

Waheedul Haque's Birthday Celebration

Venue: Chhayanaut Shangkriti Bhaban Auditorium

Date: June 13-14

Musical Soiree

Artist: Yasmin Mushtari

Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1

Date: June 14

Time: 6:30pm

Group Print Exhibition

Title: Awakening

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, Rd-16 (New), Dhanmondi

Date: June 8-19

Photography Exhibition

Title: Searching for Kalpana Chakma

Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15A (New), Dhanmondi

Date: June 12-21

Time: 3pm-8pm

Film Screening

Film: Unishe April

Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1

Date: June 13

Time: 6:30pm

# NEWSbytes

## Limited Edition 'Holy Diver' guitar to be released



To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the release of Ronnie James Dio's iconic debut album "Holy Diver", a limited edition ASG guitar has been created. There will only be 30 of these special guitars built, with a solid mahogany body, which will have artwork from the 'Holy Diver' album. Pre-sale for the guitars will begin on July 10, which would have been Ronnie's 71st birthday. Meanwhile, the band's 1986 concert "Finding the Sacred Heart: Live In Philly 1986" was recently reissued on DVD and Blu-ray, and their 2000 album "Magica" is set for a deluxe reissue on June 25. In addition to a remastered version of the album, there will be a second disc with "The Magica Story" -- narrated by Dio himself.

Source: Loudwire

## It's True!



Bob Dylan once visited artist-filmmaker Andy Warhol when he came to pick up actress/model Edie Sedgwick, whom he was dating at the time, and found himself the subject of Warhol's movie camera. Dylan responded by picking up an original Warhol painting and taking it with him "for payment" for being filmed, which he used first as a dartboard, then traded for a sofa. He apologized to Warhol in a press interview years later for his attitude.

# Musical Homage to Waheedul Haq

## Desh Ghar-er Gaan begins at Chhayanaut today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As a tribute to eminent cultural activist and Tagore exponent Waheedul Haq, the driving force behind the nationalist cultural movement for decades, Chhayanaut is holding a two-day (June 13-14) musical programme titled "Desh Ghar-er Gaan 1420". Featuring the rich heritage of Bengali folk music, the programme will be held at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut Shangkriti Bhaban. Veteran cultural personality Md. Hashem will inaugurate the programme today at 5:30pm. A press conference was held yesterday in this regard at Ramesh Chandra Datta Smriti Milon Kendra of Chhayanaut where Vice-president Dr. Sarwar Ali, general secretary Khairul Anam Shakil of the organisation spoke among others. Waheedul Haque believed that it would not be possible to form a complete impression of our culture, without familiarity with our folk music -- rooted in our tradition. Upholding the ideal, Chhayanaut has been arranging this programme for the last seven years, highlighting various forms of folk songs practiced in different parts of the country. The two-day event will include bhandari gaan (Chittagong), traditional marriage and karam dance (Oraon, Joypurhat), baroshiya gaan (Rajshahi) padabali pala kirtan (Faridpur), maljora gaan (Mymensingh) Roopban pala (Laxmipur) Hason Rajar gaan (Sunamganj). Apart from Chhayanaut's regular artists, renowned artists and troupes from across the country will perform on the occasion. Mobile phone operator Grameenphone and Square Group are assisting in the festival with Maasranga Television as media partner.



# Lucky on the mic

A CORRESPONDENT

A couple of years back, popular host and model Sharmin Lucky worked as a Radio Jockey for Radio Foorti. She was in the hot seat for a year -- in the programme "My Time with Sharmin Lucky". The star has recently penned a new six-month deal with Radio Foorti to be featured in a new show: "Total Time Pass with Sharmin Lucky". It will air through Sunday to Thursday between the hours of 1pm to 4pm. Speaking on her new challenge, Sharmin Lucky said, "I'm working again as an RJ, because I enjoy doing it. Hopefully the experience will be great." Asked about the content of her programme, Sharmin Lucky informed that it will focus on topics like lifestyle, travelling, recipes, health tips and art films. Listeners will be able to join in live during the programme.

PHOTO: ATILAKASH

# DIVERSE THEMES

## Group prints exhibition at Bengal Gallery



A print by Rafi Haq.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts has organised a 12-day print exhibition titled "Awakening". The show features works by five artists of 'Dhaka Printmakers' -- Rokeya Sultana, Ahmed Nazir, Rafi Haq, Rashid Amin and Mustafa Zaman. Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, NDC, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest on June 8. Professor Abul Barq Alvi, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka and Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of APEX Adelchi Footwear Ltd were present as special guests. Dhaka Printmakers, a group of seven artists -- Rokeya Sultana, Ahmed Nazir, Rafi Haq, Rashid Amin, Mustafa Zaman, Humayra Rahman and Ashok Biswas came together for an exhibition in 1993. Behind their association lay the need to share ideas and to inform the public about the importance of printmaking. At the exhibition, Ahmed Nazir's prints denote several human visages. The printmaker has worked in digital print with monochrome shades. His series is an incorporation of two individualities -- himself and his illustrious father, maestro Safiuddin Ahmed. Rafi Haq is one of the earnest printmakers in the group. He loves to explore the rich and symbolic world of colours and study the changeable nature of forms. He uses many geometrical forms and shapes in his works. Rashid Amin is inspired by landscapes and nature. The painter-printmaker gets the inspiration from his surroundings, and does not present them in a realistic way. The painter feels abstraction develops from reality. "In Search of Infinity" (etching aquatint), with minimal use of colours and lines -- both vertical and horizontal -- suggests dreams, sensitivity and sensuality. Mustafa Zaman is distinguished for his experimental and scholastic approach. His prints are mingling of animals and human forms. His works are truly reflective of society. The exhibition ends on June 19.

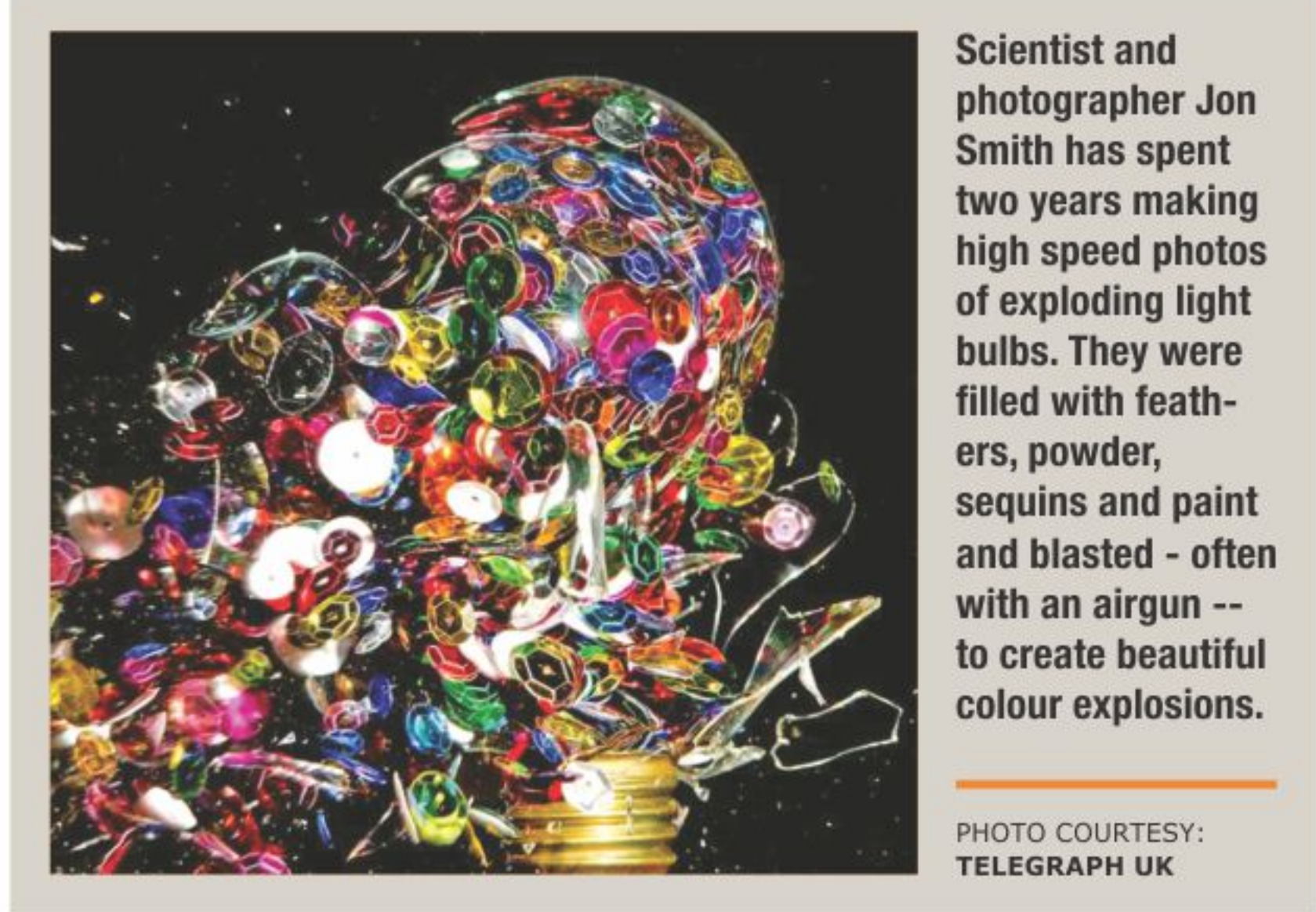
# The poet of Islamic Renaissance

## 95th birth anniversary of poet Farrukh Ahmad



Farrukh Ahmad is one of the most powerful poets of Bangla literature. He is widely known as the poet of Islamic Renaissance. Islam was not only the central point of his literature, it strongly guided his personal life, and his strong conviction in Islamic ideology. His poems symbolise the spirit of resurrection particularly in the hearts of down-trodden Muslims of the then (early '30s and '40s) Bengal. Ahmad was born in the village of Majhail of Magura District in 1918. He was the second son of Syed Hatem Ali and Begum Rawshan. He graduated from Khulna Zilla School in 1937 and did his intermediate from Ripon College, Kolkata in 1939. He enrolled at the prestigious Scottish Church College and did his BA (Hons) in Philosophy and English Literature, but did not complete graduation. He started writing poems during his school life. As a student, Ahmad was attracted to the radical humanism of MN Roy and participated in leftist politics. Immediately after the partition in 1947, Ahmad joined Radio Pakistan (now Bangladesh Betar), Dhaka and served as staff artiste till his death in 1974. Despite his Pakistani and Islamic ideals, he supported the Language Movement in 1952 and, later, the Liberation War in 1971. Ahmad's literary works include "Sat Sagorer Majhi", "Sirazam Munira", "Naufel O Hatem", "Muhurter Kabita", "Dholai kabob", "Hatemtayi", "Habida Marur Kahini", "Kafela", "Sindabad" and "Dilruba".

Compiled by Correspondent



Scientist and photographer Jon Smith has spent two years making high speed photos of exploding light bulbs. They were filled with feathers, powder, sequins and paint and blasted - often with an airgun -- to create beautiful colour explosions.

PHOTO COURTESY: TELEGRAPH UK

# The singing nun of Kathmandu

With several albums and a series of concerts around the globe under her belt, the singing nun of Kathmandu is taking the Nepalese and international music industry by the storm. Draped in a maroon robe, serene-faced Ani Choying Drolma hardly looks like a pop icon - but her music



videos show that she is as comfortable singing and performing as she is meditating with her prayer beads. This is a woman who stands out from the crowd, a woman who by her own admission loves to do things "which nuns are not supposed to do." She goes out with friends to watch Hindi films "like a regular person", and is not averse to the idea of kicking a football to inaugurate a charity tournament. Suffering a troubled childhood in poverty and an abusive father, Choying told her mother about her decision not to marry; she received an ultimatum - join a Buddhist monastery and become a nun or stay in the secular world and find a husband. Desperate to break free, she decided to join a monastery near Kathmandu when she was barely 13 years old. But she says even there she faced bias against women. Because she could not complete her studies in the monastery, she found solace in music - without realising her potential as a singer. "Singing and dancing were things I enjoyed since childhood," she said, "while playing with my kid brother or cooking, washing or even when I was very sad, I would sing." One of the first music cassettes Choying received as a present made a lasting impact on her -- it was by American blues singer and guitarist Bonnie Raitt who rapidly became Choying's favourite. But the man who really identified Choying's potential as a singer was American guitarist Steve Tibbetts, who was a regular visitor to the monastery. He introduced her to the international music scene. Her first exposure to a global audience came in 1998 when she travelled to the US to perform in various cities. It was during one such tour that Choying noticed in the audience "a red-haired woman" who resembled her childhood idol Bonnie Raitt. "I shrugged off the thought thinking why a celebrity singer would come to my concert?" says Choying. But at the end of the concert, the "red-haired woman" walked up to her and said: "I am Bonnie Raitt and I am a big fan of yours." It was a memorable moment. "Then she introduced me to her musicians," Choying remembers with a glint in her eyes. Since then, Choying has travelled far and wide without losing sight of her lifelong aim to educate girls, especially from poorer backgrounds. As the money started pouring in with the sale of her albums, in 2000 she founded Arya Tara school for novice nuns near Kathmandu. Preparing to record her latest devotional hymns in an ordinary-looking studio, Choying says she is waiting for travel documents to go on a musical tour to China - a tough choice for someone born as a refugee to visit the country perceived as an oppressor.

Source: BBC

# Nazrul's birth anniversary celebrated at IUB

To celebrate the 114th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised a programme on June 11 at its campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka, says a press release. The programme titled 'Nazrul Prohor' was jointly organised by the Kazi Nazrul Islam-Abbasuddin Ahmed Research and Study Centre, Art Club and Division of Students Affairs (DoSA) of the university. Vice Chancellor, IUB, Professor M Omar Rahman, Associate Professor Akimur Rahman and Assistant Professor Nazir Ahmed spoke on the life and literary works of the Rebel Poet. Among others, noted singer Mustafa Zaman Abbasi also participated in the cultural programme.



Mustafa Zaman Abbasi (6-L) sings with IUB students at the programme.