

WHAT'S ON

Conversation on S.M. Sultan's Philosophy and Artistry  
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Date: June 17



Solo Art Exhibition  
Title: Of Man and Earth II by Syed Jahangir  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Rd-131, Circle-1  
Date: May 31-June 21  
Time: 12pm-8pm daily



Art Exhibition  
Title: Artistic Musings of Greats  
Collector: Nasir Ali Mamun  
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 14-July 5  
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Cartoon Exhibition  
Title: Time Line  
Cartoonist: Sharier Khan  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara  
Date: June 14-27



Print & Art Exhibition  
Artists: Ahmed Nazir and Some Renowned Artists of 30's & 40's  
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-4, Rd-6, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 20-July 5  
Time: 10am-8pm



# NEWS bytes

# Melodies on a monsoon evening

## Linkin Park headlines Download Festival

US nu-metal act Linkin Park headlined the Saturday night at this year's Download rock festival. They spent the first half of their set playing their multi-platinum debut album, "Hybrid Theory" (2000) in its entirety. They played three new tracks, "Guilty All The Same", "Until It's Gone" and "Wastelands", in the second half of their set before rolling out crowd favourites such as "Numb" and "In the End".

Vocalist Mike Shiroda spoke to The BBC before going on stage. "Tonight is a celebration of, simultaneously, the first step and the most recent step," he said.

Before Linkin Park on the main stage were Fall Out Boy, Bring Me The Horizon, Killswitch Engage, Bowling for Soup and Bury Tomorrow.

Source: BBC



## IT'S TRUE!

Influential Indian actress Shabana Azmi's first film release was *Shyam Benegal's* directorial debut "Ankur" (1974), belonging to the arthouse genre of neo-realistic films. She was not the original choice for the film, but was chosen after several leading actresses of that time refused to do it. The film went on to become a major critical



success, and Azmi won the National Film Award for Best Actress for her performance. Shabana Azmi later won three more National Awards in successive years (1983-85) for "Arth", "Khandhar" and "Paar". Another film, "Godmother" (1999) earned her another, taking her tally to five.



(Clockwise) Artistes on stage: Bulbul Islam, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Shama Rahman and Adity Mohsin; Fahmida Khatun speaks; a capacity audience enjoys the show.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**FAHMIM FERDOUS**

As a welcome rain brought respite to citizens on the first day of Asharh, the Bengali month of monsoon, a group of Tagore aficionados were assembling at the mezzanine floor gallery of the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct in the capital, anticipating some melodies in tune with the mood of the evening. "Cholochitr Gaane Rabindranath" was the first musical event of Star Melodies to be hosted at the new precinct, featuring live performance of Tagore songs that have been adapted in films.

Star Arts & Entertainment Editor Sadya Afreen Mallick, who compered the programme, welcomed the guests and briefly dwelt on Star Melodies' past events, including the classical night where a hundred dancers of Nrityanchal performed to classical music; Poncho-Kobi'r Gaan; adhunak songs of the 1960s, Folk music festival and later, tributes to Suchitra Sen and Bashir Ahmed, and seasonal melodies. She then went on to introduce the artistes of the night, as she discussed in brief the music of Tagore as it has been employed in films.

The music on offer was, in a word, top-notch. Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury set the evening rolling with "Ami Tomaye Joto Shuniyechilem Gaan" ("Mukti", 1937), which Adity Mohsin and Fahim Hossain Chowdhury followed up with "Ghorete

Bhromor Elo Gunguniye" ("Shuno Boronari", 1960) and "Ki Paini Taar'i Hishab Milate" ("Daktar", 1940) respectively. Adity Mohsin then sang "Bajilo Kaharo Beena" ("Agontuk", 1991), Bulbul Ahmed marvelously rendered "Akash Bhora Shurjo Taara" ("Komol Gandhar", 1961) followed by a Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury-Adity Mohsin duet of "Je Raate Mo'r Duarguli Bhanglo Jhor'e" ("Meghe Dhaka Taara", 1960). Shama Rahman performed her first solo up next, the popular "Chander Hashi Badh Bhengeche" ("Udoyer Pothey", 1944), and Laisa Ahmed Lisa sang "Ami Tomar Songe Bedhechi Amar Pran" ("Dharapat", 1963). Although Kalim Sharafi, who directed music for "Dharapat", is considered the first artiste from pre-Liberation Bangladesh to have playbaked a Tagore song, it was Fahmida Khatun who sang this song. The veteran artiste, present at the event, shared her memories of recording it, of how some restrictions imposed by Vishwa Bharati on the use of Tagore music were skirted around before the song could be put in the film. Sadya Afreen Mallick pointed out that the original Fahmida Khatun song had been removed from the film roll of "Dharapat" at the Bangladesh Film Archive, but a copy of it might be present somewhere else.

The music continued, with Fahim Hossain Chowdhury singing "Ami Chini Go Chini

Tomare" ("Charulata", 1964) and Bulbul Islam and Laisa Ahmed Lisa joining voices for "Tumi Robe Nirobe" ("Kuheli", 1971). "Dibosh Rojoni Ami Jeno Kar" ("Nishante", 1985) by Shama Rahman followed, while Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury performed "Choron Dhorite Diyo Go Amare" ("Dada'r Kirti", 1980). Laisa Ahmed Lisa crooned to the oozing romantic number "Bhalobashi, Bhalobashi" ("Shwet Pathorer Thala", 1992). The essence of monsoon was fittingly captured by Bulbul Islam in "Ami Tokhono Chhilem Mogono Gohono Ghumer Ghorey" ("Mohona", 1982), with the closing performance being Fahim Hossain Chowdhury and Shama Rahman's blissful duet of "Mayabono Biharini".

The informal arrangement, excellent lighting and the artistic ambiance of SM Sultan's paintings at the gallery (despite being a tad acoustically off-balance) and video clippings of the songs in the background, along with The Daily Star Executive Editor Syed Badrul Ahsan's humorous recollection of anecdotes about Tagore and his songs, kept the audience captivated the entire evening. As the event came to an end, those in attendance seemed keen on knowing when the next such coming-together was to be.

Eastern Bank Limited assisted in the programme, with concept and graphics support provided by Simantik Creative Concern and Sadya Afreen Mallick.

# Ushering in Asharh Udichi and SSSG welcome monsoon

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

After intense summer heat, the call of the monsoon is strong -- the overwhelming desire to get drenched with the resonating lyrics of the pitter-patter of rain, droning and thrumming sound, thunder and lightning, stormy winds, swaying branches of trees and the serene silence following a heavy downpour.

Individual artistes, along with several troupes wooed the monsoon with poetry recitation, song renditions and dance performances at two programmes on June 16 on Dhaka University campus to celebrate Borsha Utshab 1421.

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi (Dhaka Metropolitan Branch) arranged a programme in the evening at Bokultola, Faculty of Fine Arts premises while Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi (SSSG) held its festival at the Hakim Chattar, close to



Members of Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi perform at their event.

Central Library of University of Dhaka in the morning on the day. Artistes of both Udichi and SSSG performed choral songs at their events.

The morning session started off with classical music performance. Artistes of Happy Homes danced to the monsoon melodies. Noted elocutionist Bhashwar Bandyopadhyay

recited parts of Kalidas' poem "Meghdoot" at the event while Bizon Chandra Mistry and Niharika rendered solo songs.

Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam had captured many glorious moods of monsoon and gave lyrical and musical expressions to the innermost whispering of the clouds and euphoria of rain. Associating such moods of

monsoon, Udichi vice-president Mahmud Selim led an adda where noted and promising singers and elocutionists entertained the audience at Charukala.

Salma Akbar, Bulbul Islam, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, Biman Chandra Biswas, Soma Rani Roy, Semonti Monjari, Ahkamullah and others took part in the adda with performing monsoon melodies and poems.

Noted painter Hashem Khan, veteran cultural personality and president of Udichi Shilpigoshthi (Central Sangshad) Kamal Lohani, former president Golam Mohammad Idu and general secretary of the organisation Prabir Sardar spoke on the season. The speakers emphasised on planting more trees in this season and to protect the environment with lessening pollution. As a symbolic gesture to encourage tree planting, Udichi gave saplings to each featured artiste.

# Nrityanchal to stage Mahua in Kolkata



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned dance group Nrityanchal will stage their much-acclaimed folk dance drama "Mahua" at Birla Sabhagar, Kolkata on June 23. On an invitation from the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata, the group of 25 dancers will stage their production. Shamim Ara Nipa (Mahua), Shibli Mohammad (Noder Chand) and Belayet Hossain Khan (Homra Baidha) will play lead roles in the dance drama.

Compiled by late Shahidul Islam, the production has been planned and directed by Shahmim Ara Nipa.

# The Shubh Saran Presentation performs at IGCC

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Shubh Saran Presentation gave a musical performance on June 14 at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

The contemporary jazz-funk neo soul fusion project, led by guitarist and composer, Shubh Saran, performed their own numbers "Middle of Somewhere", "Mission Man" and "Homebound", along with a few covers, including "Luka Chuppi", originally composed by AR Rahman.

The other members of the group, who are among Delhi's most prominent musicians, are pianist Rohit Gupta, drummer Pranoy Praveen and bass guitarist Jayant Manchanda. The group performs original pieces as well as unique arrangements of well-known tunes.

# Questions to the conscience Shahidul Alam's exhibition "18" at Drik Gallery

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Dr Shahidul Alam, one of the most prolific photographers this country has produced, has been a vocal presence for a number of causes that he believes in. He has often used his vision from behind the viewfinder to portray issues in a way other media could not.

The abduction of Kalpana Chakma, a young leader of the Hill Women's Federation, has been one such cause that Shahidul Alam has delved deep into. It has been 18 years since her abduction at gunpoint from her home allegedly by military personnel and civilian law enforcers on June 12, 1996, and to address the issue, Drik has organised an exhibition of photographs by Shahidul Alam that began on June 12.

The exhibition, part of Drik's public awareness campaign titled "No More", ends tomorrow.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR FAVOURITE MARVEL SUPERHEROES



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