

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Excerpts:

Eminent art connoisseur and Chairman of

Bengal Foundation Abul Khair is an avid art

collector who started his collection in 1974.

showcasing masterpieces by pioneer painters

Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi in the capital

caught up with Abul Khair, who spoke about

"I don't exactly know when I developed a

his passion for collecting and promoting art.

passion for the arts, but I remember my

Momtaz Khalek were great readers. My

the teachers' room of Armanitola

Government High School."

childhood days. My uncle, Professor Abdur

Razzaque, father Abdul Khalek and mother

mother loved to sing and paint. While in the

eighth or ninth grade at school, with permis-

sion from our headmaster I organised a solo

art exhibition with my mother's artworks at

"Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin lived just

opposite my grandfather's residence. I would

accompany Professor Abdur Razzaque to visit

carry on their conversation without interrup-

Abedin) would draw something on a white

paper, make a boat with it and ask me to let

the paper boat float in a nearby pond. The

Shilpacharya would do the same thing a few

20minutes. If I had known the value of his

a huge collection of the master (laughs).

the priceless legacy of Professor Abdur

paintings gifted to him by eminent artist

drawings at that time, I would have amassed

paintings, the paintings that I did have were

Razzaque who had 10,000 books and several

Safiuddin Ahmed and Zainul Abedin. One of

"In 1971, when the Liberation War began,

his notable works, which the movement of a

cow, was part of those gifts and belongs to

me now."

"Prior to 1974 -- when I started collecting

him almost every morning, have breakfast

and discuss everything under the sun. To

tion from me, Abedin Chacha (Zainul

times to keep me busy for another 15-

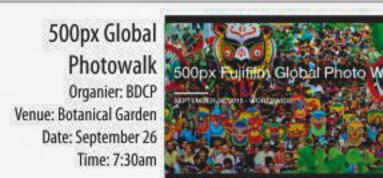
of Bangladesh and India, was on display at

until earlier this week. This writer recently

An exhibition from his art collection,

Solo Exhibition Artist: Manir Mrittik Title: Rupture of the earth Venue: Bay's Bellavista, Banani Date: Sept 19-24 Time: 2pm-8pm







Abul Khair

The heart

of an art

collector



Solo Painting Exhibition Venue: Bengal Art Lounge



### **UDICHI**

remembers Tagore-Nazrul-Sukanta

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

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In memory of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Sukanta Bhattacharya, the three great bards of Bangla literature, a cultural function was held at Udichi auditorium recently.

Udichi Shilpi Goshthi Mymensingh and Alokmoy Naha Sangeet Bidhayatan (ANSB) jointly organised the evening.

The artistes of ANSB rendered popular songs of Tagore and Nazrul for a capacity packed audience. Earlier, a discussion was held on the life and work

of the bards. Professor Motindra Sarker, Professor Nazrul Hayet and Professor Dilruba Sultana took part

in the discussion. The speakers pointed out that the three bards were very vocal in their opposition to all forms of oppression, repression and deprivation.

They enriched Bengali literature through their varied writings, said the speakers.

Shampa Dutta anchored the event.



ABC Radio ready with Eid entertainment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During the Eid festivities, ABC Radio FM 89.2 will provide its listeners with pure entertainment. The tremendously popular radio station will air special programmes from the first to the third day of Eid (September 25 to 27).

The day's programmes will begin with "On the Run Eid special" with RJ Kaynat and Setu. "Huts Off" from 11am to 1pm will host a number of top celebrities including Sporshia, Ruma, Turja, Miles, Safa Kabir and Sabila; RJ Nilanjona will host the show.

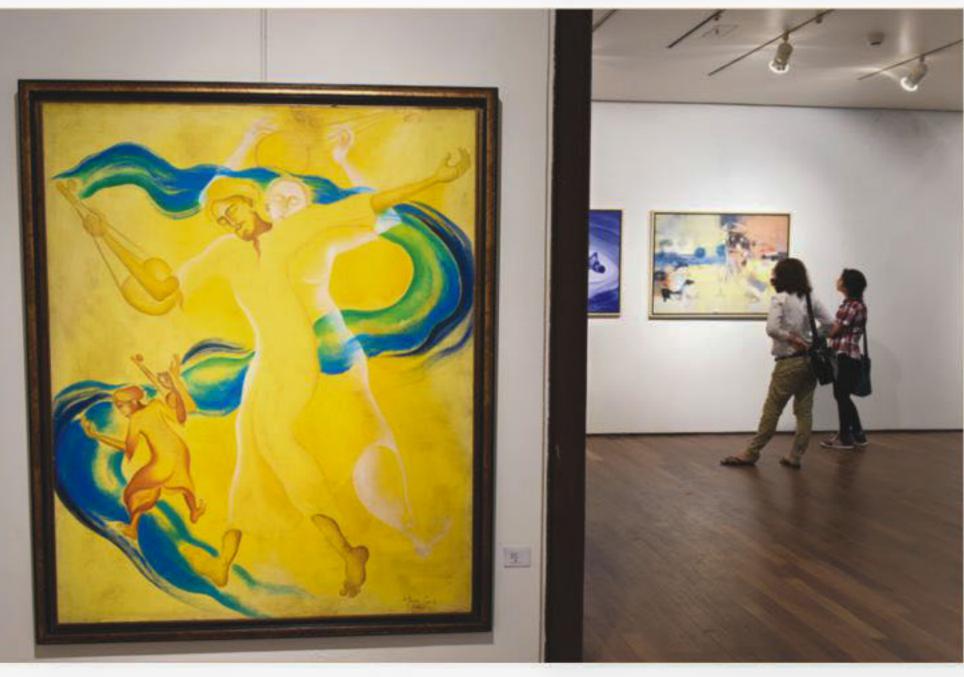
From 1pm to 3pm "Music Mutton" will keep the listeners entertained with hit up-tempo music. In the afternoon from 3pm to 5pm, RJ Rehan will present "Shahi Adda" where guests will talk about shahi food items, Eid special cooking along with live acoustic music. Every night there will be a studio live show with RJ Samannnoy and RJ Setu where bands like Vikings, Tanjib & Friends and Echoes will sing live.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Professor Razzaque asked me to take all the paintings that he had collected to our village. 'It will bear fruit for you,' he said."

"I collect paintings on Bengal Art from Rabindranath Tagore to present day artists. have so far collected works by artists of 20 countries, through organising art camps every now and then. I am not much interested in Picasso, Rembrandt and others. Rather, I am interested in Bengal Art; because I want the world to know the rich art history

buyers are not from abroad; they are all Bangladeshi. As a visionary, I just convey the thoughts and ideas and they complement them with their own. The art museum that we are thinking of opening in 2017 at Savar, Dhaka will have exclusive sites for fine arts, architecture, crafts and more. We have kept positions for the craftspersons so that they can sell their products there. We, together with another organisation called 'Friendship' have also constructed a boat museum on the



The art connoisseur at his residence (top); an artwork by Arpana Caur at the exhibition.

of Bengal."

"I collect every Bengali master of Bangladesh and India. Say for example, 'Figuration', the recent exhibition, showcased my collection of masterpieces by the likes of Murtaja Baseer and Aminul Islam."

"The painting that was sold at Taka 10,000 in the year 2000 is now worth Taka 10, 00,000. It has happened because of efforts of the likes of Subir Chowdhury and Luva Nahid Choudhury. It is interesting that the

bank of the river Bangshi."

"To curate and preserve the artworks I have collected so far is a gigantic task. Artist Nitun Kundu designed the best way to archive the paintings and artworks. You will get everything related to art in Bengal Foundation's archive. I am not blowing my own trumpet; but it's true that we have the best and the richest archiving system in Bangladesh. My passion and Luva's intellect have joined hands to complete the mammoth job."



## Multi-starrer song from Rajkahini released

by an involved Srijit himself, with some striking scenes from the film. Some of the scenes are from the already-released trailer, while glimpses of some new sequences strengthen the promise of an intense, emotional and moving film.

The film, also starring Rituporna Sengupta, Jisshu Sengupta, Saswata Chatterjee, Sayani Ghosh, Kaushik Sen and Abir Chatterjee, among others, is set for release on the festive Puja season, on October 16.



## Maznun Mizan: All set for Eid

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Maznun Mizan set off as a theatre artiste. Soon the small screen beckoned. Today he is much in demand as TV actor and has ventured into cinema too. A number of his TV plays will be telecast this Eid-ul-Azha. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the celebrity spoke about what he has up in sleeves and Eid plans. How many plays did you do this Eid?

Mizan: The audience will see me in eight plays this time. Of them, shooting for six is complete. I will appear in "Rubi Roy", "The Briefcase" and "Mou Rani" to be aired on ntv while "Chocolate Boy" goes on Boishakhi TV, "Jamai Nayak" on Channel i and "Creative Man" on Banglavision.

What's on your schedule on Eid day?

Mizan: I will ready to sacrifice a cow after returning from Eidgah. This vacation, I plan to visit Cox's Bazar with my family. Is there any particular custom you follow during Eid?

Mizan: Usually I extend financial support to orphans and poor people to make them happy that day. Where do you hang out during the Eid holidays? Mizan: My home or friends' homes. We have a great time feasting on delicious delicacies.

How did you celebrate Eid as a child? Mizan: Those days were really blissful. We used to wait for our elder brother's arrival in our hometown Manikganj. I would give him my Eid list earlier and he unfailingly came from Dhaka laden with the gifts.

Tell us about your upcoming film. Mizan: "Modhu" is based on a story by Rabindranath. I've played the title role in the movie that is about children. Sumona Siddique is director of the film.



Set for her Bollywood comeback after a gap of five long years, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan said she is "nervous" ahead of the release of Sanjay Gupta's "Jazbaa" where she will be seen alongside Irrfan Khan.

"I guess I'm feeling nervous now as everyone is looking forward to the film. October is not far away. Not much time is left for release," Aishwarya said at the wrap-up party of the film.

Aishwarya plays an advocate in "Jazbaa" while Irrfan Khan essays the role of a tough policeman. The promos promise to offer edge-of-the-seat thrilling experience in "Iazbaa".

Talking of her experience of working with Sanjay and Irrfan, the former beauty queen said, "We had a good time making 'Jazbaa'. I haven't seen the final movie yet... So let's see, we are looking forward to it."

Source: Hindustan Times

# FAHMIM FERDOUS

As anticipation builds up for Srijit Mukherji's upcoming film "Rajkahini" that stars Jaya Ahsan among a formidable cast of Indian cinema, a new song from the film was released on Youtube this week, starring some of the biggest names in popular Bangla music across the border from Bangladesh.

"Bharot Bhagyo Bidhata", the Bangla version of Rabindranath Tagore's classic song that eventually became India's national anthem, comes to life in the song - that opens with the sombre voice of Kabir Sumar and then to the sweet melody of Kaushiki Chakraborty, on to the signature vocal styles of Rupankar Bagchi, Lopamudra Mitra, Rupam Islam, Babul Supriyo, Sraboni Sen, Siddharta Sankar Roy, Srikanto Acharya, Anupam Roy, Annwesha and Indraadip Das Gupta.

The video shows cuts of studio footage where the singers are performing, supervised

# Music Fest on Gtv

A CORRESPONDENT

As part of its seven-day long Eid programmes, Gtv will air break free musical show "Banglalink Music Fest" from the third to the seventh day of Eid at 11:30pm.

The show will feature a large array of music, comprising of folk, rock, classical and others genres.

Popular bands and singers including Nagarbaul, Bappa and Friends, Shunno, Parthibo, Nishita and Kornia will take part in the show. Aside from presenting their popular tracks, guest artistes will engage in casual conversations with the host and recount interesting anecdotes.





## **Ami Villain Hotey** Chai on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

Eid special play "Ami Villain Hotey Chai" will air on Rtv on the fourth day of Eid at 9:20pm. Written and directed by RB Pritam, the play centres on Raju who dreams of becoming a film villain. He comes to the capital in search of a role and comes across a popular villain called Don. He gets a chance to realise his dream but his hopes are dashed when he is asked to do an objectionable role. He runs off the set and the story takes a new turn. The play casts Mosharraf Karim in the lead role.