

CULTURAL FEAS

**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

Bangla Calligraphy Exhibition

Artist: Arham-ul-Huq Choudhury
Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka
Date: February 17-28
Time: 10:00am-8:00pm

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: Samajit 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, Mahabubur 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

Folk music festival at Shilpakala begins

Over 100 musicians converge

ERSHAD KAMOL

“BANGLADESH has a rich folk music heritage which includes both religious and secular songs. Folk music may be described as traditional music, which springs from the heart of the masses, based on their natural style. The thousand-year-old rich tradition has 132 genres, of which very few are performed. As a result, the city dwellers have little interest in their heritage; however, foreign scholars view Bangladeshi folk songs as a rich cultural heritage of the globe,” said Dr Ashraf Siddiqui, an eminent folklore researcher of the country, at the opening ceremony of a four-day folk music festival at Shilpakala.

Beginning on February 5, the Department of Dance and Music of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) arranged the folk music programme at the Plaza of Department of Fine Arts. The programme was presided over by DG of BSA, Quamrul Hassan (NDC).

ABM Abdul Haque Chowdhury, the secretary of Ministry of Cultural Affairs, was the chief guest and Dr Ashraf Siddiqui was the special guest of the opening ceremony. Shafi Kamal and Sunil Chandra Das, directors of Department of Drama and Film and Department of Dance and Music of BSA respectively, were the other discussants.

In his speech Siddiqui further said, “Rural bards with their unpretentious craftsmanship have dealt with key contemporary issues such as humanism and women’s issues. Moreover, mysticism, love, traditional ceremonies like weddings are other cornerstones of folk music. The rich melody has the ability to hold listeners spellbound. Many of us are unaware that Bangla folklore has been translated in 12 languages. And I believe that *pala* like *Mohua*, included in *Mymensingh Geetika*, are on par with select world classics.”

Over 100 prominent folk singers and troupes, who have been regularly performing for the urban and



Farida Parveen (above) and Meena Barua perform at the programme

rural listeners are participating in the musical soiree.

On the selection process, Ali Azgar Khokon, music director of Department of Dance and Music, said, “Renowned folk singers of the country like Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Farida Parveen, Indra Mohan Rajbongshi, Meena Barua, Kiron Chndra Roy, Bari Siddiqui, Chandana Majumdar and Abu Bakar Siddiqui are participating in the programme. Besides, a good number of young talents are included. Traditional singers, *Bayatis* and groups including Abdul Kuddus Bayatai, Kangelini Sufia and others will also present different genres of folk songs. Each evening three prominent, 18 promising and five traditional folk singers will perform at the event.”

On February 5, the musical soiree began with the presentation of an indigenous instrumental presentation including *khol*, *dotara*, *ektara*, *bansi* and harmonium. The tune was based

on the popular *bhawaiya* song *O ki o bondhu kajol bhmora re*. Next followed renowned Lalson singer Farida Parveen’s rendition of *Baro shankote poniya doyal*. And as usual the exponent of Lalson song enchanted the audience with her soulful presentation. Abu Bakar Siddiqui with his stentorian voice modulation rendered a melodious *bichchhedhi* song *Tui jodi amar hoiti re*. Many days later Meena Barua presented her popular song *Ja re ja chithi* in a live concert. And renowned folk singer Bari Siddiqui also gave a soulful presentation of two baul songs.

Even the young talents put up an impressive performance on the opening day. The other attractions of the first evening were presentations of traditional folk troupes of Abu Sayeed Sarkar, Shaheed Dewan, Monjila Dewan, Alam Sarkar and Arif Dewan.

Homage to Quamrul Hassan

Discussion on the master painter

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Quamrul Hassan (1921-1988) occupies a firm niche in Bangladesh’s fine arts. His creative talents were multifaceted and his artworks are characterised by constant reinvention and experimentation. His tireless experimentation also facilitated a better understanding of various media. A natural affinity for tradition lies at the heart of Quamrul’s aesthetics. He has been eminently successful in blending the indigenous with western and subsequently has enriched the Bangladeshi modern art form. Deeply influenced by the folk artists, Quamrul Hassan was popularly known as ‘Patua Quamrul Hassan’.

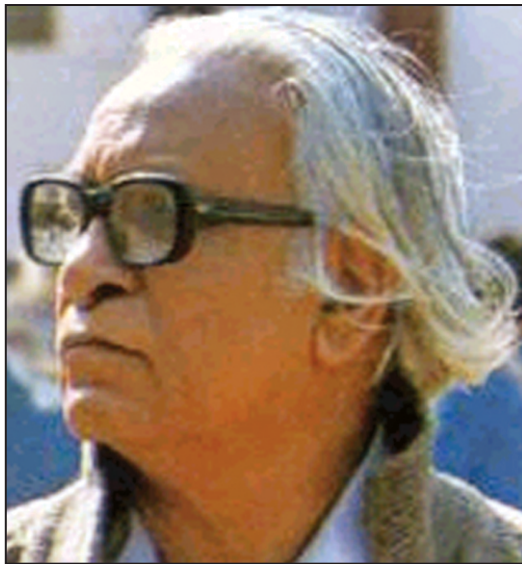
Hassan’s subjects range from colourful pictures depicting a pristine, rural Bengal to a politically corrupt, degenerating one. His portraits and sketches of men and women, animals, birds and snakes reflect the traditional rural society of Bengal and its natural beauty. Juxtaposing these pictures are his fierce cartoons and sketches of military rulers, Pakistani or Bangladeshi, which inspired the general public during the late ‘60s, the Liberation War, and during the movement against Ershad’s dictatorship in the late ‘80s.

Quamrul Hassan received several awards and honours for his contribution to art, among them are the President’s Gold Medal (1965), the Independence Day Award (1979), Bangladesh Charu Shilpi Sangsad Honour (1984). He was made a Fellow of Bangla Academy in 1985. The Government of Yugoslavia (1985) and the Government of Bangladesh (1986) issued commemorative stamps using his paintings *Tin Kanya* and *Naior* respectively.

February 2, is the death anniversary of Quamrul Hassan. To commemorate the day, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), arranged a discussion session on February 5.

Presided over by Director General of BSA, Quamrul Hassan (NDC), artist Syed Jahangir, artist Nahid Akhtar and art critic Moinuddin Khaled spoke at the programme.

Discussants emphasised on the perspective of



Quamrul Hassan

Quamrul Hassan as an artist and his sense of aesthetics. Moreover, they have focused on the active participation of the master artist in the political and cultural movements.

Moinuddin Khaled said, “Patua Quamrul Hassan is yet to get his due respect. Thousands of his paintings and drawings are not traceable. I believe we should have set up a foundation to showcase all his art works.”

Syed Jahangir said, “The alarming thing is that these days many unscrupulous elements are forging Quamrul Hassan’s paintings.”

Shilpakala DG Quamrul Hassan said, “We have yet to take major initiatives to pay respect to master artists like Patua Quamrul Hassan. In the near future we hope to arrange bigger programmes including an exhibition of his artworks.”

Theatre

'Chhayahin Kaya': An existential theme

EMRAN HOSSAIN, JU Correspondent

The world around appears meaningless when one realises the thin dividing line between life and death. Time comes to an abrupt halt and soon the question of existence starts flickering in the mind, causing people to part with the conventional and everyday routine life. This is the theme of the play titled *Chhayahin Kaya*, staged by Jahangirnagar Theatre (JT) at Mahila Samity recently.

Translated by Abdar Rashid from the main script by Jean Paul Sartre, the drama is directed by a group of activists of the JT. The production endeavoured to maintain the flavour of European theatre in its costume, presentation and music while the storyline is set against the backdrop of Bangladesh.

The curtains go up on seven revolutionary characters, who are arrested following failure of a secret operation, wandering around in custody how they got there. Confusion and dispute over the cause they fought for, take place frequently as they feel the presence of



Actors of Jahangirnagar Theatre in the play

death surrounding them, even in the silence.

Sometimes their activities for the betterment of society appear baseless and even wrong. As they experience inexplicable torture they discover that every human being on earth is different in mindset, talent and logic. Individual crisis is diverse and eventually leads to the murder of one of their comrades in custody.

Though one by one they start disappearing from custody, they want to be united once again and keep their much-cherished dream and spirit alive.

The performance of Mahfuzur Rahman Sajib, as leader, Moeen Uddin Pathan, as Francois, Abdul Momin, as Clochhet, and Laila Arzumand Nipa, as Lucy, were impressive while the team performance was satisfactory.

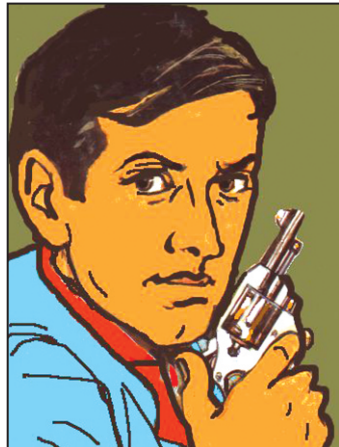
The music, composed and played by Shahtab Siddique Anik, created the atmosphere of monotony, confusion and relief at times.

Satyajit Ray lives on in various ways. Now the BBC is doing a radio adaptation of Ray’s series of stories on Detective Feluda. While Rahul Bose plays the uncanny sleuth, veteran actor Anupam Kher’s voice features the detective’s companion writer Lalmohan Ganguly.

Says Bose, “Earlier I had done the voice for BBC’s adaptation of Vikram Seth’s *A Suitable Boy*. That had won the best drama award in England. Now I’m doing *Adventures of Feluda* on the BBC. I was flattered when the BBC said my name kept recurring when a shortlist was made of who should play Feluda in the radio play. Coincidentally, I read all 35 of Ray’s Feluda stories just a year back for the first time in my life. Like any other Mumbai I’m totally cut off from my Bengali roots until such an occasion arises.”

Bose says emoting on radio is very different from doing so on

screen. “A part of the experience is the same. When you are preparing



A sketch of Feluda

to play the role it doesn’t matter if it’s for screen or radio. However the challenge on radio is to be tall in your voice, to sound hungry and passionate...You can be superman on radio even if you don’t look like Hrithik Roshan. Indians are a very audio nation. We respond immediately to sonic stimuli. Whether it’s a dialogue from *Sholay* or a jingle from an ad we identify immediately with the sound. I think radio is poised to make a big comeback.”

Adds Kher, “I did radio in my days of struggle. It’s such a pleasure to be back in this medium and also very exhausting. At the end of it I feel extremely rewarded because your entire performance comes from your voice. I never got to work with Ray. I’m doing so now.”

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, 3:30 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 Shomapti
12:05 Maa O Shishur
Kotha
12:30 Drama Serial: Swapno Shonar Gaon
01:00 Shukhi Poribar
01:30 Selected Programme
02:15 Sisimpur
03:05 Cartoon
03:30 Cricket Shekha
04:00 Esho Computer Shikhi
04:30 Oi Notuner Ketan Urey
07:20 Geet Gunjon
07:45 Ekush Amar Ahonkaar
09:00 Drama
09:30 Shurer Prohor
10:30 Ei Prithibi

ATN BANGLA
10:30 Anyodrishti
11:05 Talk Show: Meet the Press
12:15 Cinema Cinema
01:30 Gaane Surey Tarunne
02:30 Musical Programme
03:10 Drama Serial: Bhalo Bashar Rang
04:20 Islamic Programme
05:10 Nijey Jano Shafolyo Ano
05:45 Islamic Programme
06:20 Char Deyaler Kabyo
08:00 Drama Serial: Noyontara
08:40 Drama Serial: Bohemian
09:20 Drama Serial

CHANNEL-i
09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Triloyomatra
11:05 Sports Time (Live)
12:30 Citycell Tarokakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Selected Drama
04:05 Amader Gaan
04:25 Nirbachoni Olympiad
04:35 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Bol Mela Protidin
06:00 Music Club
06:20 Drama Serial: Shompadho Upopadho
07:50 Hello Minister
09:35 Talk Show: Aloye Bhuban Bhora
10:00 Mega Serial: Jog Biog
12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shangbadpotro

ntv
09:30 Frankly Speaking
10:05 Colours
10:30 Gallery
12:05 Saaj Ghar
01:00 Japan Video Topic
03:15 Drama Serial: Shaola
03:50 Drama Serial: Neer Joyitar Joyjatra
05:20 Islamic Programme
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Ki Kotha Tahar Shathey

PICK OF THE DAY

Meet the Press
On ATN Bangla at 11:05am
Talkshow hosted by Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul
Today's guest Dr Kamal Hossain

08:25 Siddiqia Kabirs Recipe
09:10 Musical Programme
09:50 Drama Serial: Neer
11:25 Din Dorpon

Rtv
09:10 Ei Mon
09:40 Char Deyal
10:00 Swapno Diner Gaan
12:00 Amar Desh
01:00 Aj Potrikay
01:35 Shoto Proshno
03:45 Drama Serial: Shomrajyo
04:00 Rupantorer Golpo
04:30 Fusion Biz
05:15 Expression
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:30 Griho Shroily

08:50 Drama Serial: Kagorjer Manush
10:45 Rtv Exclusive
10:50 Profile

CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:00 Magic Show
10:30 Bangla Feature film
02:00 Nangor
03:30 Drama Serial: Shonar Phool
03:05 Agamir Kontyo
05:00 Protidiner Boimela
05:30 Diner Sheshey
06:30 Cinebit Shadakalo
08:10 Drama Serial: Joba Kushum

04:00 Kahiin To Hoga
04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
05:00 Saibaba
05:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cod
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
07:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
07:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
08:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
08:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
09:00 Kasautii Zindagii 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

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
10:30 Bringing Home Baby
11:00 Amazing Baby Videos
11:30 Life On The Edge
12:30 Body Basics
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Detectives Stories
03:30 Everything You Need To Know
04:00 Massive Engines With Chris Barrie
04:30 Africa Week
05:30 Himalaya With Michael Palin
06:30 Dangerman
07:30 Adventures With Geoff Mackley
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Life On The Edge
09:30 African Adventures
10:00 StuntDaws
10:30 Building The Biggest
11:30 Final 24

11:30 Hunter Hunted
STAR SPORTS
08:30 Tna Archive (Wrestling)
09:30 Cricket Crazy (Cricket)
10:30 English Premier Football League
12:30 Royal Bank Of Scotland Six Natio
02:30 England U-21 (Soccer/Futbol)
04:30 Tna Impact (Wrestling)
05:00 Mtn One Day International Series
10:00 Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss (The
10:30 Mtn One Day International Series

ESPN
10:30 Mtn One Day International Series
12:30 English Premier Football League
02:30 Indian Premier Hockey League (Fi
04:30 Pakistan Tour Of England-Twenty2
05:30 Twenty20 International - South A
06:30 Le Tour De Langkawi 2007 (Cyclin
07:30 2006/07 Spanish League Highlight
08:30 Sportscenter India (Sport News)
09:00 Sportscenter Asia (Sport News)
09:30 One Day Cricket Series 2000 (Cri
10:30 Sportscenter India (Sport News)
11:00 Sportscenter Asia (Sport News)
11:30 Hiz (Cricket)
12:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of New Zealand