

CULTURALFEAST

Live Musical Performance at



Kozmo

With the surrogate band
Venue: Kozmo Lounge, Bikalpa Tower, Plot 74, Road 5/A, Sat Masjid Rd, Dhamondi
Date: July 20
Time: 6pm

Art Exhibition

Title: Colours from Hills
Venue: Drk Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (new), 26 (old), Dhamondi R/A
Date: July 19 to August 1
Time: 3pm to 8pm

Musical Soiree

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

Organiser: citibank
Venue: Radisson Water Garden Hotel
Date: July 20
Time: 5pm

Theatre Festival

Title: Nobo anonde jago aji nobo robi kiron
Organiser: Mohakal Natya Sampraday

Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy

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

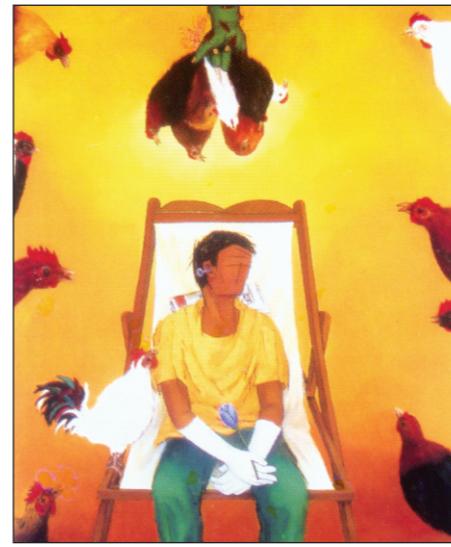
Play: Tripura Rajar Upakhan
Troupe: Durbar Natya Gosthi
Date & Time: July 24, 7pm

Play: Rarang
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadal
Date & Time: July 25, 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

17th National Art Biennale: A recap



Participating artworks at the biennale: (from left) *The Game of War* by Abdus Salam, *Consequence of War* by Kanok Kumar Pathak and Shomoyer *Khela - 4* by Shulekha Chaudhury

ERSHAD KAMOL

THE month-long 17th National Art Biennale ended on July 16 at the National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA). The exhibition arranged by the Department of Fine Arts, BSA featured 373 artworks by 247 artists. Apart from familiar forms like paintings, prints, sculptures, ceramics and installations, the artists have also presented digital painting and video installation. Veteran artist Aminul Islam was the convenor of the jury committee. Artists Abu Taher, Mahmudul Haq, Abdus Shakoor Shah and art critic Mainuddin Khaled were other members of the committee.

Ten artists were awarded by BSA. Debasish Pal, for his *Contemporary Portrait of Bangladesh - 3*, won the BSA Grand prize. Shahinur Rahman for his installation *Zero: The Primary Unit* received the Bengal Foundation Award. For *Justice*, Khalid Mahmud Mithu won the Arab Bangladeshi Bank Award. The Shah AMS Kibria Award went to Uttam Kumar Roy for *Target We and I - 35*. Ahmed Shamsuddoha, for *Aim 1*, won

the GrameenPhone Award. The Deepa Haque Award went to Gulshan Hossain for her innovative work *Archaeological Report of Romeo and Juliet - 2*. Faruk Ahmed won the Azzunnesa Fine Arts Award for *Composition - 2*. The BSA Honorable Mention Awards went to Tarique Zulfikar for *Simulacrum - 2*, Amirul Mominin Chowdhury for *Nuhash and the Alien - 32* and Asraful Hassan for *Tree-man and Wall - 3*.

Commenting on the success of the biennale, Nazrul Haque, director of Department of Fine Arts, said, "On an average, around 200 visitors -- most of whom are students of fine arts -- came to the exhibition each day. I believe this exhibition has managed to inspire the aspiring artists."

Some of the works at the biennale were admired by renowned artists. Eminent artist Murtaja Baseer, who has judged several national and international festivals, said, "The exhibition confirms that professionalism has developed among the young artists in our country. Quite a few works are notably innovative and the artists are using new mediums. Having said that, it should also be mentioned that several works are

not up to the mark. I think the jury should be judicious during the selection process so that a particular standard is maintained."

On the other hand, some of the award recipients seemed a bit critical about the jury. Winner of AB Bank Award, Khalid Mahmud Mithu, said, "A few of the jury-board members have little idea on the latest art forms. This year we have encountered a new problem. Without mentioning the media, BSA has given us awards. The sponsors' names are mentioned like 'AB Bank Award', which is quite confusing as no one knows if it's a national award or not. Moreover, the management process was quite disorganized."

Winner of Bengal Foundation Award Shahinur Rahman also criticised the management process of BSA.

On this issue, Nazrul Haque said, "I can't do anything beyond the decision of the jury. We have made the certificates with full cooperation and approval of the jury."

Artistes of Ruposhi Bangla perform at the programme

Citycell-Mahakal Theatre Festival '07
Today's play "Koinna"

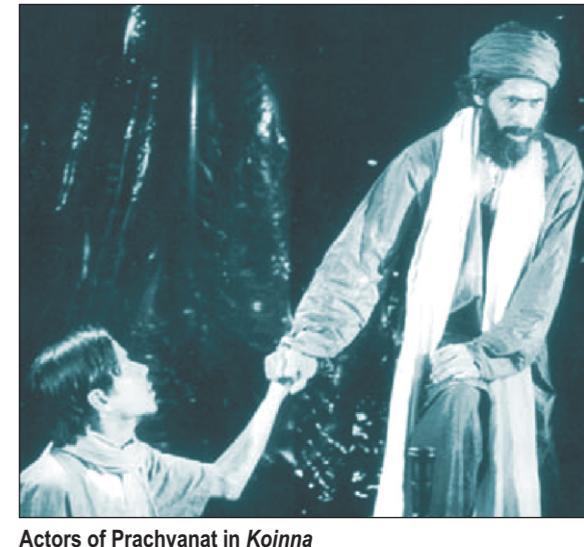
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing Citycell-Mahakal Theatre Festival '07, arranged by Mahakal Natyasaampradaya to mark its 24th anniversary, Prachyanat will stage *Koinna* today at the Experimental Stage.

Koinna, a play by Murad Khan, brings to light a debate between *Shariah* and *Marfat*. Inhabitants of a make-believe village, Kalaruka, believe that the spirit 'Koinna Pir' has possessed a widower, Naior. The villagers are also convinced that Bahurupi, the inseparable companion of Koinna Pir, lives in the pond near Naior's house. Kalaruka residents are followers of *Marfat* (a branch of Sufism) and consider Naior as their saviour.

On the other hand, Shahebzada and his followers, who are the followers of *Shariah*, strongly oppose the existence of Koinna Pir. The play ends with a conflict between the two rival groups.

Azad Abul Kalam is the director of the play. M. Shaiful Islam is the set and light designer.



Actors of Prachyanat in *Koinna*

Profile

Bharati Shivaji: Revitalising a nascent art form

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi



Indian danseuse Bharati Shivaji lives and breathes the upcoming genre of *Mohiniyattam*. Tucked away in the verdant environs of the Asiad Village Complex is her Centre for *Mohiniyattam* where she teaches and undertakes research, documentation and propagation of the dance form. Entering her house one steps into an expansive room where she runs dance classes. Here are musical instruments such as the *tabla*, *veena*, *mridangam* and *maddalam*. Several traditional mural paintings from Kerala along with metal statues of Natraj and Krishna decorate the room, along with a host of certificates with a photograph of her receiving the Padmashri from President Abdul Kalam.

Bharati is acquainted with Bangladesh. In the course of her visit to Dhaka in 2000 she undertook two performances and a workshop. The aim of the latter was to elucidate the finer points of *Mohiniyattam*, demonstrate the delicate movements and the uniqueness of the dance form. Expanding on this experience, Bharati says, "The workshop went off wonderfully well and the students found it very useful. They asked pointed questions and it went a long way in introducing them to the less known dance form."

Together with this, Bharati has choreographed Rabindra Sangeet in *Mohiniyattam*, which she describes as "well received." In the Bengal chapter of her centre she has trained

senior dancers such as Mom Ganguly, Kasturi and Sangeeta, who she says have "matured into seasoned performers." West Bengal has been conducive to her art, she says: "Music and dance are very important art forms in this part of India, largely because of Shantiniketan where *Mohiniyattam* is taught."

Bharati's tryst with *Mohiniyattam* began in the '70s at a time when there were few exponents for the lyrical and gentle dance form. Realising

the infinite potential of *Mohiniyattam*, at the behest of the late Kamla Devi Chattopadhyay she undertook research on this genre under a fellowship scheme from the Sangeet Natak Akademi. For more extensive research she received another senior fellowship from the Department of Culture, an Indian government body.

In her dance school Bharati currently has 20 or so students from the age of 12 years onwards.

Together with her talented daughter Vijayalakshmi and her troupe, Bharati has been on her toes of late. Among the high points of mother-daughter's dance career is the fusion of *Mohiniyattam* with western classical music. The outcome: a choreographic composition based on the celebrated *Swan Lake*, a remarkable composition of the great Russian composer Tchaikovsky. The splendid work has run to full audiences in the course of 24 shows in India. The *Mohiniyattam* style of *Swan Lake* has enthralled viewers further afield in the prestigious Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow and Conservatory Theatre at St. Petersburg, Russia in 2005. Explaining her fascination with ballet, Bharati notes, "*Mohiniyattam* has a lot in common with ballet. The costumes in white are to be found in both genres, while the mood is soft, gentle, very lyrical and suggestive."

For Bharati, dance is more a passion than another profession. She has dedicated herself heart and soul to *Mohiniyattam*, which she describes as "a way of life".

Senior dancer Mom Ganguly, Kasturi and Sangeeta, who have "matured into seasoned performers," are the stars of Bharati's *Mohiniyattam* troupe.

Artistes of Ruposhi Bangla perform at the programme

Ushering in the monsoon with song and dance

MOHAMMAD SHAFIQU L ISLAM

Cultural organisation Ruposhi Bangla arranged a programme to celebrate the season of *Borsa* at the Saifur Rahman Auditorium in Sylhet recently.

The programme began with a group dance, accompanied with a song, *Dhirey dhirey brishi porey*. Artistes then rendered a familiar Tagore song *Pagla hawer*



Artistes of Ruposhi Bangla perform at the programme

Movie Watch

"Molière": Life and times of the theatre genius

Centuries before the madcap comedy stylings of Jerry Lewis, the French flocked to see the satirical plays of Molière. Focussing on a mysterious few months in 1644 when he made the transition from actor to playwright, writer/director Laurent Tirard invents a fanciful myth that hints at masterworks to come. While it doesn't boast the same scathing insights as those plays, this is a sprightly romp, and Romain Duris drips with goofy Gallic charm as the young wannabe 'artiste'.

Tirard roots the story in one intriguing fact about Molière's life -- a spell in prison for failure to repay debts. History loses track when he's bailed out by 'anonymus', but Tirard imagines his saviour as wealthy trader Monsieur Jourdain (a buffoonish Fabrice Luchini -- in reference to *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*). Jourdain puts him up at the mansion and demands acting lessons, for he plans to woo a pretty Marquise (Ludivine Sagnier) by performing a self-composed play. Of course, the play is rotten and what's worse, Jourdain is married.

In an echo of Molière's *Tartuffe*, the hapless thespian poses as a holy man, providing the cue for a lot of cunning misdirection and embarrassing mix-ups. And it wouldn't be a French farce without the added complication of Molière's growing affection for Jourdain's wife (Laura Morante). Above all, this is a very silly film. Indeed, it elevates silliness to a lofty ideal and one that Molière must eventually come around to after announcing

Source: BBC



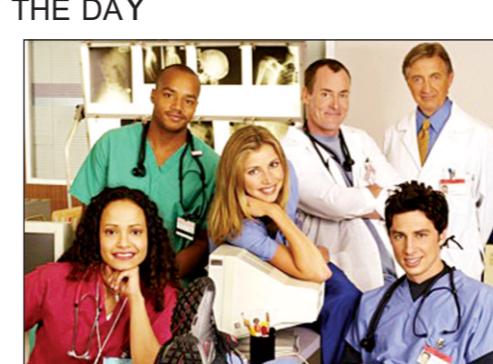
Romain Duris as Molière

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Koto Chena Koto Ochena
On ATN Bangla at 08:45pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Fazlur Rahman Babu, Jitu Ahsan



Scrubs
On Star World at 10:00pm
TV Series
Cast: Zach Braff, Sarah Chalke

BANGALVISION

BTV

ATN Bangla

CHANNEL-i

ATN

CHANNEL-1

BANGLAVISION

CCTV

ETV

FM radio

History Channel

STAR WORLD

STAR PLUS

STAR MOVIES

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

FM radio

Radio Foorti

National Geographic

ESPN

FM radio

History Channel

STAR

STAR