

## CULTURAL FEAST

## National Theatre Festival

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

March 18  
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Eksho Bosta Chal

March 19  
Podokhep  
Kalapani

March 20  
Cox's Bazar Theatre  
Nael Shomudr Jhor

March 21  
Dhaka Theatre  
Binodini

March 22  
Uttoradikar  
Shampannaiya

March 23  
Bibortan Jessor  
Koboro Gatha

March 24  
Nagorik Natyangan  
Ensemble

Khanchar Bhitor Achin Pakhi

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall

March 18  
Dhaka Padatik  
Kotha 71

March 19  
Rangpur Natyangan  
Mukdohara

March 20  
Faridpur Theatre  
Matia

The schedule is subject to change

## Adivasi Cultural Festival

Organiser: Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD)  
Venue: Shokat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library  
Date: March 17-19

## Exhibition on Urban Conservation/Reservation

Title: Old But New New But Old  
Organiser: British Council & North South University  
Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka  
Date: March 15-31  
Time: 10am-6pm daily, except Fridays

## Art Exhibition

Artist: Wakilur Rahman  
Title: Reamanged  
Organiser: Shilpangan  
Venue: Shilpangan Contemporary Art Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi  
Date: March 16-31  
Time: 11am-1pm & 5pm-9pm

## Photography Exhibition

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

## Folk fiesta commemorating Waheedul Haque

MAHMUDA AFROZ

THE Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban was decorated with flowers, lamps, gamchas and kulas as Chhayanaut celebrated the 75th birth anniversary of late Waheedul Haque. Special programmes were held on March 16 and 17 to observe the day.

The daylong folk fiesta on the first day started with a Manipuri *Poong chalam*. *Poong chalam* is a musical instrument the Manipuris play during birth, marriage seasons, religious festivals and death.

Soon after that, Tagore exponent Dr Sanjida Khatun came on stage and gave a short speech and a summary of the day's itinerary. In her speech, Sanjida mentioned that Waheedul, one of the founder members of the organisation, was an ardent fan of folk music. He always stressed the need of folk culture to break its village shackles and enter the lives of the city dwellers.

The programme resumed with the Baul song *Agye ki shundor deen kaitamin* by Baby Akhtar. Baul singers' Shirajuddin Pathan and Shunil Kormokar from Mymensingh performed a *Maaljora baul* number. The specialty of *Maaljora baul* is that it talks about human religion of truth and purity over religious animosity and became popular during the '30s. Through a question answer session the two singers proceeded.

Saidur Rahman Bayati from Manikganj sang songs which he wrote and composed himself. He



Kiron Chandra Roy presents a folk number at the function

presented a wide range of songs- *Gajir gaan*, *Bichar gaan*, *Jari gaan*, *Dhua gaan*, *Ekdil peerer gaan* and *Bhashan jatra*. His son Abdul Bashir Abbas also performed. After that there was a dance number by members from the Brotochari club.

A musical theatre 'Shri Radhar Poth Rudhdho' was acted out under the production of Manipuri theatre. For over 200 years the Manipuris from Kamalganj under Moulvibazar district have been performing this historical piece on

Sri Krishna. The evening saw the tiny tots of Chhayanaut singing Hasan Raja's song. Artists from Sylhet, Jaypurhat, Rangpur, and Narail contributed with *Bhawaiya*, *Baul*, *Lalon geeti* and local folk songs.

Kissagan has been a popular form of entertainment for over four hundred years in greater Mymensingh. Named after its founder, Islam Uddin Kissadar, the songs combine local dance and acting to give a realistic effect. One

of the better known artistes of Kissagan, Islamuddin from Mymensingh performed *Shundormoti* with his troupe.

Later that evening, artist Rafiqun Nabi inaugurated children's art exhibition. The presentation highlighted paintings by students of *Nalonda*, an art school founded by Waheedul Haque. The exhibition will continue till March 20.

On March 17, a children's handwriting competition was held in the morning at the same venue.

## National Theatre Festival '07 'Sonar Boron Koinna': An adaptation of 'Mahuya'

*Mohuya* is one of the most popular *palas* included in the *Maimansingha Geetika*, a collection of folk ballads from the greater Mymensingh region. Many renowned folk experts consider Dwigo Kana's ballad *Mohuya* as a world classic.

The ballad is a love story of a gypsy girl *Mahuya* and the son of a zamindar, *Noiddar Chand*, which has a tragic end: The duo commits suicide because of social conflicts arising out of several aspects of love.

Deepak Roy has adapted *Sonar Boron Koinna* from *Mohua*. Roy's adaptation deserves plaudits, as he has maintained the authenticity of the original ballad. Even the dialogues of the play are lyrical.

However, the presentation of the play did not live up to the expectation of the audience. The impact of these types of mediocre productions on the rich heritage can be analysed from a quotation of renowned American artistic designer Richard Schechner. He was the keynote speaker of a three-day international seminar titled "Theatre in Turmoil" arranged by National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi, India.

The keynote paper reads that the theatre activists themselves are creating turmoil while making efforts to apply the traditional



Actors perform in Sonar Boron Koinna

performing art forms in theatre. He wants the traditional forms to be preserved, and even better, to be used. But as a number of attempts have shown, to "use" a traditional form is often to distort it, to yank it out of its historical and social circumstance, or to practice it in an amateurish way.

Reflecting Schechner's observation one can safely say that under Deepak Roy's direction, the unskilful presentation of the classic is

harmful for the rich heritage of *palagan*. Only in the scene when *Mahuya* meets *Noiddar Chand* besides the river, the directorial compositions appeared natural.

On March 16, Theatre (Tophkana) staged *Sonar Boron Koinna* at the Experimental Theatre Stage as part of the National Theatre Festival arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

## Event

## Fantasy Kingdom celebrates 5th anniversary



Enthusiastic visitors throng the Fantasy Kingdom at Ashulia

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Fantasy Kingdom, the only theme park in Bangladesh celebrated its 5th anniversary on March 16 with various entertaining programmes. Visitors enjoyed special offers on the day. Huge number of urbanites mostly youngsters thronged at the park to take refuge from routine-

bound city life and to enjoy the day by taking different rides, singing and dancing.

Apart from usual thrilling rides, the visitors were entertained by a live concert by popular singers. Singers like Aiyub Bachchu, Asif, Montaj, Robi Chowdhury, Mehreen, Bappa Majumdar, Poitih Nabi, Mila, Nowrin, Rinku and Anupoma Mukti

enthralled the audience with their performance. They held a concert of their popular tracks.

Closeup 1 star Rinku performed two folk songs *Kanar habazar* and *Nari hoye lajja pelam*. Bappa Majumdar rendered *Chander shohore* and *Tumi amar bayanno tash*. Poitih Nabi performed his popular song *Amar ekta nodi chhilo*. The concert ended with the performance of Aiyub Bachchu. The atmosphere inside the park became explosive when he took the stage. The audience continued

singing and dancing to the tunes all the way in the four and a half hour long concert.

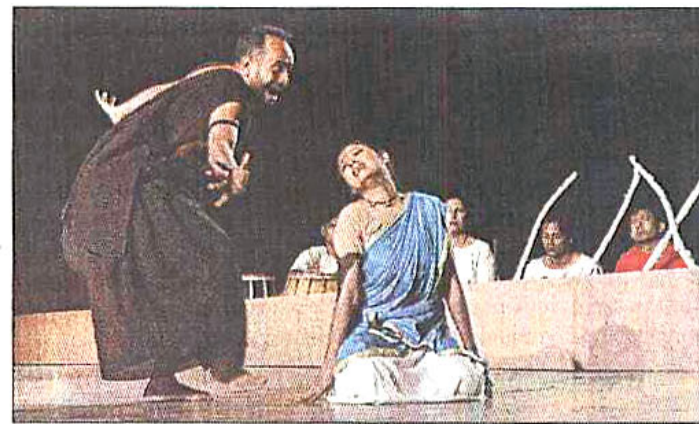
Earlier, "Prince Ashu" and "Princess Liya" cut a huge cake for the visitors. The visitors enjoyed exclusive offers and discounts on the day. Various entertainment games and raffle draw were also a part of the celebration.

The Fantasy Kingdom authority declared a special offer for students of Class 1 to Class 10 so that they could enjoy free entry at the park on every Tuesday from now on.



Prince Ashu and Princess Liya cut a huge cake for the guests

## 'Rupoboti' staged



A scene from Rupoboti staged by Shubochan Natya Sangsad

Shubochan Natya Sangsad staged its popular production *Rupoboti* at the National Theatre Stage on the

same evening. Nasrin Jahan's play *Rupoboti* points its finger at the scourge of poverty in the rural areas,

where people are often compelled to leave their dearest ones.

The play features the conflict between love and destitution. A piper in the play wanders from village to village in search of the killer of his beloved *Rupoboti*. Who is the killer? Is he a human being or poverty? At the end of the play one comes to realise that it is poverty for which young duos such as the flutist and *Rupoboti* suffer.

Directed by Khaled Khan, Ahsan Habib Nasim is the music composer and Anisul Haque Barun is the choreographer of the play. Enamul Karim Nirjhar is the set designer while Abu Daud Ashrafee is the light designer.

BY ERSHAD KAMOL

## Musical soiree at Bengal Gallery

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the solo art exhibition by Qayyum Chowdhury, the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts organised a series of 'Ghoroua gaaner ashor' (musical soiree) at the Bengal Shilpalaya in Dhanmondi. The first evening of the series took place on Thursday last.

Taniya Mannan led the evening with popular Tagore numbers. The jam-packed room saw an audience appreciating her talent. Luva Nahid Chowdhury was the second singer for the evening. She rendered songs of the three poets Atul Prasad Sen, D.L. Roy and Rajani Kanta Sen.

With a few days break in between; the next *Ghoroua gaaner ashor* will take place on March 21. Bulbul Islam and Shama Rahman will be singing on that occasion. Ifat Ara Dewan and Sharmin Shatul Islam will perform on March 22. Laiba Ahmed Lisa and Aditi Mohsin will be performing on the last day of the series i.e. on March 23.

The current exhibition by Qayyum Chowdhury is his



Luva Nahid Chowdhury performs at the programme

5th at the Bengal Shilpalaya. A connoisseur of music for over 65 years, Qayyum has been a driving force in promoting Bangla music abroad.

## TV GUIDE

## PICK OF THE DAY



ICC World Cup 2007  
Australia Vs Netherlands  
On BTV at 7:15pm  
Live from Warner Park, Basseterre, St Kitts

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 6:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 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, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm, News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm, Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 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 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:00 pm, 12:30 am.

BANGLAVISION  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:30 pm, News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 pm, News Headlines (English) at 9:05 pm.

RTV  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 3:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:00 pm, News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30 am.

BTV

08:40 Bishwa Protidin  
09:05 Shomapi  
11:15 Drama  
12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon

01:00 Maa O Shihur Kotha  
01:30 Mali O Manush  
02:15 Educational Programme  
03:30 Children's programme

04:00 Protidin Computer  
04:30 Khele Dhule  
05:05 Debate  
06:10 Shwadinata Arar

06:40 Cricket Cricket  
07:15 ICC World Cup  
2007: Australia Vs Netherlands (Live)

08:00 Rupanor  
08:20 Mirror  
07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Hasi

09:35 Drama Serial: Mon Chutay Jay  
10:00 Mega Serial: Jog Beyog  
12:00 Gramphone Documentary  
Program: Propak

05:45 The Sword of Tio Sultan  
06:25 Three Stooges  
08:00 Drama Serial: Outdoor

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Channel i  
08:30 Shokaler Gaan  
09:30 Shogbepotre, Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Gramphone  
Trinomatra

11:05 Apollo Tele Prescription  
11:30 Hridoye Mati O Manush  
12:30 Cityell Taroka Kathan

01:05 Ebon Cinemar Gaan  
01:30 Shogbepotre, Bangladesh  
01:45 Public Reaction  
04:05 Bishwa Cup Special  
04:35 Amader Gaan  
04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma  
05:30 Mukti Jutho Protidin

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