

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 Bhaban, 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 Exhibition

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: Kadamati

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

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Alluvial Dream & Reality
Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya, 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

Shafiqul Islam Sarkar and his troupe stage *alkap gaan*

ERSHAD KAMOL

ALKAP 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 Shilpakala Academy, an *alkap gaan* performance was staged on February 26. Shafiqul Islam Sarkar and his troupe from Chapainawabganj presented an *alkap gaan* titled *Debar-Bhabhi O Anyanyo*.

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-Bhabhi O Anyanyo* 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 jadu tomar preme*, *Tumi amar shesh thikana* and *Ar kotokal khujbo tomay*.

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

Speakers at a recent meeting emphasised the importance of purveying primary level education in the students' own languages. This view was expressed at the launch of alphabet books of three major indigenous communities in

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 played 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 Durnnian, 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.



A child is introduced to indigenous alphabets

'Swapnil Agami': New drama serial for adolescents on BTV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

BTV 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*

SOURCE: REUTERS

This undated handout photo shows an ossuary said to have been found in a 2,000-year-old tomb in Talpiot Jerusalem in 1980 that may have held the bones of Mary Magdalene and was found with another that may have held the bones of Jesus. Filmmaker James Cameron unveiled the artifacts in New York February 26, 2007 to promote a documentary film, which claims scientists may have found the lost tomb of Jesus Christ and that Jesus and Mary Magdalene may have had a son named Judah

Francis Ford Coppola returns

After a decade away from the camera, *Godfather* director Francis Ford Coppola is back with a vengeance. He's back with a couple of independent dramas anyway. Coppola has just finished off *Youth Without Youth*, an

adaptation of Mircea Eliade's philosophical novel starring Tim Roth. Now, he's announced plans to make an Argentine family saga *Tetro*, with Matt Dillon set to star.

Source: BBC

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) at 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 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

11:15 Doctor Jokhon Durey
 11:40 Koishor
 12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha

12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon
 01:00 Shukhi Poribar

01:30 Selected Programme
 02:15 Sisimpur
 02:40 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: Akte 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: Bhalobashar Rang

03:45 Children's Programme: Shapla Shaluk

04:20 Islamic Program
 05:00 Gram Gonjir Khobor
 05:10 Nijeke Jano

05:45 Shapholyo Ano
 06:20 Islamic Programme
 06:20 Char Deyaler Kabyo

08:00 Drama Serial: Nayan Tara
 08:40 Drama Serial: Bohemian

09:20 Drama: Uthar
CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
 09:45 Cricket Reaction
 09:50 Sportsyomatra

11:05 Tritiyo Time
 12:30 Citycell Tarokathan
 01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Shangbhadpotrey Bangladesh
 02:40 Selected Drama
 04:05 Citycell Medha Bikash

04:30 Amader Gaan
 04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma
 05:30 Boi Mela Protidin

06:00 Music Club
 06:20 Drama Serial: Shompaddo

07:50 Uppaddo
 07:50 Hello Minister
 09:35 Aloy Bhuban Bhora

10:00 Drama Serial: Jog Beyog
 12:00 Grameenphone
 08:35 Shubho Shokal

BANGLAVISION

08:35 Shubho Shokal

PICK OF THE DAY



Aloy Bhuvan Bhora

On Channel i at 9:35 pm

Talk Show

Tonight's guest: Dr Akbar Ali Khan



American Idol

On Star World at 8:30pm

Talent hunt

Host: Ryan Seacrest

Bangla Feature Film

02:30 Drama Serial: Shonar Phool
 03:05 Ebong Classer

03:45 Agamir Kontho
 05:00 Protidiner Boimela
 05:30 Diner Sheshey

06:30 Cinebit Shada Kalo
 08:10 Drama Serial: Joba Kushum

09:15 Media Bhuvan
STAR MOVIES

08:45 In Her Shoes
 11:00 Jacket, The
 12:45 Gattaca

02:30 Freaky Friday

Lot Like Love, A

06:00 The 79th Annual Academy Awards
 10:30 Urban Legends: The Final

12:15 Tailor Of Panama, The
STAR WORLD

09:00 The Simpsons
 09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show

10:30 Commander In Chief
 11:30 Falcon Beach

12:30 The O.C.
 01:30 Koffee With Karan

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 Heroes
 10:30 Grey's Anatomy

12:00 Fashion House
STAR PLUS

09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
 11:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom

Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

11:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
 11:30 Kayamath

12:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
 01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

02:00 Bhabhi
 02:30 Kesar

03:00 Saarthi
 04:00 Kayamath

05:00 Saibaba
 06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
 07:00 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cod

07:30 Prithviraj Chauhan

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 Kii
 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi

11:30 Kayamath
 12:00 Paraya Dhan

AXN TV

10:30 Numb3rs
 11:30 Ultimate Guinness

World Records
 12:00 Rockface

01:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime
 02:00 The Contender

03:00 24
 04:00 Pensacola

05:00 Ultimate Guinness
 05:30 World Records

06:30 Rockface
 07:30 Amazon

08:30 Numb3rs
 08:30 Las Vegas

10:00 Ultimate Guinness
 10:30 World Records

10:30 The Ultimate Fighter
 11:30 Supernatural

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

09:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids
 10:30 Bringing Home Baby

11:00 Amazing Baby Videos
 11:30 Life On The Edge

12:30 Body Basics
 01:30 Tiger Week

02:30 Detective Stories
 03:30 Everything You Need To Know

04:00 Million 2 One
 04:30 Wild Europe Special

05:30 Man Made Marvels
 06:30 Dagerman

07:30 Tiger Week
 08:30 Life On The Edge

09:30 African Adventures
 10:00 Stuntlows

10:30 Building The Biggest
 11:30 Dead Tenants

NATIONAL

09:30 Nat Geo Utsav
 10:30 Global Sky Shop

10:45 Bhagyashali Ratna
 11:15 Telemali: Sauna Belt

11:30 Naked Science
 12:30 Nostradamus Effect

01:30 Body Double
 02:30 Scorpion Vs Shrew

03:00 Snail Zombies
 03:30 Nat Geo Utsav

04:30 Trouble in Cancun
 05:00 Nat Geo Genius