

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Commemorative Meeting

Occasion: 98th birth anniversary of Begum Sufia Kamal  
Organiser: Bangladesh Mahila Parishad  
Venue: CIRDAP Auditorium, Chamey House  
Date: June 20, at 4pm

## Musical Soiree

Title: Folk Music  
Organiser: Palli Baul Samaj Unnayan Shangsta  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 15, at 7pm

## Exhibition

Title: Tapestry Exhibition  
Artist: Tajul Islam  
Venue: Shilpanagan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 18-29, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

Title: Dhaka Art Circle Paintings 2005  
Organiser: Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art in association with Saju Art Gallery  
Artists: 14 contemporary artists of Bangladesh  
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, DCC Super Market 2nd Circle, Gulshan II  
Date: June 04-14

Title: Boshey Anko 2005  
Artists: 165 children  
Venue: Zainul Gallery-2, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University  
Date: June 10-16

Title: Eighth Calligraphy Exhibition 2005  
Artists: Murtaja Bashir, Abdus Sattar, Enayet Hossain and other 30 artists  
Venue: National Museum  
Date: June 05-17, from 10am to 5pm

Title: Sundarbans: The Sound of Silence  
Photographer: BKS Inan  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Date: June 09-18, from 12pm to 8pm

Title: Miniature Art  
Artists: 105 artists  
Venue: Shilparag, House 15, Road 16, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 03-30, from 11:30am to 2pm and 4:30pm to 9pm

Artist: Nazmul Ahsan  
Venue: La Gallerie, Alliance Francaise  
Date: June 03-16, from 9am to 12 noon and 5pm to 9pm

## Musical Soiree

Title: Smritiinoy by Agun and Raboni  
Organiser: Orchestra  
Venue: All Community Club Auditorium, House 40, Road 35, Gulshan 2  
Date: June 17, at 7pm

Title: Germany in the Crosshairs  
Organiser: Goethe-Institut in cooperation with Zahir Raihan Film Society  
Venue: Goethe-Institut  
Date: June 13-21

June 14  
3:00pm Toy Stuffed Animals  
4:45pm Coming to a Closing  
6:30pm Moltke

Organiser: High Commission of India  
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium, Road 96, House 25, Gulshan 2  
Time: June 06-27, at 6pm everyday  
Schedule: June 17 Abar Aranye (Bangla)

Big B and Aishwarya joins Abhishek on stage

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

## News Bulletin

**BTW**  
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.

**CHANNEL-i**  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTW news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.

News (English) 8:00 am, 7:00 pm.

Telecast of BTW news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

**CHANNEl-i**  
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.

Telecast of BTW News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

**TARA BANGLA**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

**BBC WORLD**  
Every hour on the hour

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Art Festival

## Introducing the young minds to Zainul, Quamrul and Sultan

## AFSAR AHMED

The International School Dhaka (ISD) premises turned festive recently as the week-long Arts Festival jointly organised by the school and the Bengal Foundation began on June 12.

The function kicked off with an inaugural ceremony in the auditorium. Qayyum Chowdhury was the chief guest. Mustafa Monwar, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi and Chairman of the Bengal Foundation Abul Khair were present as special guests.

While speaking on the objective of the festival John Sperandio, CEO of ISD said, "It's imperative for the students to know the arts, artists and culture of the host country as well as their native country. And this festival helps the students to enrich their knowledge through exhibiting the old masters and through the workshops."

In his speech Abul Khair said, "This festival features the paintings of the three great Masters: Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan and SM Sultan, who opened the door for modern arts in the country and developed their own unique styles." He continued, "This is our second such venture and we seek to display the works of our greatest artists to school children."

Rafiqun Nabi exclaimed, "Who knows, may

be the future Zainul, Quamrul and Sultan are right before our eyes."

Hashem Khan thanked the Bengal Foundation for promoting the art history of Bangladesh. Mustafa Monwar advised the enthusiastic students, "You need to immerse yourself in creative work and this should be given a priority."

Qayyum Chowdhury said, "The three painters portrayed Bangladesh from three diverse angles but all of them had some pastoral elements in their work."

After the inaugural session, there was a sitar recital by Ebadul Haq Shaikat accompanied by Pinu Sen Das on the tabla.

The ISD-Bengal Foundation Arts Festival comprised of three parts. The first section is the art exhibition, comprising of 140 paintings of the veteran and contemporary artists of the country. These include 40 rare works by Zainul, 6 by Sultan and 29 paintings by Quamrul from the personal collections of Abul Khair. The other paintings on display are by Shafuddin Ahmed, Md Kibria, Qayyum Chowdhury, Murtaza Bashir and many others. Another section has the works of the ISD students.

The second part of the festival comprises of the art workshops facilitated by the noted artists: Hashem Khan, Abdus Shakur, Rafiqun Nabi, Khalid Mahmud Mithu, Rokeya Sultan, Kanak Champa Chakma, Kalidas Karamakar, Rafi Haq and Abul Barq Alvi.

Tamanna Rahman and her troupe will also hold a dance workshop.

The third part of the festival is the musical performances by different artists, CRP children, Shishu Bikash Kendra and ISD school children. A puppet show will be organised on the last day, directed by



Rebel cow by Zainul Abedin



Cattle in moonlight by Quamrul Hassan



An art work by SM Sultan

Mustafa Monwar. The festival will continue till June 16.



" Minutes before entering the stage I often think of quitting"

-- Tropa

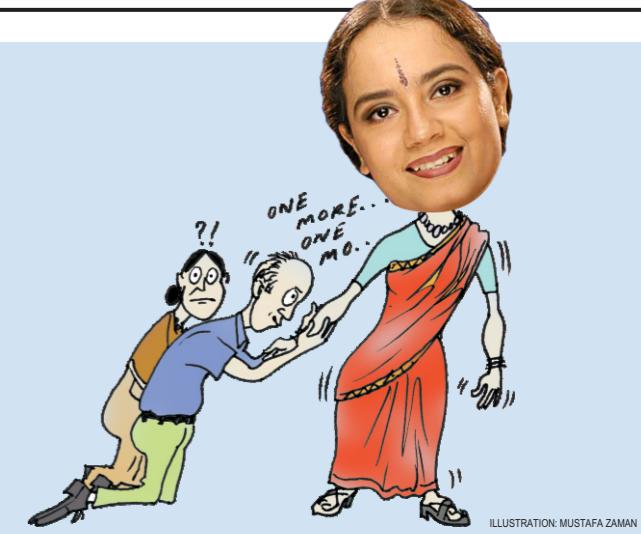


ILLUSTRATION: MUSTAFA ZAMAN

An ardent theatre activist, Tropa Majumdar, maintains a busy schedule between working as the creative director in a reputable ad agency and performing at the regular stage shows as well. Coming from a culturally weathered family, Tropa has made a mark in plays such as Madhobi, Meraj Fokir Ma and Spordha. She has recently emerged as a director in the play Mukti. Here's a look at Tropa behind the scenes.

With well-known actors as parents was it easy to set foot in the media world?

It was harder than one might imagine! Far from being a piece of cake! I had to convince two sets of people for any role--the director and also my parents. There were times when my parents did not allow me to play certain roles simply because they thought people might think that I'm getting an extra edge not because of my merit but because of my family connections'. Mainly for this reason, I've lost the opportunities of doing quite a few memorable characters and I felt deprived.

How do you balance your time between office and theatre?

That's easy. I work on a very limited number of TV plays, that too, if the shooting takes place on holidays. As for theatre, the rehearsals are held mostly in the evenings when I am usually free. I lend my voice to TV commercials every now and then. However, I am more into creative direction and I enjoy every bit of it.

What is the most outrageous thing you have done so far?

Outrageous is probably the last adjective I would describe myself! But one shocking event was during my Bachelors and Masters exams when I had been burning midnight oil to make sure I didn't fail. It came as a thunderbolt when I learnt that I had secured a first class in both and had topped the list in Masters from the Department of Mass Communication and

Journalism.

**Who is the real Tropa?**

I am basically a nervous wreck and an introvert! To some extent, I'm a perfectionist. I even worry how my co-artists would perform on stage and other trivial matters. I think my directors would have a fit if they knew how many times, minutes before entering the stage I had thought of quitting.

**Any goof-ups while staging a play?**

During stage plays giggling is perpetual; nothing unusual about it. But during the staging of Antigone, my co-actor Khairul Anam Shobuj totally forgot his lines and looked blankly at me. It was a 45-minute dialogue and we were standing very close to the audience.

It seemed that time stood still as he was struggling to remember his lines. After sometime I heard him faintly say in pure Barisal dialect "kissu hoibho na- Kw" (don't bother just say the lines). Amidst pin drop silence even the viewers could hear him. After this I uttered a few lines and he was back on track again.

**Are you picky about characters you play?**

Very much so. Even with so many TV channels, we don't have enough scope to do quality work. I feel that our predecessors were more fortunate. There were fewer plays and only one channel. Quality was the prerequisite. Now because of over-exposure, the audience hardly remembers a certain TV character.

**A movie that moved you in the recent times?**

The movie Black had a tremendous impact on me. While donning the role of a mute and blind girl, a girl with similar disabilities assisted Rani Mukherjee for several weeks. That is how she got under the skin of the character. Directors of timeless movies give their heart and soul towards creating a classic.

**Dreams ahead...**

I live in the present. I like to take into my stride what comes naturally.

IIFA Awards '05  
Moments of anticipation and joy

Bollywood superstars Shahrukh Khan (Veer-Zaara) and Rani Mukherjee (Hum Tum), walked away with the Best Actor and Actress trophies as Yashraj Film's Veer-Zaara bagged six awards at the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards ceremony in

Amsterdam on June 12.

Veer-Zaara, directed by veteran director Yash Chopra, bagged awards for Best Picture, Direction, Actor, Supporting Actress, Music Direction and Story with only the Best Actress and Supporting Actor awards not going its way.

The movie, a superhit in India, portrays a love story between an Indian army officer and a Pakistani girl, set in Pakistan. In India, it has won nearly all the major awards, including the Filmfare award.

Abhishek pipped dad Amitabh Bachchan, to the post by bagging the Best Supporting Actor trophy for his performance in Yuvaa.

Rani also picked up the Best Supporting Actress award for -- again -- Veer Zaara.

The extravaganza at the Amsterdam Arena, which began on June 11, stretched up to early hours of June 12.

The highlight of the evening was Abhishek Bachchan's debut performance on the international stage, which saw him shaking a leg to chartbusters from his recent film Benty Abar Babi and the forthcoming Dus. The Big B and Aishwarya Rai joined him on

## Awards at a glance

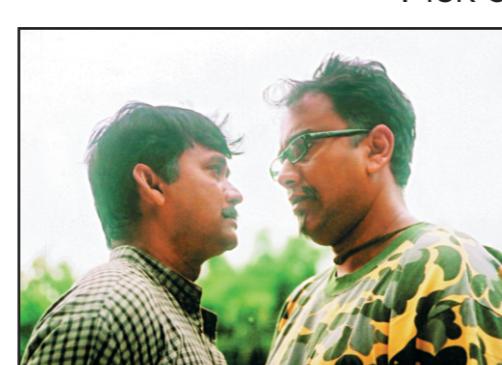
**Best Actor:** Shahrukh Khan (Veer Zaara)  
**Best Actress:** Rani Mukherjee (Hum Tum)  
**Best Picture:** Veer Zaara  
**Best Story:** Veer Zaara  
**Best Director:** Yash Chopra (Veer Zaara)  
**Best Supporting Actor:** Abhishek Bachchan (Yuvaa)  
**Best Supporting Actress:** Rani Mukherjee (Veer Zaara)  
**Lifetime Achievement Award:** Shabana Azmi and VK Murthy

stage for one of the numbers.

Performances by Aishwarya, Salman Khan, Isha Sharwani, Kareena, Shahid Kapoor and others, complemented by Shiamak Davar's choreography and Vikram Phadnis' costumes, ensured that the four-and-a-half-hour long event remained a memorable one.

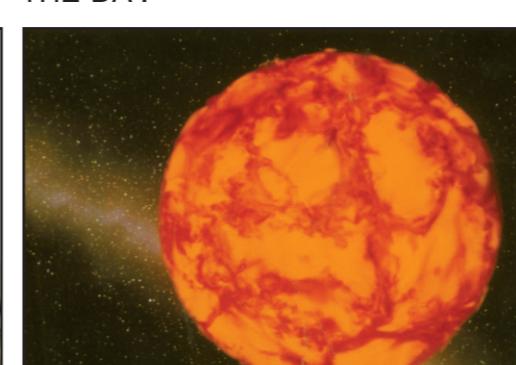
Source: PTI

## PICK OF THE DAY



Sheola

On ntv at 9:40 p.m.  
Genre: Drama Serial  
Cast: Azizul Hakim, Zahid Hasan, Tarin



Science Frontiers

On Discovery at 8:30 p.m.  
Genre: Science Fiction  
The programme shows different but astounding worlds

## Recharging theatre activists at district level

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To promote theatre at the district level, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGT) and Bengal Foundation have jointly arranged a programme. As part of the function, they invited district level theatre troupes to stage plays at Mahila Samity Stage, the nucleus of theatre activities in the country.

Talking about the event, Programme Secretary of BGT, Aktaruzzaman said, "Apart from Dhaka and Chittagong, theatre practice in the other districts is not up to the mark. That is why we are trying to recharge theatre activists at the district level. Each month we invite a troupe from a remote district to stage a play in Dhaka. That way they will be encouraged. This month Padakhyep, a troupe from Gaibandha, staged a play, Train, on June 10. Bengal Foundation is supporting the project."

Padakhyep's Train is written and directed by Alal Ahmed at Mahila Samity Stage. The social play is a satire on the bureaucratic procedures and corruption at the higher echelons of power, which have slowed down the development process in Bangladesh.

Rayhan Gafur is the set designer while Mehedul Haque Shujan is the light designer of the play.

tary of the festival, said that the 11 participating theatre groups came from different districts of the country's northern zone. Over 100 performers attended the festival, some of whom are well-known throughout the country.

The event kicked off with the staging of a drama, Shukhi Rajkumar by Jagoroni Shishu Kishore Theatre, Dinajpur. The five theatre groups of Bogra performed plays such as Phuler Anondo, Oporup Rupkotha and Birpurush. Sonali Theatre of Dinajpur will stage Gupi Gain Bagha Bain. The festival came to an end yesterday.