

2007: An average year for urban theatre



Scenes from Troilus and Cressida (L) and Nimojjon



ERSHAD KAMOL

IN terms of Dhaka-centric urban theatre activities, 2007 was an average year. Except the National Theatre Festival in last March, not much remarkable theatre events have happened last year.

Only two major troupes -- Nagorik Natyasampradaya and Dhaka Theatre -- premiered their new productions Troilus and Cressida and Nimojjon respectively.

Nimojjon is directed by Nasiruddin Yousuff. Other plays premiered in '07 include Theatre Art Unit's Amina Shundori, Natyadhara's Ebong Ashwamedh Jagna, Loko Natya Dal's Leelaboti Akhyan, Nagorik Natyangan's Pragotihashik, Driштиpt Natya Sangsad's Bicharpoti Ghumimay Achhen, Loko Natya Dal's (Banani) Tushagni, Swapno Dal's Dakghar, Nabonot's Bhelki and Natya Teertha's Dwip.

Written by S.M. Solaiman Amina Shundori is directed by Rokeya Rafiq Baby. Debashish Ghosh has directed Alok Basu's play Ebong Ashwamedh Jagna, an adaptation of a chapter from the Ramayana. Leelaboti Akhyan is written by Nasrin Mustafa and is directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky. Selli Mahmud's play Pragotihashik is an adaptation of a short story by Manik Bandyopadhyay and is directed

by Lucky Enam. Bicharpoti Ghumimay Achhen is written and directed by Mannan Heera. Mohit Chattopadhyay's play Tushagni is directed by Qamrun Nur. The Tagore classic Dakghar is directed by Zahid Ripon. Pavel Aziz has adapted Bhelki, a workshop-based production, from Shawkat Osman's translation of Les Fourberies de Scapin. Upal Dutta's play Dwip is directed by Tapan Hafiz.

Not many theatre festivals had been arranged in 2007. To mark its 10th anniversary, theatre troupe Oboyob arranged a festival at the Experimental Theatre Stage. Mahakal Natyasampradaya arranged an 11-day theatre festival last July to celebrate its 25th anniversary at the same venue.

Two theatre festivals had been organised in 2007 to lend a hand to the flood victims. Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

jointly arranged an eight-day theatre festival at the National Theatre Stage last August, in which popular plays were staged. But, the festival did not pull a big audience. Moreover, the Department of Theatre and Music of University of Dhaka had arranged a weeklong theatre festival at Natmondal last June. Plays directed by the students of the department, were staged at the festival. Proceeds from ticket sales of both events were donated to the flood victims.

Centrally organised by University of Dhaka, under the management of Department of Theatre and Music, a weeklong theatre festival was held at the TSC Auditorium in November. Thirteen plays by famous playwrights of Bangladesh and abroad, directed by the students of the department were staged at the festival. Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the Sidr victims.

Rafiq's enterprising architecture A veritable paradise for the petit bourgeois

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Rafiq Azam, who has received 16 national and international awards for architecture and six for paintings held a presentation with accompanying lecture at Bengal Gallery recently.

Azam's latest feathers in the cap are the AR Award for Emerging Architecture 2007 (UK), and Berger Award for Excellence, The Kenneth F. Brown, Asia Pacific Culture and Architecture Design (USA), and the South Asia Architecture Commendation Award 2005. This year Azam



Designs by Shatotto

will be teaching at The National University of Singapore.

Azam, the team leader of Shatotto, won the "Commended Award" from RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects), competing with 50 countries the world over. Says Azam, speaking to The Daily Star, that their work has to be environment friendly, with lowest level of power consumption, with sustainability, keeping in mind that the home or house is for people living in Dhaka -- a city with a high density of population where the greenery has been radically decimated and the climatic composition of moisture and air has changed drastically over the last two decades.

The six seasons of Bangladesh are also kept in mind. The designers are also very aware that Bangladeshis are not economically that well off, Azam continues. The home, in particular, that won the prize, is an apartment building. "This is like a shoebox, in Gulshan, in which the not so well-off can live in relative comfort. Nine families live in it currently. The top floor has two apartments, and the ambiance is like a cozy home," says Azam. The house also features a water fountain; the sound of constant gently falling raindrops has a soothing effect, he says.

During summer, the sun is not overhead for the residents, and during winter, in the south the sunrays come with the incline. The breeze passes through the house in summer,



Designs by Shatotto

as the Bay of Bengal is in the south. Consequently there has been no need of even a ceiling fan in the common areas for the last seven years. The building is of red bricks and gray concrete with no plaster of paints. More-

over, there are shrubs, bamboo-hedges, creepers and flower plants in every nook and corner. It is indeed a veritable paradise on earth, and a cr me de la cr me existence for the middle-class.

CULTURAL FEAST

Concert

Title: Bangladesh 08 Sidr 07 Organiser: Advanced Development Technologies Ltd. & amaderGaan.com Venue: Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Date: January 3

Push Mela

Organiser: Push Mela Ujjapan Parishad Venue: Ramna Botomool Date: January 11 Time: 7 am-8 pm

Musical Soiree

Title: Anek Diner Amar Je gaan Artistes: Roquayya Hasina (Neely) and Mahiuzzaman Chowdhury Venue: Central Auditorium of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Date: January 3 Time: 6 pm

Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Ecology of Mind-2 Sculptor: Alak Roy Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya, H 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi and British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka University Date: January 5-19 Time: 12pm-8pm

"Swapnodanay" to be screened in Bangalore



Rokeya Prachy in Swapnodanay

The 'Second Bangalore International Film Festival' will kick off today with the screening of Bangladeshi film Swapnodanay, says a press release.

Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Rameshwar Thakur, will inaugurate the festival. Noted South Indian filmmaker Adur Gopalakrishnan will be the chief guest at the inauguration. A total of 125 films from 45 different countries will be screened at the festival. Apart from Swapnodanay, Abu Sayeed's award-winning film

Nirantar will also be screened at the festival.

Directed by Golam Rabbani Biplab and produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd, Swapnodanay won the Asian Talent Award at Shanghai Film Festival and the special jury award at the 38th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa last year. The film follows the lives of a few individuals living in a remote village in the Northern part of Bangladesh. The protagonist Fazlu (played by singer Mahmuduzzaman Babu) is a peddler. One evening he returns home with a used trouser for his son. While washing the trouser, Fazlu's wife (Rokeya Prachy) finds some foreign currency in the pockets. The family gets over-excited at the possibility of acquiring a sizeable amount of cash. Fazlu and his buddy Siraj (Fazlu Rahman Babu) roam around the rugged locales of 'Barendrabhumi' on a beat-up motorbike, trying to exchange the foreign currency for Taka. Greed surfaces and the central characters -- Fazlu, his wife and Siraj -- start weaving their individual dreams. Desire and deception change the relationships forever.

Drama serial "Swapnojal" on ntv

CULTURE CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial Swapnojal will be aired tonight on ntv at 8:15 pm. Written by Ahmed Shahabuddin and directed by Dipankar Dipon, the 26-episode serial centres on a young couple.

Without his father's consent a young man gets married. The newly married, deeply in love, are quite content until the wife suddenly becomes ill. After a few

days at the hospital, doctors reveal the bad news that she has leukaemia and needs blood transfusion. In a fix, the young man informs his father about it. At long last the father finally agrees to come to the hospital to see his daughter in-law. The couple await his visit.

The cast includes Tinni, Hillol, Dr. Enamul Haque, Ataur Rahman, Shams Shumon, Elora Gauhor, Mir Sabbir and others.



Tinni in a scene from the drama serial

Kylie Minogue honoured by Britain's Queen

CNN, London

Australian pop star Kylie Minogue and the professor who created Dolly the sheep are among the prominent figures who have received awards from Queen Elizabeth II in her annual New Year Honours list.

Minogue, 39, and Prof. Ian Wilmut were appointed to the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the list, which is chosen by the queen on the advice of the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Other award winners included Stuart Rose, the head of the British retailer Marks and Spencer, who was handed a knighthood and Lord of the Rings star Ian McKellen.

The New Year's list recognises a wide range of people who are thought to have made a positive contribution to British life.

The queen hands out a range of honours including knighthoods, life peerages and gallantry awards for those serving in the armed forces and civilians.

The list is published in the official newspaper of the British monarchy, the London Gazette.

The honour's list usually attracts attention for the high-profile figures honoured; previous recipients of knighthoods include the pop stars Paul McCartney and Mick Jagger but anyone can be nominated for an award.

This year's list, for example, includes some of the people who took part in the rescue operations following the flooding that affected large parts of England this summer.

Capt. Tracy Palmer, from the Salvation Army in the northern English town of Workshop, was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) after she

provided shelter for children caught up in the floods. Kylie Minogue has sold more than 60 million records worldwide in a music career lasting 20 years. The Australian pop diva battled back to health after she was forced to cancel a world tour when she was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago.



ON AIR

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).

BTV 11:15 Musical Programme Ongona 11:40 Maa O Shishur Katha 12:05 Maa O Shishur Katha Documentary Programme: Sharkarer Borshopuri 01:30 Shukhi Ponbeer 02:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi 03:00 Cartoon 03:30 Educational Programme: Onushilon Sangeeta 04:05 Apon Bhumi 04:30 Sisimpur 05:05 Entertainment Show: Iyadi 06:40 Dhomo O Jibon 07:05 Talk Show: Sharkarer Borshopuri 08:30 Protidin Bangladesh 08:35 Drama: Ekai Shomudro 10:30 Documentary Programme Amar Chhobi 09:15 Drama: Rang Manehyo Taal 10:30 Talk Show: Aktal Onyodishti 11:05 Drama 12:15 Musical Programme: Shirer Madhuri 12:50 Shodidpati 01:15 Musical Programme Daily Soap: Doll's House 02:30 Shundor Jiboner Jonyo 05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor 05:20 Islamic Programme 06:25 Fashion Show 08:00 Drama Serial: Mouchakay Dhl

08:40 Drama Serial: Ochin Pakhi 09:20 Drama Serial: Amader Nuruhuda 11:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House 12:00 Gramsephone Lead News CHANNEL-i 09:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh Public Reaction Gramsephone Triniomatra 11:05 Na Bola Kotha 12:30 Citycell Tarokakathan 01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan Iyadi 01:30 Sa Ra Ga Ma Gramsephone Triniomatray Apni 03:05 Hindoye Mati O Manusher Daak 04:05 Hindoye Gaan 04:30 Talk Show 05:30 Special Programme Ek Dul Teen 06:30 Amar Chhobi 07:50 Drama Serial: Aguner Alo 08:20 Drama Serial: Advitrey 09:35 Drama 10:00 Drama Serial: Poran Kandeey Dukhikhey 11:30 Aste Aste Aste 12:00 Gramsephone Akjer Shongbadpotro ntv 08:30 Akjer Shokaal 08:55 Drama Serial: To-Let 09:30 Musical Programme 10:05 Drama Serial: Teen Bon-er Kashinda 10:30 Drama: Barota Bejey Panch Minuta 12:10 One Eleven Shorkar-

er Ek Bochhor 01:05 Japan Video Topic 02:30 Drama Serial: To-Let 03:15 Teen Purush 03:50 Drama Serial: Neer Chelonyay Islam 05:30 Shubho Shandha Amar O Gakrey 06:15 Ichchhay Holo 06:45 Drama Serial: Swapnojal 08:15 One Eleven Shorkarer Ek Bochhor 09:00 One Eleven Shorkarer Ek Bochhor 09:45 Drama Serial: 111 A Nelson Number 11:35 Ei Shomoy ETV 08:00 Ekush-er Shokaal 12:00 Ekush-er Dupur

12:30 Ekush-ey Business Alo 01:30 Ekush-ey Business: Shopkol Jara 03:30 Cine Hits 04:00 Dhinak Dhinak Ta 05:15 Shanskriti Shathdin 05:45 Ekush-er Shandhya 06:15 SMS Mania 06:30 Dash Jurey 07:30 Nishi Kushum 08:30 Ta Na Na Na 09:30 Ekush-er Shomoy 10:30 Ekush-er Chokh 12:00 Ekush-er Raaf Rtv 08:15 Gaanchil Ei Din 09:00 Rtv Exclusive 09:05 Prithibir Pathay Palhey 10:00 Musical Programme Protidin 10:30 Drama Serial: Modhyebarti 12:15 Musical Programme: Gaan ar Gaan 12:35 Wedding of the World 01:00 Ganchil Ei Din 01:30 Dhallywood Beats 02:30 Bangla Feature Film Protidin 06:35 Akbar the Great 08:00 Drama Serial: Modhyebarti 08:40 Cinema Ar Cinema 09:20 Drama Serial: Kagojer Manush 11:00 Sit Band 11:30 News Watch

09:05 X Crime 09:45 Drama Serial: Shilbhia March 16 11:25 Shudhu Gaan 12:00 Shongbad Protidin 09:15 Sauna Belt 09:30 Battle of Berlin 10:30 1969 Plymouth Fury 11:30 Global Pendant 12:15 Home Jigger 02:30 The Universe 03:30 Eliot Ness 04:30 Baumeister Killings 05:30 The Aircraft Carriers 06:30 Haven 07:30 Opus Dei Unveiled 08:30 Battle of Britain 09:30 Eagles 10:30 Ancient Discoveries 11:30 All that Remains 12:00 Eagles STAR WORLD 09:30 Ghosi Whisperer 10:30 Eureka 11:30 Miracle Quest 12:30 Boston Legal 01:30 Fashion House 02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show 03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 04:00 General Hospital 05:00 Heroes 06:00 Rodney 06:30 The Simpsons 07:00 Hope & Faith 07:30 Friends 08:30 Seinfeld 08:30 Hey Paula 09:00 The Knights Of Prosperity 09:30 The Office (Us) 10:00 Two & A Half Men 10:30 The Jane Show 11:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak

11:30 Most Haunted 12:00 Heroes STAR PLUS 10:30 Saibaba 01:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 02:00 Bhabhi 02:30 Karam Apna Apna Saarthi 04:00 Kayamath 06:30 Bidai 07:00 Sherrat-Thoda Jaadu 07:30 Thodi Naz 08:30 Sangam 09:30 Santaan 08:30 Men Awaz Ko Mi Gayi 09:00 Thodi Naz 09:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 09:30 Bidai 10:00 Kasturi 10:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Kayamath 12:00 Karam Apna Apna STAR MOVIES 10:15 Yours, Mine & Ours 11:45 Vip Access: National Treasure 2 10:15 The Family Stone 02:00 Bee Season 03:45 Crazy/Beautiful 05:30 Crank 07:30 Transporter 2 08:30 Something Beneath 10:00 Grandma's Boy 11:30 Body Of Evidence NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 09:30 Total Towns 11:00 Sauna Belt 11:15 Wonder Armour 11:30 Al Qaeda Calling

Radio Foorti 88.0 FM 07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu) 11:00am Amar 88.0 (Nusrat) 03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib) 07:00pm Seven Eleven (Sadia) 11:00pm Late Night Show (Shuvo) Radio Today 89.6 FM 07:15am Good Morning Dhaka (Biblob) 07:45 am Today's Happy Moments 08:45am Shokaler Khabor 12:00pm Today's Adda (Nudrat) 01:45pm Dupurer Khabor 04:00pm U-tum (Kibria & Tania) 06:45pm Shondher Khabor 08:00pm Tobe Tai Hok (Sayem) 09:45pm Raater Khabor 11:45pm Modhro Raater Khabor 12:30 Suicide Web 01:30 Melas 02:30 Sharks: At Risk 03:30 Total Towns 04:30 I Didn't Know That 05:00 Mutant Tiger Snakes 05:30 Big Bang 06:00 Cobra Fest / Cave Croc 06:30 Total Towns 07:30 Kings Of Camouflage 08:30 Mega Thursday 09:30 Historic Homes 10:30 Escape Tech 11:30 Panama Canal Unlocked 12:00 Pets In Peril