

## 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 Bhawan  
Venue: Chhayanat Shangskriti Bhawan

Date: July 19

Time: 7pm

## Solo Print

Exhibition  
Artist: Rashid Amin  
Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dhamondi  
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, Dhamondi  
Date: July 4 to July 15  
Time: 12pm to 8pm

## Theatre Festival

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

Play: Shomoy Proyojone  
Troupe: Theatre Art Unit  
Date & Time: July 15, 7pm

Play: Bou Bosoni  
Troupe: Udiuchi  
Date & Time: July 16, 7pm

Play: Projapoti  
Troupe: Natyakendro  
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: Joldas  
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 Upakan  
Troupe: Durbar Natya Gosthi  
Date & Time: July 24, 7pm

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

# Citycell-Mahakal Theatre Festival '07 begins Discussants call for new dimensions in theatre

ERSHAD KAMOL

**O**n the inaugural ceremony of the Citycell-Mahakal Theatre Festival '07, arranged by Mahakal Natyasampradaya to celebrate its 24th anniversary, discussants urged for a change in the contemporary theatre scenario of Bangladesh. Eminent playwright-literature 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 Natyasampradaya. 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 Shangskriti 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 Shangskriti 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 massage 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 with the soundtrack of the patriotic song *Dhono dhano pushpo bhara* by DL Roy.

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

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

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

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.



# Abstractions emanating from nature Amin's solo print exhibition

FAYZA HAQ

Rashid Amin, whose ongoing solo exhibition of prints is being held at Shaipangan, 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 Twombly. 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 minuscule humans too. He believes that the east is a great source of abstraction. He gives the example of the mystic poets such as Lafon 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.

*Yellow 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



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

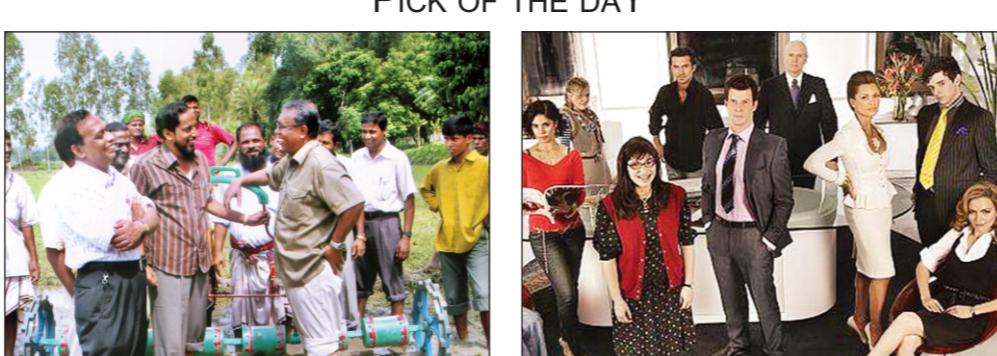
The first episode of the mini series *Gaari* directed by actor Bapparaj will be aired tonight at 10pm on Channel-i.

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 Bapparaj play the key roles in *Gaari*.

# 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

12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus  
12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus

11:00 Yes Minister S2  
12:30 Augustus: First Emperor

04:30 Eye On History (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

12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus

04:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
04:30 Main Hoon Na  
05:30 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

02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
03:15 The Ticket

03:45 National Security

04:15 Annapolis

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

09:30 Drama Serial: Bachelor Dompoli  
10:00 Amar Ami  
09:30 Drama Serial: Little Secrets  
11:00 Gods Must Be Crazy li,

11:00 Yes Minister S2  
12:30 Augustus: First Emperor  
04:30 Eye On History (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  
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus

03:00 Macaws

04:30 The Big Breeze

I Didn't Know That

05:00 Pee-wee, 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