

NEWS bytes

Shraddha

injuries herself while dancing for ABCD 2



Promising Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor is preparing for her next film "ABCD 2" and has apparently injured herself while making a risky dance move. The actress is training hard for this film in which she plays a dancer.

While learning a difficult move -- a split -- for one of the sequences, Shraddha injured herself.

Shraddha is keen to get back on her feet as soon as possible so that she can get going with her training. "I guess it was a result of over-enthusiasm which led to a partial muscle tear. I guess I have to be a lot more careful while rehearsing because it is very important to understand your body and how much you can push it. But I love dancing so much that I'm praying this injury heals quickly," she said.

Source: TOI

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATIONAL POET The unparalleled duo Nazrul-Abbasuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eid-ul-Fitr is never complete for the Bangali Muslims without Kazi Nazrul Islam's wonderful song *O mon Ramjaner oi rojar sheshey elo khushir Eid*. The appropriate lyrics and the sweet jovial tune of the song absolutely fit the merriment of the occasion. The importance of the song is that it was the first Islamic song of Nazrul to be recorded on LP. And the singer whose brilliant voice turned the song into a phenomenon was Abbasuddin Ahmed.

"One day my father went to Nazrul Islam," says Ferdousi Rahman, daughter of Abbasuddin Ahmed and renowned artiste of Nazrul Sangeet and Bhawaiya songs, "and told him if Islamic songs could be recorded in Bangla in the manner of Urdu Kavalis, which were extremely popular at that time." Abbasuddin pointed out that such Islamic songs would make Nazrul popular to the Bangali Muslims to whom he was like a heretic. "At that time, Muslims considered music as unholy," explains Ferdousi.

Considering Abbasuddin's proposal, Nazrul asked him to talk to Bhagabati Bhattacharya, the rehearsal-in-charge of the Gramophone Company. "At first, Bhagabati Babu became very angry about the idea," writes Abbasuddin in his autobiography, Amar Shilpi Jiboner Kotha; for, Bhagabati thought it wouldn't be accepted by the music lovers.

However, after six months, at a favoured moment, Abbas once again mentioned the proposal,

and "this time the old man nodded 'yes'," says Ferdousi as she heard from her father. "After the recording, Abba [father] went home for Eid-ul-Fitr. On his way back to Kolkata, he heard several times that people were humming the song." Abbasuddin wondered how these people learnt about the song at all! In Kolkata, Abbasuddin found an overwhelming situation; the LP, which also contained another song--*Islamer oi shawda loye*, sold thousands of copies. Abbasuddin

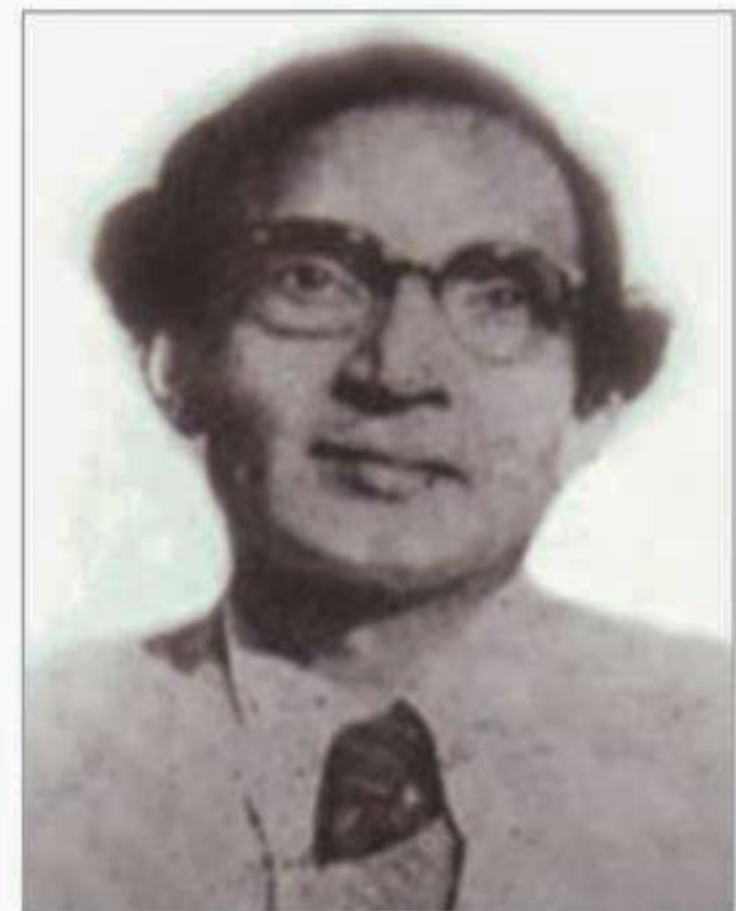


Ahmed and Kazi Nazrul Islam became an unparalleled duo.

The song *O mon Ramjaner oi rojar sheshey* is further important because it drew the then Bangali Muslim community towards music which they considered profane. "Nazrul and my father enhanced this improvement more by songs like Allah amar probhu; Elo abar Eid phirey; Khodar premer shorab piye; Tribhubaner priyo Mohammad; Shono shono ya Elahi; Allah naamer bij bunechhi; Allah-ke je

paitey chaay and many other popular songs," says Ferdousi.

"Once Abba was invited by the students of Joypurhat but he was requested not to use harmonium as people considered it irreligious," says Ferdousi. "Abba came on stage and told the audience that he was going to talk only rather than sing. Then he described how the whole world rejoiced Prophet Mohammad's (SM) birth, and started to sing, without any instrument of course, Nazrul's famous song *Tora*



dekhe ja Amina mayer koley." After singing another song, Abbasuddin wanted to leave the stage, but the audience was won over by that time. Then he improvised a little music by using tabla and sang another religious song, Amar Mohammader naamer dhyana hridoye jar roy. "Thus Abba helped music gain acceptance to the Bangali Muslims," added Ferdousi.

She tells the story of another famous song, Hey namaji amar ghorey. "One day while waiting

at Nazrul's place, Abba wanted to say his prayer. Nazrul Islam became very concerned, as there was no jainamaz [prayer mat] in the house. He finally gave Abba a clean shawl to use as jainamaz. After his prayer, Abba found that Nazrul Islam had meanwhile written the beautiful song." The song offers to the pious the heart of the poet as a prayer mat.

Another important aspect of Nazrul-Abbasuddin combination was that through their songs they helped retain the peaceful co-habitation of the Hindus and the Muslims when communal riot broke out in the region.

"Together abba and Nazrul produced anti-communal songs like Bharater dui nayan tara Hindu Musalman, Hindu ar Muslim mora dui shahodar bhai and O bhai Hindu Musolman," says Ferdousi.

"Abba also sang many of Nazrul's folk songs and these instantly became widely popular, especially with the urban audience who didn't have much access into the realm of Bangla folk music. Nazrul also liked his voice and style of rendering Bhawaiya songs. So, he wrote songs like Nodir naam shoi Anjana/Nachey teerey Khanjana; Padmodighir dharey dharey--Nazrul's first folk songs to be recorded," informs Ferdousi.

Abbasuddin recorded hundreds of Nazrul's songs, which enjoyed tremendous popularity at that time and still are. His first record of "Adhunik" Bangla song, Laili tomar eshechhey phiriya has become an icon of modern Bangla songs.

"Meghmaller" set for release



A CORRESPONDENT

Full-length feature film "Meghmaller" based on short story "Raincoat" by Akhtaruzzaman Elius on the liberation war, is all set for release, and was recently submitted to the Film Censor Board for censorship certificate. Directed by Zahidur Rahim Anjan and under the banner of Bengal Entertainment Limited, the film had won a National Filmmaking Grant last year, and is expected to be premiered in the second week of August.

"Meghmaller" casts Shahiduzzaman Selim, Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Mosharraf Karim, Aparna and Aditi in central roles. Noted Indian cinematographer Sudhir Palsane has worked in the film, the music of which was done by Abhijit Basu, from Kolkata (India).

The plot is set against the backdrop of the monsoon of 1971, when the Liberation War for Bangladesh had started to gain momentum. An ordinary family -- chemistry teacher at a suburban government college Nurul Huda, his wife Asma, daughter Sudha and Asma's brother Mintu. In a span of three days, the family goes through a life-altering experience, after Mintu leaves one morning to join the Freedom Fighters, without informing anyone.

IT'S TRUE!



One of the biggest highlights of James McAvoy's career was starring with Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman in "Wanted", an action film where he portrayed Wesley Gibson, a young American slacker who learns he is heir to a legacy of assassins. When McAvoy screen-tested for the role, he was initially rejected because the studio was seeking an actor with conventional Hollywood leading-man looks and physique. He later recalled being considered the "runt of the litter" of those who tested, but ultimately got the role in late 2006 since the studio "wanted someone geeky". While shooting action scenes for the film, he suffered several injuries, including a twisted ankle and an injured knee, but the actor said he had a 'good time' doing the movie.

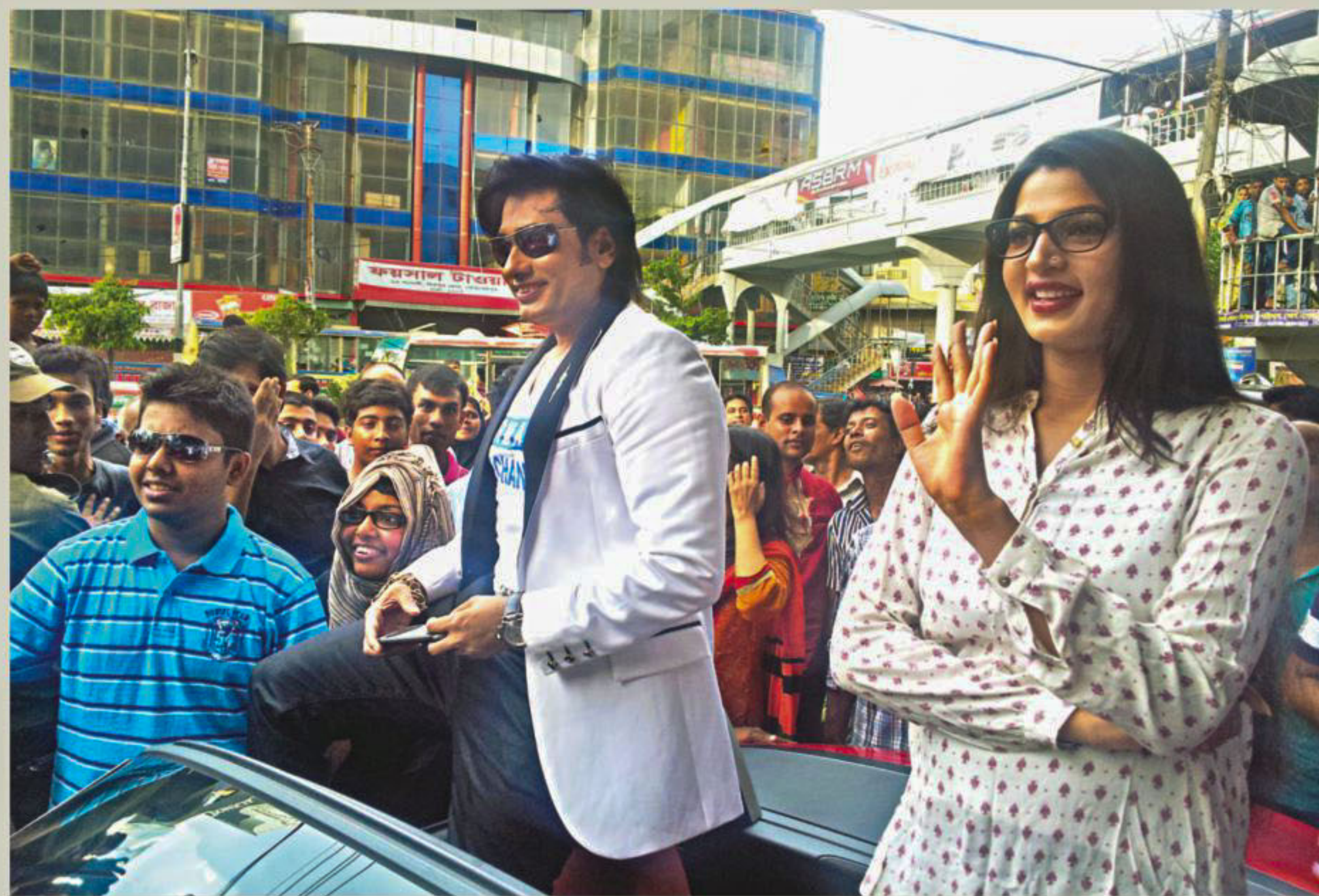
"Bhalobasha Oto-por" on Ekushey TV



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eid tele-film "BHalobasha Oto-por" will air on Ekushey TV today at 4:05pm. Written by Rudro Mahfuz and directed by Sakawat Hossain Manik, the tele-film casts Apurbo and Tarin, among others. The plot surrounds Ifit, an executive at an insurance company, who is a strong believer in luck. He buys lottery tickets and participates in quiz contests. He is also a huge fan of actress Tarin. One day, Tarin steps through his door, and plans to hang out with him all day.

Fans watch in amazement as Ananta and Barsha emerge from a sports car, as they arrive at the Shyamoli Digital Cinema to watch their latest release "Most Welcome-2" with the audience. The star couple visited the cinema theatre on the third day of Eid, and interacted with the audience before and after the movie. "Most Welcome-2", is running houseful at all the major cinemas of Dhaka.



Six films to watch in August



Frank

Two Days, One Night Marion Cotillard stars as a woman struggling to keep her job in the latest from the Dardenne brothers, which lost out to "Winter Sleep" for the Palme d'Or at Cannes. After her boss decides to sack her and give her co-workers a bonus, she forces a vote and spends a weekend begging for her job back. It's both an intimate portrayal of a desperate woman and a tense countdown to the final vote.

The Trip to Italy
Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon swap the Lake District for the Med in their latest gastronomic road trip. A sequel to "The Trip", also directed by Michael Winterbottom, it's heavy on banter and impersonations: choice moments include Coogan's turn as an incomprehensible Tom Hardy in "The Dark Knight Rises". Coogan has described the approach as "we drive through the most spellbinding scenery that I've ever seen in my life, and then we diminish it by talking crap".

Frank
One of the oddest pop stars in history is the subject of this comedy drama from director Lenny Abrahamson. Cult British

musician and comedian Frank Sidebottom is played by Michael Fassbender -- complete with giant plaster head -- while Maggie Gyllenhaal and Domhnall Gleeson co-star. Loosely based on the experiences of journalist Jon Ronson who co-wrote the script and was a member of Sidebottom's band, Frank has been praised by critic Mark Kermode for getting "beneath the mask and the skin of its eponymous antihero in a manner that bridges the gap between absurdist laughter and all-too-tender tears".

Sin City: A Dame to Kill For



Sin City 2: A Dame to Kill For

Co-directors Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller team up again for the sequel to their 2005 surprise hit "Sin City", bringing more stories from Miller's neo-noir graphic novels to the screen. Jessica Alba stars in the crime thriller, transformed from a stripper with a heart of gold to a woman seeking revenge for the death of her mentor (Bruce Willis). It might not be as long to wait for the next instalment: depending on box office turnout, Rodriguez has said that Sin City 3 "could go as soon as we want to".

Night Moves

Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning and Peter Sarsgaard star as three radical environmentalists plotting to blow up a controversial dam in this eco thriller from Kelly Reichardt. Combining suspense with musings on the moral ambiguity of political extremism, it was praised by The Boston Herald for being "an impressive piece of neo-noir filmmaking".

The Two Faces of January

Screenwriter Hossein Amini makes his directorial debut with a thriller adapted from a novel by Patricia Highsmith. Set in Greece and Turkey in 1962, it follows an American couple (played by Viggo Mortensen and Kirsten Dunst) forced to go on the run with a scam artist (Oscar Isaac) after a murder at their hotel. Time Out described it as "an unhurried, louche thriller that gives way to claustrophobia as it starts to get its clammy hands around your neck."

Source: BBC



The Two Faces of January

"Hariye Jabar Din" on Channel i



A CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play "Hariye Jabar Din" will go on air on Channel i tonight at 7:50pm. Written by Arangajeb, the play has been directed by Kaushik Shankar Das.

The story of the play circles Shraban who is a student of Faculty of Fine Arts while Aparna studies BBA. Accidentally, they meet one day on a rainy evening. A friendship between the duos is formed due to eagerness from both sides. Not only that, their relation even crosses the boundary of friendship. But no one expresses that... This is how the story of the play proceeds.

The cast of the play includes Nayeem, Evana, Kumkum Ahmed and Harun.

Nitya Upahar's monsoon collection on display



Guests at the opening.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hailing the monsoon and marking Eid-ul-fitr, Gallery Nitya Upahar has organised "Borsha Utshab" at the third floor of Aziz Super Market, Shahbagh, Dhaka. The festival showcases attire with a focus on saris and T-shirts at the gallery themed on the monsoon, Eid and contemporary concepts.

Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury with several poets including Muhammad Nurul Huda, Muhammad Samad, Sujauddin Kaisar, Aslam Sani, Alamgir Reza Chowdhury, Harun Rashid, Badrul haidar, Arif Mainuddin and Masud Pathik formally inaugurated the exhibition recently with the recitation of their poems.

The saris and T-shirts are designed by artists Qayyum Chowdhury, Dhrubo Esh, Shahed Hikal, Imran Hossain Piplu, Mostafiz Karigar and Royel Paul. The saris combine the beauty of simplicity with floral motifs while the T-shirts follow thematic and experimental concepts. Several T-shirts also inscribe famous quotations and poetic excerpts.

"Warm colours and reasonable prices are the features of both saris and T-shirts. Tangail cotton and cotton mixed semi-silk saris make for comfortable attire," said Bahar Rahman, proprietor of Nitya Upahar.

The exhibition remains open till August 10. A musical soiree featuring monsoon melodies with poetry recitation will wrap up the exhibition.