

# Nrityanchal Dance Festival "Tin Kanya Daan": From myth to reality



Shamim Ara Nipa as Draupadi (L) and Behula in Tin Kanya Daan

**KARIM WAHEED**  
IN the pre-Aryan Bengal, Behula travelled with the corpse of her husband, had to fend off the hostile world and plead with the gods to bring the dead back to life. Today many Behulas travel from the outskirts of the city in beat-up buses, slave at sweatshops -- fending for their families, living in slums. Behula's saga never ends.

Danceuse Shamim Ara Nipa enacted three legendary characters -- Draupadi from the epic Mahabharat, Behula from Manashamangal and Sakina Bibi from Purbo-Bango Geetika -- on the stage and in between contemporary representations were screened in the multimedia production Tin Kanya Daan. The show was staged on the opening night (January 25) of the Nrityanchal Dance Festival at National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Tin Kanya Daan started off with the story

of Draupadi. Legendary Pandav hero Arjun wins the contest at Draupadi's swayamvar, thus winning her hand. Returning home an ecstatic Arjun tells his mother that he has won a grand prize. The mother, Kunti, unmindful of what Arjun was referring to, asks her son to share whatever it is with his four brothers. And thus Draupadi's trials begin with getting married to five brothers. After the Pandavs lose everything in a game of gambling, Yudhishtir puts Draupadi as a bet. He loses and Draupadi is humiliated by the Pandavs' rivals Kauravs, at the royal court. Throughout the ages, in a man's world, women are often exploited and treated like commodities.

The third act featured the story of Birangana Sakina. Daughter of a pompous Diwan, Sakina is enamoured with Firoze Khan. The young lovers get married, infuriating Sakina's father. Firoze is imprisoned and to save the object of her affection, Sakina



PHOTO: ISHTIAQUE BIN QUASHEM

conceals her femininity in armour and goes to war. The valiant warrior wins only to learn that the love of her life has divorced her. A heartbroken Sakina dies soon after but her shrine lives on as a symbol of undying love.

Nipa in all three roles appeared to be on top of her game. Every expression effusive, every stance and gait beautifully executed. However, unlike Nrityanchal's previous productions, there was more "grandeur" and less "dance" in Tin Kanya Daan.

Sukalyan Bhattacharya's choreography and direction deserves plaudit. The throne of the snake-goddess Manasha -- swarming with hooded crawlers, the Kal-naag making its way through a knothole to bite Lakhindar, Sakina arriving on a horse (not made of cardboard; a real one), Firoze Khan's entourage making their way towards the stage through the audience et al were impressive.

The production featured a cast of 30 male dancers with Nipa.

The incorporation of the video clips -- by Khalid Mahmud Mithu -- however, did not work for the most part. The first and third clips were just not well made. Screening clips in between performances are usually challenging; they often disrupt the flow.

Narration prior to the performance was quite extensive (too extensive according to some). It was not translated in English and there were quite a few expats in the audience.

Prior to the show, two noted dance gurus were honoured by Nrityanchal. The honourees, Kunjalal Sarkar and Kartik Sinha, have both made immense contribution to Bangladeshi dance. Crests and monetary awards were sponsored by Warid Telecom.

Yesterday evening Bhabna staged Tagore's Bhanushingher Padabali at the festival. Sukalyan and Entourage will stage Parijaee this evening.

The festival is sponsored by Citibank NA, Prime Bank Ltd, AB Bank and Warid Telecom.

# An evening of ghazals Swani Zubayer's solo musical programme

MAINUL HASSAN

On the evening of January 25, music enthusiasts were in for a treat at the National Museum auditorium. Swani Zubayer impressed the audience with his repertoire of ghazals, adhunika songs and more at the musical soiree.

Though the genre enjoys popularity, accomplished ghazal singers are few and far between in our country. Zubayer has found a special place among ardent ghazal aficionados, partly because of his admirable presentation style and eloquent approach. This was the 11th solo performance by the artiste. His first performance was held at the same venue back in 1997.

Zubayer performed several of his own compositions.

The artiste opened the performance with Shurer jadukar, from his album Ajosro Kobita (2006). The seemingly effortless presentation instantly grabbed the attention of the audience. Next he rendered Mohor amar nei Kichhu. That was followed by Keu keu ashey prithibitey, Ekhti chaoai khub korey chai and Aaj amar mon valo nei. In total Zubayer performed seven numbers from his albums. In between the songs the artiste shared his experiences and his attachments to each composition.

Among the ghazals Zubayer performed at the programme were Mujhey tum nazar se -- popularised by Mehdi Hassan and Ahista ahista, written by

Amir Minai and popularised by Jagjit Singh. Other songs included Tum nahi gham nahi and the Ghulam Ali favourite Chupke chupke.

Zubayer also performed two Bangla classics after repeated requests from the audience -- Ami phulkey jedin and Dhora debeboley.

The rendition of Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan thumri, Yaad piya ki aye, was one of the highlights of the evening.

The programme wrapped up with rendition of the Hindi classic Bajpanke muhabbat ko.

Despite the hostile weather, the auditorium was almost full with appreciative music lovers.

Radio Today was the media partner. The event was organised by Magnum Opus.



Swani Zubayer sings at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

## CULTURAL FEAST

### Sculpture and Art Exhibition

Title: Brave World of Structure  
Artist: Ivy Zaman  
Venue: Shilpanigraha Gallery, House 26, road 3, Dhanmondi  
Date: January 19-February 2  
Time: 12pm-8pm

### Dance Festival

Organiser: Nrityanchal  
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Dance Drama: Parijati  
Dance Troupe: Sukalyan and Entourage  
Date: January 27  
Time: 6:30 pm

### Erratum

In the news titled "Protonari to be re-run on Ekushey TV" published in the Culture page on January 26, it should have read Protonari is jointly directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim and Rafi Hassan. Head of Programme of Ekushey TV, Atiqul Haque Chowdhury said, "As we usually focus--we decided to re-run the play..." We regret the error.

# Lalu Bhai undergoing treatment in Dhaka

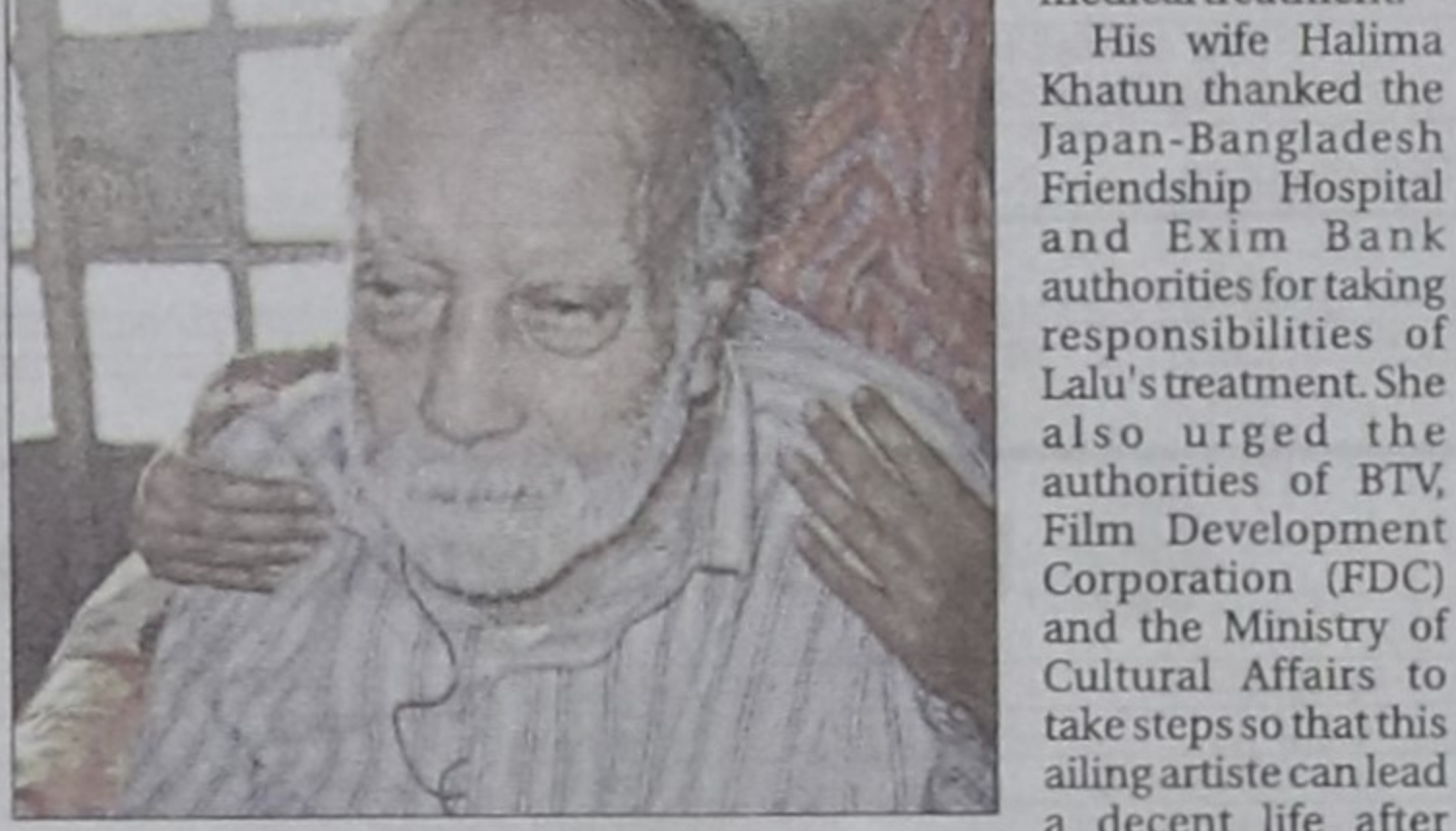
AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

An ailing AFM Abdul Ali Lahu, once a prominent comic actor, was shifted to Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital, in Dhaka recently. Earlier, he was undergoing treatment at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) for nearly a month.

Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital and Exim Bank have taken initiatives to bear the cost of Lahu's treatment.

Dr. Minhaj Rahim Chowdhury who is overseeing Lahu's treatment said that the veteran artiste is suffering from several complications including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, asthma and heart disease.

Abdul Ali Lahu, once a busy actor in films, TV and Radio, cannot bear the expenses of his medical treatment.



Lahu Bhai

His wife Halima Khatun thanked the Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital and Exim Bank authorities for taking responsibilities of Lahu's treatment. She also urged the authorities of BT, Film Development Corporation (FDC) and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to take steps so that this ailing artiste can lead a decent life after returning home.

# Fakir Alamgir back after a month-long tour

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Noted singer Fakir Alamgir has returned to Bangladesh after touring North America and Europe for over a month (December 13 2007 to January 17 2008), says a press release.

As part of his tour, Alamgir went to Montreal in Canada, Vienna in Austria, London and Birmingham in UK and other



Fakir Alamgir performs at a programme

major cities in Europe and North America.

The singer performed with the local and Bangladeshi artistes at several programmes to raise money for the Sidr victims. The programmes also celebrated Victory Day and were participated by the local Bangladeshi communities.

# Tom Cruise likened to a Nazi!

Guido Knopp, a high-profile German journalist and World War II historian, sparked controversy last weekend when he drew parallels between Tom Cruise's performance in a video about Scientology and a speech given by the Nazi minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda Joseph Goebbels, according to The Guardian.

Knopp, who has authored books and hosted documentaries on the Third Reich, told the Bild am Sonntag newspaper in Germany that Germans would find Cruise's style in a 2003 address to Scientologists "inevitably reminiscent" of the infamous propaganda minister.

His comments refer to a video which was uploaded on YouTube last week, and has since been made unavailable, in which Cruise rallies fellow members of his church by inquiring: "So what do you say? We gonna clean this place up?"

During a February 18, 1943 speech in a Berlin sports stadium, Goebbels notoriously asked the raucous crowd: "Do you want total war?"

"It may be the case that Cruise's delivery style is not uncommon in certain religious movements in the US," Knopp said, according to The Guardian. "But for Germans with an interest in history, that scene where he asks whether the Scientologists should clean up the world and everyone shouts 'yes' is inevitably reminiscent of Goebbels' notorious speech."

According to The Guardian, The Church of Scientology issued a reply defending Cruise. "Bild am Sonntag is grossly irresponsible for publishing horrendous and disgraceful claims about Mr. Cruise," it said. "Unlike Bild am Sonntag and other German anti-religionists, he does not discriminate against any other religion, race or colour."

Cruise, who Forbes magazine named the world's most powerful celebrity in 2006, has long been Hollywood's golden boy.

But recently, his personal life has drawn ridicule for his outspoken defence of Scientology.

In 2005, Cruise was further criticised over a series of appearances on television meant to promote Steven Spielberg's War of the Worlds, lambasted modern medicine and exhibited other eccentric behaviour.

Source: Internet



Tom Cruise

## ON AIR

### PICK OF THE DAY



**Doll's House**  
On ATN Bangla at 11:30 pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Subarna Mustafa, Fazlur Rahman Babu



**The Marine**  
On Star Movies at 7:00 pm  
Genre: Action  
Cast: John Cena, Robert Patrick

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) at 8:20am, 7:00pm, 12:00am, 4:00pm.  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 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 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.  
News (English) at 6:00pm

**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**  
08:15 Shuprobhat  
08:45 Bishwa Bichitra  
11:00 Documentary  
11:40 Recitation Programme  
12:00 Selected Programme  
12:30 Maa O Shishur Katha  
01:00 Drama  
02:15 Shilpo Prangon  
02:40 Educational Programme  
03:00 Cartoon  
03:30 Amader Mon  
04:05 Talk Show  
04:30 Tagore Song  
05:05 Debate  
06:10 Swastho Katha  
06:50 Mati O Manush  
08:30 Prolidin Bangladesh

08:35 Drama Serial: Shohor-er Shesh Bari  
09:00 Entertainment Show: Aaina Musical  
10:30 Programme: Shurer Murchhona  
11:00 Talk Show: Date Line Dhaka

**ATN BANGLA**  
08:15 Aikar Shambadpotro  
08:30 Drama Serial: Ochin Pakhi  
09:15 Drama Serial: Amader Nunul Huda  
10:30 Talk Show: Onyodishti  
11:05 Documentary Programme  
12:15 Char Dyal-er Kabyo  
01:30 Khelar Jogof  
02:30 Take Care  
03:15 Concert

05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor  
05:45 The Sword of Tipu Sultan  
06:20 Three Stooges  
08:00 Drama Serial: Aloknogor  
08:40 Drama Serial: Syed Bari Bou  
09:20 Drama Serial: Prothom Shokal  
11:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House  
12:00 Gamephone  
Lead News

**CHANNEL i**  
08:05 Tagore Song  
08:30 Shokasler Gaan  
09:30 Shangbadpotro Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Gamephone  
Lead News  
11:05 Apollo Tele Prescription  
11:30 Hindoye Mati O Manush  
12:30 Citycell Taroka  
Kathan  
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
02:40 Sa Re Ga Ma  
03:30 BBC Bangladesh Shonglaap  
Hridoyer Gaan  
04:15 Tomar Shur-er Dhara  
06:00 Drama Serial: Alor Khonjey  
06:30 South Asian  
07:50 Mega Serial: Ghar Kutum  
08:20 Drama Serial: Noulkadubi  
09:35 Mega Serial: 420  
10:00 Drama Serial: Ocheno Neel  
11:30 Drama Serial: 69

12:00 Gamephone  
Aikar  
Shangbadpotro

**ntv**  
08:30 Aikar Shokal  
08:55 Bangla Feature Film  
12:10 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy  
01:05 Drama: Bondhu  
02:30 Drama Serial: Swapnojal  
03:15 Drama Serial: Shutroprat  
04:25 111 A Nelson Number  
05:30 Apnar Juigyasha  
06:20 Shubho Shonsha  
06:45 Swapnoko  
08:15 Drama Serial: Shantokutir

09:00 Crime Watch  
09:45 Drama Serial: Nabila Chort  
11:35 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy

**Rtv**  
08:15 Gaanchil Ei Din  
09:05 Rtv Exclusive  
10:00 Drama Serial: Neel  
11:00 Nijon-ey  
12:00 Tele-film: Niloy  
01:30 Dhallywood Beats  
02:30 Bangla Feature Film  
06:00 Prolidin  
06:30 Tarzan  
08:00 Drama Serial: Modhyobarti  
08:35 Wide Angle  
09:20 Drama Serial:

Parashpor  
Borney Borney  
Rochilo  
11:30 News Watch

**CHANNEL 1**  
08:40 Shuprobhat  
09:15 Nirbachito Khabor  
10:30 Bangla Feature Film  
02:00 Biswa Jurey Saat Din  
04:30 Drama: Hilla Blyey  
05:15 Polibito Pailabi  
06:00 Saajbela  
07:00 Shomoyer Swad  
08:15 Dram: Dondo  
09:00 Shomoyer Aynay  
09:30 Cine Tunas

11:00 Padmarag  
11:30 Nirbachito Khabor

**ETV**  
08:00 Ekush-er Shokal  
01:30 Ekushey Business  
03:30 Shophol Jara  
04:00 Cine Heats  
04:30 Total Music  
05:15 Ekrajo Katha  
06:35 Ekusher Shondhya  
08:30 SMS Mania  
09:30 Desh Jurey  
10:00 Nishi Kutum  
11:30 Drama Serial: Chena Manush-er Panchali Concert  
09:30 Musical Show:

**BANGLAVISION**  
09:05 Drama Serial: Pingol Akash  
09:30 Bangla Feature Film  
12:30 Amader Oitthi  
02:00 Daily Soap: Mohanagar  
02:40 Drama Serial: Shomo Kutir  
03:05 Nodi O Jibon  
04:20 Banijyomela Prolidin  
06:05 Din-er Sheshey  
06:50 Sports Vision  
08:25 Drama: Mohanagar  
09:05 Visa Apnar Agami  
09:45 Drama Serial: Swapnochura  
11:25 Drama Serial: Shohor-er Shesh Bari  
12:00 Shangbad Prolidin

**ZEE STUDIO**  
10:30 Charlie Chaplin  
11:00 Ultimate Film Fanatic  
11:30 Father Of The Bride 1  
11:45 When Harry Met Sally  
03:45 Dirty Dancing  
05:45 Splash  
08:00 Hollywoods 10 Best (new Series)  
08:30 Snatch  
11:00 The Three Musketeers

**STAR MOVIES**  
09:20 Roli-Bounce!  
11:10 Guardian, The  
01:30 The Relic  
03:20 Predator 2  
05:15 X-Men: The Last Stand  
07:00 Marine, The  
08:35 Transporter 2  
10:00 Vanom  
11:30 Adventures Of Buckaroo Banzai

**STAR WORLD**  
09:30 According To Jim  
10:00 My Wife And Kids  
10:30 Two & A Half Men

11:00 8 Simple Rules  
11:30 Kyle Xy  
12:30 The O.C.  
01:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
03:30 Desire: Table For Three  
04:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show  
05:30 The Jane Show  
06:00 Travel Asia  
06:30 Brothers & Sisters  
07:30 American Inventor  
08:30 Six Degrees  
09:30 Desperate Housewives  
08:30 Heroes  
11:30 J.A.G.

**HISTORY CHANNEL**  
09:15 Sauna Belt  
09:30 Harry Truman  
11:00 Winston Churchill  
11:30 Jekyll & Hyde  
01:30 Built for Speed  
02:30 Nobel Minds 2007  
03:30 Ancient Discoveries  
04:30 Doomsday Tech  
05:30 Noe Deemsday Tech  
09:30 Jack the Ripper  
10:30 Lost Book of Nostradamus  
11:30 Abbie Hoffman

**STAR PLUS**  
09:00 Pritviraj Chauhan  
09:30 Krishna Kathayen  
05:30 Star VOI Chhote Ustaad  
07:00 Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat  
07:30 Lead India  
08:30 Nokia 14th Annual Screen WkyAWD

**Radio Foorti 88.0 FM**  
7:00am Hello Dhaka  
11:00am Amar 88  
3:00pm Dhaka Calling  
7:00pm Seven Eleven  
12:00am Back to Back music

**Radio Today 89.6 FM**  
07:15am Good Morning Dhaka (Biplob)  
07:45 am Today's Happy Moments  
08:45am Shokaler Khabor  
12:00pm Today's Adda (Nudrat)  
01:45pm Dupurer Khabor  
04:00pm U-turn (Kibria & Tania)  
06:45pm Shondher Khabor  
08:00pm Tobe Tal Hok (Sayem)  
09:45pm Raater's Happy Moments  
11:45pm Moddho Raater Khabor

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
09:30 Madagascar: A World Apart  
10:30 India's Hidden Plague  
11:30 Lufthansa Nat Geo Genius

12:00 Unwind  
12:30 Situation Critical  
02:30 Geo Sessions  
03:00 Brazil Rhythms  
03:30 Panic Over The Pacific  
04:00 Nat Geo Junior Hunt  
05:00 Chimp Diaries  
05:30 Big Bang  
06:00 Crittercam-WildTech Adv  
06:30 Harley Davidson  
07:30 Borneo  
08:30 The Pirate Code  
10:30 Best Of 2007  
11:30 Spend Some Quality Time  
12:00 Amazing Adventures of A Nobody