

**WHAT'S ON**  
**Photography Exhibition**  
 Title: London 1971: Unsung Heroes of the Bangladesh Liberation War  
 Venue: British Council  
 Date: March 3-31



**Bengal Sangskriti Utshab**  
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation  
 Venue: AMA Mulith Sports Complex, Sylhet  
 Date: Feb 22-Mar 3  
 Time: 4pm onwards



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Journey & Images  
 Artist: Ranjit Das  
 Venue: Galleri Kaya  
 Date: March 12-25  
 Time: 11am-8pm



**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
 Title: Here, For Now  
 Photographer: Hadi Uddin  
 Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur  
 Date: Feb 25- Mar 22  
 Time: 5pm-8pm



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Poetry of Darkness  
 Artist: Rashedul Huda  
 Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka  
 Date: Feb 24- Mar 7  
 Time: 3pm-9pm




# "Bhuban Majhi" premieres today

Up close and exclusive with Aparna Ghose

**ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN**  
 The ever growing film industry of Bangladesh has witnessed the arrival of quality cinema, offering the audience unforgettable experiences in the theatre halls. Today marks the premiere of the much anticipated "Bhuban Majhi," a Liberation War drama directed by Fakhru Arefeen Khan that sports a stellar cast including prominent Kolkata actor Parambrata Chatterjee and popular Bangladeshi actress Aparna Ghose in the lead roles.

kinship with Farida, and felt we had similarities. There are many Liberation War-based films and stories, but this one surrounds actual events and the figures connected to that time, so we were not just playing roles, but embodying real people. Thus the acting experience was different from what I have done before. How successful was I in portraying Farida? That is a question that only Farida, or anyone that knows her, can answer.

*What sets this film apart from other films that deal with the Liberation War as its central theme?*  
 This is based on real life events. The Liberation War films that we have seen so far focused on stories of a particular region or group of people. This film takes place in Kushtia, and is based on the story of Motiur Rahman, a Baul ascetic and singer. To maintain the authenticity of the lived experiences of people, our scenes have been shot in their immediate environments.



Parambrata Chatterjee and Maznun Mizan in a scene from the film.

It also stars Mamunur Rashid, Maznun Mizan, Sushama Sarkar and singer Waqeel. Produced by Gorai Films and Reflect Multimedia Communications, The Daily Star is the Youth Engagement Partner of the film. In a recent conversation, Aparna Ghose reveals her experiences working in the film, and what the audience may expect.  
*How has your experiences been working for this film?*  
 When the director first told me about the script, the story moved me profoundly and I was elated to receive such an opportunity. Another motivation for taking up this role was to work with Param da. My character, Farida, is a fearless girl who is exceptionally inspirational, and I have always desired to represent a strong woman. I felt a strong

*What are your expectations following its release?*  
 Those working for any film have high expectations because of the efforts we invest. But not all stories will appeal to the general public, and this is where I feel "Bhuban Majhi" differs as it is not only a Liberation War film, it's also a love story that is central to the plot. I will admit this though, to capture the 1971 era was challenging, and the director has helped me immensely to play my part successfully. This is also the first time where I have seen each department concerned with the film, from costume and everything else, have had crucial contributions towards it coming to fruition. I hope that our hard work is rewarded by the audience enjoying the film.

*As the film is based on true events and real figures of the time, how did you prepare for your role?*  
 Our director Arefeen had met the real Farida before, and talked to me about her at length which helped me portray her on screen, and some scenes were shot at her house. To be immersed in my character's environment, and to see the hardships she faced in life, I slipped into her shoes with ease and was able to become her.  
*What's next for you, now that the film has been released?*  
 Right now I am anticipating the audience's response to the film. I cannot take up too many projects at one time, and prefer to wait before signing on for the next one.

# London 1971 photography exhibits in Sylhet

Unsung heroes of Bangladesh Liberation war remembered



**DWOHA CHOWDHURY**  
 Hundreds of people at the 'London 1971' exhibition at Mohammad Ali Gymnasium in Sylhet learnt with fascination about the many unsung heroes of the Liberation War of Bangladesh through a display of memorabilia from London back in 1971. The 'London 1971' exhibition that concluded on Monday evening was organised by Project London 1971 in association with Ministry of Cultural Affairs and British Council in Bangladesh. The exhibition presented around 100 photographs, British newspaper cuttings with the headlines, publicity leaflets and many other throwbacks to the Liberation War of 1971. The exhibits transported viewers to an era when Bangladeshi expatriates, Freedom Fighters and the British staged demonstrations to gather international support for the cause of Liberation. These moments were captured by British photographer Roger Gwynn and Bangladeshi photographer Yousuf Chowdhury. During the inaugural session on Friday afternoon, Former Supreme Court Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik was present as chief guest and former

Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Dr. AK Abdul Momen inaugurated the exhibit. Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik, who was also an organiser of the Liberation War from abroad said during the inauguration that the exhibition took him back to the days of 1971. He also venerated spoke on the movement from abroad stating that many countries fighting for years for liberation are deprived due to lack of global support while Bangladesh back in 1971 got the global recognition for people who wholeheartedly supported the Liberation War from abroad. Dr. AK Abdul Momen said the expatriates along with many foreigners may not have witnessed the battle field but they were Freedom Fighters nevertheless. He said these unsung heroes must be identified and honoured by the government for their dedication to the cause of the Liberation war of 1971. During the inaugural session, Jalal Ahmed, additional secretary of finance ministry and Candal Robbins, art director of British Council were present. Fazlul Kabir Tuhin, chairman of Project London 1971 chaired the inauguration.

# An evening of timeless Bangla songs

Noted artistes mesmerise Chittagong music aficionados



**ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong**  
 Music aficionados in the port city of Chittagong were spellbound on Saturday evening, as they enjoyed the performance of noted artistes of the country. Renowned and accomplished singers Syed Abdul Hadi, Sabina Yasmin, Subir Nandi and Samina Chowdhury shared the stage to perform music, organised by HSBC, titled "Chokh Je Moner Kotha Boley" at a local hotel. Renowned composer Sujeya Syam was behind the musical direction in the stage performances of artistes. Legendary music director Alauddin Ali surprised all as he hummed a few lines of the classic song - "Ekbar Jodi Keu Bhalobasto", that he had composed around 35 years back for the movie "Jonmo Theke Jolchhi". Afzal Hossain and Mithila Farzana emceed the programme and called up yesteryears Bangla cinema superstar Suchanda, on stage. Earlier, Syed Abdul Hadi performed songs including "Chokher Nojor Emni Koira" and "Emonoto Prem Hoy". Next Samina Chowdhury came up on stage and performed -- "Aamar Dui Chokhe Dui Nodi", "Ekbar Jodi Keu Bhalobasto" and "Aynate Oi Mukh Dekhbe Jokhon", played back by Mahmudun Nabi, another legendary artiste of the country, for the movie "Nacher Putul" in 1971. As Subir Nandi came up on stage to perform, the programme was almost at its peak. The artiste thanked HSBC for organising such an event to patronize mainstream

Bangla songs. He performed some classic songs including "Aaj Abar Sey Pothey Dekha Hoye Gelo", "Ei Dekhai Shesh Dekha Noito", "Chokh Je Moner Kotha Boley" and "Ami Brishtir Kachh Theke Kante Shikhechhi." Partho Barua performed "Ei Neel Moni Haar", "Nilanjana" and "Brishti Dekhe Onek Kendechhi." Sabina Yasmin started her performance with the patriotic song "Sob KoTa Janala Khuley Dao Na". She then sang "Ashru Diye Lekha Ei Gaan", "Ei Mon Tomakey Dilam" and "Rangdhanu Chokhey Chokhey, Kotha Boli Mukhey Mukhey." When the artiste was about to perform another classic "Eki Sonar Aloy Jibon Bhoriey Diley", she called upon Suchanda on the stage. Suchanda lip-synced with the song in the movie "Moner Moto Bou" released in 1969. Francois de Maricourt, chief executive officer (CEO) of the bank, said they organised the programme of Bangla music for an instance of respect to the rich culture of the world in which around 20 crore people speak. He also paid gratitude and respect to the Language Heroes and Language Martyrs in 1952 Language Movement. Mahbubur Rahman, deputy CEO of the bank, said they organised the programme so that the well-wishers of the bank might pass some moments with their near and dear ones through enjoying classic Bangla songs performed by legendary artistes of the country.

**DWOHA CHOWDHURY**  
 The fifth day of Bengal Cultural Festival in Sylhet marked the closing of Kali O Kalam Sahitya Sammilan at Syed Mujtaba Ali Mancha where poets from all walks of Bangladesh and India had gathered and presented their own creation on stage.

On the last day of the Sahitya Sammilan, poets participated in three sessions. Veteran poets Muhammad Samad, Asad Chowdhury, Anisul Haque, Satarupa Sanyal, Krishna Prasai, Henri Shwapan, Mostak Ahmed Deen, Tokon Thakur, Ratul Dev Barman, Mondakranta Sen, BithyChakrabarty and many others were present. Sunday's cultural fest at the Hason Raja Mancha began with a dance drama 'Drohokal' of Nrityashaily Sylhet. The dance drama is based on from "Ekattorer Chithi" by Humayun Kabir Jewel and directed by



# BENGAL CULTURAL FEST '17

Sahitya Sammilan ends

**Nilanjana Das.**  
 Another attraction of the day was the sarod recital by Rajrupa Chowdhury. This was followed by a performance by Laisa Ahmed Lisa of Tagore and three poets which also touched a chord with the audience. Popular folk musician Kuddus Boyati appeared on stage next to present Palagaan of greater Sylhet-Mymensingh region.

Kuddus Boyati created a stir with his renditions of "Pagla Ghora", "Ekdin Bangali Chilam Re" and more. Thousands of people from all walks left the venue to the strains of "Amar Jamuna r Jol Dekhte Kalo". The 10-day Bengal Cultural Fest will end on March 3 with many more presentations to enthrall Sylhet.



# Rani Mukerji to make comeback with "Hichki"

Actress Rani Mukerji is all set to return to the big screen, nearly four years after she was last seen in 2014 film "Mardaani". Rani is married to Yash Raj Films boss Aditya Chopra and gave birth to their first child, a daughter named Adira, in 2015. Now that Adira is a year old, Rani is all set to return to her acting career. The actress will be seen in the Siddharth P Malhotra-directed "Hichki" (meaning hiccup), which will be produced by YRF talent Maneesh Sharma. "I was looking for a script that would challenge and excite me, and 'Hichki' came my way," Rani Mukerji said in a statement. "Each of us has a weakness that pulls us back. It could be a disability or any

condition but if we just look at it as simply a hiccup, we can emerge as a winner. It won't come in the way of achieving our dreams. Hichki is built on this positive premise and I decided to take it up," she added. Rani Mukerji debuted in Bollywood in 1997 film "Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat" and has featured in popular films like "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham...", "Saathiya", "Hum Tum", "Veer Zaara", "Black", "Bunty Aur Babli", "No One Killed Jessica" and "Talaash". Siddharth P Malhotra, who has directed "We Are Family" for Karan Johar's Dharna Productions, is working with YRF for the first time. Source: NDTV Movies