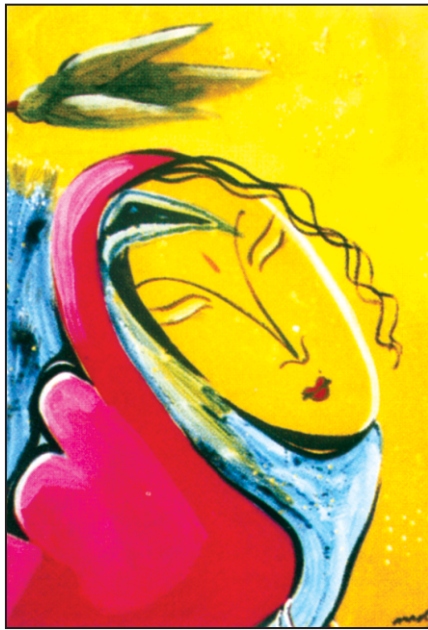


# A unique array of superb compositions

Saju's culling of talents



(From L-R) Rabindranath Tagore by Alokesh Ghosh, Sleeping by Anadi Kumar Boiragi, Lady with Mirror by Abdul Aziz and Two Friends by Abdus Sattar on display

## FAYZA HAQ

THE ongoing group exhibition at Saju's art gallery, gathering the works of 100 artists, is indeed an impressive one. It includes the stirring works of acknowledged masters like Zainul Abedin, SM Sultan, Quamrul Hassan and Mohammad Kibria. It brings in a splendid array of paintings by younger artists too, like KM Mithu and Javed Jalil.

Zainul Abedin's *Rebel Cow* with its thick masterly strokes portrays a cow struggling against a rope, with its head down and tail swishing. SM Sultan's *Farmers* presents farmers with bulging biceps,

working in the paddy fields, sickles in their hands. Black cows are seen in Quamrul Hassan's *Rest*. Long horns and enormous eyes make the simple geometrical creation a unique one indeed. Abstract blocks of black, gray and sepia are found in Mohammad Kibria's *Untitled*. With soft, jade and royal blue strokes Qayyum Chowdhury paints an idyllic Nepalese landscape.

Rafiqun Nabi, with stark, black lines, depicts a dramatic composition of *A Broken Bridge*. Dreamlike and enigmatic is *The Moon of Mars* by Monirul Islam, with its fascinating bars of flamingo pinks and turquoise swirls that combine with

gray, to create a mysterious image of the sky. Tiny gem-like creations on a soft setting of gray and blue are found in Samarjit Roy Chowdhury's *Untitled-1*, *Malua-11* by Abdus Sakhoo Shah has a dark skinned, beautiful girl with flowing hair and bright lips. She has jewels in her ears, nose and neck. Black and red birds rest on top of her head and lines of poetry complete the composition.

*Cactus* by Mohammad Eunus captures the beauty of the desert plants with their white blossoms with effect. Lashes of turquoise and brown form the fence on which the birds sit in Biren Shome's *Pigeons-1*. Asma

Kibria's *Black Hands of Evil* is an intriguing creation in masses of crimson and gray. Syed Jahangir's *Harvest* with its splashes of gold and bars of blue, depicting men carrying home the harvest, is a bright impressionistic creation.

Goutam Chakrabarty's *Elephant* suggests a huge animal with just the trunks and the limbs seen against sky. *Water Meadow* by Mokhesur Rahman has a huge blossom in streaks of blue and yellow. Naïma Haque's *Eclipse of Subject* has three figures apparently made from twisted rope. They walk on a stark white backdrop and have a

blue disc of a moon above them.

GSKabir's *Spirit of Life* has a flying nude male figure with abstract elements in black and red that frame him. Ahmed Nazir's *Beauty of Sunderban* brings in trees, upturned roots, water and the sky. Rectangular pieces of red, turquoise, orange and beige form Rafi Haque's *Rosenight*. Javed Jalil's *Fusion of Love* has strange creatures taken from fancy and imagination. Another mind-whirling work is Laila Sharmeen's *Shanti, Shanti, Shanti* with its delicate detailed inclusion of birds, flowers and boats.

Like all of Saju's exhibitions, this too is one to marvel at.

# 'The Birthday Party': An academic production

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of their 'Western Acting Method' curriculum, MA students of Department of Theatre and Music of DU staged four shows of Nobel laureate litterateur Harold Pinter's play *The Birthday Party*. The shows continued from May 7 to 10 at the Natmandol.

Professor Abdus Selim has translated the play into Bangla. Under the guidance of Dr. Israfil Shaheen, Abul Bashar Muhammad Ziaul Haque Bhuyan is the trainer of the academic production.

As in other plays by Pinter, reality is presented as 'enigma' in the three-act drama *The Birthday Party*. Presentation of 'uncertainty', 'abruptness' and 'meaningless havoc' of real life have been presented in the play. Like other Pinter's plays, *The Birthday Party* can be interpreted in different ways. A major theme is that of the struggle for power, which in Pinter's view underlies most or all human interrelationships, a struggle which Pinter has often set in more or less unsavoury but ordinary domestic environments.

*The Birthday Party* is set in a seedy boarding house run by Meg and Petey, a couple in their sixties. The only boarder, Stanley, is a depressed-looking man in his late thirties who has apparently been a professional pianist.

The drama takes a new turn when three outsiders-- Lulu, a young woman whose efforts to get Stanley to go out with her becomes unsuccessful; Goldberg, a powerful and threatening Jewish man in his fifties; and McCann, an Irishman in his thirties, tacturn and menacing-- arrive in the boarding house.

Goldberg and McCann have a



A scene from the play

distinct air of the bogus about them, as if they were parodying their respective 'Jewishness' and 'Irishness'. It becomes clear that they have come in pursuit of Stanley, to wreak vengeance upon him for a past misdemeanour, or to reclaim him for a shadowy organisation that they represent.

Following the arrival of Goldberg and McCann, Meg decides to put on a party for Stanley, saying that it is his birthday, a claim which Stanley denies. Meg gives Stanley a toy drum as a birthday present, which Stanley beats with increasing savagery as the curtain comes down on Act I. Act II sees first a scene of interrogation, as Goldberg and McCann ply Stanley with quickfire questions, eventually reducing him to inarticulation.

This scene then segues into the eponymous party, at the beginning of which Goldberg, McCann and Stanley all resume the politely vacuous speech patterns of

Pinter's quotidian. The party atmosphere becomes increasingly hostile, however, and Stanley is victimised in the course of a game of blind man's buff, before losing control, and making as if first to strangle Meg, then to rape Lulu.

Act III is set the morning after the party. Goldberg and McCann, it becomes apparent, have been working on Stanley through the night, and he is now dressed in a suit, clean-shaven, rendered conventional in appearance and wholly inarticulate. Goldberg and McCann have achieved complete dominance over Stanley, and are taking him off in their car to be dealt with by one Monty, evidently a professional, perhaps a torturer or a psychiatrist, or both. Petey mounts a faint protest at the impending removal of Stanley, but backs down in the face of a threat to himself. Meg outwardly remains unaware that anything untoward has taken place as the play ends.

## CULTURALFEAST

### Grand Group Art Exhibition

145 art works of renowned Bangladeshi artists on display  
**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)

### Group Theatre Festival 2007

**Organiser:** Group Theatre Forum, Chittagong  
**Venue:** Chittagong Shipkal Academy Auditorium

**Date:** May 12  
**Play:** Chader Omabosya  
**Troupe:** Theatre Guild

### European Union Cultural Festival

**Title:** Celebrating EU-Bangladesh Relationship  
**Organiser:** European Commission, in association with partner organisations  
**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

# Aruna Chanda: Plight of a committed theatre artiste

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Aruna Chanda, 64, a popular name in the Mymensingh cultural arena, has worked in theatre for over 50 years with effect. But a brain stroke has rendered Aruna,



Aruna Chanda

popularly known as 'Arunadi', disabled. She cannot move without assistance.

Aruna's first performance was in Tagore's play *Dakghar*. She was only seven at that time. The play was held at Durgabari in the district town during *Durga Puja*. She was married at a tender age when she was a student of class ten.

Her career in theatre continued till she faced physical disability two years ago.

An enlisted actor of Bangladesh Television (BTV), Aruna also trained under eminent dramatist-actor Abdullah-Al Mamun for three months in 1995.

During her decades spanning career as a theatre artiste, she had acted in over 200 shows at different venues of the greater Mymensingh region including Jamalpur, Netrokona and Kishoreganj districts. Her acting skills were showcased in both social and historic plays. She played key roles in *Naubat Sirajuddaulah*, *Anaarkali*, *Tipu Sultan*, *Kohinoor*, *Mohua Shundori* and in many others plays.

Among her favourite playwrights are Abdullah-Al Mamun, Nihar Ranjan Gupta, Ranjan Debnath and Shailesh Guha.

Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, member secretary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha at a recent reception accorded to Aruna, said, "It is unfortunate that artistes who contribute to our traditional culture lead a life of uncertainty and hardship and are left uncared for during their crisis."

Hopefully, theatre enthusiasts would lend a hand to this veteran ailing artiste in her time of need.

# Amar Chhobi celebrates 350 episodes



Anchor Shafiuzzaman Khan Lodi with Kawsar Chowdhury in an episode

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Weekly cine magazine *Amar Chhobi*, which channel-i airs at 6:30 pm on every Thursday, crossed 350th episode on May 10. To celebrate the occasion Impress Television Ltd has organised a 5-day exhibition of 500 stills from the programme in front of Star Cineplex. Faridur Reza Shagor, the managing director of Impress Television Ltd and Channel i, inaugurated the programme.

Began on January 2, 2000, *Amar Chhobi* has interviewed directors, producers and 'behind-the-scenes' people of our film industry. Conceived and directed by Shafiuzzaman Khan Lodi and Shamim Alam Dipen, *Amar*

*Chhobi* has gradually presented most of the important directors of the country. *Amar Chhobi* has also highlighted different issues related to films history, extensive information and documentation of our film history. For the relentless and long lasting efforts behind the programme, many film enthusiasts like to call it a private film archive.

Painter Hashem Khan, music composer Azad Rahman, managing director of Star Cineplex Mirka Kristina Rahman and filmmakers Amjad Hossain, Chashi Nazrul Islam, AJ Mintu and many others spoke at the programme.

The programme ended with the screening of Abu Sayeed's award winning film *Nirontor*.

# 'Ronin': Another Frank Miller creation to go on big screen

Following on from the phenomenal success of *300*, Warner Bros has snapped up the rights to Frank Miller's graphic novel *Ronin*, with an eye to giving it the same high-gloss movie treatment. The book follows a deadly battle between a masterless samurai and a demon, both reincarnated in a futuristic New York.

According to *Variety*, the film will make extensive use of the same CGI and green-screen techniques used in *300*, while following the usual Miller template of copious bloodbath and extreme terseness. Sylvain White (*Stomp The Yard*) is behind the camera.

Source: BBC



## 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 (Bangla) 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, 12:15 am.

#### 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, 6:00 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

09:05 Cricket: Bangladesh Vs India

07:30 Shilpo O Shahityo

08:35 Documentary Programme

09:00 Drama: Motlob Alir White Wash

10:30 Matir Gaan

10:30 Talk show

11:05 Durmiti Mukto Orthoniti

12:15 Shurer Madhuri

12:45 Shathidin

01:30 Nari

02:40 Drama: Chaka

03:45 Talk Show: Prijojon Shesh Okhor

04:20 Shesh Okhor

05:30 Talk show

06:20 Musical Programme

08:00 Mega Serial: The New Sobuj Opera

08:40 Mega Serial: Laal Neel Beguni

09:20 Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey

12:00 Gramenphone Lead News

#### Channel i

09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Tritiomatra

11:05 Na Bola Kotha

12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction

02:40 Telefilm: Shopnochor

04:05 Educational Programme

04:30 Dhaka Guide

04:50 Sholyer Shondhaney

05:30 Muktiudho Protidin

06:00 Harano Shoishob

06:20 Harano Shompod

06:50 Amar Bangladesh

07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat

09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush

10:00 Drama Serial: Rang Mahol

12:00 Gramenphone

Ajker Shanbad Potro

#### Channel 1

08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh

09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi

10:00 Cartoon

10:30 Bagan Bilash

11:00 Drama

12:05 Telefilm

02:00 Olpo Sholpo Golpo

04:30 Music Music

05:15 Fusion for Baul

06:00 Saaj Bela

06:45 Iltihasher Path

07:00 Dhorey

08:15 Shurela Lagan

08:15 Drama Serial: Shurney Boshobash

09:00 Shondhi Khoney

09:30 Expression

10:50 Musical Programme

#### BANGLAVISION

10:10 Apnar Ki Kichhu

Bola Achhey



### PICK OF THE DAY

## Bangladesh Vs India

On BTV at 9:05am

One-day cricket match  
Live from Shere Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

#### 11:00

Shomoy Ashomoy

11:40 Media Bhubon

02:40 Drama Serial: Kachhey Durey

03:10 Drama Serial: Dokhinayon

04:15 Public Forum

05:00 Ebong Classer Bairey

05:40 Diner Sheshey

06:25 Music Moment

08:15 Drama Serial: Krishnopokho

08:55 Amar Ami

09:30 Drama Serial: Bachelor Dompoti

#### STAR PLUS

08:30 Hum Saath Aath

09:00 Holly V - Star Plus

09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus

09:30 Saans

10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

10:30 Aladdin

#### STAR MOVIES

08:05 Beethoven's 2nd

#### 11:00

Timon And Pumbaa

11:25 Holly V - Star Plus

11:30 Sonpari

12:00 Karishma Ka

12:25 Holly V - Star Plus

12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus

12:55 Holly V - Star Plus

01:00 Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi

01:30 Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi

01:55 Holly V - Star Plus

02:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

02:25 Holly V - Star Plus

02:30 Kalash

05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

05:25 Holly V - Star Plus

05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen

#### 06:30

Thodi Si Zameen

Thoda Sa Aasma

07:25 Holly V - Star Plus

07:30 Kasturi

08:00 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi

08:30 Lucky

08:30 Prithviraj Chauhan

09:30 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby

10:00 Aek Chabhi Hai

10:30 Padoss Mein

Thegreatindialaughterchampion2

#### STAR WORLD

08:30 Prison Break

09:30 The Apprentice

10:30 The Bold And The

12:30 Beautiful

The Kumars At No. 42

01:00 Travel Asia

01:30 Wills India Fashion Week

02:30 Arrested

Development

03:00 8 Simple Rules

03:30 The Simpsons

04:00 My Name Is Earl

04:30 Frasier

05:00 Psych

06:30 The O.C.

07:30 Tna Xplosion

08:30 Desperate

Housewives

09:30 Grey's Anatomy