

## CULTURALFEAST



## Closing ceremony of National Dance Festival

**Organiser:** Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Shangstha  
**Venue:** National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** April 29 at 6:30 pm

## Swadesh Properties Nritya Utsab 2007

**Organisers:** Naba Nritya and The Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
**Venue:** Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbag  
**Date:** April 29-- 'Surjamukhi Nadi' by BAF  
 April 30-- 'Kushumer Shapno' by Ballet group  
 May 1-- 'Shonai Madhab' by Ami's Workshop  
**Time:** 5-9pm

## Theatre Festival

**Organiser:** Space and Acting Research Centre  
**Venue:** Natmondol, Dhaka University Campus  
**Date:** April 29-30  
**Time:** 7pm

## Ikebana Exhibition

**Artist:** Jonaky Mahmud  
**Venue:** Conference Hall of BNCU, BANBESIS Bhawan, Palassy-Nilkhet  
**Date:** April 30

## Celebrating International Dance Day

## Put on your dancing shoes

SHARMILA BANDYOPADHYAYA

DANCE is the movement of the body in a rhythmic way, usually to music and within a given space, for the purpose of expressing an idea or emotion, releasing energy or simply taking delight in the movement itself. In other words "Dancing is an elegant and regular movement, harmoniously composed of beautiful attitudes and contrasted graceful posture of the body and the parts thereof. One of the most basic motives of dance is the expression and the communication of emotion. People and even certain animals often dance as a way of releasing powerful feelings, such as sudden accesses of high spirits, joy, impa-

tience or anger.

For quite some years now dancers of the world have been celebrating 29th of April as the International Dance Day, as designated by the Dance committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI). The date commemorates the birth of Jean Georges Noverre, born in 1727, who was a great dance performer and a reformer of dance.

Every year a message from a well known dance personality is circulated throughout the world. The intention of International Dance Day and the message is to bring all the dancers together on this day, to celebrate this art form and revel in its universality, to cross all political, cultural and ethnic barriers and bring people together

in friendship with a common language- Dance. In 1995, an effort to unite dance, the International Dance Committee entered into a collaborative effort for the celebration of International Dance Day with World Dance Alliance.

It is usual for the Dance Committee of ITI to send out a message every year. This year's message has been penned by Sasha Waltz, an artistic director and choreographer. Sasha was born in Karlsruhe in 1963 in Germany. In September 1999, Sasha Waltz was named one of the artistic directors of Berlin's Schaubuhne am Lehniner Platz.

In the message she highlights the Universality of the language of dance. It goes as follows:

"One dances on birthdays, at weddings, on the street, in the living rooms, on the stage, behind the scenes. To communicate joy, sorrow, as ritual and borderline experience.

Dance is a universal language: emissary for a peaceful world, for equality, tolerance and compassion.

Dance teaches us sensibility, consciousness and to pay attention to the moment.

Dance is the manifestation of our being alive. Dance is the transformation. Dance locates the soul, dance affords the body a spiritual dimension.

Dance enables us to feel our body, to rise above, to go beyond, to be another body.

To dance is to participate actively in the vibration of the universe."



Sasha Waltz

Dancers in Bangladesh have been celebrating the International Dance Day for quite some time now under the aegis of the Bangladesh chapter of the International Dance Committee of ITI. For the last few years Bangladesh Dance Artists' Association has been observing the day in grand scale. This year the annual Festival of the Association began on the April 23rd and will conclude on the International Dance Day 29th April. Dancers in colourful costumes from all over the country will come to Dhaka to join the rally in the morning and the programme at the National Theatre ( Shilpakala Academy ) in the evening.

The writer is a noted dancer and choreographer.

Sharmila Bandyopadhyaya and Abdur Rashid Shapan in *Chandalika*

Lubna Mariam in a graceful stance

PHOTO: STAR

narrative theatre style based on Jasimuddin's *Beder Meye*. Shadhona is also gearing up for a musical festival around November or December.

Another interesting project is a South Asian media initiative. The programme aims to promote linkages between SAARC countries and was launched at the recent SAARC summit in New Delhi.

Lubna a firm advocate of Southasian cooperation, says, "When we think of ourselves as South Asians, it helps us to emerge from our national pigeonholes. This is an era of regionalism. You have the EU, ASEAN, so why not a cohesive Southasia?"

The bottom line of Lubna's endeavour is to showcase Bangladeshi dance talent. "Where else do you have a nation full of young dancers?" she questions.

## In praise of dance

Exponents of different genres share their thoughts on celebrating International Dance Day with The Daily Star



**Tamanna Rahman**, an exponent of Manipuri dance, talking about her participation for the day says, " For all dancers this day has a special significance. And it is a pleasure that we are able to celebrate it with dancers all over the world. I myself will be having a live interview on one of the private channels. The evening at Shilpakala Academy, at National Art Gallery, will be a gala occasion too. Many groups from outside Dhaka will be coming for the occasion. In conclusion I'd like to add that dance improves life both physically and mentally and I hope the guardians of children will encourage them to come forward to learn dancing."

**Anisul Islam Hero**, a Bharat Nattayam dancer, speaking on International Dance Day, says that Nritayadhara is performing a dance for the students and parents of SWID Bangladesh. Some of the differently-abled children will be participating too. Some Japanese dance students, living in Bangladesh and learning under Hero will perform too.

"To mark this occasion Bangladesh Dance Artists' Association are performing in Dhaka and some other major cities from April 23 to April 29." He adds, "Being a dancer I'm proud that we can bring dance to the ordinary people. It is a big achievement for us indeed when dance is performed on TV and the stage."

Asked if many male dancers are coming up to perform, Hero says that many of them are today making a living out of it and so male dancers is a common phenomenon.



**Munmun Ahmed**, a Kathak dancer, adds that they were hoping to take out a procession to mark the day but as all the schools are open they couldn't manage it. "There is a lecture demonstration programme on Kathak in the evening before the closing programme at Shilpakala. Later on, at 7:30 pm there will be a dance festival by Anisul Islam Hero's students at the Public Library," Munmun says. Her final remark is that it feels great that there will be a major focus on dance today.

The danseuse with an intellectual turn  
In conversation with Lubna Mariam

KAVITA CHARANJI

"Art is all about introspection and introspection has to start with the artist. The minute art comes from the heart, then it is all about creativity," says cerebral danseuse Lubna Mariam who has devoted the last few years to the study of Indian aesthetics. "One way of seeking and realising unity is through creativity and creation where mankind can reclaim its rightful harmony with nature and within its own folds," she adds, talking about her search for Creative Unity.

As general secretary of Shadhona, A Centre for Advancement of Southasian Music and Dance, she seeks to promote classical music and dance of this subcontinent. The organisation has the mandate to organise dance productions, festivals, workshops and lecture demonstrations as well as facilitate cultural exchange between Bangladesh and India.

Though she has not been performing for a year—in her words she is hard pressed for time to practice—she has spent many hours in search of the right dance genre. From her early training in the early 1960s in an avant-garde style of dance at Bulbul Lalit Kala Academy, Dhaka, she later trained in Bharatnatyam and Manipuri. Then she found her calling in 'Rabindra Nritya', a fusion of dance styles. Among the teachers who have inspired her along the way are Poomima Ghosh, principal choreographer and dancer with the Shantiniketan Ashramik Sangha (an alumni association of Vishwabharati) along with Shantibala Sinha.

Much accolades have come her way. In 1977, she bagged the Shreshtho Nritya Shilpi award by Bangladesh Television. Later in 2003 she won the Bulbul Chowdhury Puruskhar by the Bangladesh Dancer's Association. Among her formidable achievements are her inspired interpretations of Tagore's *Bhanushinger Padavali* and on to central roles in *Shyama* and *Maya*. She has also been a key member of cultural delegations to several countries.

Far from hanging up her shoes and calling it a day, Lubna has spent the last few years in studying Sanskrit under the aegis of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). First she trained under Dr Radhavallabha Tripathi of Dr Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India and then with Dr C Rajendran of the University of Calicut, Kerala.

Recently, Shadhona produced two dance dramas at the National Theatre Stage: *Bhanushinger Padavali*, a Tagorean dance drama and *Badol Borishone*, a compilation of Nazrul's monsoon songs. The former was staged by a group called Bhavna and the latter by Nrityanchal.

Plans are afoot to produce a folk dance drama in the

## Cultural evening by Ekmatra

MAINUL HASSAN

Ekmatra, a welfare organisation for underprivileged children held a discussion programme and cultural evening at National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on April 27, marking their third founding anniversary.

The organisation was founded in August, 2003 by some students of DU, with a dream to help the street children. Currently they are running a rehabilitation centre called *Anonodo*. The children at the centre are mainly street children whose parents have deserted them. The members of Ekmatra locates the children and gives them shelter at the centre.

The evening was inaugurated by Quamrul Hassan, ndc Director General, BSA. The programme was divided into three sessions. The first session featured a discussion on the role of youth in social development. Professor Dr Najmul Ahsan Kaimullah, Chairman, Department of Public Administration DU; Professor A F M Yusuf Haider, Pro Vice Chancellor, DU and noted film maker Tareq Masud

spoke at the event. Prior to the discussion the website of Ekmatra was launched by Iftekharuzzaman, Executive director, TIB.

The discussion was followed by a cultural evening. A high point was the presentation of *Bharatnatyam* dance by Japanese performers.

The Japanese dancers Shinto Rie, Nagaoka Michiko, Mitsunaga Kazue

and Tsuruda Yuki staged two performances--*Puspanjali* and *Jyotiswaron*. They have been receiving their dance lessons from Anisul Islam Hiru.

The children of the rehab center performed group songs and dance. A short documentary on the achievements of Ekmatra was also screened.



Eager students of Bharatnatyam

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, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.

## ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm. News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

## CHANNEL 1

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

## BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:30 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 pm  
 News Headlines (English) at 9:05 pm

## BTV

08:40 Bishwa Protidin

09:05 Shomapi

11:15 Drama

12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon

01:00 Maa O Shihur Kotha

01:30 Mati O Manush

02:15 Laukik Bangla

02:40 Cartoon

03:05 Educational Programme

Shobar Jonno Cinema

04:00 Angona

04:30 Selected Programme

05:05 TV debate

06:40 Tagore Song

07:05 Shamprotik

Proshongo

07:30 Ritter Taley Taley

08:30 Protidin Bangladesh

08:35 Drama Serial: Shukh Shur

10:30 Selected Programme

## ATN Bangla

10:30 Talk Show: Onnodrishti

11:05 Smile Show

12:15 Shushtho Thakun

01:30 Shornali Shadokalo

02:40 Independence Day Debate Competition

Gram Gonjer

05:10 Documentary Programme

05:45 The Sword of Tipu Sultan

06:25 Three Stooges

08:00 Drama Serial: Outdoor

08:40 Drama Serial: Nirey

09:20 Taar Nil Dheu

Drama Serial: Pichhutan

## Channel i

08:30 Shokaler Gaan

09:30 Shagbadpotre

Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

Grameenphone

09:50 Tritimatra

11:05 Apollo Tele Pre-

scription

11:30 Hridoye Mati O

Manush

12:30 Citycell Taroka

Kathan

01:05 Ebong Cinemar

Gaan

01:30 Shagbadpotre

Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction

02:40 Selected Drama of

Humayun Ahmed

03:05 Educational

Programme

03:30 BBC Bangladesh

Shanglap

04:05 Critialk Bishwa Cup

Special

04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:30 Muktijudho Protidin

06:00 Rupantor

06:20 South Asian

07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober

Haat

09:35 Drama Serial: Mon

Chutey Jay

10:00 Jog Beyog

12:00 Grameenphone

Ajker Shagbad

Potro

ETV

12:30 Ajker Potrikay

01:00 Mon Mon Re Amar

01:30 Shoptaho Ghurey

## PICK OF THE DAY

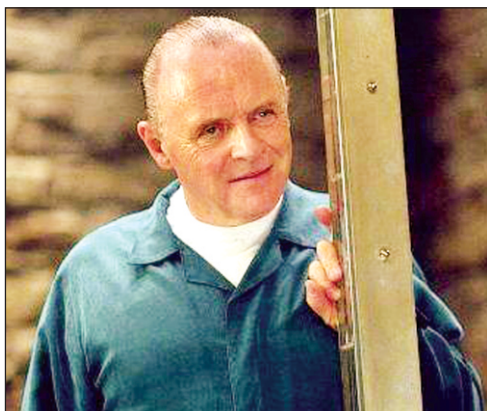


## Bhober Haat

On channel i at 7:50pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Salauddin Lavlu, Fazlul Rahman Babu



## Red Dragon

On Star Movies at 8:25pm

Genre: Thriller

Cast: Anthony Hopkins, Edward Norton

02:00	Desh Jurey	09:05	Drama Serial: Krishnopokho
02:30	Shurjer Nichey	10:00	Daily News
03:00	Drishti	10:30	Drama Serial: Kanch Ghor
03:30	Amader Kotha	12:05	Musical Programme
04:00	Chitro Geeti	12:30	Cartoon
	Drama Serial: Agun	02:00	Drama Serial: Kanch Ghor
	Laga Shondha	03:10	Cartoon
	Cooking Show	04:15	Musical Programme
	Talkshow	05:40	Diner Sheshey
	Drama: Dorshon	06:25	Sports Vision
	Jana Ajana	06:45	Bishwacup Protidin
	Desh Jurey	08:15	Ekti Meye
	07:30 Ek Cup Cha		
	Drama Serial: Durer		
	Batighar		
	Pop Show		
	09:15 Pop Show		
	09:30 Drama Serial: Atyopokash		
	09:30 Drama Serial: Swapnochura		

## BANGLAVISIO

08:55	D3: The Mighty Ducks	10:40	Moscow Heat
		12:15	Edison
		01:55	Looking For Comedy
			In The Muslim
		03:30	Lord Of War
		05:25	Shattered Glass
		07:00	Papazzzi
		08:25	Red Dragon
		10:30	Diamonds Are Forever
		12:30	Waiting
		01:50	Murder In My House
		09:00	Yatra
		09:30	Krishna Kathaiyen
		10:30	Khichdi
		11:30	The Great Indian
			Laughter Challenge
			Ji Pradhan Mantriji
			Krishna..Aayo

## STAR MOVIES

03:00	Nathkhat Nandlal	12:00	Baby Whisperer
	Karishma Ka	12:30	Wildest
	Karishma	01:30	Wild Discovery
03:30	Kasauti Zindagii Kay	02:30	Mega Builders
04:00	Bolly V - Star Plus	03:30	Future Weapons
04:05	V Trailers - Star Plus	04:30	Wild Discovery
04:30	Musafir Hoon Yaaron	05:30	How do they do it?
04:55	Bolly V - Star Plus	06:30	Wildest
05:00	V Trailers - Star Plus	07:30	Wild Discovery
05:25	Bolly V - Star Plus	08:30	Discovery's Biggest Shows
05:30	Aladdin	10:30	Night Safari
06:00	That's So Raven	11:30	Risk Takers
06:25	Bolly V - Star Plus		
06:30	Colgate Star Parivar Awards 07		