

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

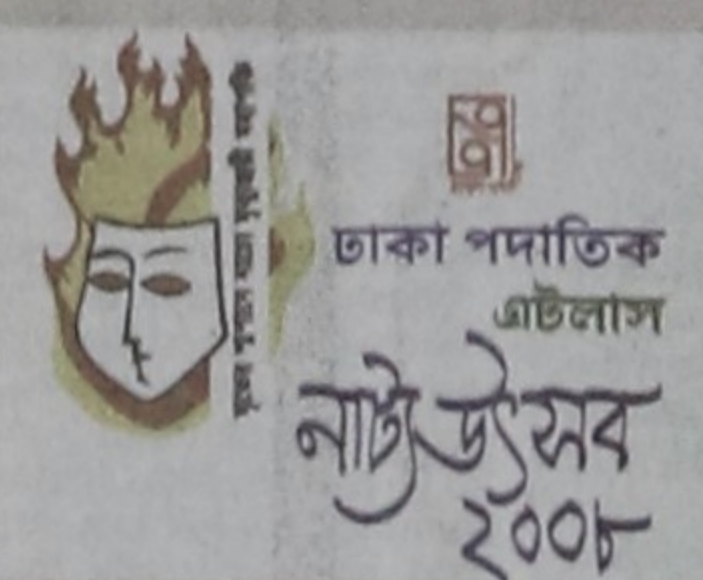
### Musical Soiree

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



### Dhaka Padatik Natya Utsab '08

Organiser: Dhaka Padatik  
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
April 2  
Time: 5:30pm  
Play: Joldash  
Troupe: Dhaka Padatik



### Group Photography Exhibition

Organiser: Britto Arts Trust  
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (new), Dhanmondi  
Date: April 4-10



### Group Art Exhibition

Title: 85" Grand group art exhibition of reputed Bangladeshi Artists  
Organiser: Saju Art Gallery  
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, D.C.C. north Super Market, 2<sup>nd</sup> circle, Gulshan.



## An awe-inspiring display of paintings at Saju Art Gallery



Artworks at the exhibition: *Beginning of a Story* by Samarjit Roy Chowdhury (left) and *Circle on Gold* by Mohammad Kibria

FAYZA HAQ

Saju Art Gallery's latest grand group exhibition is as impressive and interesting as always. It contains paintings of well-known local artists ranging from Zainul Abedin and Qamrul Hasan to Ahmed Nazir and Laila Sharmeen.

Zainul Abedin's *Riverside* features fishermen done in sketches of black, brown and beige, while the boats are in blue and grey. SM Sultan's work has village women sitting and helping men getting their fishing nets ready. In the background are houses, trees, and haystacks while there is the riverside in front. It is in brown and green with a lot of strokes in black. Saifuddin Ahmed's work has a female figure bending down in simple blues and blacks. The background and foreground are blue.

Abdus Sattar's portrait has an exquisite woman with short hair standing against a tree. This painting is done in details -- showing clothes and jewellery. All the strokes are in soft pastel shades except for the dark outlines. Shahabuddin's work has three speeding horses in a battlefield. These are done in stark black and grey, with only the faces and hooves being given in some discernable details while the rest of the lines are suggestions and impressions. The speed is denoted by streaks of grey.

Naima Haque's *Untitled* is a portrait of a seated woman, presenting the figure from the back. At her side is a water container, while the background is dotted with shades of blue, matching the rest of the painting. The sari is streaked with blue as well. Abdus Shakoor's *Mahua and bird* presents the character

from popular folklore adorned in a yellow sari with dots. The rest is in blue and yellow. Her hair is a mane of brown and black. She is surrounded by flowers and triangular motifs.

Qayyum Chowdhury's *Spring* in acrylic has floral motifs in yellows and greens. Rafiqun Nabi's *Baul* has three figures playing the *ektara* and flute. Blues, oranges and yellows delineate the musicians.

Ifitkhar Ahmed's *Searching space* is in geometrical lines and shapes with the symbolic compass contained within the grey sky and the land in front. Ranjit Das presents a woman in blue, flecked with white in *Waiting*. Her face and hands are golden while the backdrop is blue, black and grey. There is texture work in orange, white and black.

Monirul Islam's collection of oil on paper, titled *Spring memory* has abstract motifs with black and white lines that are sliding, gliding and twirling. Circles and suggested figures enter the composition. Jamal Ahmed's *Pigeons* are in acrylic and they appear resting on a riverside. Each feather is worked in detail in pink and blue. The land at the back is reddish grey while the water is in streaks of white and grey.

Kanak Chanpa Chakma's *Searching peace* brings in monks in saffron and red, seen talking to each other. Laila Sharmeen's painting *Dutta, Dayadham, Danyata* has splashes of colours in which one finds lines and dots representing boats, kites, blossoms and clouds.

Each and every painting is worth pausing and admiring. The exhibition ends on April 23.



Unknown Love by Rebeka Sultana

## Theatre "Ghum Nei" staged after seven years

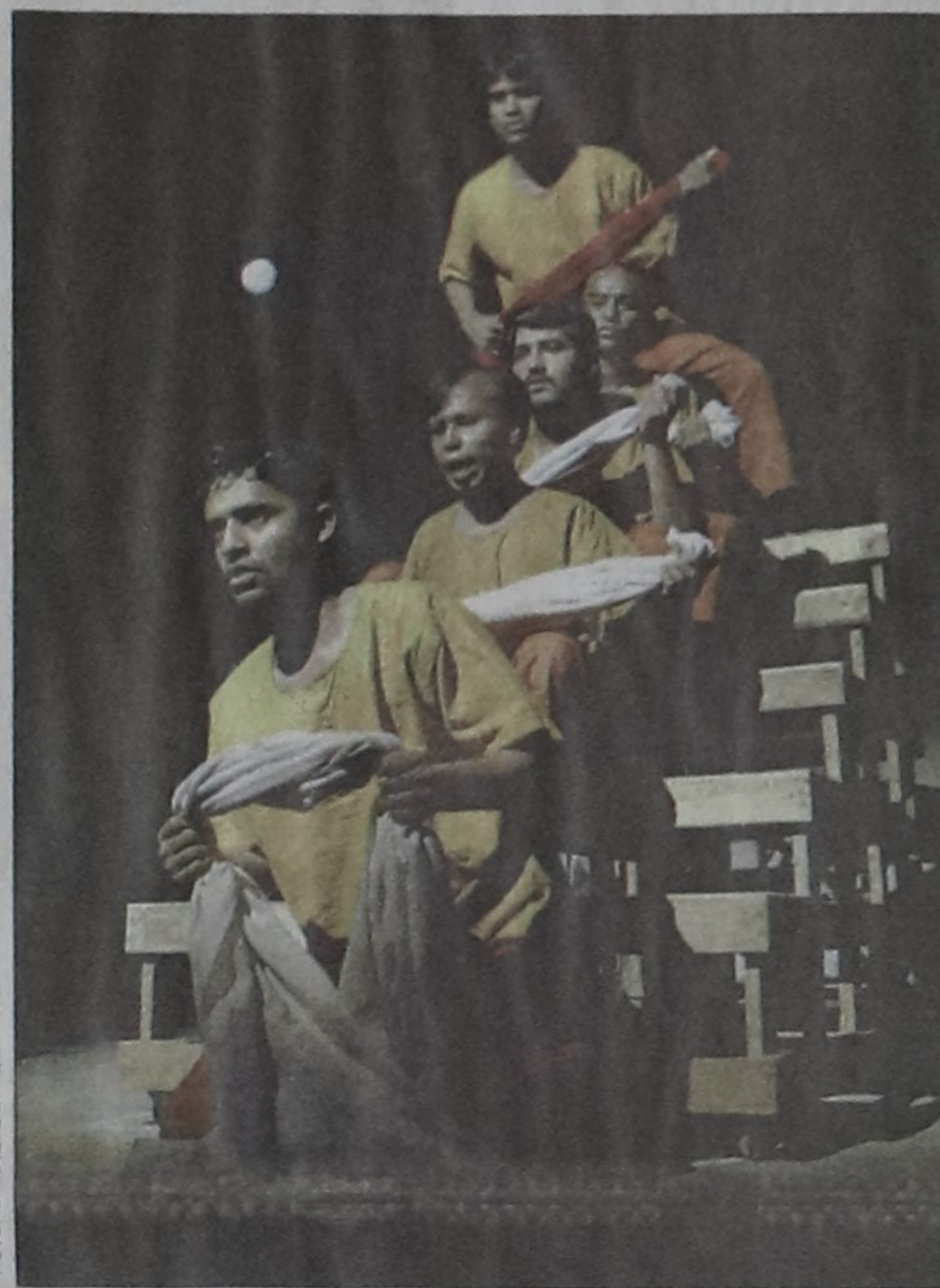
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

After seven years, Mahakal Natyasampradaya staged the 70th show of their once popular production *Ghum Nei*. The play was staged on March 30 at Mahila Samity. The troupe staged the premiere show of *Ghum Nei* in 1994. The play was staged regularly till 2000.

*Ghum Nei* is based on a novel by Nasiruddin Yousuff with the same title. Guerrilla operations by the freedom fighters during the Liberation War has been presented dramatically in the play. John Martin has dramatised and directed *Ghum Nei*.

Prior to the show, a seminar titled "Liberation War in Theatre" was held. Professor Ratan Siddiqui read the keynote paper at the seminar. Theatre personalities Nasiruddin Yousuff, M. Hamid, Asaduzzaman Noor and Mannan Heera also spoke at the programme. The seminar was presided over by cultural personality Kamal Lohani.

Actors of Mahakal Natyasampradaya in *Ghum Nei*



## Weeklong drama festival in Bogra ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A weeklong drama festival ended with the staging of the play *Nurulain-er Shara Jibon* at the Muktijoddha Aminul Karim

Dulal Auditorium, Bogra Zilla School premises recently.

The event, 'Singer Inter-district Drama Festival' was arranged in cooperation with the local district administration.

Plays included at the festival were -- *Meraj Fakirer Maa* staged by Rangpur Natyakendra; *Dhiborgatha* by Sirajganj Natyalok; *Kittankhola* by College Theatre; *Nimajon* by Dhaka Theatre and more.

## Workshop on Rabindra Sangeet at Shilpakala Academy ends

Local and Indian singers perform at the closing programme

ERSHAD KAMOL

A musical soiree featuring Rabindra Sangeet was held at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on March 30. The programme was a part of a 10-day workshop on Rabindra Sangeet conducted by two Indian singers -- Shoma Roy and Chaiti Majumder. The workshop was jointly organised by BSA and the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh.

Sixty-four promising Bangladeshi Tagore singers participated at the workshop. During the training session Shoma Roy and Chaiti Majumder from Shantiniketan, emphasised on the style of presenting Rabindra Sangeet through emoting the inner message.

Secretary to the Ministry of Planning Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury was the chief guest and the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mukta D. Tomar was the special guest at the closing programme. Director, Department of Training, BSA Nazrul Haque delivered the welcome speech. The discussion was presided over by the Director General of BSA Quamrul Hassan, ndc. Professor Nurul Anwar of Bangladesh Agricultural University was the key speaker at the programme.

Discussions provided an overview on Tagore's mastery as a lyricist and composer. They also



Participants of the workshop perform at the closing ceremony

highlighted the importance of practicing Rabindra Sangeet. Pointing out the ongoing cultural exchange programmes between Bangladesh and India, the discussants urged to further strengthen the cultural ties between the two countries.

The discussion was followed by

presentations of some evergreen Rabindra Sangeet. All sixty-four singers performed group renditions of *Praney khushir tufan* and *Bimolo anondey. Majhey majhey tobo dekha pai, Abelay jodi, Nacho shyama* and *Ekkar tora* were also performed by the group.

Shoma Roy rendered two solos --

*Ami tomar shongey bendhechhi amaa praan and Jhora pata.* Chaiti Majumder also rendered two solos -- *Ke jabi parey and Krishnokoli.*

The musical soiree wrapped up with a duet -- *Ei kothati mon-e rekho* -- performed by Shoma Roy and Chaiti Majumder.

## Mahurat of Abu Sayeed's next film "Rupantor"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Mahurat of filmmaker Abu Sayeed's upcoming movie was held *Rupantor* at the Digital Colour Lab Auditorium, Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) on March 30.

*Rupantor* is one of the three films that received grant from the Ministry of Information this year (2007-08).

Jamil Osman, acting secretary, Ministry of Information was present as the chief guest at the event. ANM Badrul Amin, managing director, BFDC presided over the programme. Noted litterateur and playwright Syed Shamsul Haq was present as a special guest.

Through contemporary characters, *Rupantor* delves into a story from the epic *Mahabharata*. In the film, Arif, a young filmmaker is set to make a movie on the story of Ekalavya and his guru *dakshina* (offering to the mentor) to Dronacharya. Shaila is Arif's assistant. According to *Mahabharata*, for his guru *dakshina*, Dronacharya asked for Ekalavya's right thumb, which ended the possibility of the latter becoming a formidable archer.

While shooting the film, Arif confronts the story. He believes that the thumb is not necessary to be able to shoot an arrow. It is the index and middle fingers that are used in archery. Then, why did Dronacharya ask Ekalavya to

sacrifice his thumb? Arif and Shaila delve deep into the story and reach a new reality.

"As no film made in the last couple of years received government grant, I was delighted to learn that Abu Sayeed, Tanvir Mokammel and Enamul Karim Nirhar have received financial assistance from the Ministry of Information. I sincerely hope that *Rupantor* will feature Sayeed's skills as a storyteller on celluloid

that we have come to admire," said Syed Shamsul Haq.

Prior to Haq's speech, Abu Sayeed thanked the government for the grant. He also drew attention to the inconvenience one faces when seeking permission to shoot a film at any place of the country and asked for a proper policy regarding the process.

At the event, the filmmaker also introduced the cast and crew of the film. Actors Ferdaus and

Sohana Saba will play the lead roles -- Arif and Shaila. Jayonto Chatyopadhyay will play Dronacharya, Arefin Shubho will don the role of Arjun and Sajib Kaiser will be seen in the film as Ekalavya. The film also features *Santali* characters. Veteran filmmaker-actor Soovas Dutt has given his consent to play a special role in *Rupantor*.

Shooting for the film will start from April 7.



(From left) Syed Shamsul Haq, Sohana Saba, Ferdaus, Abu Sayeed, Jamil Osman and ANM Badrul Amin at the mahurat of *Rupantor*