

## CULTURAL FEAST

## 18th National Tagore Song Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindrasangeet Shilpi Sangstha  
Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library  
Date: May 7 & 8

## Grand Group Art Exhibition

145 art works of renowned Bangladeshi artists on display.  
Venue: Sajju 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)

## Group Theatre Festival 2007

Organiser: Group Theatre Forum, Chittagong  
Venue: Chittagong Shilpakala Academy Auditorium  
Date: May 7  
Play: Ekti Obastob Golpo  
Troupe: Gonayon Natyo Shomprodoy

## European Union Cultural Festival

Title: Celebrating EU-Bangladesh Relations Through Culture  
Organiser: European Commission, in association with partner organisations  
Date: May 3-16

## Photographic display

Title: Bangladesh Matters: Capturing the EU's Development Co-operation  
Venue: Drik Gallery  
Date: May 8-12

## Art Exhibition

Title: Mukti  
Organiser: Liberation War Museum  
Venue: Liberation War Museum  
Date: May 7-20  
Time: 10:00am- 8:00pm

## Classical and Folk music evening

Organiser: The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka  
Venue: The British Council Bangladesh, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka  
Date: May 18  
Time: 6:30pm

## Asian Film Session

Organiser: Cinepal Film Society, Rush Film Society, Satyajit Ray Film Society, Bioscope Film Society.  
Venue: World Literacy Centre, Bishwa Shahity Kendro, 14 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Date: May 7, 8, 9 & 10

# The indigenous tradition of 'Patachitra'

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To mark the Golden Jubilee of the European Commission (EC), an exhibition of Pata or scroll paintings by Shambhu Acharya is being organised at the Alliance Francaise, by the EC Delegation to Bangladesh.

Originally from a family of *Lagnacharyas* (those who match pre-wedding horoscopes) and idol makers, Shambhu Acharya belongs to the 9th generation of *Pata* artists, practising the tradition for 450 years. He started painting at the tender age of three and was blessed with talent from both sides. His parents Sudhir and Alpana Acharya, and maternal grandfather Radhagobindo Acharya greatly influenced his work.

*Patachitra* has historically been used to depict both Hindu and Muslim folklore. Popular subjects of *Pata* include *Ramayan*, *Mahabharat*, *Rash Leela*, *Muharram* and *Gazi-Kalu-Chompatob*. Associated with the *Gazi Pata* are *Gazir Gaan*, sung in his praise, recounting his exploits. Shambhu is especially pleased with his *Muktiuddho Pata* comprising 24 pieces, detailing historic events starting from the Battle of Plassey in 1757 to the Liberation War in 1971.

Locally available, natural ingredients are used when working on *Patachitra*. Shambhu fixes the "marking cloth" canvas with tamarind juice and brick powder. The colours are prepared using egg yolk, *bel* seeds, *kapila* tree gum, *sugadana* (sago),

*shindur* (vermillion), *shish kali* (soot), *neel* (indigo), *ela* and *tilak mari* (different kinds of earth). "My art is free hand; I draw directly on the canvas from memory," says Shambhu. The subject of women is close to his heart and his paintings are increasingly dominated by their presence. "The best of all worlds resides in women, which is why I like to incorporate them into my art," Shambhu says. Other favourites are scenes from everyday life in vibrant colours. Palanquins, birds, musicians, *kamar* (ironmongers), *kumar* (potters), *jele* (fishermen), *taanti* (weavers) and more, also make regular appearances.

It was November last year that Stefan Frowein, EC Ambassador to Bangladesh visited Shambhu in Munshiganj. What he saw impressed him profoundly and he wished to help preserve this art form. The idea of building a *Patachitra* school at the site of Shambhu's ancestral home was born, and the Ambassador arranged for two BUET architects to draw up plans.

Inaugurating the exhibition, Ambassador Frowein said he was "extremely pleased to be able to help Shambhu Acharya make this ancient techniques known to a wider public". He said the paintings looked "even more beautiful, now that they are here altogether. I am happy that enthusiasts will have a chance to enjoy the quality of art presented by Shambhu. *Patachitra* is indeed the living testimony of the diverse culture of Bangladesh". Jonatan Henriksson, the EC Delegation's



cultural officer, felt that such a tradition deserved to be supported.

Ramendu Majumdar, president of the Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute, who has always encouraged Shambhu, spoke about the EC's role as Bangladesh's development partner, emphasising cross-cultural interactions. Shambhu himself felt extremely fortunate that his chance meeting with Ambassador Frowein had culminated in this exhibition. "I wish to be able to teach others the techniques of *Patachitra*, so that the art form thrives," he said. The ceremony ended with a *Gazir Gaan*.

Shambhu made his first trip abroad in 1995 as part of a Bangladeshi delegation, to Indonesia's National Club Council. In 1999, Shambhu was taken to The London Art World Gallery in east London by Mahzabin Khan, poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah's wife. "It was unbelievable! Folk art was truly appreciated and pieces were sold to the British museum and various cultural centres," Shambhu remembers enthusiastically.

Naturally, Shambhu's children have artistic leanings. His son Abhishek, now six, is quite advanced already. Shambhu brims with fatherly pride as he recalls an incident when the toddler, looking at the crescent *Ekadashi* moon, outlined the shape of a boat with a fisherman in the air.

Shambhu's main concern is the preservation of this valuable art form. All he wants to do is to impart his knowledge to the next generation, to promote *Patachitra* and keep it alive. It is heartening to know that his dream of having his own art school will be a reality in the not too distant future.

The exhibition is on until 16th May.



Swapnil Probhatey (top) and Panshitey Jaye Ganyer Bodhu by Shambhu Acharya

The exhibition is on until 16th May.

## 'Rabindra Mela' on Channel-i

On the occasion of Rabindra Jayanti, Channel-i will air live a daylong programme on May 8, at its Tejgaon office says a press release.

The event titled 'Rabindra Mela' will feature literary works, paintings and long play records of Tagore. Publications on Tagore will also be on display.

The event will also feature Tagore songs, recitation, dance performances and discussions.

Professor Mumtajuddin Ahmed, Professor Anisuzzaman, Professor Abdullah Abu Syed, Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Mustafa Monwar, Dr. Karunamaya Goswami, Asad Chowdhury, Asaduzzaman Noor, Hayat Mamid, Nirmalendu Goon and other noted personalities will participate in the programme.

## Indian films to be celebrated at Cannes

## PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The 60th year of Indian cinema will be celebrated at the Cannes Film Festival in France beginning next week with the screening of eight films including acclaimed director Rituparno Ghosh's *Dosar* and Bollywood super star Amitabh Bachchan's debut English film *The Last Lear*.

*Dosar*, which won several awards of Bengal Film Journalists' Association, will feature in the 'Cinema of the World' section at Cannes -- considered to be the most prestigious in the international festival circuit.

Among other Indian films to be screened at Cannes are Mani Ratnam's *Guru* starring Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai and last



Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan in *Guru*

year's blockbuster *Lage Raho Munnaabhai* starring Sanjay Dutt, Arshad Warsi and Vidya Balan.

*The Last Lear* also featuring Preity Zinta and Arjun Rampal, is expected to unfold Amitabh to the international audience in a big way although the film will be shown for promo. The film is likely to be commercially released later this year, said Chairman of Planman Motion Pictures Arindam Chaudhury, producer of the film.

Planman has lined up four other of its productions this year including Rituparno Ghosh's much talked about *Sunglass* -- starring Konkona Sen Sharma, Jaya Bachchan and R Madhavan. The film is tipped to be Ghosh's first attempt at a comedy.

## Palakar to celebrate Tagore's birth anniversary

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 146th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, theatre troupe Palakar has arranged a five-day studio theatre festival at its lab. Five shows of Tagore's allegorical play *Dakghar* will be held, starting from May 8. Eminent theatre personality Ataur Rahman will inaugurate the festival.

Convenor of the festival, Shahriar Khan Rintu, informed that the festival would be one of its kind; where, throughout the festival only one play by Tagore will be staged to celebrate *Kabiguru*'s anniversary.

The universal urge to be free' is the theme of *Dakghar*, where every character is symbolic. The play is full of narratives and imagination. A young boy, Amol, is condemned to seclusion and immobility because of poor health. Using his overactive imagination, he creates a world around himself. To him, the passers-



Actors of Palakar in *Dakghar*

by are the link to the real world. When a new post office opens in the village, Amol believes the King of the land will send him a letter.

Director Shamim Sagar aims to present his own interpretation of the play. Aminur Rahman Mukul is the stage designer of *Dakghar*.

## Small Screen

## 'Ontoral-er Kotha': Gritty tales of crime



A scene from tonight's episode of *Ontoral-er Kotha*

## 'Spider-Man 3' breaks one-day record

*Spider-Man 3* has set a new box office record for first-day takings, earning US \$59 million in North America last Friday, according to its film studio Sony.

The movie beat the previous record of \$55.8 million, set by *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* last year.

And it is on course to set a new record for an opening weekend. But it has reached that mark with mixed reviews.

"That's why they call him the amazing Spider-Man," said Paul Dergarabedian of box office tracker Media By Numbers. "Just five years ago, these are numbers we thought we'd never see."

The \$59 million haul would be a good result for an opening weekend, let alone a single day, he told the Associated Press.

The reaction from fans may have been overwhelmingly positive -- but the critical response has been less than glowing.

*The Washington Post* said the film was "plain awful", while *The New York Post* called it "overly long and complicated".



A scene from *Spider-Man 3*

The more favourable reviews included *Newsweek* magazine, which said it was "nothing if not eclectic, but somehow this ambitious mishmash works".

The third instalment in the series sees Peter Parker, played by Tobey Maguire, battle the darker side of his personality and try to hold on to his love interest Mary Jane Watson, played by Kirsten Dunst.

*Variety* magazine said it was also showing on more screens than any previous film, playing in 4,252 cinemas.

*Spider-Man 3* was also released in the UK last Friday and has already broken box office records in Asia.

Source: BBC

## TV GUIDE

## PICK OF THE DAY



Tin Tin  
On Channel-i at 9:35pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Tinni, Tisha

Panic Room  
On Star Movies at 7:00pm  
Genre: Thriller  
Cast: Forest Whitaker, Jodie Foster

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

## News Bulletin

BTW  
08:40 Bishwa Protidin  
09:05 Shomapati  
11:15 Phele Asha Din  
12:05 Maa O Shishur  
12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon

01:00 Mali O Manush  
01:30 Shukhi Poribar  
02:15 Sisimpur  
03:05 Cartoon  
03:30 Football Shekha  
04:00 Anuorumanu  
04:30 Desh O Bigyan  
05:05 Debate  
06:10 Amader Mukti  
06:40 Dolon Charcha  
07:00 Shapholy Gatha  
07:30 Shurer Shurobhi  
08:30 Protidin Bangladeshi  
08:35 Musical  
09:30 Talk show  
10:30 Bul Bul

ATN Bangla  
08:30 The Sword of Tipu  
09:15 Mega Serial: *Laal Neel Beguni*  
10:30 Talk Show: AKTEL  
11:15 Mega Serial: *Ek Jonomey*  
12:10 *Mota Mot*  
01:25 *Cholchitron Golpo*  
02:30 Drama Serial: *Nirob*  
03:15 Drama Serial: *O Amar Chokhu Nai*  
03:45 Children's Programme  
04:20 *Matir Shubash*

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

STAR PLUS  
05:10 Shusho Thakun  
05:45 Business week  
06:20 Asheypasher Manush  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Kotha Koylar Chobi*  
08:45 Meet the press  
CHANNEL-i  
09:30 Shobhang Potrey Bangladesh  
10:15 Phele Asha Din  
11:05 Grameenphone Trity omatra  
11:40 Educational Programme  
12:30 Debate  
13:00 Shobhang Potrey Bangladesh  
14:00 Anuorumanu  
14:30 Desh O Bigyan  
15:05 Debate  
16:10 Amader Mukti  
17:00 Shobhang Potrey Bangladesh  
17:45 Phele Asha Din  
18:30 Grameenphone Trity omatra  
19:00 Educational Programme  
20:30 Debate  
21:00 Shobhang Potrey Bangladesh  
21:45 Phele Asha Din  
22:30 Grameenphone Trity omatra  
23:00 Educational Programme  
23:45 Debate  
24:15 Shobhang Potrey Bangladesh  
25:00 Phele Asha Din  
25:45 Grameenphone Trity omatra  
26:00 Educational Programme  
26:45 Debate  
27:15 Shobhang Potrey Bangladesh  
28:00 Phele Asha Din  
28:45 Grameenphone Trity omatra  
29:00 Educational Programme  
29:45 Debate  
30:15 Shobhang Potrey Bangladesh  
31:00 Phele Asha Din  
31:45 Grameenphone Trity omatra  
32:00 Educational Programme  
32:45 Debate  
33:15 Shobhang Potrey Bangladesh  
34:00 Phele Asha Din  
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35:00 Educational Programme  
35:45 Debate  
36:15 Shobhang Potrey Bangladesh  
37:00 Phele Asha Din  
37:45 Grameenphone Trity omatra  
38:00 Educational Programme  
38:45 Debate  
39:15 Shobhang Potrey Bangladesh<br