

CULTURAL FEAST

National Theatre

Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
In association with: Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy

Time: 7pm

Venue: National Theatre Stage

March 18: Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, Ekso Bosta Chal

March 19: Podokharp, Kalapani

March 20: Cox's Bazar Theatre, Neel Shomudir Jhor

March 21: Dhaka Theatre, Bindibari

March 22: Uttroradikhar, Shampur, Shambanayya

March 23: Bibor Jonbor, Kokon Jonbor, Katha

March 24: Nagorik Natyangan, Ensemble

Khanchar Bhitor Achin Pakhi

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall

March 18: Dhaka Podokharp, Katha

March 19: Rangpur Natyakendra, Muktochandra

March 20: Faridpur Theatre, Matia

The schedule is subject to change

Adivasi Cultural Festival

Organiser: Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD)
Venue: Showkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library

Date: March 17-19

Exhibition on Urban Conservation/ Reservation

Title: Old But New Now 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: Rearranged
Organiser: Shilpangan

Venue: Shilpangan, Contemporary Art Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi

Date: March 15-31

Time: 11am-1pm & 3pm-8pm

Photography Exhibition

Title: Justice for Nurnajan
Photographer: Shahidul Alam

Venue: Drik 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, 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 Agey kishundor deen kaitatai 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 presented a wide range of songs—Gajir gaan, Bichar gaan, Jari gaan, Dhuu gaan, Ekdil peerer gaan and Bhashan jatra. His son Abdul Bashir Abbasi also performed. After that there was a dance number by members from the Brotachari 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 Moulovibazar district have been performing this historical piece on



Kiron Chandra Roy presents a folk number at the function

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, Laloni 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 Shundornotio with his troupe.

Later that evening, artist Rafiqun Nabi inaugurated children's art exhibition. The presentation highlighted paintings by students of Nalanda, 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.

আজের পুস্তক

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

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

The ballad is a love story of a gypsy girl *Mohuya* 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 *Mohuya*. 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*

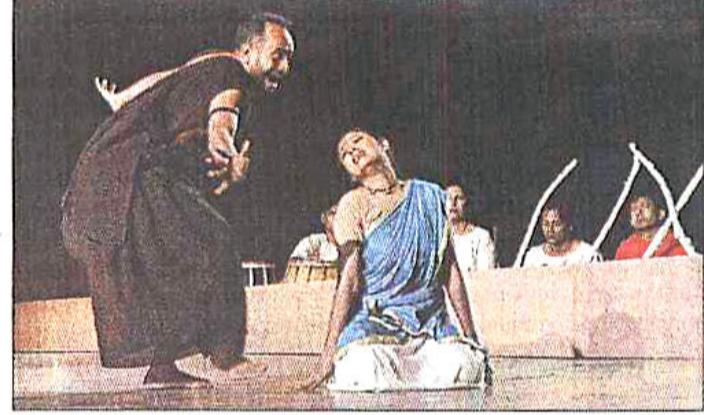
performing art forms in theatre. He wants the traditional forms to be preserved, and even better, to be used. But as a number of attempts have shown, to "use" traditional form is often to distort it, to yank it out of its historical and social circumstance, or to practice it in an amateurish way.

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 *Mohuya* meets Noiddar Chand besides the river, the directorial compositions appeared natural.

On March 16, Theatre (Topkhana) 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 Shilpkala Academy.

'Rupoboti' staged



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 Abd Ashrafe is the light designer.

BY ERSHAD KAMOL

Musical soiree at Bengal Gallery

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

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

Tanya 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 'Ghorouga gaer ashor' will take place on March 21. Bulbul Islam and Shama Rahaman will be singing on that occasion. Ifat Ara Dewan and Sharmin Shathi Islam will perform on March 22. Laisa Ahmed Lisa and Aditi Mohsin will be performing on the last day of the series i.e. on March 23.

The current exhibition by Qayum Chowdhury is his



Luva Nahid Chowdhury performs at the programme

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

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



ICC World Cup 2007

STAR MOVIES

BANGLAVISION

STAR PLUS

STAR WORLD

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

STAR SPORTS

03:30	The Apprentice	02:00	Sierra Hiker Rescue	10:30	Chequered Flag
04:30	Grey's Anatomy	02:30	Tasmania	11:00	Malaysia Airlines Football Extra
05:30	Hollywood Shootouts	03:30	Egyptair 990	12:00	Tcl Classic
06:00	Travel Asia	04:30	Tcl Geo Junior Hunt	03:00	Malaysia Airlines Football Extra
06:30	Koffee With Karan	05:00	Kenc, Mentor, Prince	04:00	Rally Champ
07:30	Malcolm In The Middle	05:30	Big Bang	04:30	Pacific Life Open
08:00	The Kumars At No. 42	06:00	Dugongs	05:00	English Premier
08:30	Fashion House	06:30	Megafactories	05:30	Football League
09:00	Koffee With Karan	07:30	Ant That Ate America	06:00	Touring Cars Cham
10:30	Angela's Eyes	08:30	Land Of The Tiger	06:30	Artic Kingdom
11:30	Third Watch	09:30	Flight Science	07:24	English Premier
		10:30	Interpol Investigates	09:30	2007 F1a World
					Standard Bank One
					Day Internatio
					Cricket Crazy
					ESPN
					Taking Guard - West Indies Speci
					The Prince Of Kolkata
					Final Score
					India Glorious
					Sportscenter Week In Review
					NBA Special: The Run; Dwyane Wad
					Indian Legends
					Debutants
					Champions Of The World
					Taking Guard - West Indies Speci
					Hilt
					Final Score
					Super Sunday
					English Premier
					Football League

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTB
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) at 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-1
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 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.

Lates News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00 pm.