

CULTURAL FEAST

National Theatre Festival

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

March 19
Podokhep
Kalapani

March 20
Cox's Bazar Theatre
Neel Shomudr Jhor

March 21
Dhaka Theatre
Binodini
March 22
Uttoradhikar
Shampannaiya

March 23
Biborton Jessor
koiborto Gatha

March 24
Nagorik Natyangan
Ensemble
Khanchar Bhitro Achin Pakhi

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall

March 19
Rangpur Natyakendra
Muktodhara

March 20
Faridpur Theatre
Matial

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

Art Exhibition

Artist: Wakilur Rahman
Title: Rearranged
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: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Date: March 12-22
Time: 3:00pm-8pm
Title: Japanese Flowers
Venue: Drik Gallery, house 58, road 15/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Date: March 17-30
Time: 3-8pm everyday

Title: Aktel International Inter University
Photography Exhibition 2007
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 17-23
Time: 10am-7pm everyday

Adivasi Cultural Festival in the city

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A three-day Adivasi cultural festival kicked off on March 17 at Showkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Public Library, Dhaka.

The festival was inaugurated by Basundhara Dewan, the first female headman of Chittagong Hill Tracts and Bazar Chowdhury.

The festival is organised by Society for the Environment and Human Development (SEHD), in association with 22 NGOs. Christian Aid has provided financial support.

Noted educationists Professor Anisuzzaman, Professor Rafiqul Islam, former lawmaker Promod Mankin and director of SEHD, Philip Gain spoke at the inaugural ceremony presided over by Professor Sakhawat Ali



Members of adivasi communities perform at the cultural programme on the opening day of the festival



PHOTO: STAR

Khan, chairman of SEHD.

Speakers emphasised the need for government and members of the society to ensure the rights of the adivasi people in order to ensure the diversity in our national culture and heritage.

They also urged the media to highlight and promote the culture, languages and heritage of the adivasis and to launch a campaign to protect their ancestral homes and land.

In the morning a colourful rally consisting of members from several adivasi communi-

ties started from the Public Library premises. Adivasi artists, musicians and dancers from Mymensingh, Sylhet and Chittagong attended the inaugural programme.

Yesterday evening members of Mandi, Chakma, Chak, Khyang and other communities performed at a cultural programme. Adivasi artefacts and photographs are on display at the festival.

The festival ends today.

Discussion on Nazrul's poetry held in Beijing

A discussion on our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's work was held at the Bangladesh Embassy in Beijing recently, according to a press release.

The informal session was presided over by Ambassador of Bangladesh to China, Ashfaqur Rahman. The discussions focused on the two-volume anthology of Nazrul's major poetic works published in Chinese by the Embassy last year. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Bangladesh provided advisory and financial support for the publication.

Professor Bai Kai Yuan, veteran Bangla language expert in China, shared his experiences of translating the works of Kazi Nazrul Islam. For him it was an assignment fraught with challenges since the English translations of Nazrul's works were not so widely available as those of Tagore.

He observed, "Nazrul didn't have the opportunity to visit China, like Tagore did, and make friends with Chinese writers of the day, but his poetry touched the spirits of his revolutionary peers in China. He was considered a comrade-in-arms in the anti-imperialist struggle of the Chinese people who in turn drew motivation from the anti-colonialist movement in British India." Professor Bai evoked the eclectic nature of Nazrul's creativity and hoped that his poetry would find a resonance



Bangladesh Ambassador Ashfaqur Rahman (2-R) and Professor Bai on his left, along with other discussants

among contemporary Chinese readers.

Professor Shi Haichun from the Institute of Foreign Literature under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences evaluated Nazrul's works in the light of his expertise on Indian classical literature. He remarked, "Nazrul's poetry embodies the inherent creative Bengali mind and attains a universal character through his unabashed feel of the

global reality." Professor Shi drew an analogy between Nazrul and the Chinese revolutionary poet Guo Muruo and went over some of the striking similarities between their works.

In his short intervention, Han Zuerong, Editor-in-chief of the *People's Literature* dwelt on the poignancy and felicity of Nazrul's love poems and lyrics. Professor Liu Jian from the Institute of Asia Pacific

Studies expressed that when appreciating poetry becomes "fashionable" again, works of Nazrul would yield unexpected riches for the new generation of Chinese readers.

Bangladesh Ambassador Ashfaqur Rahman said, "The underlying spirit of Nazrul's poetry was rebellion against a system that perpetuated exploitation, discrimination and poverty. It's the same dissatisfaction with the anomalies in the system that prompted many of the ideas of people like Amartya Sen and Muhammad Yunus."

The programme wrapped up with a poetry recitation session conducted by Professor Bai and ABM Salauddin from CRI Bangla Service. Ambassador Jiang Zongcheng, a former diplomat specialising in South Asia, read out a poem he himself had composed after his first exposure to the works of Nazrul. The students and teachers of Peking University and China Communication University rected of Nazrul classics like *Bidrohi*, *Chol Chol Chol*, *Jhoma-er Gaan* and others.

It is to be hoped that the veritable radiance of Nazrul's works would continue to reach out to the millions of young minds in China and beyond. Events such as these will be useful in lighting up the trail.



National Theatre Festival '07 'Janom-e Janmantor': Complexity in human nature

Complexity in human nature as well as the flawed social structuralism has been presented in diversified ways in Bangladeshi theatre. Using the 'Magic Realism' technique -- an artistic genre in which magical elements appear in an otherwise realistic setting -- *Janom-e Janmantor* deals with the issue. As used today, the term, mostly by the Latin American writers, is broadly descriptive rather than critically rigorous.

Based on Shahidul Zahir's novel *Kathurey O Darkaak* (logger and the raven), Nasiruddin Sheikh's play *Janom-e Janmantor* delineates that to some extant human beings are even worse than scavengers.

The myth of the 'Raven' (which features how a crow mother was cheated by a woman, which made it black and a scavenger), and the tragic accounts of a rural logger and his wife appear simultaneously in the play.

The naive logger once comes across abandoned money while cutting a tree. He goes to Sirajganj town. There he is faced with his unfortunate fate, which compels his family to leave their hut. To survive, he moves to Dhaka, where he endures even



Actors of Desh Natak in Janom-e Janmantor

PHOTO: STAR

worse experiences.

As the director Nasiruddin Sheikh has used a narrator to unfold the story. Using different rural games and mimetic gestures have made the directorial compositions colourful.

Ali Ahmed Mukul's artistic set made of bamboo and Nasirul Haque Khokon's simple light design have effectively created

the required ambience for the play.

As part of the ongoing National Theatre Festival arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Desh Natak staged *Janom-e Janmantor* on March 17 at the National Theatre Stage.

'Balod' staged

On the same evening Theatre (Arambagh) staged *Balod* at the Experimental Theatre Stage. Title of Gazi Rakayet's play *Balod* is a metaphor. Based on Zafar Iqbal's novel with the same title, Rakayet's play features the apathy of the mass in Bangladesh. *Balod* urges a movement against the rehabilitation of the Pakistani collaborators of the Liberation War in 1971.

KM Harun is the director of the play. Gazi Rakayet is the set designer while Thandu Raihan is the light designer of the play.



A scene from Balod

PHOTO: STAR

Cowell says he's bigger than Springsteen

AP, New York

Simon Cowell says he's bigger than The Boss. In an interview to CBS' *60 Minutes*, the *American Idol* judge says he's worth five times more to Sony BMG than Bruce Springsteen.

"I sell more records than Bruce Springsteen, sure," Cowell says of the 57-year-old rocker, who signed a contract



that was reported to be in the neighbourhood of US \$100 million.

"I mean, in the last five years, I've probably sold over 100 million records. If (Springsteen) got one hundred (million dollars), I should have got five hundred (million dollars)," he says.

Cowell says he sells all those records because he's signed "the biggest artiste on the planet" -- Fox network's *American Idol*.

"Every single *Idol* winner is now signed through Sony BMG," says Cowell. "And this applies to... all the countries... we sell *Idol* to, which is over 30 countries."

Albums by *American Idol* winners and runners-up are distributed by labels within the Sony BMG system through a deal between Clive Davis and 19 Recordings Unlimited, the label managed by *American Idol* creator Simon Fuller.

Interviewer Anderson Cooper asks Cowell, 47, whether his deal with Sony BMG is in the same neighbourhood as Springsteen's.

"A hundred million ... that's a great deal," Cowell says. Was he referring to himself or Springsteen?

"For him," Cowell says, grinning. "For him it's a good deal."

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) at 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.

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

BTV

08:40 Bishwa Protidin
09:05 Shomapti
11:15 Musical Programme
12:00 Mae O Shishur Kotha
12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon
01:00 Shukhi Poribar
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 Shilpo O Shahitya
03:05 Cartoon
03:30 Shafolyo Ghatta
04:00 Amader Muktiudho
04:30 Desh O Bigyan
05:05 Debate
06:10 Bulbul
06:40 Dolon Chapa
07:00 Swadhinota Amar Swadhinota
07:30 Cricket Cricket
08:15 ICC World Cup 2007: West Indies Vs Zimbabwe

ATN Bangla

10:30 Talk Show: Onnodrishti
12:10 Motamot
01:25 Cholochohitr Golpo
02:30 Drama Serial: Nirob Kosto
04:20 ATN MUSIC
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khobor
05:10 Shormali Din
05:45 Business Week
06:20 Ashay Pasher Manush
08:00 Drama Serial: Kathkoylar Chhobi Meet the Press
08:45
Channel i
08:30 Shoklar Gaan
09:30 Shangbadpotre

09:45 Bangladesh Public Reaction
09:50 Gramreenphone Trilomatra
11:05 Educational Programme
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
04:05 Cricktal World Cup Special
04:30 Amader Gaan
04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Muktiudho Protidin
06:00 Star gate SG one
06:20 Ontoralar Kotha
06:40 Business Show
07:50 BBC Bangladesh Shanglep
09:35 Drama Serial: Tin Tin
10:00 Drama Serial: Shada Ranger Swapno
12:00 GramreenPhone Aker Shangbad Potro

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:00 Cartoon
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
02:00 Bagan Bilash
03:30 Drama Serial: Shunney Boshobash
04:30 Shomoyer Shad
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:30 Top News
06:45 Mukti Judho
07:00 Shuktara
08:15 Drama Serial:



ICC World Cup 2007 West Indian Vs Zimbabwe On BTV at 8:15pm Live from Jamaica

09:00 Shomrajyo Gaaner Khata
09:30 Bioscope
11:00 Stop n Rock
05:40 Diner Sheshey
06:30 Amader Rannaghar
06:40 Bishwa Protidin
08:15 Desher Pathay
08:55 Special Drama
STAR MOVIES
09:45 Lost World, The: Jurassic Park
12:00 City Slickers 2
02:00 Trump Unauthorised
03:30 Loverboy
05:00 Speed
07:00 Object Of My Affection, T
08:50 Sixth Sense, The
10:40 The Truth About Love
STAR PLUS
09:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
10:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
11:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
12:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:30 Kayamath
01:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
02:00 Bhabhi
02:30 Kesar
03:00 Saarthi
03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
04:00 Kayamath
04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa



Kathkoylar Chhobi Drama Serial On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm Cast: Tauquir Ahmed, Bipasha Hayat

05:00 Aek Chabhi Hai Padoss Mein
05:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
08:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
08:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
09:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
09:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati- Sri
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
04:00 Kayamath
04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa

CHANNEL

08:30 Wild Discovery
09:30 Discovery Biggest Shows
11:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive
12:30 Yummy Mummy
01:00 Runway Moms
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Detective Storeis
03:30 Planet Earth
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:30 Extreme Machines
07:30 Tiger Week
08:30 Million 2 One
09:00 Everything You Need To Know
09:30 Future Weapons
10:30 Extreme Engineering
11:30 Engineering Tomorrow's World

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

08:30 The Living Edens
09:30 Land of the Tiger
10:30 Telemall
11:15 Global Sky Shop
11:30 Land of the Tiger
12:30 Artic Kingdom
01:30 Apache Helicopter
02:30 Monkey Business
03:00 Wildbeest
03:30 Land of the Tiger
04:30 South Africa
05:00 Nat Geo Genius
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Taipan Reign Of Terror
06:30 Land of the Tiger
07:30 Grit Power
08:30 Kid in the Cockpit
09:30 Motorway Plane Crash

DISCOVERY

Amazon Pensacola

STAR SPORTS

09:30 Fei World Cup Jumping Qualifiers
10:30 English Premier Football League
12:30 Pacific Life Open
02:30 Spanish Football League
04:30 English Premier Football League
06:30 K1 World Grand Prix 2005
08:30 Castle Test Series
10:00 Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss
10:30 Pro Bull Riders Association Bull
11:30 Engine Block
12:00 2007 Formula One Highlights

ESPN

09:00 Taking Guard - West Indies Speci
09:30 European Badminton Championships
10:30 Final Score
11:00 The Netwot Series
12:30 English Premier Football League
02:30 Nba Classic Games
04:30 Sachin The Great Debutants
05:00 Debutants
05:30 Taking Guard - West Indies Speci
06:30 X Games11 All Access Review
07:30 English Premier League Highlight
09:30 Ali Rap
10:30 Sportscenter India