

CULTURAL FEAST

National Theatre Festival

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

March 10
Natyachakra
Cyclewala

March 11
Natyakok
Dhibor Gatha

March 12
Shobdaboli Group Theatre
Neel Moyurer Joubon

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall

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

Group Exhibition

Organiser: SHAKO
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dacca
Date: March 9-14

Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Elezabeth Bass
Title: Vibrancy & Emotion
Organiser: Russian Centre of Science & Culture
Venue: Russian Centre of Science & Culture
Date: March 5-11

Rediscovering the Tagore je ne sais quoi

Sahana's new album 'Notun Korey Pabo Boley'

KARIM WAHEED

FOR over a century Tagore songs have been rendered by numerous artistes, innumerable times. USP of the maestro's songs is the infinite scope of individual interpretation. And that is the reason his songs will never lose their appeal.

Sahana Bajpaie Chowdhury, better known as Sahana to peers and music enthusiasts familiar with her work, explores that aspect of Tagore songs in her recently released album -- aptly titled *Notun Korey Pabo Boley*.

A production of Bengal Music Company Ltd, the album was launched on March 6 at Bengal Shilpalaya. The album was unveiled by Professor Firdous Azim, chairperson, English and Humanities department, BRAC University. Sahana is currently a lecturer in the same department at the institution.

Sahana was brought up in Shantiniketan and started taking music lessons from her father -- a Tagore scholar -- at a tender age. She trained in Indian classical music and Rabindra Sangeet at Shantiniketan under Swastika Mukherjee, Bijoy Sinha and Chitra Roy, among others.

The album is a combined effort by Sahana and her husband, musician-singer Ornob (all songs arranged and mixed by him). Theme songs for mega-serials like *Sporsher Bairey* by the duo went on to attain mass popularity.

The album presents 10 Tagore songs (all but two are widely known) in a new light. The sound is fresh; use of instruments pertinent. Sahana shares her views and intents: "...This album is an expression of our endeavour to explore the dynamism of Rabindra Sangeet in a way which we can relate to in our



Sahana sings at the album launch, Ornob (R) on esraj and Buno on guitar

time...We have tried to create enough space for the musicians to interpret the songs in their own way...We neither have the audacity nor the desire to experiment with the words and melodies that constitute Rabindra Sangeet. This is a humble effort to rediscover the soundscape of the songs."

Melancholy notes of *esraj* make way for the opening song -- *Oi-jei jhader megher koley, brishti ashey muktokeshey*... Visions of nor'wester on a summer evening emerge. The song gives the listener an idea of what's about to come and sets a mood.

Sahana goes from effervescent (in the first two songs) to a composed, serene mode in *Eto din jey bosheychhilem path cheye*. It can be an ode to Krishna or to the object of one's affection or just love itself.

Amar nisheetho raater badoldhara (the recording was previously included in the album *Ektaaray Gantha* in 2005) is an experience indeed. Sahana's unpretentious and effortless style breaks away from the monotony and rigidity that often riddles renditions by certain artistes. The sublime number can easily move the listener to the darkest of nights, yearning for a spell of rain that will creep in and wash away the world. Or is it some misty-eyed enamoured wishing nature would match the tempest inside?

Brilliantly executed notes of *esraj* by Buddhadeb Das from Shantiniketan complements Sahana's homage to her father, her mentor, in the song *Tomarei koriyachhi jibon-er dhrubotara*. One of the most familiar Tagore

songs, particularly to every young one getting acquainted with the maestro's work, is *Phoolley phoolley dholev dholey*. At the album launch, before performing the song, Sahana fondly remembered growing up in Shantiniketan. The rendition can best be described as a 'Celtic lullaby'. Even listeners who have heard this song a million times will enjoy this version with the zeal of a first-timer.

Ornob has demonstrated a distinct musical vision and Sahana's renditions have breathed life into them. Hopefully this album will help a new generation of music lovers rediscover the magic that is Tagore. The maestro would have been pleased.

'American Idol' whittled down to 12

American Idol slimmed down the competition this week, leaving 12 finalists to compete for the ultimate prize, a record contract.

Antonella Barba, Sabrina Sloan, Jared Cotter and Jason "Sundance" Head were cast off by the viewer voting, which drew about 37 million calls and text messages.

The performers who made the cut were Blake Lewis, LaKisha Jones, Chris Sligh, Jordan Sparks, Phil Stacey, Melinda Doolittle, Brandon Rogers, Gina Glocksen, Chris Richardson, Stephanie Edwards, Haley Scarnato and Sanjaya Malakar.

The show's tense final moments belonged to Malakar and Head, who were waiting to find out who would take the competition's 12th spot and who would go home. Judge Paula Abdul was stunned to hear that Malakar, who is not exactly a judge favourite, was staying.

"I'm speechless," Abdul said. "This is a singing competition, and Sundance, you've been one of our finest."

The elimination of the talented Sloan, 27, from Los Angeles, was another letdown for the judges. "Sabrina should be in that top 12," lamented Randy Jackson, who said, "America got that one wrong."

None of the judges was complaining when Barba, the focus of recent attention over some racy Internet photos, was shown the door. Each week, Cowell could be counted on to tell the 20-year-old Jersey girl that she wasn't good enough to be in the talent contest.

So far this season, the show's sixth, men and women have been competing separately, with viewers voting off two of each sex weekly. When the dozen finalists return next week, the sexes will be blended, with one singer voted off each week. The winner will be chosen in May.

Source: Internet

National Theatre Festival '07 'Mahabidya': A Chattala Theatre production

As part of the ongoing National Theatre Festival '07, jointly arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Chattala Theatre from Chittagong staged *Mahabidya* on March 8. The play was staged at the Experimental Theatre Stage.

Indian playwright Manoj Mitra's play *Mahabidya* is a satire on the tendency of the ruling class to snatch wealth from the proletariat by hook or crook. In the play Mitra has featured an imaginary country where the ruling class from top level to bottom are needy, greedy and always ready to swindle.

The queen of the country takes loan from other states, but does not do anything for the welfare of the people. She does not even pay her employees properly. To survive those employees also oppress people of the country. And thus goes on a vicious cycle of oppression.

As the director of the play Sheikh Shawkat Iqbal's approach is comic. He has tried to create an ambience of the medieval era, when the subcontinent was ruled by monarchs. Replicas of typical attires of the Kings have been used as costumes. However,



Actors of Chattala Theatre in Mahabidya

because of mediocre compositions, message of the play is difficult to comprehend.

The outer part of a house has been created at the right corner, and the rest of the stage was left

'The Mousetrap' Staged



A scene from The Mousetrap

At the National Theatre Stage Padatik Natya Sangsad (TSC) staged Agatha Christie's play *The Mousetrap* on the same evening.

The play is set against the backdrop of post World War II Britain. It covers a period marked by rebuilding, a new monarchy, food shortage and

vacant. Most of the actions in the play take place in front of the house. Sheikh Shawkat Iqbal is the set and light designer of *Mahabidya*.

Installation work at the Independent University, Bangladesh

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The inaugural ceremony of a month-long installation exhibition to celebrate the Mother Language Day of February 21, was held recently. It was organised by the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) Art Club.

Eminent artist Professor Hamiduzzaman, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University was the chief guest. The exhibition was inaugurated by Professor Omar Rahman, pro-vice chancellor of IUB and attended by students, teachers and art connoisseurs.

The theme of the month-long exhibition is "Ekushey in self-affliction". Students of the IUB Art Club have painted the floor of the exhibition corner red to express the pain and agony over the death of the Language Martyrs. At the centre were four human figures made of silver net, with gaping bullet holes in the bodies. More than two-dozen wooden blocks studded with nails of



Visitors at the exhibition

various sizes are displayed on the three walls. These symbolise the Shaheed Minar, processions, meetings, demonstrations and history of the Language Movement in an abstract form. The exhibition conveys the struggle of so many to

establish Bangla as our mother tongue.

The exhibition is open to all at the Independent University, Bangladesh Art Gallery at Road 12, Baridhara.

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, 12:15am.

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

09:05 *Shomapti*
11:15 Musical Programme
11:40 *Shukhi Poribar*
12:05 Drama Serial: *Shubamolota*
12:30 *Ma O Shishur Kotha*
01:30 *Mati O Manush*
02:15 *Sisimpur*
02:40 Bangla Feature Film
05:05 Debate
06:10 *Ocean Girl*
07:00 Musical Programme
07:30 *Shobar Jonno*
08:30 *Amar Bangladesh*
08:55 *Swadhinota Amar Swadhinota*
09:00 Drama: *Utshob*

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk Show: *Annyodrishti Shoner Muthophone*
11:05 *Shurer Madhuri Shathdin*
12:45 *Nari*
01:30 *Shobar Jonno*
03:45 *Shesh Okhor*
04:20 *Grameenphone Nari O Rajniti*
05:30 *Gondhoraj*
06:20 *Samsung Cine A Ha Mega Serial: The New Sabuj Opera*
08:40 Drama Serial: *Laal Neel Beguni*
09:20 Mega Serial: *Ek Jonomey*

Channel i

08:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
09:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*

09:45 *Public Reaction Tritiomatra*
09:50 *Na Bola Kotha*
11:05 *Citycell Taroka Kathan*
12:30 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:05 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*
01:30 *Public Reaction Magazine*
02:40 *Programme: Shath Rang*
03:20 *Dhaka Guide*
04:05 *Citycell Medha Bikash*
04:25 *Shotyer Shondhaney*
05:30 *Special Programme*
06:00 *Harano Shoishob Harano Shompod*
06:20 Drama Serial: *Shath Goenda*
07:50 *Drama Serial: Bhober Haat*
09:35 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*
10:00 *Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi*
12:00 *GrameenPhone Ajker Shanbad Potro*

BANGLAVISIO N

10:10 Talkshow: *Apnar Ki Kichhu Bolar Achhey*
11:10 *Shomoy Oshomoy Media Bhuban*
11:40 *Kachhey Durey*
03:05 *Drama Serial: Guest*
04:15 *Public Forum*
05:00 *Ebong Classer Bairey*

05:40 *Diner Sheshey*
06:30 *Music Moments*
08:15 *Drama Serial: Krishno Pokho*
09:20 *Amar Ami*
08:00 *My Favorite Martian*
09:35 *Shadows In The Sun*
11:15 *Lost World, The: Jurassic Park*
01:30 *November*
03:00 *Ladder 49*
05:00 *Mighty Joe Young*
07:00 *Transporter 2*
08:30 *Speed*
10:30 *Boogeyman*
12:00 *Vegas Baby*

STAR PLUS

08:30 *Meri Mrs Chanchala*
09:00 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
09:05 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
09:30 *Saans*
10:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
10:30 *Shararat*
11:00 *Akkad Bakkad*
11:30 *Bambey Bo*
12:00 *Golu Ke Goggles*
12:30 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
12:55 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
01:00 *Mirch Masala*
01:30 *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhoom*
01:55 *Bolly V - Star Plus*

STAR MOVIES

08:00 *My Favorite Martian*
09:35 *Shadows In The Sun*
11:15 *Lost World, The: Jurassic Park*
01:30 *November*
03:00 *Ladder 49*
05:00 *Mighty Joe Young*
07:00 *Transporter 2*
08:30 *Speed*
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PICK OF THE DAY



Hridoye Mati O Manush
On Channel i at 9:35pm
Agricultural Programme
Host: Shykh Seraj



Amar Ami
On Banglavisation at 9:20pm
Talk show hosted by Aupi Karim
Tonight's guest: Ferdousi Rahman

02:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
02:25 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
02:30 *Kalash*
03:00 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii*
05:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
05:55 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
05:30 *Krishna Kathaiyen*
06:30 *Mickey Mouse And Friends*
07:00 *Ducktales*
07:30 *Shararat*
08:00 *Kayamat*
08:30 *Lucky*
09:30 *Prithviraj Chauhan*
10:00 *Baa Bahoo Aur Baby*
10:30 *Aek Chabhi Hai*
11:30 *Thegreatindialau-*

06:30 *The O.C.*
07:30 *Tna Xplosion*
08:30 *Desperate Housewives*
09:30 *Grey's Anatomy*
10:30 *Heroes*
11:30 *Fashion House*
08:30 *Wild Discovery*
09:30 *Discovery Spotlight*
11:30 *Animal Camera*
12:00 *Amazing Baby Videos*
12:30 *African Adventures*
01:00 *Meerkat Manor*
01:30 *Wild Discovery*
02:30 *Million 2 One*
3:00 *Everything you need to know*
3:30 *How Do they do it*
4:30 *Wild Discovery*
5:30 *Beyond Tomorrow*
6:30 *Planet Earth*
7:30 *Wild Discovery*
8:30 *Discover India*
9:30 *Sacred India*
10:30 *How Do They Do It?*
11:30 *Planet Earth*

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
08:30 *Wild Discovery*
09:30 *Discovery Spotlight*
11:30 *Animal Camera*
12:00 *Amazing Baby Videos*
12:30 *African Adventures*
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9:30 *Sacred India*
10:30 *How Do They Do It?*
11:30 *Planet Earth*

STAR WORLD
08:30 *Enterprise*
09:30 *The Apprentice*
10:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*
12:30 *The Kumars At No. 42*
01:00 *Travel Asia*
01:30 *My Wife And Kids*
02:00 *The King Of Queen*
02:30 *Crumbs*
03:00 *8 Simple Rules*
03:30 *Malcolm In The Middle*
04:00 *According To Jim*
04:30 *Frasier*
05:00 *Fashion House*
5:30 *Hope & Faith*

06:00 *Leopard Seals*
06:30 *Columbia's Last Flight*
07:30 *The Kill Zone*
08:30 *Leopards of Bollywood*
09:30 *Swamp Tigers*
10:30 *Evil Spirits*
11:30 *Crime Night*
12:30 *The Heroes On Four Paws*
08:30 *Numb3rs (Season 1)*
09:30 *Ripley's Believe It Or Not! (Season 2)*
10:30 *AXN Xtreme Macau*
11:00 *E Buzz*
11:30 *Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season III)*
12:30 *House (Season 1)*
01:30 *House (Season 1)*
02:30 *Numb3rs (Season 1)*
03:30 *The Amazing Race Asia*
07:30 *Fear Factor (Season 6)*
08:30 *Black Hawk Down*
11:30 *The Ultimate Fighter (Season 2)*
12:30 *The Ultimate Fighter (Season 2)*

AXN
08:30 *Numb3rs (Season 1)*
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07:30 *Fear Factor (Season 6)*
08:30 *Black Hawk Down*
11:30 *The Ultimate Fighter (Season 2)*
12:30 *The Ultimate Fighter (Season 2)*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 *Four Billion Year War*
09:30 *Abdi- Return To Africa*
10:30 *Witchcraft*
11:30 *Voodoo*
12:30 *Tattoo*
01:30 *Rites Of Passage*
02:30 *Monkey Business*
03:00 *Wrinkled Lipped Bats*
03:30 *Alien Contact*
04:30 *Winds Of Victory*
05:00 *Pay, Fergus, Blossom*
5:30 *Big Bang*

STAR SPORTS

08:30 *Tna Badshah- Christopher Daniels*
10:30 *Tna Impact (Wrestling)*
11:30 *The Ubs Golf Club (Golf)*
11:00 *Clarden Leu Singapore Masters*
03:00 *Adventure Tri Series 2006 (Adven*
03:30 *Remember The Titans (Cricket)*
04:00 *Gillette World Sport*

04:30 *2007 (Inter Round 6 Preview Show*
05:00 *Football Asia (Soccer/Futbol)*
05:30 *Nike Football Locker Room*
06:00 *Caribbean Kings (Cricket)*
07:00 *India Glorious (Cricket)*
10:00 *India Down Under (Cricket)*
10:30 *Ashes Heroes (Cricket)*
11:00 *The Fa Cup - "Road To Wembley"*

ESPN
08:30 *Here We Go (Soccer/Futbol)*
09:30 *First Edition (Soccer/Futbol)*
10:00 *Shaz & Waz*
10:30 *Caribbean Special (Cricket)*
10:30 *Sportscenter Week In Review (Spo*
11:00 *Hitz (Cricket)*
11:30 *Champions Of The World (Quiz Sho*
12:00 *India Glorious (Cricket)*
01:30 *Debutants (Cricket)*
02:00 *First Edition (Soccer/Futbol)*
02:30 *The Prince Of Kolkata (Cricket)*
07:00 *Sportscenter Week In Review (Spo*
08:35 *Indian Legends (Cricket)*
09:35 *Castle Test Series*