

## CULTURAL FEAS

## Music Festival

Organisers: Centre for Education, Creative & Performing Arts, UNESCO Dhaka  
Venue: Shaheed Zia Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum

March 5  
Classical, semi-classical and instrumental  
Time: 6:30pm

March 6  
Folk and Lalon  
Time: 6:30pm

## Street Theatre

## Festival 2007

Organiser: Bangladesh Patho Natak Parishad  
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises  
Date: March 1-7  
Time: 4:30pm

## Musical Soiree

Organiser: Chhayanat  
Venue: Chhayanat Sangskriti Bhavan, House no-72, Road no-15/A Dhanmondi, Dhaka  
Date: March 1  
Time: 6:30pm

## Bangla Calligraphy

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

## Bead Jewellery

Organisers: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Venue: Bengal Café, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhanmondi  
Date: February 24- March 2  
Time: 12:00pm-8:00pm

## Painting Exhibition

Artist: Abdur Rauf Sarkar  
Venue: Gallery-2, Institute of Fine Arts, DU  
Date: March 5-11

Title: Kalam  
Artist: Monira Sultan Mukta  
Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka  
Date: February 25- March 2  
Time: 11:00pm-7:00pm

## Solo Painting

Title: Alluvial Dream & Reality  
Artist: Kalidas Karmakar  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalya, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhanmondi  
Date: February 16-March 2  
Time: 12:00pm-8:00pm

## Indigenous Performing Art Festival

Organiser: Department of Theatre and Film, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall February 28 Kushan Gaan  
Time: 6:00pm

## Book Exhibition

Organiser: Bangladesh National Unesco Club Association  
Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbagh  
Date: February 27-28  
Time: 11:30am

## Indigenous Performing Art Festival

## 'Alkap gaan': Family tales narrated through music, dance and dialogue



PHOTO STAR

Shafiqul Islam Sarkar and his troupe stage *alkap gaan*

## ERSHAD KAMOL

**A**LKAP gaan, a regional folk performance in northern Bangladesh and some parts of West Bengal, India, is a composite performance comprising acting, dancing, singing and recitation. An *alkap* group consists of 10 to 12 artistes, led by a *sarkar* or *guru*.

Usually, the themes of the *alkap* are drawn from mythologi-

cal tales, particularly the story of Radha and Krishna, while the subjects of the dialogue relate to family relationships. Through music-dance-dialogue, the internal problems of a family are narrated in a light manner in an *alkap* performance. That is why may be, *chhokras* --who dress as girls and dance between the singing and acting-- play an important role in *alkap gaan*. The group also includes one or two

*gayens* or singers. As part of the ongoing indigenous performing art festival arranged by the Department of Theatre and Film of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, an *alkap gaan* performance was staged on February 26. Shafiqul Islam Sarkar and his troupe from Chapainawabganj presented an *alkap gaan* titled *Debar-Bhabi O Anyano*.

When the show began at the

Experimental Theatre Stage, the choir sat on the stage, with the audience sitting on its four sides. Subsequently the troupe began *bandana*, accompanied by a fast rhythm played on indigenous instruments such as *kartal*, *baya*, *harmonium*, *dhol* and others. The musicians sat throughout the performance. Subsequently two *chhokras* presented salacious dances known as *Khemta* and *Jhumur*, accompanied by popular folk songs. Then he and the main singer began the *alkap* in a slow rhythm, while the choristers helped him by repeating his rendition in a very fast rhythm accompanied by the instruments.

The main attraction of the show was improvisation and handling of rhythms and *talas* such as *kaharba*, *lofa*, *doshkoshi*, *dhimat*, which infers their deep understanding of music. Shafiqul Islam Sarkar's rendition of long verses in slow rhythm and switching to other fast rhythms during his narration was moving.

The troupe *Debar-Bhabi O Anyano* performance presented the story of a triangular affair between a husband, a wife and her brother-in-law. The story further developed while narrating a love story between the husband's brother and wife's sister. This part of the show was presented in dialogue form.

Handling of the *alkap* by the professional troupe was really catchy--especially the performance by the lead singer and the *chhokras*.

## Romance unplugged

## Feast of love songs by Miles



Members of the band Miles perform at the concert

## KHALID-BIN-HABIB

Dhaka's music lovers were in for some entertainment at an unplugged concert titled *Romance Unplugged* at the Radisson Water Garden Hotel recently. The event featured performances by popular band Miles and an underground band Shikhor.

The event was a tribute to all the hit love songs from the '70s, '80s and '90s by bands like Air Supply, Bryan Adams, Bon Jovi, Don McLean, Chris Rea, Chris de Burgh, John Denver, U2, Lionel Richie, Phil Collins, Bob

Marley, UB40 and others.

The evening was a musical treat in every sense in that the band Miles kept the audience enthralled with delightful and mellifluous music. The concert covered the whole gamut of traditional Bangladeshi music, to the western musical nuances.

Miles started their performance with a popular English number *Ohh... sweet darling*. They also entertained the audience with songs, titled *Hello, Without you, Have you ever loved a woman, Everything I do*, and struck responsive chords. An appreciative audi-

ence sang along with them as they played their all-time favourites: *Ki jedu tomar preme*, *Tumi amar shesh thikana* and *Ar kotakal khubjo tomy*.

The band Miles is a duo of pop musicians who had a succession of soft-rock ballad hits in the country. They are best known for their unique combination of songs with western hint. The crowd, predominantly middle-aged and older, had clearly come to hear good music, and Miles didn't disappoint in that regard.

## In Focus

## Kokborok, Chakma and Marma alphabet charts launched in Khagrachhari

## OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari district. The function was jointly organised by Khagrachhari District Council, Save the Children and local NGO Zabarang Kalayan Samity. The venue: Parjatan Motel in the hill district of Khagrachhari.

Speakers said that to protect indigenous customs, traditions and cultural heritage, it was necessary to preserve the languages. With this end in view they announced the launch of alphabet books for the Tripura community (Kokborak), Chakmas (Chakma alphabet) and Marmas (Marma alphabet).

This step is likely to benefit the 13 indigenous communities who live in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The speakers pointed out that the district council plays a major role in promoting education for indigenous children.

Khagrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Manindra Lal Tripura was present as chief guest while local NGO Zabarang Kalayan Samity president Chandra Kishore Tripura presided over the inauguration ceremony.

Among others, Save the Children (UK) country director Shumon Sen Gupta, language specialist Dr Pamela, Save the Children (UK) representative Terry Durnian, Khagrachhari Press Club secretary Azim Ul Haq, Zabarang Kalayan Samity chief executive Mothura Lal Tripura and UNDP programme officer Abhilash Tripura were present and spoke at the event.

After the discussion District Council chairman Manindra Lal Tripura formally introduced the children to the alphabets.



PHOTO STAR

A child is introduced to indigenous alphabets

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

BTB will telecast a new 52-episode educational drama serial, titled *Swapnil Agami*, highlighting adolescents and their issues every Wednesday at 4:00 pm.

The serial depicts the lifestyle and events in the lives of adolescents from four families. Each episode of the serial features

important topics for adolescents such as harassment, eve-teasing, malnutrition, superstition, child marriage, common challenges of growing up, along with other social and health issues.

Directed by Sabina Bari, the serial is produced under the banner of United Network Limited with financial support from Plan Bangladesh.



A scene from Swapnil Agami

## TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

## News Bulletin

## BTB

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-1

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, 1:00 pm, 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) at 9:00 pm, 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, 12:30pm.

## 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 Doctor Jokhon

Durey

11:40 Koishor

Maa O Shishur

12:05 Kotha

Swapno Shonar

Gaon

Shukhi Porbar

Selected Programme

01:00 Sisimpur

01:30 Khelte Khelte

Computer

03:05 Cartoon

03:30 Cricket Shekha

04:30 Oi Notuner Keton

Urey

05:05 Dance Programme

05:30 Cartoon

06:40 Nazrul Song

07:00 Mati O Manush

08:35 Musical Programme

ATN Bangla

08:30 Ashey Pasher

Manush

09:20 Drama Serial: Kath

Koylar Chhobi

10:30 Talk show: Aktel

Onyodristi

11:05 Talk show: Meet the press

12:15 Cinema Cinema

01:30 Gane Shure Taruney

02:30 Special Programme on Diabetic Awareness day

03:10 Drama Serial: Beyog

03:45 Drama Serial: Bhalobashar Rang

04:05 Drama Serial: Children's Programme: Shapla

04:35 Drama Serial: Shaluk

## CHANNEL-i

04:20 Islamic Program

05:00 Gram Gorjer Khobor