

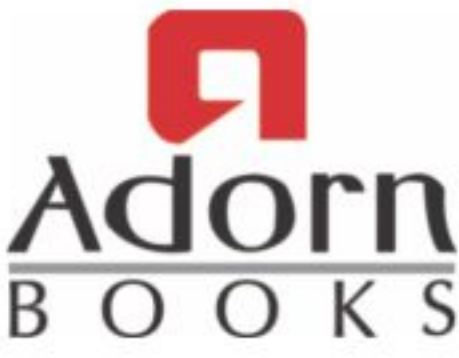
WHAT'S ON

Group Painting Exhibition  
Title: Human Being for Humanity  
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-4, R-6, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 8-12



Book Fair

Organiser: Adorn Publication  
Venue: Seminar Room, Central Public Library, Shahbagh  
Date: June 1-15



Group Print Exhibition

Title: Awakening  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, Rd-16 (New), Dhanmondi  
Date: June 8-19



Solo Drawing Exhibition

Artist: Mainuddin  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: May 31-June 12  
Time: 3pm-8pm



Theatre

Play: Shesh Shonglap  
Troupe: Shomoy Natyadal  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 16  
Time: 7pm



## NEWS bytes

### Mel Brooks given AFI lifetime achievement honour

Comic film director Mel Brooks has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award from the American Film Institute. Robert DeNiro and David Lynch



were among those who attended the Hollywood ceremony to pay tribute to the 86-year-old, whose films include "Young Frankenstein" and "The Producers".

Woody Allen, Clint Eastwood and Steven Spielberg applauded Brooks via video.

Past recipients of the prize include Scorsese, Elizabeth Taylor, Kirk Douglas, Spielberg and George Lucas.

Brooks went on to thank the institute for recognizing him and sharing his life-long love of film. "Movies," he said, "rescued my soul. No matter what was bad or wrong, it could be wiped out on Saturday morning." In 1969, Brooks won an Oscar for writing "The Producers", a comedy about two schemers who figure out how to make money by producing a sure-fire Broadway flop - a musical about Adolf Hitler.

### It's True!



Despite his greatness, Leonardo Da Vinci wasn't the most productive of painters. He left fewer than 30 paintings, and all of them weren't even finished. Leonardo was both a perfectionist and a procrastinator. It's said to be one of the reasons why he left so few paintings. Meanwhile, there are no pieces of sculpture that can definitely be attributed to Leonardo, even though art historians know he learned sculpture when an art apprentice in Verrocchio's studio.

# The classical Indian edge

## Sabina Mustafa enthralls audience in Chittagong

UDAY SANKAR DAS, Chittagong

"A glaring example of pious devotion", said Professor Gulam Mustafa of Bangla Department, Chittagong University (CU).

Bela Islam, a veteran classical vocalist of the Agra Gharana was so overwhelmed that she could utter only these words, "What a performance"!

Professor Tapan Jyoti Barua of English Department, CU, said, "This was a refreshing change from the dull and dreary chores of our daily life".

These were some of the comments made after a pulsating evening of vocal classical music rendered by Sabina Mustafa Islam in the A K Khan Memorial Auditorium, Fulki in Chittagong on Saturday evening. Organised by Raktakarobi, a renowned music institution of the port city, the performance by this protégé of Bidushi Shubhra Guha in front of an elite audience was breathtakingly entertaining.

Sabina, who hails from Guwahati, Assam (India), had an interest in music from her childhood, having had her first lessons



Sabina Mustafa performs at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

from her father Nurul Islam when she was five. Later, she was awarded an ITC-SRA scholarship and took her training in the Agra Gharana from veteran music maestro Pandit Sunil Bose. Since 1999, Sabina has been under the tutelage of Bidushi Shubhra Guha and is a regular artiste of All India Radio -- rendering mainly Kheyal and Thumri.

Beginning her performance with Raga Anandi Kalyan, Sabina followed that with Gour Malhar and Kaajri. She rounded up her hour-and-a-half long performance with Raga Bhairabi. All the renditions were deeply appreciated by the audience. Tabla accompaniment was by Pandit Bijan Chowdhury, while two local young artistes Tinku Shil

and Srabanti Dhar played the harmonium and tanpura respectively.

Raktakarobi has embarked on a very bold and appreciable initiative of imparting pure form of vocal classical training in Chittagong. They have formulated a long-term training programme, with tutors coming from Kolkata every month for 10 to 14 days, Sabina being the second tutor to come to Chittagong under this programme. At the end of the term, an assessment would be made by none other than Pandit Bijay Kichlu and Bidushi Shubhra Guha.

Director of Raktakarobi, Shila Momen, in her opening address, expressed hopes that local young vocalists would be able to perform in classical programmes in Chittagong in a year or two.

Giving her reaction on this brief sojourn of Chittagong, Sabina said she was very impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of the young vocalists, and that she was confident that in the not-too-distant future, the Agra Gharana would find its stronghold in this city of great cultural heritage.

# Manna Dey

## hospitalised

### Legendary singer is critical but stable



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Legendary singer Manna Dey is in a critical but stable condition after being admitted to a hospital in Bangalore city due to a chest infection.

The 94-year-old singer was taken to the hospital on Saturday after his health deteriorated.

Born in Kolkata, Dey, the winner of India's prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award, currently resides in Bangalore after spending more than 50 years in Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital.

Dey was to record songs in memory of his wife but fell ill a few days ago. He was under medical supervision at his home in Kalyan Nagar in Bangalore but was shifted to hospital when his condition deteriorated.

Dey has recorded more than 3,500 songs in a number of languages including Bengali and Hindi and regaled generations of listeners with his romantic ballads, intricate raga-based songs, Qawwalis and fast-paced modern numbers, lending his voice to a number of Hindi and Bengali film stars.

His popular tracks include "Poocho Na Kaise Main" (Meri Surat Teri Aankhen), "Ae Meri Zohra Jabeen" (Waqt), "Zindagi Kaisi Hai Paheli" (Anand), "Yeh Dosti" (Sholay) and "Ek Chatur Naar" (Padosan). Dey was being treated at his home for the past couple of weeks.

Among the Bangla films he has lent his voice to are "Teen Bhubaner Parey", "Stree" and "Nishipadma".

## STEPPING STONE

# Shahana Sumi

## Versatility and verve



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahana Sumi was known as Koinna in the theatre world for quite a while for her female lead role in a Prachyanat production of the same name alongside Azad Abul Kalam. She also played the lead role in the film "Nacholer Rani" -- directed by Wahiduzzaman Diamond -- that encircles the life and times of legendary Communist leader Ila Mitra, and of the Santal revolution she had spearheaded in Rajshahi in pre-Partition Bengal. On the small screen, she was familiar for her role in Giasuddin Selim's popular serial "Labonyoprobha". She earned repute over a short period, due to her penchant for diverse, powerful roles.

However, there was a hiatus of about three years beginning in 2009, during which time she was seen neither on stage nor camera. Meanwhile, she got married to Tanim Mahmud, an IT executive by profession. Was it family restraints that kept her away from the audience?

"No. I kept working after my wedding. My baby boy Shanan was born and I got really busy with him, and that is when I drifted apart a little," Sumi explained.

Sumi is well placed to be a powerful actor. She completed her Honours and Masters in Dramatics at the University of Dhaka. Academically trained in all branches of drama, she shifted her attention to scriptwriting during this time, and it did not take her long to succeed. As a scriptwriter, she debuted with the television play "Nakshi Kantha", directed by Matia Banu Shuku.

"It was not easy at the beginning since I had to constantly attend to my child. Yet, my passion for writing helped me overcome it," said Sumi.

From 2013 onwards, she has begun to appear on TV as well as on stage. A multi-faceted Sumi continues with script-writing as well. "It's been about five months since I started again. But from now on, I'll be flitting between acting and scripting, I guess," she informed.

About her present assignments, she said, "At present, I'm busy with two scripts for the upcoming Eid. Besides, I'm appearing in 'Double Portrait', a drama serial on Boishakhi TV and I'll also be appearing in 'Bonophuler Gaan' by Abul Hayat to be aired on BTV."



## Actor in action

### Apurba goes macho for Gangster

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Apurba has made a name for himself on television with his roles in romantic plays, excelling both against both veteran and contemporary actresses. Recently, however, Apurba has entered uncharted territories -- starring in Ashikur Rahman's thriller "Gangster".

Talking about the serial, Apurba said, "I've never worked in anything like 'Gangster' before. The character is absolutely new to me. I believe the audience will be able to enjoy a new side of me."

Apurba has also had to act in several action scenes to portray his role. "I had to work in the water for 18 hours straight. I believe it's some kind of a record. I even had my suppers in water. It was hard, but I did it to ensure that it was a job well done."

Answering to a separate query, the actor informed, "I also shot scenes with snakes, used firearms. All that is needed to provide the action element in a drama, I did it for 'Gangster'."

The serial was shot in several locations in Sadarghat, Uttara and Tejgaon. With the first lot of shooting completed, a TV channel will soon start airing the serial.

Apart from "Gangster", Apurba's plate is full with Eid drama projects. "I'm busy almost everyday, shooting new Eid dramas. Hopefully viewers will get some good plays from me this Eid", Apurba said.

The talented actor is also set to reveal himself as a telefilm director, with his first production "Backdated" set to be aired this Eid.

# Lux and lockets

## 150 winners take home prizes



Winners of the campaign pose for a group photo.

A CORRESPONDENT

A total of 150 winners of the "Buy a Lux and Win a Diamond Locket" campaign were handed their prizes in Chittagong on June 8. Lux-Channel i superstar Samiha Khan and officials of Unilever Bangladesh handed over the lockets.

In a separate programme, 50 winners from Mymensingh and adjacent areas were also handed the awards.

A total of 2000 lockets are up for grabs under the campaign, in which consumers must send in the codes on the wrapper of Lux soap through SMS, and answer a simple question.

# Play for awareness on agriculture

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Farmers staged a play to create awareness on optimisation of agriculture at Baliakhora Union Parishad premises under Ghior Upazila in Manikganj on Wednesday.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and Farmers Club jointly arranged the event to observe Farmers' Field Day. Hundreds of farmers of the area joined the programme.

Earlier, a discussion was held at the Union Parishad auditorium. Ghior Upazila Agriculture Officer Ashraf Uzzaman, Baliakhora Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Awal Khan, Deputy Assistant Agriculture Officers--Mohammad Ali, Shahidul Islam and Imarat Hossain, Farmers' Club Secretary Ujjal Mia urged the farmers to gain knowledge about modern agricultural techniques.

# Anniversary of Pabna Drama Circle

## Painting and cultural competition

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Pabna Drama Circle, a leading theatre organisation of the district, organised painting and cultural competitions marking its 32nd founding anniversary. The two-day competitions, held at the Pabna Town Hall premises, concluded on Saturday.

Over 250 children took part in a painting, music and dance festival.



Young participants of the dance competition.

PHOTO: STAR

## DS CAFÉ

Popular TV actor **Hasan Masood** is the featured celebrity of this month at DS Café. He will be on the hot seat and take your calls at The Daily Star Centre today, between 4 and 5pm. Readers, fire away all your questions at him! The best question will be highlighted in the transcription. Call 01711623915, 01711623917 to speak to Hasan Masood.

