

CULTURAL FEAST

National Theatre Festival

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

March 10
Natayachakra
Cyclewala

March 11
Natyalok
Dhabor 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
Shiddhida

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 Shilpakala. 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 *Sporshor 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

style...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-jey jhader megher koley, brishti ashay muktokeshey...* Visions of norwester 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.

One of the most familiar Tagore

songs, particularly to every young one getting acquainted with the maestro's work, is *Phooley phooley dholey 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.

অঙ্গীকৃত
মাহাবিদ্যা-০৭

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,



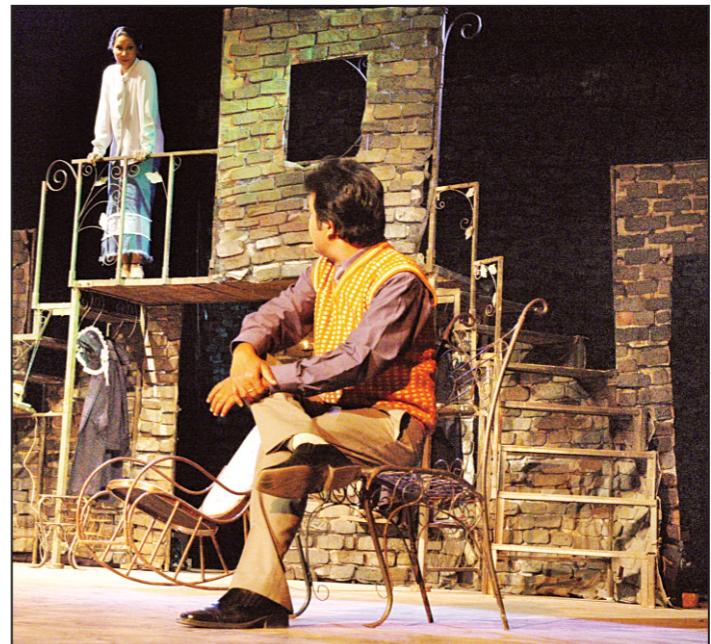
Actors of Chattala Theatre in *Mahabidya*

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

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*.

'The Mousetrap' Staged



A scene from *The Mousetrap*

At the National Theatre Stage Padatik Natya Sangsads (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

the threat of Communism taking over. Sections of the nation have been destroyed in the bombings and London, in particular, is undergoing a rebirth.

The post-war unstable condition of the state is reflected in the psyche of the Britons. As a result, suppressed evil instincts such as jealousy, hypocrisy, cruelty and more come to the fore. Christie's play successfully reflects the crisis.

The storyline is quite simple -- a fake police officer comes to investigate a murder that took place in a rest house owned by a young couple. Through the investigation, it is evident that neither the hosts nor the guests are above suspicion. Though none of them can be criminally linked with the murder, none of them can boldly claim to be innocent.

Abdus Selim has translated the play to Bangla. Directed by Mir Mahbub Alam Selim, M. Shaiful Islam is the set and light designer of *The Mousetrap*.

BY ERSHAD KAMOL

2x3

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-affection". 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.

'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, Jordyn Sparks, Phil Stacey, Melinda Doolittle, Brandon Rogers, Gina Gackenbach, 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

TV GUIDE



Hridoye Mati O Manush

On Channel i at 9:35pm
Agricultural Programme
Host: Shykh Seraj

STAR MOVIES

05:40 Diner Sheshey
06:30 Music Moments
08:15 Drama Serial: *Shobhoner Ojha*
12:00 Grameenphone Nari
09:20 Amar Ami

10:10 Talk Show: *Annyodhriti*
11:05 Shoner Muthophone
12:15 Shurer Madhuri
12:45 Shatdin
01:30 Nari
03:45 Shobhar Jonno
04:20 Shest Khokh
05:30 Grameenphone Nari
06:20 Gondhoraj
07:00 Samsung Cine A Ha
08:00 Mega Serial: *The New Sabuj Opera*
08:40 Drama Serial: *Laal Neel Beguni*
09:20 Mega Serial: *Ek Jonomey*

10:10 Talkshow: *Apnar Ki Kichhu Bolar Achhey*
11:10 Shomoy Oshomoy
11:40 Media Bhuban
02:30 Kachhey
03:00 Durey
03:05 Drama Serial: Guest
04:15 Public Forum

05:00 My Favorite Martian
05:35 Shadows In The Sun
11:15 Lost World, The:
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

PICK OF THE DAY



Amar Ami

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

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 Akkad Bakkad
11:00 Golu Ke Goggles
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
02:00 Shararat
02:30 Kalash
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:30 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:00 Shararat
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 Ducktales
07:30 Shararat
08:00 Kayamath
08:30 Golu Ke Goggles
09:00 Prithviraj Chauhan
09:30 Mirch Masala
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Aek Chabi Hai
12:00 Dhamo Mein
01:30 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhamo
02:00 Bolly V - Star Plus

STAR WORLD

02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kalash
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:30 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:00 Shararat
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 Ducktales
07:30 Shararat
08:00 Kayamath
08:30 Golu Ke Goggles
09:00 Prithviraj Chauhan
09:30 Mirch Masala
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Aek Chabi Hai
12:00 Dhamo Mein
01:30 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhamo
02:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kalash
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:30 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:00 Shararat
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 Ducktales
07:30 Shararat
08:00 Kayamath
08:30 Golu Ke Goggles
09:00 Prithviraj Chauhan
09:30 Mirch Masala
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Aek Chabi Hai
12:00 Dhamo Mein
01:30 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhamo
02:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kalash
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:30 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:00 Shararat
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 Ducktales
07:30 Shararat
08:00 Kayamath
08:30 Golu Ke Goggles
09:00 Prithviraj Chauhan
09:30 Mirch Masala
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Aek Chabi Hai
12:00 Dhamo Mein
01:30 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhamo
02:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kalash
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:30 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:00 Shararat
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 Ducktales
07:30 Shararat
08:00 Kayamath
08:30 Golu Ke Goggles
09:00 Prithviraj Chauhan
09:30 Mirch Masala
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Aek Chabi Hai
12:00 Dhamo Mein
01:30 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhamo
02:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kalash
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:30 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:00 Shararat
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 Ducktales
07:30 Shararat
08:00 Kayamath
08:30 Golu Ke Goggles
09:00 Prithviraj Chauhan
09:30 Mirch Masala
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Aek Chabi Hai
12:00 Dhamo Mein
01:30 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhamo
02:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kalash
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:30 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:00 Shararat
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 Ducktales
07:30 Shararat
08:00 Kayamath
08:30 Golu Ke Goggles
09:00 Prith