

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

Artist: Biren Shome
Venue: Shilpangalay, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi
Time: April 28-May 12, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

Title: Charon

Artist: Mazarul Islam Khan, Sudipta Mallick and Subir Obayed
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi
Time: April 26-May 05, from 10am to 8pm

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Parapar
Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road
Time: May 2-3, at 7pm

Baishakhi Mela 1412

Organiser: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industry Corporation
Venue: the regular venue of International Trade Fair at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Time: April 28-May 05, from 10am to 8pm everyday

Satyajit Ray Film Festival 2005

Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium, Road 96, House 25, Gulshan 2
Time: May 02-14, at 6pm everyday
Schedule:

May 02 Kanchanjunga
May 03 Jana Aranya
May 04 Nayak
May 05 Sonar Kella
May 06 Seemabuddha
May 08 Teen Kanya
May 09 Charulata
May 12 Ghare Baire
May 13 Chokher Bali
May 14 Aitihi

Play

Occasion: May Day
Title: Jalbalka
Group: Pedalik Natya Shangshad
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: May 04, at 7:15pm

Title: Jaljap
Group: Ababab Natyada
Venue: Nat Mandal, Dhaka University
Time: May 01, at 7pm

Title: Metamorphosis
Group: Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT)
Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Time: June 9, 16, 23, 30, at 7pm

Exhibition

Occasion: 60th anniversary of Victory over Fascism
Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Time: May 04-10, from 10am to 8pm

Artist: Muhammad Mohsin
Venue: Bangladeshi Shilpakala Academy, Shegun Bagicha
Time: April 30-May 09, from 11am to 7pm

Chandni, Anisul Islam Hero and Sabrina Shafi presenting a dance piece

Rejoicing with rhythm

National Dance Festival '05 ends

KARIM WAHEED

THE weeklong National Dance Festival '05 that started on April 23, ended on April 29 at the Jatiyo Natyashala (National Theatre Stage), Shilpkala Academy. Celebrations were held nationwide, each day at a different city, such as Sylhet, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Bogra, Barisal, Faridpur and Khulna.

The chief guest at the event of the last day of the Festival, Abdul Moyeen Khan -- Minister for Science and Information Technology, conveyed his delectation at the celebration held at such a grand scale this year. Special guest, Amanullah Chowdhury -- the secretary of Bulbul Lalit Kala Academy reminisced how there was a time when the presence of the dance artistes in our cultural arena was not strongly felt and now the whole country is commemorating dance as an art form.

Other cultural personalities present at the event were, Rahiza Khanam Jhunu -- president of Bangladesh Dancers' Association's central section and Shaju Ahmed -- the general secretary of the association.



Artistes performing traditional dance numbers at the festival

Theatre

Natya Teertha presents Kamola Shundori

ERSHAD KAMOL

Mymensinghgo Geetika is an integral part of our rich folk culture. Nowadays many directors are depicting their versions of such folklore for the modern audience. On April 29, Natya Teertha, a newly formed theatre troupe, staged their first production *Kamola Shundori*, a story from *Mymensinghgo Geetika*, at Mahila Samity Stage.

The stories of *Mymensinghgo Geetika* deal with love, passion, desire, hypocrisy, conspiracy and other human emotions. Like the other stories of the Geetika, the story of *Kamola Shundori* has a non-complex plot -- smitten by the beauty of a maiden named Kamola, wicked Karkun hatches an evil plan. Influenced by Karkun's mockery, the king imprisons Kamola's father. After an arduous struggle Kamola is reunited with her beloved, the prince.

Abdul Halim Aziz has dramatised *Kamola Shundori*, maintaining the authenticity of the original story.

Director Japon Haifiz has a narrative approach. He has unfolded the story through a *gayan* (bard). However, the choreography of the play needs improvement.

All the performers played on the open proscenium stage -- the way indigenous artistes traditionally perform on *aashori*. Except for Kazi Paris as a *gayan* and



A scene from the play

Karishma Binte Tofael as Kamola, the rest of the artistes did not live up to the expectations and the play received a lukewarm response from the audience.

Theatre's drama voyage-2: Discussion on King Lear

As part of the discussion of the remarkable productions by Theatre (Baily Road), the troupe has been arranging discussion sessions on its popular productions every Friday since last March.

Theatre arranged a discussion on their production of *King Lear* at its office.

After reading excerpts of the play, the theatre members started the discussion. Kazi Shahid Ahmed, the Editor of *Aajker Kagoj*, was the chief

guest of the programme. Among others, Dr Kazi Anis Ahmed and Professor Syed Manzoor Islam participated at the discussion.

Kazi Anis Ahmed gave an overall view on Shakespearean drama and his mastery of characterisation. He said, "Shakespeare was the first to portray modern human beings in his plays, and this depiction has universal appeal. He was also a connoisseur when it comes to writing dialogues."

In his speech, the translator of the play, Professor Syed Manzoor Islam, basically focused on the challenges of the translation process as well as the reasons behind translating the play. The chief guest of the programme, Kazi Shahid Ahmed even to this day."

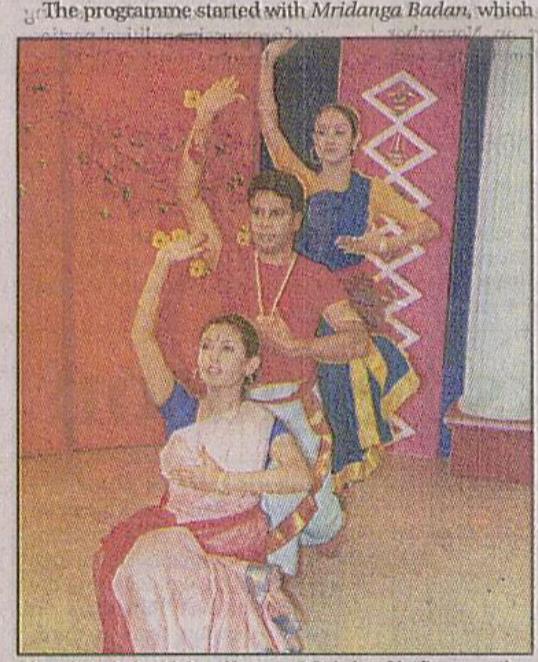
Professor Monotazuddin Ahmed was the host of the discussion.

Nrityadhara celebrates International Dance Day

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the International Dance Day, dance school Nrityadhara organised a special programme at the Nat Mandir auditorium of Dhaka University on Friday last.

The programme started with *Mridanga Badan*, which



is a traditional ritual for the dancers of the subcontinent. Dancer Minu Haque briefly discussed Nrityadhara's regular programmes.

This year the school awarded two prominent dancers of the country with the special Nrityadhara Honourary Award, 2005. Veteran dancer Laila Hasan and Ojha Mohan Singh of the Manipuri indigenous group. Theatre Activist Ataurul Haqmon helped over the crest and Utario to Ojha Mohan Singh's younger brother Telenjao Singh, as he could not attend the show because of old age complications.

Born in 1948 in the Manipuri society, Ojha Mohan Singh started to play *Mridanga* or *Pung* -- an essential part of the Manipuri culture at an early age. He received the award for the best instrumentalist in the East Pakistan Music and Dance Competition in 1969.

Sangeeta Imam received the award on behalf of her mother, Laila Hasan from Nasiruddin Yusuff Bachchu. Laila Hasan took her basic dance lessons from Manibrandhan Mahashay in Brahmanbaria. Later, she took lessons under Ajit Samnyal, Babu Ram Singh, GA Mannan and Shamar Bhattacharya of Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA). Among her choreographed dance pieces *Chitrangada*, *Shyama*, *Shapmochon*, *Chandalka*, *Ranar*, *Moder Gorob* *Moder Asha* were well received. She has been honoured with BACHISHASH Award 2001 and Kazi Mahbub Ullah Begum Zebunnissa Trust Award 2001 for her contribution to dance.

In the latter session of the programme popular dancers performed Manipuri, Kathak, modern and folk numbers. The first piece was choreographed by Anisul Islam Hero, featuring the song *Anjali Lohor Mor*. Bidhan Chandra Singha performed a fascinating Manipuri piece, taught by his guru Ojha Mohan Singh. Mummun Ahmed and Habassum Ahmed performed Kathak, Tamanna Rahman, Jayanti Samantha, Kunjari Mukharjee, Farhana Ahmed and others of Nrityadhara also performed at the show.

As thousands of fans cheered, *Moina Go*, a new music album by Habib, was launched yesterday at a special function at Bashundhara City Shopping Mall. The album has been exclusively recorded for Banglalink, which marks the first ever tie-up of this kind in the country, says a press release.

Moina Go is Habib's third album, following on the heels of his immensely successful two earlier productions: *Krishna* and *Maya*.

Habib's new album features 10 new tracks, including two songs sung by the artist himself and the hit Banglalink theme music.

Speaking at the occasion, Omer Rashid, Director Marketing, Banglalink, said, "Moina Go is an exclusive Banglalink music CD and will only be available with

Banglalink launches Habib's 3rd album Moina Go



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Banglalink pre-paid connections. As he explained, "Starting from this week, a CD copy of the new album will be provided free with the purchase of any pre-paid connection (M2M and Standard) from all Banglalink special outlets." The new subscribers would further have the chance to win exclusive music videos of *Moina Go* and other exciting gifts by sending an SMS vote to 500 to select their favourite tracks from the CD."

After the launching ceremony, the remix whiz Habib performed two tracks from his new album and captivated the audience. Habib's father, another popular singer Ferdous Wahid, also performed the song *Ami Ek Paharader*, which is one of the remixed songs of the album.

Bengal Bikash -- talent hunt by Bengal Foundation

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Over the years, Bengal Foundation has worked effortlessly to uphold traditional Banglalink music. Bengal's latest attempt to bring forth authentic talents in the country is *Bengal Bikash*, a talent hunt.

Bengal Bikash will announce the names of the selected participants on September 30. The five-day-long final round would take place in Dhaka, where the contestants would have to prove their skills, performing songs by Tagore, Nazrul, Atul Prasad, DL Roy and Rajnaijan.

The winners would be awarded and Bengal Foundation would also release music albums by the winners.



Eminent cultural personalities and organisers at the press conference

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Spectra TV Show
On Channel i at 9:30pm
Special Programme on May Day
Hosted by Mozaffar Hossain Khan



The Truman Show
On HBO at 8:30pm
Genre: Comedy/Drama/Sci-Fi
Cast: Jim Carrey, Laura Linney, Noah Emmerich

HBO

2:30 Rush Hour
4:30 City by the Sea
6:45 Bean

8:30 The Truman Show
10:30 Bones

12:30 Bram Stoker's Dracula
3:00 Christmas

STAR GOLD

8:30 Arjun Pandit
12:30 Farz

1:00 The Chronicle: News

5:00 Joru Ka Ghulam
9:00 Ice Age (Hindi)

STAR PLUS

2:30 Joshiay

6:00 Hit Filmeh Hit

6:30 Disney's Mickey

8:00 Mouse Works

9:00 Rendezvous With Simi

9:30 Marsupilami

7:25 Filmi Topper

9:30 Britannia India's Child

11:15 Mirch Masala

12:00 Taaza Hits

1:15 Two Bits

STAR WORLD

12:30 The Practice

1:30 From The E

2:30 Charmed

3:30 The Apprentice

4:30 Miss Match

5:30 Fashion Tv

6:00 Travel Asia

7:30 Malcolm In The Middle

8:00 Parkinson

9:00 Rendezvous With Simi

9:30 Geralweal

10:30 Britannia India's Child

11:30 Genius

12:00 Taaza Hits

1:15 Koffee With Karan

DISCOVERY

12:30 Wild Discovery Great

Siberian Grizzly

Discover India Great

Moguls, Babur

Discover India Great

Moguls, Young Akbar

Conspiracies on Trial

Pope John Paul I: A

Mysterious Death

Great Romances of the

20th Century Clementine

& Winston Churchill

Discovery Wings