

CULTURAL FEAST

National Theatre Festival

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

Time: 7pm

At National Theatre Stage

March 20

Cox's Bazar Theatre: Neel

Shomudre Jhoro

March 21

Dhaka Theatre: Binodin

March 22

Uttoradhikar: Shampannaya

March 23

Biberton Jessor: Koiborto Gatha

March 24

Nagrik Natyangan Ensemble: Khanchar

Bhitor Achin Pakhi

March 25

Shwatk Natya Shomprodye: Kusum Kabyo

March 26

Udichi: Chilekothar Sepoy

March 27

Shanlap Group Theatre: Debolar Grash

Experimental Theatre Hall

March 20

Fardipur Theatre: Matial

March 21

Oboyo Natyadol: Jolpori

March 22

Kheyali Group Theatre: Montong

Kothon

March 23

Nagrik Natya Shomprodye: Chhayanaut

March 24

Theatre (Baily Road): Mukti

March 25

Kothok Natyo Shomprodye: Muchiram gur

March 26

Oikik Theatre: Thikana

March 27

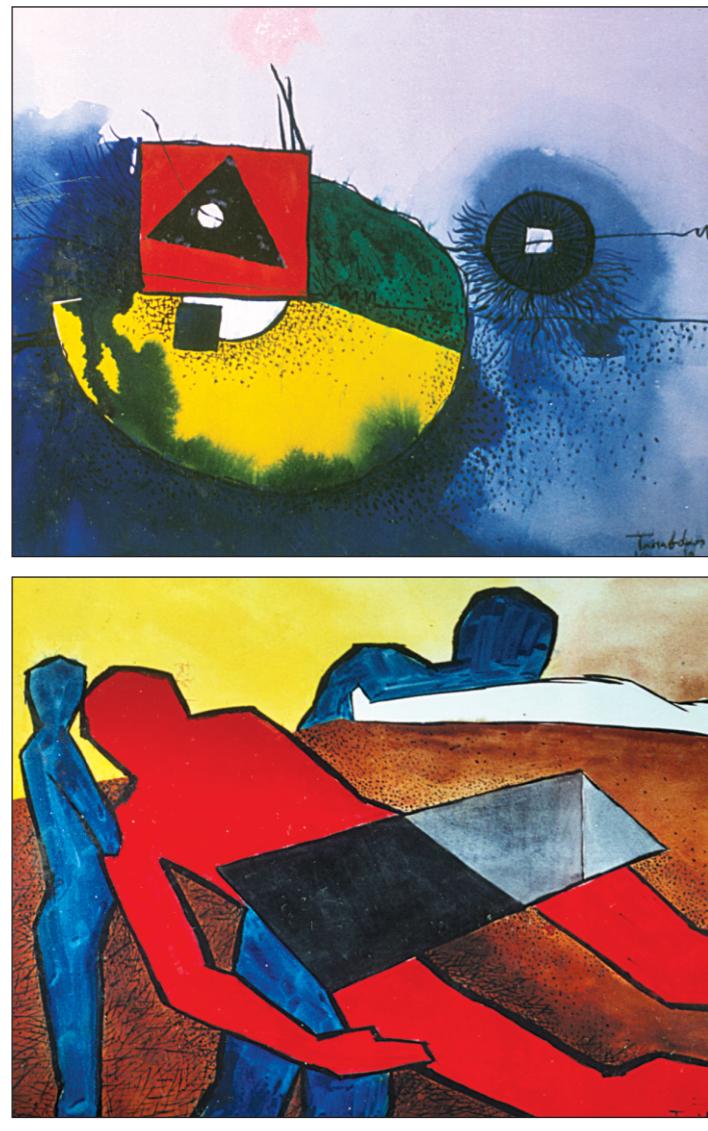
Natyokendra: Projapoti

The schedule is subject to change

Paintings by Tarafder

Abstraction with raw colours

Exhibition of Tarafder's works at Alliance Francaise



FAYZA HAQ

THOSE into abstract paintings have just to see Tarafder Meraj's ongoing exhibition, *Rhythm in water colour*, at the Alliance Francaise. Commenting on his work, Abul Barq Alvi, professor of Institute of Fine Arts, DU, says, "Most of his work are from images in nature. He has portrayed what he saw and felt with his inner eye. I have great confidence in his ability and potentiality." Rokeya Sultana, associate professor of the same institution, adds, "He depicts the modern world in a very thorough way, using his washes and lines."

Laurent Jalicous, the Deputy Director, Alliance Francaise, remarks, "One is genuinely delighted by the way Tarafder plays with material and subject. He combines the lightness of subject with the massiveness of metal. His fresh audacity is not the only characteristic of his approach. Many of his paintings are based on virtual geometric shapes that intertwine and overlap one another. Some bold choices of colours add visual interest and dimension to his work. His art evokes an emotional response through loose patterns to create visual accents within his colour fields. Tarafder's work is very

much like visualisation of sounds and words."

Tarafder is a student of printmaking. However, finding it difficult to do prints for lack of technical support he has moved on to water colour. In *Death and infinity* there is a red figure that is lying down with blue figures around it. A corpse covered with a shroud lies ahead. In it the artist plays with form and space.

In a landscape highlighting bars of blue and black, red and yellow splashes are in the background. Geometric forms are seen in his next painting where one is confronted with a circle that is divided into red, pink and green.

Rhythm in landscape features a round circle at the bottom in gray and yellow and a rectangle in pink, with dots and lines. *Image of landscape* is a red circle surrounded by zigzag lines; specks of gray are introduced in the backdrop. In another painting of the *Death and infinity* series one sees a running man.

"In my choice of colours I'm influenced by the Fauvists and the flat colours of the cave artists," Tarafder says. He is also inspired by works of Kandinsky and Paul Klee.

অভিযোগ নাম
আজো প্রক্রিয়া

National Theatre Festival '07

'Katha Ekattur': Liberation War in limelight



PHOTO: STAR

Actors of Dhaka Padatik in *Katha Ekattur*

Usually, Liberation War appears in Bangladeshi theatre through a fragmented story of that time and shows the rage and valour of the freedom fighters in the post-Liberation country. However, Protish Kumar Baul's play *Katha Ekattur* departs from its ilk as it presents direct events of the Liberation War.

The play starts with a procession scene in post-Liberation Bangladesh, where prominent figures of the society publicly speak out against the Pakistani collaborators. Focus shifts to one such character, who realises that his son is influenced by western lifestyle. The spirit of Liberation War comes alive through a debate between the father and son. Through their dialogues, victims of the war appear on stage in flashback scenes.

As *Katha Ekattur* portrays events in Dhaka during 1971, the play shows the struggle for independence from the vantage point of "Operation Search Light" -- the

master plan of Pakistani Army to kill each and every Bengali in sight during the first hours of March 26.

Baul, in his play has depicted the fractious stories of genocide by the Pakistani Army and their collaborators. The playwright has raised several pertinent questions: What should be done with the Pakistani collaborators? Should they be punished or pardoned? The play ends optimistically through a message to the younger generation to wake up to the reality and grasp the spirit of the war.

Director Debashish Ghosh has tried to offer the audience an intimate theatrical experience. Utilising half of the stage as well as the balcony of the Experimental Theatre Hall, actors performed amidst the audience. Throughout the play Debashish has composed more than one sequence to create a credible ambience of war. Moreover, clips from Kawsar Chowdhury's acclaimed docu-

mentary *Shei Rater Kotha Bolte Eshechhi* and another clip by Sayeed Kajol are projected. All the indoor sequences are created at different corners of the balcony while the outdoor scenes are created on an empty stage.

However, it can be difficult for the audience to keep track of all the events that take place simultaneously on different parts of a spacious stage. Moreover, several questions surface: Can a realistic ambience be created on the stage? If the answer is negative, should so many murders and torture scenes be presented? Many renowned theatre experts and theorists all over the world have denied the application of the second possibility.

Katha Ekattur, a Dhaka Padatik production, was staged on March 18 as part of the ongoing National Theatre Festival arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in association with Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy.

'Eksho Bosta Chaal' staged

On the same evening *Eksho Bosta Chaal*, a Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy production, was staged at the National Theatre Stage.

The play is set against the backdrop of the transitional period of 'Shogunate era' to 'Meiji' resurrection. *Eksho Bosta Chaal* features a chaotic scenario of the post 'Boshin War' (1868-69) when the legendary Japanese warriors, popularly known as Samurai, had to constantly struggle to be financially solvent. As a result, like many other Japanese domains, people of Nagaoka became corrupt.

Abdus Selim has translated *Eksho Bosta Chaal* from the Japanese original -- a play by Yuze Yamamoto. Optimistically the play concludes with the fact that human beings can keep alive a dream even under the harshest of circumstances.

Directed by Golam Sarwar, Faiz Zahir and Zunaid Eusuf are the set designers of the play. Thandu Raihan is the light designer and Ahsan Reza Khan Tushar is the music composer.

The play performed by young actors from different troupes from Dhaka, is an output of a 10-day workshop on Samurai style conducted by Japanese instructor Kimura Shinji. It is a joint produc-

tion by Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, Embassy of Japan, The Japan Foundation and Japan Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

by Ershad Kamol

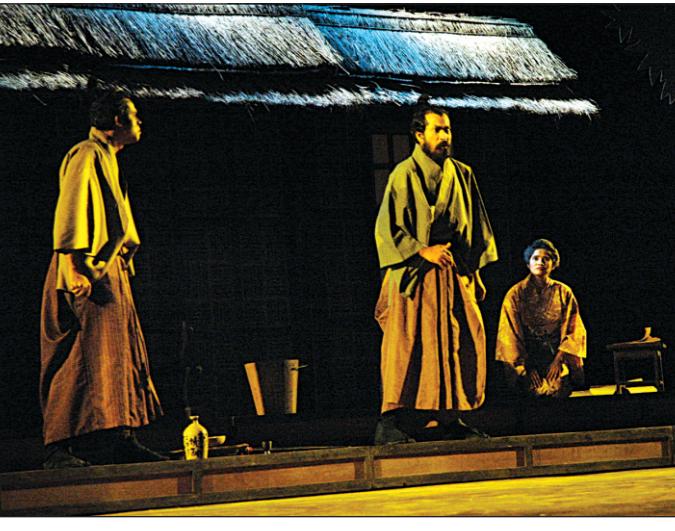


PHOTO: STAR

A scene from *Eksho Bosta Chaal*

Album of D Rockstars launched

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The youth brand of Grameenphone (GP), djuice, has released an album featuring participants of last year's *D Rockstars* (a talent hunt) on March 18. The long awaited music album includes songs by ten finalists of *D Rockstars*. The

album contains 20 songs, two of each finalist and was released under the supervision of rock star,

Ayub Bachchu. It has been released under the banner of Impress Audio Vision. GP's head of marketing, Rubaba Dowla Matin; Channel i managing director, Faridur Reza Sagar and Ayub Bachchu jointly launched the album at Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan.

D Rockstars was an initiative by djuice to encourage and promote young talented musicians. From thousands of participants

across the country djuice picked only 30 from audition rounds. Ten finalists made it to the top through a combination of SMS voting and scores provided by an expert panel of jury. Ayub Bachchu was the leading judge of the talent hunt.

This year djuice will launch *D Rockstars 2* in April. This time around the talent hunt intends to find a band -- an ensemble of talented musicians and a singer.

(L-R, front row) Faridur Reza Sagar, Rubaba Dowla Matin and Ayub Bachchu with the D Rockstars (in the back)

Cate Blanchett could be Indiana Jones' next love

AP, Los Angeles

Cate Blanchett is in negotiations to star opposite Harrison Ford in the long-awaited fourth instalment of the *Indiana Jones* series, her publicist confirmed last Saturday.

"She is in negotiations, yes," publicist Lisa Kastner told *The Associated Press*. She did not elaborate.

Filming is scheduled to begin later this year, with Steven Spielberg on board to direct. The movie is being produced by *Star Wars* creator George Lucas' Lucasfilm Ltd.



PICK OF THE DAY



ICC World Cup 2007
On BTV at 7:15pm
South Africa Vs Scotland
Live from Warner Park, St Kitts



Commander in Chief
On Star World at 10:30pm
TV Series
Cast: Geena Davis, Donald Sutherland

TV GUIDE

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

BTV

08:40 Bishwa Protidin
09:05 Shomapti
11:15 Shukhi Poribar
11:40 Desher Gaan
12:05 Ma O Shishur
Kotha

12:30 Swapno Shonar
Gaon
01:00 Shobor Jonno
Shikha
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Musical Programme
03:05 Cartoon
03:30 Educational
Programme

04:00 Amader Angina
04:30 Band Show
05:05 Moner Kotha
05:30 Quiz Quiz
06:10 Swadhinota
Swadhinota
06:40 Cricket Cricket
07:15 ICC World Cup
2007: South Africa
Vs Scotland

08:15 Ajker Shangbadpotro
08:30 Drama Serial:
Pichhu Taan
09:15 ATN Commentary
Box
10:30 Talk Show: AKTEL
Onyodrishti
11:05 Drama Serial: Out
Door
12:15 Amaar Computer
01:30 Shur Chhobi
02:30 Talk show
03:15 Drama Serial: O
Amar Chokhni Nai

03:45 Aha ki Anondo
05:10 Ainar Shamney
05:45 Documentary
Programme: Bangla
Naamer Desh
Talk show:

06:20 K Taharey Chinitay
07:50 Rangor
Manush
08:15 Mon-e Mon-e
09:40 Drama Sweril: Neer
10:30 Shongshoy
09:30 Fusion Biz
12:10 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu
Gaan

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey
Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameen-
phone Tritiyomatra

10:00 Shongbad Potrey
Bangladesh
01:05 Ebong Cinemar
Gaan

01:30 Shangbad Potrey
Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:00 Selected Drama
02:40 CricTalk Bishwa Cup
Special

04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Mukti Juddho
Protidin
06:00 Drama Serial: Klanto
Shomoy

06:20 Drama Serial:
Ochena Adhar
07:50 RC Travel on
Drama Serial: Nater
Guru

09:35 Drama Serial: Tin
Tin
10:00 Shadha Ranger
Swapno
12:00 Grameenphone
Ajker Shangbadpotro

08:40 Shuprobhat
Bangladesh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:00 Cartoon
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
12:00 Stop n Rock
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:45 Mukti Juddho
07:00 Agni Jhora Dinguli
07:30 Diner Sheshe
08:15 Shonar Phool
09:00 Agamir Kontho
09:30 Rupantara Golpo
10:00 Fusion Biz
10:50 Expression

Channel 1

08:35 Shubho Shokal
11:15 Aviator, The
02:00 Murder On Pleasant
02:30 Drive
03:00 Saarathi

03:35 Sleeping With The
04:10 Drama Serial:
Krishna Pokho

10:40 Amar Ami
11:10 Public Forum
02:40 Drama of the week
04:20 Agni Jhora Dinguli
05:00 Diner Sheshe
05:15 Thir13en Ghosts
06:00 Lost World, The:
Jurassic Park

10:40 Operation Delta Force
06:30

08:30 Smothered
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