

CULTURAL FEAST

**Play**  
*Title:* Shishu Pacharer Itikatha  
*Director:* Zillur Rahman John  
*Group:* Centre for Ethnic Children (CEC)  
*Venue:* National Museum Auditorium  
*Date:* July 23, from 7:10pm

*Title:* Shamayer Proyojoney  
*Director:* Muhammad Bari  
*Group:* Theatre Art Unit  
*Venue:* Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Baily Road  
*Date:* July 24, from 7pm

**Classical Music**  
*Organiser:* Shuddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi  
*Participants:* Nazira Faruq, Malobika Das, Mukul Dutta  
*Venue:* Biswa Shahitya Kendra  
*Date:* July 28, at 7pm

**Exhibition**  
*Title:* Quest for Harmony  
*Artist:* Noazesh Ahmed  
*Venue:* Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanbmondi  
*Date:* July 11-24, from 12pm to 8pm

**Film Screening**  
*Title:* Destiny of a Man  
*Occasion:* 60th anniversary of victory over Fascism  
*Venue:* Russian Cultural Centre, House 510, Road 7, Dhaka-1205  
*Date:* July 26, at 11am

*Theme:* Contemporary Russian Films  
*Organiser:* Russian Cultural Centre in cooperation with Stamford University  
*Venue:* Russian Cultural Centre, House 510, Road 7, Dhaka-1205  
*Date:* August 01-02

**Wedding Festival**  
*Organiser:* Spectra Group  
*Venue:* Ballroom, Spectra Convention Centre, House 19, Road 7, Gulshan 1  
*Date:* July 21-23

**Video Screening**  
*Theme:* Video screening of still photography based on *Chhinnopoto* by Rabindranath Tagore  
*Artist:* Noazesh Ahmed  
*Venue:* Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanbmondi  
*Date:* July 24, at 6:30pm

**T-shirt Exhibition**  
*Title:* Abar Elo Borsha  
*Organiser:* Nittohopar  
*Artists:* Qyyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Abul Barok Alvi, Sheikh Afzal, Chandra Shekhor Shahana, Dhruba Esh  
*Venue:* Nittohopar, 118/A, Aziz Super Market (2nd floor), Shahbagh  
*Date:* July 23-August 10

**Sculpture Exhibition**  
*Title:* fourth solo exhibition  
*Organiser:* Nittohopar  
*Artist:* Maynul Islam Paul  
*Venue:* La Gallery, Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
*Date:* July 22-31, from 9am to 12am and 5pm to 9pm

Event

Wedding Festival by Spectra



(Left) Sharmin Lucky (C) seen with Masud Ali Khan and Dilara Zaman next to her acting out *Gaye Holud* formalities, (Right) Dancers performing with a wedding song



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

BA NGLADESHI weddings have charms of their own, more so, if it's a 'monsoon wedding'. To celebrate the torrents of the season, Spectra is holding a wedding festival that started from July 21 and ends today at the Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan. The festival features a virtual enactment of a traditional Bangladeshi wedding, in this case, the wedding of *Srabon Konnya* (Maiden of Monsoon).

Popular TV personality Sharmin Lucky represented *Srabon Konnya* and through her *Gaye Holud*

(Wedding shower), the festival kicked off. *Srabon Konnya* is getting married to the offspring of a 'Freedom Fighter' with no dowry. She's wearing sarees and using products, all made in Bangladesh.

Renowned actors, Dilara Zaman and Masud Ali Khan portrayed the parents of *Srabon Konnya* at the *Gaye Holud*. They initiated the occasion by putting *Holud* (turmeric paste) on the bride. They shared their feelings on their "daughters" wedding. Special guest eminent playwright Dr Selim Al Deen and Chief guest noted playwright and novelist Syed Shamsul Haque also spoke at the occasion. The event

was presided over by Vice Chairman of Spectra Group, Khalid Hossain Khan.

The festival seemed to attract the eligible bachelors/bachelorettes and their parents. Of course some people just went there to enjoy a vibrant display of our heritage.

At the festival, famous brand names such as Khan Bros, Roopahali, Mantra, Tangler Taanti displayed their sarees and shalwar-kameez, Diagold and James Gallery showcased their jewellery. Decorated bed for the 'just married' couple and decorations for the entrance to the wedding venue, *paan* (betel leaf) and sweets were

presented respectively by Ferns and Petals, Paan-shupari and Premium Sweets by Central. Persona Hair and Beauty featured their bridal make up and hair styles.

An interesting feature at the event is the services provided by matchmakers of Divine. Divine's approach is not the same as one's great grandmother's matchmaker though. It is pretty up-to-date, in the sense that the matchmaking service provides one with eligible bride or groom based on compatibility. The registration for Divine's services is free of charge only at the festival.

All in all, the festival is a fun fare and has something for everyone.

Up-close

Syeda Farhana: An eye for detail

KAVITA CHARANJI

"There is an overflow of subjects in Bangladesh," says Syeda Farhana, an indefatigable freelance photographer. Inspiration comes from many sources: migrant women, vignettes from life in Dhaka, rickshaws and orphan girls, among others. Quite often these works are interspersed with text—which is where she departs from her counterparts in the country. As she says, "My text, along with my images, offer a new dimension to the viewer. I sometimes combine photo text and sound together."

And there's a story behind each of her subjects. Take the series *Rickshaw and Others* (begun in 2000). These photographs are basically the reflections of a rickshaw, people, and cloudy skies on rainwater. This work is akin to a painting because of its colour and abstraction. It also captures the gloominess of the day effectively.

Since 2001, she has been working on her pet subject--migration. The work is a story on women migrants from Bangladesh to Malaysia. Farhana followed these women to get a first hand experience of their re-adjustment to life back home. "I have been writing stories about these women with photographs. The title of the story is *Hasna wants to fly*," asserts Farhana.

The other photographs are about orphan girls in Khulna and life in Dhaka (called *Dhaka—A city of many layers*). Then there are the photo stories *Dilliware kaun*, *Baharwale kaun?* and *Poth i desh* (The street is my country), displayed on the web. In *Dhaka*, she seeks to show the different strata of the city. In one such work, she combines a variety of subjects—a mother and child, the Taj Mahal together with Mumtaz Mahal, a wheel and graffiti espousing the *purdah*. "Basically I have superimposed one image on



another," explains Farhana.

*Dilliware kaun*, *Baharwale kaun* and *Poth i Desh*, are based on photographs and conversations with the Bangladeshi emigrants and give a bird's eye view of their lives in Delhi.

"I always wanted to do something creative," Farhana recalls. Which is why she quickly took up an assignment with filmmaker Shameem Akhter. The film was *Ililash Konya* with Farhana as a production assistant. Reminiscing on those times, Farhana says, "While I was working on this film, I found that most interesting element was the visual and, therefore, I took to the camera."

Later she was introduced by Shameem Akhter to a German filmmaker Ulrike Schaz. Farhana joined forces with Ulrike as a translator in a docu-film titled *Kishani Shabha*. The film took her to Hamburg, Germany in 2000.

Meanwhile Farhana built up her

career as a photographer. Prior to winging her way to Germany, she took a basic still camera course in 1999 at the South Asian Institute of Photography, *Patshala* in Dhaka. In 2000, she took a diploma course in photo journalism.

Farhana has held numerous exhibitions of her works—in Delhi and Dhaka. The challenge is to gain acceptance for her experiments with different forms.

What's the next stop for Farhana? She is keen to make a film, but she finds the medium very expensive. Meanwhile, she is all set to leave for Delhi as a new media artistaddding sound and photo writing for the work on the Khulna orphanage. Another plan is to exhibit *Dilliware* this October in Berlin and Stuttgart.

Here's hoping that Farhana's work will create ripples in art and photography circles.

Profile

H Shahadat and his approach to art

ISAAC ORTIZAR, Paris

H Shahadat is a talented artist from Bangladesh, now living and working in Paris where his family has joined him. He was born in 1955, and took a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Dhaka in 1981. Then he obtained a French government scholarship to develop his talents as an artist in painting, seligraphy, engraving and exhibit his new artistic experience.

It is through abstraction that H Shahadat exploits his palette and style. It is his way of gradually transforming his dreams and the landscapes he has lived in Bangladesh into plastic metaphors. So his painting begins as a dialogue between the artist and his palette to compose new visions of his distant beloved land. The different colours -

- blue, green, red, yellow -- join with the black in order to create poetic and tranquil scenes that move and become sublime in the metaphorphose of colours.

H Shahadat's work balances forms and colours in the spaces provided by big and small canvases with their different materials and supports. This gives his imagination a free rein to orient the evolution of his plastic art. His themes lead him towards an expression of freedom.

His dialogue with painting is a kind



H Shahadat

of union between art and religion.

The artist, in an exalted mood and full of passion at the same time, composes on the canvas gradually in the shelter of an abstract and poetic territory. He follows the technique of geometrisation with oil and acrylic. He imprints in the large space of his canvasses with his motifs as an act of contemplation of his art. His paintings transmit a new and specific dynamism of all his knowledge as an individual raised on the history of art, poetry and

music of his country.

Thus his spirit permeates his multiple metaphors and he gives them a voice like a paradox where one can discover oneself. He pastes textured rice paper on the canvas with the purpose of creating diverse effects. Through an array of ripples, rustlings, pleats, creases, he brings to life new vibrations of shimmering colour and optical illusions.

The writer is an art critique

Recital

Amar Porichoy presented by Muktobak

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Muktobak, an associate organisation of Shammilita Shanskritik Jote (SSJ), arranged *Amar Porichoy*, a recital programme, at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala, on July 21. Displaying various placards on the stage -- '*Tomakey Ashtei Hobe Shadhinota*', '*Tomar Matir Ekti Konao Chharbo Na*', *Shadhinota Mukti Paak Gonotontro Mukti Paak* -- the programme portrayed the struggle of Bangalees against all sorts of injustice and tyranny.

The script of *Amar Porichoy* was jointly written and directed by Mustafa Zaman Nipun and Shamsul Arefin Probal. It depicted the cruel attitude of the oppressors from both pre and post Liberation War.

To focus the era of pre Liberation War, the inhuman torture by the British and Pakistani rulers were mentioned. By referring to the historical movements, the performers reminded the audience of the legendary rebels like Titumir, Pritilata and 'Masterda' Shurjo Shen. The artists also mentioned the historical rebellion of Santals, an ethnic community, against the British rule and their stand for human rights. The unforgettable language movement and the sacrifice of the martyrs in 1952 were



Members of MuktoBak reciting a poem at the programme

also manifested.

*Amar Porichoy* depicted the harsh and inhuman approach of Pakistani rulers towards Bangalees during the time of Liberation War and the soulful presentation of the troupe seemed to create an apt impact on the audience. The adaptation of songs suited the sequences. However, the light

design could have been better.

Even in an independent country, our people did not often enjoy total freedom -- the fact was emphasised in the script. The sacrifice of Noor Hossain in the '90s to establish democracy was also pointed out.

*Amar Porichoy* ended with an optimistic tone. The performers deserve accolades for their efforts.

TV GUIDE

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

* News Bulletin
<b>BTV</b> 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.
<b>CHANNEL-i</b> News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am. Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
<b>ATN BANGLA</b> News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm. News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30pm. 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.
<b>ntv</b> 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 BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
<b>TARA BANGLA</b> News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm. Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30pm, 11:30pm. Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
<b>BBC WORLD</b> Every hour on the hour

<b>BTV</b> 08:15 Quiz Quiz 08:40 Bishwa Protidin 09:00 Satellite Program 12:15 Shingbadpotrer Pata Thekey 12:30 Shasthya Tatthya 01:05 Nibedon 01:30 Selected Programme 02:05 Sesamepur 02:30 Shukhi Poribar 03:05 Drama of the Week 04:05 Nakhatrer Alo 04:30 Magic Show 05:05 English Debate 05:55 Competition 05:55 Shamakalin Arthoniti 06:00 Khabor: Desh 06:00 Janopad 06:10 Wrestling 07:00 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast 07:05 Ei Prithibi 07:30 Drama Serial 08:30 Shapholya Gantha 09:00 Drama 09:25 Teknai Thekey Tetulia 10:35 Special Programme 12:00 Satellite programmes	<b>CHANNEL-i</b> 09:45 Tritiyo Matra 10:45 Na Bola Kotha 11:30 Chithi Pelam 12:00 TVC Sky Shop 12:30 Aj Dupurey O Citicell Taroka Kothon 01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 01:25 Public Reaction 01:30 Shanbadporey Bangladesh 02:30 Rong Berong 03:00 Dhaka Guide 03:15 Chithi Pelam 04:20 Special Programme 04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma 05:15 Janopader Khabor 05:30 Sangeetmala
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06:00 Music Plus 06:30 Drama Serial: Ekti Nodir Mrityu 07:50 Drama Serial: Swaponoker kolpokatha 08:25 Drama Serial: Nona Joler Kabuya 09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush 10:00 Drama Serial: Arshi 10:30 ATN BANGLA 11:05 Annodrishtee 12:15 Mohona 12:15 Bangla Feature Film: Abodan 02:27 Muktiuddher Ei Diney 03:45 Shurer Madhuri 04:25 Children's Programme: Hattima Tim Tim 05:10 Amader Joto Kotha 05:45 Islami Sawal O Jawab 06:20 Danish Pothey Pothey 08:00 Drama Serial: Jorey Pata Norey 08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shabuj Opera 09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni 09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Janomey 10:35 Musical Programme 12:10 Special cultural programme on the eighth anniversary of ATN Bangla	<b>ntv</b> 08:35 Aajker Shakal 09:00 Drama Serial: Kacher Manush 09:30 Haricks Poribar 10:05 Glamour World 10:30 Bangla Feature Film 01:05 Mukangan 02:35 Drama Serial: Kacher Manush 03:15 Musical Programme
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<b>PICK OF THE DAY</b> Tepantorer Mathey On ntv at 4:25pm Travel Show for Children Directed by Rowshan Ara Neepa Today's spot: Hatchery of Shatkhira	03:50 Drama: Taltrishna 04:25 Children's Programme: Tepantorer Mathey 05:15 Iltashrer Ei Diney 05:20 Alokpat 06:20 Shubho Shondhya 06:50 Right Click 08:15 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamela 09:00 Drama: Nishiprantey 11:25 Dindarpan 09:15 It Takes Two 11:15 GIA 1:30 The Lord of the Rings The Fellowship to the Ring 5:00 Trapped 7:15 Collateral Damage	9:30 Anger Management 11:45 Flying Dragon Leaping Tiger 1:45 Trapped 4:00 Man on the Moon <b>STAR MOVIES</b> 8:15 Father Of The Bride 10:00 Bulworth 11:45 Underworld 1:50 Species 2 3:20 Me Myself And Irene 5:20 Just Married 7:00 Die Another Day 9:15 Die Hard 11:15 Madonna: Truth Or Dare 1:30 Cat's Eye <b>STAR GOLD</b> 12:30 Kuchh To Hai
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<b>Die Hard</b> On Star Movies at 9:15pm Genre: Action/Crime/Thriller Cast: Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia, Alan Rickman Directed by John McTiernan	03:50 Khiladi 420 09:00 Aces Go Places & Aces Go Places III <b>STAR WORLD</b> 12:30 Adventure Divas 1:30 The King Of Queens 2:00 Yes Dear 2:30 Boston Public 3:30 The Kumars At No. 42 4:00 Arrested Development 4:30 Desperate Housewives 5:30 One Tree Hill 6:30 Tru Calling 7:30 The Collector 8:30 Tna Xplosion 9:30 Conspiracy Theory 10:30 Dog The Bounty Hunter 11:00 Cops 11:30 Stark Raving Mad 12:00 Stupid Behavior Caught	On Tape 10:30 Dharam Aur Hum 11:30 Jai Ganga Maiya 1:00 Star Bestsellers 2:30 Sir 6:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron 6:30 Aladdin 7:00 Hercules 7:30 Piya Bina 8:00 Pardey Ke Peechey 8:30 Khuljia Sim Sim 9:30 Farz <b>DISCOVERY</b> 10:30 Wild Discovery 11:30 Discovery Showcase 12:30 Mummy Autopsy 1:30 Understanding Volcanoes
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2:30 Impossible Heists 3:30 Amazing Baby Videos 4:00 In Therapy 4:30 Wild Discovery 5:30 Splat 6:00 Truth or Scare 6:30 Challenge 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Discover India 9:30 Junkyard Wars 10:30 Discovery Wings 11:30 72 Hours 12:00 Casino Diaries	<b>ANIMAL PLANET</b> 10:30 Growing up Wild 11:30 Pet Star 12:30 Cheetahs And Cubs 1:30 The Crocodile Hunter 2:30 Monkey Business 3:00 Chimpanzee Diary 3:30 Animals A-Z 4:30 Action Big Cat 5:30 Growing up Wild 6:30 Pet Star 7:30 Private Life of Plants 8:30 Monkey Business 9:00 Chimpanzee Diary 9:30 Battles Of Braveheart 10:00 Animals A-Z 10:30 TV With Teeth 11:30 Cat Cuts 12:00 The Planet's Funniest Animals	4:30 Sears Towers 5:30 National Geographic Special 7:30 On Assignment 8:30 Chasing Time 9:30 Football Fever 10:30 Super Croc 11:39 Animals Like Us
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4:30 Sears Towers 5:30 National Geographic Special 7:30 On Assignment 8:30 Chasing Time 9:30 Football Fever 10:30 Super Croc 11:39 Animals Like Us	<b>STAR SPORTS</b> 8:30 Icc Cricket World (T) 9:00 Extreme Programming Sports Mania (R) United Strongman Series 2005 Moscow Russia (R) 10:30 Fim World Speedway Gp Series 2005 Copenhagen Denmark (R) 11:30 Evian Les Bains France Round 3(S) 1:30 Adventure Raid World Cup Riksgansen Sweden (R) 2:00 Malaysian Field Hockey 14th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Malaysia Vs South Africa 3:30 Nba Inside Stuff (R) 4:00 Football Asia (T) 4:30 England Npower Test Series 2005 Moscow Russia (R) 4:57 Formula One Qualifying 2005 Mobil 1 German Grand Prix Qualifying(L) 6:00 World Superbike Championships 2005 Highlights(R) 6:30 Gillette World Sports 2005 (T) 7:00 Evian Les Bains France 14th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup South Korea Vs New Zealand 10:30 Formula One Qualifying
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2005 Mobil 1 German Grand Prix Qualifying(R) 11:30 Atp Tennis Rca Championships 2005 Indianapolis In Usa Men's Semifinal Match #1(L)	<b>ESPN</b> 8:30 Sportscenter Week In Review (T) 9:00 Australia Tour Of England Npower Test Series 1st Test Day 2 Highlights(S) 10:30 Cricket Gold (T) 1:30 Hitz (R) 2:00 Australia Tour Of England Npower Test Series 1st Test Day 2 Highlights(R) 3:27 Australia Tour Of England Npower Test Series 1st Test Day 3 1st Session(L) 5:30 Sportscenter Week In Review (R) 6:00 Australia Tour Of England Npower Test Series 1st Test Day 3 2nd & 3rd Session(L) 10:30 School Quiz Show Espn School Quiz 2005(R)	<b>TEN SPORTS</b> 8:15 WWE Velocity 10:15 WI v SL, 2nd Test Day 2 H/Ls 10:30 WI v SL, 2nd Test Day 3 12:30 WI v SL, 2nd Test Day 3 1:10 WI v SL, 2nd Test Day 3 3:30 WI v SL, 2nd Test Day 3 5:30 WI v SL, 2nd Test Day 3 6:45 WWE Experience Winning Post 10:00 Tour De France, Day 20 11:00 WI v SL, 2nd Test Day 3 H/Ls 12:00 WWE Experience
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