

## CULTURAL FEAS

**Ekushey Boi Mela**

**Organiser:** Bangla Academy  
**Venue:** Bangla Academy premises  
**Date:** February 1-28  
Month-long book fair

**Ekushey Cultural Programme**

**Organiser:** Sammilito Sangskritik Jote  
**Venue:** Central Shaheed Minar Premises  
**Date:** February 9-19  
**Time:** 4:00pm

**Organisers:** Sammilito Sangskritik Jote  
**Venue:** Rabindra Sarobar Amphitheatre (Dhanmondi)  
**Date:** February 15-21  
**Time:** 4:00pm

**Folk Musical Soiree**

**Organiser:** Dance and Music Department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Venue:** National Art Gallery  
**Date:** February 5-8  
**Time:** 6:00pm

**Bangla Calligraphy Exhibition**

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

**Solo Art Exhibition**

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

**Bashanto Utshob**

**Organisers:** National Bashanto Utshob Uddajon Committee  
**Venue:** Bakul Tola, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University  
**Date:** February 13  
**Time:** 4:00am

**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

**CD Launch**

**Title:** Rupanter Gaan  
**Artists:** Shaheen Samad and Enamul Haque  
**Venue:** Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag  
**Date:** February 12  
**Time:** 5 pm

**Theatre**

**Play:** Dakghor  
**Troupe:** Swapnodol  
**Venue:** Experimental Theatre Stage  
**Date:** February 12  
**Time:** 6:30pm

**Play:** Project 100+  
**Troupe:** Palakar  
**Venue:** Palakar Theatre Studio, 133, Natok Shorony, New Bailey Road  
**Date:** February 8 & 9  
**Time:** 6:30pm

# Folk music soiree at Shilpakala

## A lukewarm second day



Abdul Kuddus Bayati, Dilruba Khan and Ainal Haque (below) perform at the programme



PHOTO: STAR

**ERSHAD KAMOL**

**D**IFFERENT folk music genres written by renowned bards like Fakir Lalon Shah, Pagla Kanai, Radha Ramon, Romesh Shill, Jasimuddin and others were rendered on the second of the ongoing folk music soiree at Shilpakala. Moreover, *bayatis* presented songs written and composed by them.

Like the previous evening, the event on February 6 began with a group presentation by the instrumentalists of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Supported by indigenous instruments such as *dhol*, *dholak*, *tabla*, *mondira*, *dotara* and harmonium, M Moniruzzaman played the lead on the *bansi*. The instrumental presentation of renowned bard Hason Raja's song *Matiro pinjirar majhe*, had a mystic ambience at the plaza of the National Art Gallery of BSA.

The instrumental was followed by Zahir Alim's rendition of *dehotatta* genre, titled *Porer jaga porer jomi ghor banayia ami roi*. Other renowned folk singers who performed on the second day were Dilruba Khan, Khogendra Nath Sarkar, MA Khalek, Dil Afroz Reba and others.

Dil Afroz Reba's performance of Pagla Kanai's song *Ore ghar bendhechhi shadher kamilar* was unique in the sense that Pagla Kanai's *dhuya jari* genre is on the verge of extinction. The soiree



gave the audience an opportunity to hear Pagla Kanai's *dhuya jari*. Dilruba Khan rendered popular folk song *Amar line hoia jay anka banka*. Khogendra Nath Sarkar's stentorian voice modulation during the song *Keno morish jol phele* touched the heart of the audience. MA Khalek performed Jasimuddin's popular song *Nishithe jaiyo phulo bon-e*.

The programme, arranged by Dance and Music Department of BSA including several solo folk singers and groups from different corners of the country, was widely appreciated. Among the catchy performances were those of seasoned singers such as Syed Golam Ambia, Afroza Begum and Shyama Sarkar. However, the inclusion of mediocre singers such as Bina Majumdar threw a damper on the programme. Both the audience and renowned singers criticised such inclusions.

However, the day's main attraction was a soulful performance of Abdul Kuddus Bayati and his troupe that drew applause from the audience. The choir presented three songs—*Atoro golap shoya chondan*, *Amar bondhur lagiya go* and *Ki shundor ek ganer pakhi*. Other *bayatis* such as Ainal Haq, Shona Miah Boyati, Alam Sarkar and Saleha Begum presented self composed songs.

# In conversation with Nickel Projecting Bangladesh to Londoners

**FAYZA HAQ**

Mohammad Shamsur Rahman Nickel works on wooden murals, painting and event management, which involves pageants with costumes, masks and symbols of our culture like actual rickshaws, *palkis* (sedan chairs) and *kulas* (used for winning rice). This Nickel does as an expatriate artist working in London and its suburbs.

The aim, he says, is to renew interest in Bangladeshi cultural roots among young migrants of Bangladeshi origin, and create interest among adult Europeans based in and around London. Every year there are about 15 festivals in London and its periphery areas, namely *Baishakhi Melas*, Brickland Festivals and Lord Mayor Shows (2004 and 2005), among others. An expert in art and crafts, working for an organisation called Sitar Fusion, Nickel represents Bangladesh.

In the Lord Mayor Reception Show, in particular, there are about 100 pavilions, in which five migrant communities like France, Germany and Italy are invited to perform and

**A mural by the artist on display**

exhibit. Here, once he presented a 3-D *palki*, arranged by the Tower Hamlet Council and organised art competitions of children from five schools also. In this workshop the young artists painted subjects taken from everyday Bangladeshi life along with topics of other European migrants. After documentaries on different themes, the children settled down on subjects like Eiffel Tower, Japanese girls, rickshaws and Bangladeshi boats plying on rivers. The paintings on silk were later converted into flags and fluttered at the festival amidst fun and fanfare. Most of the participating young ones, were Bangladeshi migrants, says Nickel. Sitar Fusion itself is based in Bethnal Green, London.

Nickel makes set designs for Channel S in London for programmes like *Sur-Jalsa*, *Kotha*, *It's our day* and *Neither extreme*, which can be viewed in Bangladesh too, he says. He has also done the

set design for Bangla TV, on occasions.

Back in Bangladesh, Nickel worked for several TV channels before he left for better prospects in London in 2001. He has done his MFA from the Department of Fine Arts, DU, with teachers like Maran Chand Pal and Syed Talukdar, in the Ceramics Section.

As it is difficult to work with clay in UK, Nickel has also gone in for making large murals for Bangladeshi restaurants in London for a regular living. The first section of the mural deals with a Bangladeshi village beauty seen walking along the banks of a river; next is a folk motif composition with an elephant, flute, cart wheel and a *kula*. The last panel brings in a scene from our historical past, with a regal lady playing with a spotted deer, while the king looks on with satisfaction.

Nickel's endeavour to use his artistic knowledge and know-how is admirable.



Mohammad Shamsur Rahman Nickel

# Movie Watch 'Provoked': True story of a battered woman

The much talked about Aishwarya-starrer film *Provoked*, directed by Jagmohan Mundhra is all set for international release.

The film was premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in April last year and was highly praised by the international media. *Provoked* also opened the 2006 IIFA Film Festival in Dubai.

Based on a true story, *Provoked* follows a Punjabi woman, Kiranjit Ahluwalia, living in London. Unable to bear the brutality and repeated rapes by her alcoholic and abusive husband (Naveen Andrews), Kiranjit (Aishwarya Rai), a housewife and mother of two, sets him on fire before unintentionally killing him. Her retaliation followed 10 years of systematic abuse. What caused her to flip on that fateful evening might be that he had pressed a hot iron against her.

Charged with first-degree murder, she is sentenced to life imprisonment, where she befriends

her cell-mate, a wealthy white woman named Veronica Scott (Miranda Richardson), from whom



Aishwarya Rai with co-actor in the film

she learns English. Moved by her story, the cell-mate asks her stepbrother, Edward

Foster (Robbie Coltrane), a highly respected queen's counsel to file her appeal.

Her case comes to the notice of a group of South Asian social workers running an organisation called Southall Black Sisters. They bring her plight to the attention of the media by organising rallies to gather public support for her freedom.

She is ultimately freed by the judicial system in a landmark case called "Regina vs. Ahluwalia" (1992), that redefined the word "provocation" in the case of a battered woman.

She was reunited with her children and was subsequently given an award by the Prime Minister's wife for her crusade against domestic violence.

Rai, stars in an intense deglamourised role very similar to that in *Choker Ball*, a film much appreciated by the international audience.

Source: Internet

## ALL TIME GREATS

# Sidney Poitier: The living legend

Sir Sidney Poitier, the legendary actor, has been in the news lately—more so one of his autobiographical books, *The Measure of A Man: A Spiritual Autobiography* (2000). On January 26, 2007 Oprah Winfrey chose it for her book club. The club is a segment of the American talk show *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, highlighting books chosen by host Oprah.

Poitier is a Bahamian American Academy Award-winning actor (film and stage), film director and activist. He has been dubbed a breakthrough star for his stellar performances, which defied racial stereotypes and gave a new dramatic credibility for African American actors in mainstream films in the western world. Who hasn't heard of Poitier's roles in films such as *A Patch of Blue* (1965), *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (1967) and *To Sir, with Love* (1967)?

Born on February 20, 1927, Poitier was a native of Cat Island, The Bahamas (though born in Miami during a mainland visit by his parents). The son of a dirt farmer, his childhood was mired in poverty. He had little formal education and at the age of 14 was sent to Miami to live with his brother, the aim being to forestall a growing tendency toward delinquency.

Coming face to face with the racial prejudices of that time, he resolved to find and create opportunities for his counterparts. At 18, he made his way to New York and did menial jobs. Shockingly, he slept in a bus terminal toilet. Putting in a brief stint in the Army as a worker at a veteran's hospital, he did some more menial jobs in Harlem.

The early days of his acting career were dis-

couraging. A spur of the moment audition at the American Negro Theatre was rejected so forcefully that he spent the next six months in overcom-



ing his accent and fine tuning his performance. A second try followed—with success this time. He was spotted in a rehearsal and given a tiny role in a Broadway production of *Lysistrata*—which bagged good reviews. By the end of 1949, his acting career picked up so much that he had to choose between leading roles on stage and an offer to work for Darryl F Zanuck in the film *No Way Out* (1950). The latter was a dramatic turning point for Poitier. Playing the role of a doctor treating a white American, he won notice and offers for more roles. This was a feather in his cap as the roles that came his way were more interesting and prominent than most African American actors at that time were getting.

Along the way, Poitier picked up many an award. His part in the film *The Defiant Ones* (1958), gave Poitier his first Academy Award nomination as Best Actor. Five years down the line, he picked up the Oscar for *Lilies of the Field*, the first African American to win for a leading role. Other successes were *A Raisin in the Sun* (1961), and *In the Heat of the Night* (1967).

Some of his films had a distinct social message. Take his roles in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (1967) and *To Sir, With Love* (1967) were landmarks for breaking through social barriers imposed by the colour of skin. Today, while he has reduced his acting commitments, he stands tall in the American cinema of the 20th century.

Composed by Cultural Correspondent

## 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, 12:15am.

**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 am, 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, 6:15pm, 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**

11:15 Cookery Show  
11:40 *Shotorupa*  
12:05 *Maa O Shishur Kotha*  
01:00 *Shukhi Poribar*  
02:15 Children's Drama  
02:40 *Esho Gaan Shikhi*  
03:05 Cartoon  
04:00 *Esho Computer Shikhi*  
04:30 *Bansuri*  
05:05 Documentary Programme  
05:30 *Doctor Jokhon Durey*  
06:40 *Jiboner Alo*  
07:00 *Shangita*  
07:20 *Shomoyer Shanglap*  
08:30 *Protidin Bangladesh*  
08:40 *Drama of the Week*  
10:30 Musical Programme

**ATN BANGLA**

09:20 Drama Serial: *Shokal Shondha*  
Talk Show: *Aktel Anyodristi*  
12:15 *Bangla Feature Film*  
03:45 *ATN Ranna Ghar*  
04:20 *Shundor Jiboner Jonno*  
05:10 *Amader Joto Kotha*  
05:45 Islamic Programme  
06:20 *Bornomalar Rup Kotha*  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Shokal Shondha*  
08:40 Drama Serial: *Koto Chena Koto Ochena*  
09:20 Drama Serial: *Chihaya Mukh*  
**CHANNEL i**  
09:30 *Shanghabad Potre Bangladesh*  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 *Grameen Phone*

12:30 *Tritiyomatra Citicell Tarokakothon*  
01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*  
01:30 *Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh*  
01:45 Public Reaction  
02:40 *Tritiyo Matray Apni*  
03:05 *Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak*  
04:25 *Nirbachoni Olympiad*  
04:35 *Sa Re Ga Ma*  
05:30 *Boimela Protidin*  
06:00 *Shamoeki*  
06:20 *Amar Chihobi*  
07:50 *Jibon Jekhaney Jemon*  
08:20 Drama Serial: *Ferari*  
09:35 *Ekhoni Shomoy*  
10:00 Drama Serial: *Nishidho Bonobhumi*  
12:00 *Grammephone Ajker Shangbadpotro*

**ntv**

08:35 *Ajker Shokal*  
09:00 *Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe*  
09:30 *Ki Kotha Tahar Shathey*  
10:05 *Cholochitro Kotha*  
01:05 Japan Video Topic  
02:35 Drama Serial: *Mon-e Mon-e*  
03:15 Drama Serial: *Shaoila*  
03:50 Drama Serial: *Neer Mon Amar Shondhan Kori*  
04:25 *Mohilangan*  
05:20 *Shubho Shondhya*  
06:50 *Rightclick*  
08:25 Drama Serial: *Megh Bolechhe Jabo Jabo*  
09:00 *Glamour World*

### PICK OF THE DAY

**Ekhn E Shomoy**  
On Channel i at 9:35pm  
Talk Show hosted by Farzana Brownia  
Tonight's guest Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Aziz Khan

**Shokal Shondha**  
On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Ahmed Reza Rubel, Tazin

10:00 Drama Serial: <i>Bishkhoy Dindarpan</i>	09:00 Drama Serial: <i>Dash Diner Ghotona The One</i>	08:35 Drama Serial: <i>Dokhinayon Article Thirty-Nine</i>	1155 Bolly V - Star Plus V Trailers - Star Plus
11:25 <b>Channel 1</b>	09:30 <b>BANGLAVISION</b>	09:20 <b>STAR MOVIES</b>	12:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
08:40 <i>Shuprovat Bangladesh</i>	09:05 <i>Media Bhuvan</i>	11:15 <i>Phantom Below</i>	12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
09:30 <i>Chokh Mele Dekhi</i>	09:30 Drama Serial: <i>Swapno Chura</i>	01:00 <i>Braveheart</i>	12:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
10:30 <i>Bangla Feature Film</i>	10:10 <i>Deshher Pathhey</i>	04:00 <i>Death To The Supermodels</i>	01:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
02:00 <i>Show Case</i>	10:45 <i>Choitail Jochhonay Eka Meye</i>	05:25 <i>Solo</i>	01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
03:30 Drama Serial: <i>Shokal Shondha</i>	02:30 Drama Serial: <i>Joba Kushum</i>	07:00 <i>Coyote Ugly</i>	02:00 Bhabhi
04:30 <i>Baker Pathhey</i>	03:05 <i>Cinebit Shadakalo</i>	08:45 <i>Star Wars: Ep. Vi - Return Of The Jedi</i>	02:30 Kesar
05:15 <i>Gollachhut</i>	04:20 <i>Ichhey Ghuri</i>	11:00 <i>Clearing, The</i>	03:00 Saarthi
06:00 <i>Saaj Bela</i>	05:30 <i>Diner Sheshhey</i>		03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
06:45 <i>Itihasher Pathdhorey</i>	06:30 <i>Shurer Bhuvan</i>		11:00 Kahiin To Hoga Paraya Dhan
07:00 <i>Shombhabonar Bangladesh</i>			10:30 American Idol
08:15 Drama Serial: <i>Basha Ghughur Basha</i>			11:30 Heroes
			12:30 Grey's Anatomy
			01:30 Third Watch
			02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
			03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
			04:00 General Hospital
			05:00 Fashion House
			06:00 Arrested Development
			06:30 The Simpsons
			07:00 Cheers
			07:30 Friends
			08:00 Seinfeld
			08:30 American Idol
			09:30 Hope & Faith
			10:00 According To Jim
			10:30 Crumbs
			11:00 Two And A Half Men
			11:30 Fashion House
			04:00 African Adventures
			11:00 Stuntadaws
			11:30 Dangerman Adventures With Geoff Mackley
			12:30 Feast India
			01:00 Finest Hotels In The World
			06:00 Mickey Mouse And

07:00 *The Suite Life Of Zack And Cod*  
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
07:30 *Golu Ke Goggles*  
07:55 Bolly V - Star Plus  
08:00 *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 Ki*  
11:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*  
11:30 *Kahiin To Hoga Paraya Dhan*

**STAR WORLD**

10:30 *American Idol*  
11:30 *Heroes*  
12:30 *Grey's Anatomy*  
01:30 *Third Watch*  
02:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*  
03:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*  
04:00 *General Hospital*  
05:00 *Fashion House*  
06:00 *Arrested Development*  
06:30 *The Simpsons*  
07:00 *Cheers*  
07:30 *Friends*  
08:00 *Seinfeld*  
08:30 *American Idol*  
09:30 *Hope & Faith*  
10:00 *According To Jim*  
10:30 *Crumbs*  
11:00 *Two And A Half Men*  
11:30 *Fashion House*

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**

10:30 *African Adventures*  
11:00 *Stuntadaws*  
11:30 *Dangerman Adventures With Geoff Mackley*  
12:30 *Feast India*  
01:00 *Finest Hotels In The World*

01:30 *Wild Discovery*  
02:30 *Detective Stories*  
03:30 *Animal Camera*  
04:00 *Zack's Ultimate Guide*  
04:30 *Africa Week*  
05:30 *Himalaya With Michael Palin*  
06:30 *Stunt Junkies*  
07:00 *Stuntadaws*  
07:30 *Wild Discovery*  
08:30 *Planet Earth*  
09:30 *Meerkat Manor*  
10:00 *Animal Camera*  
10:30 *Ten Ways*  
11:30 *A Haunting*

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

10:30 *Telemall*  
11:00 *Bhagyashali Ratna*  
11:15 *Global Sky Shop*  
11:30 *Hong Kong's Big Bang*  
12:30 *Earthquake*  
01:30 *Forgotten Rhino*  
02:30 *Kamchatka*  
03:30 *Hollywood Science*  
04:30 *Calling All Crocs*  
05:00 *Nat Geo Genius*  
05:30 *Big Bang*  
06:00 *Mission To Malaysia*  
06:30 *Hollywood Science*  
07:30 *Predators at War*  
08:30 *Assault On The Megaherd*  
09:30 *Frontline Of Construction*  
10:3