at Jhenidah Shilpakala Academy on January 7 and 8. A rally was brought out from the local Shilpakala Academy premises which paraded all the important roads of the town. 'Lathi Khela' was performed at the academy premises on January 7. The event was inaugurated by Pijush Bandopadhyay, acting president of Bangladesh Gram Theatre. About 400 Baul artists from Shaikupa, Harinakundo, Kushtia, Rajshahi and Bogra participated at the function. Lawmaker Shafikul Islam (Jhenidah-2) was the chief guest. Upazila Chairman Kanak Kanti Das and additional Deputy Commissioner SK Rafikul Islam, among others, were present at the event. Ekramul Haq Liku, president of Jhenidah Theatre, presided over the meeting. On January 7, Khandakar Bazlur Rahman delivered a speech on Lalon's life, while artistes of district Baul Samity performed Baul songs. Later the artistes of Ishara Bhashi Lok Kendra performed at the event. Subsequently Pagla Kanai Smriti Shangrakhan Shangsad performed a Jari Gaan. On January 8 evening, Humayun Kabir Himu, general secretary of Bangladesh Gram Theatre; Nripendra Saha, an essayist and dramatist from Kolkata and Sayeed Abu Bakar, associate professor, English Department of Sirajganj Government College discussed on Lalon Fakir. The discussants said that Lalon tried to dispel darkness from society and directed us to follow the right path through his spiritual songs.



Lathi Khela by Lalon Bhumi Theatre at the event.

# Setting a Trend

Weeklong art exhibition at Rajshahi University

**A.M. JAHD, Rajshahi**  
The weeklong Annual Art Exhibition 2010 began at Rajshahi University (RU) last Thursday with a view to familiarise young artists with Bangladeshi art and heritage. Organised by the Fine Arts Department of the university, the display is open from 9am to 3pm everyday and will run till January 12. A total of 250 artefacts, including paintings, graphic designs, printmaking, sculptures and handicrafts by the teachers and students of the department were displayed at the exhibition. The exhibition reverberated with the presence of a large number of visitors on the first and second day. RU Vice Chancellor Professor Abdus Sobhan inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest, while Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Muhammad Nurullah and Arts Faculty Dean Professor Muhammad Shahidullah were present as special guests. At the inaugural session, the speakers said that the exhibition will go a long way in promoting young artists which will create many opportunities for them in the future. RU VC Professor Abdus Sobhan said the art exhibition could play an important role in the development of art trends in the country. After the inaugural session, the VC and Fine Arts Department chairman Professor Bilkis Ara Begum awarded crests among the front ranking artists in different categories. Pronob Kumar Sarkar won the Zainul Abedin Award as best artist. Suman Kumar Sarkar (SM Sultan Memorial Award in paintings category); Foad Hasan (Shaheed Habibur Rahman Memorial Award in graphic design); Muhammad Asif Hasan (Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Memorial Award in printmaking) and Sharmin (Meer Abdul Kayum Memorial Award in handicrafts) are the other winners.



RU Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries at the exhibition.

<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	05:30 Durpath
01:25 Cholochochittr Galpo	06:25 Bajarey Notun
05:10 Banijjo Mela Protidin (Live)	07:45 Hothak Ekdin
06:15 Abidin	12:30 Total Sports
10:45 Bihonjo Katha	<b>Boishakhi TV</b>
12:30 Gramephone Lead News	07:30 Bhor Holo Bibhabari
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	10:30 Bangla Feature Film
01:05 Ebang Cinemar Gaan	05:15 Boishakhi-CNN
01:30 Hridoyer Gaan	Sharabishwa
03:10 Abhan	08:45 Empty Pocket
06:00 Magazine Programme: Rupantor	09:15 Shamparka
09:35 Fantastic Family Game Show	<b>Diganta TV</b>
11:30 KC Travel On	12:30 Score Cards
12:00 Gramephone Aker Shaangbadpastro	03:30 World Round Up
	08:05 Din Boderol Dola
	09:25 Chitra Bichitra
	11:05 Jilon Japon
	11:30 Arshinagar
	<b>Z Studio</b>
	01:30 Mission Impossible II

<b>RADIO</b>	
<b>abc radio FM 89.2</b>	10:00 Morning Express
09:30 Adik Ogi	12:00 My Time
09:35 Operatika	01:00 No Tension
09:00 Duranto Bolekey	04:00 Dhaka Calling
09:30 Adik Ogi	09:00 Night Rider
04:30 Bhalo Theko Sange	<b>RADIO TODAY FM 89.6</b>
Thelo	07:15 Good Morning Dhaka
05:30 Kachhulaka	09:00 Today's Aida
<b>Radio Foorti</b>	04:00 U Turn
07:30 Hello Dhaka	08:00 Today Hai Hok

**Nandini**  
On ATN BANGLA at 10:55pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Pijush Bandopadhyay, Masud Ali Khan

**Body of Lies**  
On HBO at 12:15am  
Genre: Action/Thriller  
Cast: Russell Crowe, Leonardo DiCaprio

**Metamorphosis**  
On Desh TV at 08:15pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Humayun Faridoe, Apurbo

01:00 Shastha Protidin	04:30 Becoming Jane
03:15 Amader Anandabari	07:00 How to Lose Friends &
04:10 Jamar Achhey Bolar	Alimara People
06:45 Achhey	09:30 Mission to Mars
05:30 Apnar Jiggasha	12:00 The Spiritual Boxer
06:45 Ogrojo	<b>Star Movies</b>
07:20 Sholana Bangallana	01:40 Pandorum
11:30 Music Jam	03:35 The Betrayed
<b>ETV</b>	05:20 The Jerk Theory
12:30 Ekushey Business	07:00 Army Of Darkness
04:00 Drama	08:45 Snake Eyes
05:30 Street Magic	11:30 Hard Ride To Hell
06:30 Desh Jurey	<b>HBO</b>
11:45 Baula Ontor	12:30 Case 39
12:00 Banglalink Ekusher Raat	02:45 Starship Troopers 3
<b>Rtv</b>	04:45 The Skeleton Key
10:45 Tarikalap	07:15 Major League
12:06 Protidin-er Gaan	09:30 Star Trek
02:30 Bangla Feature Film	12:15 Body of Lies
05:30 Natok Thekeye Gaan	<b>Star World</b>
11:45 Trade Talk	12:30 Burn Notice
<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	06:30 The Bachelor
09:05 Shudhai Gaan	07:30 Koffee With Karan
02:20 Bangla Feature Film	08:30 How I Met Your Mother
09:05 Moner Katha	11:30 Two And A Half Men
12:30 Cinemar Gaan	12:00 The Simpsons
<b>Desh TV</b>	<b>BBC World</b>
04:00 Desh Janopod	10:30 HARDtalk
	11:30 World Business Report

<b>DRAMA SERIAL</b>	
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	07:45pm Neel
08:00pm Mokab	09:20pm Joznaay/KaloSaap
10:55pm Nandini	Air Com
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	<b>ETV</b>
07:50pm Soapobazar	08:20pm Bishho
08:15pm Manabzamin	09:30pm Idris
09:45pm Dhupchhaya	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>
	08:15pm Mad Bhai
	09:45pm Fifty-Fifty

<b>NEWS BULLETIN</b>	
<b>ETV</b>	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm,	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm,
News (English) at 10:00am,	10:30pm,
4:00 pm, 10:30 pm,	News Headlines (Bangla) at
Late Night News (Bangla and	10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm,
English) 11:30 pm, (To be	News (English) at 6:00pm
telecast on all Bangla	Rtv
channels)	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm,
<b>CHANNEL-i</b>	4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm,
News (Bangla): 7:00 am,	10:30 pm, 12:30 am
8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm,	<b>Rtv</b>
10:30 pm, 12:30 am	News (Bangla): 7:30am,
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm,
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm,	10:00pm, 1:00am
10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00	<b>ETV</b>
am, 4:00 am	News (Bangla): 9:00am,
01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm	11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm,
News (English): 9:00 am,	5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm,
6:00 pm	

<b>TALK SHOW</b>	
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	<b>Rtv</b>
11:30am Asian City Vision 2020	08:30pm Road To Democracy
11:30am Pa Katta Key Boleo	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	06:10am Anur Ami
09:45am Gramephone Titlo	06:10pm Front Line
Mantra	<b>ETV</b>
12:30pm Caylly Taraka Kathan	10:10pm O Bandhu Amar
<b>ntv</b>	<b>Desh TV</b>
12:10am El Showoy	11:45pm Shuja Kotha