

# A melange of arts and crafts

## A lively Poush Mela by 'BanglaScot Foundation'

AHSAN HABIB

**B**ANGLASCOT Foundation, a collaboration between Scottish and Bangladeshi artists, was formally launched at the British Council Auditorium on December 22. *Poush Mela 2006* was the first outcome of the Foundation in Dhaka.

The daylong *Poush Mela* performances and crafts stalls formed the mainstay of the event with performances both in the indoor auditorium and out in the open air.

Traditional features like *dholis* (drummers), monkey shows, snake charmers were found along with new contemporary experimental performances by young artists. Rickshaw painting, Manipuri crafts, Mandi crafts, *pitha* (winter cake), crafts made from *shola*, terracotta, books and toys were exhibited in the stalls.

*Butterfly Butterfly*, an experimental musical theatre was central to

*Poush Mela*. The performance was produced with the artistic collaboration of actors, musicians and sculptors. Kimho Ip, a Scotland-based Chinese composer/musician and a key person in BanglaScot's projection of modern Scotland, composed the music. The performance tells the story of the life cycle of butterflies and reflected the transformation from conflict to harmony.

To achieve this, Kimho Ip created dialogues between pop/rock, folk, western classical, eastern classical and contemporary music with carefully choreographed improvisation, and open-minded and sensitive listening. He believes, "Innovative metamorphosis only takes place when reconciliation of differences is truly conceived and respected." Surely the music they played was the most contemporary ever played here.

Actors from Prachynat, musicians from Joler Gaan and visual artists worked together in the one



Kimho Ip and local musicians perform at the Mela

hour-long performance. Imran Hossain Piplu, Kimho Ip and Emon Islam are the directors of the performance. In the course of this collaborative work, Bangladeshi artists learned a lot from Kimho and likewise, he also benefited from the local artists and thus his work becomes a part of Bangladesh and Bangladesh a part of him.

Yang Qin, a musical instrument was used by Kimho Ip in the performance of *Butterfly Butterfly*. "This instrument was played for the first time in Bangladesh," said Kimho Ip.

Talking to *The Daily Star*, noted cultural activist Nasruddin Yousuff said, "We have a long history of cultural ties with Scotland. Prince

Dwarkanath Tagore received the honour of 'freeman of the City of Edinburgh'. Rabindranath Tagore's *Phool phool dholey dholey* and *Purano shei diner kotha* were based on Scottish tunes. This *Poush Mela* is a continuation of the connections established through them. In this changing world the role of cultural activities for the promotion of peace, love and mutual support makes it more relevant than ever before".

Alan Tweedie from Scotland explained how the idea of a *Poush Mela* developed. To quote him, "The concept of BanglaScot has been developing over the past few years. Bangladeshi artists have

been participating in Scottish *melas* held there by South Asian diaspora communities since 2000. The artists felt the need of a platform for a long-term connection so that new ideas developed from cultural interaction can be sustained for the good of both countries."

In the formal inauguration programme Nasruddin Yousuff, Alan Tweedie, co-organiser, and Masud Khan of British Council delivered speeches. The programme ended with the performances of Mehreen and Joler Gaan.



A scene from *Butterfly - Butterfly*

# Wrishiz Shilpi Gosthi celebrates 30th anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On December 22, a reception for eminent personalities and a cultural programme was arranged at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Wrishiz Shilpi Gosthi (WSG).

The programme was dedicated to the recently deceased veteran poet Shamsur Rahman and artist Nitun Kundu. Language Movement activist Mahub Alam Chowdhury was present as chief guest. Veteran director of TV drama; Atiqul Haque Chowdhury, editor of the *Daily Sangbad*, Bazlur Rahman and general secretary of the Shammito Sangskritik Jote, Golam Kuddus were present as special guests. President of the organisation, Fakir Alamgir, presided over the event.

On the occasion, WSG honoured five eminent personalities of the country with crests, certificates and cash for their contributions in their respective fields. A posthumous award went to Flight Lieutenant Motiur Rahman (Birsreshtho), in the Liberation War category. Other

recipients were journalist Nirmol Sen, women's activist Hena Das, National Professor Nurul Islam in the sphere of medicine and Shujao Shyam in the artist category of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

Late Motiur Rahman's wife Mili Rahman received the award on behalf of her husband.

After the award giving ceremony,

Subir Nandi, Nomita Ghosh, Lilly Islam, Moly Kumar Ganguli, Bulbul Moholanabish, and Pronoy Barua, among others rendered songs.

This was followed by a group dance with a patriotic Nazrul song *Durgomogini Kantar Moru*, choreographed by Tamanna Rahman. Hasan Arif, Nabina Ghosh and others recited poems.



Lilly Islam presents a song at the event

# Group Exhibition Poignant paintings & prints

FAYZA HAQ

In the superb Japan-Bangladesh venture of eight contemporary artists, GS Kabir has organised a marvellous display at Zainul Gallery 1 and 2. The ongoing exhibit, in the heart of the city, should draw crowds, despite the prevailing difficult days. Soft, lyrical washes, combined with mixed media work, along with subtle prints from Japan, present the wonderful works. Going by themes, lines and colours, the works are impeccable. The artists include Iftikhar Ahmed, Kanakchanpa Chakma, KM Mithu, Atsuko Minmi, Mao Nakada and Tsukiko Baba.

The symbolic, vibrant mixed-media work by Iftikharuddin Ahmed, of international repute for three decades, presents the pendulums of life in gold, gray and white. They have the intrinsic designs of compass -- essential for scientific progress. Set on a backdrop of scintillating curved rectangle, the subjects are framed with a dramatic swoop of black and amber, touched with burnt-sienna and ultramarine. Burnt-umber and white along with royal blue and white project the subject. Interesting and thought-provoking, minute texture work lend more interest. The title of the work is *Searching space and perfection*.

Kanakchanpa's *Evening in Hill* (mixed-media), done in orange, gray and black, present Kanak's eternal theme of the Hill Tracts women. The subject, done in quick black sweeps, has chunky, silver jewels and the tribal costume with motifs. Vegetable gourd utensils to the left and dramatic swells of black and gray complete the mesmerizing work.

KM Mithu's *A piece of memory* (acrylic on paper) brings in the poignant past of pearl gray and white containing images with quick, feathery strokes in gentle multi-colours. Flecks of red, blue and



shades of turquoise and jade, specially the subject of the still-life, a vase with sweeping blossoms in aquamarine and topaz gold, the lighting work is touched off by splashes of white and a stroke of jet-black. Atsuko Minami's *In the bubble* (lithograph) is a mind-whirling creation with blobs, circles, triangles and other geometrical forms. The final impact of the print is like some enlarged vision of falling raindrops -- seen in the evening -- through a window of a speeding train, or a prism.

*Expose-4* (etching) by Shuzoo Kumagai is a part of an overwhelm-



Artworks by Iftikhar Uddin Ahmed (Top) and Mao Nakada

ruby-red balance the careful but spontaneous composition. Muslim Mia's wood mix print, *Element of folk song* contains a cockerel with intertwining loops and bars of notes. Gentle splashes of royal-blue, jet-black and mauve gray along with matching texture work hold up the subject.

The romantic creation *In my room* (woodcut) by Mao Nakada, from Japan, is certainly eye-catching and soothing. Done in

ing series that creates images of swirling, gliding and falling free-forms. The subjects could be taken for pensive human heads, butterfly wing motifs, accumulating dust and water on a burnt-sienna wall, or scintillating colours, sometimes seen on paths after rain and snow-storm. *Twin-boat* (lithograph) by Tsukiko Baba with soft, caressing images of gray upon lighter gray is also appealing.

## CULTURAL FEAST

### Group Exhibition

**Title:** Contemporary 4  
**Artists:** Iftikhar Uddin Ahmed, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Khalid Mahmood Mithu, Md Muslim Mia, Atsuko Minami, Mao Nakada, Shuzoo Kumagai and Tsukiko Baba  
**Venue:** Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts  
**Date:** December 19-25

### Paintings and Sculpture Exhibition by Young Artists

**Organiser:** Dots, Contemporary Art Centre  
**Venue:** 191/A Haque Tower (2nd floor), Teigaon-Gulshan Link Road, Gulshan  
**Date:** December 20-30  
**Time:** 11:00am to 8:00pm

### Asian Film Mela

**Organiser:** Dhaka Film Society  
**December 24**  
2:30pm The Scent of Green  
4:30pm Cafe Transit  
6:30pm Palanka  
**December 25**  
2:30pm House of Flying Daggers  
4:30pm Turn Left Turn Right  
6:30pm Omkara  
**December 26**  
2:30pm Fireworks  
4:30pm West Beyrouth  
6:30pm Waiting for the Clouds  
**Venue:** Alamgir Kabir Chalachchitra Kendra Milonayaton, 62 Science Laboratory Road, Dhaka

# Single episode drama 'Surjo Uthar Agye' on Channel i

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A special TV play based on our Liberation War was telecast on Channel i recently. Eminent writer Rabeya Khatun has penned the story of the play. Gazi Rakayet has directed the play and he is also the scriptwriter. Veteran actress Ferdousi Majumdar plays the lead role.

The story hinges around an aging village woman named Sakhina, who fought against the Pakistanis in the Liberation War. The nine months of war hit her very hard as she loses

her husband. Later, Chuni, the local collaborator of Pakistani Army, physically assaults her and drags her to entertain the Pakistan Army officers. Sakhina can never forget the terrible night and barbarism of the local commander. At present she works in a hospital as a nurse. One day she discovers a patient who is known as the popular leader Khale-quzzaman Chuni Mia. She recognises him instantly as he was the culprit and collaborator of the Pakistani Army. Thus the story advances.



Ferdousi Majumdar (R) and co-artist in the serial

# Dev Anand: The ageless actor



Dev Anand

After a lull, renowned 83-year-old Indian actor Dev Anand is once more in the news. This time he is coming up with an autobiography which he describes as a journey that is as much "cinematic" as "personal, national, universal, even political." The book is set to hit the stands on his next birthday on September 26 next year.

For this international publication, Anand has used photographs from his personal collection. The magnum opus goes beyond his films. It covers 60

years of his working life and 83 years of his life. What's more is that the book delves into pre-independence India and the freedom struggle.

Explaining the debacle of his latest work *Mr Prime Minister*, Anand is upbeat about the future. Coming up next is a Hindi film called *Chargesheet*, which is likely to be wrapped up in April. Shooting will also begin for another film, set in Croatia.

Source: Internet

## TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

### News Bulletin

**BTV**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).  
**CHANNEL-i**  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.  
**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.  
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.  
**ntv**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

**CHANNEL 1**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am  
**BANGLAVISION**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm  
News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm  
**RTV**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am

**BTV**  
08:30 Open University  
12:30 Maa O Shishur Kotha  
01:00 Bansori  
01:30 Mati o Manush  
02:15 Children's Programme  
03:05 Shomarohe  
03:05 Cartoon: Bed Time Stories  
03:30 Educational Programme  
04:00 Computer show  
04:30 Krira Diganto  
05:05 National Television Debate Competition  
06:10 Subarno Oit  
06:40 Tagore Song  
07:30 Nitritr Taley Taley  
08:35 Protidin Bangladesh  
08:45 Durey Kothao  
09:20 Drama Serial: Swapno Shonar Gaon  
**CHANNEL-i**  
08:05 Tagore Song  
08:30 Shakaler Gaan  
09:30 Songbadpotre Bangladesh  
09:50 Tritimatra  
11:05 Tele Prescription  
11:30 Hridoye Mati O Manush  
12:30 Taroka Kathan  
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
01:30 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh  
02:40 Selected Drama  
04:05 Amader Gaan

04:25 Sa Re Ga Ma  
05:30 Chithi Pelam  
06:00 Rupantor  
07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat  
09:35 Jibon Jekhane Jemon  
10:00 Mega Serial: Jog Blog  
**ATN BANGLA**  
10:30 Onnodrishti Drama  
Serial: Hortoner Bibi  
12:15 Musical Programme  
01:30 Shomali Shadakalo  
02:30 Telefilm: Ekhono Bhor Hoy  
05:10 Prapok  
06:25 Aktel Protidin  
08:00 Drama Serial: Khola Duar  
08:40 Drama Serial: Nirey Tar Nil Dheu  
09:20 Drama Serial: Pichhutan Shal 2006  
**ntv**  
10:05 Animal Kingdom  
10:30 Natoker Gaan  
11:00 Mon Amar Shondhan Kori  
11:30 Talk Show: Ki Kotha Tahar Shathej Obadh Nirbachon  
12:05 Hoi Hullor  
12:30 Muklangon  
01:05 Drama  
03:50 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhe Jabo Jabo  
04:25 Apon Aloy  
05:10 Din Dorpon

**PICK OF THE DAY**

**Nirey Tar Neel Dheu**  
On ATN Bangla at 8:40pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Dilara Zaman, ATM Shamsuzzaman

**Black and White**  
On Rtv at 8:00pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Fima and Shimul

06:50 Medhabi Banglir Golpo	05:10 Cinema Ar Gaan	03:05 Talk Show: Amar Ami	10:00 Music Mantra Music
08:20 Drama Serial: Ramizer Aaina	05:30 Gaan Ar Gaan	03:45 Drama serial: Sukher Kanta	10:30 Music Beats Music
09:00 Closeup 1 Tomakei Khujchhey Bangladesh	06:00 Ajker Bangladesh	04:20 Shaymol Bangla	11:00 Cadburys Bourvita
09:45 Shomoshomy	06:35 Bishwa Jurey	05:00 Cartoon	11:30 Quiz Contest Quiz
11:25 Din Dorpan	08:00 Drama Serial: Black and White	05:30 Diner Sheshhey	12:30 Current Bollywood Others
	08:50 Jugal Bondi	06:30 Cinebit	12:30 CID Thriller
	10:45 Rtv Exclusive	08:10 Drama Serial: Magno Chaitonney Shish	01:00 Boogie Woogie Dance
		09:15 Apnar Agami	01:30 Boogie Woogie Contd.
		09:50 Drama Serial: Uro Chithi	02:00 Bigg Boss Masala
			03:00 Reality Based
			06:30 Music Beats Music
			07:00 Music Mantra Music
			07:30 Chartbusters Others
			08:00 Current Bollywood

08:30 Others  
Zabardast Blockbuster - Fanaa Movie  
**STAR PLUS**  
09:00 Yatra  
09:30 Krishna Kathaiyen  
10:30 Instant Khichdi  
11:00 Instant Khichdi  
11:30 Greatindianlaughterchal lenge 2  
12:30 V First Day First Show- Starplu  
12:35 V Trailers - Star Plus  
01:00 Chup Chup Ke  
04:30 Musafir Hoon Yaaron  
04:55 Bolly V - Star Plus  
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus  
05:25 V First Day First Show- Starplu  
05:30 Aladdin  
06:00 The Emperor's New Groove  
06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
06:30 Lucky  
07:30 Aek Chabhi Hai Padoss Mein  
08:30 Saibaba  
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan  
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby  
10:30 Thodi Si Zameen  
10:30 Thoda Sa Aasma  
11:30 Kaboom  
**HBO**  
08:15 Lord of The Rings: The Return of the King  
12:15 The Making of 50 first dates  
12:30 50 first Dates  
02:30 Jack Frost  
04:30 Napoleon Dynamite

06:15 The Forgotten  
08:20 HHO What's New In 2007  
10:30 Clueless  
12:30 Jack Frost  
**STAR MOVIES**  
08:45 Miracle Of The Heart  
10:15 Home Alone 3  
12:00 Fat Albert  
01:45 Sweetest Thing... The  
03:05 Tomorrow Never Dies  
05:10 Avp: Alien Vs. Predator  
07:00 Star Wars: Ep. II  
09:25 Nightmare Before Christmas  
10:45 Ed Wood  
**STAR WORLD**  
09:00 According To Jim  
09:30 Christmas Miracles  
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
12:30 Kenny Loggins  
December  
01:30 The Man Upstairs  
03:30 Scrubs  
04:00 Everybody Loves Raymond  
04:30 Just Shoot Me  
05:00 Growing Up Gotti  
05:30 Still Standing  
06:00 The Simpsons  
06:30 Malcolm In The Middle  
07:00 Friends  
10:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal  
10:30 Cheers  
11:00 Scrubs  
11:30 Everybody Loves Raymond

12:00 Just Shoot Me  
**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**  
09:30 Discover India  
10:30 Destination India  
11:30 Great Moghuls  
12:00 How Do They Do It?  
12:30 Life In The Undergrowth  
01:30 Wild Discovery  
02:30 Discovery Marquee  
04:30 Wild Discovery  
05:30 Finest Hotels In The World  
06:00 Mean Machines  
06:30 IDEA  
07:30 Wild Discovery  
08:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows  
10:30 Night Safari  
11:30 Life On The Edge  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
08:30 The Living Edens  
09:30 Wonders Of The Sea  
10:30 No Borders  
12:30 Bombay Calling  
02:30 Nat Geo Encores  
03:00 Tales From Bhittarkanka  
03:30 Racing The Storm  
04:30 Nat Geo Junior Hunt 2006  
05:00 Nat Geo Junior  
05:30 Big Bang  
06:00 Nat Geo Junior  
06:30 Super Subs  
07:30 Miracle in the Pacific  
08:30 Rolling Stones In Rio  
09:30 Speed Week  
10:30 Strictly Asian Ballroom  
11:30 Interpol Investigates