

WHAT'S ON

**Theatre**  
Play: Riarang  
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadal  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: July 22  
Time: 7pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: "The Voice of Time-2"  
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture, H-2, B-1/A, Gulshan-1  
Date: July 17-20  
Time: 3pm-8pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, R-7/A, Dhamondi  
Date: July 13-19  
Time: 3pm-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Sougandh, Prithi & Paintings  
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Baidhya  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, H-7, R-13 (New), Dhamondi  
Date: July 13-24  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Aida through Art  
Venue: Gallery Chitrok, Dhamondi  
Date: July 13-20  
Time: 10am-8pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Color of Time  
Venue: Radius Art Gallery, Bay's Galleria, 57 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1  
Date: June 29-July 21

**Theatre**  
Play: Akshikha  
Troupe: Desh Natak  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: July 21  
Time: 7pm

**Coin Exhibition**  
Venue: Nalini Kanto Bhattacharya Hall, National Museum, Shahbagh  
Date: July 10-20  
Time: 10:30am-8pm

# Going commercial

In conversation with **Mahfuz Ahmed**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

*Mahfuz Ahmed has a hectic schedule what with his regular acting and direction projects. Although as a winner of a National Film award he is currently active in films, he is set to start making TV commercials soon. The talented Ahmed also hopes to make films in the near future as well.*

**Currently busy shooting and directing a new serial abroad, he managed to take time off for an interview with The Daily Star (TDS).**

**You are about to take on the challenge of making a commercial for the first time. Tell us about the project in which Shakib Al Hasan will be the model.**

**Mahfuz Ahmed:** This is quite a challenge for me as this is the first time I'm trying my hands at making a commercial. So far I've been successful acting and directing TV plays. It remains to be seen how I will do in making commercials. The work will be done under my own banner of Nakshikatha production house. Shakib Al Hasan will star in it.

**Why this sudden interest in commercials?**  
**Mahfuz Ahmed:** I am first and foremost an actor. After acting for a long time, I realised that I was too focused on acting and felt the urge to do something new. That urge inspired me to start directing. But after directing TV plays, I saw that much talent was being wasted. Finally the idea of making commercials came to me and I thought to myself that I would not make an ordinary advertisement. I would only do something, which had my signature. Just as making a film calls for a lot of planning, so does making of a commercial. I think TVC production is the most professional sector in the country at the moment.

**Why was Shakib Al Hasan chosen as the model?**  
**Mahfuz Ahmed:** He is a world-class crick-

eter. The product he will endorse is a domestic product. He will not only model for the product; we will also take him to 14 spots in the country for campaigning. Wherever he goes, he will definitely inspire the youth. Maybe we will also see more cricketers like Shakib Al Hasan emerging from these young people. So the work is also being done from a social commitment and responsibility. This is why a popular cricketer was cast as the model.

**How much progress has been made in your new directorial venture?**

**Mahfuz Ahmed:** Preparations are underway for the drama "Mago Tomar Jonno". We will probably take the whole unit to Qatar for shooting after Eid. The TV play will be aired on a local TV channel, as well as a foreign one. It will feature stars like Monalisa, Lutfur Rahman George, Tanvin Sweetie, Mousumi Hamid, Tania Ahmed, Swagata, Mir Sabbir, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Siddique, Maznun Mizan, Rawnak Hasan and Oliul Haq Rumi etc.

**Have you made progress in your plans for directing a movie?**

**Mahfuz Ahmed:** It is still in the conceptualisation phase. But I would like to direct at least one film, which will be of international standard, before I die. But this also means securing the necessary budget. The shooting will

be done abroad and I will make a movie that a family can watch together at the theatre. I don't know when this dream will come true, but I hope it is soon.

**Do you miss "Choita Pagol"?**  
**Mahfuz Ahmed:** Definitely. Apart from directing, I also played the title role. Many still call me on the phone to know about "Choita Pagol". We shot the serial for two years in Munsiganj's Holudia village. It felt like my own village. I miss the village, its people and every member of the "Choita Pagol" unit very much.



PHOTO COURTESY: TUNIM HOSSAIN

# Rajesh Khanna, Bollywood's first superstar, dies at 69

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Actor Rajesh Khanna, who brought the concept of superstardom in Bollywood in 1960s and '70s, died in Mumbai yesterday.

The 69-year-old actor, who shot to stardom with the 1969 hit "Aaradhana", opposite Sharmila Tagore, breathed his last at his home, two days after being discharged from Lilawati hospital. He had been ailing since April.

Essentially a romantic hero, Khanna essayed a variety of roles with ease in his illustrious career spanning four decades. His portrayal as a cancer patient in Hrishikesh Mukherjee-film "Anand" (1971), in which he got the better of Amitabh Bachchan, left many in tears.

Nicknamed "Kaka" by his adoring fans, he is survived by estranged actress wife Dimple Kapadia and daughters Twinkle and Rinkie and son-in-law and actor Akshay Kumar.

Khanna's family as also Lilawati Hospital authorities were tight-lipped about the nature of the actor's illness.

"We cannot tell you about the nature of Khanna's illness...Please get in touch with his family," a spokesman for Lilawati who identified himself only as Dr. Trivedi said.

Vijay, a close friend of Khanna who had been interacting with the media since his illness, said, "Kaka's food intake had gone down over the last few days, making him very weak."



Rajesh Khanna (right) with Amitabh Bachchan in "Anand".

The news of Khanna's death this afternoon spread like wildfire and hundreds of fans descended at his bungalow "Ashirwad" in Bandra. "My father-in-law is no more. He has gone to a nice and heavenly place. I am happy that he has gone there and hope that everyone will pray for him," Akshay Kumar told reporters.

Several Bollywood celebrities, including actor Rishi Kapoor, visited Khanna's house to pay homage to the actor.

The veteran actor, who lived a secluded life of late, recently appeared for a film advertisement of a well-known brand of fan, his faces and eyes sunken. His fans were shocked to see him a pale shadow of his former self.

During his illustrious career Khanna gave 15 consecutive superhits between 1969 and 1972, including "Aaradhana", "Haathi Mere Saathi", "Anand" and "Amar Prem".

Debuting with "Akhi Khat" which he bagged after winning a talent contest in 1965, Khanna went on to star in over 180 films.

He carved a niche for himself in Bollywood, dominated in those days by the troika of Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand and Raj Kapoor, and the likes of Shamma Kapoor and Rajendra Kumar.

However, it was "Aaradhana" in 1969 opposite Sharmila that catapulted him to superstardom overnight.

His disarming smile and twinkling eyes made him the darling of millions, particularly female fans.

Khanna won three Filmfare Best Actor Awards and was nominated for it 14 times. He was awarded the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005.

After 1978, Khanna starred in critically acclaimed films such as "Amado", "Phir Wohi Raat", "Dard", "Dhanwan", "Avtaar" and "Agar Tum Na Hote".

If Khanna's rise to fame was meteoric, so was his fall from stardom. By late '80s his charm at the box office had waned but it did not affect his personal charisma. He held a Lok Sabha seat from New Delhi constituency as a Congressman from 1992 to 1996.

The actor, who married Dimple Kapadia, 15 years younger than him, in 1973, split with her in 1984 but the couple never divorced. Kapadia was constantly at Khanna's side during his illness.

# Bangladeshi dance troupe attends festival in Russia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 12-member Bangladeshi dance troupe recently attended an international festival held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. Sent by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the troupe attended the "3rd International Music Festival Asia Pacific Region-2012", held from June 28-July 4.

As it was a music festival, the troupe performed several dance items to traditional Bangladeshi music, informed Nasirul Islam, one of the participating artistes.

They performed each day at the festival. Every day, the troupe performed seven items, including folk dance and Raibeshe. Their first performance was a group dance highlighting dhol and other traditional percussions. The performances also articulated the lifestyle of the Bauls.

Local audience enjoyed the performances by Bangladeshi artistes and cheered for them, said Islam.

Samina Husain was the choreographer of the troupe headed by Shyam Sundar Sikder.

The team also included Noorul Haque, Tahnun Ahmedy, Mahabub Hossain, Shirajum Munira and Juairah Mouli.

The troupe returned home on July 5.



Artistes perform Raibeshe dance at the festival.

PHOTO COURTESY: NASIRUL ISLAM

# Zainul Abedin art impresses US Ambassador

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

During a visit to Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) at Saheb Quarter Park area of Mymensingh town on Tuesday, Dan Mozena, the US Ambassador to Bangladesh, spoke highly about the Bangladeshi master painter.

The art gallery was established in 1975 to preserve the master painter's artworks in his hometown. There are 62 artworks on different aspects of life and nature by Shilpacharya at the art gallery. The art gallery also includes 53 memorabilia. Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Lokman Hossain Miah; Police Superintendent Golam Kibria; and deputy keeper of the art gallery, Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik, were present during Mozena's hour-long visit.

Commenting on the art gallery, Mozena said, "This museum is a global treasure. I am honoured that my colleagues and I had this opportunity to experience the art of Zainul Abedin in his hometown. I am well acquainted with his work, especially the Famine series, as I visited several exhibitions of his works in Washington DC, where it was received with great acclaim."



US Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dan Mozena, looking at Abedin memorabilia at the gallery.

The US ambassador also said that, Zainul Abedin was a true genius. "His works are so simple, yet so complex and powerful at the same time."

Dan Mozena came to Mymensingh and also visited Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU). He met with BAU Vice-chancellor Professor Dr. Rafiqul Hoque at his office.

Later Mozena visited an indigenous village in Haluaghat of Mymensingh. Mozena also enjoyed a cultural show at the local Shilpakala Academy Auditorium in the evening.

# Maksuda Iqbal Nipa's solo exhibition in Japan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gallery Chayamachi, Osaka, Japan recently hosted a solo painting exhibition, titled "Colours in Mindscape", featuring works of Bangladeshi painter Maksuda Iqbal Nipa.

The exhibition opened on July 5 and continued till July 10.

This is Nipa's 10th solo exhibition where about 20 oil paintings were on display. It should be mentioned that the artist had her higher education in fine arts on oil painting.

Prior to leaving for Japan, the paintings were shown at the artist's residence in Dhamondi, Dhaka.

At the exhibition, Nipa's paintings feature abstract expressionism. Her aim has been to

capture the abundance of nature. She has concentrated on applying colours. Deep layers of colours (blue, yellow, crimson) provide a unique tone to her canvases.

Nipa has participated in a number of art fairs and group exhibitions at home and abroad. He has held several solo exhibitions in Bangladesh and several cities of Japan.

Nipa completed her BFA in Drawing and Painting, from Institute of Fine Arts (now the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka) in 1996. She has completed Post-Graduate Research Course in Oil Painting from Aichi University of Education, Japan in 2002. She has also completed masters in Painting from Aichi University, Japan in 2004.

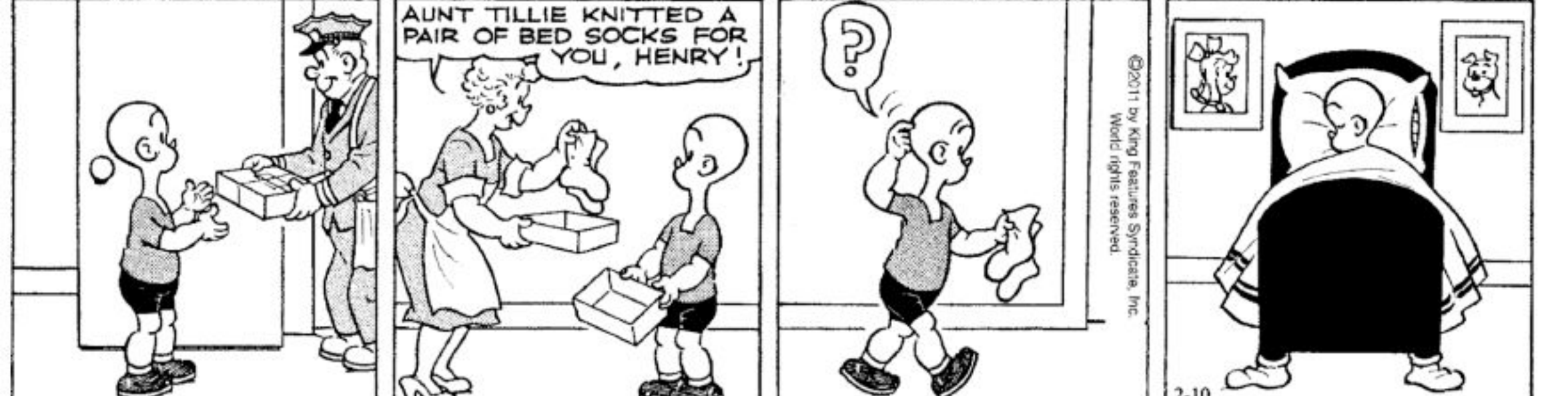


Paintings displayed at the gallery.

# Beetle Baily



# Henry



# Home is where her piano is

Berenika performs in Delhi

KAVITA, New Delhi

Canadian pianist Berenika was all of 3 when she began to learn the piano. By 5 she had won her first piano competition. At 9 she performed as a soloist with the well known Sault Symphony Orchestra in Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario. And now at 29, she has travelled over the world over with her piano, performed before Queen Elizabeth II, famous composer Philip Glass, filmmaker Steven Spielberg and other notables. She has also played with prestigious orchestras such as the Pittsburgh and Toronto Symphony Orchestra, to name just a few.

"To strike the right keys has been a rigorous process. She has trained at the Julliard School, New York and Professional Children's School. She also studied at the Royal Academy of Music, Oxford University and Harvard University.

Recently, the redoubtable Berenika stopped by in New Delhi for a performance before she flew off to Kolkata

and Mumbai, as part of the last leg of her Asia Pacific tour, which took her to Canberra, Sydney, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Seoul and Jakarta. It is a demanding itinerary with which Berenika is only too well acquainted. "I think it relates a lot to my love of life and my love of other people. It has always been my dream to come to India; you can travel to a country, but to share music with people from another country is something deeper," she says, adding that "My life is my music."

In New Delhi, Berenika picked the compositions of Schubert, Philip Glass, Debussy and her well loved Chopin for her concert. "Chopin is most people's favourite," she asserts. As for the contemporary Glass, she says, "I played his piece to honour him at the Fulbright Lifetime Achievements Awards. It was quite stressful; his compositions are minimalistic and completely different from those of Chopin and Schubert. And all those are different from each other too, so

there is something for everyone." Berenika once remarked, "Home is where my piano is". So she lives in Indianapolis, USA, works as executive and artistic director of Dana Point Symphony, California and tours every month.

The future looks even more hectic for Berenika. She has recently received the prestigious DeVos Institute's 2012-13 Fellowship at the Kennedy Center, Washington DC. "It is like an arts policy management fellowship," she explains.

Berenika is tech savvy as well. In partnership with Yamaha Livestream, she plays live for global audiences, chats with them and keeps them abreast with her live performances. She even manages to conduct master classes with piano students around the world through the Yamaha technology. "It is a new technology that is going to become very big. It is important for education and also for connecting with people. People aren't so different and music can bridge the existing gaps," she points out.



# 100th episode of Desh-e Galpo tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

The 100th episode of the programme "Desh-e Galpo" will be aired tonight at 10:30 pm on Desh TV. Generally a guest takes part in the programme with the host of the show Iresh Zaker. The host and the guest enact characters like an emerging film actress, a terrorist, a researcher or a politician and induce laughter in each episode.

"Desh-e Galpo" addresses important contemporary issues -- at home and abroad -- in a satirical manner. Imaginary viewers phone in at the programme seeking solutions to their problems. The discussants also provide sagacious solutions. Actress Sara Zaker is the guest on the 100th episode of the programme. Suman Saha produces "Desh-e Galpo".



**BEETLE BAILY** by Mort Walker

**HENRY** by Don Trachte

ATN BANGLA	11:02	Bangla Feature Film
10:40	05:30	Amazing Animals
11:20	08:00	Tele-film: Ekti Oparibhankh Shikha
06:15		Amra Korbo Joy
08:00		Drama Serial: Not Out
11:00	11:00	Drama: Oshorini
		Tomay Gaan
		Shonabo
CHANNEL 1		CHANNEL 9
11:05	09:15	Bangla Feature Film
01:05	06:00	Classic Cartoon
02:40	08:30	Drama: Khela
	09:50	GP Tune Factory
03:30		Bangla Feature Film
09:35	11:15	Drama Serial: Boeing
		757
ntv		CHANNEL 24
10:05	01:05	Travel Show
04:10	03:05	Drama Serial: Ekaki
		Ganguihal
	08:10	Dawn Out With Us
	12:00	Talk Show
06:15		Fox Movies
09:00	01:50	Gozy on the Outside
	03:30	Dear John
11:30	07:00	Music Euphony
		X2-X-Men United

**RADIO**

abc radio FM 89.2	10:00	Morning Express
06:00	12:00	My Time
09:00	01:00	No Lesson
12:00	04:00	Dhaka Calling
05:00	09:00	Night Rider
05:00	01:00	Back to Back music
07:00		RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
09:00	06:00	Green FM
11:00	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
RADIO FOOTI	12:00	Today's Aida
07:30	04:00	U Turn

**Tune Factory On CHANNEL 9** at 09:50pm

**Musical Programme**

**Featured Band:** Cryptic Fate

**Superman Returns** On HBO at 09:30pm

**Genre:** Action/Adventure

**Cast:** Brandon Routh, Kevin Spacey

**Bipashar Othi On BANGLAVISION** at 09:05pm

**Celebrity Talk Show**

**Guest:** Mostafa Sarwar Farooki

ETV	09:15	Insidious
11:30	11:00	X-Men
04:30		HBO
05:40	11:05	Inception
07:50	02:10	The Island
	04:55	Doom
09:30	06:55	The Mummy
	09:30	Superman Returns
Boishakhi TV		Star World
11:15	02:30	Criminal Minds
04:15	07:30	Two and a Half Men
06:20	08:30	The Simpson
08:35	09:30	Master Chef Australia
BANGLAVISION		National Geographic Channel
11:05	11:30	Mega Factories
02:20	02:30	Mission Arctic
06:05	07:30	Lion Ranger
09:05	09:30	Caught in the Act
11:25	10:30	India: Air Hijack
Desh TV		Discovery Channel
05:00	06:00	123 Stampur
06:30	09:45	Dar Qasrany
09:45	05:30	Stan Lee's Superhuman
Maasranga Television	08:30	The Ascent of Money

**DRAMA SERIAL**

ATN BANGLA	09:20pm	Ognipath
08:40pm	08:15pm	Bakusruver Jatri
CHANNEL 1	09:05pm	Oloshpur
07:50pm		Desh TV
ntv	07:45pm	Sat Kahan
08:15pm	08:15pm	Radio Chocolate
09:45pm	09:30pm	Paa Rekhchhi
Boishakhi TV		

**NEWS BULLETIN**

BTV	Bolshakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.	News (English) at 9am, 6pm.
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7-30pm, 10-30pm.
News (English) at 9am, 6pm.	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
CHANNEL 1	Rtv
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10-30pm.	News (Bangla) at 1-45pm, 6-45pm, 10-45pm.
ntv	Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7-30pm, 10-30pm.	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 11pm.
ETV	Maasranga Television
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.

**TALK SHOW**

ATN BANGLA	12:05pm	Bushy-er Raat
12:30pm		Bolshakhi TV
CHANNEL 1	10:50pm	Reporters Diary
09:45am	12:00am	Zero Hour
12:30pm		BANGLAVISION
11:30pm	06:30pm	Talk of the Week
		Rtv
	10:40pm	Talkajog
ETV	10:10pm	Toboo Bathon
	07:40pm	Our Democracy

**স্বাগতম**

সুস্থ থেকে জ্বরের সাগর পাড়ি দিয়ে এগিয়ে যাও স্বফল জীবনের পথে।

এইচ.এস.পি. পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ সকল কৃতী শিক্ষার্থীকে জানাই হেলাদি অভিবাদন।

**Mango** Juiceman

ফলপান সাহসে উন্মত্ত হও।

**PIANO**