

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Theatre Festival

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

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

Play: Rangam  
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadol  
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 Leaves  
Photographer: Abir Hoque  
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhammardi  
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: Shawket 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 9-12  
Time: Sunday-Thursday 10am-8pm

## Graphic Art Exhibition

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

## Art Exhibition

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

## Passion for recitation

In conversation with Qazi Arif

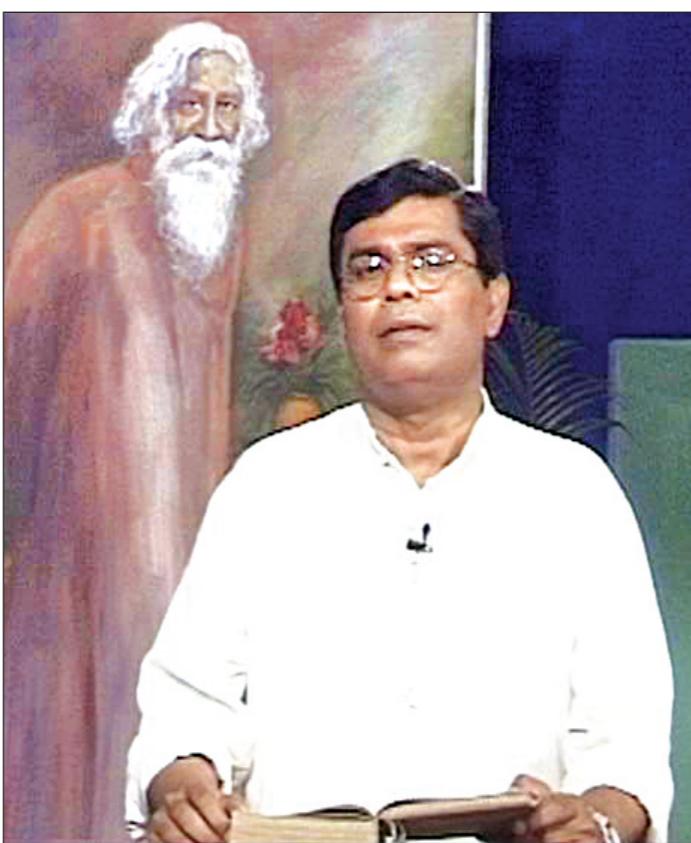
## KAVITA CHARANJI

Architecture and poetry go hand in hand for reciter and managing director of the firm Dextorous 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, Aijit Roy and other artistes 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 Muktaganta Abriti 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 Porna.

Arif's first album of recitation, *Patropot*, was launched in 1980. It was the first album of recitation in Bangladesh, he says. Then in 1997, he launched another album, entitled *Bajayanti* 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 Kimiai. 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

## 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

## 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; 6:00pm; 8:00pm and 8:30pm.

**CHANNEL 1**

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm; 10:00pm; 12:30pm.

**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.

**PICK OF THE DAY**

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

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

<b>BTV</b>	06:20 TV Serial: Mugli	08:00 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha	08:40 Drama Serial: Kotu Chena Koto Ochena	09:20 Drama Serial: Chhaya Mukhi
11:15 Jibon O Jibika	08:00 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha	08:40 Drama Serial: Kotu Chena Koto Ochena	09:20 Drama Serial: Chhaya Mukhi	
11:40 Angona	08:40 Drama Serial: Kotu Chena Koto Ochena	09:20 Drama Serial: Chhaya Mukhi		
12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha				
12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon				
01:00 Shukhi Poribar	09:30 Shanghabad Potre Bangladesh	09:45 Public Reaction	09:50 Grameen Phone	
02:15 Children's Drama	09:30 Shanghabad Potre Bangladesh	09:45 Public Reaction	09:50 Grameen Phone	
02:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi	09:45 Public Reaction	09:50 Grameen Phone		
03:05 Cartoon				
03:30 Ei Prithibi				
04:00 Alor Pother Jatri				
04:30 Bansuri	12:30 Citticell Tarokakothon Ebong Cinemar Gaan	01:05 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh	01:30 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh	
05:05 Documentary Programme	12:30 Citticell Tarokakothon Ebong Cinemar Gaan	01:05 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh	01:30 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh	
05:30 Selected Programme	01:30 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh	01:30 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh	01:30 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh	
06:10 Obhijatri	01:30 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh	01:30 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh	01:30 Shanghabadpotre Bangladesh	
06:40 Dhormo O Jibon	01:45 Public Reaction	01:45 Public Reaction	01:45 Public Reaction	
07:00 Shangeta	02:40 Drama Serial: Trityiomatra	02:40 Drama Serial: Trityiomatra	02:40 Drama Serial: Trityiomatra	
07:30 Swadesh Bhabna	02:40 Drama Serial: Trityiomatra	02:40 Drama Serial: Trityiomatra	02:40 Drama Serial: Trityiomatra	
08:30 Protidin Bangladeshi	03:05 Drama Serial: Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak	03:05 Drama Serial: Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak	03:05 Drama Serial: Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak	
08:40 Drama	04:05 CricTalk Bishwa Cup Special	04:05 CricTalk Bishwa Cup Special	04:05 CricTalk Bishwa Cup Special	
10:30 Talk Show	04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma	04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma	04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma	
11:05 Drama: Anubhobey Chhoye Jay	05:30 Mukti Juddho Protidin	05:30 Mukti Juddho Protidin	05:30 Mukti Juddho Protidin	
12:15 Bangla Feature Film	06:00 Aktel sms Doradori	06:00 Aktel sms Doradori	06:00 Aktel sms Doradori	
03:45 Cookery Show	06:30 Apnar Jigysa	06:30 Apnar Jigysa	06:30 Apnar Jigysa	
04:20 Shundor Jiboner Jonno	06:50 Gaaner Shomoy	06:50 Gaaner Shomoy	06:50 Gaaner Shomoy	
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khobor	07:30 Drama Serial: Ranger Manush	07:30 Drama Serial: Ranger Manush	07:30 Drama Serial: Ranger Manush	
05:10 Amader Joto Kotha	08:15 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhey Jabo Jabo	08:15 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhey Jabo Jabo	08:15 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhey Jabo Jabo	
05:45 Islamic Programme	09:30 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi	09:30 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi	09:30 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi	
	12:00 Grammenphone	12:00 Grammenphone	12:00 Grammenphone	
	10:10 Desher Pathay	10:10 Desher Pathay	10:10 Desher Pathay	
	10:45 Shangbadpotro	10:45 Shangbadpotro	10:45 Shangbadpotro	

<b>ntv</b>	02:40 Drama Serial: Eka Meyeti	09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan	04:00 Kabhi Bahu Thi	11:00 World's Most Amazing Videos
06:20 Apnar Jigysa	03:05 Music Moments	10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus	04:30 Karam Apna Apna	12:00 Alias
06:50 Gaaner Shomoy	04:20 Drama Serial: Boom	10:30 Sha La Boom	05:00 Krishna Kathaiyan	01:00 Ripley's Believe It Or Not!
07:30 Drama Serial: Ranger Manush	11:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar	05:55 Bolly V - Star Plus	06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus	06:30 STAR WORLD
08:15 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhey Jabo Jabo	12:00 V Trailers - Star Plus	06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus	07:00 Aladdin	09:00 The Simpsons Show
09:35 Special Programme	08:15 Drama Serial: Shurer Bhaban	07:00 V Trailers - Star Plus	07:25 That's So Raven	09:30 American Idol Show