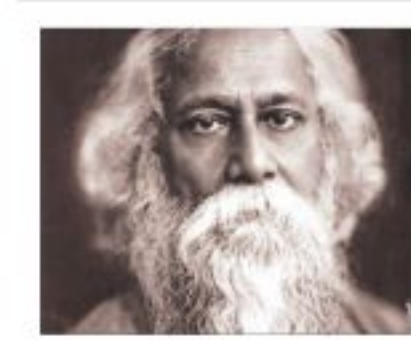


WHAT'S ON



Music and Recitation
Title: Badol Megh-e Madol Baje
Organiser: Padatik
Venue: Dance and Music Centre,
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 28; Time: 7:15pm



20th National Art Exhibition
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala
Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala
Academy
Date: June 22-July 12
Time: 11am-9pm



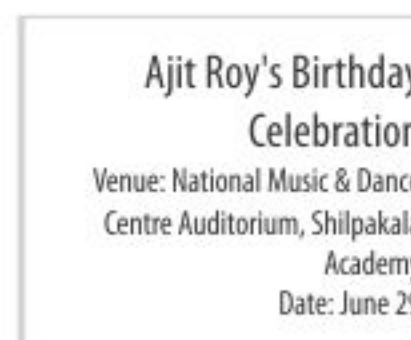
Group Exhibition
Marking Ten-Year Journey of Galleri Kaya
Title: Glimpses
Venue: H-26, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: June 21-July 20



Print Exhibition
Artist: Biren Shome
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre,
Dhanmondi
Date: June 28-July 24
Time: 3pm-9pm



Painting Exhibition
Title: Book is Light
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
Venue: Cafe Gallery, R-72, H-3A,
Gulshan-2
Date: June 1-July 24



Ajit Roy's Birthday Celebration
Venue: National Music & Dance
Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala
Academy
Date: June 29



Photography Exhibition
Title: Coins from Bangladesh
Venue: Dink Gallery, H-58, R-15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: July 1-3
Time: 3pm-8pm

Glimpses of contemporary trends

Group art exhibition at Galleri Kaya

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Celebrating Galleri Kaya's 10th anniversary, the gallery has organised a display of selected artworks by renowned and promising painters from Bangladesh. Titled "Glimpses", the featured artists are Aminul Islam, Murtaja Baseer, Nitun Kundu, Samajit Roy Chowdhury, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Monsur-ul-Karim, Chandra Shekhor Dey, Tarun Ghosh, Ranjit Das, Golam Faruque Bebul, Samiran Chowdhury, Anisuzzaman, Nagarbashi Barman, Shohag Parvez and others.

The aim of the group exhibition is to assemble artists belonging to different age groups, working on diverse themes and different mediums. The exhibition has also become a platform, encouraging the exchange of ideas between veteran and promising painters of Bangladesh. The ongoing exhibition is praiseworthy for its selection of works.

The exhibition is dedicated to late painters Aminul Islam and Nitun Kundu. Murtaja Baseer is the most significant name in the exhibition lineup. His realistic portrait of a woman symbolizes a somber and individualistic view where he has drawn attention to minute details – braided hair, facial structure, and the most prominent features of the visage. Smooth brush strokes give his works a textural quality. The colours are bright and produces an imposing vision.

Samajit Roy Chowdhury is another prominent figure in the Bangladeshi art circuit and is known for folk motifs in his works. The artist has carved a niche for himself with his hallmark style. At the exhibition, his recurring motifs focus on birds, kites, wild flowers, tiny boats and fishes.

Scribbles and thick lines crisscross his painting. The uneven lines create an individual language, highlighting a folk essence where one could find a great combination of traditional and modern geometric and abstract forms.

Monirul Islam's serigraph carries vague forms, suggestive lines and colours, done in precise geometrical shapes. The essential lines, drawn with a delicate and lyrical touch, provide a touch of romanticism to the piece.

Monsur Ul Karim came to prominence in

and his forms are often triangular. Ranjit Das is a painter who focuses on time, life and various socio-cultural and political issues. His work is more technique-based and seems that the artist has been consistently experimenting. About his subject and its philosophical aspect, the artist said, "For a long time, I have been working on a theme. But I have had always made an attempt to present the subject with diverse forms, colours, shapes and compositions. Melancholy and social inequity are often highlighted in my paintings."

ours, in non-abstract form. His mode of expression is pure impressionism and figures have emerged a little bit in his paintings. The artist said, "I want to produce paintings that not only describe looks but also captures emotional and spiritual states of mind. I feel continuity is very significant for a painter."

Nagarbashi Barman has depicted the lifestyle of fishermen in his prints. At the exhibition, his etching depicts a broken sinking boat which is surrounded by varied shells and water plants. The artist has provided details that create a sense of perfection in his prints. Fish, fishing tools, boats, nets are recurring feature in his works.

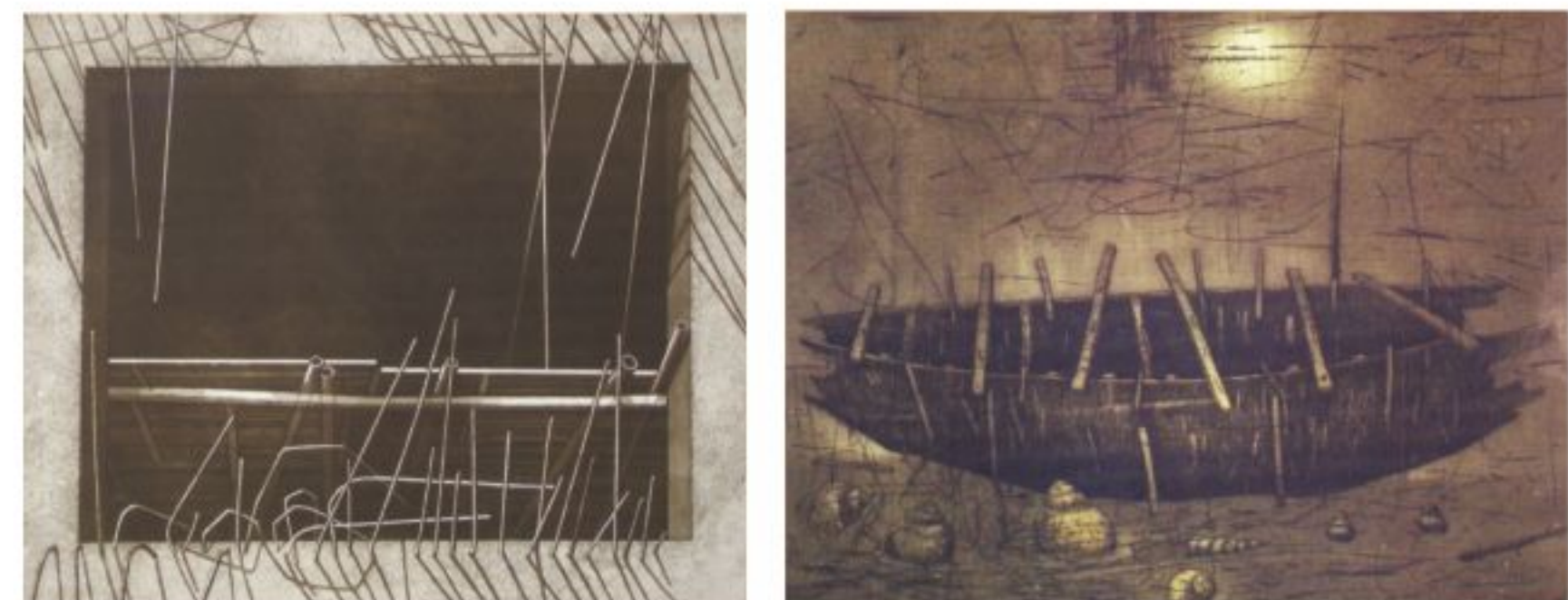
Tarikat reveals himself as a figurative painter. One of his paintings shows two indigenous women carrying baggage in a hilly setting. Lighting is a prominent feature here and the artist generally prefers luminous light and mystifying setting. Most of his figures look immobile. Well-known painters of silence like Hopper and Vermeer have apparently had their influence on his works. He has also added illusion and emotion to his acrylic-based paintings.

Through the exhibits of a number of major contemporary painters, one can easily comprehend the current trends of Bangladeshi art. The painters have used varied styles and approaches. It is true that our painters have a great fascination with both pure abstraction and pure realism. However, it is also apparent that most of the painters failed to depict a perspective of social and cultural inequity, political instability and other contemporary issues. Themes could have been more connected with society, where one can easily locate the social realities.

The exhibition will continue till July 20.



Paintings by Murtaja Baseer (L) and Ranjit Das.



Prints by Anisuzzaman (L) and Nagarbashi Barman.

the late '60s. Karim's paintings are slightly different from his early creations. His paintings from last few years were engrossed with various stiff forms and shapes. For a while, he has been working particularly on the Padma River and its many aspects. As an abstract expressionist painter, he symbolically portrays tides, women bathing and river crossings. His paintings look more relaxed on account of the generous use of space and some distinct forms. Figures in movement are one of the noteworthy traits

Artist Samiran Chowdhury's abstractions are composition and form-based. His painting also denotes his allure with minimal geometric compositions and a search for the beauty of colours. The painting is also marked by delicate brush strokes, subdued colours and mellow texture. Shohag's paintings highlight his interest in Mother Nature – representing the rich abundance of colours and tranquility. However, the specialty of his works is the smooth quality attained through watercol-

Padatik's monsoon melodies

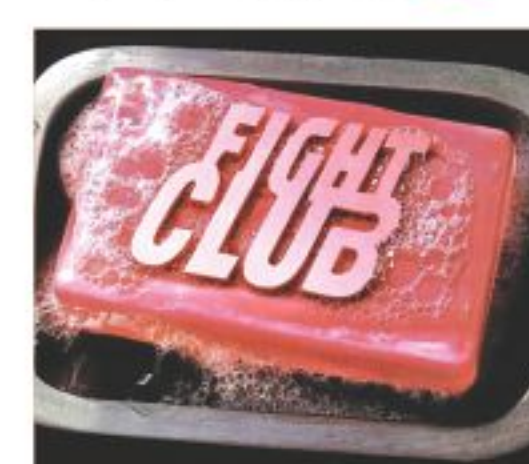
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rabindranath Tagore had a special corner for the monsoon; many of his works feature the abundant natural beauty of the season, the romanticism and the serenity. Theatre troupe Padatik celebrates the rainy season this year with Tagore songs and poetry today, at the Music and Dance Centre of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Noted artistes Nargis Chowdhury and Abdul Wadud will offer musical performances at the event, while elocutionists Laila Afroze and Rasheeda Hassan will recite Tagore poems on monsoon.

The programme begins at 7:15pm.

It's True!



"Fight Club", considered one of the best action films of all time, is full of hidden surprises. For instance, director David Fincher claimed that there is a Starbucks coffee cup in every scene of the film. A cup was placed in frame for every sequence during shooting, but some of them were edited out in the final cut. However, Starbucks pulled their name from the coffee shop destruction scene. Therefore, the gold globe crashes into a shop named Gratifico Coffee.

Laila Sharmeen takes part in WAG in Croatia

Bangladeshi artist Laila Sharmeen will feature among a line up of 400 artists invited to take part in World Art Games (WAG) to be held in different cities of Croatia from June 29 to July 10. The games mark Croatia joining the European Union (EU), says a press release.

The opening ceremony of the games will be concurrently held concurrently in the cities of Ludberg, Umag and Vukovar.

Laila Sharmeen has 11 solos and over 50 group shows to her credit. In 2011 she won a Purchase Prize at the prestigious 16th Space International Print Biennial held at OCI Museum of Art in Seoul, Korea. Her works are in the permanent collection of many local and international organisations including National Museum of Bangladesh, Izmir Cultural Center, the central bank of Bangladesh and leading telecom company of Bangladesh, Grameenphone.

Deeply perturbed by materialistic greed and the alienation of modern man, Laila tries to capture the hollowness of modern civilisation, the clash of civilisations, apartheid and religious bigotry that have rendered our planet unlivable. But at the core of her heart she is romantic, dreaming of a utopian world amidst obscurantism, hypocrisy and deceit.

Earthy, expressive, entertaining

BotTala stages K H O N A

FAHIM FERDOUS

It would be safe to say theatre is the black sheep of the current Bangladeshi arts and entertainment scene. However, an immense amount of hard work, dedication and talent is brewing in a circuit that is almost invisible outside certain circles of people. The most encouraging -- and frustrating at the same time -- aspect of the current theatre arena is that it's not just the reputed, big names that are producing top-notch plays; virtually unknown groups are writing, designing and playing out high-quality stage content. The 32nd show of "Khona" by the troupe BotTala at the Studio Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Sunday (June 23) was a glaring instance of that.

Written by Samina Luthfa -- an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Dhaka University who also plays the protagonist -- and directed by Mohammad Ali Haider, the play is the story of Khona, a familiar character in Bengali folklore. A volume of

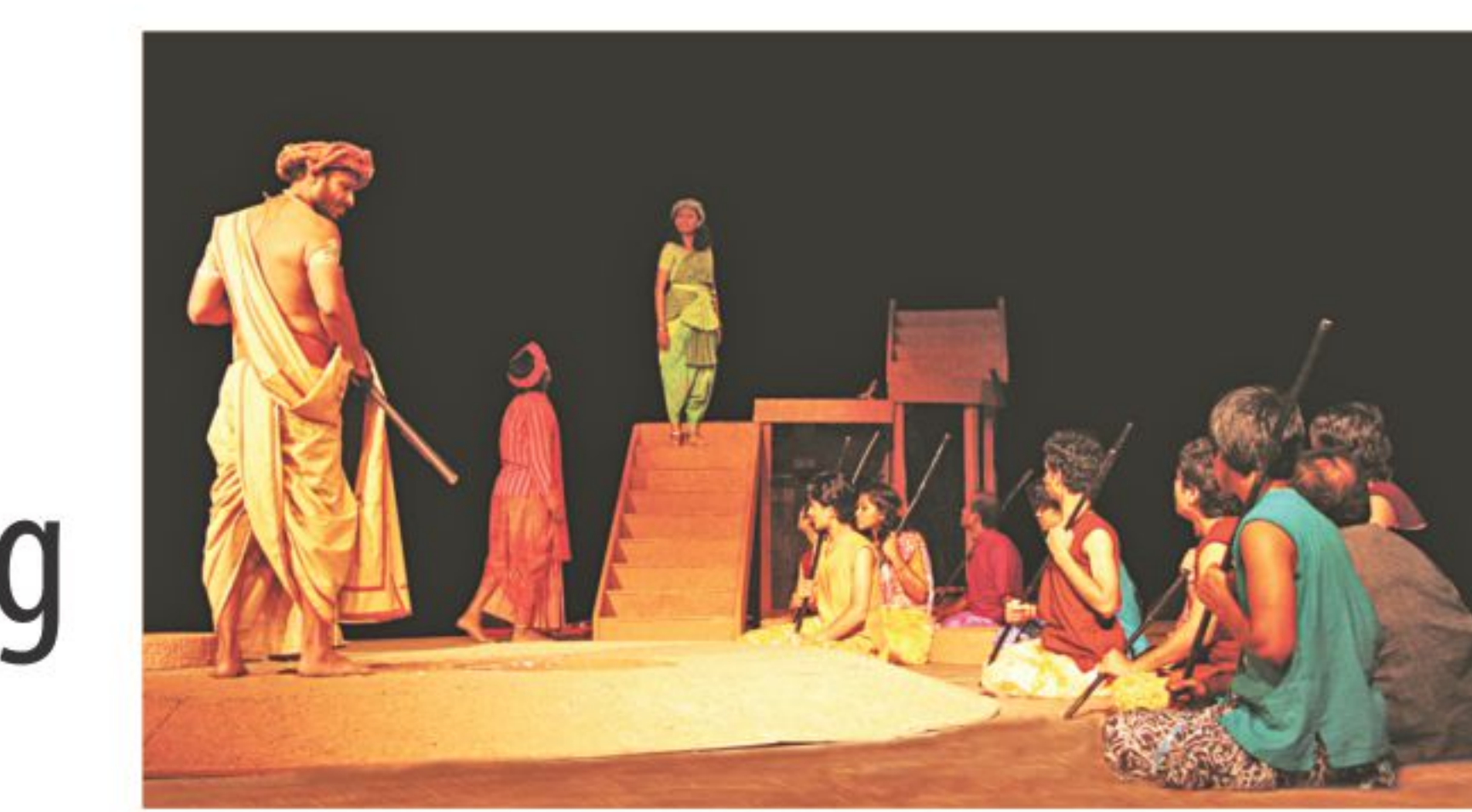


PHOTO COURTESY: BOTTALA

ancient agricultural knowledge which includes weather predictions, popularly called Khona's Sayings ("Khona Bochoh"), has been passed along from generation to generation as a part of the oral tradition among preliterate farmers. The sayings are usually short verses that are easy to remember yet profound in their science and wisdom. Her practice of simplifying knowledge to teach peasants and challenging royal decrees in favour of the farmers was not looked upon favourably by the ruling class of Deulnagar, the village that sets the backdrop for the play. Khona's rebellious nature eventually leads to her receiving the tragic punishment of elinguation. Born as Lila, she is entitled Khona -- someone who cannot speak. Ironically, her verses have survived over 1,500 years as agricultural proverbs.

The adaptation for stage is almost everything it should be; the dialogues are intricate yet free-flowing, the story develops at a gentle pace, and the characters are neither rushed nor dragged. The use of stage and lighting are smart, while the music is well

timed and adds to the story.

However, it is the interpretation of the story that makes it a powerful production. Discrimination of social classes based on wealth in a society that is male-dominated and impervious to new ideas paints a picture that looks very familiar even in today's context. The visualization is also interesting in places -- particularly a scene where Borah, the antagonist, has a visit from his late wife in his dream. The two characters appear to be floating in the darkness with just the faces illuminated, in a rather post-modern depiction; the contrast of the visual style with the script makes for an interesting crossover.

Samina Luthfa -- as Khona -- excels in her performance, switching seamlessly from the jolly to the mushy-romantic to the strong, confident personality. Borah, played by Imran Khan Munna, also makes an impact, with an intensity in body language and voice that borders on the eerie at times. The other supporting roles are also compact, save maybe for the king and Mihir, who fall just short of their co-artists.

THE WEEKENDER

A CORRESPONDENT

Initiating his acting career on stage, Shaju Khadem touched new heights of popularity with his performance in "Bholar Diary". The ever so busy actor likes to spend his weekend breaks lazily with friends and families. He shared his weekend agenda with The Daily Star.

What's your ordinary weekend break like?
Shaju Khadem: Usually I wake up late and feel lazy all day. I anticipate my weekends with great eagerness. The breaks give me a sense of freedom.

Ever tried your hands on cooking?
Shaju Khadem: In fact I do! I can cook a wide variety of dishes, and often practice my culinary skills on weekends. My speciality is making a great chicken delight.

Is traveling in your list on weekends?
Shaju Khadem: Definitely. If it's a short weekend, I roam around in my car, mostly with my wife and kid. Sometimes I also take my friends on road trips. I enjoy traveling a lot.

Your favourite vacation destination?
Shaju Khadem: My first choice is the scenic Sylhet, the place where I studied. I try to go there whenever I have a long break.

Tell us about a special holiday.
Shaju Khadem: I have quite a few interesting stories regarding weekends. But a special holiday time was spent during last year's Qurbani Eid. Two of my friends and I headed outside Dhaka and had a three-day vacation. We had loads of undisturbed fun.

Do books appeal to you on weekends?
Shaju Khadem: I enjoy reading books, especially on weekends. Humayun Ahmed's books top the list.

Who do you like to give your time to on weekends?

TV WATCH

Bangladeshi Idol launches today

The Bangladeshi edition of the world's most successful musical reality show "Idols" is set to air today. The audition round of Dhaka -- held at the Physical Education College premises -- will feature in tonight's episode at 8:30pm on SA TV. Subsequent episodes of the show will feature auditions in the other divisional cities, says a press release.

Ayub Bachchu, one of the most prominent musicians of the country and a judge of "Bangladeshi Idol", said they are investing their time and effort in finding the new big name in Bangladeshi music. The other judges of the show are celebrated singer Ferdousi Rahman, noted pop and playback singer Andrew Kishore and jazz-fusion-pop artiste Mehreen. Hillol and Samia Afsheen will host the talent hunt.

"Idols" has so far been a popular music show in more than 48 countries and territories. Delta Bay Productions and Distribution and SA TV have launched the show, keeping its international format intact.

Internet service providers Banglalion and Clear Anti Dandruff Shampoo are sponsors of the programme.



Mehreen (L) hands out an approval card to a contestant.

A Dream Date for You (Part II)

Episode 6 of Pond's Age Miracle My 2nd Honeymoon will continue its theme of Dream Date, where the couples will step into a world of dreams, as they give one another the date of their fantasies. This episode will feature the remaining 5 couples after last week's first 5. Couples will express their love for one another in a heartfelt and open manner that they never believed possible and one that has never been shown in Bangladeshi TV.

The husbands received the name of an exotic beach from a random draw, based on which they planned the entire date with the beach ambience with steadfastness and eagerness to please, to give their wives a date they could only have dreamt of.

With help, the husbands created just the perfect ambience with a beach setting, and just to produce the dreamlike state of the date further, the wives were given different romantic female characters to play from history, picked by the previous week's judge Sharmin Lucky.

Among the acclaimed judges this week will be favourite TV personality Asaduzzaman Noor, fashion icon plus actor M.Afzal Hossain and popular actress Shompa Reza. The dream dates took place beforehand and were played on video for the judges and participants to watch and review.

This week, the remaining five of the ten couples will have their dream dates, the ones after last week's episode. The couples to watch out for in this week's episode are Hasib and Rumpa in Maldives, as Laila-Majnu, making promises to keep the flame of their love alive forever; Naheen and Farzana followed, reminiscing about their first honeymoon and like many a couple lamenting about letting daily life get in the way of that kind of romance; Shubhra and Rajeev will follow, with her groomed as Parvati, blowing his mind; Subah, dressed as Mumtaz will have a bit of a lover's playful squabble with Shaikat pretending to gift her a chocolate before eating it himself; last but not least will be Sushmita and Shovan, having a dream date in Bali with her dressed as Noor Jahan!

What will the couples do on their dream dates? What hurdles will they overcome to make sure that it is memorable for the rest of their lives?



Find out tonight at 9:45pm on Desh TV

Stay tuned for the Grand Gala next week which will reveal the 7 winners who will win their 2nd honeymoon in one of 7 exotic beaches around the world!

My 2nd Honeymoon

Come fall in love again

Last week the husbands surprised their wives with the perfect dream date.

Watch how the rest of the contestants dazzle their loved ones in other different ways!

To watch this romantic episode, keep your eyes on Desh TV tonight at 9:45pm
Catch the repeat telecast tomorrow at 12:15pm

TV Partner

PRAN Mango Trip

Take a trip with us to mango garden at Bajshahi and our factory at Natore

To participate in this free trip, send SMS to 5353 from your mobile or visit the Facebook Page of Pran Mango Drink. Along with visiting the mango garden, you will enjoy the musical night, Bar-B-Q dinner, adda with celebrities and an awesome chance to visit our Pran factory!

SMS Procedure: Type "Pran Mango Trip" "Space" "Name" "Space" "Age" "Space" "District" and send it to 5353

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