

**WHAT'S ON**

Group Art Exhibition  
Title: Standard Chartered  
Sreeponi 2010  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 1-10

Mukh O Mukhosh 3  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, S-4, Uttara  
Date: March 26-April 6  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Grand Group Art exhibition  
Venue: Sajti Art Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2  
Date: April 1-30  
Time: 10am-8pm

Book Fair  
Organiser: Adorn Publication  
Venue: Public Library, Hall, Shahbagh  
Date: April 2-13  
Time: 10am-8pm

Documentary Screening  
Title: Bangladesh-e Rabindranath  
Organiser: Surlok  
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum Auditorium  
Date: March 25-April 6

Photography Exhibition  
Title: In Search  
Venue: Galerie Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi  
Date: March 25-April 6

Group Installation Show  
Title: Dhaka Seeks Solitude  
Venue: Goethe Institut, H-10, R-9, Dhanmondi  
Date: Mar 10-Apr 7  
Time: 11am-8pm

**BALGO** Contemporary Australian Art Exhibition  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, 69/1, New Circular Road, Dhaka  
Date: April 1-13

**BOOK LAUNCH**  
Liberation War as witnessed by Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Children put their best foot forward  
Musical programme in Sylhet

A book on Liberation War, titled "Dinajpur-Mukti Juddho" was unveiled here recently.  
Dr. Mohammad Selim has edited the book featuring the wartime experiences of historian Muntasir Mamun.

Marking 40 years of Independence of the country, Dinajpur Mukti Juddha Sangsad organised a programme at Dinajpur Institute premises last Sunday.

Professor Dr. Alaudin Ahmed, adviser to the Prime Minister, was present as chief guest at the programme.

Veteran politician M Abdur Rahim was present as honourable guest.

Professor Muntasir Mamun; local lawmaker Iqbal Rahim; Habibullah Khan, vice chairman of Central Command Council of Bangladesh Mukti Juddha Sangsad; Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur; Professor Dr. Mohammad Selim and Abul Kalan Azad, convener of Dinajpur Liberation War Museum, were present as special guests.

At the discussion, the speakers conveyed that the country attained independence after nine months of brutal war against the Pakistani army and their collaborators. The heinous crimes against humanity carried out during the war have gone unpunished, they said.

The speakers urged the government to initiate the trial of war criminals as soon as possible.

Five local individuals received 'Independence Honour' for their contribution to their respective fields. The honoured individuals are: Advocate Md. Abdul Latif (organiser); Md. Besaruddin Ahmed (freedom fighter); Mirza Anwarul Islam Tanu (culture); Md. Rafiqul Islam (sports) and Pulin Behari Chakraborty (education).

## Shakila Zafar Ventures into New Territory with *Labonye Purno Pran*



### A CORRESPONDENT

Shakila Zafar has been an audience favourite for her melodious 'adhunik' (contemporary) Bangla songs for almost three decades. In 1979, after winning a classical music competition (by Bangladeshi *Betar*), she stepped into the Bangladeshi music scene, and since then there has been no turning back.

The breaking news is that the celebrated singer is going to release her first solo album of Rabindra Sangeet on April 7. The album, titled "Labonye Purno Pran", features 10 songs and was recorded in Kolkata (India), under the supervision of accomplished Tagore singer and exponent Chanchal Khan.

It should be mentioned that Shakila had recorded two Rabindra Sangeet duets with Kamal Ahmed (featured on the latter's album "Phalguner Din-e") previously.

After decades of establishing herself as a major name in the adhunik Bangla music genre, what could have made Shakila venture into the realm of Rabindra Sangeet? According to the artiste: "An incessant urge to render the timeless classics created by Rabindranath Tagore. My fascination with Rabindra Sangeet goes back to my childhood -- thanks to my maternal uncle, Manjur Ahmed. He used to sing Rabindra Sangeet on Chittagong Radio. I used to dream that one day I'd sing these songs myself."

However, even for someone who is as popular as Shakila Zafar, releasing and marketing an album of Rabindra Sangeet did take considerable effort. "It all started after a private TV channel aired my rendition of some Rabindra Sangeet. I received a lot of encouragement and compliments. After a while, G Series and Agnibeena offered to market and distribute a solo album of Rabindra Sangeet featuring me," says Shakila. "The album took a lot of work; more than what I had anticipated at the outset. Working on these songs has also been a learning experience for me. I had to literally learn eight of the ten songs on the album," she adds.

"For all my recognition as an adhunik singer, I know there's a risk that some critics might say my attempt at Rabindra Sangeet rendition has been sloppy. So the most important task, for me, was to sing these songs as accurately as I could. I had given it my all," she says.

The upcoming album features "Labonye Purno Pran" (the title song), "Ekutku Chhio Lagay", "Ogo Mor Chiro Ochena Porodeshi", "Shiuli Phool" and other Rabindra Sangeet.

The album is being sponsored by Eastern Bank Limited.

The serial is aired every Monday and Tuesday at the same time.

## Tagore's Footsteps in Bangladesh

Documentary by Chanchal Khan

A comprehensive documentary, highlighting Rabindranath Tagore's intermittent stay in Bangladesh, will be released on April 9 at the main auditorium, National Museum in Dhaka, according to a press release. Titled, "Bangladesh-e Babindranath: Poth Chawatei Anando", the documentary has been planned and directed by Dr. Chanchal Khan, better known as a Tagore singer and exponent.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad is likely to attend the launch of the film as chief guest. Dr. Chanchal Khan has also directed music for the documentary. Ahmed Rafique did the research, and actor Rokeya Prachy has done the narration.

"The documentary has historical, archival and educational value," said the director about his creation.

The documentary was filmed at different locations in Bangladesh where Rabindranath had stayed.

Elements of the documentary include nine songs that were penned by the Nobel laureate poet during his stay here. The film also features glimpses from a play based on a Tagore short story; interviews of eminent personalities, such as Dr. Atiur Rahman, Selina Hossain and Ahmed Rafique. Bhawar Bandopadhyay and Dahlia Ahmed have also done some of the narration. The film also includes Asaduzzaman Noor's recitation of the poem "Sonar Tori".

The documentary marks the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Shurolok Music Group has produced the documentary, which has been sponsored by Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited.

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