

CULTURAL FEAST

National Theatre

Festival

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

Time: 7pm

Venue: National Theatre Stage

March 19

Podokhup

Kalapani

March 20

Cox's Bazar Theatre

Neel Shomudher Jhor

March 21

Dhaka Theatre

Binodini

March 22

Uttoradikhar

Shampannaya

March 23

Biberton Jessor

koiborto Gatha

March 24

Nagorik Natyangan

Ensemble

Khanchar Bhitor 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: Wakil Rahman

Title: Rearranged

Organiser: Shilpangan

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

Date: March 16-31

Time: 11am-1pm & 5pm-9pm

Photography

Exhibition

Title: Justice for Nurjanah

Photographer: Shahidul Alam

Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhamondi, Dhaka

Date: March 12-22

Time: 3:00pm-8pm

Title: Japanese Flowers

Venue: Drik Gallery, house 58, road 15/A, Dhamondi, Dhaka

Date: March 17-30

Time: 3:30pm 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 artistes, 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



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 Moruo and went over some of the striking similarities between their works.

In his short intervention, Han Zuorong, 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 recited 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.

অসম প্রক্ষেপ

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 extent 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 Shariganj 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 Natok in *Janom-e Janmantor*

PHOTO: STAR

worse experiences. the required ambience for the play.

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

'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 Raikan is the light designer of the play.

By Ershad Kamol



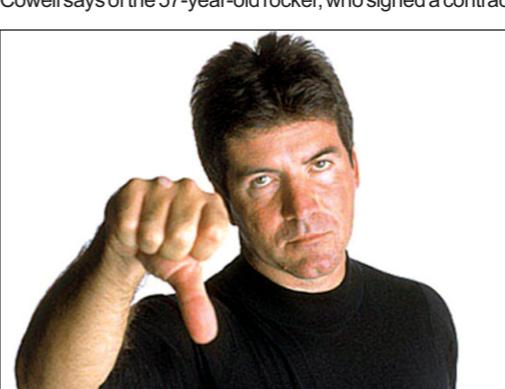
PHOTO: STAR

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

PICK OF THE DAY



ICC World Cup 2007

West Indian Vs Zimbabwe

On BTV at 8:15pm

Live from Jamaica

CHANNEL 1

Shurobhata

Bangladesh

Khobor

Shornali Din

Business Week

Ashey Pasher

Manush

Drama Serial:

Shunney Boshobash

Shomoyer Shad

Saja Bela

Meet the Press

Top News

Muktir Judho

Shuktara

Drama Serial:

Guest

Shomrajyo

Gaenor Khata

9:30:00

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16:00:00

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