

## CULTURALFEAST

## Theatre

Short Drama Festival  
Plays by Ashish Khondokar  
Venue: Natmondal, Dhaka University  
Time: 7pm on April 29-30  
Plays: Jantob, Platform and Shanki

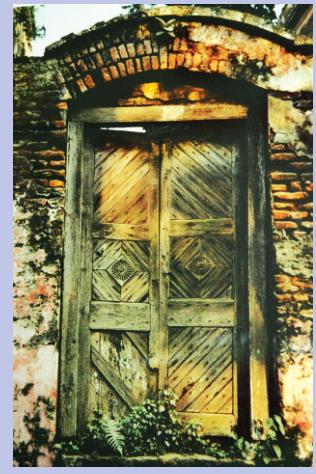
## Grand Group Art Exhibition

145 artworks by renowned Bangladeshi artists  
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, D.C.C.  
North Super Market 2nd Circle, Gulshan  
Date: April 28- May 28  
Time: 9:00am to 7:00pm (Friday closed)

## Swadeshi Properties Nritya Utsab 2007

Organisers: Naba Nritya and The Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
Venue: Shaheed Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh  
April 30: Kushumer Shapno' by Ballet group  
May 1: Shonai Madhab' by Ami's Workshop  
Time: 5-9pm

## Photography Exhibition



By the members of Muktachokh, Pathshala, 2007  
Title: Balyati Prashade  
Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery, Zoom, 26 Mirpur Road, Dharmondi  
Date: April 20-May 3  
Time: Saturday-Friday 9am-12pm, 5pm-8pm

## Digital Art Exhibition

Artist: Rabi Khan  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dacca  
Date: April 26-May 2  
Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm

## Ikebana Exhibition

Artist: Jonoky Mahmud  
Venue: Conference Hall of BNUC, BANBESI Bhaban, Palasy-Nikhet  
Date: April 30

## Solo Art Exhibition

Title: The Forms and Poetry of Nature  
Artist: Aklesh Ghosh  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old) Dhanmondi  
Date: April 21-May 5  
Time: 12pm-8pm

## National Dance Festival '07

## Celebrations in Chittagong



Artistes of Odissi and Tagore Dance Movement Centre perform at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

A dance programme was held in the port city on Saturday (April 28) evening as part of the weeklong country-wide celebration of the 3rd National Dance Festival.

Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong, Al Nuri Faizur Reza, was the chief guest at the event organised by the Chittagong unit of Bangladesh Nritya Shishi Sangsta (BNSS). The Programme was held at the Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) auditorium.

President of BNSS Chittagong,

Sharmin Hossain presided over the programme while general secretary Shubhra Sen Gupta delivered the welcome speech. BNSS central general secretary Shaju Ahmed was present as special guest.

Al Nuri, in his speech, emphasised on continuous practice in order to develop the ancient

medium of culture in the midst of satellite culture. He said thoughts and tastes of a nation are reflected through culture, as it is the mirror of a society.

Shaju Ahmed urged parents to encourage their children to get involved in cultural activities.

Twelve troupes from Dhaka, Khulna and Chittagong performed different forms of dance including Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Manipuri and Odissi as well as folk and other contemporary styles.

Four institutions of Chittagong, including School of Oriental Dance, Odissi and Tagore Dance Movement Centre, Fame School of Dance Drama and Music and Gurukul Nrityakala Academy presented Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Kathak and Manipuri respectively.

Dance exponents of Chittagong -- Shubhra Sen Gupta, Prama Abonti, Tilottama Sen Gupta and Gargi Majumder -- choreographed the recitals respectively.

Other troupes participating at the event were Ghungur Nrityakala Kendro, Nataraj Nrityangan Academy, Sanchari Nrityakala Academy, Surangama Nrityangan, Nupur Nikhon and Charita -- all from Chittagong. Mridanga from Dhaka and Abbasuddin Academy of Khulna also participated at the programme.

Renowned dancer Belayet Hossain Khan of Jago Art Centre, Dhaka delivered a performance titled Naborash -- demonstrating the different human emotions -- that received a hearty response from the audience.

## Poetry festival in Rajshahi

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A regional poetry recitation festival was celebrated with much enthusiasm featuring a rally, recitation, discussion and workshops in Rajshahi on April 27 and 28.

The two-day celebration, jointly organised by Bangladesh Abritt Samannoy Parishad, Rajshahi Abritt Parishad and cultural organisation Swanam, was held at Ghoramara Padma Mancha with the slogan "Jai, Alok Arunodoy, Jai".

Individuals and different recitation forums from Naogaon, Bogra, Rangpur, Satkhira, Rajshahi and adjacent districts, participated in the programmes.

Renowned litterateurs Professor Hasan Azizul Haq and Ruhul Amin

Pramanik inaugurated the festival. "It is cultural identity that divides people into nations around the globe. People get a new lease of life observing festivals, celebrating their own cultures and heritage," Professor Hasan said in his inaugural speech.

Professor Hasan then led a rally going through city streets heralding the celebration.

The festival celebration committee convenor Mohammad Kamal presided over the session. Among others attending the festival were Hasan Arif, assistant general secretary of Dhaka Sammiliti Sangskritik Jote; Ahkamullah and Sharif Ahmed Bintu, secretary of Bangladesh

Abritt Samannoy Parishad. Later in the afternoon, Swanam units at Rajshahi University and Rangpur, Kathak of Nageswari and several individuals recited poems at the Padma Mancha.

Drity of Bogra, Abritt Parshad of Naogaon, Sampralit Abritt Sangsad and Protidhoni of Satkhira, Sundorom and Abritt Parishad of Rajshahi and others also presented recitals on April 28.

Some 70 participants took part at workshops during the two-day festival.

Similar poetry festivals were held at Monishura in Khulna division, Narayanganj in Dhaka division and will be held at Comilla in Chittagong region soon.



A view of the rally brought out on the occasion of the poetry festival

PHOTO: STAR

## Indonesian melodies take centre stage

## Cultural fiesta at Shilpakala Academy

## MAHMUDA AFROZ

The weeklong programme by the 'Indonesian Culture and Tourism Promotion Week 2007' came to an end with a splendid performance that took place at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 28. The evening titled 'Indonesian Cultural Night' was organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and the Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka.

The evening was divided into three segments. The first part included short speeches by the Director General of the Shilpakala Academy Quamrul Hassan, NDC and Warmas Hasan Saputra, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Bangladesh. In his speech the Ambassador mentioned that the main focus of the episode was outlined by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh and the government of the Republic of Indonesia, signed in 2004.

A cultural delegation consisting of thirty members from the city Pematangsiantar in North Sumatra arrived in the Dhaka several days back, aiming to promote and develop cultural relations and understanding between the two countries. At the programme they performed the traditional *Tortor Sombha*, a dance that used to be performed to welcome kings and their courtiers in earlier times. Continuing with their soothing numbers and delicate steps the dance troupe performed the *Martonan* dance or the weaving dance, which depicts the life of a weaver girl.

Next on stage was Indonesian singer Arlin Tobit who rendered two popular numbers *Lee cho* (on friendship) and *Ching ching cho* (a father crossing the river to meet his daughter). Following the songs

Indonesian artistes perform the *Piring* dance

PHOTO: STAR

was a fashion show highlighting the different religions and traditional garb of Indonesians.

The *Piring* dance or the plate dance was performed with two plates balanced on the performers' hands. This dance form is common among the ethnic groups in Malacca and Sumatra islands. The last dance of the evening was the *Malenggang* dance.

The third part of the programme featured performances by artistes of the Shilpakala Academy and their Indonesian counterparts. Zakir Hossain from the Shilpakala Academy sang a popular Indonesian

song Aloo Siya and Arlin rendered Habib's current hit *Bhalobashbo bashbo re bandhu* along with dance performances by Deepa Khandokar, Irene Parvin, Mahalati and Julie. The programme came to an end with dancers from both sides performing the *Anondo Nrityo* or the 'Happy Dance'.

Distinguished guests from home and abroad, government and non-government organisations, diplomatic missions, executives from renowned companies and other high officials were present at the occasion.

## AP, New York

The sixth annual Tribeca Film Festival opened last Wednesday at a gala hosted by former US Vice President Al Gore as the festival expanded its social mission with a slate of global warming-themed films.

The festival, which was founded after the September 11 attacks to rejuvenate Lower Manhattan, opened with the premiere of nine short films produced by SOS (Save Our Selves), an organisation to raise awareness on climate change.

The night signified not only the opening of this year's festival, but also the growing connection between filmmakers and the issue of global warming. Gore, who starred in the Oscar-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, said artists play an important role in the movement.

"Art, music, film, dance, poetry -- all the arts -- have long been our greatest tools to explore the regions of imagination that defy our efforts to think rationally about subjects that our emotions tell us are too painful to contemplate," he said.

Tribeca, which held its first festival in 2002, was founded by Robert De Niro, his producing partner, Jane Rosenthal, and her husband, the entrepreneur Craig Hatkoff.

Though festivals customarily

open with the premiere of a high-profile feature film, Rosenthal told *The Associated Press* ahead of Tribeca's opening that the decision was easy.

SOS founder Kevin Wall said the organisation has commissioned 60 short films. The nine shown last Wednesday night generally ran about five minutes long and sometimes felt like public service announcements.

They included visions of a flooded New York City, an animated hippo and turtle talking about changing temperatures, footage from a giant landfill in

Brazil and a reminder of the especially harsh effect global warming is expected to have on Africa.

Directors Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, whose documentary *Jesus Camp* played at Tribeca last year and went on to land an Oscar nomination, showed a film entitled *One Less Car* that showed the benefits of riding a bike in New York City.

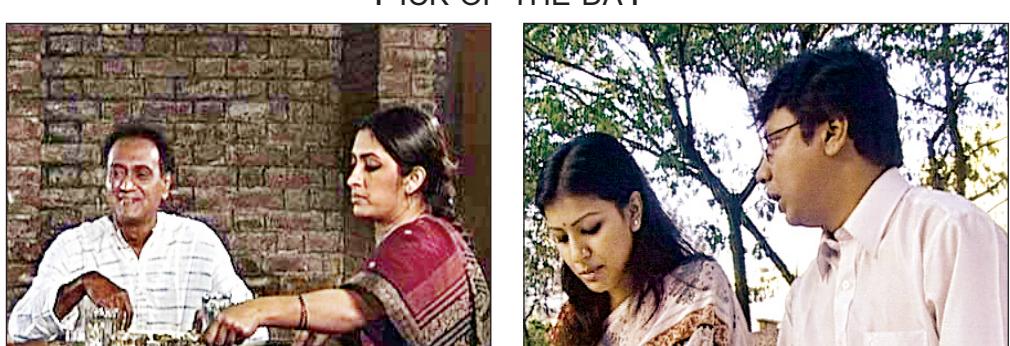
Martin Scorsese, Petra Nemcova, Jimmy Fallon, Diego Luna, Christopher Walken, Paul Haggis and Josh Lucas were among who attended the festival.



Al Gore talks to actor and festival founder Robert De Niro on the opening night of the Tribeca Film Festival

## TV GUIDE

## PICK OF THE DAY



**Kath Koylar Chhobi**  
On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Tauqir Ahmed, Bipasha Hayat

**Obosheshey**  
On Banglavision at 8:55pm  
Single episode TV play  
Cast: Tinni, Intekhab Dinar

ATN Bangla	04:50	Bishwa Protidin	04:20	Shormali Din	04:20
	05:15	Shompati	05:10	Shushto Thakun	05:10
	06:20	Asheyasher Manush	05:45	Business week	05:45
	07:00	Kotha	06:20		06:20
	07:30	Swapno Shonar Gaon	08:00	Drama Serial: Kathi Koylar Chhobi	08:00
	08:45	Meet the press	08:45		08:45
CHANNEL-i	09:30	Shukhi Poribar	09:30	Shongbad Potrey	09:30
	09:45	Selected Programme	09:45	Bangladesh Public Reaction	09:45
	10:00	Cartoon	09:50	Grameenphone Tritiyo matra	09:50
	10:15	Football Shekha	11:05	Educational Programme	11:05
	10:30	Anu Porumana	12:30	Debate	12:30
	10:45	Selected Programme	12:40	Selected Programme	12:40
	11:00	Debate	12:50	Selected Programme	12:50
	11:15	Selected Programme	13:00	Selected Programme	13:00
	11:30	Debate	13:10	Selected Programme	13:10
	11:45	Selected Programme	13:20	Selected Programme	13:20
	12:00	Debate	13:30	Selected Programme	13:30
	12:15	Selected Programme	13:40	Selected Programme	13:40
	12:30	Debate	13:50	Selected Programme	13:50
	12:45	Selected Programme	14:00	Selected Programme	14:00
	12:55	Debate	14:10	Selected Programme	14:10
	13:00	Selected Programme	14:20	Selected Programme	14:20
	13:15	Debate	14:30	Selected Programme	14:30
	13:30	Selected Programme	14:40	Selected Programme	14:40
	13:45	Debate	14:50	Selected Programme	14:50
	13:55	Selected Programme	15:00	Selected Programme	15:00
	14:00	Debate	15:10	Selected Programme	15:10
	14:15	Selected Programme	15:20	Selected Programme	15:20
	14:30	Debate	15:30	Selected Programme	15:30
	14:45	Selected Programme	15:40	Selected Programme	15:40
	14:55	Debate	15:50	Selected Programme	15:50
	15:00	Selected Programme	15:5		