

CULTURAL FEAST

Independence Day Celebration

Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum
March 25 6:30pm
Solo recitation: Asaduzzaman Noor, Bhaswar Banerjee, Jhoma Sarkar, Shahidul Islam
Musical soiree by Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Shangshta
March 26 9:30am
Performance by children
March 27 7:00pm
Jatrapala: *Borgi Elo Deshe* by Dosh Opera
March 28 7:00pm
Street theatre

Art Camp

Venue: National Museum premises
Date: March 26
Time: 3:00pm

National Theatre Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 7pm
At National Theatre Stage
March 25
Shwattik Natya Shomprody
Kusum Kabyo
March 26
Udichi
Chilekothar Sepoy
March 27
Shanlap Group Theatre
Debotar Grash
Experimental Theatre Hall
March 25
Kothok Natyo Shomprodai
Muchiram gur
March 26
Oikik Theatre
Thikana
March 27
Natyokendra
Projapoti

The schedule is subject to change

Discussion on World Theatre Day

Organisers: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation & Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 27
Time: 5pm

Discussion and cultural programme

Independence Day celebrations at Liberation War Museum

KARIM WAHEED

A lecture by Dr Akbar Ali Khan (former advisor to the caretaker government) on 'Good governance: Expectations and achievements of Liberation War' was the highlight of the second day (March 23) at Independence Day celebration being held at Liberation War Museum.

Dr Khan's speech was part of a series of lectures focusing on issues related to the Liberation War and its impact on national life.

Prior to the lecture, Dr Sarwar Ali, trustee and member secretary of the museum, spoke at the programme. Dr Ali expressed his satisfaction at the progress of the initiatives undertaken by the museum and the positive public response it has received in the last 11 years. Speaking on the 'Outreach programme' introduced by the museum, Dr Ali said, "The museum introduced an 'Outreach programme' in 1997 to familiarise the young with the history of the war. Under the programme, the museum encourages school students from all corners of the country to interview people who experienced the war. So far the museum has collected over 5,000 accounts written by young ones, thus generating interest in our history among

a generation that do not have a first hand experience of the war."

Dr Ali also recalled the valour demonstrated by the staff of state-run television service in the then East Pakistan when they decided not to air Pakistan's national anthem on the country's national day (March 23) in 1971.

In his lecture, Dr Akbar Ali Khan referred to the Liberation War as a revolution. He said, "A revolution doesn't happen in days, months or even a few years. Hence attempting to evaluate a revolution and its outcome after just a couple of decades is futile."

Dr Khan explained the two aspects of good governance -- development and establishing peoples' rights and the process itself. He then compared the state of economy of Bangladesh before and after liberation. He said, "There was a difference of 61 percent between the per capita income of West and East Pakistan. In 2005, the difference between the per capita income of Pakistan and Bangladesh came down to 36 percent. Among the developing countries, Bangladesh has made impressive achievements. Despite lack of cultivable land, our food production has increased significantly. Currently, the required foreign aid per person in Bangla-



Dr Akbar Ali Khan speaks at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

desh is US \$10, whereas in Jordan it's US \$107. Life expectancy in our country is much higher now.

"With progress came corruption and political instability. Bangladesh figured in the lowest group of countries when ensuring human rights,

law and order were considered. Though it was termed as a "democracy", what we really had going was not liberal democracy. In the last few years dishonest, power-hungry politicians have manipulated the system in their own interest, leaving the country in disarray. The current state of emergency was the last resort to restore peace and ensure a functioning state. This is not a random phenomenon. Similar situations have occurred in India and China."

After the lecture, Sushmita Gope, a student of Bharateshwari Homes; Sharmin Prabhi and Nurul Islam of Adarsho Bidyapith and Tapan Hagidak Tomas of Rangtia High School read out accounts of personal experiences during the war. The students interviewed individuals who lived through the war as part of the 'Outreach programme'.

Students of Nutan Baktarchar High School, Keraniganj, and Bharateshwari Homes performed at the cultural programme. The day was wrapped up with the screening of a documentary on the war.



Young dancers perform at the function

National Theatre Festival '07 'Koibartogatha': Truth emerging from wreck

In case of war many believe that history favours the victors. As a result the brutal facts of the war often remain in the shadows. In the process of glorifying the winners, the losers are often misrepresented. Abdullah Hel Mahmud's play *Koibartogatha* refers to that aspect of history.

The aim of the play is not to rewrite the history of Pala Dynasty that ruled Bengal and Bihar for about four centuries (starting from the middle of 8th century). The dynasty has long been glorified by the historians for their administrative skills, their commendable policy of public-welfare and unprecedented excellence in the field of arts, literature and education.

Using the 'dialectical materialism' (a process of discovering facts by giving an anti-thesis subsequently synthesising the thesis and anti-thesis), Mahmud tries to review the history of Ramapala's retrieving the position of the dynasty by recapturing northern Bengal, which is known as *Varendra* rebellion.

In the process Mahmud has created some imaginary characters and has set them to confront the historic characters. Featuring the greatness of an imaginary rural bard named Kanai over Sandhyakara Nandi, a court poet of Pala Dynasty from the *varendra* region, Mahmud has shown that the history documented by the court poet in his book *Ramacharitam* is not accurate. The



PHOTO: STAR

Actors of Bibortan Jessore perform in *Koibartogatha*

play infers that Ramapala (1082-1124), who reigned over 40 years, was not as great as depicted in *Ramacharitam*.

However, presentation of the events in the play does not maintain the historic facts: Sandhyakara Nandi was not the court poet during Ramapala's reign. But, in the play, these two characters have been portrayed as the representatives of the same period.

Director Faiz Zahir's presentation of the play is colourful. His handling of the play featuring complex plot deserves plaudits. Using effective sound and mimetic gestures by the actors, war scenes have been cre-

ated. Zahir's light design is also commendable.

All of the actors of the troupe Bibortan, from Jessore, are young and energetic. Actors Mrinmoy Chokroborti, Naznin Aktar Mili and Ripon Das were remarkable in the show held at the National Theatre Stage on March 23. Bibortan staged *Koibartogatha* as part of the ongoing National Theatre Festival arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

'Chhayanaut' staged



PHOTO: STAR

(L-R) Aly Zaker, Naznin and Pantho Shahriar in *Chhayanaut*

On the same evening Nagorik Natyasampradaya staged *Chhayanaut* at the Experimental Theatre Stage. Featuring the dramatic rise and fall of many 'heroes' in stardom, Utpal Dutt's play *Chhayanaut* is a satire.

Protagonist of the play Manoj Kumar begins his career as a side actor. Eventually he becomes a heartthrob and then vanishes from the public eye. A new face replaces Manoj and he is soon forgotten -- a reference to volatile stardom.

As the sub-plot, Utpal Dutt's play satires the scandals in showbiz, as well entertainment media feeding the ego of actors.

Directed by Aly Zaker, Amlan Biswas is the light designer of the play.

By Ershad Kamol

Hena Kabir honoured by Amra Shurjomukhi

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation, Amra Shurjomukhi honoured Hena Kabir. The veteran radio and TV personality has made significant contribution to our media over the course of last 50 years. The event took place at Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum on March 23.

Hena Kabir made an entry into the cultural circuit in 1956 when she signed up as a drama artiste on East Pakistan Radio. When the station embarked on commercial service, she was taken on as a presenter. Later in 1964, she ventured into Pakistan Television.

She attained popularity for her impressive skills as a presenter. She seemed as energetic and jovial as ever as she read out some lines from the drama *Debdash* on the



PHOTO: STAR

Hena Kabir(R) receives a crest from Atiquel Haque Chowdhury(C) and Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique

occasion.

The event started with honouring of the artiste. Veteran media personality, Atiquel Haque Chowdhury -- chief guest of the programme -- along with Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique presented a crest to Hena Kabir.

A discussion followed. Founder of Bishwa Shahittya Kendra, Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed; former state minister, Abul Hassan Chowdhury; former MP Hafiz Ahmed Majumder, artistes Shahin Samad and Shakila Zafar attended the programme as special guests. Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique presided over the programme.

Later a musical evening was staged by the artistes of the organisation.

TV play 'Astitwa' to be aired tonight

Channel i will air an 'Independence Day-special' play tonight at 9:35pm. Titled *Astitwa*, the play is written and directed by Tarana Halim. The play



A scene from the TV play

features Nargis, Tomalika Karmakar, Mukti, Ahmed Rubel and Ahsanul Haque Minu in major characters.

The play offers an untried perspective. In the play Munni and Dilip go to Daulatdia brothel to make a documentary on sex workers. There they meet Laili. No one knows that Laili was a *birangona*. Munni and Dilip bring out untold stories of her experience during the war and its aftermath.



ATN Bangla will telecast special debate competition titled 'Shadhinota Dibosh Bitorko Protijogita-2007' every Sunday at 2:40pm starting from today. Students of different schools and colleges will participate in the programme. Officials of ATN Bangla and judges seen with some participants

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) 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 am, 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 *Drama*
12:30 *Swapno Shonar Gaon*
01:00 *Maa O Shihur Kotha*
01:30 *Mati O Manush*
02:15 *Selected Programme*
02:40 *Cartoon*
03:05 *Educational Programme*
04:00 *Protidin Computer*
04:30 *Kira Diganto*
05:05 *Debate*
06:10 *Shwadinota Amar Shwadinota*
06:40 *Cricket Cricket*
07:15 *ICC World Cup 2007: Bangladesh Vs Bermuda*

ATN Bangla
10:30 *Talk Show: Onnodrishti*
11:15 *Smile Show*
12:15 *Cultural Programme*
02:40 *Independence Day Debate Competition*
04:20 *Shohid Nari*
05:00 *Gram Gonjer Khobor*
05:10 *Documentary Program: Prapok*
05:45 *The Sword of Tipu Sultan*
06:25 *Three Stooges*
08:00 *Drama Serial: Out-*

door
08:40 *Drama Serial: Nirey Taar Nil Dheu*
09:20 *Drama Serial: Pichhutan*
Channel i
08:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
09:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*
09:45 *Public Reaction*
09:50 *Grameenphone Trilomatra*
11:05 *Apollo Tele Prescription*
11:30 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*
12:30 *Citycell Taroka Kathan*
01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*
01:45 *Public Reaction*
04:05 *Cricktalk Bishwa Cup Special*
04:40 *Wakathan*
05:30 *Mukti Judho Protidin*
06:00 *Rupantor*
06:20 *Mirror*
07:50 *Mega Serial: Bhober Haat*
09:35 *Drama Serial: Astitto*
12:00 *Grameenphone Aiker Shangbad Potro*

ntv

PICK OF THE DAY

ICC World Cup 2007

On BTV at 7:15pm

Bangladesh v Bermuda (Group B)

Live from, Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad

06:50 *Medhabi Banglailir Golpo*
07:30 *Ranger Manush*
08:15 *Shanto Kutir*
08:50 *Special Programme*
09:40 *Bhalo Basha Mondo Bahsa*
10:30 *Urey Jay Bok Pokhi*
12:10 *Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan*
BANGLAVISIO
09:05 *Deshar Pathay*
09:30 *Bangla Feature Film*
02:35 *Drama Serial: Bach-*

03:10 *elor Dompoti Amar Ami*
04:20 *Agni Jhora Din*
05:00 *Cinebit*
08:15 *Drama Serial: Choitaly Jochhonay Meyeti*
09:00 *Talk Show: Shomoy Ashomoy*
STAR MOVIES
08:15 *King Kong Lives*
10:00 *Like Mike 2*
11:45 *Flightplan*
01:30 *Crash*
03:15 *Matador, The*
04:55 *Jurassic Park Iii*

06:30 *Opening Night*
07:00 *Family Stone, The*
08:45 *Knights Tale, A*
11:00 *Legend Of Lucy*
09:00 *Yatra*
09:30 *Krishna Kathaiyen*
10:30 *Khichdi*
11:30 *The Great Indian Laughter Challenge*
12:30 *Ji Pradhan Mantirji*
05:30 *Mickey Mouse And Friends*
06:00 *Ducktales*
06:30 *V Trailers - Star Plus*

03:30 *The Apprentice*
04:30 *Grey's Anatomy*
05:30 *Hollywood Shootouts*
06:00 *Travel Asia*
06:30 *Koffee With Karan*
07:30 *Malcolm In The Middle*
08:00 *The Kumars At No. 42*
08:30 *Fashion House*
09:30 *Koffee With Karan*
10:30 *Angela's Eyes*
11:30 *Third Watch*
09:30 *The Amazing Race: All-Stars*
10:30 *E Buzz*
11:00 *Ultimate Guinness World Records*
11:30 *World's Most Amazing Videos*
12:30 *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*
01:30 *CSI: Miami*
02:30 *CSI: NY*
03:30 *Hollywood Homicide*
06:00 *E Buzz*
06:30 *The Amazing Race: All-Stars*
07:30 *World's Most Amazing Videos*
08:30 *National Security*
10:30 *Ultimate Guinness World Records*
11:30 *The Amazing Race: All-Stars*
12:30 *World's Most Amazing Videos*
DISCOVERY

CHANNEL
08:30 *Wild Discovery*
09:30 *Discover India*
10:30 *Sacred India*
11:30 *Honey We're Killing Man Made Marvels*
12:30 *Asia*
01:30 *Wild Discovery*
02:30 *Planet Earth*
03:30 *Extreme Engineering*
04:30 *Wild Discovery*
05:30 *Mean Machines*
06:00 *Building The Ultimate*
06:30 *Meerkat Manor*
07:00 *Animal Camera*
07:30 *Wild Discovery*
08:30 *Discovery Biggest Shows*
10:30 *Night Safari*
11:30 *Seven Wonders Of The Industrial World*
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 *The Living Edens*
09:30 *Ant That Ate America*
10:30 *Untamed*
11:30 *Indyeh!*
12:30 *Realm of Great White Bear*
01:30 *Lion Of The African Night*
02:30 *Manu*
03:30 *Kid in the Cockpit*
04:30 *Nat Geo Junior Hunt*
05:00 *Nyack, Cinder, Clancy*
05:30 *Big Bang*
06:00 *Nurse Sharks*

06:30 *Harley Davidson*
07:30 *Untamed*
08:30 *Freemasons On Trial*
10:30 *Show Real Asia*
11:30 *Interpol Investigates*
STAR SPORTS
08:30 *India Glorious*
10:00 *Castle Test Series*
12:00 *Motorola International Bintan*
03:00 *Motogp World Championship 2007*
07:00 *A1 Grand Prix Qualifying*
09:00 *Gillette World Sport 2007*
09:30 *Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss*
10:00 *Hitz*
10:30 *Cricket Crazy*
11:30 *India Down Under*
ESPN
09:00 *Taking Guard - West Indies Special*
09:30 *World Grand Prix Thailand Open B*
11:30 *Cricket Gold*
01:30 *Sportscenter Week In Review*
02:00 *Nba Special: The Run- Elton Bran*
02:30 *Indian Legends*
04:30 *The Prince Of Kolkata*
05:00 *Kfc Twenty20 International*
06:00 *Taking Guard - West Indies Special*