

CULTURAL FEAST

Ekushey Boi Mela
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 1-28
Month-long book fair to be inaugurated today at 2:30pm



Homage to Waheedul Haq

Organiser: Chayanat
Venue: Chayanat Sangskriti Bhawan, House no-72, Road no-15/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Date: February 1
Time: 6:00pm

Film Screening in Sylhet

Film: Ontorjatra
Organiser: British Council Sylhet
Venue: British Council Sylhet (Al Hamra Complex)
Date: February 1
Time: 3:30pm

Screening of International Award winning Bangla Films

February 2
4:00pm Surjo Dighol Bari
6:00pm onwards Agami & Chaka
February 3
4:00pm Matir Moina
6:00pm Nironor
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalchitra Kendro, 62, Science Laboratory

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: In Quest of Truth and Beauty
Artist: Samanjit Roy Choudhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpajaya, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhamondi
Date: January 28-February 10
Time: 12:00pm-8:00pm

National Street Theatre Festival

Organisers: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation & Bengal Foundation
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: February 1-7
Time: 4:00pm

Classical Dance and Instrumental Music Evening

Organiser: Department of Production, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
February 1 Classical Music
Time: 6pm
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

'Shada Moner Manush'

Recognising committed philanthropists



Abdul Malek Howlader



Shamsuddin



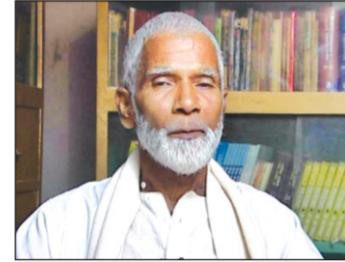
Sri Kanu Dutta



Binapani Sarkar



Harun-ur-Rashid



Ziaul Haq



Hanufa Begum



Abdul Majid

LAST year, Unilever Bangladesh Limited launched a remarkable event, titled *Shada Moner Manush* to home in on individuals who are socially committed and do not hanker after fame, money and popularity.

The primary screening was undertaken by the journalists' panel of *Prothom Alo*. Eighty entries were selected out of 2,933 from all over the country. Finally the top 10 dedicated people were selected for the prestigious award. A television programme based on the life and times of the 10 finalists, *Shada Moner Manush* has been telecast on ntv recently.

The programme had an expert panel of judges, consisting of civil

society members from our country such as Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD); Rokia Afzal Rahman, former advisor to the caretaker government and Motiur Rahman, editor of the *Prothom Alo*.

The 10 recipients of the honour are Hanufa Begum known as the 'Mother Teresa of Bagachara'

setting up an orphanage in Shorer Haat village in Rajshahi; Sufia Ahmed for running the Rajshahi Cancer and Children's Centre on her own expense; Sri Kanu Dutta from Feni for performing last rites of 1589 unclaimed corpses; Mokhlesur Rahman in Comilla for dedicating his life to the local Nazrul Academy High School; Ziaul Haq, a yoghurt vendor from Mushribhija village in Chapai Nawabganj, for setting up a library with 8,000 books for disadvantaged students and Harun-ur-Rashid from East Jagannathpur village in Dinajpur for giving the local children the gift of music, training artistes who have received national and international accolades.

These *Shada Moner Manush* will be introduced to the media as they receive their awards on February 2.

Mokhlesur Rahman (Jessore); Binapani Sarkar for her initiatives to educate the underprivileged indigenous children of Jyopurhat; Abdul Majid of Puthia, Rajshahi for setting up an establishment for differently-abled children; Abdul Malek Howlader from Madaripur for tirelessly working with the local children at his *pathshala* despite his financial constraints; Shamsuddin for

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The discussion was followed by staging of *Iblish* by Mamunur Rashid. *Iblish* features the struggle of proletarians against the backdrop of the feudalistic and oppressive social structure of rural Bangladesh.

Manunur Rashid's play concludes with the meeting of 'poetic justice' featuring the victory of the oppressed people against the evil feudal lords.

Director Shakhat Hossain Rezvi's approach is very simple. The distinctive feature of his direction is the smooth transition between the scenes.

Light designer M Shaiful Islam's design was also very simple.

However, the strength of the theatre presentation was the enthusiastic performance by the young and energetic actors like Abul Hasnat Bhuiyan, Nipun Ahmed and others.

Subarna Mustafa said, "I was also the special guest of the certificate giving ceremony of the first batch of the school. For the betterment of theatre, it's urgent to introduce professionals."

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