


WHAT'S ON


Day of Music, Poetry and Tea
 Title: Cha Chakra in Ashwin
 Venue: Cafe Shanchayita, Banani
 Date: September 20
 Time: 6pm-10pm



Musical Programme
 Title: Shunaad: Ucha Sangeet
 Ashon
 Venue: Chhayanaut, Dhanmondi
 Date: September 17-18
 Time: 7pm




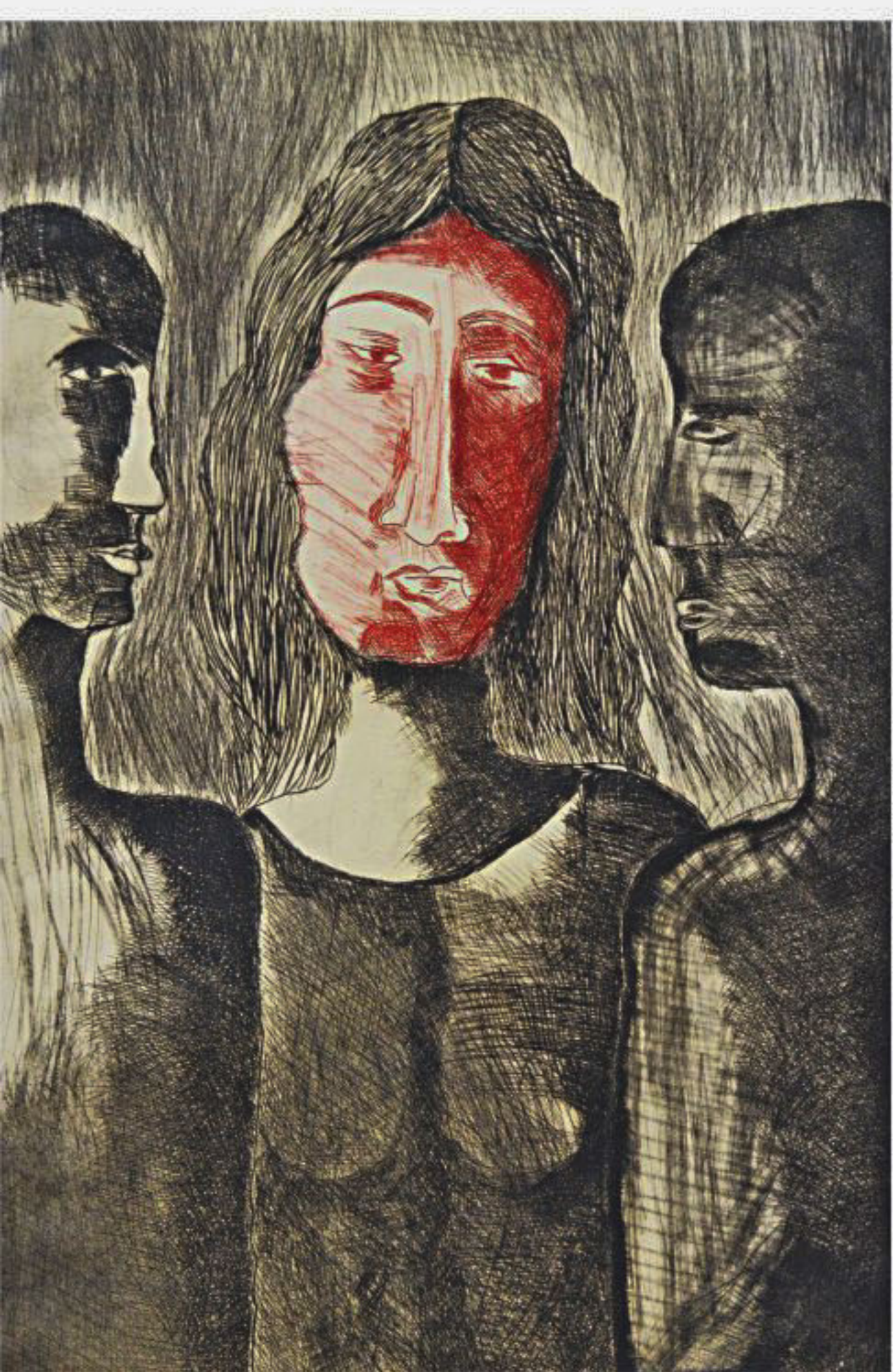
Art Exhibition
 Title: State of Mind
 Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
 Date: September 7 - October 3
 Time: 4:30pm - 8:30pm
 Facebook Page: Kala Kendra



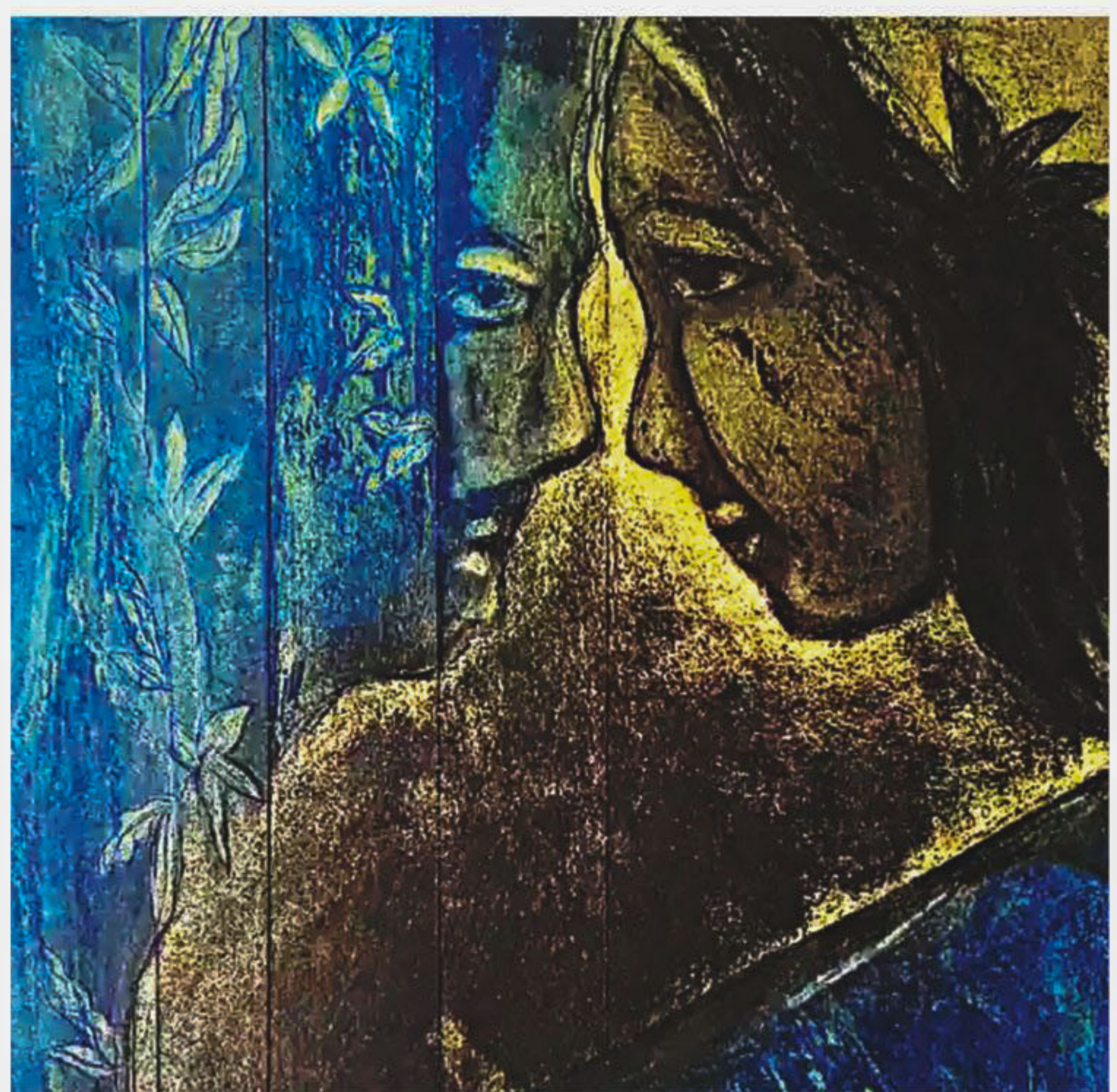
Movie Premiere
 Title: Rock Strata: Live On Silver Screen
 Venue: Star Cineplex, Bashundhara City
 Date: September 29
 Time: 7pm-9:30pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: S.M. Sultan-The Cosmic Journey of a Fugitive
 Artist: Nasir Ali Mamun
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD

'Confusing communication'



'Mirror Inside'

Utsho stages AGUN CHABUK

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Theatre group Utsho staged their fifth production, *Agun Chabuk* at the Experimental Hall in Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on September 14. The premier took place at 5 pm, and the show took place at 7:30 pm on the same day. The drama was directed by Mannan Hira.

This is a love story about a young couple whose relationship revolves around harvesting. The story takes a sharp bend when a *fatwabaj* (authoritative) muezzin of the village puts an unethical hurdle in front of them in the name of religion.

The uniqueness of the drama is accentuated by a talking scarecrow that not only narrates the story, but is also an important character of the production. The simplicity of the production seemed to have won the audiences' hearts in its premier.

The show was inaugurated by veteran theater personnel Mamunur Rashid, Ramendu Majumdar and many other distinguished personalities. The second show was graced by the presence of theatre personality Jhuna Chowdhury, Dr Irin Parvin Lopa, Robaet Ferdous and Ahmed Gias.

Assistant professor of Dhaka University, Robaet Ferdous in his short speech congratulated the team, but expressed his doubts about the believability of the story. "I thought the performers demonstrated tremendous energy," he said, "However, I would like to question the authenticity of the characters. I feel like there is space for improvement." In response to this, director Manna Hira said, "I appreciate the query, and all I can say is the reality of life and the reality of art is quite different. What is said in the story is what we believe would be an ideal situation."



PHOTO: AKIB ABDULLAH

Relaying human feelings through art

In conversation with artiste prometteur, Mahmuda Akter Lutfa

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Promising Bangladeshi artist Mahmuda Akter Lutfa enrolled at the Department of Graphic Art at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan to receive her Undergraduate Degree. During her four-year stay at the abode of peace and harmony, she not only received art education, but also passionately learnt Bharatnatyam under Shankar Narayan.

"I received great affection from my teachers," says Lutfa, "Students generally go to Santiniketan to pursue their degrees, as they offer unbridled academic freedom and the school is

known for its approach to help guide young minds come to terms with their own findings."

Although she has been taught many techniques of printmaking at her department, she loves etching as her most favorite medium of art. "Artists have the power to make people think from their own ground of emotions," says Lutfa, "I work on human feelings, particularly people's dreams, expectations, imagination, and their mental depiction of social relationships." In this regard, Lutfa depicts human expressions through facial juxtapositions and the feelings of happiness and sorrow at the same



time. There are many objects and fragmented forms used as subjects of Lutfa's work. For example, *Mirror Inside* is a piece that she has com-

pleted by zooming into the reflection of someone else's imagination. This is likely why Lutfa collected works by Sanat Kar, a very well known Indian artist.

Lutfa, in her works portrays the interpersonal-relationships, complex psychological states and her everyday experiences that she accumulates by mingling with people from different social strata. A good evidence of all that can be detected in many of her works, especially in her submission to 'All India Woman Contemporary Artists in Chandigarh' and the one in 21st Young Artists Art Exhibition in Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.



"It is during crisis that art flourishes the most"

- Marina Coelho

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Brazilian curator Marina Coelho is currently residing in Bangladesh as a research resident in Bengal Arts Programme, working on the contemporary art scene of Bangladesh. She is based in Ghent, Belgium, where she is developing new theoretical research alongside other international curatorial projects. In a conversation with The Daily Star, Marina talks about the concept of curation and her practice.

During her studies in Switzerland, she started garnering interest in being a curator. When she resided in São Paulo, the region did not have many independent art spaces. However, in Switzerland, she found independent spaces which artists or curators could rent. She discovered that the role of a curator is of one who contacts artists and follows up with their careers, and plans exhibitions with them. Curators work side-by-side with artists to come up with a show. Curators may also choose a theme and work in and around it. "Most of these function as experimental spaces for displaying art which are not necessarily for commercial purposes," says Marina, "They are usually performances, sight-specific work and ephemeral art. These works are free and sometimes politically engaging."

She ran a project called *Kunsthal São Paulo* for five years. She began with local artists, but gradually began working with international ones. She traveled to different countries and learned about artists in

their respective art scenes. She then selected some potential artists and invited them to São Paulo, where they experienced the Brazilian culture and expressed their observations through art as a response to it. "The job of a curator is also to guide the young artists when necessary," Marina adds.

While discussing about freedom of artists, Marina commented, "There will always be blockades, but it is during crisis that art flourishes the most."

During her month-long stay in Bangladesh, she intends to meet as many young artists as possible and help them create portfolios which can enhance their artistic careers.

Marina conducted a two day master-class with Bengal Arts Programme, where she spoke about the important art movements in South America and art in politically oppressive context. Artists, curators and art enthusiasts were engaged in an interactive exchange session during the event.

Mingling Bharatnatyam with Yoga

Nritya Nandan's Nritya Yog Sutra held at Shilpakala

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Noted dance troupe Nritya Nandan organised a week-long dance workshop on a new style named 'Nritya Yog Sutra'- the combination of Bharatnatyam with Yoga. Renowned Kolkata -based Bharatnatyam dancer and practitioner, Rahul Dev Mondal has conducted the workshop.

Rahul, also a guest lecturer at Rabindra Bharati University, trained around 70 Bharatnatyam students from various practising schools from Dhaka and other districts of the country.

Young dancers from all over the country participated in the workshop. The workshop concluded with a presentation by the participants at the rehearsal room of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Rahul Dev Mondal also charmed the audience with his impressive performance.

Nritya Nandan has always been dedicated to taking dance in Bangladesh to higher levels through such workshops and other art endeavours.

"Concentration is important in any form of art," says Sharmila Banerjee, director of Nritya Nandan, "Since yoga plays an essential role in increasing concentration, the thought of incorporating yoga into Bharatnatyam really inspired me."

Sharmila Banerjee also thinks that this workshop will help these young dancers understand their body language better. Banerjee thanked the participants and their parents for showing such enthusiasm and dedication for this seven day long workshop.



PHOTO: AKIB ABDULLAH



Fan Bingbing goes 'missing'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

One of China's highest paid movie stars, Fan Bingbing of 'X-Men' fame has been reportedly missing for the past two months. It is rumoured that she has been detained by Chinese authorities for evading taxes, however no formal charges have been placed. Further speculation suggests she may be in hiding or seeking asylum in Los Angeles. Bingbing was set to appear alongside Jessica Chastain, Penélope Cruz, Lupita Nyong'o and Marion Cotillard in upcoming spy thriller 355, directed by Simon Kinberg.