

CULTURAL FEAST

National Theatre Festival

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

March 14
Natyajon
Onyo Gajir Onyo Kissa

March 15
Jahangirnagar University
Gazi Miar Bostani

March 16
Subchon Natya Sangshad Rupoboti

March 17
Desh Natok
Jonne Jonmantor

March 18
Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy Eksho Bosta Chal

March 19
Podokhep
Kalapani

March 20
Cox's Bazar Theatre
Neel Shomudr Jhor

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall
March 14
Ananya '97 Natyadol
Rajkobi

March 15
Govindagonj Theatre
Shondor Alir Pala

March 16
Theatre (Topkhana)
Shonar Boron Koinya

March 17
Theatre (Arambag)
Bolod

March 18
Dhaka Podatik
Joldas

March 19
Rangpur Natyakendra
Muktodhara

March 20
Faridpur Theatre
Matal

The schedule is subject to change

Painting Exhibition

Artist: Qayum 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

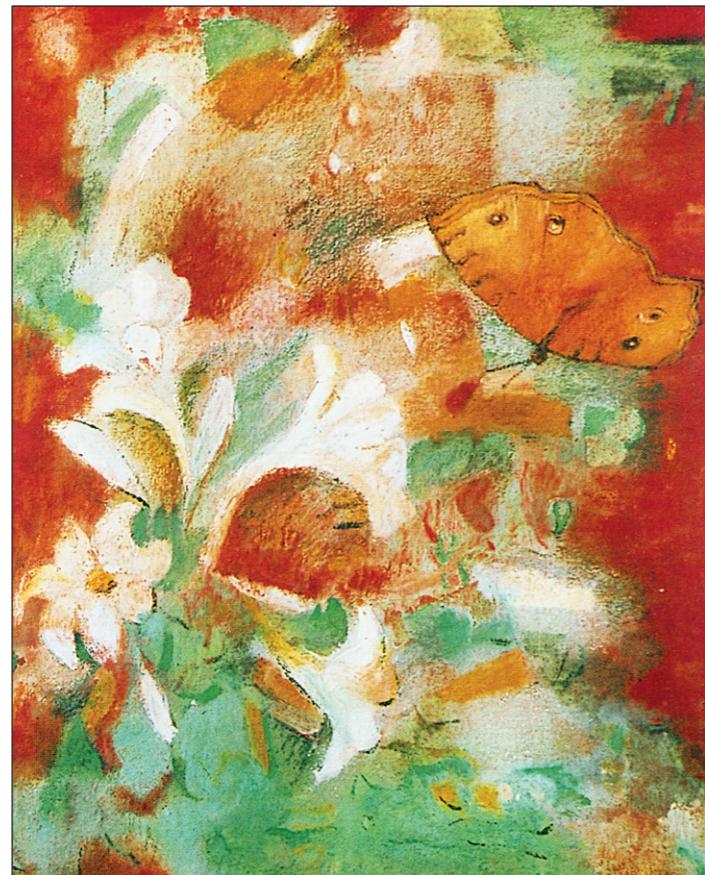
Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Zinat Sattar
Title: Secrets of Nature
Organiser: Art & Soul Gallery
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery
Date: March 9-18

Baha Festival
Date: March 13-15
Venue: Sundorpur, Kakonhat, Godagari, Rajshahi

Photography Exhibition
Title: Justice for Nurjanah
Photographer: Shahidul Alam
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi
Date: March 12-22
Time: 3:00pm-8pm

Art exhibition

Zinat Sattar's works rooted in nature



KAVITA CHARANJI

Nature in all its infinite glory is a perennial source of inspiration to artist Zinat Sattar. In her fourth solo

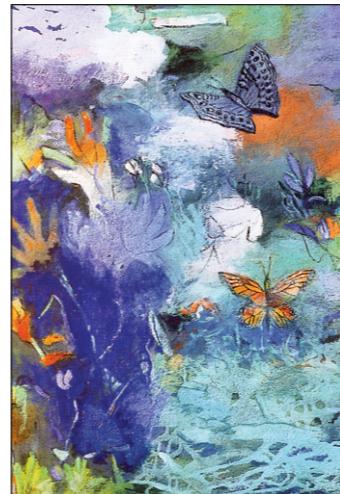
painting exhibition, titled 'Secrets of Nature', at Art & Soul Gallery many of her 34 works are replete with elements from nature—the depths of the blue sea and flowers, foliage,

butterflies and birds in dazzling hues. One arresting semi-abstract painting in mixed media, titled *My Childhood* is awash with vibrant colours—orange, green, blue, white, yellow and red. The work catches the eye with its delineation of kites, paper boats and paper birds. "I particularly go for blue because it is a mild and sophisticated colour," says the unassuming Zinat, pointing out, "I love and enjoy being in the midst of nature."

Another of her imaginative pieces is *Seashore*, also in mixed media. Green, brown, white and red go into this eye catching work. The painting is embellished with stones and shells which she picked up in Cox's Bazar. Some of Zinat's works have a distinctive technique—in several pieces she has poured oils or water colour on to the canvas to make it flow over the canvas.

The wonder of Zinat's talent is that she has no formal education or degree in art. Though she has studied with artists such as Hassan Mahmud, Iftekharuddin, Samarit Roy and Kanak Champa, she is largely self taught. This could be a handicap. In Zinat's words, "Critics say I am not a real artiste and therefore do not take me seriously."

Nevertheless, Zinat continues to pour her emotions of joy and happiness on to the canvas. "The images of childhood, nature, lost songs have found their way into my creations," she says. There is also another side to the artist—she is a



Artworks by Zinat Sattar

great lover of flowers and greenery. In 1987 she won an award for her rose plants from the Sylhet district authorities.

The current exhibition, which concludes on March 18, has had a positive response. According to the gallery personnel, 50 per cent of the paintings on display have already been sold and the rest should find a market in the near future.

Among her forthcoming projects is a solo exhibition in the US this year. Her passion for painting will most certainly take her places.

Celebrating indigenous culture

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) on Sunday last, organised a cultural function at the Tribal Culture Institute (TCI) auditorium.

Artistes of different indigenous communities, including Chakma, Rakhaian, Tripura and Lusai, per-

formed solo and chorus songs and various types of dances in the cultural show.

Subhadra Tripura thrilled the audiences with a Tripura love song titled *Ichug Machagama-Tripura-Jagma-Brun-Jagma-Nung-Brotang* that meant 'Hello, beautiful young woman, where are you going alone?' This was

followed by Chakma, Rakhaian, Tripura and Lusai artistes, who performed Jum, umbrella, bottle and bamboo dances.

The cultural evening was attended by CHT affairs secretary Mohammad Abdur Sabur, RHDC acting chairman Sujit Dewan, and chief executive officer Golam Rahman.



PHOTO: STAR

Rakhain artistes perform an umbrella dance at the programme

Chhayanat celebrates birth anniversary of Wahidul Haq

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Chhayanat will hold daylong special programmes on March 16 and 17 to mark the 74th birth anniversary of late Wahidul Haq.

One of the founding members of Chhayanat, Wahidul Haq passed away on January 27.

The first day will feature Lalon, Bhawaiya and Radharomon songs as well as other folk genres. Artistes from Mymensingh, Sherpur, Sylhet, Rangpur, Jaipurhat and other parts of the country will perform in the programme. Later that evening, artist Rafiqun Nabi will inaugurate a children's art exhibition. The presentation will highlight paintings by students of Nalanda, an art school founded by Wahidul Haq. The exhibition will continue till March 20.

On March 17, a children's handwriting competition will be held at 10:00am. All the events will be held at Chhayanat Sangskritik Bhaban, Dhanmondi.

অভিযোগ মার্জন
মার্জন মুক্তি ২০০৭

National Theatre Festival '07
'Neel Mayurer Jouban': Recording historical struggle

The Bengalis' struggle for the right of language and freedom against the ruling Pakistanis is widely known. For that matter one is also well versed with the heroism of ancestors against the British and Mughal invaders. However, going back in time, few are acquainted with language and freedom movements during the 8th-12th century.

Neel Mayurer Jouban, a Shabdaboli, Barisal production features the historical struggle of the Tantric Buddhist mendicants to expound their religious doctrine to the lay populace. The verses are compiled in the *Charyapada*, an antique palm-leaf manuscript featuring 8th-12th century Buddhist poems from eastern India. The *Charyapada* language is referred to as *Alo-Andhri* (light and shadow), which provides early examples of Assamese, Oriya and Bengal languages. However, to write the verses in their own language these poets had to struggle against the ruling Brahmin class, who wanted to continue with Sanskrit as the only language.

Shunada Bashar has dramatised Selina's novel with the same title *Neel Mayurer Jouban*. In the play, the manuscript of *Charyapada*—having 47 verses, written by 23 poets—has been

Actors of Shabdaboli perform in *Neel Mayurer Jouban*

PHOTO: STAR

featuring as the glorious resistance of the poets to write in their own language against the rulers who compelled them to write in Sanskrit.

Most of the actors of the troupe are young and energetic.

Shabdaboli staged the play at the National Theatre Stage on March 12 as part of the ongoing National Theatre Festival arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in association with Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy.

'Shiddhidata' staged

A scene from *Shiddhidata* staged by Loko Nattyadal

Loko Nattyadal staged *Shiddhidata* at the Experimental Theatre Stage on the same evening. Mohit Chattapadhyaya's play carries the message that one can only overcome crises by abiding by religious doctrines.

The story of the play is centred around a pseudo *sanyasi* and his disciple who struggle to eke out a living. Once the duo finds a dilapidated Ganesh temple in a forest, Ganesh tells them that if they can repair the temple, he will grant them a wish and thus solve all their problems. The *sanyasi* agrees to fulfil Ganesh's wish. Taking on a pious way of life, the duo live happily thereafter.

Directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky, Ali Ahmed Mukul is the set designer and Thandu Rainah is the light designer of the play. Background music is composed by Yasmin Ali.

By Ershad Kamol

Adoor to churn out two films from Thakazhi's stories

PTI

Noted Malayalam film director Adoor Gopalakrishnan has decided to make two feature films based on short stories written by Jnanpith award-winning writer Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai.

The two films, *Moonthu Pennungal* (Three Women) and *Kallante Makan* (Thief's Son) are based on six short stories by Pillai.

The idea of shooting the two films at the same time struck him after he wrote screenplays based on six short stories of Thakazhi for Doordarshan, Gopalakrishnan said. "All the stories were dear to me and I could not abandon any of



the scripts. Then I thought of making two films out of the stories," he said.

Three of the stories had a common thread as they dealt with different shades of women. The

other three were woven into a script as they dealt with the theme of how society provided justice to the average citizen.

The new venture, being co-produced by Doordarshan, is Adoor's third attempt at translating literary works into screen language, after *Mathilukal* (Walls-1989) based on a novel by Vaikom Mohammed Basheer and *Vidheyan* (The Servile-1993), screen adaptation of a Paul Zachariah story.

The Dadasaheb Phalke award-winning director said the film would be a tribute of a film-maker to a great writer. The stories, though written around 50 years back, had contemporary relevance, he said.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Aloye Bhubon Bhabra
On Channel i at 9:35pm
Talk Show hosted by Aly Zaker
Tonight's Guest: Professor Serajul Islam



Rupantor
On Banglavision at 9:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Golam Farida Chhonda, Mahmudur Rahman

09:30

The Oprah Winfrey Show

10:30

Bringing Home Baby

12:30

2007 Fia World Touring

10:30

Commander in Chief

11:30

Life On The Edge

02:30

Fa Cup 2006/07

11:30

Falcon Beach

12:30

Body Basics

05:30

Max Power 2007

12:30

The O.C.

01:30

Wild Discovery

06:30

Gillette World Sport 2007

02:30

Oprah Winfrey Show

03:30

Everything You Need

08:30

Sports Yatra With Harsha

03:30

The Bold And The Beautiful

04:00

Million 2 One

09:00

Shaz & Waz Caribbean Special

04:00

General Hospital

05:30

Journey of Life

09:00

Doordarshan Adventures With Geoff Mackley

05:00

Fashion House

06:30

Less Than Perfect

09:30

Ashes 2005 (Cricket)

06:00