



Film Screening
Title: DIFF Show by Rainbow Film Society – Ek Je Chilo Raja
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: January 12
Time: 4 pm – 7 pm



Winter Festival
Title: Him Utshab
Venue: Jahangirnagar University
Date: January 17 – 19
Time: 10 am



Musical Evening
Title: Soviota And The Band Live At Ajo Idea Space
Venue: Ajo Idea Space, Uttara
Date: January 19
Time: 7:30 pm – 9 pm



Explore Old Dhaka
Title: Make A Tour Presents Explore Old Dhaka – A Heritage Walk (Season-2)
Venue: Old Dhaka
Date: January 11
Time: 8 am – 4 pm



Bulbul Chowdhury Birth Centenary
Organisers: BSA & BNSS
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Yearlong Celebration currently

Bangladeshi singers enthral at Bangla Utshab on Day 2



Chandana Majumdar



Khairul Anam Shakil



Bulbul Islam



PHOTO: COURTESY

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes from Kolkata

Rabindharan Tagore, in his timeless song *Krishnakoli Ami Tarei Boli* spoke of a beautiful dark skinned girl, to who a poet may ask, *Kalo? Ta Shey Jotoi Kalo Houk; Dekhechhi Taar Kalo Horin Chokh*. This imagery was brought to life by the renowned Bangladeshi singer Bulbul Islam on the second day of the Bangla Utshab, held at Nazrul Mancha, Rabindra Sarobar in Kolkata, India.

Bangladeshi tabla artiste Enamul Haque Omar and Indian flautist Bubai Nandi further embellished the song, producing apt musical pieces to suit the extraordinary closing day. The singer also mesmerised the audience with songs *Tumi Sondhar O Megho Mala* and *Shongshoyo Timiro Majhe*.

Acclaimed Indian Singer Jayati Chakraborty won hearts of many with her rendition of Tagore songs. The emotive expression of an enamoured heart, which is the core of the song, *Amar Ei Poth Chawatet Ananda*, came alive with Jayati's magic. Her voice soothed the audience, as she sang *Borisho Dhora Majhe Shantiro Bari*. The artiste wrapped up her part with the song *Bipulo Torongo Rey*. Indian singer Gautam Das Baul beautifully performed folk songs at the festival.

Seasoned Tagore singer Aditi Mohsin captivated the audience with songs like

Tomaye Gaan Shonabo and *Je Raate Mor Duarguli*, while renowned artiste Laisa Ahmed Lisa rendered songs composed by four great poets – Tagore, DL Roy, Atul Prasad and Rajanikanta. Her repertoire included *Chitto Pipashito Rey, Jagao Pothikey* and *Ami Bandhinu TomaTeerey*.

Celebrated Bangladeshi singer Khairul Anam Shakil and famous Indian artiste Indrani Sen rendered Nazrul Sangeet at the festival, namely *Tomar Aankhir Moto, Keno Aano Phulodor, Ei Moru Parer Hawa*



Chirkutt

and *Pashaner Bhangale Ghum*, a song which Kazi Nazrul Islam himself recorded. He also brilliantly performed the song *Mago Chinmoyi Roop Dhorey Aye*. Indrani's rendition of the Shyama Sangeet *Mahakaler Kole Eshe Gouri Holo Mahakali* was well appreciated by everyone as well.

Eminent singer and painter Iffat Ara Dewan rendered golden numbers *Tomar Tulona Tumi Pran* by Ramnidhi Gupta, commonly known as Nidhu Babu. She

created a nostalgic ambience with the performance of the songs *Badhona Torikhani, Hridoyer Potey Tomar Muroti, Dekha Holey Ei Obelaye*, recorded by the legendary singers Angur Bala, Indu Bala and Kamola Jhoriya respectively.

Well-known folk singer Chandana Majumdar fabulously performed songs *Manush Chhara Khyapa Rey Tui, Joley Jaiyo Na Rey Rai* and *Jatikul Joubon Diyachhi*, composed by Lalon, Radharaman and Shah Abdul Karim respectively. She also sang the film (Monpura) score *Jao Pakhi Bolo Tare*, which earned her the National Film Award.

As the showstoppers, the members of the Bangladeshi band Chirkutt, swayed the audience with their popular songs *Morey Jabo, Jadur Shohor, Kanamachhi* and *Dunia*. They started off their part with the patriotic number *Dhono Dhanno Pushpe Bhora* beginning with the instrumental offering of our National Anthem that spontaneously received a standing ovation from the audience. The small, yet interactive audience, including eminent artist Jogen Chowdhury and Bengal Foundation Chairman Abul Khair sang along with the band.

Bengal Group, Bandhan Bank, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Nothing Beyond Cinema jointly organised the festival.

Apurba to star in BTV's 'Shesh Bhalo Jaye'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Prominent actor Apurba is set to star in the TV serial, *Shesh Bhalo Jaye*, produced by Bangladesh Television (BTV) and directed by Rakesh Basu. Starting off his career as a model, Apurba has been active in the fields of television and cinema for more than a decade, with many successful ventures to his credit.

Although many of his package tele-fictions have previously aired on BTV, this is the first time that Apurba is working on a project produced by the channel itself. "Even today, BTV caters to a large number of viewers. I am elated to be teaming up with BTV for this show," says Apurba.

On the other hand, the actor is also preparing for the web series, *Ditoy Koishor*, directed by Shihab Shahin.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHEDE

Many happy returns, Ankhi Alamgir!



PHOTO: STAR

SHABABA IQBAL

Popular adhunik singer Ankhi Alamgir is recognised for her stage performances both on a national and an international level. The artiste, who celebrates her birthday today, has been singing for over a decade and her brilliant voice has taken her to great heights. She opens up about her birthday plans, her views on the music industry and more in a recent chat with *The Daily Star*.

Wishing you a very happy birthday. How are you going to celebrate the day?
Well, the celebrations started off at midnight with my family. I also hope to have a small party with my close friends and relatives today. Generally, I am busy with different shows or recordings most of the time. But fortunately, this year, I have some free time on my birthday.

What are some of your most favourite songs to perform on the stage?
It depends on the kind of audience I am performing for in that moment. Some of my songs such as *Bisher Kata* and *Jol Pore Pata* receive a good reaction from the crowds. I also like to perform slow and melodious numbers.

What can you tell us about your upcoming projects?
I have just completed a song which will be released under the banner of Dhruba Music Station soon. We have shot the music video for it as well, but I cannot reveal any more details as of now.

What are your views on our music industry at the moment?
I am delighted to see that the current generation of musicians are full of talent and potential. However, I believe that there is a lack of proper guidance for them.

'Irsha' staged at BSA

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

A 100-minute drama of a love triangle, filled with jealousy, passion and emotions, was recently staged at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Titled *Irsha*, the play was staged by theatre troupe Prangonemor.

Ananta Hira, director and actor of the play, Ramiz Raju and Nuna Afroze took the audiences to a trip down memory lane, as they each narrated their stories. Nuna Afroze successfully portrayed the emotions of a conflicted woman donning a red saree. While the characters reminisced their past, the red saree was mentioned a couple of times, making it an essential element of the play. It symbolised the theme of the play, which was lust and jealousy.

Despite having only three characters, long monologues and dialogues, the play kept the audience hooked. The longest monologue of the play lasted around thirty-six minutes. Yet, there was a continuous flow in the delivery of



PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU

dialogues. However, the tremendous acting was not the only thing that made *Irsha* worth watching. The usage of a projector, playing colourful paintings throughout the show, and the lighting made the play visually appealing. When the characters

went behind the projector, their silhouettes were visible against the dimming light. This provided the viewers with an artistic sight. Shahinur Rahman, Jillur Rahman and Ramiz Raju were behind the stage design, music and lights, respectively.

'Tin Duarer Kole' launched

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Tin Duarer Kole, the autobiographical memoir by Subhash Ghosh, Chairman of Associated Builders' Corporation (ABC) Limited, was recently launched at the ABC Garden, Anwar Jong Road, Ashulia.



Prominent actor and founder of Asiatic 3 sixty, Aly Zaker, was the special guest and speaker at the programme.

The author's brother, Sujit Ghosh and daughter Srabanti Datta, and Mohiuddin Ahmed, UPL's publisher and Managing Director, were also present at the discussion, moderated by Rakhal Raha.

PHOTO: COURTESY