

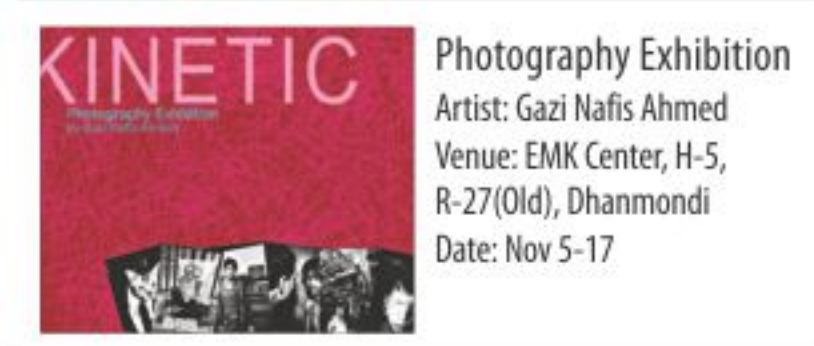
WHAT'S ON



Dance Festival
Organizer: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut
Auditorium, Dharmundi
Date: Nov 8-9
Time: 6-15pm



Classical Music Workshop
and Film Screening
Venue: Bengal Club, Dharmundi
Date: Sep 26-Nov 16
Time: on Thursday (3-5pm) &
Saturday (10am-12pm)



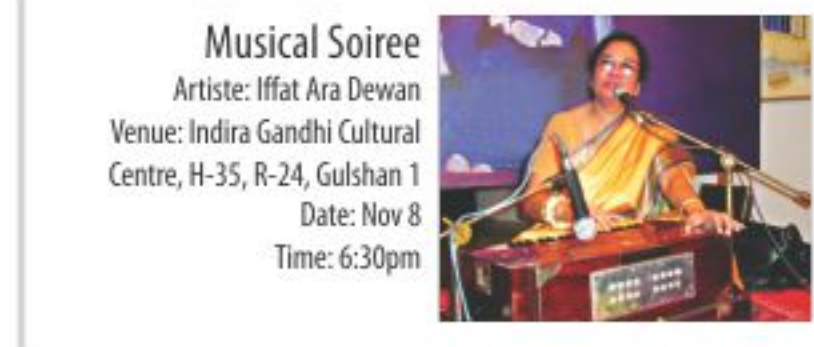
Photography Exhibition
Artist: Gazi Nafis Ahmed
Venue: EMK Center, H-5,
R-27 (Old), Dharmundi
Date: Nov 5-17



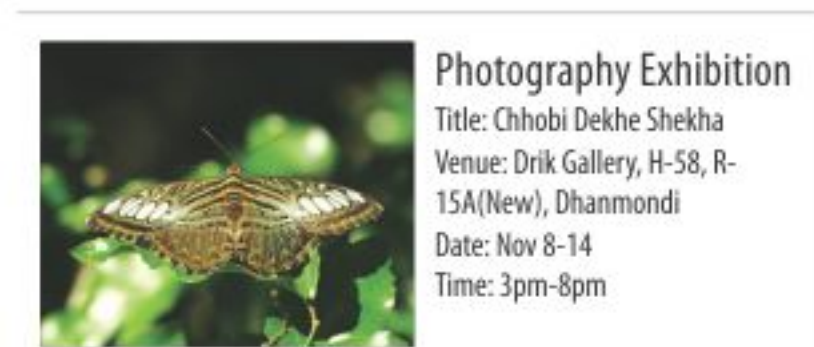
Duet Exhibition
Title: When Silence Eats Sound
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 6
Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: Oct 30-Nov 13
Time: 12pm-8pm



Exhibition
Title: Earth, June II
Venue: Alliance Française de
Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road,
Dharmundi
Date: Nov 1-15



Musical Soiree
Artist: Rita Das Deewan
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural
Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1
Date: Nov 8
Time: 8pm-9pm

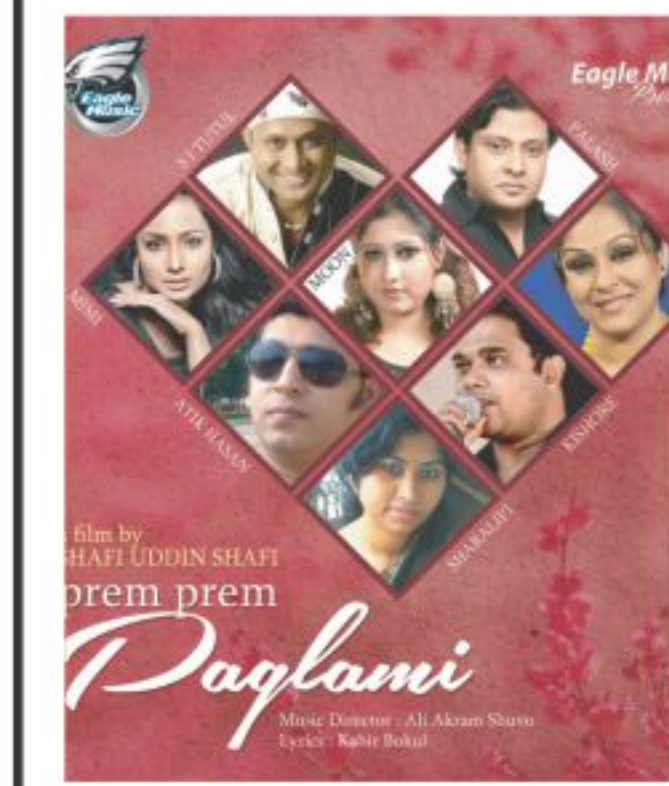


Photography Exhibition
Title: Chhobi Dekhe Shekha
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-
15A (New), Dharmundi
Date: Nov 8-14
Time: 3pm-8pm

NEW RELEASES



Shomonnoy
Mixed album
Source: G-series



Prem
Prem
Paglami
Film
Soundtrack
Source: Eagle Music



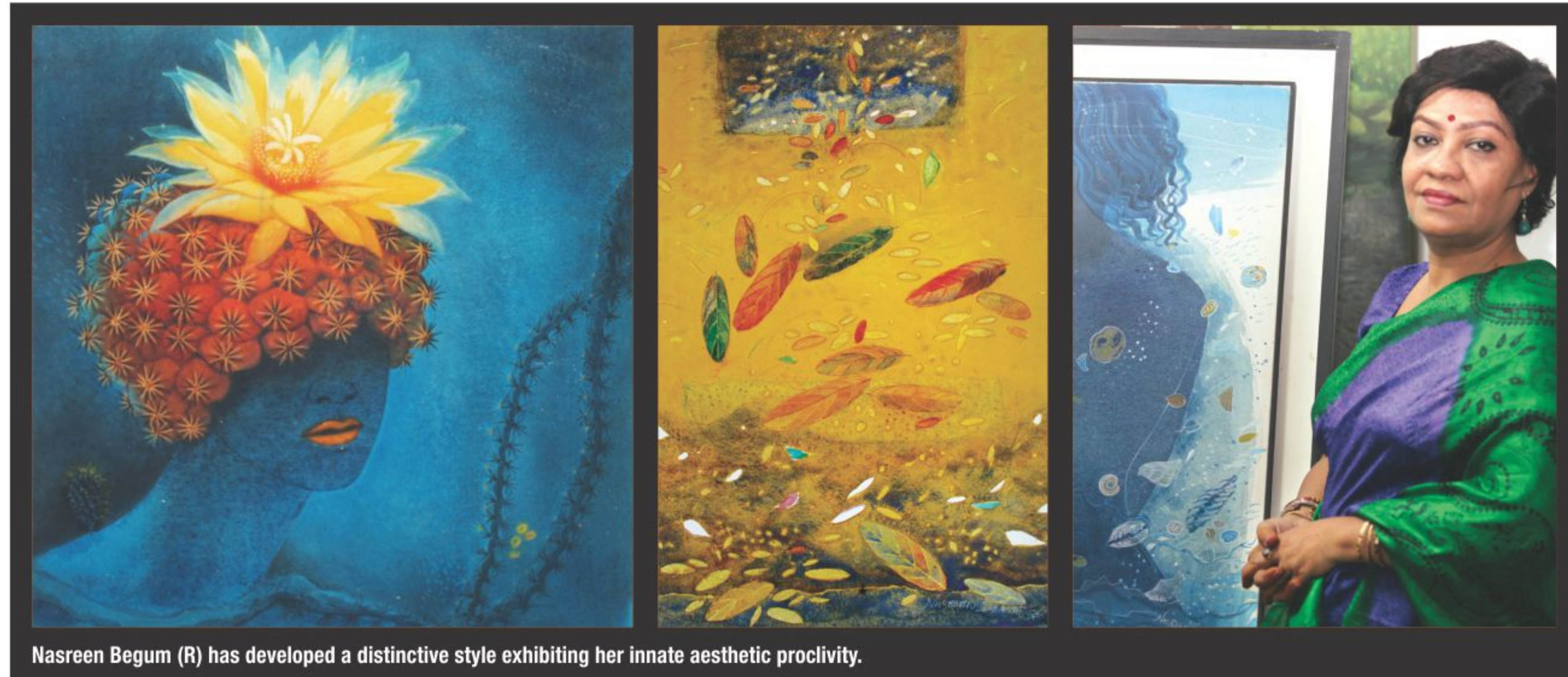
Project
Oboshe
Duet album
by Maruf
and Naqib
Source: Audio X



Game
Mixed
album
Source: CD
Choice

An artist par excellence

Nasreen Begum's love affair with Oriental Art and beyond



Nasreen Begum (R) has developed a distinctive style exhibiting her innate aesthetic proclivity.

ZAHANGIR ALAM

The first female artist to have embedded institutional Oriental Art in the rich tapestry of Bangladeshi art, renowned artist, teacher and relentless pursuer of artistic truths, Nasreen Begum's contributions in the history of Bangladeshi arts are endless.

"With single-minded devotion and talent, Bangladeshi artists have created an art language of their own and have earned our collective art legacy to such heights that now we can take pride in it. This is why we need the phrase 'Bangladeshi Art' that must not lose its identity in any 'ism,'" asserted Nasreen Begum.

Taking watercolour as her forte, this creative artist has carved a niche in art milieu over the years. Each of her paintings, dissolving in the illusion of theory and feelings, expresses the language of ecstasy. She has developed a distinctive style exhibiting her innate aesthetic proclivity. She has promoted the genre with a contemporary approach and blended the trend of the East and the West with her touch of colour, form and line. Her art shows an integrated form of heritage. The shades of patience, regular habit, discipline and the artist's own emotions are notice-

able in every work. Her use of soothing colours sweeping over the canvas gives out an aura of romantic love. Drenched by the balanced flow of her deft colour use, the paper determines the volume, weight and perspective of the object. The objects turn real, sometimes surreal and often resurface in consciousness revealing the soul of the subjects.

Immersed in the vastness of the creative world, Nasreen Begum makes no compromises in her art. With ordered thought and lifestyle, a bold and beautiful personality, the artist raises her voice against any injustice. "Everything has positive and negative features. I don't label any person with the words 'addicted', 'greedy', 'dacoit' etcetera rather I think about the causes behind such negative qualities. Again, many people regarded as wicked, have good qualities too. I try to uphold the positive qualities and implant them in people's mind; negativity vanishes in the process. I swim in the darkness in search of light. The light of darkness is very intense and has a spiritual illumination. Actually, objective observation and outlook, an unbiased self, artistic detachment and freedom of the soul are pre-requisites to touching eternity," said the artist.

For Nasreen Begum, "Artistic consciousness derives

from certain ever-haunting philosophical queries. Who am I? Where have I come from? Who is the creator? What has s/he given me? What is going to happen in the after world? Attempt to answer these questions as well as the infinite vastness of the space fuels an artist with an inexhaustible spirit."

The artist takes joy in simple and minor things through knowing the unknown and seeing the unseen. The beautiful, minute details of the universe attract the artist who believes that one can reach the infinite self looking through the finite self. Nasreen Begum's abstract painting is unique in style as she transcends the realistic forms, space division and colour use by transforming them into realistic abstracts.

Nasreen Begum, an ardent worshipper of nature, observes the beauty and diversity of nature through her keen aesthetic lens of mind. The entire world's natural beauty and diversity appears art to her imaginative eyes. The twentieth-century modern Bengali Poet Jibanananda Das depicts landscape in poetry while Nasreen Begum portrays poetical landscape on paper.

(To be continued...)

LOOKING BACK...

The silver screens of Dhaka

SYED MAQSLID JAMIL

In those days in the fifties and sixties, Mouli Bazar of Dacca (Dhaka) had a cinema hall named "Taj Mahal". It screened English movies in the morning show on weekly holidays. A ticket for first class in the ground floor was very cheap: only ten Annas. I fondly recall watching a classic movie "I Want to Live". Susan Hayward got the Oscar Award for Best Actress for the film in 1958. The story was about a murder in which Susan Hayward went to the gas chamber. I also saw Jack Lemmon's Award winning movie "The Apartment" at Taj Mahal.

My childhood friend whose father was the owner of New Picture House near Armanitola once took me to see "Tarzan". It was a wondrous world for me to see tall, finely built Johnny Weissmuller in his loin cloth as Tarzan, Brenda Joyce as Jane and the "Chimp". Later, New Picture House changed ownership and was renovated as Shabistan. The first picture released at Shabistan was "Baz", directed by Gunt Dutt. Dev Anand, Geeta Bali and Kalpana Kartik were in the lead roles. It was a total entertainment with music by SD Burman. The widely popular Geeta Dutt song "Tadbir se Bigri Huyi Taqdeer Banale Apne Pe Bharosha Hai to Ek Dao Laga Le" had such a tantalizing tune.

Maya was a popular movie theatre in Wiseghat. My mother took me to see Bengali social drama "Tasher Ghar", an Uttam Kumar starrer. Later, film distributor giant Star Corporation with Iftekharul Alam Kichlu, Sher Ali Ramji and Kalimullah renovated Maya and named it Star. I saw Dilip Kumar's "Daag", V. Shantaram's "Parchhain" and many other memorable movies at Star. Indeed I did see "Bajju Bawra" at Star. Bharat Bhushan looked like God's creation as Bajju and the songs by Mohammad Rafi "O Duniya ke Rakhwale" and Lata Mangeshkar's song "Mujhe Bhoole Gaye SaNwariya" were enchantment of the finest order.

Mirza Abdul Kader aka Kader Sardar's family had Lion theatre where plays were staged. I learnt from one of the respected surviving ladies of the family that the name was changed to Lion Cinema in 1927. It was one of the oldest movie houses of Dacca. It stands out in my memory as the movie theatre where I watched Victor Hugo's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" with Anthony Quinn as the tortured hunchback Quasimodo and Gina Lollobrigida as the seductive Gypsy Esmeralda in the leading role. It was a classic movie and Anthony Quinn as the Hunchback was incomparable.

Today's Chitra Mahal was Nagar Mahal. It was a cramped movie theatre as it is today. I saw SS Vasan's costume movie "Chandralekha" at the theatre. Today's Azad cinema was Mukul. In the beginning of the sixties, it screened two Suchitra-Uttam romantic movies - "Pothey Holo Deri" -- partly in colour -- and "Shilpi". The movies drew a capacity crowd. Rupmahal, a grimy movie theatre was in Sadarghat. The emotional attachment of cine-goers was a reflection of the ethos of the time. I was there watching Suchitra-Uttam's "Sagarika" endowed with all the nuances of romance. Suddenly there was a commotion; a young lady had fainted witnessing the misfortune in the romantic liaison!

Mehboob Khan's colourful extravaganza "Aan" was released at the movie theatre Nishat -- now 'Manashi' of Bangshal -- with great fanfare. I heard an elephant was used to sprinkle colour-water. It was possibly 1952 or 1953. Baliadi Siddikis were the owners of the movie theatre.

Gulistan was the premier movie theatre of the time. It became a landmark of the town growing to become a city. Raj Kapoor-Nargis starrer movie "Aamir" was the first movie released in Gulistan in 1952. The two great movies I saw at Gulistan were Mike Todd's "Around the World in Eighty Days" and King Vidor's "War and Peace". Both the movies are over three hours duration. There were two breaks. David Niven as Phileas Fogg and Cantinflas as Passepartout were in the leading roles in "Around the World in Eighty Days". The movie was also filmed in Bangladesh.

Audrey Hepburn was Natasha Rostov the leading lady of Leo Tolstoy's classic "War and Peace". Mel Ferrer was Prince Andrei Bolkonsky and Henry Fonda was Pierre Bezuhov. Audrey Hepburn and Mel Ferrer fell in love and got married.

"Ben-Hur", the only movie to get 11 Oscar Awards before "Titanic" was also shown at Gulistan. It is a historical drama. Charlton Heston as Judas Ben-Hur was in the leading role. A nine minute chariot race between Ben Hur and Messala (Stephen Boyd) was a thrilling scene of the movie. Winner of 10 Academy Awards, the movie "Gone with the Wind" was shown in 'Naaz' -- a chic mini theatre of Gulistan in September 1965.

Madhumita opened with "Cleopatra" and Balaka released "The Longest Day" the multi-starrer movie about D-Day and the Allied Forces landing on Normandy Beach on September 6, in 1944.

It was a time when people in Dhaka loved to go to the cinemas. But good movies are difficult to get and commercial exhibition is prohibitive. Besides, Hindi movies have created a different domestic culture! Time creates its own demand, its own people.

The writer is a film buff.



Balaka is one of the cinema halls still in operation (top); Henry Fonda, Audrey Hepburn and Mel Ferrer in "War and Peace".

Classical Dance Fest at Chhayanaut begins today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the fourth consecutive year, Chhayanaut is holding a two-daylong Classical Dance Festival at its main auditorium. The festival begins today at 6:15 pm. The aim of the festival is to put together a union of souls between classical dance artists and dance loving audience.

A press conference was held yesterday at Chhayanaut Shangkriti Bhavan where Chhayanaut general secretary Khairul Anam Shakil elaborated on details of the festival. Head of Manupuri Dance Department of Chhayanaut, Sharmila Bandyopadhyay, and Head of Events Planning of Maasranga Television, Kabir Bakul, were present at the press conference.

The festival is set to showcase five forms of classical dance -- Manipuri, Odissi, Bharatanatyam, Kathak and Gaudiya Nritya. Apart from Chhayanaut artists, noted dance troupes and soloists from and outside Dhaka will take part in the festival.

Chhayanaut artists will set off the festival with Manipuri dance today. Sonia Rashid with Farhana Ahmed, Sweetie Das and a troupe "Natopala" will also perform Manipuri dance on the opening day. Accomplished artists

Amit Chowdhury, Semantee Sengupta and Shubhra Sengupta together with dancers of "Srishti Cultural Centre" will present Bharatanatyam on the day.

The troupe "Nityashree" will present Odissi while noted dancer-choreographer Munmun Ahmed, a troupe "Rewaz Performers' School" and soloists -- Tahna Islam Jhumi, Tabassum Ahmed and Mehraz Haque Tushar will perform Kathak on the inaugural day.

Noted dancer-choreographer Tamanna Rahman, Warda Rihab, Subrata Das and artists of "Nityam Nrityashilpan Kendra" will present Manipuri on the second day (November 9) of the festival that will begin at 6:30pm.

Chhayanaut artists, Salma Begum Munni, Shukla Sarkar and dancers of "Jago Art Centre" will present Bharatanatyam on the day. Rachel Priyanka Paris will perform Gaudiya Nritya while soloists -- Kaniz Fatema, Masum Hussain and Snata Shahrin -- and artists of "Nityanchal" and "Kathak Nritya Sampradaya" will present Kathak on the concluding day.

Maasranga Television is the media partner of the festival, assisted by Square Group and Grameenphone.

TV WATCH

Ferdous-Sohana Saba on Bangladeshi Idol



A CORRESPONDENT

The top six of "Bangladeshi Idol" will enthrall audiences tonight at 8pm on SATV in an entertaining set-list of songs, as this week's theme for the competition is 'Dance songs', popular Bangla numbers whose popularity are based on the dance factor of the music.

Achal, Arif, Talha, Turin, Mong and Monty will perform in front of two guest judges along with the four regulars -- as film stars Ferdous and Sohana Saba -- promoting their film "Brihonnola" -- will join the panel. The duo will dance with the contestants, and there will be some surprises for the TV audience, production house Delta Bay informed.

NEWS bytes

Obama to screen Mandela biopic at White House

The forthcoming biopic of Nelson Mandela received a presidential seal of approval with the news that Barack Obama is to host a special White House screening. "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" will play out inside the exclusive screening room on Pennsylvania Avenue on November 7.

Based on Mandela's 1994 autobiography, the film is backed by the Weinstein Company and directed by British film-maker Justin Chadwick. It stars Idris Elba as Mandela and Naomie Harris as his second wife Winnie. Elba and Harris are to attend the White House screening, alongside Mandela's daughters Zindzi and Zenani.

Source: Guardian

IT'S TRUE!



Flamenco is a form of Spanish folk music and dance from the region of Andalusia in southern Spain -- that includes cante (singing), toque (guitar playing), baile (dance) and palmas (handclaps). While flamenco originally crystallised among gypsies in the 18th century, some authors believe that modern flamenco mostly emerged out of late nineteenth-century romanticism. In recent years, flamenco has become popular all over the world and is taught in many countries: in Japan, there are more academies than there are in Spain. On November 16, 2010 UNESCO declared flamenco one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Butterflies of Bangladesh --Phase II

A photography exhibition at Drik Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A butterfly is a symbol of fragility and restlessness. A mass of butterflies, fluttering from flower to flower, remind us of the childhood days that we spent chasing them in gardens, fields, river banks and green fields. There is a belief that butterflies are the emblem of fortune too. The lovely little day-flying insect is also important in maintaining the ecological balance in many ways. But in reality, butterflies are rarely seen in Dhaka, the city of concrete and crowd.

This deficit may not be cleared overnight, but a group of young environmentalists under the banner "Butterfly of Bangladesh Inventory Team" are working tirelessly to enable city dwellers to see the colourful insect in pictures. The team is all set to hold a photo exhibition of butterflies from November 8 at Drik Gallery with the images they have captured from eight different districts since last one year. This will be their second exhibition of the inventory project that aims to cover all 64 districts of Bangladesh.

Besides displaying butterflies from an aesthetic point of view, the team will also display scientific taxonomy of the species that will be made available for the exhibition. The title of the exhibition will remain the same -- "Chhobi Dekhe Shekha" -- as it was in the first phase.

Team leader of the butterfly inventory project Mirza Shamim Ahsan Habib informed that the inauguration of the exhibition

will be held at 4pm on November 8. A book cover titled "Chhobi Dekhe Shekha: Butterflies of Bangladesh, Inventory Second Phase" will also be unveiled on the occasion. Country Representative of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmed will open the exhibition as chief guest. Chief Financial Officer of the sponsoring organisation HSBC, Bangladesh Stephen John Ball will also attend the function as a special guest.

A total of 82 photos of 64 species will be displayed at Drik gallery. Each frame will include information about the species, such as name of their host plant, wingspan and others.

Md. Monwar Hossain, a Professor at the Department of Zoology, Jahangirnagar University, provided his expertise to the team to validate the butterfly species. The eight districts covered during the second phase of the project are Gazipur, Narsingdi, Comilla, Manikganj, Kishoreganj, Narayanganj, Panchagar and Bandarban (only Lama Upazilla).

With the completion of the second phase, the team has covered 16 districts on its way to compile inventory of butterflies of all 64 districts of Bangladesh.

The team comprises Mirza Shamim Ahsan Habib, Md. Shahtabul Islam, Avra Bhattacharjee, Kazi Farhed Iqbal, Md. Monowar Mahmud Jewel, Sikder Nizamul Haque, Saifuddin Saif and Maruful Alam Chowdhury.

The exhibition will run till November 14 and remain open from 3 to 8pm every day.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON