

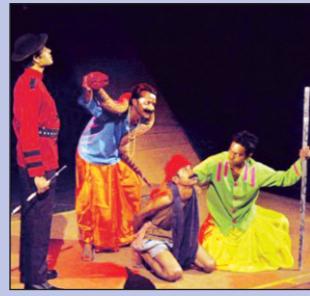
## CULTURALFEAST

International day  
of the World's  
Indigenous People  
2007 Celebration

Organiser: Bangladesh Adivasi  
Odhikar Andolon & Bangladesh  
Adivasi Forum

Date: August 9  
Cultural programme  
Organiser: Bangladesh Adivasi  
Forum  
Time: 10:00 am  
Venue: Bangladesh Engineer's  
Institute

## Theatre



Title: Mangula  
Troupe: Palakar  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage,  
Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy  
Date: August 9  
Time: 7:00pm

## Musical Soiree

Organiser: Chhayanan  
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium,  
Central Public Library  
Date: August 9  
Time: 7:00pm

# An evening of Rabindra Sangeet by Soma Ray

KARIM WAHEED

To observe the 66th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Indian High Commission, Dhaka organised a musical programme at National Museum Auditorium on August 7. The programme featured performances by Soma Ray, an artiste from Shantiniketan.

Soma Ray has had the opportunity to receive tutelage from the Rabindra Sangeet legend, Kanika Banerjee. Apparently she was one of Banerjee's favourite students and had accompanied her guru at performances in India and abroad. Ray also trained under renowned Rabindra Sangeet exponents Ashish Bandopadhyay and Nilima Sen. A dedicated artiste, Ray, completed her Masters in Rabindra Sangeet from Visva-Bharati University.

Prior to this recital, Soma Ray visited Dhaka in 1994 and had performed at the same venue at an event organised by Shurer Dhara.

Speaking at the programme, Ajit Gupte (counselor of press information and culture, Indian High Commission), said, "Rabindra Sangeet is a shared heritage of India and Bangladesh. The abundance of programmes held all over Bangladesh, on the occasion of Tagore's death anniversary, delineates the Nobel laureate poet's omnipresence in the national life."

The programme was well-attended by emissaries, diplomats and music enthusiasts.

After musing over her guru briefly, Soma Ray began her performance with *Tumi ki keboli chhobi*. Haunting wails of *esraj* reverberated throughout the auditorium. It is believed that Tagore favoured the instrument and used it in his songs. As the melancholy prelude progressed towards the *antora*, the song set the mood of the evening: *Nayan shomukhey tumi nai, nayan-er majhkhaney niyechhoye thnal...*

Throughout the evening, the artiste rendered over 15 songs -- some familiar, some less fe-



Soma Ray sings at National Museum Auditorium

PHOTO: STAR

quently performed, including *Tomar poajar chholey, Dariye achho tumi, Kal raater belaye gaan elo, Tumi kamon korey gaan koro, Amarhiyar majhey lukiye chhiley, Boro bishshoy lagey, Jey raatey mor duarguli* and more. Kamolesh Ray and Premangshu Sen -- both from India -- were on *tabla* and *esraj* respectively. Bangladeshi instrumentalists Sunil Sarkar and Nazmul Alam were on *key-board* and *mondira*.

Recognisable traces of Kanika -- clarity and consistent control over vocals -- were apparent in

the artiste's performance. However, renditions of certain songs could have been more enjoyable if the artiste did not sound so restrained. It is a common complaint that several Tagore artistes follow this trend, which is to be blamed for the obvious monotony. For instance, *Tomar khola haowa* should exude the free spirit of a Baul. Soma Ray's rendition however, sounded more like a desolate ballad. Tagore surely did not intend all his songs to be rendered with utmost despondency. Just a thought.

# Dance-drama "Shurjomukhi Nodi" staged at Shilpkala

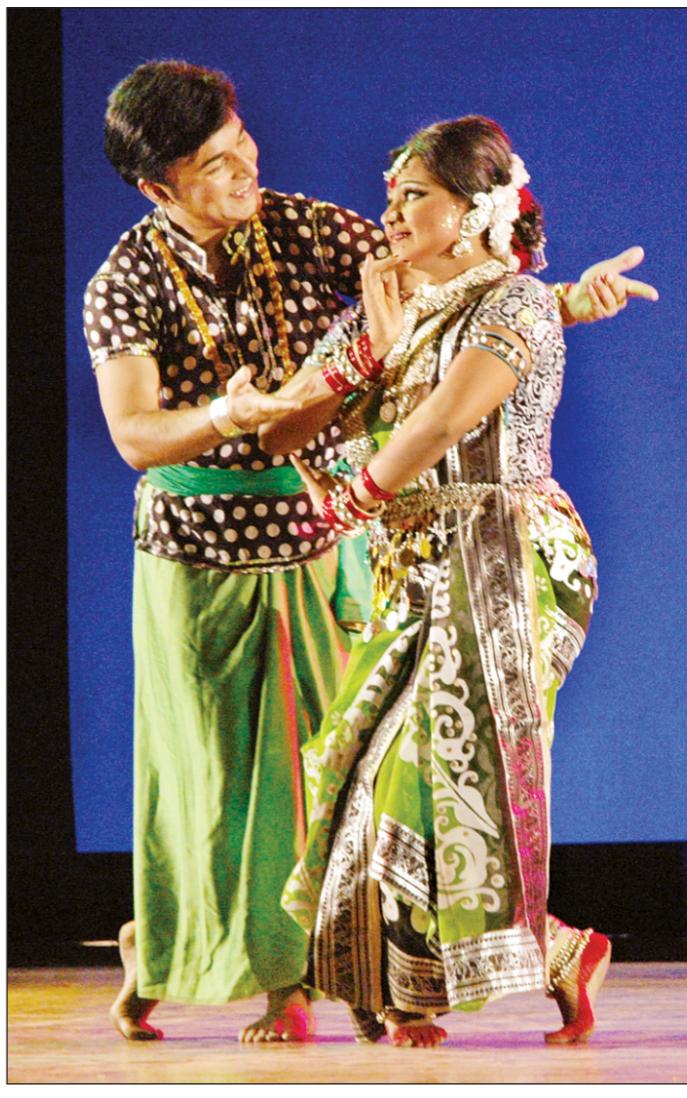
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Depicting the story of a rural boatman's transformation to a valiant freedom fighter during the Liberation War and people coming together to contribute in nation building, Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) staged a dance drama, *Shurjomukhi Nodi* on August 7 at the National Theatre Stage of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA). Department of Music and Dance of BSA arranged the programme.

The dance-drama was a part of *Shomoyer Shongram-3*, a series of programmes to express cultural personalities' and groups' commitment to generate awareness against corruption. *Shurjomukhi Nodi* is written by Dr. Enamul Haque. The performance was directed by noted dancer Rahiza Khanom Jhunu.

Photographs, paintings, posters and festoons conveying messages against corruption were also on display at the venue.

A discussion was held prior to the performance. National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Badur Rahman was the chief guest at the programme. Secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs A.B.M. Abdul Hawk Chowdhury and Anti-Corruption Commission Secretary Mukhlesur Rahman were the special guests. Director General of BSA Quamrul Hassan ndc presided over the programme.



Sohel Rahman and Farhana Chowdhury perform in the dance-drama

# Retracing footsteps of the forerunners

Shamim Azad on her new book "Om"

AHsan Habib

Responding to the call of Bangladeshi roots, poet Shamim Azad is back again with her latest book, *Om*. This collection of Bangla poems is to be launched this evening at the British Council in Dhaka.

The poems in the book are "born out of a desire to retrace the footsteps of the forerunners" and the experiences of her days in UK. It is as if the very fact of being distanced from Bangladesh, from ancestral roots, have forced a recasting of bonds that must now work within the ethnic and cultural complexities of a diaspora. Azad insists "I can find echoes of myself in my motherland and now that I live in UK, it is my history too."



Photo: Courtesy: Nasir Ali Mamun

Shamim Azad

loneliness -- all the way from Bangladesh to UK. Her writing deals with human relationships and war. Not just the ongoing tragedy in Iraq but also "to speak of the task of poetry that empowers individuals in ruins, in general".

Azad's poems reflect her experiences in the expatriate community -- uprooting and exile, migrant memories and trauma, separation and

The poet acknowledges that her "biggest challenge as a creative writer is to try and make a real integration between the personal history as a person from Bangladesh and the experiences I have encountered as an immigrant."

As a 'heritage poet' and storyteller, Azad believes, "Poems are actually stories. I have tried to accommodate tradition, habits, signs and symbols with a little difference." Being a member of a diaspora, she can speak of the past of immigrant Bangladeshi in UK and their stories as someone speaking from own experience providing a wider scope of meaning and significance.

Azad, who spent her early days in Jamalpur, described her years of growing up there: "At a time when a girl would enjoy her adolescence, I experienced poetry. I grew up living with nature and I tried to figure out and interpret it into words. But it was actually 1971, that made me aware of the power of poetry, that is, it has tremendous potential to empower people; so much so that they can reclaim their visions that somehow seemed lost."

During her current visit, she informs, she will conduct a course on creative writing at Brac University and provide training to the teachers of a school for children with special needs.

**Poems are actually stories. I have tried to accommodate tradition, habits, signs and symbols with a little difference**

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.  
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, 12:15am.

**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 am; 10:00 am, 11:00 am; 1:00 pm; 3:00 pm; 4:00 pm; 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) at 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

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

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**BTV**

11:15 Documentary Programme  
12:00 ShongenPhone Lead News

09:30 Shangbadpotre  
12:05 Maa O Shishur  
12:30 Kotha  
12:40 Bhabar Bishoy  
01:00 Nritter Talei Talei  
01:30 Shukhi Porbar  
02:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi  
03:05 Cartoon  
03:30 Mithos Krira  
04:00 Sangeeta  
04:30 Swadesh Bhabna  
05:05 Sisimpur  
05:30 Udbhid O Jibon  
06:40 Dhormo O Jibon  
07:00 Computer  
07:30 Drama Serial: Hiraphool  
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh  
08:40 Drama: Dub Satar  
10:30 Shur Homshakhi

12:30 Citycell  
01:05 Ebong Cinemar  
01:30 Shangbad Potery  
02:40 Public Reaction  
03:05 Tarokathan  
04:00 Gaan  
04:30 Swadesh Bhabna  
05:05 Public Reaction  
05:30 Hridoy Mati O  
06:40 Hridoy Mati O  
07:00 Manusher Daak  
07:30 Drama Serial: Shikha Shujog Na Odhikar  
08:40 Sa Re Ga Ma  
09:30 Mukti Juddho Protidin  
10:00 Tarzan  
10:20 Amar Chhobi  
10:50 D Rock Stars 2  
11:30 Protidin Bangladesh  
12:00 Shur Homshakhi

**CHANNEL-i**

11:40 Shoropura  
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11:30 Protidin Bangladesh  
12:00 Shur Homshakhi

**ATN Bangla**

10:30 Talk Show: Aktel  
11:05 Anroodisti  
12:15 Drama: Shesher  
12:45 Shurer Madhuri  
01:30 Nari  
03:45 Shundor Jiboner  
04:20 Educational  
05:00 Gram Gorjer Khobor  
06:20 TV Serial: Mugly  
08:00 Drama Serial: Dibhido  
09:20 Drama Serial: Amader Nurul Huda

**ETV**

11:40 Shongsharer Tuki  
09:30 Shongsharer Tuki  
12:00 GrameenPhone  
12:30 Citycell  
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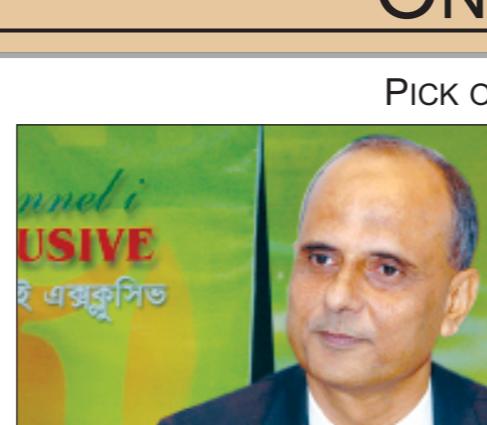
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**TV**

11:40 Shongsharer Tuki  
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# ON AIR

## PICK OF THE DAY



**Channel-i**