

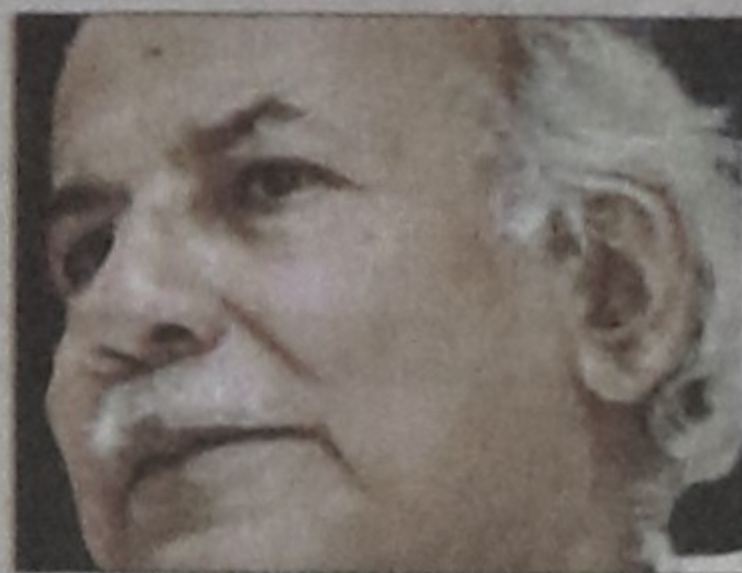
## Musical Soiree

Organiser: Bangladesh Shipakala Academy and Padatik Sangeet Sangsad  
Venue: National Music and Dance Centre, BSA  
Date: April 4  
Time: 7:15pm



## Loko Gaaner Utsab

To mark 75th birth anniversary of Waheedul Haque  
Organiser: Chhayanat  
Date: March 29-30  
Venue & Time: 9am-12pm  
Chhayanat Shangkriti Bhaban,  
5pm-9pm Institute of Fine Arts, DU



## Mahanagar Natyotshob '08

Play: Jalodash  
Troupe: Dhaka Padatik  
Venue: Zahir Raihan Shanskritik Kendra, Loharpul, Shutrapur  
Date: March 30 at 7 pm  
Organiser: DCC and BGTF



## Film Screening

Film: Tristana  
Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 11  
Time: 10am and 6pm



Exhibition held at Bengal Gallery

## Innocent lines in gay profusion

FAYZA HAQ

A profusion of children's art was recently on display at the Bengal Gallery. This had been arranged by the M. Nurul Qader Foundation. It was a display of 150 paintings collected over a period of time with the help of Bengal Foundation. It brought in many subjects like man, nature, freedom fighting etc. The exhibition was to celebrate Independence Day. The sale proceeds went to the Sidr affected.

Shihab Ahmed Shanto's work brings in a woman with a green face and red hair. She wears a sari with check patterns in red and blue. With a background of yellow she is surrounded by children of various ages with large heads and tiny limbs.

Suriya Yasmin Miasha's work is filled with fish of different shapes and sizes with gills, fins and large eyes. Orange, yellow and blue are the colours of the subject while the background is royal blue, full of underwater plants and other circular beings, done in white and blue.



Art works by Syeda Naziza Ahmed and Suriya Yasmin Miasha

Syeda Naziza Ahmed's depiction of the Liberation War brings in the Pak forces and the Mukhijodhas with red bands on the foreheads, wearing "lungi" and "genji" with rifles in hand. Behind are houses and trees on fire. Waving

flags and dying soldiers as well as burning bushes are seen in the backdrop.

Syeda Nafisa Anjum's piece contains ethereal birds with buoyant colours flying all over the paper. Along with smaller ones



with red and brown wings is a large bird with red, yellow and blue wings, facing skywards. Flowers, leaves, grass and a brown expanse of land cover the rest of the space. The figures are outlined with black. Flecks and circles of red and green

cover the rest of the paper.

The art works are innocent, fresh and full of life. They represent children's vision which is full of expectation.

The exhibition ended on March 26.

## Films enhance a nation's stature, says Catherine

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of a series of discussions arranged for the visiting editors of Asian News Network (ANN), an alliance of Asian newspapers, a daylong event on board MV Sarina on Buriganga was held on March 28.

At the deliberations, filmmaker Catherine Masud came forth with her reflections on filmmaking vis-à-vis Bangladesh.

"While travelling as filmmakers all over the world, we can relate to the need for Bangladesh to project a more positive image of itself to the outside world. Too often the prevailing perception abroad is that Bangladesh is a country of floods, famine and fundamentalism. In our own small way, we try to project a different, more positive image of the country through our films. We take great pride when people who have seen one of our films say, 'What a beautiful country! What beautiful people!'"

"In an indirect way, this kind of change in perception, when multiplied many times over, can begin to have an impact on business and investment. When potential investors receive a more positive impression about a country, whether it be through a film or any other media, they are more likely to consider that country as a viable business climate. Thus we see film to be part and parcel of the greater effort to strengthen and develop Bangladesh's economy and stature in the region."



## Photography exhibition on historical sites

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

A photography exhibition was held at the Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College auditorium recently to celebrate Independence Day. The works have pride of place in a recently published historical book, titled *History in Pictures*. The exhibition was open to the public all day. A presentation of the photographs was made by Lieutenant Colonel Nazrul Islam.

The book was unveiled earlier at Begum Rokeya Memorial Complex of Pairabond in Mithapukur upazila on March 14. The collection of photographs is accompanied by a brief description of historical sites and heritage of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur. Army Chief of Staff General Moeen U Ahmed launched the book.

The colourful 265-page book has been published by Area Head-

quarters, Rangpur, Bangladesh Army.

In an interview with *The Daily Star*, the editor of the work, Nazrul Islam, said the objective of the work was to acquaint readers in Bangladesh as well as overseas with the history and traditions of the eight districts through simple and attractive photographic descriptions.

In his foreword to the book, Dr. Syed Anwar Hossain, professor of Dhaka University, states, "History in Pictures—greater Rangpur and Dinajpur region, appears to be of history concerning historical relics and sites of the region motioned."

Dr. Hossain is full of praise for both the theme and content of the pioneering book. This work, he says, represents fragments of history with bare facts as well as superb photographs which lend a unique touch to the literary effort.

Mahanagar Natyotshob '08

## Theatre personalities evaluate

## Zahir Raihan Shanskritik Kendra

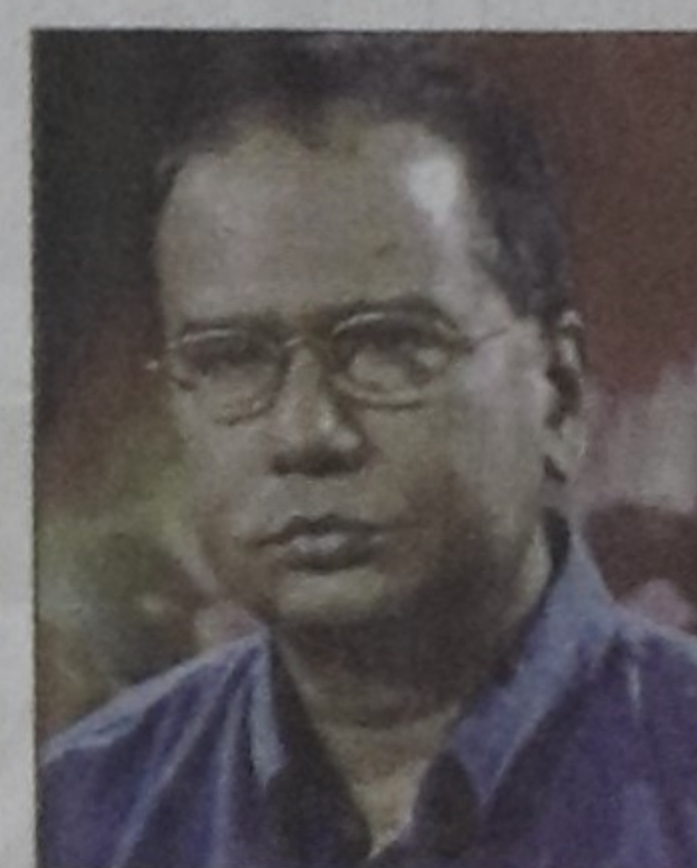
ERSHAD KAMOL

Theatre actors and directors have evaluated the newly built Zahir Raihan Shanskritik by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) as a quality theatre venue. They are very pleased with the facilities of the modern theatre hall. However, they have pointed out a few flaws, which DCC should take note of.

Director of Binodini, a Dhaka Theatre production that was staged on the second day of the ongoing Mahanagar Natyotshob '08, Nasiruddin Yousuff said, "The stage and green room are properly made. However, the chairs in the audience are not comfortable. The hall should have been centrally air-conditioned."

"The most prominent technical flaw that I found at the hall was that there was no FOH (Front of House) bar. And it's really difficult to design light without FOH. I believe that DCC should take proper care of this during installing of the light setup," he added.

Like the other popular venues the masking of the hall is not proper, said popular actor Afroza



Nasiruddin Yousuff



Afroza Banu

Banu, who performed the central character of the play *Shatghater Kanakori* at the festival. Afroza Banu said, "Because of faulty masking the backstage is visible from the audience, which is embarrassing for the actors who wait at the backstage to perform at the next scene."

But, Banu claimed that she had a satisfactory experience performing in the show at the newly built cultural centre. She said, "I've been acting since 1970s, but I've never performed in old Dhaka. It was a new experience

for me. The audience is very enthusiastic. But, the authority should be careful so that the audience does not enter the stage or backstage before or during the show."

"Praising the audience of old Dhaka Actor of Shubochan Nitya Shangshod's play *Khandani Kissa* Ahmed Gias, who is also the co-ordinator of Mahanagar Natyotshob '08 said, "Most of the audience have no previous experience of watching theatre performance. They are very enthusiastic and responsive."

## "The venue will attract leading theatre troupes,"— Liaquat Ali Lucky

Theatre personality Liaquat Ali Lucky is the chief co-ordinator of the ongoing Mahanagar Natyotshob '08. Lucky is satisfied at the success of the theatre festival.

Lucky said, "Our vision was to popularise theatre amongst the residents of old Dhaka. The turn over indicates that our mission is successful. Now, the venue will attract the leading theatre troupes of the country to stage show regularly at the venue."

The presidium member of Bangladesh Group Theatre Feder-

ation (BGTF) Liaquat Ali Lucky believes DCC should build more such halls at different corners of the city. "It will create opportunities for the theatre troupes to stage more shows at different venues," he said.

"Besides building more theatre venues, DCC should involve the ward commissioners to arrange cultural programmes at the community centres, which will play a significant role in promoting cultural activities of the country," Lucky added.



## Tête-à-tête

## Shojol: On a rising curve in his career graph

NADIA SARWAT

In a recently aired TV play, Shojol portrayed an aspiring young man who wants to be an actor, dreaming that his favourite actresses were his co-stars. One of today's busy TV actors, did Shojol ever nurture such dreams in his early years? Let's hear it from the model-turned-actor, who not so long ago had a chat with *The Daily Star*.

"Honestly, I dreamt of being a barrister, but it was my parents' wish that I enrolled for a BBA at Jahangirnagar University. I was a party boy, having lots of fun at family get-togethers and the like, you know. Photographer Iqbal Ahmed noticed me at one such event, and suggested that I try out for a photo shoot. I accepted his offer and that's how it started."

Shojol's first public appearance as a model was a Coca-Cola billboard advertisement in 2001. Soon he became the face of successful TV commercials like *Starship* condensed milk, *Jony* fabrics, *Cute* shampoo, *RC* soft drinks and others. Ekushey TV's popular musical show *Virgin Takdum Takdum* which he hosted, helped him gear up for his media career. He auditioned for a TV play in 2005 and showed considerable potential in this arena.



Prova and Shajal in a scene from a TV play

For special programmes broadcast during last year's Eid celebrations, Shojol appeared in almost 40 TV plays and films. Appreciating the trend for more experimental work he says, "I consider myself lucky to work with young and talented directors like Koushik

Shankar Das, Diponkor Dipon, and Masud Hasan Ujjal, as well as experienced directors like Afzal Hossain. Several of my recent plays have moved away from the typical 'girl meets boy' theme. In *Chayafari*, *Tempo*, *Abhishopto Bari*, *Akjon Porojibi*, *Taroka Karkhana*, I

got the chance to play versatile characters, ranging from a boy who falls in love with a girl from a different community, a man who finds that the woman he loves is his step-sister, to a software developer and an aspiring actor."

At present, Shojol sees many

"I always long for meaty roles into which I can really dig my teeth, regardless of the on-screen time"

opportunities for newcomers in media. "I think our media has now reached a position to provide actors with a steady career. In fact, if a person wants to work seriously, s/he won't have the time to think about any other profession. There are so many channels and so many productions today; you need to work much harder."

While he never received any professional training, Shojol doesn't seem uncomfortable fitting into any character role. "For this, I have to credit my seniors from whom I learned a lot, particularly Afzal Hossain. From the outset, he has helped and advised me all along."

About his dream character, Shojol said "Oh, there are lots of characters I would love to portray. Several TV plays have had brilliant characterisations, but I was really moved by Indian film actor Nana Patekar's performance in the film *Khamoshi*. He played the role of a physically challenged man, unable to speak or hear, whose daughter becomes a famous singer. Patekar was superb. I always long for meaty roles into which I can really dig my teeth, regardless of the on-screen time. Be it a small part, my wish would be to play mature, exceptional and remarkable characters."



Noted singer Shahanaz Rahmatullah receives "Lifetime Achievement Award" from Engineer Faizul Islam Selim, president of Gulshan Club at a cultural programme held on March 26 at the club premises. Music diva Sabina Yasmin also received the same award at the programme. Around 1500 people, including members of the club and their families attended the event, adds the press release.



To mark the 37th Independence Day, Fantasy Kingdom organised a concert, "Independence Day Live Concert" at Fantasy Kingdom on March 26, says a press release. Popular singer Asif, Montaz and Suzana performed at the event. The event was free for visitors