

## CULTURAL FEAST

## National Theatre Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation  
In association with Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy  
Time: 7pm  
Venue: National Theatre Stage

March 5  
Theatre Art Unit  
Shomoyer Poyojone

March 6  
Konthoshilon  
Raja-Rani

March 7  
Padatik Natya Sangshad  
(Bangladesh), Jolbalika

March 8  
Padatik Natya Sangshad (TSC)  
Moustrap

March 9  
Prachyanat  
Mandar

March 10  
Natyachakra  
Cyclewala

March 11  
Natyalok  
Dhior Gatha

March 12  
Shobdaboli Group  
Theatre  
Neel Moyurer Joubon

March 13  
Sarothi Natya  
Shomprodai  
Duth Kumara Pala

March 14  
Natyajon  
Onyo Gajir Onyo Kissa

## 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

## Film Festival

Organiser: Chalachitram Film Society

March 5  
3:00 pm Turtles Can Fly (Iran)  
5:00 pm Water (India)  
7:00 pm Joy Jatra (Bangladesh)

March 6  
3:00 pm Life is Beautiful (Italy)  
5:00 pm Nirantor (Bangladesh)  
7:00 pm Sharjat Rupkotha (India)

March 7  
3:00 pm Stop Genocide and Mukti Gaan (Bangladesh)  
5:00 pm Incident at Owl Creek Bridge (France)  
7:00 pm Ballad of a Soldier (Russia)

March 8  
3:00 pm Mr and Mrs Lyer (India)  
5:00 pm Shorot 71 & Chaka (Bangladesh)  
7:00 pm The Pianist (Poland)

## National Theatre Festival '07 begins

Two plays to be staged today

ERSHAD KAMOL

**T**WO theatre performances—*Raarrang*, an Aranyak Natya Dal production and *Samayer Poyojone*, a Theatre Art Unit production—will be staged on the opening day of the National Theatre Festival '07. Arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in association with Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, the 23-day theatre festival begins today at the National Theatre Stage and the Experimental Theatre Stage.

**Raarrang: A saga of oppression on ethnic minorities**

*Raarrang*, a Santal word meaning battle cry, depicts the strife of the impoverished Santals—an indigenous community living in the northern part of Bangladesh—against oppression, such as feudalism, bigotry and so on, imposed by the dominating Bengalis. Through the true story of Alfred Shoren, playwright Mamunur Rashid has portrayed an attempt at a revolution against discrimination. However, the 'battle cry' fails in the face of treachery of the Bengalis.

Faiz Zahir is the set and light designer of the play. *Raarrang*, an Aranyak Natya Dal production,



Scenes from (Top) *Samayer Poyojone* and *Raarrang*



will be staged today at the Experimental Theatre Stage at 7pm.

**Theatre Art Unit stages *Samayer Poyojone***

Adapted by Mohammed Bari from Zahir Raihan's well-known short story *Samayer Poyojone*, the play is based on a concept that nothing in this world can be achieved by a premeditated mindset. *Samayer Poyojone* takes place at a camp in 1971 where the Freedom Fighters from different corners of the country have taken to arms against the Pakistani military regime and their collaborators. Reading the diary of a missing Freedom Fighter, named Mamun, his comrades try to analyse the logic behind their role in the war. They realise that it is neither leadership nor patriotism, rather the call of the times that have propelled them to fight for the nation.

Directed by Bari, *Samayer Poyojone* will be staged this evening at 7pm at the National Theatre Stage.

## A cultural fiesta

## Natya Utsab at Jahangir University

EMRAN HOSSAIN, JU

A seven-day-long drama festival, titled *Natya Utsab* 2007, organised by Jahangirnagar Theatre (JT), began on March 3 at the campus. The aim is to voice protest against rampant terrorism and socio-political unrest in the country.

With the slogan *Ekti Mancho Onek Akash*, the festival was inaugurated by renowned poet Mohammad Rafiq. A colourful rally was taken out on the campus following the inauguration ceremony.

A total of seven plays will be staged at Mukta March (Amphitheatre) at 7pm everyday during the festival till March 9.

*Reter Atithi*, written by Utpal Dutta and directed by Shafiqul Islam Sohel, was staged on March 3 by Theatre Centre. Enthusiastic students and teachers flocked the venue. *Deyal*, scripted by Selim Al Deen and directed by Roland Nathon Mondol, was staged yesterday by the organiser.



Participants at a rally after inauguration of the *Natya Utsab*

*Desh Opera*, a prominent *Jatra* troupe, will stage a *jatrapala* titled *Anarkali*, written by Prasad Krishna

Bhatiyacharya and directed by Milon Kanti Day, on March 5. *Subachan Natya Sangsad* and *Prachyanat* will

stage respective street plays titled *Normedi*, written by Asadul Islam Asad and directed by Chondon Paul, and *Bishpanchali*, written by Rahul Anand and directed by Kazi Touhidul Islam Imon, on the following day.

*Udichi* will stage *Bouboshonti*, written by Ratan Siddique and directed by Azad Abul Kalam, on March 7 while *Nagarik Natyangan* will perform the play titled *Janatar Rangashala*, written by Bertolt Brecht and directed by Dr Enamul Huque, on March 8.

A reception was accorded yesterday to Professor Selim Al Deen for receiving the *Ekushey Padak*. Eminent theatre personalities Shimul Yousuf and Jatin Sarker will be accorded a reception for their contribution to theatre and education on March 6 and 8 respectively.

The festival will round off on March 9 with a reunion of the former members of JT.

## March 8

3:00 pm Mr and Mrs Lyer (India)

5:00 pm Shorot 71 & Chaka (Bangladesh)

7:00 pm The Pianist (Poland)

## March 9

3:00 pm Turtles Can Fly (Iran)

5:00 pm Water (India)

7:00 pm Joy Jatra (Bangladesh)

March 10

3:00 pm Life is Beautiful (Italy)

5:00 pm Nirantor (Bangladesh)

7:00 pm Sharjat Rupkotha (India)

## March 11

3:00 pm Stop Genocide and Mukti Gaan (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm Incident at Owl Creek Bridge (France)

7:00 pm Ballad of a Soldier (Russia)

## March 12

3:00 pm Shorot 71 & Chaka (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm The Pianist (Poland)

## March 13

3:00 pm Turtles Can Fly (Iran)

5:00 pm Water (India)

7:00 pm Joy Jatra (Bangladesh)

## March 14

3:00 pm Life is Beautiful (Italy)

5:00 pm Nirantor (Bangladesh)

7:00 pm Sharjat Rupkotha (India)

## March 15

3:00 pm Stop Genocide and Mukti Gaan (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm Incident at Owl Creek Bridge (France)

7:00 pm Ballad of a Soldier (Russia)

## March 16

3:00 pm Shorot 71 & Chaka (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm The Pianist (Poland)

## March 17

3:00 pm Turtles Can Fly (Iran)

5:00 pm Water (India)

7:00 pm Joy Jatra (Bangladesh)

## March 18

3:00 pm Life is Beautiful (Italy)

5:00 pm Nirantor (Bangladesh)

7:00 pm Sharjat Rupkotha (India)

## March 19

3:00 pm Stop Genocide and Mukti Gaan (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm Incident at Owl Creek Bridge (France)

7:00 pm Ballad of a Soldier (Russia)

## March 20

3:00 pm Shorot 71 & Chaka (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm The Pianist (Poland)

## March 21

3:00 pm Turtles Can Fly (Iran)

5:00 pm Water (India)

7:00 pm Joy Jatra (Bangladesh)

## March 22

3:00 pm Life is Beautiful (Italy)

5:00 pm Nirantor (Bangladesh)

7:00 pm Sharjat Rupkotha (India)

## March 23

3:00 pm Stop Genocide and Mukti Gaan (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm Incident at Owl Creek Bridge (France)

7:00 pm Ballad of a Soldier (Russia)

## March 24

3:00 pm Shorot 71 & Chaka (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm The Pianist (Poland)

## March 25

3:00 pm Turtles Can Fly (Iran)

5:00 pm Water (India)

7:00 pm Joy Jatra (Bangladesh)

## March 26

3:00 pm Life is Beautiful (Italy)

5:00 pm Nirantor (Bangladesh)

7:00 pm Sharjat Rupkotha (India)

## March 27

3:00 pm Stop Genocide and Mukti Gaan (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm Incident at Owl Creek Bridge (France)

7:00 pm Ballad of a Soldier (Russia)

## March 28

3:00 pm Shorot 71 & Chaka (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm The Pianist (Poland)

## March 29

3:00 pm Turtles Can Fly (Iran)

5:00 pm Water (India)

7:00 pm Joy Jatra (Bangladesh)

## March 30

3:00 pm Life is Beautiful (Italy)

5:00 pm Nirantor (Bangladesh)

7:00 pm Sharjat Rupkotha (India)

## March 31

3:00 pm Stop Genocide and Mukti Gaan (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm Incident at Owl Creek Bridge (France)

7:00 pm Ballad of a Soldier (Russia)

## March 32

3:00 pm Shorot 71 & Chaka (Bangladesh)

5:00 pm The Pianist (Poland)

## March 33