

WHAT'S ON

**Ekushey Book Fair**  
 Organiser: Bangla Academy  
 Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan  
 Date: February 1-28  
 Time: 3-8pm

**Chobi Mela IX**  
 Title: Transition  
 Venue: BSA Art Gallery, Northbrook Hall, BAFA, Beauty Boarding  
 Date: February 3-16

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Beautiful Bengal  
 Artist: Mokhesur Rahman  
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi  
 Date: Jan 28- Feb 10  
 Time: 3-8pm

**Street Theatre Festival**  
 Organiser: BGTF  
 Venue: Central Shaheed Minar  
 Date: Jan 31-Feb 7  
 Time: 4pm onwards

**Dhaka Live Art Biennale**  
 Organiser: Back ART  
 Venue: Charukola, Curzon Hall, Chohor Haat, DU Swimming Pool  
 Date: February 1-3  
 Time: 10am-1pm; 7:30-9pm

**Group Print Exhibition**  
 Chhapai Chhobi-3  
 Venue: Galleri Kaya  
 Date: Jan 28-Feb 10  
 Time: 11am-7:30pm

NEWS bytes

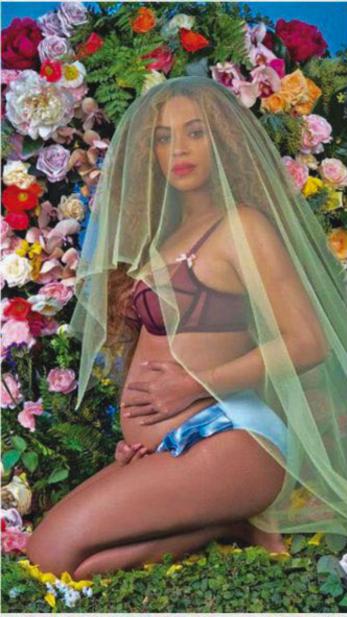
BEYONCE

pregnancy announcement breaks Instagram record

Beyonce set Instagram ablaze with a record-setting post announcing that she's pregnant with twins. Queen Bey's surprise news, accompanied by a highly stylized photo of herself wearing lingerie, draped in a veil and clutching her bulging belly, notched 7.12 million likes in 12 hours after she posted it to Instagram Wednesday. The post also got over 3,60,000 comments in that time — and the numbers are still climbing. That already beats previous record holder Selena Gomez, whose Instagram sponsored post of herself sipping a Coke last June has garnered 6.3 million likes to date (and 250,000 comments).

The 20-time Grammy winner's news also was burning up Twitter, which reported 500,000 tweets about the twins announcement in the 45 minutes after her Instagram post went up. Beyonce — with 92.9 million followers — however, is not the 'Queen of Instagram'. That title belongs to Gomez, who has 108.4 million followers, while Taylor Swift and Ariana Grande also have bigger Instagram followings than Beyonce. Beyonce and husband Jay Z (aka Shawn Carter) also have a 5-year-old daughter, Blue Ivy. "We would like to share our love and happiness. We have been blessed two times over," Beyonce wrote in her Instagram post.

Source: Variety



A fresh take on timeless classics

STAR MELODIES' UNPLUGGED MUSICAL SOIREE AT TDS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was rather a unique presentation of the songs of yesteryears that prominent and promising singers -- Romana Islam, Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb, Anupoma Mukti, Prithwi Raj and Ritu Raj -- performed in an unplugged soiree held at AS Mahmud Hall of The Daily Star Centre on January 28.

The Daily Star's regular monthly arrangement "Star Melodies" hosted the special musical evening of popular Bangla songs of golden era.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, delivered the welcome address at the programme. Eminent Nazrul exponent and Star Arts & Entertainment Editor Sadya Afreen Mallick, who compered the programme, enriched the audience elaborating the era of Gramophone Records and its relevant significance and scientific inventions around the world.

Shawjeeb on keys, Riyad on cajón (box percussion originated from Peru), Mithun on acoustic guitar and Faisal Ahmed on bass guitar embellished the musical evening. The arrangements of the songs found a new dimension with the rather unusual instrumental arrangement for these types of songs. Led by Shawjeeb, the musicians played with vivacity, and it lifted the singers' performances. Mithun's sweet fillers along with Riyad's energetic



Romana Islam and Anupoma Mukti perform at the soiree.



beats resonated with the audience. Romana Islam, daughter of legendary musician and filmmaker Khan Ataur Rahman, first took the stage and set off the soiree with "Akasher Oi Mitimiti Tarar Sathey". She immersed in melody while rendering her next song, composed by her father... "Tumi Cheyechhile Ogo Jante". The singer also performed several other songs "Hridoy Amar Sundor Tobo", "Tumi Ashbe Bole" and "Eki Sonar Aloy" (on request).

Brothers Prithwi Raj and Ritu Raj captivated music lovers with their performance, gripping the melody while performing "Amar E Duti

Chokh" (originally recorded by Subir Nandi), "Aj Ei Brishtir Kanna Dekhe" (A Niaz Mohammad record), "Ami Je Jalsha Ghar-e" (Manna Dey/Sandhya Mukhopadhyay) and "Dol-e Dodul Dol-e Dulona" (originally recorded by Shyamal Mitra and Manabendra Mukhopadhyay). The artiste duo beautifully combined their classical training and aptitude in the songs, improvising taans and sargams. The singers later performed a Nazrul Sangeet "Porodeshi Megh" with pianist Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb on request.

Prior to their performance, Dada Tapan Kanti Baidya, renowned clas-

sical vocalist and father of Raj duo, spoke at the programme. He shared his memories of holding Sadarang Classical music festival from the mid-80s.

Anupama Mukti was next to take the stage. The elegant singer sang "Phuler Mala Poriye Dilam", "Gaan Hoye Ele", "Haat-er Kakon Phelechi Khule", "Ami Swapney Tomaye Dekhechi" and some other songs on request. Mukti, a talented singer, held the attention of the audience as she did in previous programmes of Star Melodies.

Noted artiste Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb enthralled music enthusiasts, opening with a Sachin Dev

Burman song, "Shono Go Dokhina Hawa". The singer's presentation to the presentation "Ghum Ashe Na", an Ajoy Chakrabarty record, was fantastic. He later performed "Boishakhi Megh-er Kachhe" and mesmerised the audience with a cover of the popular Abdul Jabbar record "Orey Neel Doria". Shawjeeb later presented several songs on request. As he wrapped up the soiree with the score "Gangey Joar Elo Phirey", the audience clamoured for more.

The event was organised with assistance from Eastern Bank Limited and Simantic Creative Concern.



Prithwi and Ritu Raj, Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb and the musicians brought a new flavor to the classic songs.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Bangla Khyal Utsab held at Channel i



Performers of the festival with Shykh Seraj.

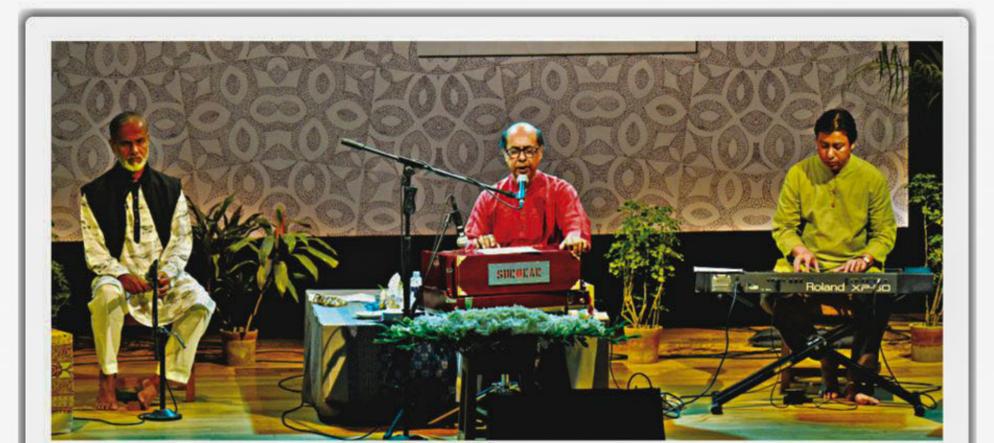
A CORRESPONDENT

Channel i held its third Bangla Khyal Utsab on January 31 at their premises. The nightlong event was hosted by musicologist Azad Rahman and featured performances by around 100 veteran and budding artistes alike. Channel i Director and Head of News Shykh Seraj was present at the inauguration of the event, along with Azad Rahman and singer Ferdous Ara.

Speakers at the opening emphasised the influence of the Language Movement and the Liberation War on Bangla

classical music, and the rising popularity of Bangla Khayal festival.

The festival began with a choral presentation of "Ma Ma Bole Dako" on Raga Ahir Bhoirav, followed by renditions in Ragas Miyan Ki Todi, Malkauns, Adana, Jaijaiwanti and Desh. Artistes Dr. Asit Roy, Leo J Baroi, Priyanka Gope, Kharul Anam Shakil, Shaheen Samad, Dalia Nausheen, Dr Nashid Kamal, Dr. Leena Taposhi Khan, Dada Tapon Kanti Baidya, Karim Shahabuddin and others performed khyal vocals at the programme, while Yusuf Khan performed sarod and Gazi Abdul Hakim presented a flute recital.



The 50th episode of Bengal Foundation's regular musical programme, "Praner Khela", was held at the main auditorium of Chhayanaout on January 31. Noted Tagore exponents Bulbul Islam and Anandamoyi Majumdar presented Rabindra sangeet at the soiree.

Badhon's new offerings



ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Actor and noted model Badhon always has something new to offer every year, filling the screen with her graceful performances. This year is no different, and the actor has her hands full with new television plays, giving us all something to look forward to. Today Badhon shares with our readers her upcoming projects:

"I mostly work in TV plays, and this year I have been working on quite a few new projects. Viewers will find me in Masud Sezan's new play titled "Postmortem," Sagor Jahan's "Lampost" and Syed Shakil's "Shonar Shikol," Anjan Aich's "Obaak Din Raatri." I have also done a Valentine's Day special for this year, to be aired by ATN Bangla where Urmila and Irfan Sazzad will also be starring with me."

Being such a busy person, is there someone she misses whom she hasn't seen in a while? Badhon is quick to respond: "I am very fortunate to have all those I love- family, friends and other acquaintances-nearby! But on my time off, I prefer to spend time with my kids."