

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Art Exhibition

Title: Lines of Madness  
Venue: Goethe Institute Gallery  
Date: June 4-14  
Time: 10am-8pm (closed Friday and Saturday)

## Group Art Exhibition

Title: Chitra Mea: Art Fair 2007  
Venue: Shilpakala, Road 3, House 26, Dhanmondi  
Date: May 31-June 14  
Time: 10am-8pm

## Theatre

Troupe: Jibon Sanket Natya Gosthi Hobigonj  
Title: Bibek  
Venue: Theatre Institute Chattogram  
Date: June 1  
Time: 5:00pm/7:00pm

Troupe: Palakar  
Title: Dakhor  
Venue: Palakar Theatre Studio, 133, Natak Shorony, New Bailey Road  
Date: May 31 & June 1  
Time: 7:00pm

Play: A Birthday Party  
Organiser: Department of Theatre and Music, University of Dhaka  
Venue: Naat Mondol, Dhaka University Campus  
Date: May 28-31  
Time: 7:00pm

## Cultural Show

Organiser: Autism Welfare Foundation  
Venue: Central Public Library  
Date: May 31  
Time: 5:15pm

## Film Screening

Organiser: Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies  
Venue: Alengir Kabir Chaitra Kendro, 62, Science Laboratory  
Date: June 2  
4:30pm Nilontor  
6:30pm Shonkhenad

## Group Exhibition

Title: Chitra Varendra  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old) Dhanmondi  
Date: May 30-June 10  
Time: 12pm-8pm

## Musical

Presented by: Dhaka Stage  
Title: Working  
Venue: American International School, Dhaka Theatre  
June 1 Matinee 2:00 PM, Evening Performance 7:30 PM

## Ikebana Exhibition

Organiser: Embassy of Japan & Japan Foundation  
Title: Ikebana Demonstration and Seminar 2007  
Venue: Shahed Zia Auditorium & Nalirikanta Bhattacharya Hall  
Date: June 4-5  
Time: 5:30pm

## Discussion

Title: Munier Chowdhury Shoroney  
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 31  
Time: 5:00pm

## Jatra Pala-e Bibeker Gaan

An initiative by Shilpakala to boost the dying art form

ERSHAD KAMOL

INTRODUCED in 1894 the character "Bibek" (conscience) has become an indivisible part of *Jatra Pala*: A form of folk drama combining acting, songs, music, dance, characterised by exaggerated gestures and orations. The stentorian vocals of the actor in the role of "Bibek", who renders verses that represent our rationality, is the essence of a *Jatra Pala*. The character appears on the stage during the 'climax' to jolt the audience's conscience into awareness.

Featuring 21 remarkable "Bibek" characters from 19 *Jatra Palas* -- from the character's introduction in *Suroth Uddhar* (1894) to contemporary *Jatra Pala* -- Department of Theatre and Film of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) arranged a show on May 29. Titled *Jatra Pala-e Bibeker Gaan*, the programme took place at the Experimental Theatre Stage. It was a research-based programme conducted by eminent *Jatra*



PHOTO: STAR



"Bibek" characters (top-right and bottom) sing in different scenes staged at the programme

*Pala* researcher-actor-writer Milon Kanti Dey. As in typical *Jatra Palas* in the rural areas, the event began with a performance by an orchestra incorporating a number of western instruments including the silver flute, harmonium and clarinet. Milon Kanti Dey appeared on the stage as a narrator and delivered a bold performance maintaining the authenticity of characterisation in *Jatra*. The thespian analysed the role of "Bibek" in *Jatra*.

Throughout the evening seven professional *Jatra* artists -- Balai Das, Chitta Ghosh, Shankar, Upen Das, Bachchu Khan, Mohammad Zahar and Gazi Shahid -- performed 21 songs of "Bibek" characters from popular *Jatra Palas*. To make way for the "Bibek", *Jatra* artists performed the climax sequences on the stage.

The first song was jointly performed by Balai Das and Chitta Ghosh. Rendering *Apon bujhey*

*chol ei bela*, the duo performed the role of the first "Bibek" character in *Suroth Uddhar*. Among others, "Bibek" characters from popular *Jatra Palas* including *Rabon Badh*, *Anarkali*, *Rahim Badshah* and *Rupban Konyo*, *Sohrab Rustam*, *Ekti Poisha* and *Ganga Theke Buriganga* were featured at the programme.

A discussion presided over by Secretary of BSA, Ashrafur Mosaddek, was held prior to the show. Shafi Kamal, director, Department of Theatre and Music, delivered the welcome speech. Humayun Khalid, joint secretary, Ministry of Education, also spoke at the programme.

Discussions focusing on the necessity of promoting the decaying performing art form, said that the Department of Theatre and Film will carry out programmes to preserve traditional *Jatra Pala*.

## "Working": An entertaining musical by Dhaka Stage

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As the title suggests, "Working" charts the daily grind of a wide spectrum of workers. The musical is being performed by an amateur theatre group, Dhaka Stage, which draws talent from the diverse pool comprising the international community in Dhaka. The debut performance was staged last night at the American International School Dhaka auditorium. There will be two more shows on Friday June 1.

Dhaka Stage has been around for nearly thirty

years and is currently headed by President, Susan McGee. "Working" will be their third show in just eighteen months, and after deduction of costs, all profits will go to charity.

"Working" first appeared on Broadway in New York in 1979. The choice seems pretty straightforward for Dhaka Stage music director, Dawne Warkentin and director, Ben Snowden, who were immediately attracted to the music. They were excited about the opening night, which was a sell-out performance. Their biggest challenge has been the time factor, as the 25-

strong cast all have other jobs.

Auditions in February and hectic rehearsals over the last two months have resulted in a musical satire following the "life in a day" of a variety of workers, including, construction workers, a car park attendant, a teacher, supermarket check-out teller, a paper boy, a courier, a housewife, a prostitute, a socialite, assembly-line workers, masons, truck drivers, telephone operators, a waitress, fire-fighters and cleaning ladies. Musical support to a medley of styles (jazz, pop, rock, blues and folk) is admirably provided by a trio on piano, guitar and drums.

The play opens with the entire cast singing about their mundane, monotonous existence. Workers from different backgrounds recount their poignant life stories. "You become your job; you are what you do," exclaims the prostitute in the musical. Some songs bring out the workers' frustrations; some "What I could've been" reflect the workers' aspiration to become something better. The waitress character sings about the dignity of labour, when she declares, "I'm a one-woman show."

The construction worker talks about the mistakes he has made when he sings, "If you can't improve yourself, you can improve your posterity". In his case, as with the cleaning lady, the workers yearn for a better future for their children. There is a sense of loss, of underachievement. In the last song "See that building", the workers unite to sing, "Everyone should have something to point to," attempting to bring in a feeling of pride in what they do.

With twelve solo performances, the show had a professional look and was thoroughly entertaining.



Actors of Dhaka Stage in a scene from Working

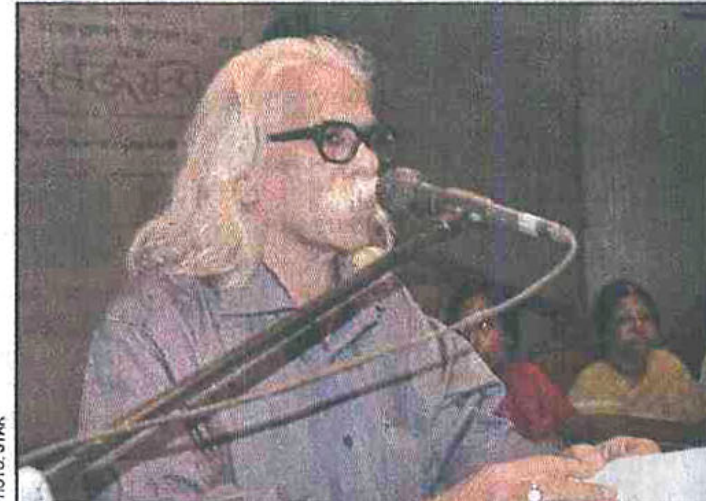
## Sudhin Das and Shahabuddin Ahmed honoured

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 108th birth anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bangladesh Shilpakala Karmi Shiksha (BSKS), a platform for artists from different medium, arranged a programme on May 29. Apart from discussion and a cultural programme, two Nazrul exponents -- Sudhin Das and Shahabuddin Ahmed (posthumous) -- were honoured at the event at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library.

Former Director General of Bangla Academy Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui inaugurated the programme. Nazrul exponent Professor Rafiqul Islam was the chief guest. The programme was presided over by the eminent dancer Rahija Khanom Jhunu, president of the organisation. Khandokar Shah Alam, general secretary of BSKS, delivered the welcome speech. Poet Samudra Gupta also spoke on the occasion.

Seasoned Nazrul singers Khalid Hossain, Salahuddin, Yakub Ali Khan and Lina Taposhi Khan ren-



Poet Samudra Gupta speaks at the event

dered Nazrul songs. Students of Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts performed dance.

This Year's Nazrul Award went to Sudhin Das and late Shahabuddin Ahmed. Singer, staff-notation writer and music director Sudhin Das has made an immense contri-

bution to Nazrul *sangeet* and its practice in our country. So far, Nazrul Institute has published 20 books on notations by Sudhin Das. Late Shahabuddin Ahmed, a Nazrul exponent, has also had several books and articles published on Nazrul.

## Srijon commemorates National Poet's birth anniversary



Khairul Anam Shakil sings at the musical programme

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Srijon, a cultural organisation promoting Bengali songs of yesteryears, arranged their 58th monthly

programme at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum on May 29. The event marked the 108th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam. The musical soiree featured noted and upcoming artists of the country.

"We should try to follow Nazrul's philosophy of loving our fellow men and speaking up for the oppressed," said renowned Nazrul singer Khairul Anam Shakil, chief guest at the programme.

Shakil performed the popular Nazrul song *Mor priya hobey esho rani*. A duet with Kolpona Anam -- *Mora ar Jonomey* -- was next.

Kolpona Anam and Rumana Islam, special guests at the programme, rendered *Amar jabar shomay holo* and *Mor prothomo moner mukul* respectively, among other songs. Mahidul Islam recited excerpts from Nazrul's *Obhaidon*. Dipti Orni Choudhury, a member of Srijon, performed *Gorje gombhir gogoney*.

Among others, Kaikobad Azad, Zakir Hossain Tapan, Mollika Anwar, Tanjila Ruma, Ahmed Newaz and Champa Banik rendered songs at the event. The programme was directed and arranged by Nurul Islam Polash. Sangita was the anchor of the programme.

## Miss Japan crowned Miss Universe

AP, Mexico City

Riyo Mori, a 20-year-old dancer from Japan who hopes to someday open an international dance school, was crowned Miss Universe 2007 last Monday night. Miss USA Rachel Smith, who slipped and fell to the floor during the evening gown competition, was the contest's fourth runner-up.

Mori nervously grabbed the hands of first runner-up, Natalia Guimarães of Brazil, just before the winner was announced. Then she trembled in awe as the diamond and pearl-studded crown was placed on her head.

Mori, from the small town of Shizuoka at the base of Mount Fuji, won the cheers of the

Mexico City audience when she opened her interview, saying "Hola, Mexico!"

"I learned how to always be happy, be patient and to be positive, and this is what I want to teach to the next generation," she said during the interview competition.

The daughter of a dance school operator, Mori said her grandmother told her as a child that she wanted her to be Miss Japan before she turned 20.

"From the very beginning, I entered the competition with high hopes and an unswerving determination to make this dream a reality," she said in a pre-competition interview.

Also finishing in the top five were second runner-up Ly Johannis of Venezuela and third runner-up Honey Lee of Korea.



An ecstatic Riyo Mori after being crowned

## TV GUIDE

## PICK OF THE DAY



Koto Chena Koto Ochena  
On ATN Bangla at 8:40pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Jitu Ahsan, Sweetie



30 Rock  
On Star World at 9:30pm  
TV Series  
Cast: Alec Baldwin, Tina Fey

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

## News Bulletin

**BTB**  
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 6:00 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-1**  
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 Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.  
News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

**Rtv**  
News (Bangla) at 10:15pm, and 12:15am

**BTB**  
08:45 Bishwa Bichitra  
11:15 Selected Programme  
11:40 Selected Programme  
12:05 Mae O Shishur  
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01:30 Shukhi Pancher  
02:15 Children's Drama  
02:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi  
03:05 Cartoon  
03:30 Selected Programme  
04:30 Barishuti  
05:05 El Shomoy  
05:30 Shomoyer Shonglap  
06:10 Selected Programme  
06:40 Islamic Programme  
07:00 Musical Programme  
08:35 Proidin Bangladesh  
08:40 Drama: Shohorer  
Jibokha

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08:40 Drama: Shohorer  
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**ATN Bangla**  
08:15 Aker Shongbad Potro  
08:30 Drama Serial: Moner Janela  
09:15 ATN Commentary Box  
10:30 Talk Show: Nebachon  
11:05 Commissioner Koropol  
Bangla Feature Film  
Shundor Jiboner  
03:45 Amader Joto Kotha  
05:10 Islamic Programme  
05:40 TV Serial: Mugly  
06:20 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha  
08:45 Drama: Koto Chena Koto Ochena

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**09:20** Drama Serial: Chirayamukhi  
**12:00** Drama Serial: Gramphone  
Lead News

**CHANNEL-1**  
08:30 Shokaler Gaan  
09:30 Shanbad Potro  
Bangladesh  
Public Reaction  
Tribomatra  
12:30 Citycell  
Tarokakathin  
01:05 Ebong Cinema  
Gaan  
01:30 Shongbad Potro  
Bangladesh  
Public Reaction  
Tribomatra April  
03:05 Hidyos Madi O  
Manusher Dek  
Sa Re Ga Ma  
Mukjuddho Proidin  
Aldi sirs Daradon  
06:20 Amar Chhobi  
07:50 D Rock Stars 2  
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09:35 Drama Serial: Nishidho Banobhumi  
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Aker Shongbadpotro

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