

CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre Festival

Organiser: Ethnic-Diversity Council & First Adivasi Theatre Festival 2007 Celebration Committee
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Play: Mangula
Troupe: Palakar
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 5
Time: 7:00pm

Play: Rang
Troupe: Aranyak Nityadol
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 6
Time: 7:00pm

Photography Exhibition

Title: Aesthetic Beauty of Trees
Photographer: Ismat Jahan
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, House 16 Road 36, Gulshan Avenue
Date: April 5-18
Time: 11:00am-8pm

Title: The Lovers and the Leavers
Photographer: Abeer Hoque
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi
Date: April 5-10
Time: 3:00pm-8pm

Documentary Film Screening

Title: Doctor Johra Kazi
Venue: National Museum Auditorium, Shahbag
Date: April 7
Time: 4pm

Bhawaiya Festival

Organiser: Bhawaiya Angon
Venue: Shawkot Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: April 8
Time: 3pm

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

Graphic Art Exhibition

Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
Title: Soul Soil Symbol
Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dacca & Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: March 29-April 11
Time: Sunday-Friday 9am-12pm & 5pm-9pm

Art Exhibition

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

Passion for recitation

In conversation with Qazi Arif

KAVITA CHARANJJI

Architecture and poetry go hand in hand for reciter and managing director of the firm Dexterous Consultants Ltd. Taking a cue from famous architect Louis Khan, he describes architecture as 'frozen poetry'. Tongue in cheek, he goes on to add that poetry is the "finest medium of fine arts" and architecture the worst. His reasoning: to write poetry one only needs to wield a pen, while architecture comprises numerous complex elements, ranging from architectural design to structure to electrical work, plumbing, air conditioning and masons.

Arif's passion for recitation, "the most creative art form and the bridge between the audience and poetry," embraces the poetic works of Tagore, Nazrul, and others such as Shamsur Rahman, Nirmalendu Goon, Mahadev Shaha, Vishnu Dey, Sunil Gangopadhyay and Joy Goswami.

Recitation is not all that easy a medium as it appears, says Arif. In his words, "The reciter needs a good grasp of language, a love for poetry and other literature along with a deep knowledge of the subject." Also, he points out, recitation is devoid of glamour.

Yet despite Arif's famous voice, he maintains a low profile. Recalling a programme of recitation at Salimullah Medical College Hospi-



Qazi Arif

tal in 1982, he says he was chatting with singers Rathindranath Roy, Ajit Roy and other artists at the func-

tion. The harried organisers pointed out that someone still had to come - Arif himself. "I was sitting there, but

they didn't recognise me," says Arif. Eventually all ended well when Roy introduced Arif.

Arif runs a pioneering recitation school called Muktakantha Abritti Academy, which opened its doors in 1983. With around 200 students, he cites some of its famous alumni: Shimul Mustafa, Farhana Mithu, Abul Hasnat Jilan, Amitava Reza and Tony Dayes.

Arif's message for the younger generation is, "Read, read and read. And don't forget that applause and success are not the same. Success will come if one doesn't run after applause. The quality of recitation need improvement. If the younger generation works seriously they will be successful. They need to put more time into study and practice." Arif takes off his hat to his contemporaries who have carved a niche in Bangladesh. In their ranks are Jayanto Chattopadhyay, Bhaswar Banerjee and Pragna Laboni (his wife).

Among the upcoming reciters, he says, are names such as Jharna Sharker, Shimul Mustafa, Bahar and Poma.

Arif's first album of recitation, *Patropat*, was launched in 1980. It was the first album of recitation in Bangladesh, he says. Then in 1997, he launched another album, entitled *Bajjayanti* with Pragna Laboni. Since then there has clearly been no stopping the eminent reciter.

ALL TIME GREATS

Abbas Kiarostami: Ushering in the Iranian New Wave

Abbas Kiarostami is part of a generation of filmmakers in the Iranian New Wave, a cinema movement that started in the late 1960s and includes pioneering directors Forough Farrokhzad, Sohrab Shahid Saless, Bahram Beizai, and Parviz Kimiavi. The filmmakers share several common techniques including the use of poetic dialogue and allegorical storytelling dealing with political and philosophical issues.

Kiarostami was born on June 22, 1940 and has attained fame as an internationally renowned filmmaker, screenwriter and film producer. An active filmmaker since 1970, Kiarostami has been involved in over forty films, including shorts and documentaries. Kiarostami attained critical acclaim for directing the *Koker* trilogy, *A Taste of Cherry*, and *The Wind Will Carry Us*.

Kiarostami has a reputation for using child protagonists, for documentary style narrative films, for stories that take place in rural villages, and for conversations that unfold inside cars, using stationary mounted cameras. He is also known for his use of contemporary Iranian poetry in the dialogue, titles, and themes of his films.

Born in Tehran, Kiarostami majored in painting and graphic design, and supported his degree by working as a traffic policeman. As a painter, designer, and illustrator, Kiarostami worked in advertising in the 1960s, designing posters and creating commercials. Between 1962 and 1966, he shot some 150 advertisements for Iranian television. Towards the late 1960s, he

began creating credit titles for films (including *Gheysar* by Masoud Kimiai) and illustrating children's books.

In 1969, when the Iranian New Wave began with Dariush Mehrjui's film *The Cow*, Kiarostami helped to set up a filmmaking department at the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanun) in Tehran. The department went on to become one of Iran's most famous film studios, producing not only Kiarostami's films, but acclaimed Persian films such as *The Runner* and *Bashu*, the *Little*

Stranger.

Kiarostami was one of the few directors who remained in Iran after the 1979 revolution, when many of his fellow filmmakers fled to the west, and he believes that it was one of the most important decisions of his career.

In the early 1980s Kiarostami directed several short films but it was not until 1987 that he began to gain recognition outside of Iran with the release of *Where Is the Friend's Home?* -- a deceptively simple account of a conscientious eight-year-old schoolboy's quest to return

his friend's notebook in a neighbouring village. If the friend fails to hand it in the next day, he may be expelled. Kiarostami made the film from a child's point of view, without the condescending tone common to many films about children.

In 1990 Kiarostami directed *Close-Up*, a film in which documentary and fiction constantly change places to challenge the conventions of cinema. *Close-Up* received praise from directors such as Quentin Tarantino, Martin Scorsese and Jean-Luc Godard and was released across Europe.

Between 1995 and 1996, Kiarostami was involved in the production of *Lumière and Company*, a collaboration with 40 other film directors.

In 1997, Kiarostami won the Palme d'Or (Golden Palm) award at the Cannes Film Festival for *Taste of Cherry*, the tale of a desperate man, Mr Badii, bent on committing suicide. The film involves themes such as morality, the legitimacy of the act of suicide, and the meaning of compassion.

Kiarostami's most recent film was *Tickets*, directed in collaboration with Ken Loach and Ermanno Olmi. It covers the interactions between people on public transport and in the street of everyday life.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Ethnic Diversity Council
Presentation of research paper and 'Tunya' staged

Dr Kamal Hossain (C) speaks at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

ERSHAD KAMOL

On the second day (April 3) of the ongoing Ethnic Diversity Council, a research paper was presented at the Liberation War Museum. On the same evening Hor Gayen Dal, a Santali troupe staged *Tunya* at the National Theatre Stage.

Presided over by Professor Dalem Chandra Burman, Professor Mesbah Kamal and Barrister Sadia Arman presented the research paper titled 'Relevance of recognition of the ethnic groups in the constitution'. Author of the Constitution of Bangladesh, Dr Kamal Hossain was the chief guest while Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) S I M Nurunnabi Khan Bir Bikram and Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh, Shoeb Siddiqui were the special guests at the programme. Rabindranath Shoren, Tandra Chakma and Manzur Rashid were the other discussants. Advocate Z I Khan Panna, chairman, Human Rights Commission, was the moderator of the programme.

'Executive Summary' of the research paper circulated at the programme reads: "While the right against non-discrimination presumes the existence of a society with differences, multi-culturalism,

an essential feature of a society according to modern legal and political theory, is completely left out. This means that the concept of 'minority' is also not recognised. This is a crucial omission, quite unacceptable in a modern-day constitution. It presupposes the existence of a homogenous state, something that Bangladesh is certainly not."

It further adds, "While Article 28 entrenches principle of non-discrimination on a number of grounds including religion, there is the fact that the state religion is mentioned to be Islam in Article 2A. While it is stated that other religions may also be practiced, these religions are not mentioned. These values are reflected in Article 8. Similarly, there is no mention of the various languages that are spoken within the country; neither is there any general recognition of that fact that it is a multi-lingual country. On a similar yet distinct note, the various ethnicities are left completely unrecognised, unlike many modern constitutions, including that of South Africa."

Chief guest Dr Kamal Hossain said, "It's possible to ensure the rights of the ethnic groups without amending the principal concept of the Constitution of Bangladesh.

The Articles 28 and 29 of the constitution states special provision in favour of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens."

Dr Kamal Hossain blamed the misuse of constitution and political turmoil for the oppression of ethnic minority groups.

The second event of the day was staging of *Tunya*. Jointly written by Mannan Heera, Malay Bhoumik and Cornelius Hasda, *Tunya* is a tragedy that features a recently occurred true story from Bardendra region.

Kamol, the protagonist of the tragedy, is a young, talented and proud Santali man. However, fate is not kind to him. He is in love with Jhumir of the same locale. A foreign firm discovers coalmine in the region and plans to evict the residents living there for ages. However, people from different communities -- Bengali, Santali and others -- come together and resist the plan. Sacrificing his life, Kamol, stops the eviction of the local people.

Director Mamunur Rashid has presented the play maintaining the Santali authenticity. He has not imposed any performing art form exclusive to the Bengali cultural in the Santali tragedy.

Hor Gayen Dal, a Santali troupe stage *Tunya*

PHOTO: STAR

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

11:15 *Jibon O Jibika*
 11:40 *Angona*
 12:05 *Maa O Shishur Kotha*
 12:30 *Swapno Shonar Gaon*
 01:00 *Shukhi Poribar*
 02:15 *Children's Drama*
 02:40 *Esho Gaan Shikhi Cartoon*
 03:30 *Ei Prithibi*
 04:00 *Alor Pother Jatri*
 04:30 *Bansuri*
 05:05 *Documentary*
 Programme
 Selected
 Programme
 06:10 *Obhijatri*
 06:40 *Dhormo O Jibon*
 07:00 *Shangeta*
 07:30 *Swadesh Bhabna*
 08:30 *Protidin Bangladesh*
 08:40 *Drama*
 10:30 *Pheley Asa Din*

ATN Bangla

08:30 *Kothamala*
 09:15 *ATN Commentary Box*
 10:30 *Talk Show*
 11:05 *Drama: Anubhobey Chhuyey Jay*
 12:15 *Bangla Feature Film*
 03:45 *Cookery Show*
 04:20 *Shundor Jiboner Jonno*
 05:00 *Gram Gonjer Khobor*
 05:10 *Amader Joto Kotha*
 05:45 *Islamic Programme*

06:20

TV Serial: *Mugli*
 Drama Serial: *Shokal Shondha*
 Drama Serial: *Koto Chena Koto Ochena*
 Drama Serial: *Chhaya Mukh*

CHANNEL I

09:30 *Shangbad Potre Bangladesh*
 09:45 *Public Reaction*
 09:50 *Grameen Phone Tritiyomatra*
 12:30 *Citicell Tarokakothon*
 01:05 *Egon Cinemar Gaon*
 01:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*
 01:45 *Public Reaction*
 02:40 *Tritiyo Matray Apni*
 03:05 *Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak*
 04:05 *CricTalk Bishwa Cup Special*
 04:50 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
 05:30 *Mukti Judho Protidin*
 06:00 *Aktel sms Doradori*
 06:20 *Amar Chhobi*
 07:50 *Special Programme*
 08:20 *Drama Serial: Ferrari*
 09:35 *Special Programme*
 Drama Serial: *Nishidho*
 10:00 *Bonobhumi*
 12:00 *Grammephone*
 Ajker
Shangbadpotro

PICK OF THE DAY

Bhalobasho Cricket
 On Btv at 9:00pm
 Drama
 Cast: Momtazuddin Ahmed, Lucky Inam

American Idol
 On Star World at 8:30pm
 Talent Hunt
 Host: Ryan Seacrest

ntv
 06:20 *Apnar Jigyasha*
 06:50 *Gaaner Shomoy*
 07:30 *Mukti Judho*
 08:15 *Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhey*
 08:15 *Jabo Jabo*
 12:10 *Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan*

BANGLAVISIO N
 09:30 *Drama Serial: Swapno Chura*
 10:10 *Deshar Pathay*
 10:45 *Choitail Jochonay*

09:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
 10:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
 10:30 *Shaka Laka Boom Boom*
 11:30 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii*
 11:55 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
 12:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
 12:25 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
 12:30 *Kayamath*
 01:00 *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*
 01:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
 02:00 *Bhabhi*
 02:30 *Kesar*
 03:00 *Saarthi*
 03:30 *Kyunki Saas Bhi*

04:00 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*
 05:00 *Krishna Kathaiyen*
 05:55 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
 06:00 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
 06:25 *Aladdin*
 06:30 *That's So Raven*
 07:00 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
 07:25 *Shararat*
 07:30 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
 07:55 *Baa Bahoo Aur Baby*
 08:00 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*
 08:30 *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*
 09:00 *Cronepati - Srk*
 09:30 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar*

STAR WORLD
 09:00 *The Simpsons*
 09:30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*
 10:30 *American Idol*
 11:30 *Heroes*
 12:30 *Grey's Anatomy*
 01:30 *Third Watch*
 02:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*
 03:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*
 04:00 *General Hospital*
 05:00 *Fashion House*
 06:00 *Less Than Perfect*
 06:30 *The Simpsons*
 07:00 *Cheers*
 07:30 *Friends Sr 8*
 08:00 *Seinfeld*
 08:30 *American Idol*
 09:00 *My Name Is Earl*
 09:30 *Hope & Faith*
 10:00 *Scrubs*
 10:30 *Crums*
 11:00 *8 Simple Rules*
 11:30 *Fashion House*

AXN

10:00 *Beastmaster*
 11:00 *PSI Factor*
 12:30 *Maximum Exposure*
 01:30 *Ultimate Guinness World Records*
 02:30 *Fear Factor*
 03:30 *Numb3rs*
 04:30 *Maximum Exposure*
 06:00 *Andromeda*
 07:00 *The 4400*
 08:00 *PSI Factor*
 09:00 *Maximum Exposure*
 10:00 *Ripley's Believe It Or Not!*

11:00 *World's Most Amazing Videos*
 12:00 *Alias*
 01:00 *Ripley's Believe It Or Not!*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 *Hunter Hunted*
 10:30 *Telemall: Sauna Belt*
 11:15 *Global Sky Shop*
 12:30 *Bacterial Serial Killer*
 01:30 *Kick Fighters*
 01:30 *Bombay Calling*
 02:30 *The Lost World*
 03:30 *Hunter Hunted*
 04:30 *Mad Labs*
 05:00 *The Death Adder*
 05:30 *Duet*
 05:30 *Backyard Science*
 06:00 *Sacrific on the Shire*
 06:30 *Hunter Hunted*
 07:30 *The Real Fight Club*
 08:30 *Millau Bridge*
 09:30 *Forbidden Frontiers*
 10:30 *Danger In The Delta*
 11:30 *Search for the Supersnake*

ESPN

09:30 *National Dance Team Championship*
 10:00 *Toyota Football Up Close*
 10:30 *Bangladesh Tour Of Zimbabwe*
 12:00 *Cable In The Classroom: Sportsfi*
 12:30 *English Premier Football League*
 02:30 *Cricket Gold*
 04:30 *Cable In The Classroom: Sportsfi*

05:00 *Football Focus With John Dykes*
 06:00 *Taking Guard - West Indies Spec*
 06:30 *Asian X Games 2005*
 07:30 *Goals!*
 08:00 *India'S Best With Sunil Gavaskar*
 08:30 *Sportscenter India*
 09:00 *Sportscenter Asia*
 09:30 *Planet Speed*
 10:00 *Nba Action*
 10:30 *Sportscenter India*
 11:00 *Sportscenter Asia*
 11:30 *Commonwealth Bank Series 2006-07*

STAR SPORTS

09:30 *Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss*
 10:00 *India'S Best With Sunil Gavaskar*
 10:30 *Spanish Football League*
 12:30 *Pattaya Women's Open*
 02:30 *Spanish Football League*
 04:30 *Tna Xplosion*
 05:30 *Hot Water 2006/07*
 06:30 *Tna Xplosion*
 07:30 *Nokia Football Crazy*
 08:30 *Cricket Crazy*
 09:30 *India'S Best With Sunil Gavaskar*
 10:00 *The Top Corner*
 10:30 *Tna Xplosion*
 11:30 *Ace By Sony Ericsson*
 12:00 *Sony Ericsson Open*