

CULTURALFEAST

National Art Exhibition

Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 17 to July 16
Organiser: Department of Art, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Chhayanat Shangskriti Bhaban
Venue: Chhayanat Shangskriti Bhaban
Date: July 19
Time: 7pm

Solo Print Exhibition

Artist: Rashid Amin
Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi
Date: July 10 to July 24
Time: 12am to 9pm



Art Exhibition

Title: River and the Flow of Life
Artist: Mona Mahmud Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Date: July 4 to July 15
Time: 12pm to 8pm

Theatre Festival

Title: Nobo anonde jago aji nobo robu kiron
Organiser: Mohakal Natya Sampraday
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Play: Bhager Manush
Troupe: Shomoy Shanskritik Gosthi
Date & Time: July 14, 7pm

Play: Shomoyer Proyojoney
Troupe: Theatre Art Unit
Date & Time: July 15, 7pm

Play: Bou Bosonti
Troupe: Udichi
Date & Time: July 16, 7pm

Play: Projapoti
Troupe: Natiyakendro
Date & Time: July 18, 7pm

Play: Koinna
Troupe: Prachyanat
Date & Time: July 19, 7pm

Play: Rupoboti
Troupe: Subochon Natya Sangsad
Date & Time: July 20, 7pm

Play: Joidas
Troupe: Dhaka Podatik
Date & Time: July 21, 7pm

Play: Meraj Fakir Ma
Troupe: Theatre
Date & Time: July 22, 7pm

Play: Nokshi Kantha
Troupe: Bangladesh Theatre
Date & Time: July 23, 7pm

Play: Tripura Rajar Upakhan
Troupe: Durbar Natya Gosthi
Date & Time: July 24, 7pm

Play: Rang
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadol
Date & Time: July 25, 7pm

Citycell-Mahakal Theatre Festival '07 begins

Discussants call for new dimensions in theatre



ERSHAD KAMOL

ON the inaugural ceremony of the Citycell-Mahakal Theatre Festival '07, arranged by Mahakal Nityasampradaya to celebrate its 24th anniversary, discussants urged for a change in the contemporary theatre scenario of Bangladesh. Eminent playwright-litterateur Syed Shamsul Haque was the chief guest at the inaugural session, which was held yesterday at the Experimental Theatre Stage. Other renowned theatre personalities speaking at the programme were Ataur Rahman, Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Tariq Anam Khan and Golam Kuddus. The session was presided over by MA Azad, president of Mahakal Nityasampradaya. Meer Zahid Hassan, convenor of the festival committee delivered the welcome speech.

Reviewing the current theatre scenario of the country theatre director-actor-playwright Tariq Anam said, "It's true that some new theatre venues have been operating in the country, but how many quality productions we are offering and how many people are watching those plays? Unless the participation of the younger generation as theatre activists as well as audience is ensured we can't expect a boom in theatre."

President of Shammilito Shanskritik Jote theatre director Nasiruddin Yousuff said, "I like to evaluate the 35 years of the current neo-theatre movement in this way that we are trying to do something remarkable in, but we have yet to go a long way. I hope the younger generation do something better to reach the goal."

"It's true that as amateur theatre practitioners we have got recognitions at the international arena, but we need to give more effort to



Syed Shamsul Haque speaks at the programme

create new forms and to practice the classical forms simultaneously", said theatre personality Mamunur Rashid.

Using a well quotation theatre director-actor Ataur Rahman said, "A nation can be evaluated by its stage. In these days, I feel a lack of passion of the theatre activists. We hope regular thought exchange in the groups to create quality productions."

Seeking patronisation from the government level for the smooth continuation of cultural activities Golam Kuddus, general secretary of Shammilito Shanskritik Jote, said, "We expect supportive role from the current government."

Chief guest Syed Shamsul Haque said, "We are going through a transitional period. In the socio-political turmoil, it's easy to write

many message oriented plays, but it's really difficult to write classics. We expect that the current government do something remarkable for the betterment of the nation and its traditional culture."

Prior to the discussion, artistes of Spandan performed a group dance recital with the soundtrack of the patriotic song *Dhono dhanya pushpobhara* by DL Roy.

Other cultural programmes held on the opening ceremony were a staging of a few scenes from *Shikhondikatha* by the actors of Mahakal and presentation of a *srutinataok* (recitation of a theatre performance) titled *Hazar Churashir Maa*, by the artistes of Katha Abritti Charcha Kendra. Moreover, Chanu Gayener Dal from Manikganj performed *Kalu Gazir Pala*, an indigenous perform-

ing art form based production. In the evening Mahakal Nityasampradaya staged *Shikhondikatha*, written by Anon Zaman and directed by Haroonur Rashid. *Shikhondikatha* features the sufferings and struggles of the transgendered individuals.

The 11-day theatre festival continues till July 25 with a gap of two days. Other plays included in the festival are Bhager Manush, Shamayer Proyojoney, Koinna, Projapoti, Bou Bashonti, Rupoboti, Jalodash, Meraj Fakir Maa, Nakshi Kanthar Math and Raarang -- productions of theatre troupes Samay Nityagossthi, Theatre Art Unit, Prachyanat, Natiyakendra, Udichi Drama Section, Shubachan Natya Sangsad, Dhaka Padatik, Theatre, Bangladesh Theatre and Aranyak Natya Dal respectively.

Abstractions emanating from nature

Amin's solo print exhibition

FAYZA HAQ

Rashid Amin, whose ongoing solo exhibition of prints is being held at Shailpangan, says, "Print-making is something I'm passionate about and I studied it in China, and here at the Institute of Fine Arts." The artist says that there are some specialties in print such as when lines and forms appear accidentally on to the zinc plate. Similarly the textures fascinate Amin.

When working he uses either a zinc plate or an aluminum sheet. Among artists who have influenced Amin most is Mohammed Kibria, his teacher. Amin is also fond of the works of Shahid Kabir and Monirul Islam. Outside Bangladesh, he admires Kandinsky, Mark Rothko and Cy Tomly. He also likes works of the Spanish painter Tapis. When he was studying in China, he saw a lot of realistic academic work. "There is a lot of spirituality in their traditional landscapes," he says. In their depiction of high mountains one finds miniscule humans too. He believes that the east is a great source of abstraction. He gives the example of the mystic poets such as Lalun and his songs.

Asked to compare art in China with that in Bangladesh, he says, "There is bound to be major differences as the Chinese have a history of 5000 years of painting. Of course, we too have our ancient terracotta friezes, but a lot of our relics don't exist any more, he says. Because of communism, introduction of western art, namely abstraction, to the Chinese art arena has been slow. Chinese conceptual and installation art are quite remarkable."

Amin does pure abstractions. "I'm not sure how to define pure abstraction. What I understand is that I'm experimenting with colours and forms. Sometimes I borrow



ideas from landscapes and nature. The inspiration I get from surroundings, I don't present them in a realistic way but hint at them with my lines and colours. What is abstraction then? When you go very close to an object it becomes abstract. Similarly if you see something from a distance, such as the case of a bird's eye view, rivers are like squiggles, houses appear like squares and rectangles, while trees look like lines and smudges." Thus, he says, abstraction develops from reality.

Blue image, by Amin, has a bluish grey background, with touches of yellow. Black lines hold the composition on four sides. The lines suggest dry branches of trees standing out on a hot, dry day. *Yellow day* suggests

bright sunshine with its orange, yellow, burnt-sienna and grey lines. The lines in the composition remind one of bushes.

Yellow image is a fascinating abstraction in variations of orange, yellow and grey. It appears to have figures and suggestions of tree branches along with flowers and stems. There are a number of untitled pieces like one with grey and black geometrical shapes that suggest solar eclipse. *Tree, flower and dream stairs* brings in some dreamy, romantic suggestions.

Apart from being a free lance artist, Amin is a teacher and enjoys both his professions. The exhibition ends on 24th July.



Art works by Rashid Amin on display

TV play "Gaari" on Channel-i tonight



Bappara and Tazin Ahmed in Gaari

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The first episode of the mini series *Gaari* directed by actor Bappara will be aired tonight at 10pm on Channel-i.

The play features a couple, both NGO workers, on the way to a remote village on work. Problem arises when they have to leave their car on the way as the road comes to an end. They park the car in a house at the end of the road. A young boy of the household is fascinated with the car. The chairman of the village ensures them that he would look after the car. Upon return however, the couple cannot find anyone at the house. Looking a little further, they come across the family, except the boy.

Tazin Ahmed, Naresh Bhuiyan and Bappara play the key roles in *Gaari*.

Theatre troupe Natukay begins its journey with "Abimisra Ashundar"

AHSAN HABIB

Yet another troupe Natukay made its entry into theatre scene of Dhaka

last Thursday (July 12) at National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. On the occasion Natukay stages its first produc-

tion *Abimisra Ashundar*, an adaptation of *Kanyadaan* by one of India's best known playwrights, Vijay Tendulkar.

Language Movement veteran Mahbub-ul-Alam Chowdhury welcomed the new troupe at the programme. Noted litterateur Syed Shamsul Haque and theatre personality M. Hamid were also present.

Abimisra Ashundar addresses certain significant social and moral questions which are deeply thought provoking, yet difficult to answer. The play exposes the hypocrisy of the "secular liberals", who refuse to face the reality and adopt the easy way out, often causing social disasters.

In the play Jyoti, a young woman from a family that regards itself as liberal and progressive, decides to marry Arun, a socially inferior but talented individual. Her

liberal politician father's enthusiastic approval and his wishful thinking of initiating a social change from his home, proves to be illusive in the end, as it lacks other relevant considerations. She faces misery and humiliation. The play draws the disillusionment with "armchair intellectuals" who always seek shortcuts without considering the grim reality.

The texture of modernity and social change is explored through the forces the marriage unleashes. With an undercurrent of violence, uncertainty and anger, the play concerns itself with questions that are crucial to all societies grappling with change and social barriers.

Abimisra Ashundar is translated by Bina Alase and directed by Ashim Das.



A scene from the play

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Hridoye Mati O Manush
On Channel-i at 09:35pm
Agricultural Programme
Host: Shykh Seraj



Ugly Betty
On Star World at 9:30pm
TV Series
Cast: Eric Mabius, America Ferrera

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

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 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 9:00 a.m, 10:00 a.m, 11:00 a.m 1:00 pm 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 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

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

ntv
News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV
News (Bangla): 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

BTv
11:15 Musical Programme
11:30 Prothom Antora
12:05 Shukhi Poribar
12:30 Ma O Shishur Kotha
01:00 Bishwa Bichitra
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 Bangla Feature Film
05:25 English Debate
07:05 Amader Muktiudho
07:30 Ritu Rangey Aka
08:35 Onirban
10:30 Matir Gaan

ATN BANGLA
10:30 Talk show: Aktel Onnodrishti
11:05 ATN Music
12:15 Shurer Madhuri Shatidini
12:45 Nari
01:30 Nari
02:40 Drama: Nalbazi
04:20 Shesh Okhor
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khobor
05:30 Musical Programme
06:20 Gondhoraj Samsung Cine Aha

08:00 Mega Serial: The New Sobuj Opera
08:40 Mega Serial: Laal Neel Beguni
09:20 Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey
11:30 Musical Programme
12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

Channel i
09:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 GrameenPhone

11:05 Tritomatra Na Bola Kotha Mukto Bazaar Orthoniti
11:30 Citycell Taroka Kathana
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shongbadpotre Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Tele Film: Jaal
03:05 Dhaka Guide
04:05 Educational Programme
04:50 Sholyer Shondhaney Muktiudho Protidin
05:30 Shopnil Agami
06:00 Shamoki
06:20 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Gaari
11:30 Drama Serial: Chirikut
12:00 GrameenPhone Aiker Shanbad Potro

ntv
10:05 Apon Aloye
10:30 AKTEL Hip Hip Hurrah
12:10 Talk show: Ei Shomoy
01:05 Japan Video Topic
03:15 Closeup 1 Desher Gaan
04:25 Nupur
04:50 Alok Paat
06:45 Shangkriti Ei Shoptaho
08:15 Shantokutir
08:50 Single Episode
Drama: Boro Pobitro

Channel 1
11:05 Amar Ei Shohor
11:30 Ei Shomoy
10:30 Bagan Bilash
11:00 Drama
12:05 Tele Film: Sholon
02:00 Music Station
03:30 Drama: Taxi Driver
04:30 Music Music
05:15 Fusion for Baul
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:45 Ithasher Path
Dhorey
07:00 Amar Nayokera
08:15 Olpo Sholpo Golpo
09:00 Shomoyer Swad
09:30 Shondhikhoney Expression
10:50

ETV
08:30 Mukto Khobor
01:30 Drishti
05:30 Ei Shoptaher Bishwa
06:15 Ekusher Shondha
07:30 Desh Jurey
08:00 Drama Serial: Biraler Oporadh
08:30 Uttoradikari
09:15 Ekusher Shomoy
10:00 Drama
11:45 Reporters File
BANGLAVISION
10:10 Apnar Ki Kichhu Bolar Achhey
11:10 Shomoy Ashomoy
11:40 Media Bhupon
01:30 X-Crime
02:30 Bhokab
02:40 Drama Serial: Kachhey Durey
03:15 National Security
03:45 Annapolis
04:15 Public Forum
05:00 Ebong Classer Bairey
05:40 Diner Sheshey
06:35 Music Moment
08:15 Drama Serial: Shesh Odhay
08:55 Amar Ami
09:30 Drama Serial: Bachelor Dompoti
STAR MOVIES
09:25 Little Secrets
11:05 Gods Must Be Crazy li,

12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
01:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
01:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kasturi
04:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
04:30 Main Hoon Na
08:30 Lucky
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Star Voice Of India
12:00 Kasturi
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus

STAR WORLD

09:30 The Apprentice
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
12:30 The Simpsons
01:00 Travel Asia
01:30 That '70s Show
02:00 Grounded For Life
02:30 Arrested Development
03:00 8 Simple Rules
03:30 Malcolm In The Middle
04:00 My Name Is Earl
04:30 Yes Dear
05:00 Psych
06:00 30 Rock
06:30 The O.C.
07:30 Tna Xplosion
08:30 Desperate Housewives
09:30 Ugly Betty
10:30 Day Break
11:30 Psych
12:30 Prison Break
THE HISTORY CHANNEL
09:30 1972 Munich Olympics
10:30 Goodyear Blimp

11:00 Yes Minister S2
12:30 Augustus: First Emperor
04:30 Eye On History (D-Day)
05:30 Security Systems
06:30 When Billie Beat Bobby
08:30 St. Peter
10:30 Biography
11:30 Marco Polo
12:30 When Billie Beat Bobby
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
08:00 Life in the Undergrowth
09:30 Discovery Spotlight
11:30 Mythbusters
12:30 Extreme Engineering
01:30 Predator on the Move
02:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows
04:30 Life in the Undergrowth
05:30 Mythbusters
06:30 Deadliest Catch
07:30 Life in the Undergrowth
08:30 Discover India
09:30 Everest: Beyond the Limit
10:30 How do they do it?
11:00 Million 2 One
11:30 Hunters
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
10:30 Tsunami Warning
11:30 Volcano Alert
12:30 The Big Breeze
01:30 Landslide
02:30 Nyack, Cinder, Clancy

FM radio
Radio Foorti
07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)
11:00am Amar 98.4 (Nusrat)
03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib)
07:00pm Fuad Live (Fuad)
11:30am Back to Back music
03:00 Macaws
03:30 The Big Breeze
04:30 I Didn't Know That
05:00 Peewee, Zeke, Ozzy
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Pilot Whales
06:30 Asian Tsunami
07:30 Jean-Michel Cousteau
08:30 The Monkey Prince
09:30 Holy Cow
10:30 Seconds From Disaster
12:30 Etosha
ESPN
10:30 Sportscenter Week In Review
11:00 Hitz
11:30 Twenty20 International - South A
02:30 Us Figure Skating
04:00 Sportscenter Week In Review
04:30 Tour De France 2007
05:00 2007 Michael Jordan
05:00 Celebrity In
07:00 Sportscenter Weekend
07:05 Twenty20 Cup 2007