

## WHAT'S ON

**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Photographer: Nafis Ahmed Nafis  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dharmamdi  
Date: October 1-8  
Time: 3pm-8pm

**Film Screening**  
Film: Mukti Gaan  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan-1  
Date: October 13  
Time: 3:15pm

**DVD Launch**  
Of the documentary 'Al Badar'  
Venue: National Press Club  
Date: October 9  
Time: 5:15pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Master and the Apprentices  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dharmamdi  
Date: October 7-18  
Time: 3pm-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Symphony of Colours  
Painter: Shumona Haque  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmamdi  
Date: Oct. 2-11  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Portrait: Riddle of Characters  
Artist: Pandit Sarathi Das  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dharmamdi  
Date: Sept. 30-Oct. 13  
Time: 3-9pm

**Classical Music Soiree**  
Artist: Pandit Sarathi Chatterjee  
Venue: Natyashala, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka  
Date: October 15  
Time: 6:30pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Mayer Mukh  
Troupe: Prachyan  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: October 8  
Time: 7pm



# SPICY BITES

## Of talent hunts, empty promises and an ailing music industry

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DESK

*The Close-Up 1 competition was the pioneer of its kind in the country, seeking out fresh singing talents from the grassroots level. Several youths -- who emerged from the competition -- are now busy recording artists, while a few of them have also fallen to oblivion. Among those who have made a mark in the music industry are Rinku, Muhin, Kishore, Putul, Pulok and Lisa. Recently, The Daily Star hosted an 'adda' with these young artistes. Here are the highlights from the 'adda':*

The Daily Star (TDS): Often the champions or the runner-ups of a talent hunt fail to make major impacts on the audio market. Why is that?

**Pulok:** Most of those who emerged from the Close-Up 1 competition are thriving at the moment.

**Kishore:** The struggles of staying afloat in the entertainment industry is different than other hardships. Some win the fight, some lose. I believe we didn't get lost and are continuing our individual battles. Hopefully, in the end, we will emerge victors.

**Rinku:** The competition only provides a platform to the artiste, but the rest needs to be done by each individual. Cementing one's place in the industry and also in the hearts of listeners is up to every singer.

**Putul:** The question was regarding the audio market. But it's unfortunate that at the time of our emergence, the industry was struggling. I think the downturn in audio market still contin-

ues. In this dire time, even the senior artistes are reluctant to release new albums.

**Rinku:** However, the existing crisis hasn't stopped us. We continue to make albums and also appear on TV programmes.

**Putul:** We have all released albums and continue performing live on stage. In that sense, we can be considered as successes.

**Rinku:** The Close-Up 1 contestants are all busy with playbacks and live shows. We have all managed to attain good positions in the industry. No matter where a programme takes place in the country, at least one Close-Up star gets called.

**Putul:** It will be wrong to say people have forgotten us. Thousands, who voted for us during the competition,

still remember us.

**TDS:** Even though the music industry is going through a rough patch, if the songs are good, people surely will listen. Right?

**Kishore:** Definitely. From my experience, I've seen that the combination of good tunes and lyrics is always a winner. I'm saying that based on what I've seen on TV shows (live) and at concerts. I believe talent hunts did our country a great favour by revitalising public interest in Bangla music, beating out the rampant influence of Hindi songs. Although Hindi songs are still here, its influence has gone down.

**Muhin:** It's true that we have been able to reclaim the glory of Bangla music -- even if it's not on a major scale. This was possible because we sang the classics originally recorded by

acclaimed artistes. But now it's our turn to sing our own songs and popularise them -- a task which will surely take time. Our senior artistes also did not come into fame suddenly; they worked hard for it. It's only been 4-5 years since the talent hunt. More time will be needed to build our careers.

**Pulok:** Those of us present here today have been able to release audio albums that have become hits. Our original numbers have earned popularity. If we produce good music, the albums are bound to sell.

**TDS:** Organisers and mentors on talent hunts often make promises to young artistes that they'll provide assistance during the formative period in the music industry. Do they follow through?

**Rinku:** Usually that doesn't happen.

**Muhin:** Such promises are not discussed later.

**Rinku:** Once the competition is over, everything else is over as well. It's good if a young artiste has a guide when he/she is trying to break through. But still, people's love allowed me to release several albums.

**TDS:** Growing up, did you all receive music lessons?

**Rinku:** Those of us present here have been singing since childhood. Practice can help hone one's skills.

**Lisa:** I think music lessons are necessary to survive in these competitive times.

**TDS:** We hear that album sales are falling, as tracks are being uploaded on the Internet as soon as an album is released. If that is true, then how do the artistes survive?

**Rinku:** Suppose an album is produced at the cost of Tk 1.5 lakh, we are offered only Tk 50,000 with good publicity promises. This is how the audio industry works.

**Kishore:** Record labels complain to us that piracy is pulling down sales. Many artistes are forced to cut albums for free. A singer needs to make money off his/her albums to survive.

**Muhin:** Previously, there would be contracts that gave the singers around Tk 3 lakh out of a Tk 5 lakh album budget. But now we are neither properly patronised, nor do we have any such agreement.

**Putul:** If you ask how we are surviving, I have to say it's because of live shows on TV and stage performances.

**TDS:** What is the biggest problem plaguing the audio industry right now?

**Pulok:** Audio piracy is the biggest evil.

**Muhin:** As far as I know, an anti-piracy drive began under the leadership of the late Colonel Gulzar and it had some success. The audio industry regained its footing at that time -- rekindling hopes. A similar drive needs to be initiated as soon as possible.

**Kishore:** The government needs to step up its efforts to stop piracy.

**Rinku:** Audio industry has many problems, but it is piracy that needs to be stopped immediately. A lot of problems will be solved once it's done.

**Lisa:** We want the government to come forward and save the industry by stopping piracy.

**Putul:** All problems will not be solved overnight. But piracy is the root of all problems. Both artistes and the government will have to work together to tackle the crisis.



PHOTO: HUMIT M.

## Runa Laila rocks Delhi



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A mesmerising live performance by the diva Runa Laila made Mahanabanni, the penultimate day of the Durga Puja festival, a very special occasion for an estimated 1,000 music lovers who assembled at the exquisitely decorated pandal of East Delhi's Miloni Cultural and Welfare Association on October 5.

This was the only Puja venue in the Indian capital where Runa Laila sang and like a truly professional artiste set up a rapport with the audience that included people cutting across ages.

A half a mile queue of people was seen outside the Puja venue in a park, waiting patiently for their turn to get into the pandal to listen to the singer live possibly for the first time in Delhi in many years.

The singer's mixed bag of ever-popular Bangla and Hindi numbers (keeping in mind the present generation of Bengalis and her non-Bangla-speaking fans) and made many in the audience dance and thoroughly enjoy the 90-minute performance.

Draped in a beautiful embroidered pink sari, Runa Laila invited some young boys and girls from the audience on to the stage and made them put on their dancing shoes for some time as she belted out the super-hit songs like "Shadher Lau" and "Damadam Mast Qalandar" in her enchanting style.

The lustiest cheers were heard when Runa Laila sang "Dey Dey Pyar De" and then effortlessly shifted to the Bangla folk classic "Allah Megh Dey"

which inspired the tune of the former.

The audience once again burst into celebrations when the singer began the number "Bondhu Tin Din". After the first line, she paused and asked the audience for a stronger appreciation and prompt came the full-throated response.

It was past midnight when the Runa Laila show ended and everyone returned with a deep sense of fulfilment. After all, the Association had been trying to get Runa Laila to perform during the Durga Puja for the last two years and it was only this year that they could make it happen.

As the car carrying the singer waded carefully through the melting crowd after the show, her fans jostled with each other to wave at her and she returned the gesture, reflecting the popularity she enjoys in India.

For Miloni Cultural and Welfare Association, the Runa Laila presentation came as an icing on the cake on a day when its innovative pandal was adjudged the best in Delhi and won a prize of Rs one lakh.

The pandal, inspired by the famous Ajanta and Ellora caves, was made out of newspapers into the shape of cave carvings. Acrylic paintings in natural clay colour, inspired by the cave art, covered the pandal.

Four artists from Paschimbanga state's Bishnupur and Bankura districts did the paper mache decoration and there was no usual plaster of paris or thermocol. Freelance artist Ranadeep Mukherjee had conceptualised the pandal.

## Puja celebration in Rangpur



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bengali Hindu community, wrapped up on October 6 with the immersion of Durga idols in Rangpur along with the whole country.

The officials of Rangpur district said that some 812 Puja mandap were set up in Rangpur this year.

In Rangpur, the idols and the Puja mandap extended to elaborate interiors, executed by trained artists, with consis-

tent stylistic elements. The Hindu community of Rangpur observed Durga Puja with much festivity, glorifying the Goddess.

On Bijoya Dashami, devotees with heavy hearts took the idols for immersion in processions, amid loud chants of "glory be to Mother Durga" and "she will come again next year", and drum beats. Hindus believe that Durga Puja is not only a religious festival. It is a universal celebration of good winning over evil. It is more of a socio-cultural celebration that tends to renew amity among people.

## THEATRE

### Natyadhara stages Rother Roshi on Durga Puja



A scene from the play.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Natyadhara staged its latest production "Rother Roshi" at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on October 6. The neo-classic Tagore play was directed by Ashish Khondker. The show marked the celebration of Bijoya Dashami (last day of Durga Puja).

"Rother Roshi" is one of the most popular plays written by Tagore. The story draws elements from the class system, politics and need to establish equality. The play is about the eternal but seemingly static chariot of time, as the Divinity refuses to move it. On the whole, the play

addresses contemporary global politics.

The play follows a 'roth jatra', an ancient ritualistic Hindu festival. People start gathering at the venue early in the morning. Efforts are made to move the 'roth' (chariot), but to everyone's surprise it doesn't budge. A priest comes and reads out the holy words, but the chariot remains stationary. The warriors come and pull the bridle but to no avail.

Fear and anxiety take over; devotees start wailing. Priests proclaim, "great danger and disaster await."

In this chaos, a group of workers come and pull the ropes. To everyone's shock, the chariot slowly

starts to move. But all does not end well; instead of moving in the right direction, the mammoth chariot starts moving towards the people. Interestingly, soldiers think it is moving towards the arsenal, the priest thinks it is coming towards the temple, and the affluent are afraid it will crush the treasury.

The cast included Sayyasaachi Chanchal, Masud Parvez, Kamal Hossain, Bishwajit Sarker, Alok Saha Babu, Kazi Uzzal, Ashrafun Nehar, Shamsun Nahar and Hafsa Aktar.

Ashish Khondker also directed the music and designed props for the play. Faiz Zahir designed the set and light. Artist Chandra Sekhar Saha was the costume designer.



Shadhona staged the dance-drama "Tasher Desh" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on October 6. A satire on the rigidity of class system, the drama is about a land of cards where a population is trapped in countless, inane rituals. The dance-drama presented a fusion of diverse dance forms including Manipuri, Chhau and Western Contemporary. Directed by Warda Rihab, the production is jointly choreographed by Rihab and Rachel Krische (UK).

## Jege Achho Ki to air 150th episode



A CORRESPONDENT

Entertainment show "Robi Jege Achho Ki", on Rtv, will air its 150th episode tonight at 11:30pm. The live show mainly focuses on phone conversations on a certain topic among the hosts, guests and the audience. Celebrities regularly feature in the programme as guests. Media personalities appear once a month as special guests and converse with the audience. Segments such as reading out emails sent by fans is also an important part of the show.

Hosted by Sayem and Nawshin, the show is produced by Minhazur Rahman.

## THE WEEKLY STRUM

Am.....  
Ami Jare Chaire  
G.....  
Shey Thake Mori Ontore  
Am.....  
Ami Jare Chaire  
G.....  
Shey Thake Mori Ontore  
Am.....  
Ami Tare Peyeo Harai Re  
G.....  
Ami Tare Peyeo Harai Re..

Am.....  
Ami Tare Peyeo Harai Re..

Song: Ami Jare Chaire  
Album: Onamika  
Singer: Azam Khan

Lyric and tune by Azam Khan

G.....  
Biraj Kore Shey E Bhubone  
Am.....  
Ami Tare Peyeo Harai Re  
G.....  
Ami Tare Peyeo Harai Re..

Am.....  
Bhoktie Mukti Janle Ei Shotti  
G.....  
Bashona Purno Hobe Shadhone  
Am.....  
Ami Tare Peyeo Harai Re  
G.....  
Ami Tare Peyeo Harai Re..

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October 2011

Our offer for the whole month of October:

30% discount in the following • Consultation • Ultrasound scan • Core biopsy • Cosmetic Breast Surgery (Implant, Reduction, Lift etc) • Cancer surgery and Reconstruction

TASMA TAHMID BREASTCARE

Tasmia Tahmid Breast Care Clinic is a Multidisciplinary Breast clinic, where Triple Assessment (Clinical Assessment, Imaging and Needle Core biopsy) is available, which is first time in Bangladesh.

Meet our team of Onco-plastic Breast surgeon, Radiologist, Pathologist and Oncologist.

Lead Breast Surgeon  
Dr. Tasmia Tahmid  
MBBS (DMC) MRCSed  
Full member of BASO (British Association of Surgical Oncology) and ABS (British Association of Breast Surgeons)

Tasmia Tahmid Breast Care: DIPHAM Hospital (Level-6), House -16, Road No-16 (Old 27), Dharmamdi Genetic Plaza, Dhaka-1209. Phone: 8117773 Ext. 919. Fax: 880-2-9115062, Mobile: 0194 2700306, 0175 5013069, E-mail: tasmatahmid@aol.com

Opening hours: 10 am to 6 pm (Friday closed)

ATN BANGLA

03:05 Bangla Feature Film  
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor  
11:30 Drama Serial: Amader Shongshar  
01:15 Prapok  
CHANNEL I  
12:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
05:15 Kishki Shungbad  
06:20 The Daily Star-Standard  
11:30 Fun Club Tournament

Rtv  
10:10 Dhrupadi Kahini  
12:35 Bangla Feature Film  
05:00 Campus Extra  
09:50 Drama Serial: Ponditer Mela

ETV  
10:02 Dehghari  
01:30 Bangla Feature Film  
06:30 Vobdo Gure Dot Com  
07:50 Ottopur Ami

09:02 Houseful  
11:00 Rajpoteir Baire

Z Studio

01:30 Sweet Home Alabama  
04:00 Made in Hollywood  
07:00 Kate & Leopold  
09:30 Snake Eyes  
11:40 Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

Star Movies

09:55 I Love You, Beth Cooper  
11:40 Half Past Dead 2  
01:20 Last Action Hero  
03:35 Alien Hunter  
05:15 Desperado  
07:05 Step Up 3  
09:00 Jennifer's Body  
10:45 Last Action Hero  
01:00 I Love You, Beth Cooper

HBO

10:55 Red Dragon  
03:15 Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves  
06:10 Harry Potter and the

RADIO

abc radio FM 89.2  
06:00 Bhojer Janalay  
09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney  
12:00 Darun Dugurey  
05:00 Duranta Boleley  
08:00 Shondhataru  
09:00 Shajer Maya  
11:00 Kader Alashery  
11:00 Goleb Shach Nei  
08:00 Aiddabati  
02:00 Foorti Unlimited  
06:00 Bumper to Bumper  
10:00 Back to Back Music  
RADIO TODAY FM 89.6  
06:00 Gonen FM  
08:00 Good Morning Dhaka  
11:00 World Music  
04:00 U Turn  
07:00 Take Ta Hak  
10:00 Raat Vor Gaan  
12:00 Humum Pecha

Bondhu Ebong

Otopor

On ATN Bangla at 08:00pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Mamunur Rashid, Chanchal Chowdhury

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