

**WHAT'S ON**  
Photography Exhibition on Tajuddin Ahmad  
Venue: Gallery 21, 751 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 23- August 8  
Time: 12pm-8pm



**Tagore Film Week**  
Organiser: EMK Center  
Venue: Midas Centre (9th Floor), House 5, Road 16 (New), Dhanmondi  
Date: July 20-25  
Time: 4pm



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



**Charity Art Exhibition**  
Title: Fida' Jonno  
Venue: Zainul Gallery-2  
Date: July 14-30  
Time: 10am-8pm



# Modern folk forms

## Samarjit Roy Chowdhury to hold solo exhibition at Bengal Gallery



**TAKIR HOSSAIN**

After a long hiatus, veteran artist Samarjit Roy Chowdhury is holding a solo painting exhibition. The exhibition will open after Eid-ul-Fitr at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. His last solo art show was held at Bengal Gallery in 2007.

The USP of Samarjit's paintings is an in-depth observation of rural Bengal and folk life — simple harmonic patterns, pastoral motifs, a tranquil atmosphere and childhood nostalgia.

About 81 artworks will be on display at the exhibition. The painter has used acrylic in his paintings. Several woodcuts and etchings will also be showcased at the exhibition. This is one of the major exhibitions of his career.

Samarjit is known for folk motifs in his works. The artist has carved a niche for himself with his hallmark style. As a child the painter recalls going to fairs and buying call horses and elephants, various types of dolls

and other such knick knacks. The painter said, "I like to incorporate many elements in my work. I have tried to blend a modern approach with my folk based works." His recurring motifs are birds, kites, leaves, wild flowers, boats, plants and fish. Scribbles and thick lines crisscross over his paintings. His lines are not polished at all. The uneven lines create an individual language, highlighting a rural essence.

The painter said, "I strive to capture the lively moments of the simple Bangladeshi. Village festivities, villagers' joys and despair, rural life and its varied aspects have always fascinated me."

Samarjit draws inspiration from indigenous objects such as Lokkhi-shora and pata chitra. His lines and colours are also motivated by clay dolls and ancient ballads. His works present a combination of traditional and modern geometric, abstract forms.

Adroit application of light and shades are evident. Besides restless

curves, geometric forms, rectangular-triangular and broken lines make his images noteworthy. Playing with forms is Samarjit's forte. Among the avant-garde second generation of contemporary artists in Bangladesh, Samarjit seeks to represent our culture, heritage and traditions. As a painter, he believes he has certain responsibilities to the motherland.

Hailing from Comilla, Samarjit graduated in Graphic Design from the Government Art Institute (presently Faculty of Fine Art, Dhaka University) in 1960. At the institution, he was guided by Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan, Anwarul Huq, Mohammed Kibria and Safiuddin Ahmed. The artist was also a teacher at the same institution for a long 43 years before retiring as a senior professor in 2003. Following his retirement, Samarjit joined the Shanto Mariam University of Creative Design as Dean of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts where he worked for several more years till 2010. He is now a freelance artist.

# Jaya Ahsan launches her website

A CORRESPONDENT

Acclaimed actress Jaya Ahsan has launched her own personal website, [www.jayaahsan.info](http://www.jayaahsan.info), containing her personal information, photos and news of her recent and upcoming on-screen activities. Jaya said she had never been too tech-savvy, but requests from friends and fans have prompted her to launch a web site to keep in closer touch with them.

The web site contains Jaya's biography, photos, videos, filmography and links to her Facebook page. Jaya also said she plans to release a song of her upcoming film "Pumo Doirgho Prem Kahini" on her web site, YouTube and Facebook.

Having personal web sites is a common practice among celebrities abroad; in Bangladesh, the trend hasn't caught up yet. Jaya's initiative therefore deserves a welcome, for trying to sync to how celebrities carry themselves in the rest of the world.



# Prosenjit plays Ashok Kumar

## Remake of "Khoobsurat"

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi**

Tollywood superstar Prosenjit Chatterjee will essay the role of veteran actor Ashok Kumar in a remake of the 1980 Bollywood film "Khoobsurat".

An official remake of the original film directed by Hrishikesh Mukherjee is being produced by Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor's sister Rhea, and will be directed by Shashanka Ghosh who had directed "Quick Gun Murugan".

Prosenjit told the media that he has heard the narration of the remake's script and have liked it. "I would be



**Prosenjit**



**Ashok Kumar**

playing a fatherly role.... It is Ashok Kumar's role from the original film," said the actor.

"I have seen the original film and am happy to be a part of this. We are trying to work out the dates and other things. I think I would start shooting for it from November," he said.

He claimed "My role has been changed completely from the original. It is an interesting and strong role."

The original film also featured Rekha -- a role that will be played by Sonam Kapoor in the remake version, Dina Pathak and Rakesh Roshan.

# The musical legacy of Abdul Alim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legendary folk singer Abdul Alim (1931-1974) possessed a melodious voice, yet to be surpassed by any other singer of our country. His presentation was simply magical. His songs epitomised the very essence of Bengali folk culture and mesmerised listeners across the country. Indeed, he played an important role in popularising this form of music beyond borders.

People who have heard Alim's presentation of "Naiya Rey Nayer Badaam Tuila", "Duarey Aishachey Palki", "Holudia Pakhi Shonar Boron", "Amare Shajay Dio Nowshar Shajey", "Porer Jaiga Porer Jomi", "Mon-e Boro Asha Chhilo Jabo Modina-e", "Sharbonasha Padma Nadi", "Shab Shakhire Par Korite Nebo Ana Ana", "Ujaan Gang-er Naiyya" and countless other songs find it difficult to forget his presentation and artistic skill in voice modulation which was all-encompassing.

To keep alive the rich musical legacy of the legend,

Abdul Alim's daughters and sons -- Akther Jahan Alim, Jahir Alim, Asia Alim, Azgar Alim, Haider Alim, Noor Jahan Alim and Zohora Alim -- frequently perform the songs originally recorded by the artiste.

Jahir Alim, Abdul Alim's elder son and president of Abdul Alim Sangeet Parisad, loves to render his father's record "Haludia Pakhi". Jahir Alim is also an Associate Professor and the Departmental Head of Folk Music of Government Music College, Dhaka.

Among four daughters -- Aktar Jahan Alim, Asia Alim, Noorjahan Alim and Zohra Alim -- of the legend, Aasia Alim stands out in rendering her father's songs in a sonorous voice. Haider Alim, the third son, is a tabla artiste who also accompanied his father in his childhood. Haider now accompanies his siblings.

Asia Alim, Haider Alim, Zohora Alim and Jahir Alim are off to USA at the end of this month (July) for a set of performances. The artistes will perform Abdul Alim's songs in New York, Boston, and New Jersey, according to Jahir Alim.

# It's True!

Popular Indian playback artiste Shreya Ghoshal was honoured by the US state of Ohio, wherein Governor Ted Strickland declared June 26 as "Shreya Ghoshal Day". The very first "Shreya Ghoshal Day" -- in 2010 -- was celebrated with



huge pomp and grandeur among her fans on popular social networks. T-Series uploaded numerous songs sung by her and many of her songs occupied the majority of the playlist of various radio station shows.



# Batman and Superman to team up for 2015 movie

The headline says it all — Warner Bros. announced to an amped-up Comic-Con crowd in San Diego, California on Saturday that a Superman/Batman feature is indeed on the production slate for 2015.

"Man of Steel" director Zach Snyder told the assembled fans that a new Superman film was a go and he worked hard to come up with a story worthy of telling for the Kryptonian's next cinematic adventure. With that, he introduced actor Harry Lennix to read a special statement about the Man of Steel sequel, a statement eerily reminiscent of a particularly stirring moment from Frank Miller's groundbreaking "The Dark Knight Returns".

That's when Snyder cued the video screen, which displayed a co-mingling of the Superman "S" shield — on top of a familiar bat logo.

After the success of "Man of Steel" this summer, Warner Bros. was

expected to make some form of announcement of their franchise plans, but expectations were varied, with some speculating that the studio would simply set a release date for "Man of Steel 2", while others thought that perhaps word would come of the expected Batman reboot.

Both Zack Snyder and Christopher Nolan are expected to stay on board for the Superman/Batman movie, which fans will probably just call "World's Finest" until a title is officially announced ("World's Finest" being the title of the comic book series that paired Batman and Superman together). Henry Cavill -- who brought Superman to life earlier this year -- has been confirmed to don the red-and-blue suit, but the character for Batman is yet to be cast; however, the sad news is that it's almost certain it won't be Christian Bale.

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