

# Dance Festival by Shadhona and UNESCO ends

## 'Badolo Borishoney': A spectacular production by Nrityanchal



A scene from the dance-drama

PHOTO: STAR

KARIM WAHEED

IT was a great evening for dance. National Theatre Stage at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy was packed, to the extant that people were seen sitting on the floor. The Dance Festival organised by Shadhona and UNESCO wrapped up with Nrityanchal staging the dance-drama *Badolo Borishoney*.

Nrityanchal, one of the leading dance schools in Bangladesh, is run by Shibli Muhammad (a disciple of Kathak Maestro

Birju Maharaj) and Shamim Ara Nipa.

*Badolo Borishoney*, a short story by Kazi Nazrul Islam, is a romantic tragedy. A young traveller, Shyamol, arrives at a valley during the 'Kajari' festival (celebrating monsoon; common in Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkand and Bihar in India) and falls for a dusky village belle named Kajari.

Shyamol's love for Kajari is reciprocated. Their moments of bliss however, do not last long. The story is a metaphor for the relationship between earth and monsoon,

yearning throughout the year for each other and enjoying a brief season of union.

Through Shyamol and Kajari's story, as an undercurrent, Nazrul hits a social issue: colour discrimination in the subcontinent. The 'fairer is better' ideology is nothing new to us. Throughout the ages -- in literature, films, social and family life -- this concept that 'dark skin is not attractive' has been apparent.

Only a few progressive philosophers, social activists and litterateurs have made it a point to rescue the 'insecure dusky beauty' (Tagore's *Krishnokoli* for example). In Nazrul's *Badolo Borishoney*, the dark complexioned Kajari cannot believe that someone might actually find her attractive. She takes Shyamol's love for her as some cruel game, fearing their liaison might end in heartbreak and humiliation because the world around her constantly makes her feel 'un-pretty'.

Nrityanchal's production was spectacular in every sense -- beautiful costumes, apt use of props, excellent stage lighting, an impressive cast of over 56 male, female and child dancers and all that jazz. The audience was not stingy when it came to appreciate the performance either. Throughout the evening the theatre resonated with sounds of applause.

Shamim Ara Nipa deserves a special mention. The seasoned dancer captivated the audience with what was perhaps one of her finest performances. Mainly based on the Kathak style, her performance highlighted all the emotions of a lover in agony. Unrequited love is rarely this attractive.

Classic Nazrul songs of rain like *Shacono ashilo phirey, Ke eley nupur paye, Mor ghumoghorey eley monohor, Borosha oi elo borosha, Aaj badolo jhory mor ekele ghorey, Choncholo shyamolo elo gogoney* and more rendered by Khayrul Anam Shakil and Firdaus Ara have been aptly incorporated in the production. Khayrul Anam Shakil was in charge of music direction. Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Muhammad were the dance directors.

*Badolo Borishoney* was originally adapted into a dance-drama by Dr. Rafiqul Islam. Khayrul Anam Shakil and Shamim Ara Nipa made a few modifications to that.

Kudos to organisers Shadhona and UNESCO for putting together the Dance Festival. The event was sponsored by Grameenphone and GMG Airlines. Dance enthusiasts in the country will look forward to more such quality productions.



Shamim Ara Nipa as Kajari

# National Rabindra Sangeet Conference begins



Artists of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad perform at the programme

AHSAN HABIB

The 26th annual conference of the Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad (JRSSP) began with a call to translate Tagore's thoughts into practice in building the nation at Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban auditorium on March 30.

Veteran educationist Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid inaugurated the three-day conference.

Over 300 artistes and representatives of 46 units of JRSSP from all over the country are taking part in the conference. It is the largest annual assemblage of Tagore exponents and singers in the country.

The inauguration was followed by the final round of the Rabindra sangeet competition for the adolescents. Forty-five competitors selected for the final round per-

formed at the show. Eminent artistes and Tagore exponents Professor A B M Nurul Anwar, Mihir Nandi, Selina Malek Chowdhury, Lili Islam, Moynuddin Nazir, Mita Haque and Laisha Ahmed Lisa were the judges of the contest. Winners will be announced today.

A seminar on the topic Bangladeshi Culture: looking back after 35 years, was held. Shantanu Kaiser presented the keynote paper; and Dr. Atiur Rahman, Rezwana Chowdhury Banya and Golam Rabbani shared their thoughts on the issue. In his paper, Shantanu gave a mapping of developments in different cultural fields and stressed the need for deconstructing the Bangladeshi culture.

The last session of the day included a musical soiree, recitation of poems and dance performances. Aly Zaker delivered a

speech titled Rabirashmi. He expressed hope of continuing a struggle to uphold humanity and build a society based on the principles of equality by implementing Tagore's thoughts.

Asaduzzam Noor and Khaled Khan recited poems by Tagore. Sukla Sarkar, Proma Abonti and Warda Rihab performed Bharatnatyam, Odissi and Manipuri dance respectively.

The musical part of the programme started with choral renditions by Narayanganj unit of JRSSP. Over 35 artistes performed Tagore songs. Nilufar Jahan and Luva Nahid Chowdhury rendered songs of Atul Prasad. Promila Chakraborty and Shuma Rani Roy presented songs of D L Roy while Sabrina Akhter and Neelotpal Sadhyo rendered songs of Rajanikanta.

## CULTURAL FEAST

### Photography Exhibition

Title: Amar Dekha '71  
Photographer: Abdul Hamid Raihan  
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dharmondi  
Date: March 25-April 3  
Time: 3:00pm-8pm

### Exhibition

Title: Made in Germany: Architecture + Religion  
Organiser: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh  
Venue: Auditorium of Goethe-Institut Bangladesh  
Date: April 2-12  
Time: Sunday-Thursday 10am-8pm

### Art Exhibition

Artist: Biplob Kor  
Title: Binary Opposition  
Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Diacca  
Venue: Gallery Zoom, Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Road, Dharmondi  
Date: March 23-April 5  
Time: 9am-12pm & 5pm-9pm

### Rabindra Sangeet Festival

Organiser: Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad  
Venue: Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban, House 72, Road 15A, Dharmondi  
Date: March 30-April 1

### Anniversary programme

Organiser: Mahila Parishad  
Musical Soiree by Mita Haque & Khairul Anam Shakil  
Play: Binodini by Dhaka Theatre  
Venue: Engineers' Institution  
Date & Time: April 4 at 3:30pm

## Images from Ibsen's life and plays

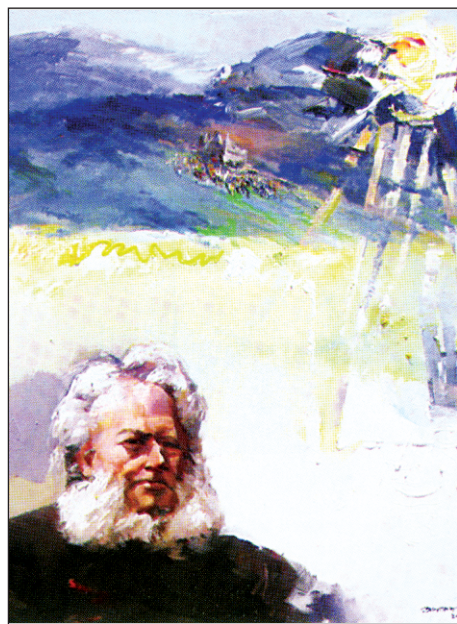
FAYZA HAQ

The art exhibition featuring images of Ibsen and his plays by 32 Bangladeshi artists, held last year in Dhaka, has found a permanent position in the Ibsen Museum in Norway. This has been organised by the Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) and the Norwegian Embassy and marks the playwright and poets' 179th birthday.

This endeavour creates a cultural bridge



Samples of paintings on Ibsen by Bangladeshi artists



between Norway and Bangladesh. It has created an opportunity for works by Bangladeshi artists to be appreciated by foreign critiques. It also provides Norwegians a chance to study the Bangladeshi art scene. The works don't only mirror Ibsen's work but at times deconstruct them and build them up again.

The project was not simple as the text does not easily give way to images but nevertheless the artists projected the true spirit of the life and work of Ibsen. The collection includes paintings

by Ahmed Shamsuddaha, Alekesh Ghosh, Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash, Shishir Bhattachajee, Mansur UI Karim, Ranjit Das, Sheikh Afzal, Rafi Haque, Goutam Chakrabarti, Rokeya Sultana and others.

Shamsuddaha's Oil, Ibsen has a lightening streak, which appears to give life to a tree trunk that bears resemblance to the playwright's head. He is suspended and appears to take nourishment from the storm. Bathed in light, containing a moor and snow in the backdrop is Alekesh Ghosh's portrait of Ibsen in acrylic. Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash's oil, Character and personality has feathers for The Wild Duck included in the portraiture. The portrait appears to be forgotten and yellowing. Symbols of deception and death as found in Ibsen's plays are seen in Shishir Bhattacharjee's untitled acrylic. The caged and framed characters of Ibsen's plays are seen as a gray mass in Bipul Shah's Spirit of Brand, done in oil.

Ranjit Das in his untitled oil shows faces of a couple in love -- Agnes and Einer -- with a vague image of a church in the back. To delineate seduction in the air for poetry lovers are Goutam Chakrabarti's faceless blue and gray characters. The wax-like contemplative portrait of Ibsen shows the crumbling of old social values in the backdrop. Dilara Begum Jolly portrays Ibsen's 'Nora' as part woman and part bird. In the painting, Nora is caged and expected to sing and dance. The woman in Rokeya Sultana's Doll's House holds on to a snake -- referring to the 'original sin', trying to break free. The subject is shown as dreaming and floating in sunlit air. Jamal Ahmed's Destiny depicts Hedda Gabler belonging to a class that is on the verge of extinction.

The Goethe Institut celebrated the day with recitation of Ibsen's works, in German, Bangla and English on the evening of 22nd March.

## Ethnic-diversity theatre festival begins tomorrow

A five-day theatre festival titled Ethnic Diversity Council, featuring the diverse cultural heritage of the ethnic minorities spread over different corners of the country, will begin tomorrow, says a press release. Kumudini Hajong, leader of the Tonk movement will inaugurate the festival.

Six theatre performances -- *Kania, Tunya, Srikrishna Kirtan, Hokkanir Dhonpana, Mangula* and Raarang -- will be staged by Sadri Theatre, Har Gayen Dal, Manipuri Theatre, Joom Aesthetics Council, Palakar and Aranyak Natya Dal respectively in the festival.

Though Mangula and Raarang are performed by Bengali artistes of Dhaka, the plays feature the continuing oppression on ethnic minorities by the ruling Bengalis. The rest of the theatre performances will be staged by the ethnic minority groups.



Japanese piano teacher Kuniko Teramura, right, accompanied by her daughter, Nao, smiles after breaking the world record for a non-stop concert by one hour after a band of musicians including Teramura, reached 182 hours performing the concert at Torimoto Station of Omi Railway Corp. in Hikone, central Japan, 10 a.m., Saturday, March 31, 2007. An official of London-based Guinness Book of Records who was present at the concert that began at 8 p.m., Friday, March 23, approved the new record. The previous longest concert was 181 hours set in Canada in 2001. The Japanese reads: "Reached 182 hours." (AP Photo/Kyodo News)

## 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 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 *Special Programme*  
12:30 *Swapno Shonar Gaon*  
01:00 *Maa O Shihur Kotha*  
01:30 *Mati O Manush*  
02:15 *Special Programme*  
02:40 *Cartoon*  
03:30 *Special Programme*  
04:00 *Special Programme*  
06:10 *Hamd O Natt*  
06:40 *Cricket Cricket*  
07:15 *ICC World Cup 2007: West Indies Vs Sri Lanka*

#### ATN Bangla

10:30 *Talk Show: Onnodrishti*  
11:05 *Special Programme*  
12:15 *Cultural Programme*  
02:40 *Independence Day Debate Competition*  
04:20 *Shohid Nari*  
05:00 *Gram Gonjer Khobor*  
05:10 *Documentary*  
05:45 *The Sword of Tipu Sultan*  
06:25 *Three Stooges*  
08:00 *Drama Serial: Outdoor*  
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 Tritiomatra*  
11:05 *Apollo Tele Prescription*  
11:30 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*  
12:30 *Citycell Taroka Kathan*  
01:05 *Ebang Cinemar Gaan*  
01:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*  
01:45 *Public Reaction*  
02:40 *Nine Month To Freedom*  
03:05 *Amar Health*  
03:30 *BBC Bangladesh Shanglap*  
04:05 *Critical Bishwa Cup Special*  
04:50 *Sa Re Ga Ma*  
05:30 *Muktijudho Protidin*  
06:00 *Rupantor*  
06:20 *Mirror*  
07:50 *Mega Serial: Bhober Haat*  
09:35 *Drama Serial: Mon Chhutey Jay*  
12:00 *Grameenphone Aikjer Shangbad Potro*

#### ntv

06:50 *Medhabi Banglailir Golpo*  
07:30 *Ranger Manush*  
08:15 *Shanto Kutir*  
08:50 *Musical Programme*  
09:40 *Bhalo Basha Mondo*

### PICK OF THE DAY



ICC World Cup 2007  
On BTV at 7:15pm  
West Indies Vs Sri Lanka

Live from Providence Stadium, Guyana

<b>Bahsa</b>	<b>Kagoj</b>
10:30 <i>Urey Jay Bok Pokhi</i>	06:00 <i>Jana Ajana</i>
12:10 <i>Kichhu Kotha</i>	07:30 <i>Ek Cup Cha</i>
<i>Kichhu Gaan</i>	08:00 <i>Drama Serial: Adbhut Andhar Ek</i>
<b>ETV</b>	09:15 <i>Pop Show</i>
12:30 <i>Adventure Bangladesh</i>	09:30 <i>Drama Serial: Dinanter Bonantorey</i>
01:00 <i>Mon Mon Re Amar Shurjer Nichey</i>	<b>Channel 1</b>
02:30 <i>Drishhti</i>	08:40 <i>Suprobhat Bangladesh</i>
03:00 <i>Amader Kothe</i>	09:30 <i>Chokh Mele Dekhi</i>
03:30 <i>Chitro Geeti</i>	10:00 <i>Cartoon</i>
04:00 <i>Drama Serial: Pakhira Ghorey Pherey</i>	10:30 <i>Bangla Feature Film</i>
04:30 <i>Cookery Show</i>	12:30 <i>Cinebit</i>
05:00 <i>Drama: Shada</i>	02:30 <i>Telefilm: Bodh</i>
	04:00 <i>Shondhikhoney</i>



### Out Door

On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm  
Drama Serial

Cast: Apurbo, Sweety

06:00 *That's So Raven*  
06:30 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii*  
07:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*  
07:30 *Kayamath*  
08:00 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*  
08:30 *Saibaba*  
09:30 *Prithviraj Chauhan*  
10:00 *Baa Bahoo Aur Baby*  
10:30 *Thodi Si Zameen*  
11:30 *Kaboom*  
**STAR MOVIES**  
08:10 *Ightmare Before Christmas, The*  
09:30 *Raw Deal*  
11:15 *Enough*  
01:15 *Hall We Dance*  
03:05 *My Favorite Martian*  
04:45 *Million Dollar Baby*  
07:00 *Walk The Line*  
09:15 *Oyote Ugly*  
11:00 *Adam And Eve*

### STAR WORLD

09:00 *Scrubs*  
09:30 *Desperate Housewives*  
10:30 *Prison Break*  
11:30 *Heroes*  
12:30 *Angela's Eyes*  
01:30 *Third Watch*  
02:30 *Falcon Beach*  
03:30 *The Apprentice*  
04:30 *Grey's Anatomy*  
05:30 *Hollywood Shootouts*  
06:30 *Travel Asia*  
07:30 *Koffee With Karan*  
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*  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
09:30 *Dingoes: Friend Or Foe*  
10:30 *Bombay Calling*  
12:30 *The Dragons of Galapagos*  
01:30 *Tigers Of The Snows*  
02:30 *Glacier Bay*  
03:30 *Suicide Attack*  
04:30 *Nat Geo Junior Hunt*  
05:00 *Dakota, Orca, Target*  
05:30 *Big Bang*  
06:00 *Emperor Penguins*  
06:30 *Abrams Tank*  
07:30 *In Search of the Moa*  
08:30 *In The Wombs: Animals*  
10:30 *Kung Fu Monk*  
11:30 *Tracks of a Stalker*

### STAR SPORTS

10:00 *India Glorious*  
11:30 *Malaysia Airlines*  
12:30 *Indian Legends*  
02:30 *A1 Grand Prix*  
03:30 *Highlights (Auto R 2007 MotoGP World Championship H*  
04:30 *Malaysia Airlines*  
05:30 *Football Extra*  
06:00 *Gillette World Sport 2007 (Inter*  
06:00 *The Masters 2006*

07:00 *World's Strongest Man - The Maki*  
08:00 *Remember The Titans (Cricket)*  
08:30 *India'S Best With Sunil Gavaskar*  
09:00 *India Down Under*  
09:30 *Hitz*  
10:30 *Sony Ericsson Open*  
**ESPN**  
09:00 *Taking Guard - West Indies Special*  
09:30 *Sachin The Great*  
10:00 *Final Score*  
10:30 *Kfc Twenty20*  
11:30 *International Cricket Gold*  
01:30 *Sportscenter Week In Review*  
02:00 *Remember The Titans*  
02:30 *Castle Test Series*  
04:30 *India Glorious - Headingley Spec*  
06:00 *Taking Guard - West Indies Special*  
07:30 *Indian Legends*  
08:25 *Sportscenter Week-end (Sport News*  
08:30 *Super Sunday (Soccer/Futbol)*  
08:55 *English Premier*  
11:00 *Football League*  
Spanish Football League-Jip