

## WHAT'S ON

**Omor Ekushey Book Fair**  
Organiser: Bangla Academy  
Venue: Surawady Udyan and Bangla Academy  
Date: Feb 1-28  
Time: 3pm-9pm

**Film Festival**  
Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Feb 12-20  
Time: 3pm-7pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Sanjit Datta  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi  
Date: Feb 11-20

**Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Department of Theatre and Performance Studies  
Venue: TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University  
Date: Feb 11-14; Time: 6:30pm

**Duet Art Exhibition**  
Title: Dui Bangal  
Artists: Husein Khan and Mohammad Iqbal  
Venue: Gallery Twenty one, Dhanmondi  
Date: Feb 14-Mar 1

**Musical Soiree and Recitation**  
Title: Porom Dhon Hey  
Venue: Chayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi  
Date: Feb 14

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha  
Venue: Shilpangan, H-7, R-13, New Dhanmondi (Sobhanbagh)  
Date: Feb 14-23  
Time: 12pm-7pm

## NEWSbytes

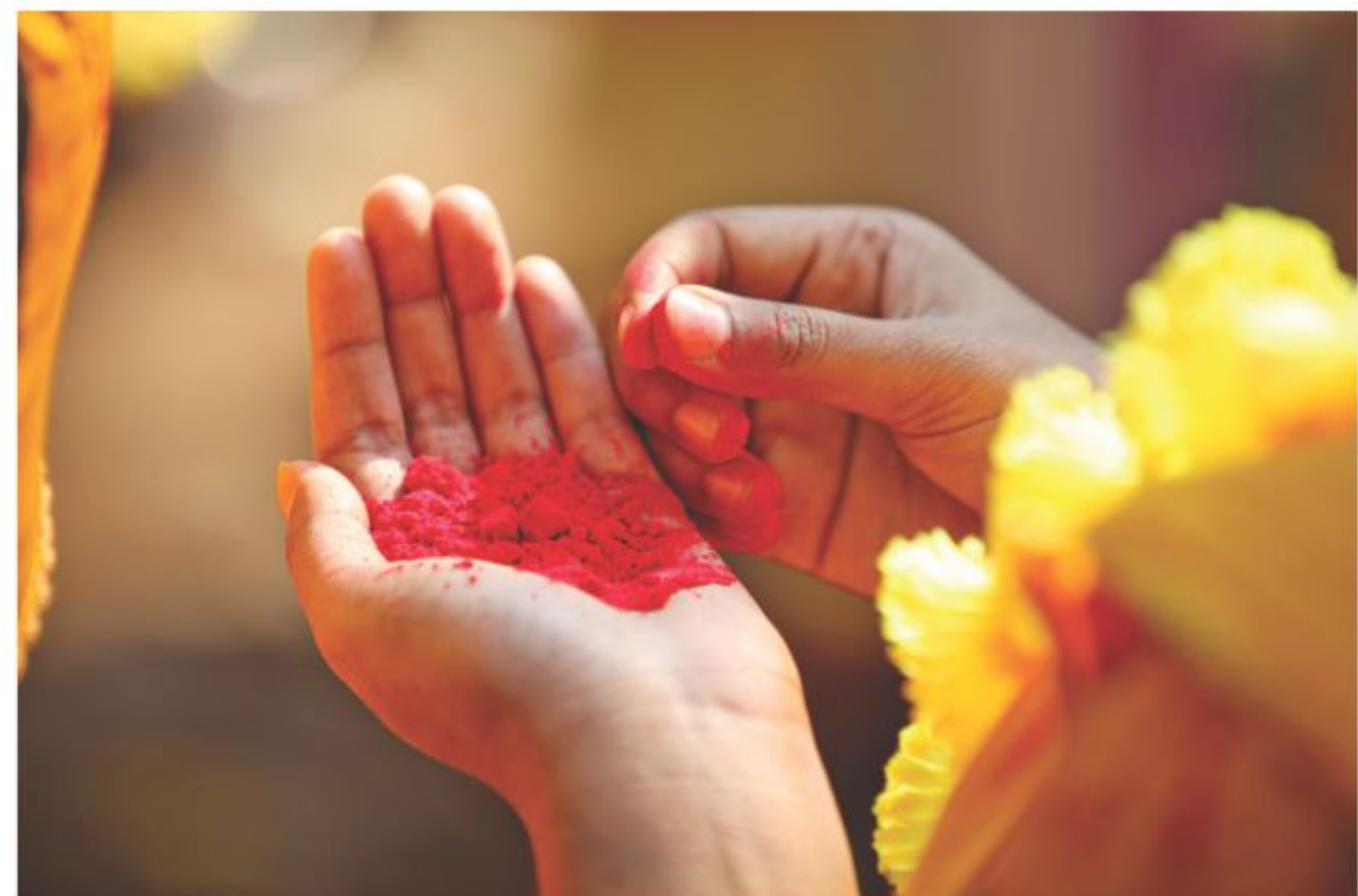
## "Akash Koto Durey" releases today



Samia Zaman's second feature film "Akash Koto Durey", a film made on grants from the Bangladesh government, is releasing today at Star Cineplex and Blockbuster Cinemas.

The story of the film revolves around Ankan, an orphan who escapes his orphanage and gets involved in a crime ring. He meets Faria, another victim of the crime world, and their fates cross one another's. Written by Zulfiqur Russel, the film is produced by Impress Telefilm and Versa Media. 'Nayak Raj' Razzak, Sharmily Ahmed, Mostafa Prakash, Faria, Misha Saudagar and Ankan feature in the film. Zulfiqur Russel has also written the screenplay, dialogues and lyrics, while Ibrar Tipu and Belal Khan have composed songs that have been sung by Kona, Ibrar Tipu himself, and Kheya.

Samia Zaman said she tried to tell a story people of all ages can relate to, and expressed hopes that the audience comes to watch it on the big screen. Earlier, the film was premiered on February 11 at Blockbuster Cinemas, with Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu present as chief guest, says a press release.



# The Colours of Spring

Boshonto Utshab celebrated in the capital



FAHIM FERDOLIS

Winter is the time of hibernation; a long, deep sleep for many animals through the harsh weather. The end of winter, therefore, marks the awakening of nature; new leaves bloom out on trees, flowers blossom and bees hover around in search of nectar, as new life is injected in the air, and all the gloom and mist of winter is left behind. Though such an image may not be very relevant in a city as mechanised as Dhaka, but the citizens of the 'concrete jungle' have sure found a way to metaphorically express the advent of Spring.

Pahela Falgun, or the First Day of Spring, has grown in size and fervour immensely over the last decade or so. It's safe to say it is not one of the oldest celebrations, especially in the city, but it has found character and expanded very quickly to become a major festivity. As with most traditional Bangalee festivals, it too has its epicentre at the heart of Dhaka University. The Faculty of Fine Arts, fondly called Charukala, is the place to be on this day. However, this year, the Jatiyo Boshonto Utshab Utdjapan Parishad (JBUIJP) decided to decentralise the celebration, rightly anticipating the pressure of people at the small venue that is the Bokultala of Charukala. Apart from the prime venue, Dhanmondi's Rabindra Sorobor and the Bahadur Shah Park in Old Dhaka.

As people dressed in yellow, ochre and various other bright colours began to gather at the Bokultala, a sweet melody in esraj welcomed them, performed by Akram

Hossain. Gradually, choral songs, solos, recitation and group dance performances ushering in the spirit of Spring in all its bursting exuberance was soaked in by an expectant audience. Nrityam, Bhabna, Nataraj and Spandan and Pooja Sengupta and her group performed group dance pieces, Surer Dhara, Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad, Sur Saptak and Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi, among others, performed choral songs, while Khairul Anam Shakil, Chandana Majumdar and Indrani Karmakar performed solos. Elocutionists Bhashwar Bandopadhyay and Laila Afroze recited poems in the morning session.

The afternoon session at Bokultala featured solo and group dance and music performances and recitation of poems, and a dance-drama by Shadhona, while the afternoon sessions held at Rabindra Sorobor and Bahadur Shah Park featured group dances, solo and choral songs. The programmes were broadcast live on Channel i, ntv and Ekattor TV.

But the music, dance and poems were just the accessories for an enhanced experience, as people of all ages and classes walked out today to breathe in the fresh air of a new season. Bushra Mahzabeen, a lecturer of a private university, said it's easy to get alienated from nature in the busy metropolitan life, so to celebrate a bright episode of nature is always a special feeling. Towhidul Islam Khan, a journalist by profession, meanwhile said the celebration gives us a chance to connect to the brightness and freshness of Spring, through the beautiful music and poetry written on the season.



It's the fragrance of the flowers, the wind blowing from the South ... the hues are getting brighter. Spring has arrived.

## TV WATCH

**1** Tahsan and Agnila in a scene from "Close-Up Kachhe Ashar Golpo". Three mini-TV plays on the campaign will be screened tonight on Banglavisian at 8:45pm. The other two mini TV plays feature Jon and Aparna in the central roles in one, and Elita and Abir in another.

**2** Star couple Omar Sunny and Moushumi will be the special guests on the Valentine's episode of Maasranga TV's morning show "Ranga Shokal". The duo will talk about their conjugal life, and share memories with the audience in the live programme, at 7am. The programme will be hosted by Kebria and Aditi, and produced by Rakibul Alam Rusho and Zobayer Iqbal.

**3** Ruponti and Maznun Mizan in Valentine's special TV play "Angti". Written and directed by Sagar Jahan, the drama will be aired at 12:20pm today on ntv.



# Chemistry at work ...

Tête-À-Tête with Mohammad Iqbal and Maksudha Iqbal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Celebrated artist Mohammad Iqbal and his soulmate, artist Maksudha Iqbal Nipa shared their mutual understanding, love, lending a hand in each other's professional endeavours and more, in a conversation with The Daily Star ahead of Valentine's Day.

Mohammad Iqbal is working as assistant professor at the Drawing and Paintings Department of Faculty of Fine Arts and Nipa is a freelance artist. The couple is blessed with two children. They tied the knot in 1993 within the three-months of their relationship. Iqbal said, "I first saw her prior to the celebration of Pahela Baishakh at Charukala. I did drawing while she did painting for the occasion. I fell for her at first sight. I admired her quiet and soft-spoken nature and attractive personality. During that time, I was the student of masters and she was the student of first year. Mollah's shop at Charukala and other part of the Dhaka University were our favourite hubs."

The couple said, "At that time, celebrating Valentine's Day was very rare in the city. Very few celebrated the day. After a few years, teenagers started to celebrate the day." The couple likes to think of love and romance and sweet gestures incorporated in their daily lives, and not restrict it to a certain day.

However, the pair got the real taste of Valentine's Day when they stayed in Japan for their higher education in painting from 2000 to 2006. Iqbal said, "The youngsters of Japan eagerly wait for the day. Chocolates of varied flavours are the only significant gift of Valentine's Day in Japan. I feel that it's a wonderful day to show your loved ones that you care, and it's a way to spend time together. I think Valentine's Day should be a celebration of your love with someone else, or a celebration of independence. Presently, when both of us are very busy with our professions and managing family life, we try to celebrate the day."

About Nipa's nature and her working style, Iqbal said, "As a person,

Nipa is simple, friendly but uncompromised too. She is very sensitive and careful about her works. Her dedication to painting is praiseworthy. She is very cautious about using of pigments and technique. The works used to have a hyper-realistic touch. Her current works are mature and do have a scholarly touch. Her purpose has been to capture the beauty of nature in evanescent moments. Her canvases are lavish in abstract images of colour."

About Iqbal, Nipa said, "His emotion is not easily decipherable as he is very reserved. He is very supportive and caring. Though we are very different on subjects of our paintings, I am very much impressed by Iqbal's using of colours, method of the blending of colours and technical aspect of his paintings. I am very much influenced by his paintings. It is very difficult to comprehend only by visualisation."

Both the painters consider each other as a source of inspiration. "As we both had the same area of interest—arts—it has allowed us to discuss contemporary arts, subject and technique of paintings. Being the wife of an artist, it is helpful for a woman in Bangladesh for getting a congenial working place," said Nipa.

The couple has a great similarity in their love to entertain people of their surroundings. The couple is closely associated with the people of different sectors in the society like poets, architects, singers, art writers and more. Having ample space, their studio consists of several rooms and sometimes the place is best for hangouts. The painters feel that the studio is also a recreational and spiritual place for them. The accommodation helps them to rediscover and reconsider his thinking process, subject matter and procedure of application.

Artist Shameem Subrana, a close friend of the couple, said, "I have been close to the couple for over twenty years. I was one of the witnesses when they courted. The couple is very charming and friendly. I always appreciate their great hospitalities and tranquil behaviour. I enjoy their cooking and humor. When I feel lonely, their company make me lively."



## Suchitra Sen: Draped in mystery

SHAHNOOR WAHID

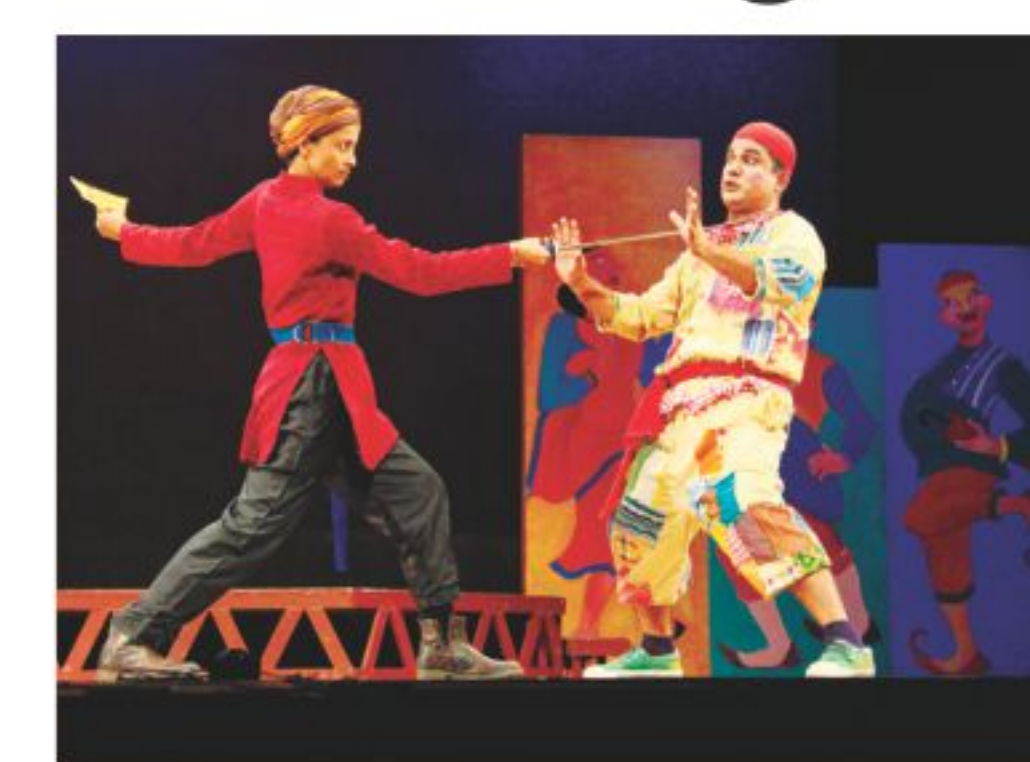
The song goes.... "Kake Jeno Bhalobeshe Aghat Peyeye Sheyshey, Pagla Garode Achhe Roma Rai...." Who is this Roma Rai? Why did the lyricist choose this name for his song "Coffee Houser Shei Addata"? The name Roma does not fit anyone else but the one and only Roma—Suchitra Sen! The name itself is as iconic as the legendary actress Suchitra herself! Did the song writer use the name unknowingly? Or did he have the real Roma in mind while writing the line? In the song he says Roma loved someone but in the end was badly hurt. She could not bear the pain and lost her mental balance, now she resides in a mental asylum, behind bars.

We know the real life Roma, Suchitra Sen, had also put up invisible bars around her for the last 30 plus years and lived the life of a recluse, away from the din of life, until death took her away to the other realm. Why? Did she, like the Roma in the song, love someone too and was hurt in the process? Was the pain of the unfulfilled love unbearable hence she wanted to suffer in silence, in solitude? This part of her life remained shrouded in mystery for the last 30 plus years of her life.

When she paired with debonair co-actor Uttam Kumar in a number of popular movies and played the role of a romantic heroine with great passion, the audience thought there was real romance going on between the two. They were apt to discern love oozing out of her large eyes when she looked at Uttam Kumar in a romantic scene. Her dreamy eyes seemed to be saying something when her lips said something else. The eyes of Uttam Kumar reciprocated



## Tariq Anam returns to the stage



A CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Nityakendra will stage their acclaimed production "Dui Je Chilo Ek Chakor" -- an adaptation of 18th century play "The Servant of Two Masters" this evening. Veteran actor Tariq Anam Khan will appear on the stage after three years in the special staging. The show will take place at the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

In addition, the troupe will set off for Japan this month to stage the play.

Special screening of "Dui Je Chilo Ek Chakor" today



# Love is like the perfect cup of tea

In conversation with Farooki-Tisha on Valentine's Day

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, an internationally known-filmmaker for his simple, yet touching stories, is ably partnered by his wife Nusrat Imroz Tisha, who herself has won millions of hearts through her acting. In a casual chat with The Daily Star, Farooki and Tisha talked about matters of the heart. Excerpts:

**How do you define love?**  
**Farooki:** There are many kinds of love. Each person has their own definition of the emotion. To me, love defines as a feeling for someone from the depths of my heart. Also, I feel good making my beloved happy and she feels the same for me. She is beside me in both my happy and bad moments. Such a relationship is love in its truest sense.

**Tisha:** Love is like a perfect cup of tea, where you find the right balance of tea leaves, milk and sugar. It is a mixed feeling of anger, tears, joy, ecstasy and agony.

**What is the emotion opposite of love?**  
**Farooki:** Loneliness.

**Tisha:** Definitely hatred. Only love can prevail against this emotion.

**What's your plan for this Valentine's Day?**  
**Farooki:** Normally, we have no special programmes for this day. However, both of us will be present as guests at a programme titled "Ekonei Dotcom". Before getting married, I used to give Tisha a bouquet of flowers, a practice that continues. I don't have any special sentiment about Valentine's Day, as I am blessed with love the entire year.

**Tisha:** Same for me. We are still as busy with our projects as we were before our

marriage. To me, each and every day is Valentine's Day. Sarwar always loves receiving gifts from me whether on Valentine's Day, birthdays or anniversaries. But he does not believe in reciprocating.

**Where did you go on your first trip after marriage?**

**Farooki:** Bangkok. However, we could not stay away for any length of time as both our families missed Tisha a great deal. They used to repeatedly phone me, compelling us to return quickly.

**Tisha:** We became very busy with our assignments immediately after we married. We were lucky that we managed seven days in Bangkok.

**What movie have you watched together recently?**

**Farooki:** "Television". We watched it at the Busan Film Festival.

**How first confessed of their feelings in the relationship?**

**Tisha:** It's a very funny story. He actually directly proposed me for marriage, and caught me completely off-guard. We were shooting outside Dhaka. Sarwar usually never comes to call artists for their shot personally, but he came and called me. As we were walking to the set, he suddenly, and in a very matter-of-fact way, asked if I would marry him. It took me about ten seconds to absorb that shock, but then I said "I have no problem".

**How would you describe each other?**  
**Farooki:** Tisha is very cool, caring and soft-hearted woman. I think one negative side of hers is that she is very indifferent about herself.

**Tisha:** As a director, he painstakingly briefs his cast about their characters. He handles everyone easily on the set. He is a great husband, too.

# Of rasa-abhinaya and exquisite expressions

## Arno Kamolika mesmerises audience in solo recital

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Bharatanatyam is considered to be a fire-dance — the mystic manifestation of the metaphysical element of fire in the human body. The dance form is the manifestation of the ancient idea of the celebration of the eternal universe through the celebration of the beauty of the material body. It has two aspects—laya, the graceful feminine lines and movements, and tandava, the masculine dance of Shiva.

Arno Kamolika, a talented Bharatanatyam dancer of Bangladesh now residing in Canada for higher studies, performed in a solo dance recital at National Art Gallery auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 12. At present Arno is taking lessons on Bharatanatyam from Joy Govinda in Canada. All the featured dance pieces were also choreographed by him.

Arno set off the dance recital with "Durga-stuti", a eulogising visual poetry to Devi Durga. The artiste gracefully portrayed devotional dance mudras, set on a classical song "Kalyan Sundareswari". Arno's aesthetic showcasing of dance movements seemingly won hearts of many connoisseurs.

Four young artistes—Lima, Jesika, Swachi and Shraboni—were next to take the stage dancing to a drupad ang song. The performance was artistically balanced with regard to the dancers' throwing of mudras.

Arno did justice to her next offerings titled "Navarasa" that forms the basis of Rasa-abhinaya in Indian classical dances including Bharatanatyam. The artiste beautifully conveyed emotions through a variety of facial expressions and hand gestures while blossoming the nine rasas—ringara (amour), hasyam (mirth), karunam (pathetic), raudram (furious), viram (heroic),



bhayanakam (terrible), bibhatsam (odious), abhutham (wonder) and santam (tranquility).

As ode to Spring, Arno Kamolika next performed "Ashtapadi". Based on Joydeb's epic poem "Geeta Govinda", the performance featured Krishna's celebrating the season of flowers and colours in various moods and gestures with awaiting gope-gopinis in absence of Radha.

Later, Arno superbly acted out three sagas setting out in a Mira Bhajan. The artiste performed the piece in pristine styles enthralling the audience in unending

rapt. The dancer took on numerous characters by switching roles through the swift turn in circle, creating a storyline. Artistic light designing with soothing music created a blissful ambience.

And last but not the least—Arno Kamolika performed "Tillana", a brisk, lively number generally performed at the end of a solo recital. Based on Raga "Mohankalyani" and taal "Adi", the pure dance form mesmerised the audience. Arno's fast footwork coupled with an embellished returning to show cast a lasting spell on the minds of the many revered audiences, that included eminent cultural personality Dr. Sanjida Khatun, mime maestro Partha Pratim Majumder, Poet Nurul Huda and Arno's father Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor of Bangladesh Bank.

The event, arranged by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), was a rare treat to the performing arts. BSA director general Liaquat Ali Lucky thanked and blessed Arno and requested Dr. Sanjida Khatun and Partha Pratim Majumder to present bouquets to the featured artiste.

"The hard form of dance that Arno showcased effortlessly today reminds me of the solo Bharatanatyam presentation by Leela Samsan held at Bangladesh National Museum years ago. For me, Arno has surpassed the artistic expressions that Leela showcased on that day. I am blessing Arno from my core of heart," said Dr. Sanjida Khatun.

Arno was baptised in dance at Chhayanaaut under the tutelage of guru Sharmila Bandopadhyay. Completing her courses on Bharatanatyam and Manipuri from Chhayanaut, she joined the cultural school as teacher in 2002. Arno also received talent from eminent Indian dance guru Padmabhushan Professor CD Chandrasekhar. The artiste has so far performed on illuminated stages in USA, Canada and several countries of Europe.