

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

National Street Theatre Festival

Organisers: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation & Bengal Foundation
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: February 2-7
Time: 4:00pm

Solo Art Exhibition

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

Group Art Show

Title: Appointment 2007
Venue: Shilpangan, Road 3, House 26
Date: February 5-18
Time: 10:00am-1:00pm & 5:00pm-9:00pm

Art Exhibition

Title: Collaboration With Mithila Art
Artists: Sunil Sigdel, Mahbubur Rahman, Jupiter Pradhan and Tayeba Begum Lipi
Venue: Galleri Kaya, House 20 Road 16 Sector 4 Uttara
Date: February 10-20
Time: 11:00am-8:00pm

Conveying powerful social messages

National Street Theatre Festival '07 in full swing



PHOTO STAR

Shomikoron Theatre stages *Trunk Rohashya* at the festival

KHALID-BIN -HABIB

A weeklong *Jatiyo Patho Natok Utsab '07* (National Street Theatre Festival), arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), in association with Bengal Founda-

tion, began at the Central Shaheed Minar premises on February 2. The festival, featuring socio-political issues, attracts a sizeable crowd everyday.

Four theatre groups, Gononattaya Parishad from Ashughan, Shomikoron Theatre from

Chittagong, Amader Theatre from Dinajpur and Sangshaptok Theatre from Bogra presented theatre performances on February 3. The play *Trunk Rohashya* presented by Shomikoron Theatre touched on many significant historical events of our glorious Liberation War. The

play also depicts the adverse effects of political turmoil. The other presentations drew a fairly good response and conveyed a number of positive messages.

The other plays staged on the third day (February 4) were *White Octopus* a Kheyali Nattya Goshthi, Dhaka, presentation, *Kabor* by Rangpur Padatik, *Narai* by Vision Theatre from Dhaka, *Hayre Shadher Election* by Bihanga Sangskritik Charcha Kendra (written by Shahinoor Alam), *Dosh Number Moha Bipad Sangket* by Srimangal Theatre (written by Mohammed Ashraf Azmi) and *Shesh Kothe* by Sushom Nattaya Samproday (written by Khondokar Anwarul Islam). The plays delivered hard-hitting social messages on gender and political issues, among others.

The play *Kabor* (The Grave) written by martyred intellectual, Munier Chowdhury, was staged by Rangpur Padatik. The play deals with the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Pakistani regime during the Language Movement in 1952.

Vision Theatre from Dhaka staged a play titled *Narai*, written by Joglul Hyder. The play depicts the story of a vindictive ruler, who makes a desperate bid to capture a territory along with its rich mineral resources, vast pastures, fields and cattle, villages, towns and cities. Though the ruler is initially successful, he is defeated in the war and later becomes a generous ruler.

The festival ends on February 8.

In conversation with Sumona
A modest artiste with a wide repertoire

KARIM WAHEED

She might not be one of the most sought after artistes in the country as of yet, but her renditions are bound to appease a music enthusiast's senses. Her vocals have that certain charm that defines minstrels of the golden era in Bengali music -- traces of Sandhya Mukhapadhyay's unmistakable lilt or Haimanti Shukla's melancholy melodies.

The only all-inclusive music award in the country, Citycell-Channel i Music Awards recognised Sumona's talents as well; she won in the Best Newcomer category in 2004.

Though she is still considered in the "newcomer" bracket, Sumona's background in music is quite extensive. She has had 18 years of training in classical music. Says Sumona, "I took music lessons from Ustad Rabiul Hossain and the credit for whatever skills I've mastered goes to him." Sumona and her family have been in Dhaka for last eight years, prior to that they were in Rajshahi. She completed her Master's in Economics from Rajshahi University.

Being in the music scene for 26 years, is she comfortable with the "aspiring/newcomer" label? "Certainly!" -- Sumona's response. "I may have trained more than a lot of the artistes who have already managed to carve a niche for themselves, but in the Dhaka-based music scene I'd certainly consider myself an amateur. And though my conviction for the art runs deep, I'm not pursuing music as a profession yet."

Enlisted as a 'Grade A' artiste in BTV in Tagore, Nazrul and *adhunik* songs, Sumona had also taken part in radio programmes featuring classical music. Her first album *Ketey Gelo Baroti Bochor*, produced under the banner of World Music, came out in 2003. Twelve original *adhunik* songs in the album were composed by Basudeb Ghosh. Of the songs, *Ei korey choley gelo*, *O rangila pakhi* and *Bhul bhangley choley esho* have been appreciated by the audience.

Her upcoming album *Shudhu Tumi Ashbey Boley*, under the banner of FM Tunes, features songs -- *Jey akash bhasha bojhhey na*, *Par koriyo* and others -- that can best be described as folk fusion. Like the previous one, all songs of *Shudhu Tumi...* have been composed by Basudeb Ghosh.

Her singles, like a patriotic song *Prati poley poley jaar chhowa* are aired on Falgoun music and she has been featured in *Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan* (hosted by Syed Abdul Hadi) and *Bhalobasho Mor Gaan* (hosted by Ferdousi Rahman) on ntv.

Sumona, who was one of the judges in the district-level auditions of the popular talent hunt *Closeup 1*, points out the noticeable differences between grooming trends in Dhaka and *mulassil* areas: "In small towns, music students have less distractions. Teachers in these areas don't believe in time constraint; learning



Sumona Bardhan

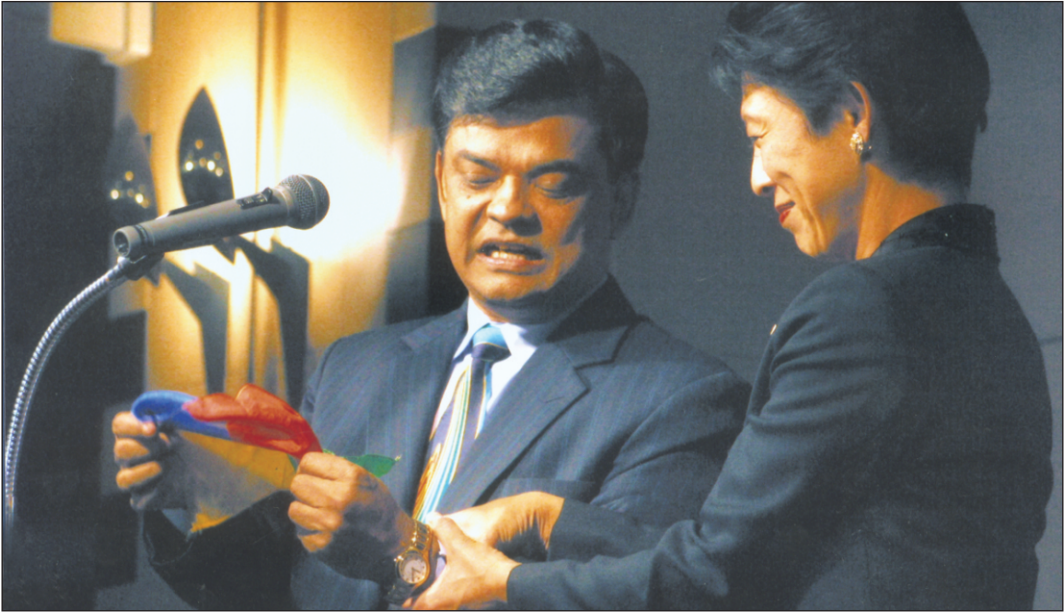
an art cannot and should not be compromised. In Dhaka, however, the students and their parents are always in a rush. The objective is to prepare an individual for the music market in the shortest possible time."

"However, in this day and age of music videos and concerts, being able to carry out a tune impeccably is not enough. Singing is now just a part of the whole 'performance' phenomenon. And when it comes to performance, Dhaka-based artistes usually outshine the out of towners," she adds.

The gifted artist aspires to do playbacks in films. According to her, "Of all the mediums, cinema has the most lasting impact. Audiences remember a noteworthy film song (soundtrack) and the artistes responsible, for decades; take Mitali Mukherji's *Ei duniya ekhon tho aar...* for example. I want to enjoy that kind of recognition."

'Bangladesh Night' in Tokyo

Jewel Aich regales dignitaries



Jewel Aich demonstrates the illusionary 'Silk Vanish' to Princess Takamado at the function

To mark the 35th anniversary of bilateral relations between Japan and Bangladesh, a gala 'Bangladesh Night' was held at Tokyo recently, says a press release. The programme was jointly organised by the Embassy of Bangladesh in Japan and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh.

The chief guest of the programme, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado and diplomats got a glimpse of a variety of handicrafts and delectable Bangladeshi cuisine, followed by a cultural programme. The event was held at the Foreign Correspondents' Club.

In a departure from royal proto-

col, Princess Takamado came on stage to join internationally famed illusionist Jewel Aich in the course of a performance where he performed the illusionary 'Silk Vanish'. Dancer Tamanna Rahman and magician Robin Mondol also performed at the programme.

TV Watch
New drama serial
'Nirontor' tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Rtv will air new drama serial *Nirontor* from tonight. The play centres around a family, headed by Asfaq Shaheb. He has two daughters, Shayla and Mita and a son Ojit. His widowed sister Selina also lives with them. Three bachelors, Babu, Shahed and Shumon, live in the same building. As the play unfolds, each episode features the twists in

the characters' relationships and the ups and downs in their everyday life.

The 26-episode serial will go on air every Tuesday at 8:50 pm. *Nirontor* is directed by Albhi Ahmed and Mustafiz Shahin and the playwright is Alvi Ahmed. The cast of the play includes Jayanto Chattyopadhyay, Dipa Khondokar, Somu Chowdhury, Arman Pervez and others.



Dipa Khondokar and Arman Pervez in a scene from the serial

Buzz
Shilpa in 'Bombay Dreams'?

Would it be the veteran actor-turned-politician Vinod Khanna or the fabled composer, impresario and producer Andrew Webber Lloyd? Shilpa Shetty will have to decide soon if she is going for the saffron flag or getting drenched while lip-synching to AR Rahman song *Shakalaka Baby*.

It would be a choice between politics, following Khanna's invitation for her to contest elections as a BJP candidate, or accept a role in the London revival of the revamped musical hit *Bombay Dreams*.

The *Evening Standard* ran a piece a few days ago saying Webber has offered Shilpa a plum role in the musical. *The Big Brother* winner has become a celebrity across the United Kingdom partly due to the controversies involving a rival candidate in the show.

Bombay Dreams with A R Rahman's music and featuring newcomers Priya Kalidas and Raza Jaffrey ran over 18 months in London after premiering in 2002 at the prestigious Apollo Victoria Theatre with more than 2,000 seats.

The London tabloid also said that Webber had offered Shilpa a



role in a TV series he intends producing following the success of his talent-search program, *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?*

Shilpa's spokesman Max Clifford has confirmed that Webber had been in touch with her directly to discuss an offer.

Clifford told *Evening Standard* that the 31-year-old actress was keen on a theatre career. "She's had 15 years of Bollywood now and it would be tremendous for her as an actress to look for new challenges," he said.

Webber wanted to have a celebrity attached to the show when it opened on Broadway, and his associates in New York had tried to woo the Grammy winner Norah Jones, daughter of sitar maestro Ravi Shankar. But she declined the offer saying she was preoccupied with her recording and a couple of film projects.

Webber, whose hits include *The Phantom of Opera*, wanted Jones to play Priya, the lead. It is possible the stage offer may fetch her the same role in the moderately budgeted (about US\$10 million) screen version of *Bombay Dreams* that Webber wants Farah Khan to direct. She co-choreographed the London and New York version of the musical, getting a Tony nomination, a first for an Indian.

Source: Internet

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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i

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

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv

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.

CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm

News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

RTV

News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am

BTV

08:40 Bishwa Protidin
09:05 Shomapi
11:15 Shukhi Poribar
11:40 Desher Gaan
12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha
12:30 Drama Serial: Swapno Shonar Gaon
01:00 Shobar Jonno Shikha
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Musical Programme
03:05 Cartoon
03:30 Educational Programme
04:00 Amader Angina
04:30 Band Show
05:05 Moner Kotha
06:40 Tagore Song
07:00 Quiz Quiz
07:20 Drama Serial: Uzan
07:45 Ekush Amar Anhonkaar
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh
08:35 Dance Programme
10:30 Shilpo O Shahityo

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Aktel Anyodrishti
12:15 Amar Computer
01:30 Shur Chhobi
02:30 Talk Show
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokhhu Nai
03:45 Aha Ki Anondo
04:20 Musical Programme
05:10 Ainar Shamney
05:45 Perakirtir Bangladesh
06:20 Kothamala
08:00 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha
08:45 Drama: Ha/Na

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone

Trityomatra

11:05 Cricket Online (Live)
11:30 Amar Chhobi
12:30 Citycell Tarokakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbad Potrey Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Selected Drama
04:05 Amader Gaan
04:25 Nirbachoni Olympiad
04:35 Sharif Melamine Shangeetmela
04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Boi Mela Protidin
06:00 Drama Serial: Klanto Shomoy
06:20 Drama Serial: Ochnena Adhar
07:50 RC Travel On
08:35 Drama Serial: Tin Tin
10:00 Drama Serial: Shada Ranger Swapno
12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shangbadpotro

ntv

08:35 Aiker Shokal
09:30 Crime Watch
10:05 Bhinno Swader Khobor
10:30 Music Express
11:00 Cine Gaan
12:02 Ei Shomoy
01:00 Japan Video Topic
03:15 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan
03:50 Drama Serial: Bhalo Basha Mondo Basha Gallery
04:25 Apnar Jigyasha
05:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Frankly Speaking
08:25 Drama Serial: Mon-e Mon-e
09:00 Joytair Joy Jatra

Rtv

09:50 Drama Serial: Neer
11:25 Din Dorpon
09:10 Talk Show: Khola Money
10:00 Purush
10:40 Praner Manush
12:00 Achhey Praney
01:00 Cinema Ar Cinema
01:00 Aj Potrikay
01:35 Islamic Programme
03:45 Black and White
04:20 Path Chaotei Anondo
05:10 Talk Show: Ei Mon
05:10 Aiker Bangladesh
06:35 Amar Desh
08:00 Magazine
Programme: Char Deyal

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprovat Bangladesh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
02:00 Shuktara
03:30 Drama Serial: Shomrajjo
04:00 Gaaner Khata
04:30 Bioscope
05:15 Stop n Rock
06:00 Top News
06:30 Ithasher Path Dhorey
07:00 Nongor
08:15 Drama Serial: Shomrajjo

STAR PLUS

09:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
10:00 My Wife And Kids
11:00 The King Of Queen
11:30 Grey's Anatomy
12:30 Everybody Loves Raymond
01:00 Frasier
01:30 Commander In Chief
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00 General Hospital
06:00 Table For Three
07:00 Cheers
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 Falcon Beach
09:30 Ghost Whisperer

BANGLAVISION

08:35 Shubho Shokal
09:05 Ki Jadu Bangla Gaaney
09:30 Shamol Bangla
10:10 Drama Serial: Krishno Pokho
10:40 Amar Ami
11:10 Public Forum
12:00 Amader Ranna Ghar
03:05 Drama: Dohonkal
04:20 Desher Pathay
05:00 Protidinor Boimela
05:30 Diner Sheshey
08:10 Drama Serial: Shonar Phool
09:15 Agamir Kontho

PICK OF THE DAY



Boi Mela Protidin On Channel i at 5:30pm
Live coverage from Ekushey Boi Mela



The Patriot On Star Movies at 8:35pm
Genre: Action
Cast: Mel Gibson, Joely Richardson

06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
07:00 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cod
07:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
08:30 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
08:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
09:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
09:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati-Srk
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kahiin To Hoga
12:00 Paraya Dhan
12:30 Paraya Dhan
08:15 Baby Geniuses
10:00 Wildfires
11:35 Undiscovered
01:15 Rapid Fire
03:00 Beethoven
04:30 Opening Night
05:00 Panic Room
07:00 Arrangement, The
08:35 Patriot, The
11:20 Operation Delta Force
12:55 Ginger Snaps: Unleashed

STAR WORLD

09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 My Wife And Kids
11:00 The King Of Queen
11:30 Grey's Anatomy
12:30 Everybody Loves Raymond
01:00 Frasier
01:30 Commander In Chief
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00 General Hospital
06:00 Table For Three
07:00 Cheers
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 Falcon Beach
09:30 Ghost Whisperer

10:30 Commander In Chief
11:30 Fashion House
09:30 DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 Massive Engines with Chris Barrie
10:00 Everything You Need to Know
10:30 Future Perfect
11:30 Extreme Machines
12:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Detective Stories
03:30 The X Revolution
04:30 Frica Week
05:30 Himalaya with Michael Palin
06:30 Life on the Edge
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Honey We're Killing the Kids
09:30 Bringing Home Baby
10:00 Amazing Baby Videos
10:30 Man Made Marvels Asia
11:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 Car Chases
10:30 Telemall
11:00 Bhagyashali Ratna
11:15 Global Sky Shop
11:30 Crash On The Mountain
12:30 The Hindenburg
01:30 Hostage TV
02:30 Be The Creature
03:30 Car Chases
04:30 Return to Croc Eden
05:00 Nat Geo Genius
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Serpents Of The Sea
06:30 Car Chases
07:30 Triumph of Life
08:30 Naked Science
09:30 Is It Real?
10:30 Hollywood Science

12:00 Rated W

STAR SPORTS
09:30 2007 Euromilhoes
Dakar (Auto Rac
Engine Block (Magazine)
10:00 Spanish Football League (Soccer)
Royal Bank Of Scotland
Six Natio
12:30 English Premier Football League
02:30 Tna Archive (Wrestling)
04:30 International Motorsport
News 20
05:30 Tna Archive (Wrestling)
06:30 Hitz (Cricket)
07:30 Ashes Heroes (Cricket)
08:30 Remember The Titans (Cricket)
09:00 Cricket Crazy (Cricket)
09:30 Tna Archive (Wrestling)
11:30 Scoop - Phi Special (Field Hocke

ESPN

09:13 Commonweath Bank Series 2006-07
01:00 Sports Yatra (Cricket)
01:30 Commonweath Bank Series 2006-07
05:00 English Premier League Highlight
06:00 Hitz (Cricket)
06:30 Le Tour De Langkawi 2007 (Cyclin)
07:30 Football Focus With John Dykes
08:30 Sportscenter India (Sport News)
09:00 Sportscenter Asia (Sport News)
09:30 2006/07 Spanish League Highlight
10:30 Sportscenter India (Sport News)
11:00 Sportscenter Asia (Sport News)