

WHAT'S ON

Victory Day Celebration
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Shilpakala Academy premises

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Of Rapture and Continuity
Artist: Moulidul Islam
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Shahabuddin Ahmed
Venue: National Museum, Shahabshah
Time: 10am-8:30pm (Friday)

Musical Soiree
Organiser: Bhowaya Gaan-e-Dol
Venue: Music & Dance Centre
Auditorium: Shilpakala Academy

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Songs of Our Motherland
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmadadi

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Songs from the Leisure
Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, Dharmadadi

National Folk Music Fest 2010-2011
Organiser: Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Parishad
Venue: Chittagong & Dhaka

Art Workshop
Organiser: Depart
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dharmadadi

Theatre honours mime maestro Partha Pratim

Members of Theatre (Baily Road) honoured internationally famed Bangladeshi mime maestro Partha Pratim Majumder at its office on Natok Saroni (Baily Road) in the capital on December 17. For his outstanding contribution to arts and culture and receiving the highest French cultural honour 'Chevalier de L'ordre des Arts et des Lettres' (Knight in the Order of Fine Arts and Humanities), Theatre accorded a reception to the artiste. Theatre personality and chief of Theatre (Baily Road), Rezaul Ekram Raju, and noted actress Afroza Banu delivered welcome addresses at the event. Dr. Nilufar Banu, president of Theatre, presented an uttario to the honoured artiste. Members of Charunidam School of Acting greeted Majumder with flowers.



Partha Pratim Majumder speaks at the programme.

Yesterday once more

Cultural evening at Mymensingh
AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
A cultural programme -- blending the songs of the 1990s and yester-years -- charmed a large audience at Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam College in the town on Friday evening. The songs were "Koto Raginir Bhul Bhangate", "Osru Diye Lekha E Gaan", "Aksher Shob Tara", "Shonar Kathi Rukar Kathi", "Ogo Brishti Amar Chokher Pata", "Ei Banglar Matite Mago", "Amaye Ekjon Shada Manush" and more. Sandipon, a leading cultural institution of the district, had organised the programme. Mahbub Hossain Sharif, director of the cultural group, delivered the welcome speech. In his speech, Sharif said that Sandipon organises such cultural programmes to showcase both popular songs of the present and yesteryears. "The overwhelming response from the audience is a constant source of encouragement," added Sharif.

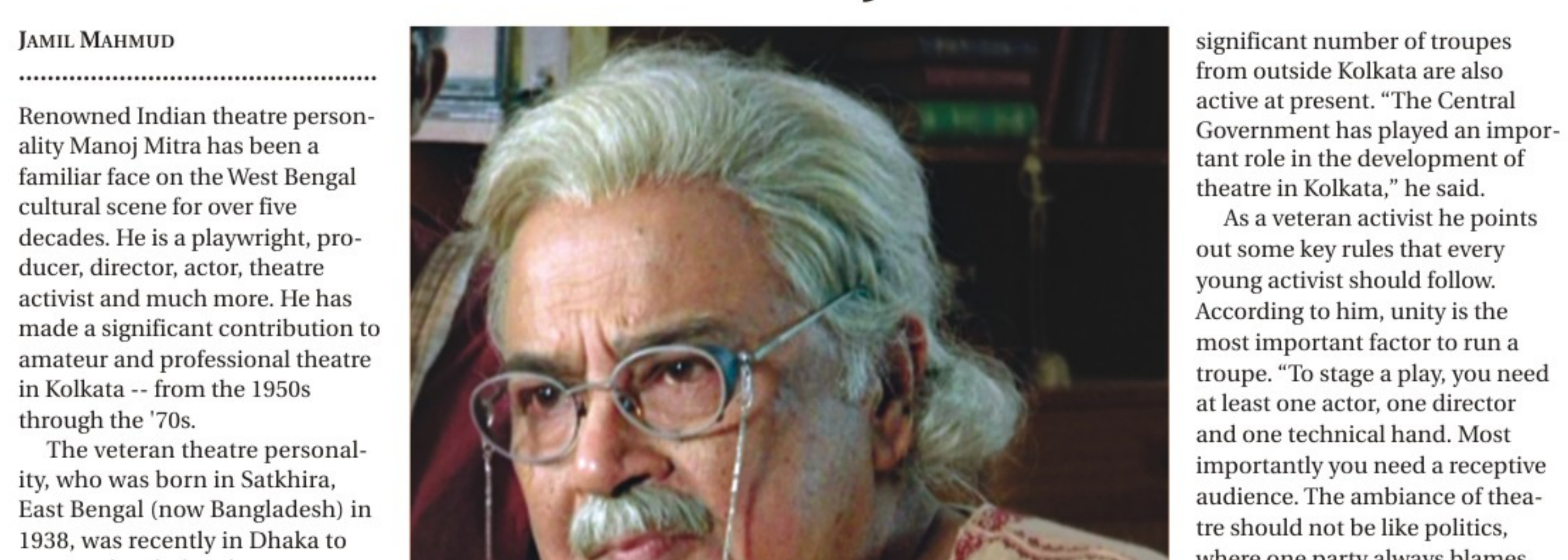
Memorial meeting on Kabir Chowdhury



Syed Shamsul Haq speaks on Kabir Chowdhury.

Bangla Academy arranged a memorial meeting in honour of the recently deceased National Professor Kabir Chowdhury on December 17 at Rabindra Chattr in the academy. Justice Habibur Rahman; Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman; Nazrul exponent Rafiqul Islam; former Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University, Dr. Pabitra Sarkar; writer and poet Syed Shamsul Haq; theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar; author Selina Hossain; economist Dr. Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad; music exponent Karunamaya Goswami; lawmaker Baby Moudud; Director General of Bangla Academy, Shamsuzzaman Khan and daughter of Kabir Chowdhury, Professor Shaheen Mahbuba Kabir, among others, spoke on the occasion. Educationist Zillur Rahman Siddiqui presided over the memorial meeting. Syed Shamsul Haq recited a poem on Chowdhury. Syed Shamsul Haq said, "Chowdhury was a perpetual dreamer and a progressive man by nature. He was fearless and never compromised his moral integrity." Selina Hossain said, "His contribution to our literature is multifaceted. He also played a significant role in the Liberation War and was a leader of the anti-autocratic movement of the 1990s. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said, "Chowdhury was a major participant in many social and political movements. He was a major supporter of the trial of war criminals. He hoped that the trial would be a fair one and live up to the international standards." About Chowdhury, Shamsuzzaman Khan said, "Chowdhury was the head of Bangla Academy in the early 1970s and played an important role as the director of the Academy in upholding secular values during the mass movements of the '70s." Dr. Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad asserted, "He was the ideal progressive Bengali. He also designed a modern and timely national education policy." Ramendu Majumdar said, "His contribution to the sphere of theatre was immense and he revolutionised the theatre movement of Bangladesh." Anisuzzaman said, "Chowdhury was a recognised translator. He translated many books from Bengali to English and English to Bengali. He also wrote several books on Western art, literature, theatre and travelling."

THE BENGAL CONNECTION
In conversation with Manoj Mitra



Renowned Indian theatre personality Manoj Mitra has been a familiar face on the West Bengal cultural scene for over five decades. He is a playwright, producer, director, actor, theatre activist and much more. He has made a significant contribution to amateur and professional theatre in Kolkata -- from the 1950s through the '70s. The veteran theatre personality, who was born in Satkhira, East Bengal (now Bangladesh) in 1938, was recently in Dhaka to receive the Shaheed Munier Chowdhury Award conferred by Theatre (Bailey Road). He talked to The Daily Star about his visit, the honour, the present theatre scenario in Kolkata and a gamut of subjects. "Although there is a political division between the two lands, theatre gives me an opportunity to come here again and again. It is my destiny that I am involved with theatre. The honour that has been bestowed upon me this time is special," said the veteran activist. Mitra revealed his affection and deep respect for Chowdhury and termed the theatre giant as "someone who possessed all the human virtues". One of the pioneering theatre personalities of this land, Chowdhury paved the way for modern trends in theatre. "He possessed creativity and knowledge. As a teacher, he bridged the gap with his students. He inspired people to dream. Most importantly, he tagged theatre with the cultural movement of Bangladesh," said Mitra. The present theatre trend in Kolkata is very inspiring, according to Mitra, who is president of the Paschimbanga Natya Akademi (Govt. of West Bengal). He said that a professional attitude has become the hallmark of theatre troupes over the last decade. Members of many troupes get regular salaries from the government. A significant number of troupes from outside Kolkata are also active at present. "The Central Government has played an important role in the development of theatre in Kolkata," he said. As a veteran activist he points out some key rules that every young activist should follow. According to him, unity is the most important factor to run a troupe. "To stage a play, you need at least one actor, one director and one technical hand. Most importantly you need a receptive audience. The ambience of theatre should not be like politics, where one party always blames the other. Theatre's success lies in the unity among troupes," he said. Mitra also has a first hand impression of the current theatre scene in Dhaka. He said that Bangladeshi plays, especially works of Selim Al Deen, Nasiruddin Yusuf and Mamunur Rashid, have been widely appreciated by the Kolkata audience. He believes that if the theatre of this region is to survive, theatre practice in Bangladesh and Kolkata should go hand in hand. The recent trend of deconstruction of Rabindranath Tagore's literary works -- both in Bangladesh and India -- has impressed him. He believes that theatre of this region has the capability to dominate the world in future. Towards this end, he says, egocentrism must become a thing of the past.

Table with TV and radio program listings for ATN Bangla, Rtv, Channel I, and Banglavision.

Choita Pagol On Channel I at 07:50pm
Drama Serial: Cast: Mahfuz Ahmed, Lutfur Rahman, Gearte
Vantage Point On 2 Studio at 09:30pm
Genre: Action/Crime
Cast: Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker

Bichar Gaan enthralled Faridpur audience

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur
A two-day programme featuring Bichar Gaan (spiritual songs) was held recently at Faridpur City College premises on the occasion of the 82nd birth anniversary of spiritual singer Halim Boyati. Halim Sangeet Smiriti Parishad (HSSP) of Faridpur arranged the programme. The event also marked the 5th founding ceremony of the organisation. The function included a sharinda (rural musical instrument) competition, discussion on the life of Halim Boyati, rendition of folk songs and an award giving ceremony. A large number of enthusiastic people of different ages throughout the programme to listen to Bichar Gaan by noted Baul singers -- Fakir Md. Abul Sarkar and Papiya Zaman Sathi. The keen audience listened to the songs throughout the night. Arun Chandra Mohottom, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Faridpur was the chief guest while Faridpur Municipality Mayor, Mahtab Ali, was the special guest.



BULBU AHMED, Natore

Baul Mela in Natore

The 7th Baul Mela was held at Natore sadar upazila last Thursday. The festival is held annually on the first day of the Bengali month Poush. A large number of female Bauls participated in this year's festival. Bholaman Baul Sangathan, a local cultural organisation, held the event. The programme included a village fair, discussion and rendition of songs by Bauls from across the country. Chaired by Khagendranath Roy, president of Bholaman Baul Sangathan, a discussion was held where Abul Hasan Chowdhury, chairman of Folklore Department of Rajshahi University, was present as chief guest. Anupam Hira Mandol, Associate Professor of Folklore Department of Rajshahi University; folklore researcher Habibur Rahman and secretary, Natore Press Club, Rezaul Karim Reza, spoke at the event. Bauls, including youngsters, from different parts of the country were also present in large numbers. Baul Paban Das from Kustia; Mousumi Khatun from Bogra; Bimol Sarker from Jessore; Moksed Bhandari from Sirajganj; Mukul Sadhu from Gaibandha and Meher Fakir from Rajshahi performed folk songs. Shahadat Hossain on flute, Kalu Shah on dhol, Aminul on harmonium instrumentally assisted the singers.

National Folk Song Festival in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The daylong National Folk Song Festival (2010-2011) began at 9 am last Saturday at Khulna Press Club Auditorium. Divided into two sessions, the festival began with a colourful rally at 8 am from Khulna City Corporation building. The rally was followed by a discussion (from 10 am) at Lalon Mancha, erected at the Press Club Auditorium. The Khulna Divisional Chief Coordinator of Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Parishad, Rabindranath Mallick, presided over the discussion. KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque graced the function as chief guest, while Deputy Commissioner of Khulna, Jamshed Ahmad Khandakar; founder president of Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Parishad, Professor Indra Mohan Rajbangshi; General Secretary of Khulna Press Club, Md. Shaheb Ali and General Secretary of Khulna Artist Club, Kamrul Islam Bablu, were present as special guests. Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, in his inaugural speech, underscored the need for looking after the interests of folk artistes, as they represent the people through their songs and uphold the culture and heritage of Bangladesh. Writer, researcher and dramatist Saymon Zakaria presented a keynote paper at the discussion on folk songs and their background. Professor Sandipak Mallick and Yunus Ali Mollah participated as speakers. The second session began at 3 pm with renditions of folk songs by 20 selected artistes of ten districts under Khulna Division. It may be mentioned that Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Parishad has arranged this festival at all the divisional headquarters of the country. The festival in Khulna was held after Sylhet, Rangpur, Rajshahi and Barisal divisions.

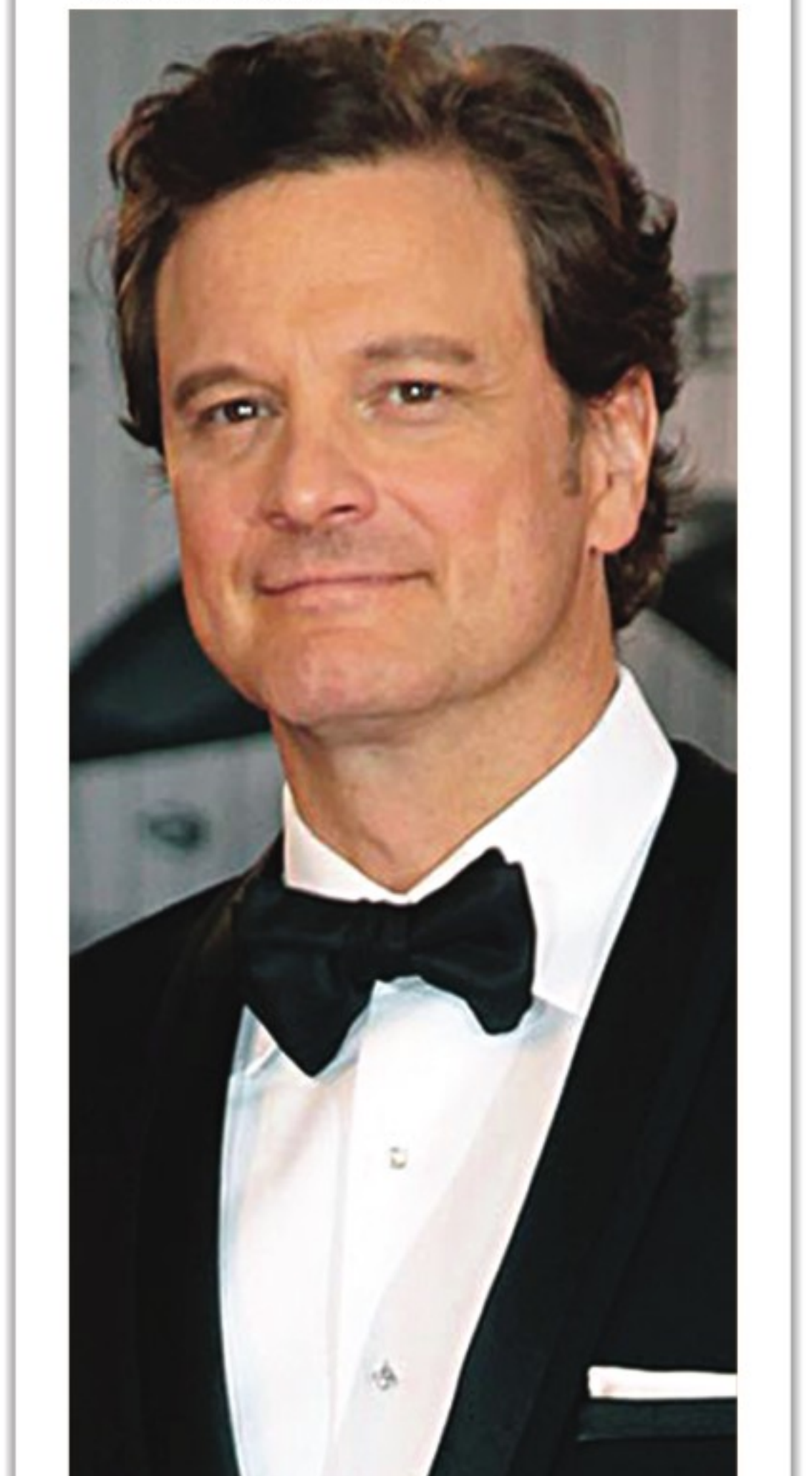
Santana Rangsa upholding Garo songs

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

Santana Rangsa, a music teacher of Birishiri Tribal Cultural Academy, is a committed preserver of traditional Garo songs. Through her relentless labour, Birishiri Tribal Cultural Academy has earned a reputation as a noted institution of the region. Being a skilled performer of traditional Garo songs and dance, her efforts for the last 19 years at the Academy have not gone in vain. For her contribution to Garo music, she was awarded by the Netrakona District Administration on May 8, 2010. Santana Rangsa was born in 1962 in Birishiri, Netrakona district. She started her music lessons under Gopal Dutta. Apart from Garo songs, Santana has also had extensive training in classical music. Between 1978 and 1980, Santana was a regular singer on "Salgittal", a special cultural programme for the local people on Bangladesh Betar (radio). Subsequently, she also performed in "Bornali", "Bonophool" and "Lok Lokaloye" -- special BTv programmes for the indigenous people. In 1999 she visited Iraq and Jordan with 18 other members, as part of a Bangladeshi cultural team. Santana looks forward to achieving her goals as an artiste while upholding Garo culture and traditions.



Colin Firth gets wax figure at Madame Tussauds



Colin Firth has become the latest star to find a place in Madame Tussauds museum. The Oscar winner's statue, dressed in a black tuxedo and bow tie, has been put on display at the famous tourist attraction. His is the eighth and final celebrity statue to be unveiled in 2011 and has been placed next to statues of Kate Winslet and the Beckhams. "Colin is one of the hottest leading men of our time, an Oscar winner and a true British gent," the Daily Express quoted a spokeswoman for the museum as saying. Source: Internet

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