

CULTURAL FEAST

National Theatre Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation

In association with Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy

Time: 7pm

Venue: National Theatre Stage

March 6

Konthoshilon

Raja-Rani

March 7

Padatik Natya Sangshad

(Bangladesh), Jolbalika

March 8

Padatik Natya Sangshad

(TSC) Mousetrap

March 9

Prachyanat

Mandar

March 10

Natyachakra

Cyclewala

March 11

Natyalok

Dhobor Gatha

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall

March 6

Theatre Unit

Rater Otithi

March 7

Bohurupi Natya

Shongstha

Ekhono Mirzafer

March 8

Chottola Theatre

Mahabidya

March 9

Onushilon Natyadol

Chena Gayer Kechchha

March 10

Tirjok Natyagosthi

Shottandho

March 11

Dhaka University

The Dwarfs

The schedule is subject to change

Music Festival

Organisers: Centre for Education, Creative & Performing Arts, UNESCO Dhaka

Venue: Shaheed Zia Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum

March 6

Folk and Lalon

Time: 6:30pm

Film Festival

Organiser: Chalachitram Film Society

March 6

3:00 pm Life is Beautiful (Italy)

5:00 pm Nirantor (Bangladesh)

7:00 pm Shanj Batir 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)

Filmmaking at CRP: A giant step for the differently abled

KAVITA CHARANJI

TRULY as the visually and hearing impaired Helen Keller once said, when one door of happiness closes another opens. This thought comes to mind when one visits the Savar-based Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP). Over the years the residents, despite their impairment have acquired a range of skills such as painting, jewellery making, drama, administration, computers, electronics and shop management.

And there's more -- filmmaking. When The Daily Star correspondent dropped in at Savar a seven-member crew was busy discussing the nitty gritties of a series of three documentary films on CRP and its members. Under the able guidance of London-based filmmaker Jibunessa Abdullah, the group is to interview, shoot and edit the film. The group was in the process of firming up questions for an interview with Mahiuddin Babul, who fell from a mango tree in 1985 and became paralysed. The enterprising Babul makes a good subject for the film since he has set up a small electronics business in Dhaka after a degree in electronics from Polytechnic Institute, Dhaka.

Among the questions that will come the way of Babul are how long he has been at CRP, why is he in a trolley, the training he has received, life after the accident, his marriage and the problems he faces. As Jibunessa says, "Even if some buildings have lifts, the wheel chair users have to negotiate steps. We will be looking at Babul's home in Dhaka which has been adapted to his needs -- as for example a ramp, an accessible toilet. Often rented homes have no wheelchair access, narrow doors, the kitchen stove is too high or low



and the electric switches may be too high."

The film that is in making is geared to generate awareness about disability, discuss the achievements of CRP residents and try to erase the taboos and myths that surround such wheelchair users.

Apart from Babul, the other interviewees will be mouth painter Ibrahim, security guard Bazlu, wheelchair trainer Asma (with her husband), and in the pipeline are interviews with Hosneara, who is in charge of the pediatrics department at CRP and Dr Fazlul Haque, director of the medical department.

The members of the crew are highly enthusiastic about their project, which will give them fresh

skills and develop their potential. Says the wheelchair-bound Sabiha, who makes jewellery and is assistant supervisor and store-keeper at CRP's Gonobari centre, "I enjoy all the aspects of editing. It opens up new horizons for me."

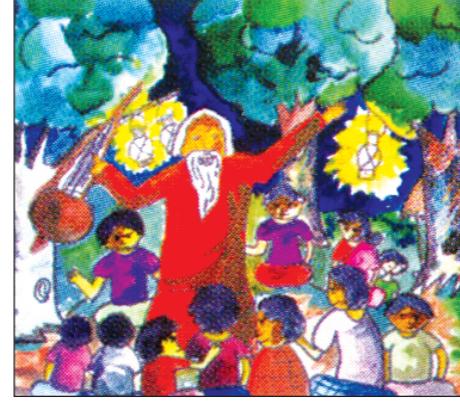
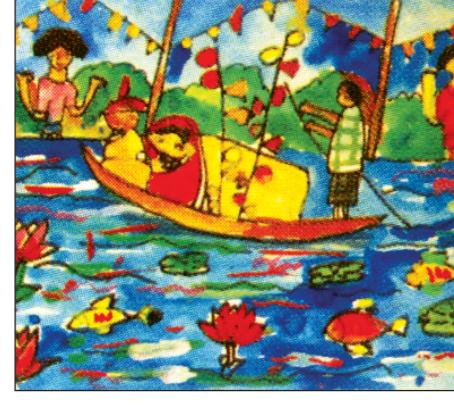
Likewise, Joyti Rani Taylor, who has completed her HSC from Open University, Savar, subscribes to the same view.

This is not CRP's first foray into filmmaking. The one of its kind institution in the country has made two full-length feature films (by other groups) named *Bihongo* (which was inspired by the story of late mouth painter Lovely and the ability of the paralysed to develop their potential in an enabling environment) and *Radio Bhai*, in con-

junction with the UK-based Purple Field Productions (revolving around a wheelchair bound protagonist and geared to combat the fear and superstitions that surround disability in Bangladesh).

CRP has also produced documentaries about the range of problems faced by the differently abled, including road safety and accessibility. Notable documentaries are *Glorious 25 Years*, *Ochena Phuler Mela* and *Angikar*. Such documentaries can be taken around villages and serve as catalysts for change in the social attitudes to the differently abled.

Showcasing artistic skills of the young



Artworks on rural lifestyles, fairs and festivals on display



March 6

3:00 pm Life is Beautiful (Italy)

5:00 pm Nirantor (Bangladesh)

7:00 pm Shanj Batir Rupkotha (India)

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CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On March 3, several excited children and their proud parents thronged the Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, for the inauguration ceremony of a group art exhibition of 35 young children. Titled '2nd Children Art Exhibition - 2007' the exhibition is in progress at Nalini Kanta Vattasalya Exhibition, National Museum and will end tomorrow. Charuloy Academy, a children's art school, has arranged the show with an intention of showcasing the works of its talented pupils. Nearly 100 art works of children, ranging from four to 12 years old, have been put on display. Each painting has been carefully selected among hundreds of works by the children during 2005 and 2006.

The exhibition was inaugurated by prominent artist and special guest, Professor Shishir Bhattacharjee. He expressed his gratitude towards both the parents and the school for their endeavour of promoting art for young children.

The atmosphere at the opening day was one of elation, with scores of excited children eager to view their works. The displayed art ranges from oil pastel to water colour, pencil sketches and oil painting. The event is an opportunity to study the mindset of the young. Most the works depict the Liberation War and atrocities by the Pakistani regime during 1971. The other works include portrayals of rural lifestyles, fairs, festivals and religious cerebrations; while a handful reflect the poverty and struggle of the poor. The exhibition is aimed at inspiring the young artists and channelising their talent.

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

News Bulletin

BTW

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; 9:00 am, 2:00 pm; 7:00 pm; 10:00 pm; 11 pm.

News (English) 8:20 am; 7:00 pm.

7:00 pm Ballad of a Soldier (Russia)

March 8

3:00 pm Mr and Mrs Lyer (India)

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ATN Bangla

08:15 *Ajker Shangbadpotro*

08:30 Drama Serial: *Ochena Adhar*

09:20 Drama Serial: *Nirey*

10:30 Talk Show: *AKTEL*

11:05 Drama Serial: *Out*

11:15 Three Stooges

12:15 *Amar Computer*

01:30 *Shur O Chhobi*

02:30 Talk show

03:15 Drama Serial: *O Amar*

03:45 *Ek Anondo*

05:10 *Aimar Shamney*

05:45 Documentary

Programme: *Bangla*

Neemher Desh

06:20 Talk show: *Kothamala*

08:00 Drama Serial: *Shokal*

08:45 Drama: *Pagol Mon*

09:30 *Shongbad Potrey*

10:15 *Public Reaction*

09:50 *Grameenphone*

11:05 *Cricket Online (Live)*

11:30 *Amar Chhobi*

12:30 *Citycell Tarokathon*

01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*

01:30 *Shongbad Potrey*

04:15 *Public Reaction*

04:20 *Selected Drama*

04:45 *Amader Gaan*

04:50 *Sa Re Ga Ma*

05:30 *Ispahani Non roundup*

06:30 *Talk Show*

06:00 *Drama Serial: Klanto*

08:15 *Drama Serial: Shonar*

Channel 1

08:40 *Shuprobhat Bangla-desh*

09:35 *Onyodrishti*

10:00 *Shadha Ranger*

12:00 *Swapno*

12:00 *Grameenphone Ajker Shangbadpotro*

09:30 *Shokal Shonar*

09:30 *Chokh Mele Dekhi*

10:0