

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Baishakhi Mela

Organiser: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation
Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre
Date: April 14-24
Time: 10am to 8pm



Art Exhibition

Title: Union of Uniqueness
Exposition
Artists: Javed Jall and Avijit Mukherjee (India)
Venue: Art Club Bangladesh, Suit-3/B, H 4, R 104, Gulshan
Date: April 21-May 7
Time: 11am-7pm



Theatre

Play: Beder Meye
Troupe: Padalic Nattya Sangsad (TSC)
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: April 21
Time: 7pm



Theatre

Play: Rashadhar
Troupe: Bangaranga Natyadali
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Bailey Road
Date: April 25
Time: 7pm



Power cut interrupts two events at Shilpakala Academy

ERSHAD KAMOL

Because of rampant power cuts, two events at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) - at National Theatre Stage and Experimental Theatre Stage - were interrupted on April 19. In the dim light of candles, the performances continued.

Recitation troupe Annit and BSA jointly organised a programme featuring recitation, dance, music and drama at the National Theatre Stage. Home Secretary M. Abdul Karim was the chief guest and Managing Director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation A.N.M. Badrul Amin was the special guest at the programme. The event was presided over by Bhuinya Shafiqul Islam, director general of Bangladesh BSA.

At the Experimental Theatre Stage, Centre for Asian Theatre held a 'reading session' of Manzur-e-Moula's latest lyrical drama, *Tin Ibsen*. The performance was followed by a discussion presided over by poet Abul Hossain.

Six actors performed in the first act of *Tin Ibsen*. Creating imaginary discourses between Ibsen and his three legendary characters - Nora of *A Doll's House*, Hedda of *Hedda Gabler* and Rebecca of *Rosmersholm* - Moula's play

presents three dimensions of Ibsen's life: as a human being, as a poet and dramatist and as a revolutionary.

Theatre personality Ataur Rahman spoke at both events. Commenting on the frequent power cuts, he said, "It is rather unacceptable that events at the National Theatre Stage should get interrupted because of power cuts. This goes on to demonstrate the inefficiency of the BSA staff."

Director of the Department of Theatre and Film, BSA, Shafi Kamal said, "At present we don't have a generator. Hence there is no alternative source of electricity during power cuts."

According to viewers and cultural activists, the National Theatre Stage and Experimental Theatre Stage have other problems as well. Often the air conditioning system of both halls do not work properly and on hot evenings the audiences are too uncomfortable to enjoy performances in peace.

Maintenance Engineer of the National Theatre Stage Shukhdev Chandra Das said, "Under the second phase of the National Theatre Stage, the generator should be working within two months."

Das claimed that rest of the problems would also be solved after completion of the second phase.



Rokeya Rafiq Baby in *Tin Ibsen*



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MUMIT M.



Dance performance at Annit's programme

In Remembrance

Margot Fonteyn: An enduring appeal

Even 17 years after her death, exquisitely graceful ballerina Margot Fonteyn remains a role model for many upcoming talents. Who of the last generation can forget her inimitable portrayals such as that of Snowflake in *The Nutcracker Suite* (1934), Princess Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty* (1949) Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* (1965) or in many other productions -- among them *Giselle and Apparitions* (1936), *Marguerite and Armand* (1963) or *Paradise Lost* (1967)?

Margot is also famous for her longstanding partnership with Rudolf Nureyev. In 1961 he defected to the West from the Soviet Union and the following year he and Margot first appeared on stage together in *Giselle*. It was a major success. During the curtain calls, Nureyev dropped to his knees and kissed Margot's hand, setting the seal on their on and offstage partnership, which lasted until she bowed out finally in 1979. In a documentary about Margot, Nureyev said that they danced with "one body, one soul" and that Margot was "all he had, only her." When she was under treatment for cancer, the 19 year younger Nureyev paid many of her medical bills and visited her frequently, despite his hectic schedule as a performer and choreographer, as well as his affliction with HIV (he succumbed to AIDS in 1993).

Margot was born Margaret (Peggy) Hookham, the daughter of an English father and an English mother, with Brazilian ancestry (she was the daughter of Brazilian businessman Antonio Fontes). At the beginning of her career, she transformed Fontes into Fonteyn (a surname also adopted by her brother) and Margaret into Margot. Her mother enrolled both the children for ballet classes when they were very young -- hence her development into a prima ballerina.



Margot Fonteyn by Chambré Hardman

Daphnis and Chloe and *Sylvia*. Other commendable works were *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Cinderella*. Margot also worked with the choreographer Roland Petit and later the famous American dancer and choreographer Martha Graham. In 1949, the Royal Ballet toured the US and Margot became an instant celebrity.

Before working with Nureyev, she had other partnerships -- In the 1940s she and Robert Helpmann formed a very successful dance partnership and the duo toured together for several years.

In the 1950s, she danced with Michael Somes. However, her greatest partnership with Nureyev surfaced at a time when many (including the head of the Royal Ballet, Ninette de Valois) thought she was about to retire. In 1954 she was made a dame. In 1955, after a long but failed relationship with composer Constant Lambert, she married Dr Roberto Arias, a Panamanian diplomat to London. His roving eye was a source of friction in the early years of their marriage. She was arrested when he attempted a coup against the Panamanian government. Worse was to follow -- in 1965 a rival Panamanian politician shot Arias, making him a quadriplegic for the remainder of his life.

It was largely because of the cost of Arias' medical care that Margot continued with her career until 1979 when she was 60 years old. This, despite her own troublesome arthritic foot. When she finally retired, the Royal Ballet accorded her with the title of 'Prima Ballerina Assoluta'. Her last years were spent in Panama, remaining committed to Arias, partly because she was very devoted to his children from a previous marriage. To help her meet the doctor's bills, the Royal Ballet held a special gala in 1990 for her benefit. Shortly after he died, she was diagnosed with a cancer that proved fatal.

Margot is remembered for her insightful sayings, among them: "Genius is another word for magic, and the whole point of magic is that it is inexplicable." And anyone who had the chance to see her on stage would agree that the magic she wove with her art would give her an enduring appeal the world over.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



On Air

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

BTV

08:20 Shuprobhat
08:45 World Roundup
09:05 Talk Show
09:30 Smritimoy Geetimoy
10:05 Open University
10:30 Quiz Quiz
10:55 Selected Programme
11:30 Drama Serial: Krush Kathy Konya
12:00 Maa O Shishur Katha
12:30 Educational Programme: Shobaa Jonjo Shikhy Baanshuri
01:00 Prangon
02:15 Kria Digonto
02:40 Shukhi Ponbaar
03:05 Durjoy Bachtey Chai
03:30 Desh O Bigyan
04:30 Nirtyer Nityer Taley Taley
05:05 Debate
06:15 Matri Bhasha
07:00 Shondha Maloti
07:25 Talk Show: Shomoyer Shonglaap
08:35 Selected Programme
09:00 Musical Programme: Chhayachhondo

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk Show: Onnyodishiti
11:05 Shushtho Thakun
11:35 Notun Chhobir Gaan
12:15 Motamot
12:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House
03:10 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai
03:50 Chhonder Prithibi
04:20 Matir Shubatah
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khobor
05:10 Square Hospital Shushtho Thakun
05:45 Business Show: Genetic Business Week
06:20 Ashay Pasher Manush
08:00 Drama Serial: Shopno Mongol
08:45 Musical Programme: ATN Unplugged

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11:30 Talk Show: Jey Katha Keu Boleni
12:00 Gramophone Lead News
12:05 CHANNEL-i
08:05 Tagore Song
09:30 Shangbadpotrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Gramophone Trilo Matra
11:05 Talk Show: Citycell Taroka
12:30 Musical Programme: Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma
02:35 Ekattur Er Dinguli
03:05 Baniyo O Orthoniti
03:30 Musical Programme: Hindoyer Gaan
04:30 FCT Business Talk
05:30 Mukujudhno Amar Ohonkaar TV Series: Superman
06:00 Oshamanya
07:50 BBC Bangladesh Shinglap
09:35 Drama Serial: Neel Tepantore
10:00 Travel Show: RC Travel On
11:30 Drama Serial: 69
12:00 Gramophone Aker Shangbadpotre

Rtv

08:40 Musical Programme: Saangeet Ongon
09:00 Rtv Exclusive
09:05 Proidin
09:35 Borney Borney Rochilo
10:03 Drama Serial: Poroshpor Taroka Alap
11:00 Drama Serial: Aguntuk
12:15 Wide Angel
12:35 Musical Programme: Path Chaoatei Anondo
01:30 Gaanchil El Din
01:30 Dhallywood Beats
02:30 Bangla Feature Film Proidin
06:00 Documentary Programme: Prachir Ghera China
08:00 Drama Serial: Aguntak
08:35 Look at Me
09:20 Drama Serial: Poroshpor
11:00 Health Show: Heart Beat
11:30 News Watch
12:00 Editor's Comment

ETV

08:30 Ekusher Shokhal
09:15 Drama Serial: Dur-er Manush
10:30 Ekusher Business
12:00 Ekusher Dupur
12:30 Ekusher Business: Special Focus
01:30 Ekusher Business: Shophol Jara
02:10 Drama Serial: Ponibiti

02:30 Drama Serial: Aziz Market Dhaka 1000
03:30 Shomali Shada Kalo
04:00 Sports Round up
05:15 Sports Plus
05:45 Ekusher Shondha
06:15 Sms Mania
06:30 Documentary Programme: Dosh Jurey
07:45 Cookery Show: Tomi Mian-r

ntv

08:15 Drama Serial: Hitlu
09:30 Drama Serial: Dur-er Manush
10:00 Ekush-er Shomoy
10:50 Financial Bulletin
11:40 Total Music
08:30 Aker Shokal
08:55 Drama Serial: Amar Bou Shob

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