

CULTURAL FEAST

National Theatre Festival

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

March 7
Padatik Natya Sangshad (Bangladesh), Jolbalika

March 8
Padatik Natya Sangshad (TSC) Mousetrap

March 9
Prachyanat
Mandar

March 10
Natyachakra
Cyclewala

March 11
Natyalak
Dhibor Gatha

March 12
Shobdaboli Group
Theatre
Neel Moyurer Joubon

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall

March 7
Bohurupi Natya
Shongstha
Ekhono Mirzafar

March 8
Chottola Theatre
Mahabidiya

March 9
Onushilon Natyadol
Chena Gayer Kechchha

March 10
Tirjok Natyagosthi
Shottandho

March 11
Dhaka University
The Dwarfs

March 12
Loko Natyadol
Shiddhidata

The schedule is subject to change

Painting Exhibition

Artist: Qayyum Chowdhury
Title: Recent Past
Organiser: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Venue: March 9-24

Film Festival

Organiser: Chalachitram Film Society

March 07
3:00 pm Stop Genocide and Muktir Gaan (Bangladesh)
5:00 pm Incident at Owl Creek Bridge (France)
7:00 pm Ballad of a Soldier (Russia)

March 08
3:00 pm Mr and Mrs Lyer (India)
5:00 pm Shorot '71 & Chaka (Bangladesh)
7:00 pm The Pianist (Poland)

Music Festival at National Museum

Classical, semi-classical and instrumental music on the first day

KHALID-BIN-HABIB

THE Centre for Education, Creative and Performing Arts (CECPA) organised a two-day music festival in association with UNESCO Dhaka. It was a convergence of classical, semi-classicalvocal and instrumental music at the National Museum auditorium in the city on March 5.

In his welcoming speech Azad Rahman, eminent music director and president of CECPA, said, "Music has the power to inspire compassion and foster understanding between cultures while strengthening the bonds that form our communities. Music can be a tool in the effort to achieve global peace. As we invited several cultural personalities from abroad, the music festival intends to promote peace and cultural understanding."

In his speech, Malama Meleisea, representative of UNESCO Bangladesh said, "UNESCO's primary role is to work for providing education for all; understanding natural, social and human sciences; promoting and upholding local cultures through access to communication and information; preserving heritage, promoting diversity and attempts to bridge communities and nations. UNESCO will continue its support to preserve and develop cultural heritage such as music, art and theatre of Bangladesh. We encourage popularising the classical music form as well. The music festival offers a veritable bonanza for music lovers."

The singers of the event presented a series of beautiful compositions in Bangla, covering ragas



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Ashit Roy (L) performs at the music festival

in *dhrupad*, *khayal*, *ghazal* and *thumri*.

At the event, Dr Ashit Roy began with a *dhrupad* in slow tempo in raag *Malkaush* ending with *tarana* in a faster tempo. Skillfully and intricately he mesmerised all with his enchanting voice. Next Shamima Parveen took the stage and performed a Bangla *thumri* in raag *Tilong*. Dr Harun-ur-Rashid rendered a romantic semi-classical Bangla *ghazal* titled *Shobai boley ami*

naki tomar preme pagol. Ustad Yasin Khan displayed an excellent command over the raag *Jog*.

The second part of the event concluded with an instrumental presentation in *sarod* by Ustad Shahdat Hossain Khan, Afsana Khan and Rukhsana Khan.

Today at the festival artistes will perform folk songs of different genres, including Lalon.

National Theatre Festival '07

Theatre Festival inaugurated with verve

ERSHAD KAMOL

The biggest theatre gala, after the 37-day theatre festival in 2004, was inaugurated on February 5. On the occasion, the premises of the National Theatre Stage were decorated colourfully and attracted a large number of theatre activists and leaders. Forty-six troupes from Dhaka and outside the capital are participating in the 23-day festival arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) in association with Bangladesh ShilpakalaAcademy.

Eminent educationist Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui inaugurated the ceremony and eminent actress Ferdausi Majumdar was the special guest. Presided over by M Hamid, the chairman of the Federation, theatre personalities Ramendu Majumdar, Ataur Rahman, Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yousuff and Sara Zaker held discussions at the programme. Convenor of the festival committee Keramat Moula delivered the welcome speech. Other discussants of the evening were director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Quamrul Hassan (ndc), director of the Department of Theatre and Film

of the academy Abul Kamal Shafi Ahmed and secretary general of the Federation Jhuna Chowdhury.

As customary in a national theatre festival, the inauguration ceremony began with the National Anthem of Bangladesh. Each of the shows is to be preceded with the anthem.

Focusing on the diversity of Bangladeshi theatre, theatre personalities expressed their optimism about better days in the art form. Moreover, they recalled the historic role of the Federation as well as International Theatre Institute, Bangladesh Centre. They also demanded the introduction of theatre as a subject at the college level as well as the patronage and co-operation from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh ShilpakalaAcademy.

On the other hand, the Shilpakala Academy officials focused on their current programmes to support the theatre practitioners. At the same time they cited their limitations.

In her speech, the special guest of the evening Ferdausi Majumdar said, "We hope to work harder and observe other works to present even better theatre performances. A stable political situation can help boost Bangladeshi theatre activi-

ties."

Chief guest professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui in his inaugural speech said, "The festival is not the only representative of the rich heritage of Bangladeshi theatre. However, it has opened a door for people to attend many theatre performances in a row. In fact, the current trend of 'theatre' is one of the achievements of post Liberation Bangladesh. We have come to a certain standard, but we are still facing many limitations. We don't have many playwrights like Syed Shamsul Haque. However, I believe that the collective effort of the theatre practitioners will help us reach a level where tourists will be drawn towards theatre, a major and attractive heritage of Bangladesh."

After the opening ceremony, Theatre Art Unit staged *Samayer Proyojone* at the National Theatre Stage. M Bari has directed and adapted the play from Zahir Raihan's popular short story with the same title.

The same evening Aranyak Natya Dal staged Mamunur Rashid's play *Raarang*, directed by Faiz Zahir, at the Experimental Theatre Stage.



PHOTO: STAR

Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui delivers the inaugural speech at the festival

Street Theatre Festival ends today

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing Bangladesh Street Theatre Festival 2007, organised by Bangladesh Pothonatok Parishad, ends today at the central Shaheed Minar. In the weeklong festival, 56 theatre troupes from all over the country participated at the festival. Almost all the troupes have brought new plays for the festival.

The slogan of this year's festival is *Pother aloey alokito kori shwdesh*. "With the vision to build a secular democratic Bangladesh based on the principles of the Liberation War, the theatre activists of the country have always been in the streets and on stage. As part of the continued fight until the fulfilment of the dream, Bangladesh Pothonatok Parishad annually arranges the festival", explains Mannan Hira, the president of the organisation.

"In this festival farmers and their

rights are centre stage. Their voice is often stifled by the corrupt politicians. We believe that the cultural activists have a duty as they have the tools to make the exploitation visible and to

give voice to the oppressed and exploited," adds Mannan Hira. Nine plays will be staged today.



PHOTO: STAR

Natyabhummi from Tongi, Gazipur stages *Khondito Minar* at the Shaheed Minar premises

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, 12:15 am.

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 Johkon Durey Koishor
12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha
12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon
01:00 Shukhi Poribar
01:30 Selected Programme
02:15 Sissimur
02:40 Khetle Khetle Computer
03:05 Cartoon
03:30 Cricket Shekha
04:30 Shopnil Agami
05:05 Snritimoy Dhaka
05:30 Oi Notuner Keton Urey
06:40 Shondha Maloti
07:00 Mati O Manush
07:20 Geet Gunjon
08:35 Protidin Bangladesh
08:45 Musical Programme
09:05 Drama Serial: Obhiman

09:30 Musical Programme
ATN Bangla
08:30 Ashey Pasher Manush
09:20 Drama Serial: Kath Koylar Chhuboi
10:30 Talk show: Aktel Onyodisti
11:05 Talk show: Meet the press
12:15 Cinema Cinema
01:30 Gane Shure Taruney
02:30 Notun Chhobir Gaan
03:10 Drama Serial: Bhalobashar Rang
03:45 Children's Programme: Shapla Shaluk

04:20 Islamic Program
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khobor
05:10 Nijke Jano Shapholyo Ano
05:45 Islamic Programme
06:20 Char Deyaler Kabyo
08:00 Drama Serial: Nayan Tara
08:40 Drama Serial: Bohemian
09:20 Drama: Udhur
09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Tritiyomatra
11:05 Sports 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 Chihaya Jhankar
06:00 Music Club
06:20 Drama Serial: Shompaddo Upopaddo
07:50 Hello Minister
09:35 Aloy Bhubon
10:00 Drama Serial: Jog Beyog
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CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:00 Cartoon
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
02:00 Nongor
03:30 Drama Serial: Shomrajjo
04:00 Rupantoror Golpo
04:30 Fusion Bits
05:15 Expression
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:30 Top News
06:45 Muktir Judho
07:00 Baker Pathhey
08:15 Drama: Ghughur Basha
09:00 Concert
08:10 Drama Serial: Dokhinayon
08:55 Media Bhubon
09:30 Drama Serial: Rupantor
09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
11:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
11:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii V Trailers - Star Plus
12:00 Kayamath
12:30 Kayamath
01:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
06:30 Bhabhi
02:30 Drama Serial: Shonar Phool
03:05 Ebong Classer Bairey
03:45 Agamir Kontho
05:00 Cinebit Shadakalo
05:40 Diner Sheshey
06:30 Nana Ranger Din Guli
02:30 Maximum Exposure (Season I)
03:00 Guinness World Records: Primetime
02:00 House (Season 1)
03:00 House (Season 1)
04:00 Maximum Exposure (Season I)
05:00 Ultimate Guinness World Records
05:30 Rockface (Season II)
06:30 Amazon
07:30 Num3rs (Season 2)
08:30 Maximum Exposure (Season I)
10:00 Ultimate Guinness World Records
11:30 Supernatural (Season 1)
01:00 Ultimate Guinness World Records
12:00 Bringing Home Baby
11:00 Amazing Baby Videos
11:30 Life On The Edge
12:30 Body Basics
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Detective Stories
03:30 Everything You Need To Know
04:00 Million 2 One
05:30 Man Made Marvels Asia
06:30 Dagerman Adventures With Geoff Mackley
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 I Should be Alive
09:30 African Adventures
10:00 Stuntldaws
10:30 Building The Biggest
11:30 Dead Tenants
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
10:30 Global Sky Shop
10:45 Bhagyashali Rathna
11:00 Teleall
11:30 Naked Science
12:30 Da Vinci Code
01:30 Tracks of a Stalker
02:30 Rat Reproduction
03:00 Strange-Headed Snakes
04:00 Storm Stories
05:00 Nat Geo Genius
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 The Boas Of Belize
07:00 Storm Stories
07:30 Attack of Mystery Shark
08:30 Car Chases
09:30 Cyber War
10:30 Storm Stories
11:30 Hunter Hunted
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 Less Than Perfect
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
11:30 Fashion House
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 Cricket Crazy
12:30 Cricket Gold
02:30 Spanish Football League
04:30 Tna Impact
05:30 Max Power 2007
06:30 Tna Impact
07:30 Gillette World Sport 2007
08:00 Sports Yatra With Harsha
08:30 Twenty20 International - South A
09:30 Ashes Heroes
10:00 Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss
10:30 Tna Impact (Wrestling)
11:30 The Ubs Golf Club
ESPN
10:30 The Prince Of Kolkata
11:00 INDIA GLORIOUS - ADELAIDE Special
12:30 English Premier Football League
02:30 Indian Premier Hockey League
04:30 The Bermuda 20-20 Festival (Cric
05:30 Toyota Football Up Close (Soccer)
06:00 The Prince Of Kolkata
06:30 X Games 11 Classic - 2006 Champi
07:30 2006/07 Spanish League Highlight
08:30 Sportscenter India
09:00 Sportscenter Asia
09:30 The Prince Of Kolkata
10:00 Champions Of The World
10:30 Sportscenter India
11:00 Sportscenter Asia
11:30 Shaz & Waz Caribbean Special