



A lifetime of Sur and Taal

Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty performs tonight in Dhaka

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

The Dhaka music scene is set for an extraordinary paean to classical music as Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty arrives in Dhaka for an evening's performance tonight (November 2) with his daughter Kaushiki Desikan. The performance is a part of The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank's "Celebrating Life 2012" festivities.

With a concurrent programme -- planned to be jointly hosted by Bengal Foundation and ITC-Sangeet Research Academy (SRA) of India, Pandit Chakrabarty has a busy calendar in store. But then, the musical scene in Dhaka is not new to the Pandit. I've had the honour of knowing him since the early 1980s when he came to perform and train aspiring artistes at the classical music school, Sadarang. Many years have gone by since, but his enthusiasm to comment on and visualise the musical realm has not dimmed by even a shade.

Pandit Chakrabarty, one of India's most acclaimed classical vocalists, joined ITC-SRA as one of the first scholars at its inception in 1977. He went on to become one of the youngest gurus of ITC-SRA and is a member of its Experts Committee. Pandit Chakrabarty's noteworthy list of awards and honours, to name but a few, include being the first Fellow to receive a Gold Medal from ITC-SRA, the first recipient of the Kumar Gandharva Award for "Best Musician of India under 45", the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2000 and the Padma Shri Award in 2011.

In 1969, Pandit Chakrabarty trained under Ustad Munawar Ali Khan, son of the legendary maestro of the Patiala-Kasur gharana, Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

His training took a definitive turn when he became a disciple of Padma Bhushan Pandit Jnan Prakash Ghosh when he was 18 years old. There were times when he would train under the guru for 5-8 hours at a stretch. Following in his guru's footsteps, Pandit Chakrabarty decided to pursue his musical training at various gharanas (schools of music). His vision was to assimilate the best that the different gharanas offered and infuse it into an individual style, for which he is noted today as one of India's most versatile vocalists.

"My guru had learned from several tabla maestros starting from Pt. Therakua, Feroze Khan, Wajid Hussain Khan and more. He was a versatile genius as he embellished his *gayaki* with styles of other gharanas and enriched our pattern of music," said Pandit Chakrabarty on his guru Jnan Prakash Ghosh.

Thus he journeyed along his musical path to learn and perform and not limit his style or *gayaki*. "You never cease to learn, and this may even be from your disciples though many would

feel too shy to acknowledge that," said Pandit Chakrabarty.

"When Kalidas reigned in the world of Bangla literature, he was unrivalled, until Kobi Guru Rabindranath came to dominate the scene. So, strive to reach the stars, carry on with your meditation in music and reign over the music world as you breathe and live music," Jnan Prakash would often say, recalled Pandit Chakrabarty.

Pandit Chakrabarty has followed his Guru's word to the letter. His style is considered to combine all elements that a purist classical vocalist strives for -- the open, bold voice, the broad *gamak* and the rarified ability to perform split second *taan*. No wonder critics confidently refer to Chakrabarty as one of the best rhythmic minds in India. The complexity of the calculations flow with ease and spontaneity and Chakrabarty's music is very precise and pre-meditated. This makes him a gifted teacher as well.

Regarding the popularity of fusion music in present times he said, "Classical music itself is fusion. It is a fusion of the harmonium, the artiste and the tabla. Experimentation can be carried out by keeping the tradition intact -- and not by distorting it."

"Completeness in music is what music is all about. Visection of art is the disfiguration of art," his guru would say. "Cutting off the nose of a beautiful, sensuous actress and using it elsewhere would serve no purpose; that would be disfiguration," he added with a smile.

"At SRA, we try to instill this sense of completeness. We conduct graduation tests and hold discussions for students so that they enter a bigger platform and take it up as a profession and are in complete control of the subject.

"The stage performances are the real exams. Once you reach the hearts of your audience you get a first class certificate, if not then you don't succeed at all!" -- he added.

Asked if the popularity of pure classical music is on the wane, Pandit Chakrabarty believes that the younger generation is much more attuned to classical music than people think. The genre, he said, has an incredible range of compositions with a universal appeal, particularly to the young at heart. They do in fact relate more to the expression of a lover's longing in different seasons like Raga *Bahar*, *Basant* (depicting spring) or *Malhar* (relating to monsoon) -- or the natural echoes of the hill as depicted in Raga *Pahari* to name a few.

With access to the finest musicians who have been enriching pure classical music in the subcontinent, the genre would once again blossom and a natural waterfall would create a rainbow of colours.

"The radiance is all," an optimistic Chakarabarty said.

Homage to Mubinu Azim, a ground-breaking painter

TAKIR HOSSAIN

November 1 marked the 37th death anniversary of renowned painter Mubinu Azim, regarded as a pioneer in Bangladeshi art. Along with his contemporaries, he made a great contribution in the sphere of experimental paintings. Some of them mingle local motifs and western forms.

Azim was a socially aware painter. In 1952, he was involved in the Language Movement. At that time, he was a second year

student at the Dacca Art College (at present Faculty of Fine arts, University of Dhaka). He had organised a meeting in protest of firing on the rally on February 21. He produced many posters and paintings on the Language Movement in that period.

Since the 1950s and 1960s, Bangladeshi painters have incorporated a diverse range of familiar and unfamiliar forms and motifs in their works. Though the contemporary art history of Bangladesh does not have a long innings, it flourished within a relatively short

period. This was made possible by some painters' who studied in the west in the 1950s and 1960s. Upon their return, the influence of western art was evident in their works.

This period was significant for other reasons as well: these painters introduced several forms of modern, abstract, abstract-impressionist and abstract-expressionist art. Their works had an enriching influence on other emerging painters as well.

Azim died in 1975, at the peak of his artistic career. He produced many paint-



ings, water colours and sketches in the course of his rather short career. He graduated in Fine Arts from Dacca College of Arts and Crafts (at present Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University) in 1955. A hardworking and reflective introvert, Azim spent a significant part of his career in Karachi, Pakistan - a hub for artists, poets, writers and novelists at the time. Besides immersing himself in painting, Azim taught at an art institute in Karachi. He returned to Dhaka for good after the Liberation War and devoted himself to painting.

Azim set out as a naturalist and figurative painter. In the early stages of his career, nature got focus in his works. Along with natural elements, colour was a predominant aspect of his works. The treatment of colour and the composition was exceptional. A good interaction between use of space and objects always carried an aesthetic trademark in his works. During a certain phase of his career, Azim focused on boats. He drew forms of boats that resembled the image of a new moon or crescent. The interplay of darkness and light was another significant characteristic of his works.

He took part in 37 group art exhibitions. He held 17 solo exhibitions in the country and abroad. After his death, two exhibitions of his works were held at Dhaka Club (in 1976) and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (in 1998).

In 2012, the painter was posthumously awarded Ekushey Padak for his outstanding contribution to Bangladeshi art.



A painting by Mubinu Azim.



Celebrating Life 2012

Afzal Hossain to host the gala event

A CORRESPONDENT

Media personality Afzal Hossain will host the "Celebrating Life 2012 Gala Event" today at Shaheed Suhrawardy Stadium, Mirpur. This is the first time that he is hosting a "Celebrating Life" event. While talking to The Daily Star, he expressed his feelings about hosting this occasion. In his words, "Celebrating Life" is different from the other programmes that I host. The name is self-explanatory. It reminds us how we often forget to celebrate the good things in life and focus on the negative aspects instead. An effort like this is very commendable and I am very happy to be a part of it."

Four legendary figures of Bangladesh will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards this year at the "Celebrating Life Gala Event" in four different categories: Firoza Begum for Nazrul Sangeet and Modern Bengali songs, Abdur Razzak for Film, Amanul Haque for Photography and Ferdousi Rahman for film songs and Bhaiwaiya (folk) songs. The winners of these prestigious awards will receive a crest, a certificate and Taka one lakh each.

Classical music maestro Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, along with his daughter Kaushiki Desikan, will perform at the gala event. The performance will be a highlight of the award giving ceremony. Bangladeshi diva Sabina Yasmin will also grace the occasion with her performance.

Since 2008, "Celebrating Life" has been organised annually by The Daily Star with the support of Standard Chartered Bank to promote young talents in Bangladesh, to know our country better and to uphold our cultural heritage. The theme for "Celebrating Life 2012" is "Celebrating Youth of Bangladesh".

Syed Jahangir turns 80

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 80th birth anniversary of veteran painter Syed Jahangir, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts will organise a solo painting exhibition titled "Of Man and Earth". The exhibition begins today at 5:30pm at Bengal Gallery in Dhanmondi.

The speciality of Jahangir's artworks is an in-depth observation of rural Bengal, its people and their economic hardship. Harvest, fishing on a moonlit night, peasants, paddy fields, mustard fields and greenery are recurrent themes in his works. At the show, works

in acrylic, oil, watercolour, ink and more will be displayed.

The exhibition will be jointly inaugurated by his peer and artist Murtaja Baseer; artist Qayyum Chowdhury; and former Finance Minister M. Syeduzzaman.

On the occasion of the exhibition, Bengal Gallery organised a press conference yesterday. Artist Syed Jahangir, Subir Chowdhury, director, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts; Sarwar Jahan, manager of Bengal Foundation spoke on the occasion.

The exhibition will continue till November 13.



Syed Jahangir (C) speaks at the press conference. PHOTO COURTESY: BENGAL FOUNDATION

Bangladeshi film opens Int'l Leipzig Festival



An elated Sara and Simon at the inaugural ceremony of DOK Leipzig. PHOTO COURTESY: SIMON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 55th International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film also known as "DOK Leipzig" officially opened on October 29 through the world premiere of Kamar Ahmad Simon and Sara Afreen's "Shunte Ki Pao" (Are You Listening?). It was first such honour for a Bangladeshi film to be an inaugural treat at the festival, which is to be considered as one of the oldest festivals of its kind.

At the opening ceremony, Danish film "The Will" by Christian Sonderby Jensen was given the 2012 Doc Alliance Award, according to an official press release collected and sent by Simon from Leipzig. The prize is 5,000 euros and is handed out alternately at the six European film festivals that have formed the Doc Alliance.

The evening came to a close with the world premiere of "Shunte Ki

Pao!", a feature length documentary depicting joys and sorrows of the Sundarbans population. In a larger sense, the film conveys a message of the changing effect of global warming. Simon along with some 200 other filmmakers is attending this year's festival.

"We just had an amazing world premiere of the film in front of renowned filmmakers," an elated Simon said in a telephonic interview.

The Saxon State Minister of the Arts, Sabine von Schorlemer, and Leipzig Mayor Burkhard Jung welcomed 750 guests from around the world to the sold-out CineStar theatre. Festival director Claas Danielsen delivered the opening address, in which he laid out urgent media policy goals.

Arts Minister Schorlemer praised the festival as a meeting place. "As a special art form that is constantly reinvented through technological innovation and changing media

consumption patterns, documentary and animated film needs forums for creative exchange. DOK Leipzig is such a place."

Mayor Burkhard Jung said, "DOK Leipzig has long been a hallmark of Leipzig and has become a cultural event and a cultural pillar whose reach extends beyond our city and region."

In his opening remarks, festival director Claas Danielsen enthusiastically championed filmmakers and criticised current production and working conditions. "In many areas of the film industry, there is an imbalance of power that has the potential to push entire groups within the profession to the edge of economic survival," Danielsen said. The number of accreditations this year totals about 1,400, making it clear that the film festival has established itself as an international industry gathering.

The festival will continue till November 4.

George Clooney is distant cousin of Abraham Lincoln

REUTERS, Los Angeles

Aunt Rosemary was not George Clooney's only famous relative. You can add a certain Civil War American president to the Oscar-winning actor's family tree.

Politics has apparently run in the activist actor's blood for centuries, as website Ancestry.com on Thursday revealed that the "Ocean's 11" star is distantly related to President Abraham Lincoln.

According to Ancestry.com, Clooney is the half-first cousin five times removed from Lincoln, the 16th president. The genealogy website breaks down the connection, explaining the "half" means that two of their ancestors were half-siblings - Lincoln's mother Nancy Hanks was the half-sister of Clooney's 4th great-grandmother Mary Ann Sparrow.

Hanks and Sparrow shared the same mother, Lucy Hanks, but had different fathers. Lucy Hanks was Lincoln's maternal grandmother as well as the 5th great-grandmother of Clooney.

Clooney's aunt was singer and actress Rosemary Clooney, who died in 2002.

Clooney, long noted for his political activism, is a major Hollywood backer of President Barack Obama. He hosted a Democratic Party fundraiser at his Los Angeles home in March that raised \$15 million.

Lincoln, a Republican, is considered one of the great presidents in the history of the United States. He led

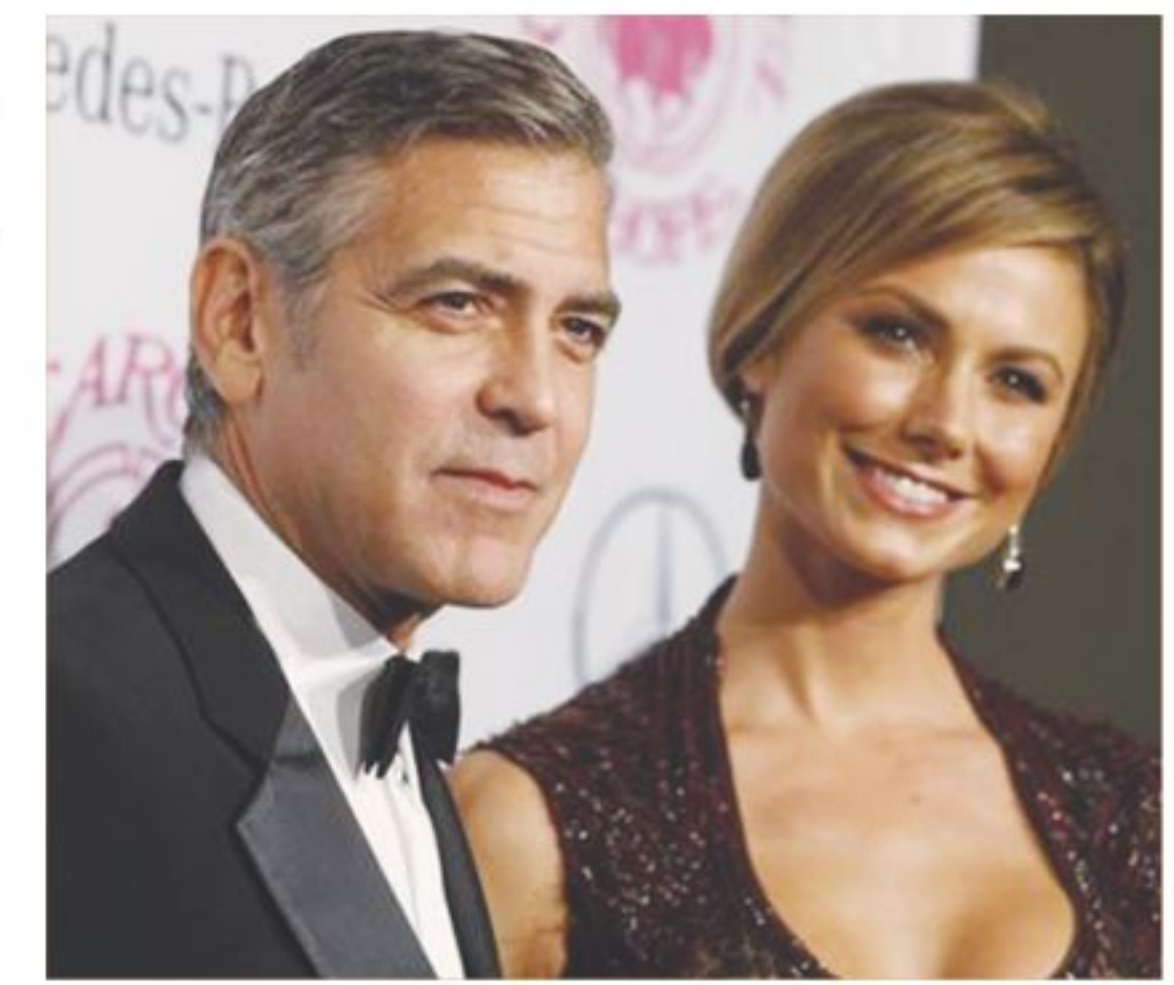


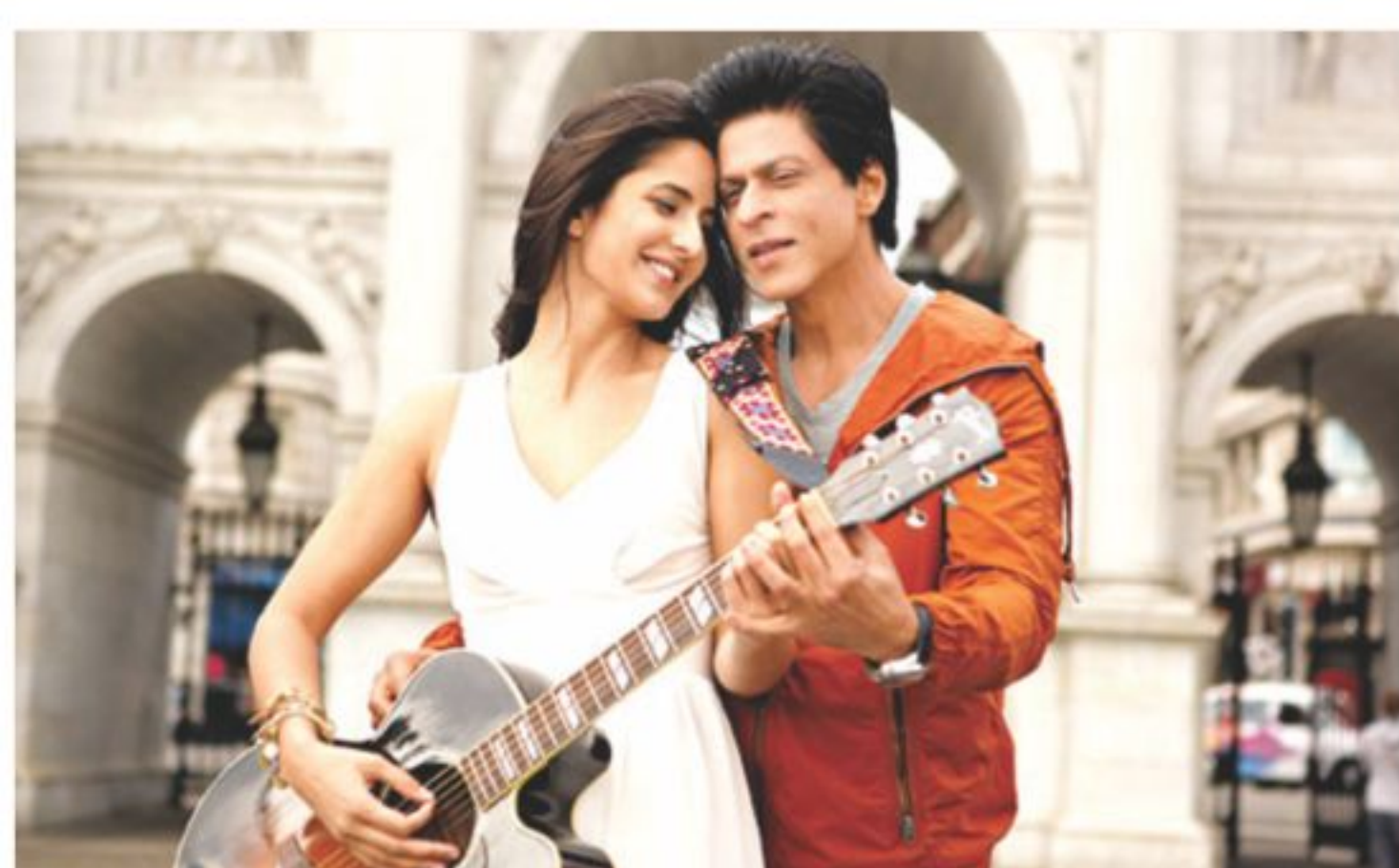
PHOTO: REUTERS

the country through the Civil War and is credited with the abolition of slavery, which officially became law in 1865 after his assassination.

He is the subject of an upcoming Steven Spielberg film "Lincoln," starring Daniel Day-Lewis in the title role, which is to open in the United States next week.

Ancestry.com is offering free access to more than 20,000 documents showcasing Lincoln's life, his family tree and the most pivotal moments of his presidential career. The details can be found at www.ancestry.com/lincoln.

Yash Chopra: The King of Romance bows out



Shahrukh Khan and Katrina Kaif in Yash Chopra's last film "Jab Tak Hai Jaan". PHOTO: BOLLYWOODHUNGAMA

Indian filmmaker Yash Chopra, also known as the "King of Romance" passed away on October 21, leaving a void in Bollywood which will be difficult to fill. Be it bold films on themes like illegitimacy ("Dhool Ka Phool"), polygamous relationships ("Daag"), adultery ("Silсила"), or out and out romantic films ("Dil to Pagal Hai", "Veer-Zaara", for example), he had a unique touch typified in what has come to be known as the "Yash Chopra style". That term embraced films that were heroine-oriented, romantic, emotional, while depicting the lavish lifestyle of the elite with unforgettable songs

and scenic foreign locations. Switzerland was his favourite location, which is where his last film "Jab Tak Hai Jaan" (2012) starring Shahrukh Khan, Katrina Kaif and Anushka Sharma was shot. That was supposed to be his last directorial venture, as he had announced his intention to focus on his production company and his family. His death due to dengue left some question marks on the fate of the title song of the film.

However, the song is now to be used as the end titles of the movie star rolling. The song will have visuals with vignettes from the film's shooting. This decision was taken between Chopra's son Aditya Chopra and Gulzar, the film's lyricist. The triangular love story is to be released mid-November after a grand premiere.

Chopra's films proved the launching pad for Anitabh Bachchan who derived his image as the "angry young man" from cult classics such as "Deewaar" and "Trishul". These films were scripted by the famous Salim-Javed combine. Bachchan also starred in Chopra's romantic dramas, "Kabhie Kabhie" and "Silсила". In the latter film, inspired by Chopra, Akhtar

launched his career as a lyricist. Other films such as "Chandni" and "Lamhe" were also important milestones in Chopra's eventful career. The success of "Chandni" music was in fact instrumental in ending the era of violence in Bollywood and bringing music back to Hindi films.

Chopra's unmistakable talent won him many awards, notably the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2001 and the coveted Padma Bhushan in 2005 for his contribution to cinema.

On this occasion the alumni accorded a warm reception to the school teachers, valiant freedom fighters and a painter. The function was presided over by engineer Shoieldranath Saha while District Council Administrator, Advocate Subhas Chandra Bose, attended the function as the chief guest. It was addressed, among others, by the principal of Amada Adarsha College,

Faisal Khan: Assistant Public Prosecutor. Advocate MM Alauddin; Narail Press Club president, Alamgir Siddiquee; painter Baladev Adhikary; development worker, Kazi Hafiz; Lohagara Press Club secretary, Shimul Hasan, and UP member, Renuara Begum.

Eid reunion: A meeting ground

PONUEL S BOSE, Namail

Alumni who passed the SSC Examination in 1987 from Amada High School arranged a day long Eid reunion at the school premises under Lohagara upazila of the district on Sunday.

On this occasion the alumni accorded a warm reception to the school teachers, valiant freedom fighters and a painter.

The function was presided over by engineer Shoieldranath Saha while District Council Administrator, Advocate Subhas Chandra Bose, attended the function as the chief guest. It was addressed, among others, by the principal of Amada Adarsha College,

Faisal Khan: Assistant Public Prosecutor. Advocate MM Alauddin; Narail Press Club president, Alamgir Siddiquee; painter Baladev Adhikary; development worker, Kazi Hafiz; Lohagara Press Club secretary, Shimul Hasan, and UP member, Renuara Begum.

On the occasion freedom fighters Abdul Mannan Khan (posthumous), Golam Rasul, Azibar Rahman Mondal, Soleman Mondal, Yunus Gazi and KM Anwarul Islam; teachers Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Dipak Kumar Sheel and Nikhil Ranjan Biswas; painter Baladev Adhikary were accorded reception for their achievement in their respective fields.

Later, at night a cultural function was held with music and entertainment.

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Venue: **FERIA VALENCIA**
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Dates: **14 to 17, February 2013**

10:35	Call-er Gaan	10:35	Boishakhi TV
09:35	Tom & Jerry Tales	09:15	Bangla Feature Film
10:30	Theatre	03:00	Drama Serial: Hata Baba
03:05	Bangla Feature Film	08:00	Amar Guitar Amar Gaan
06:45	Drama: Jibon-er Chaturtha Odhyai	08:35	Drama
08:35	Drama: Modhur Bhal Tarana	11:05	Shomoy Katuk Gaan-e Gaan-e
10:25			
ATN BANGLA		Maasranga Television	
03:05	Bangla Feature Film	02:30	Ichchhey Gaan-er Dugur
05:00	Gram Gonjer Khabor	05:02	Square Hospital Doctor's Chamber
08:00	Diploma Misti Loral		Drama
11:30	Documentary Programme	08:00	Houseful
		12:02	Drama
CHANNEL I		CHANNEL 9	
12:05	Prakriti O Jibon	02:35	Bangla Feature Film
02:40	Teledim	06:00	Class Room
07:50	Shekhabhita	08:40	Baramkhana
09:35	Top Model	09:15	Tele-film
ETV		11:15	Beauty Time

RADIO	
abc radio FM 89.2	12:00
09:20	Boier Pika
01:20	Fourt Unlimited
05:30	Back to Back music
03:30	Club Fourt
07:20	Back to Back music
09:45	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
08:10	Good Morning Dhaka
11:10	Flash Back
	12:30
	12:15
	12:00
	06:00
	10:00
	01:00
	06:00
	11:00
	12:30
	02:15

Houseful on Maasranga Television at 09:00pm

Game Show

Guest: Joya Ahsan

The Recruit on Fox Movies at 07:00pm

Genre: Action/ Crime

Cast: Al Pacino, Colin Farrell & Bridget Moynahan

Sharadin Por on Desh TV at 09:30pm

Single Episode TV

Play

Cast: Jahir Uddin Piar, Swagata

10:02	Sonamoni Shukh-e Oshukh-e	10:30	Conan the Barbarian
01:30	Bangla Feature Film	02:45	The House Bunny
06:30	Tarana	05:15	Fright Night
12:05	Phone & Live Studio Concert	07:00	The Recruit
		08:55	Drive Angry
		10:35	Unstoppable
BANGLAVISION		HBO	
10:10	Bhala's Thakun	01:10	Green Lantern
11:05	Amader Rannaghar	03:32	Lara Croft: Tomb Raider
06:25	Praner Manush	05:37	Procedon
11:25	Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo (Live)	07:35	Event Horizon
		09:30	Thor
ntv		StarWorld	
12:10	Apn Aaloy	02:30	Grey's Anatomy
02:35	Tele-film	04:30	Revenge
06:45	Roommadur	05:30	Master Chef Australia
11:30	Katha O Gaan-e Kichhukhkon (Live)	08:30	The Simpson's
		09:30	Junior Master Chef Australia
		11:30	Two And A Half Men
Rtv		Discovery Channel	
10:10	Doctor's Prescription (Live)	02:30	Making of Ra. One
05:00	Young Star (Live)	05:30	Man vs. Wild
07:15	Glamour World Dot Com	08:30	Countdown to Collision
11:45	Weekly Drama	09:30	Unchained Reaction
		10:30	White Wars
09:30	Bangla Feature Film		
03:00	Sonali Din Rupai Gaan		
08:20	Drama Serial: Patapaur Golpo		
09:30	Drama: Sharadin Por		

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN BANGLA	09:30pm
09:20pm	Chhayabrita
11:00pm	Scandal
Channel I	
09:45pm	Gulshan Avenue
11:30pm	Rozhni
ntv	
08:15pm	Mayanigam
09:45pm	99, Shaheb Ali Lane
ETV	
09:30pm	Dhol
08:15pm	Harkiptey
09:45pm	