

CULTURAL FEAST

Dance Festival

Organiser: UNESCO, Dhaka & Shadonia
 Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 March 29
 Classical Manipuri Dance by Chhayanaut
 March 30
 Nazrul's 'Badol Borishone' by Nityanchal
 Time: 7pm
 Open to all

Rabindra Sangeet Festival

Organiser: Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shamman Parishad
 Venue: Chitayant Sangskrit Bhobon, House 72, Road 15A, Dhanmondi
 Date: March 30-April 1

Exhibition and Workshop

Title: Soul Symbols 1977-2007
 Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: March 29-April 11

Baha Festival in Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

THE three-day long Baha Festival ended in Dinajpur recently.

Thousands of Santals in Dinajpur and adjacent districts kicked off the Baha (flower) Festival recently at Itua village under Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur. Adibashi men and women dressed in colourful clothes assembled to observe the traditional festival.

The programme began with song and dance accompanied by *khol*, *madol* and harmonium in the morning.

Several ritual songs were rendered at the festival. Dhela Tedu performed the duties of the priest at the Baha Festival rituals.

Santal men and women went around houses and greeted each other, throwing coloured water on each other was a part of the celebration.

General secretary of Bangladesh Adibashi Parishad, Rabindranath Shoren formally inaugurated the festival. In his speech, he called



Adibashi men and women perform in traditional festive attire

PHOTO: STAR

upon the *adibashi* communities to unite and work to safeguard their culture and heritage.

A three-day-long fair was held at Sundorpur, where weavers, cake makers and different NGOs put up

stalls highlighting the *adibashi* lifestyle and the history of their struggles.

Arts and artifacts from Francophonie world

FAYZA HAQ

To celebrate Francophonie, or the

love of speaking French, Alliance Francaise had an exhibition of art pieces and artefacts recently.



Artwork by Clarence Gagnon

In the Canadian section Clarence Gagnon's painting *Ice Bridge* depicts how people in St Lawrence regularly crossed a bridge to sell their ware in Quebec city on a cold winter morning. At that time a thick layer of ice covered the river. Despite the snow, people in horse carts are seen carrying all their provisions in big sacks; the line of carts disappearing into the distance. Some stunted trees nearby. The rest is grey and pink.

His other painting also features a winter scene, bringing in trees, a church and houses with snow on the roofs, along with a horse covered with a blanket. The windows, sidewalk and the main street are covered with snow.

Another painting by Gagnon shows a woman in a pale pink dress, with flowers on a table at her side. She appears to be doing some sewing. Details of the wallpaper and carpet are noticeable. Gagnon was a native of Montreal who stud-

ied art in 1897 in Montreal. He was a member of the Royal Academy of Art, Canada, 1910.

Jean Paul Riopelle's *Les oiseaux sur la ville*, mixed media on canvas highlights three geese. The background looks like a collection of torn pieces of paper and cloth with splashes of black, brown, blue and green. Riopelle was a painter and a sculptor in Canada. Born in Montreal he moved to Paris in 1949 to continue his art.

There were paintings by Jean-Paul Lemieux. *Loree* shows black and grey trunks and branches of trees, with a path between them bearing a carriage. Another painting by him, *Wind* brought in a girl caught in a gust of wind.

In the Swiss section there were four colourful posters depicting Switzerland as the quintessential holiday spot for picnics and hiking. Images of trees and hills with people skating reinforced that impression. The table was heaped with

travel magazines and brochures.

The Vietnam section had a large tapestry featuring birds. There were dolls with long embroidered national costumes, with fans in the hands and large wicker hats on their heads. There were also ornate dishes in wood and metal, which were carved and painted over.

The section on France contained a large oil painting in the background with replicas of the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe. A table in front was covered with books on fine arts and some familiar French publications.

The Morocco section contained paintings such as the one on horses, done in black, orange and white. There was one with horse riders carrying guns and several depicting dwellings and people of the region.

The exhibition was small but entertaining.

National Theatre Festival ends 'Debotar Grash' and 'Projapati' staged

National Theatre Festival '07, arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy ended on March 27. Forty-six plays were staged during the 23-day-long festival. On the closing day two plays *Debotar Grash* and *Projapati* were staged at the National Theatre Stage and the Experimental Theatre Stage respectively.

Majumdar Bipal's play *Debotar Grash*, a Shonglap Group Theatre production, features pilgrims' journey to the sea to observe the traditional *teerthasan* ritual. However, the aim of the play is not to focus on the ritual, rather it focuses on man's love for fellow human beings, which is apparently more powerful than fear of God. Returning from their journey when the boats carrying pilgrims face bad weather, one of the organisers of the pilgrimage Moitro sacrifices his life to rescue a child.

Director Mostafa Hera's approach to the play is credible. His treatment of the sequences on land is more compelling than that in the



Actors of Shonglap Group Theatre in Debotar Grash

PHOTO: STAR

sea. Movements of the actors do not reflect the impact of waves. The scene where pilgrims face gusty wind is not convincing. Set and

light designer Junaid Eusuf's work is simple yet effective.

Child artist Fahim in the role of Rakhal performs spontaneously. Shoma in the role of Mokkhoda, mother of Rakhal, is also impressive. Other actors who stood out were Monalisa and Hira in the roles of Bamipishi and Raghadada respectively.

On the same evening Natyakendra staged *Projapati* at the Experimental Theatre Stage. *Projapati* is a translation of popular American playwright Thornton Wilder's *Matchmaker* (the latter is based on Austrian playwright Johan Nestroy's drama *A Day Well Spent*). Tareq Anam has translated and directed *Projapati*, maintaining the authenticity of the original comedy.

The play addresses the often-hilarious situations that arise while arranging marriages. Hardship of Americans between the First and Second World War has been portrayed in the play as well.



A scene from Projapati

PHOTO: STAR

World Theatre Day observed

Theatre activists gathered at the National Theatre Stage on March 27. The occasion was to celebrate World Theatre Day. To observe the day, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) and Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI) jointly arranged a programme at the National Theatre Stage. The ongoing National Theatre Festival wrapped up on March 27 at the same venue.

International Theatre Institute (ITI), at their ninth council in Vienna, declared March 27 as World Theatre Day. From 1962 onwards, the day has been celebrated by all the member countries of ITI.

A discussion began with the welcome speech by M Hamid, chairman of the federation. The discussion was presided over by Ataur Rahman, general secretary of Bangladesh Centre of ITI. Qamrul Hassan, director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Nasiruddin Yousuff, president of Sammito Sangskritik Jote were the other discussants at the programme. Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam was the key speaker.

The key speaker analysed the current scenario in Bangladeshi theatre. Speakers said that though our theatre lacks in the designing department, to its credit it deals with contemporary issues. The speakers described Bangladeshi theatre as a "human art form". However, our theatre is in turmoil and we should all work tirelessly to overcome it, as it is the most successful cultural movement in post-independence Bangladesh, said the discussants.

Troupe Majumdar read out the

message of World Theatre Day-2007 written by Dr. Sultam Bin Mohammad Al Quasimi, member of the highest council of United Arab Emirates as well and the ruler of Sharjah.

Homage was paid to eminent cultural activist Waheedul Haque and artist Nitun Kundu. Syed Shamsul Haq and Abdus Selim handed over crests to families of Waheedul Haque and Nitun Kundu. The programme was hosted by Jhuna Chowdhury.

by Ershad Kamol



Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam speaks at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

BFFS introduces film awards

Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS) is set to introduce film awards to encourage creative filmmaking, starting this year, said Dr. Zahurul Islam Kochi, general secretary of BFFS, at a press conference held on March 27 at Alamgir Kabir Chalachitra Kendra.

The awards will be given in 12 categories such as Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Cinematographer, Best Film Editor, Best Art Director, Best Music Director, Best Documentary Filmmaker, Best Short Filmmaker and Lifetime Achievement Award. A seven-member jury board will select the winners. Headed by Mustafa Monwar the board includes Mashinuddin Shaker, Badol Rahman, Afzal Chowdhury, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Shamim Akhter and Syed Bazle Hossain.

BFFS requests interested filmmakers and individuals to turn in their works in DVD format within April 15, 2007 for consideration. The winners are expected to be announced within the 2nd week of June '07.

Filmmaker Morshedul Islam and Shakhawat Hossain Hawlader of BFFS also spoke at the press conference.

Khulna Regional Poetry Recitation Festival ends in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Khulna Regional Poetry Recitation Festival ended recently, at Asaduzzaman auditorium in Magura amidst participation of hundreds of recitors and poetry-lovers.

The two-day festival titled *Gorje Otho Swadhinota, Jegey Otho Bangladesh* was arranged by the central Abriti Samonnoy Parishad (ASP) under the management of Kanthabithi from Magura. Seven other organisations in Khulna division along with renowned recitors of the country participated at the event.

The organisations included Dravir of Khulna, Abriti Parishad of Kustia, Abriti Abriti of Islamic University, Abriti Parishad of Rajbari, Kingbadonti of Khulna and others. Bhashwar Bandyopadhyay, Ahkamullah, Rabi Sankar Moitree, Mahidul Islam and Mashkur-e-Sattar of



Bhashwar Benarjee

central ASP performed as guest artistes.

Valiant freedom fighter Komol Siddiquee (Bir Uttam) inaugurated the festival. Founder president of ASP Bhashwar Bandyopadhyay was the chief guest and veteran recitor of Magura, Khan Ziaul Huq was the special guest at the event. ASP executive member Alam Ara Jui presided the inaugural session.



Akhmullah



Rabi Sankar Moitree



Mahidul Islam



Mashkur-e-Sattar

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



ICC World Cup 2007

On BTV at 7:15pm

West Indies Vs New Zealand

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua



Jurassic Park III

On Star Movies 8:50pm

Genre: Adventure / Fantasy

Cast: Sam Neill, Téa Leoni

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, 5:00 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

11:15 Selected Programme

11:40 Selected Programme

12:05 Maa O Shishur

12:30 Kotha Swapno Shonar Gaon

01:00 Shukhi Poribar

02:15 Children's Drama

02:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi

03:05 Cartoon

03:30 Selected Programme

04:00 Esho Computer Shikhi

04:30 Bansuri

05:05 Documentary Programme

05:30 Selected Programme

06:40 Cricket Cricket

07:15 ICC World Cup 2007: West Indies Vs New Zealand

12:00

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Bangladesh

Public Reaction

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Bangladesh

Public Reaction

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Bangladesh

Public Reaction

Grameen Phone

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