

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: Samanji Roy Choudhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalya, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhammardi
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



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 Natya Goshithi, Dhaka, presentation, *Kabor* by Rangpur Padatik, *Nari* by Vision Theatre from Dhaka, *Hayre Shadher Election* by Bihanga Sangskritik Charcha Kendra (written by Shahinor Alam), *Dosh Number Moha Bipad Sangket* by Srimangal Theatre (written by Mohammed Ashraf Azmi) and *Shesh Kotha* by Sushom Nattaya Sampoday (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, Munir 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 *Nari*, written by Jugil 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.

KHALID-BIN -HABIB

A weeklong *Jatiyo Patho Natok Utsab '07* (National Street Theatre Festival), arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGT), 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, Gononataya Parishad from Ashuhganj, Shomikoron Theatre from

Chittagong, Amader Theatre from Dinajpur and Sangshakti 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.

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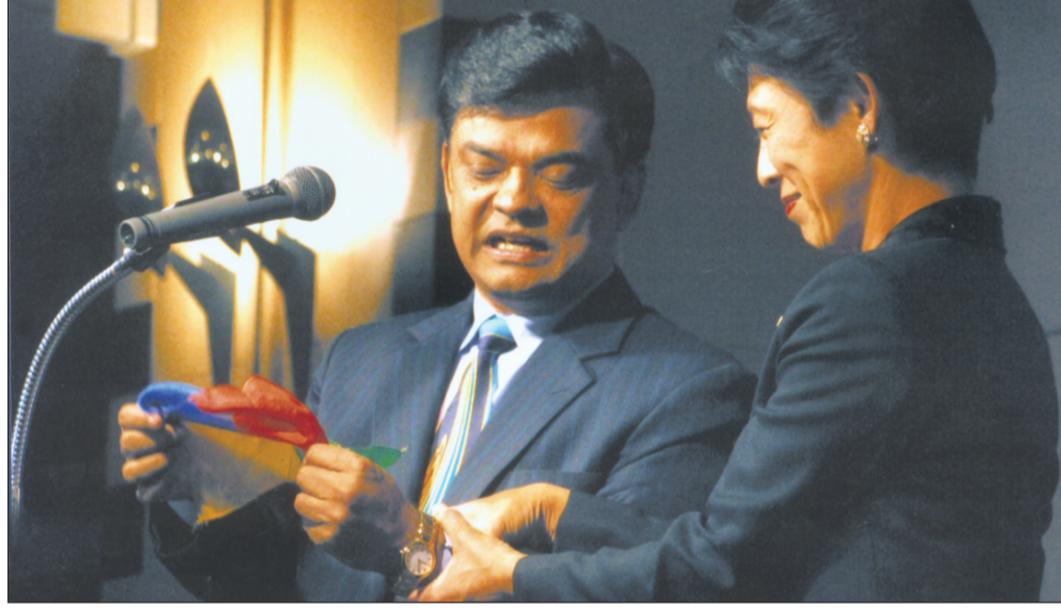
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'Bangladesh Night' in Tokyo

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.

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. The event was held at the Foreign Correspondents' Club.

In a departure from royal proto-

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 Shahab. He has two daughters, Shaya and Mita and a son Ojit. His widowed sister Selina also lives with them. Three bachelors, Babu, Shahab 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 8:50pm. *Nirontor* is directed by Alibhi Ahmed and Mustafiz Shahin and the playwright is Alvi Ahmed. The cast of the play includes Jayanto Chatterjee, Dipa Khondokar, Somu Chowdhury, Arman Perva and others.



Dipa Khondokar and Arman Perva in a scene from the serial

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 Mukhopadhyay's unmistakable lilt or Haimanti Shukla's melancholy melodies.

The only all-inclusive music award in the country, Citycell-Channel 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 Rabiu 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 *aduhnik* songs, Sumona had also taken part in radio programmes featuring classical music. Her first album *Ketey Gelo Baroti Bochhor*, produced under the banner of World Music, came out in 2003. Twelve original *aduhnik* songs in the album were composed by Basudeb Ghosh. Of the songs, *Ei korey choley golo*, *O rangili pakhhi* and *Bhul bhangley choley esha* have been appreciated by the audience.

Her upcoming album *Shudhu Tumi Ashbey Boley*, under the banner of FM Tunes, features songs -- *Jey akash bhasha bohey 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 *Proti poloy poloy jaar chhowa* are aired on Falgoon music and she has been featured in *Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan* (hosted by Syed Abdul Hadi) and *Bhalobasho Mor Gaan* (hosted by Ferdaus 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 *mufassil* 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 Mukherjee's *Ei duriya ekhon tho aar...* for example. I want to enjoy that kind of recognition."

Buzz

Shilpa in 'Bombay Dreams'?



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 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.

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

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

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 8:55am-12:10pm, 2:00pm-3:00pm, 4:00pm-7:00pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00am-1:00pm, 5:00pm-8:00pm.
News (English) at 3:00pm-10:00pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

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

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

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am-6:15pm, 9:30pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30am-2:00pm, 5:00pm-11:00pm.

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.

ATN BANGLA
11:05 Bishwa Protidin
11:30 Amar Chobi
12:30 Citycell Tarokothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shanghai Potrey
02:00 Bangladesh Public Reaction
02:40 Selected Drama
03:00 Shobor Jonno Shikha
04:05 Amader Gaan
04:25 Nirbachoni Olympiad
04:35 Sharif Melamine
04:45 Shangeetmela
04:50 Boi Mela Protidin
05:00 Drama Serial: Kianto Shomoy
05:15 Moner Kotha
06:20 Drama Serial: Okhena Adhar
06:40 Tagore Song
07:00 Quiz
07:20 Drama Serial: Uzan
07:45 Ekush Amar
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh
08:35 Dance Programme
10:30 Shilpo O Shahityo

ntv
08:35 Akter Anyodishiti
09:30 Crime Watch
10:05 Bhirno Swader
11:00 Khobor
12:30 Talk Show
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar
10:30 Music Express
01:30 Chokhhu Nai
11:00 Aha Ki Anondo
04:20 Musical Programme
05:10 Aainar Shamney
05:45 Perakirir Bangladesh
06:20 Kothamala
08:00 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha
08:45 Drama: Ha/Na

CHANNEL-i
06:50 Shobor Jonno Shikha
07:00 Amar Chobi
07:25 Frankly Speaking
08:25 Drama Serial: Mon-e
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone

CHANNEL 1
11:25 Drama Serial: Neer
10:45 Rtv Exclusive
09:10 Talk Show: Khola Money
10:00 Purush
10:40 Praner Manush
03:15 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan
03:50 Drama Serial: Bhalo Basha Mondo Basha
04:25 Gallery
05:20 Apnar Jigyasha
05:10 Talk Show: El Mon Shubho Shondhya
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh
06:35 Amar Desh
07:00 Magazine
08:00 Programme: Char Joyitar Jatra

BANGLAVISION
09:50 Shobor Potrey
10:00 Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone

STAR PLUS
09:00 Rupantor Golpo
09:30 Fusion Biz
10:30 Expression
08:35 Shubho Shokal
09:00 Ki Jadu Bangla Gaaney
09:30 Shamol Bangla
10:10 Drama Serial: Krishmo Pokho
03:30 Drama Serial: Shomrajo
04:00 Gaaner Khata
04:30 Bioscope
04:40 Stop in Rock
05:15 Itihaser Path Dhorey
06:00 Top News
06:30 Diner Sheshey
07:00 Nongor
07:30 Saaj Bela
08:00 Magazine
08:15 Drama Serial: Shomrajo

STAR PLUS
09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
10:30 Expression
10:30 Shomrajo
11:00 Fusion Biz
11:30 Gaaner Khata
12:00 Bioscope
12:30 Stop in Rock
13:00 Diner Sheshey
13:30 Nongor
14:00 Saaj Bela
14:30 Magazine
15:00 Drama Serial: Shomrajo

STAR CHANNEL
09:30 Massive Engines with Chris Barrie
10:00 Everything You Need to Know
10:30 Future Perfect
11:00 Extreme Machines
11:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids
12:00 Paraya Dhan

STAR MOVIES
08:15 Baby Geniuses
08:30 Wildfires
09:00 Undiscovered
09:30 Rapid Fire
03:00 Beethoven
04:30 Opening Night
05:00 Panic Room
07:00 Arrangement
08:35 Patriot, The
11:20 Operation