

WHAT'S ON

**Celebrating Life 2012**  
Grand Finale  
Highlight: Classical Music by Pt. Jay Chandelariy & Koushiki Dasgupta  
Venue: Indoor Stadium, Mirpur  
Date: November 2, Time: 6pm

**Engraving Exhibition**  
Artist: Francisco Goya  
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dharmadi  
Date: Oct 9-23  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: "Trauma & Time"  
Artist: Ashraful Haque  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara  
Date: Oct 12-23  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Tajuddin Ahmed  
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture R-1/A, H-2, Gulshan-1  
Date: Oct 31-Nov 10  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: The Stilled Journey of Life  
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture R-1/A, H-2, Gulshan-1  
Date: Oct 12-30  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Jayati Chakrabarti  
Organizers: ICC & Bengal Foundation  
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh  
Date: November 2, Time: 7pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Explore, Dream, Discover  
Artist: Nisha Karim  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Circle-1  
Date: Oct 13-25  
Time: 12-8pm

**Jewellery Exhibition**  
Venue: 160 Shaaban Market (2nd floor), Gulshan Circle 2  
Date: October 24  
Time: 11am-7pm



Eid bonanza on Radio Foorti

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, Radio Foorti (FM 88.0) has planned various programmes for its listeners. Some of these programmes are quite innovative. For example, just send an SMS writing "HAMBAA" to the number 9840 and the lucky winners will be provided with butchers for readying their sacrificial animals on Eid morning. Radio Foorti is calling this 'Chhilla Kaitta Complete'.

Starting from Eid day, a programme titled "Double Dose" -- featuring a popular singer duo in each programme -- will go on air at 7 pm for three consecutive days. Bappa Mazumder, Elita Karim, Kona, Parvez, Joy and others will attend the programme as guest artistes.

In another programme, titled "Foorti Superstar Encounter", film-maker Mustafa Sarwar Farooki, actor-producer Ananta Jalil and seasoned actor Ilias Kanchan will take the hot seat on three consecutive days at 9 pm.

Apart from live songs and interviews, mainstream Bangla film parody "King of Ghana" will be aired on Eid day at 11 pm, while another romantic comedy "Foorti Opera" will be aired at the same time on the next day.

And last, but not the least, 100 selected songs requested by the listeners will be aired all day long on the three days of Eid. Listeners have been sending requests for their favourite songs for the last 10 days.



VISIONS of EMPOWERMENT

BRAC success story in images

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nine-day photography exhibition, titled "Visions of Empowerment", ended on October 20 at Drik Gallery in the capital. Shumela Khatun, a BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) health volunteer from Chankanda village of Jamalpur district, inaugurated the exhibition on October 12 on behalf of BRAC.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Shalish Kendra; Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor at the Department of English of Dhaka University; Muhammad A. Ali, managing director of BRAC Enterprises and Investment; Asif Saleh, senior director of BRAC, also attended the inaugural programme.

As part of its 40th founding anniversary celebrations, BRAC organised the exhibition. This ambitious exhibition sought to capture the spirit of BRAC, traversing over four decades. As the theme of the exhibition began to emerge, it was obvious that the images were not just about one theme or personality but about people, who had become empowered in a triumphant act of self-empowerment.

The space these images occupy is that of social activism against poverty, discrimination, denial and fighting for rights to livelihood and dignity. The exhibition was scheduled to coincide with World Poverty Day on October 17.

But BRAC is much more than about poverty alleviation. Its involvement is in almost every aspect of the lives of its members -- whether in health, education or legal empowerment. In doing so, BRAC has always considered women as the key players in weaving success stories. These women, who struggled against all odds, have created a positive space for themselves in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world.

The images presented at the exhibition were all complete narratives -- able to tell their own stories; but together they sing a bigger, more comprehensive song, one that demonstrates the indomitable spirit of humanity. BRAC, founded in 1972, has grown into the world's largest NGO with development operations in 10 countries in South Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Encompassing programmes from micro credit to disaster management, BRAC has always been a frontline agency working in frontiers of development and empowerment.



The images were not just about one theme or personality but about people, who had become empowered in a triumphant act of self-empowerment.

Durga Puja festivities

Chanchal Chowdhury returns to his roots

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Chanchal Chowdhury was born and raised in Kamarhaat village, Pabna district. He came to Dhaka for studies, and made a name for himself as an actor. The star, however, has not forgotten his roots, and returns each year to his village during Durga Puja.

This year is no different. Chanchal will spend a week at his village home during the festivities, and has already cleared out his shooting schedule. "With Eid and Puja so closely spaced this year, I've finally gotten a decent break at home," said the actor.

In the Kamarhaat village, five houses privately arrange Puja festivities on a grand scale. Big celebrations are held at Chanchal's sister's house and their maternal uncle's home. The actor says, "Our village is very small. We make all the preparations for Puja."

Childhood Puja celebrations meant the joyous anticipation of wearing brand new attire, says Chanchal. The actor says the feeling of elation reached its peak during his school days. The entire year was a wait for Durga Puja, he adds.

However, such feverish excitement has faded with age, and been replaced by the excitement of a reunion of relatives and close friends during celebrations.

Chanchal informs that his village is secular, with both Muslims visiting Hindu houses during Puja, and Hindus sharing the joys of Eid with their Muslim friends. The communal harmony has always made Kamarhaat a special place for Chanchal.

Chanchal also mentioned a commendable effort by his father during Durga Puja. "My father sets up a pavilion, where the destitute can come and receive free medical attention from my wife, my brother and his spouse -- all of them are doctors. The service is offered for free during all the Puja days, and my father supervises the exercise and hands out free medicine. Both Hindu and Muslim villagers are welcome to receive medical attention."

With Eid and Puja set side by side this year, an Eid get-together has also been arranged at Kamarhaat, where Brindaban Das and Shahnaz Khushi will visit. On Eid-ul-Azha, BTV will air "Jochhna Raat" written by Brindaban and featuring Chanchal in a lead role. Desh TV will also air a five-episode special "Pataal Purir Golpo" while Ekushey will telecast "Love Rashid" where Chanchal plays the eponymous role.

The actor adds that half a dozen of his dramas will be aired this Eid.



The man who defined Bollywood Romance

One of India's most influential filmmakers, Yash Chopra, has died from dengue fever in Mumbai, aged 80.

Over five decades, Chopra, dubbed the "King of Romance", gave Bollywood some of its biggest blockbusters.

His film studios Yash Raj Films helped establish some of Indian cinema's biggest names, including Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan.

In his tribute, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described Chopra as an "icon of Indian cinema". Yash Chopra will be remembered as the man behind some of Bollywood's most watched films, known not just in India but also around the world.

Chopra died in Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital on Sunday and was also suffering from kidney ailments, according to Dr. Prakash Jiyavani.

Singer Lata Mangeshkar said: "He made me sing in all his films."

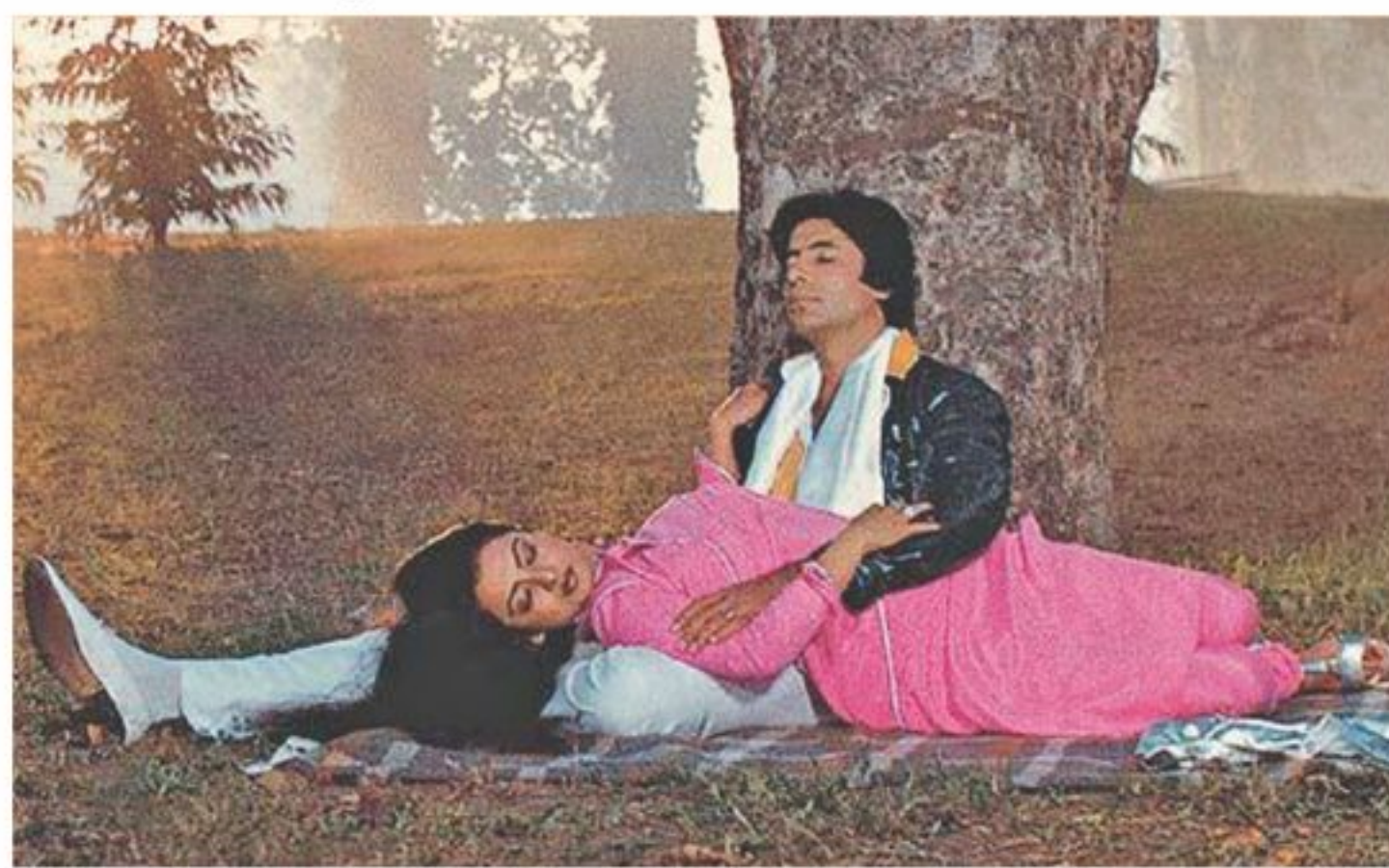
SOURCE: BBC



He was a jovial person... Even when he was angry, he simply kept quiet." In his tribute, Prime Minister Singh said Chopra had entertained many generations "with his rare creativity". "His flourish to essay romance and social drama was unmatched," the Indian prime minister said, adding that the filmmaker had established the international reputation of Indian cinema.

Yash Chopra started his film career working for his brother before establishing Yash Raj Films and going on to produce more than 40 movies -- 12 of them as director. Chopra was behind major hits including "Deewaar", "Dil To Pagal Hai" and "Chandni".

On his birthday last month, he said "Jab Tak Hai Jaan" -- being released next month -- would be his last movie as a director.



A Scene from "Silsila", one of Chopra's most acclaimed films.

Bold feminine voices

Dance-drama by Shadhona

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Cultural enthusiasts of the port city attended an exceptional programme featuring the feminist dance-drama "Are We Loud Enough?", organised by Shadhona (a centre for advancement of South Asian culture), at the District Shilpakala Academy on October 20.

The programme was an outcome of a seven-day workshop (starting from October 14), titled "Shakti", at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy with the participation of dancers and theatre activists from different local groups.

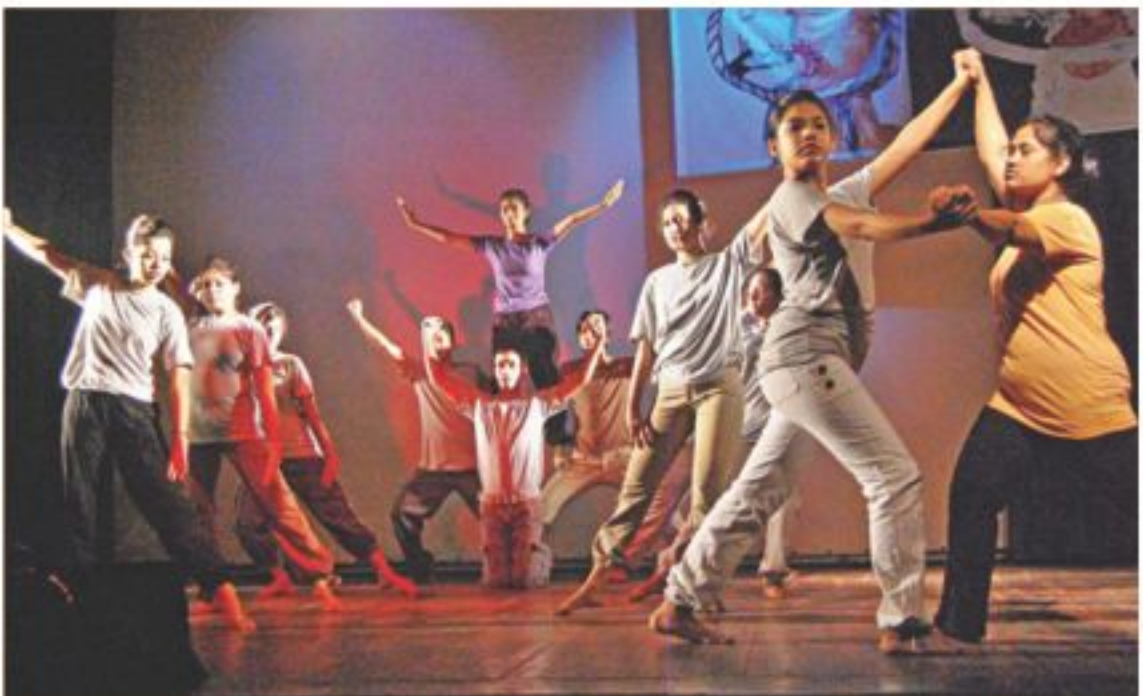
A total of 20 artistes took part in the workshop, supported by Oxfam. Pioneering dancer and choreographer Lubna Marium; teacher of Chittagong University (CU) Dramatic Department, Shamim Hasan; and choreographer Sabbir Ahmed Biju conducted the workshop.

Planned by Shamim Hasan and choreographed by Sabbir Ahmed, the story of the dance-drama featured five episodes -- "Birth", "Power", "Freedom", "Obstacle", and "Malala", who was recently attacked by the Taliban to thwart her indomitable desire to campaign for education for girls in Pakistan's Swat valley. The dance-drama depicted the social attitude toward women and the obstacles they face in their everyday lives.

Successfully interwoven, the episodes of the dance-drama unveiled how the dreams, ideas and aspirations of women are crushed by the patriarchal society.

Appropriate use of four Rabindra Sangeet -- "Anandaloke mangalaloke", "Shankochero bihbalota", "Barshano Mandriti" and "Ami Srabon Akashe" -- was a highlight of the production.

Though apt use of movements and expressions, the performers depicted childbirth, harassment



The dance-drama unveiled how the dreams of women are crushed by the patriarchal society.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

of girls and several other subjects. Group recitation and dialogues were also effectively incorporated in the dance-drama. Effective use of fabric and lights earned rounds of applause from the audience. Shamim, who conceptualised of the dance-drama, said that it has been based on personal experiences of the artistes that were expressed at the workshop.

At the end of the show, a brief discussion on the dance-drama was held where eminent painters

of the country, Dhali Al Mamun and Dilara Begum Jolly spoke.

Dhali said, "To depict the contemporary society and its behaviour, body language is a strong medium and the style of the dance-drama clearly proved that dance is not limited to specific genre. It can contain any kind of form to convey passion."

Dilara Begum said, "These kinds of performances could help change the attitude of the society towards women."

Clay artisans honoured in Barisal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The fourth annual reception ceremony for honouring the Pauls and Kumars (clay artisans) was held in Barisal city on Sunday with a call to support and encourage folk traditions and heritage by enlisting the craftsmen with professional recognitions.

'Mrityshilpi Sammanoma Udyog' of Barisal organised the programme at Aswini Kumar Hall of the city. The ceremony was conducted by Sushanta Ghosh, convener of the programme.

Rakhal Chandra Dey, social activist, presided over the event. Lawmaker Advocate Talukdar Md. Yunus; Nisar Hossain, teacher of

Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts; Hasan Arif, secretary general of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, attended the programme as chief and special guests.

Among others, Syed Dulal, president of Barisal Sangskritik Sangathan Samannya Parishad; Saidur Rahman Rintu, president of Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industries; Nikhil Sen; Manabendra Batobayal; Akkas Hossain; Dilip Chandra Ghosh; Swapan Chandra Dutta spoke at the programme. Crest, cash, clothes and sweets were handed among 40 Pauls and Kumars from different upazilas of Barisal district.

The speakers were of the view that for hundreds of years, the Pauls and Kumars have preserved a local tradition despite enduring

economic hardship and not receiving recognition for their contribution.

Sharadiyo Durgotsab is possible because of the efforts of the artisans, who at the end of their painstaking, laborious work return home with a negligible amount of honorarium.

Many of them have abandoned their profession in need of economic and institutional support, they said.

The five-day celebration of Sharadiyo Durgotsab, the main religious festival of the Bengali Hindus, started in festive mood from Saturday evening in 547 Puja mandaps (venues) of the district.

It would end with the immersion of the idols in different water bodies on 'Bijoya Dashami' (October 24).

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Theatre's much acclaimed Shakespeare adaptation "The Tempest", which was staged at the Global Shakespeare Theatre Festival in UK earlier this year, is going to attend another reputed international festival -- this time in Bangalore, India. The play will take part in the "It's Shakespeare -- Ranga Shankara Theatre Fest 2012".

"The organisers invited us after a recommendation from the Globe Theatre who arranged the festival in the UK," said Rubayati Ahmed, who

translated the play into Bangla. Through his translation, Rubayati has created an idiom in the play that he sees as a "combination of words", borrowed from Rabindranath Tagore and Selim Al Deen.

Arranged by local theatre troupe Ranga Shankara, the festival will see staging of Shakespeare plays in eight languages.

The fortnight-long festival will start on October 27 and will continue till November 12. An 18-member Dhaka Theatre troupe will leave the country on November 5. They will stage two shows of the play -- on November 8 and 9.

Incorporating Manipuri folk elements, the play is an experimental work. Director of the play, Nasiruddin Yousuff, successfully transformed the narrative.

Two Manipuri artistes and guest actor Rubol Noor Lodi as Prospero will be included in the cast. Seasoned actor Shimul Yousuff will enact the role of Ariel, while Esha Yousuff will play Miranda.

Dhali Al Mamoon's art direction and Nasirul Haque Khokon's light design will try to generate colours on the stage.

Indian theatre legend Girish Karnad is a key member of Ranga Shankara.

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