

CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre

Play: Janatar Rango Shala
Playwright: Mujibur Rahman Dilo
Group: Nagorik Nattyangan
Venue: Mahila Shamiti Satge, Baily Road
Date: September 16, at 7pm

Play: Macbeth
Organiser: Department of Theatre and Music, Dhaka University
Venue: Nat Mandal, Dhaka University
Date: September 09-13, at 7pm everyday

Theatre Festival

Title: Kachi Smriti Pathanatok Utsahab 2005
Organiser: Padatic Nattya Sangsad
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: September 10-12, at 5pm everyday

Solo Exhibition

Title: The Sweet and The Sublime
Artist: Hashem Khan
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi
Date: September 04-17

Artist: Mohammed Yunus
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road 36, House 16, Gulshan
Date: September 09-18, from 11am to 8pm

Title: Terra Cotta Ornaments
Artist: Ashik Hasan
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Date: September 08-14, from 10am to 8pm

Group Exhibition

Title: Shomokal-1
Artists: Monsur ul Karim, Rokeya Sultana, Kazi Rakib, Tarun Ghosh, Dilara Begum Joly, Towfiqur Rahman, Shishir Bhattacharya, Fokhrul Islam, Goutam Chakraborty, Bipul Shah
Venue: Gallery Kaya, House 20, Road 16, Sector 04, Uttara
Date: September 02-15, 11am to 8pm

Artists: Artists of Bhashkar, Contemporary Sculptors' Society
Venue: La Gallery, Alliance Francaise
Date: September 01-15, from 5pm to 8pm

Film Screening

Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan 2
Time: 6pm
Schedule
September 16 Anand
September 19 Bewaffa
September 23 Page 3
September 26 Raincoat
September 30 Hum Tum

Cultural Programme

Organiser: Nriityanandan
Artists: Lubna Mariam, Mustafa Manwar, Aly Zaker, Rizwana Chowdhury Bonya, Sanjida Khatun, Sharmila Bandyapadhyay
Venue: WVA Auditorium, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Date: September 12, at 7pm

Book Publication

Title: Directory of Women Rights Material (Print and electronic)
Organiser: Yukta
Venue: British Council auditorium, 5, Fuller Road
Date: September 12, at 4pm

Sonai Bibir Pala

A play glorifying humanism



The protagonist (C) along with his entourage in the play

ERSHAD KAMOL

THE narratives of our rural bards are wonderful treasures of literature. *Beer-narayaner Pala*, derived from *Purba Bango Geetika*, is a love story of a Hindu Zamindar's son named Beernarayan and an ordinary Muslim girl named Sonai Bibi. However, young playwright Raihan Aktar's play *Sonai Bibir*

Pala, an adaptation of *Beernarayaner Pala*, is not just a love story. Through the tragic end of the central characters' affair, the playwright has dealt with a contemporary issue -- the conflict between religion and humanism.

On September 10, the Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) staged the first show of *Sonai Bibir Pala* at the National Theatre Stage in Dhaka. The show followwed on the heels

of the premiere of the play last June 25, at the International Theatre Festival in Taipei.

To the acoustics of *dhul* and *mandira*, the troupe entered the theatre hall and recreated a procession on the stage. In the midst of the gathering, the *gayen* (bard) began narrating the love story of Sonai Bibi and Beernarayan.

Director Kamaluddin Nilu has not only used the narrative tech-

nique (the traditional form of *pala gaan*), he has blended several other theatrical forms as well. Particularly in the 'post-marriage scene', Sanskrit theatre forms like *Parikrama* (circular movement) and *Patti* (using of curtain) have been used. And in the composition of the 'Zamindar's court scene', the artistes have followed the typical rhythmic high-pitched voice modulation used in *jalra*.

The smooth transition of sequences in the play is the speciality of Nilu's directorial approach. Fifteen artistes on the stage have played different characters as well as given a choral rendering. There is a small interval during the transformation of 'characters' and 'choirs', which gave strength to the theatrical presentation. However, the blending of *kirtan* tune with *palagaan* was not effective.

Only a few stage crafts have been used. The light design is simple. Shamima Akhtar, as Sonai Bibi, enthusiastically threw herself into her role. Her body language, especially in the last scene when her beloved is being punished by his zamindar father, moved the audience. Young talent Shahadat Hossain was not in his best element. His spontaneous performance in the role of Beernarayan could have been more entertaining. The rest of the cast was impressive. In fact, *Sonai Bibir Pala* is a good example of teamwork.

The members of the popular band Feedback participated in the jamming session in the stall of Omni Music at the Japan-Bangladesh Trade Fair 2005 at the Hotel Sheraton Friday last. Omni also holds training sessions and classes for aspiring talents eager to learn piano, guitar, violin and other instruments.



Deepa Mehta's Water creates ripples at the Toronto fest



Deepa Mehta (C) flanked by Seema Biswas (2nd L), John Abraham (1st L) and Lisa Ray (1st R)

Johnny Depp is, by all accounts, the most eagerly awaited star at the 30th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). But on the opening night on September 8, it was director Deepa Mehta who stole the show with her movie, *Water*, which marked the inauguration of the film festival.

Water, starring John Abraham, Seema Biswas and Lisa Ray, is about the ill treatment of widows in the 1930s. It was initially supposed to star Shabana Azmi and Nandita Das, but the shooting in the temple town of Varanasi was abandoned five years ago following agitations by conservatives who did not want it

to be shot there.

At TIFF -- the film festival considered to be the world's most important one, following Cannes -- the limelight was on Mehta.

She is hailed not only for making what Salman Rushdie says is a film 'unforgettably touching the heart' but also for not giving up her soul to the fundamentalists. Five-year-old pictures of the protestors burning her effigies in Varanasi are being published again in widely circulated newspapers like *Toronto Star*.

Some of the fundamentalists in Toronto and US cities began offering her 'friendly advice,' in recent weeks, she says. They suggested

that the film should not be screened in North America because Americans and Canadians do not understand the complexities of Indian traditions.

The influential *Globe and Mail* gave it three stars (out of four) and hailed it for its humanism and insights into the souls of its troubled characters. The two publications also devoted more than a full-page to interviews with Mehta.

Mehta, who made the film almost secretly in Sri Lanka, has given the film a bleak and urgent look. And she has not hesitated to make it as bold and threatening (to the establishment) as she had envisaged it five years ago. There are several beautiful and exhilarating moments in the film that stars a surprisingly solid Abraham as an idealist lawyer, Seema Biswas as a woman with a conscience, Ray as a rebellious widow and newcomer Sarala.

At the end of the film, Mehta wants the viewers not only to go home having seen a fine, touching film but also remember the millions of widows in India today. They may not live in a segregated house as in the film or pressed into prostitution as the leading character in the movie, but nonetheless, they deserve homes and families of their own, is the filmmaker's message.

Source: Internet

An evening of adhunik songs

KARIM WAHEED

September 10, Shaheed Zia Auditorium, National Museum: Red, blue and yellow flashing lights, a drab background and small palm trees could easily confuse one into thinking he/she is at the BTV studio to witness a recording. That however, was not the case. A live concert was held at the venue. Two artistes -- Fahmida Nabi and Kumar Bishwajit -- who have attained immense popularity in the *adhunik* (modern) song genre, entertained the audience with their mellifluous, at times mushy, numbers.

Fahmida began her performance with *Money ki podey na*, an otherwise nice song where the timbre was a bit shaky. The singer, however warmed up quickly and rendered a tender romantic number *Jodi ekbaar dako kachhey*. Tunes seemed to glide effortlessly through Fahmida's crisp and clear voice. The artiste also sang *Tumi ki shei tumi and Shokhi ki korey boli peeriti bhalo*. The latter, performed in the *kirtan* style, was a treat. The singer demonstrated her skills in the song, evident in her *adhunik* songs.

Fahmida also sang *Kobita podar prohor eshechhey raater nirjoney*, a melancholy song made famous by her sister Samina Chowdhury and two songs of her father, eminent musician late Mahmud-un-nabi: *Gaaneri khatae shwaralipi likhey and Shurer bhuboney ami aaj pothochari*. She wrapped up her performance with a catchy 'Asha Bhosle' number, *Ashbo arek din aajal*. The song however failed to reach its potential as the instruments were out of tune with the vocalist.

Next to take the stage was Kumar Bishwajit. A competent showman, Bishwajit knows how to work the crowd. That was evident through rounds of applause and repeated requests to perform his hit numbers, throughout Bishwajit's performance. The artiste started with *Jekhaney shimanto tomar*, composed by Lucky Akhand. The astounding performance awed the audience. Bishwajit seemed to be in total control of his



PHOTO: STAR

Kumar Bishwajit (R) performing at the programme

vocals and that showed through his renditions of *Boshonto chhuechhey amakey*, a festive song composed by Partha Borua.

Next the singer performed *Nirbashon*. According to the artiste, "It's a song that doesn't glorify the stereotypical emotionally dependent lover willing to achieve even the impossible for his lady love. Instead it speaks of a person in love, who won't make compromises when it comes to self-esteem." Bishwajit also sang his popular numbers such as *Tumi jodi bolo Padma Meghna, O doctor*, a folk number *Jonmiley moritey hobey* and one of his initial hits from the '80s *Tumi roj*

bikeley amar baganey phool nitey ashtey.

The event was a fundraiser for the construction of music school Chhayanaout's new building. Incidentally, this was the 50th fundraising musical programme by Chhayanaout. Khayrul Anam Shakil, General Secretary and a teacher of the school, said, "I'm elated by the response we've received so far. I'm grateful to the audience for their support."

The programme was all in all, a crowd-puller and hopefully there would more.

Ang Lee film tops Venice Festival Awards

REUTERS, Venice

Ang Lee's tale of an unorthodox love-story revolving around two cowboys set in the conservative West of the 1960s won the Venice Film Festival's top award Saturday last.

Brokeback Mountain, starring Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, topped 19 other competitors, including favourite *Good Night, and Good Luck*, George Clooney's black-and-white movie set in the McCarthy era of the early 1950s.

Receiving the Golden Lion award, Lee described his movie as a "great American love story" that is "unique and so universal."

One of the stars of Clooney's film, David Strathairn, got the top acting award for men. Strathairn played American broadcast journalist Edward R Murrow, who systematically scrutinised the methods of Senator Joseph McCarthy's quest to root out communists and their sympathisers.

The top acting award for a woman went to Italian actress Giovanna Mezzogiorno for her role in the movie *La Bestia nel Cuore* (The Beast in the Heart). The film tells the story of an apparently happy woman who suddenly is plagued by dreams that reveal a dark part of her childhood. She eventually uncovers her past with help from her



(L) Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal in Ang Lee's Brokeback Mountain

brother.

The Silver Lion for directing went to Philippe Garrel for his film *Les Amants Reguliers* (The Regular Lovers). French actress Isabelle Huppert was given a special award for her contributions to cinema, and Italian Stefania Sandrelli received a lifetime achievement award.

The festival's special jury prize went to the movie *Mary*, by Abel Ferrara.

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.
CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11 pm. News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL i
09:45 Tritiyo Matra
10:45 Live Educational Programme
12:00 TVC sky shop
12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citycell
01:00 Tarokakothon
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
01:30 Shangbadpotrey
02:40 Special Programme
03:40 Channel-i viewers forum
04:00 Bashundhara
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:15 Janopoder Khabor

BTV
08:45 Shamprotik Bishwa
10:00 Satellite Programme
12:15 Shangbad
12:30 Porjalochona
13:30 Shasthya Tathya
01:05 Laal Goolap
01:50 Sisimpur
02:30 Nakikhotrer Alo
03:05 Shur Lohori
04:00 Dolon Champa
04:30 Protashar Alo
05:05 Debate Programme
05:55 Shomokalin
06:10 Arthoniti
06:10 prescription
06:35 Abdul Alim Shoroney
07:00 Hridoye
08:45 Mukitjuddho
09:25 Drama serial: Rang Tuli
10:25 Drama serial: Shukno Phool
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
10:35 Shindhu Hindol
12:05 Satellite Programme

Ex Music
05:00 Music Plus
06:30 Banijio O Aurthoniti
06:50 Business show
07:50 Drama Serial: Poribar O Ekti Company
08:25 Drama Serial: Visa
09:35 Drama Serial: Shampurna
10:00 Rangeen
10:00 Drama Serial
09:30 Agrojo
10:00 Grammen Phone
10:00 Shironam
10:05 Zoo Adventure
10:30 Dhakar Cinema
01:05 Mukhtangan
01:30 TVC
02:35 Drama serial: Jhut Jahamela
03:15 Closeup1 Tomake
05:45 Islami Sawaal O Jawab
06:20 Education Zone
08:00 Drama Serial: Shukhnagar
08:30 Drama Serial: Flat Number Forty
09:00 ATN Taroka(music)
10:40 Katha Mala
12:10 Adibashi Janopad
HBO
04:15 Chhotoder Prithibi
04:45 Quiz Show
05:10 Matir Shubash
05:45 Islami Sawaal O Jawab
06:20 Education Zone
08:00 Drama Serial: Shukhnagar
08:30 Drama Serial: Flat Number Forty
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STAR PLUS
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08:00 Drama Serial: Shukhnagar
08:30 Drama Serial: Flat Number Forty
09:00 ATN Taroka(music)
10:40 Katha Mala
12:10 Adibashi Janopad
2 Fast 2 Furious
06:15 Barney's Great Adventure
07:45 Bugs
09:30 Dante's Peak
11:45 Huff Trilogy : Pilot/Assault and Pepper/Lipstick on Your Panties
3:00 Kingpin
STAR MOVIES
9:50 Con Air
11:45 Leo
The Unexpected Journey
3:00 Rob Roy
5:20 Barb Wire
7:00 The Next Karate Kid
8:50 Bringing Down The

PICK OF THE DAY

Akash Chhonya
On ntv at 10:00 pm
Genre: Drama Serial
Cast: Shahiduzzaman Selim, Aupi Karim, Tania

Dante's Peak
On HBO at 9:30 pm
Genre: Action/ Adventure
Cast: Pierce Brosman, Linda Hamilton

House
10:35 Con Air
12:30 Spanish Apartment
STAR PLUS
9:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
10:00 Hit Filmlein Hit
Sangeet- 20 M
10:30 Dekkho Magar Pyar Se
11:00 Meri Saheli
11:30 Shanti
12:00 Shaadi Number One
Hit Filmlein Hit
Sangeet- 20 M
1:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
1:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
2:00 Bhabhi
Kesar
2:30 Saarthi
3:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
3:30 Kahiin To Hoga
4:00 K.Street Pali Hill
4:30 Telebrands
5:00 Hit Filmlein Hit
Sangeet- 20 M
5:30 Shaadi Number One
6:00 Goof Troop
6:30 Terno Supremo
7:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
7:30 Princess
8:00 Dollieauruskamagicha g
8:30 Dekkho Magar Pyar Se
9:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay

05:00 Serious: Desert
05:30 Croc Chronicles S2
06:00 Planet Wild
06:30 Ng Explorer
07:30 Hunting Hounds Of Arabia
08:30 Is It Real?
09:30 Interpol Investigates
10:30 Air Crash Investigation
11:30 Deep Jungle
ANIMAL PLANET
10:30 The Jeff Corwin Experience the Orangutan Freedom Journey
11:30 Meerkat Manor
12:00 Lords of the Animals
12:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals
01:00 Twisted Tales the Bee
01:30 Amazing Animal Videos
02:30 On the Edge
04:30 Meerkat Manor
05:00 Lords of the Animals
05:30 The Jeff Corwin Experience
06:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals
07:00 Twisted Tales the Bee
07:30 Amazing Animal Videos
08:30 On the Edge
10:30 Animal Planet Showcase Monsters of the Mind
11:30 Animal Icons Star Wars Creatures
DISCOVERY
10:30 Wild Discovery
11:30 Discovery's Biggest

Shows
01:30 Journey of a Lifetime
02:30 America's Most Haunted Places
03:30 For Women Only
04:00 Celebrity Doubles
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 Zach's Ultimate Guide
06:00 Physical Science in Action
06:30 Life on the Edge
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Great Leaders
09:30 Colour of War
10:30 Space and Universe
11:30 FBI Files
STAR SPORTS
09:30 Formula One
10:00 Belgian Grand Prix
10:30 Golden 4 Highlights(R)
11:00 Irl Racing
11:30 Chicagoland Indy
12:00 300 Joliet II Usa (S)
01:30 International Motorsports News
02:30 Spanish Football League (S)
03:30 Gillette World Sports
04:30 Special
05:00 Hitz (R)
05:30 Race Day
06:15 Formula One 2005
08:30 Formula One Grand Prix(R)
09:00 Sportscenter India (L)
09:02 Team India
09:30 Programming (R)
10:30 Sportscenter India (L)
10:32 Uefa Champions League (T)
11:00 English Premier League Highlights (T)
12:00 Pga Tour Highlights (T)