

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photography Exhibition

Title: Climate Change
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: June 5-11
Time: 3pm-8pm



Art Exhibition

Title: Two Men's Painting Show
Artists: H. R. Tutul and Ayan Mazumder
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Date: June 3-9
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: The Enchantment of the Transcendental
Artist: Nurul Islam
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: June 7-18
Time: 12pm-8pm



Film Screening

Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: June 15
'Greenhouse Effect' (by Valery Akhadov) at 3pm and **'I Don't Feel Pain'** (by Alexey Balabanov) at 4:45pm



Sangeet Bhaban celebrates 85th birth anniversary of Kalim Sharafi

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Veteran Tagore artiste Kalim Sharafi turned 85 on May 8. To celebrate his birth anniversary, music school Sangeet Bhaban organised a cultural programme titled "Anondo omritey tobo chirodin dhonyo hobo" at Natmandal on June 6. Kalim Sharafi, who founded Sangeet Bhaban in 1983, is also the principal of the school. The programme featured Tagore songs and dance performance by the students of the organisation.

The event opened with the choral rendition of the Tagore song *Aji bohichhey bashonto poboney*.

A short felicitation ceremony followed. Members of the organisation presented Kalim Sharafi a crest and flowers. His wife Nawshaba Khatoun was also accorded honours.

The cultural programme began with a dance. Children performed a dance with the song *Pakhira danaye danaye*. Next Shubah Akbar performed the Tagore number *Ki gabo ami ki Shunabo*, a group performance of the Nazrul song *Bhoboney ashilo othi shudur* followed. Tanvir Hussain rendered the Tagore song *Tumi kemon korey gaan koro*, Uttom Kumar Shaha sang *Amar praner manush* and Shanchita Datta performed the Nazrul song *Shurey o banir mala diye*. The other items included two dance performances with the songs -- *Mor bina uthey kon shurey* and *Kon puraton praner taney* and choral renditions of Tagore and Nazrul songs.

The event wrapped up with the chorus performance of the song *Dhitang dhitang boley*.



Kalim Sharafi receives a bouquet from veteran singer Nileema Das. Nawshaba Khatoun is seen on his left.



Artistes of the organisation present a choral rendition at the programme.

Jamdani Mela: A blend of the contemporary and classic



Exquisite Jamdani saris on display



PHOTO MUMIT M

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A *Jamdani mela* was held at the Wahid Academy, Dhanmondi from June 5-7. The exhibition was arranged by four women entrepreneurs - Hasina Ahmed, Sufia Sattar, Sharmin Shabnam Rahman and Nazneen Ahmed. The saris, in the price range

of Taka 4000-18,000, were in pastel hues as well as shades of bright blue, purple, magenta, among others. Each piece flaunted a unique pattern of the craft. The intricate motifs, meticulously woven by the hard-working jamdani karigors (weavers) of our country, gave each sari a touch of grandeur and perfection.

From the contemporary black-white and black-red combinations, to the classic black, exquisite white and other equally magnificent pieces of the favourite attire of any Bangladeshi woman, the collection was a treat for jamdani enthusiasts.

The history of jamdani is as rich as the craft itself. "Jamdani

is not only a craft; it is also a form of art which very few people can recognise. Through this exhibition, we tried to bring to people the wonders created by our skilled *karigors*, as well as highlight the dexterity and dedication with which they have been working over the centuries," said Hasina Ahmed.

Children's Theatre Festival inaugurated

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

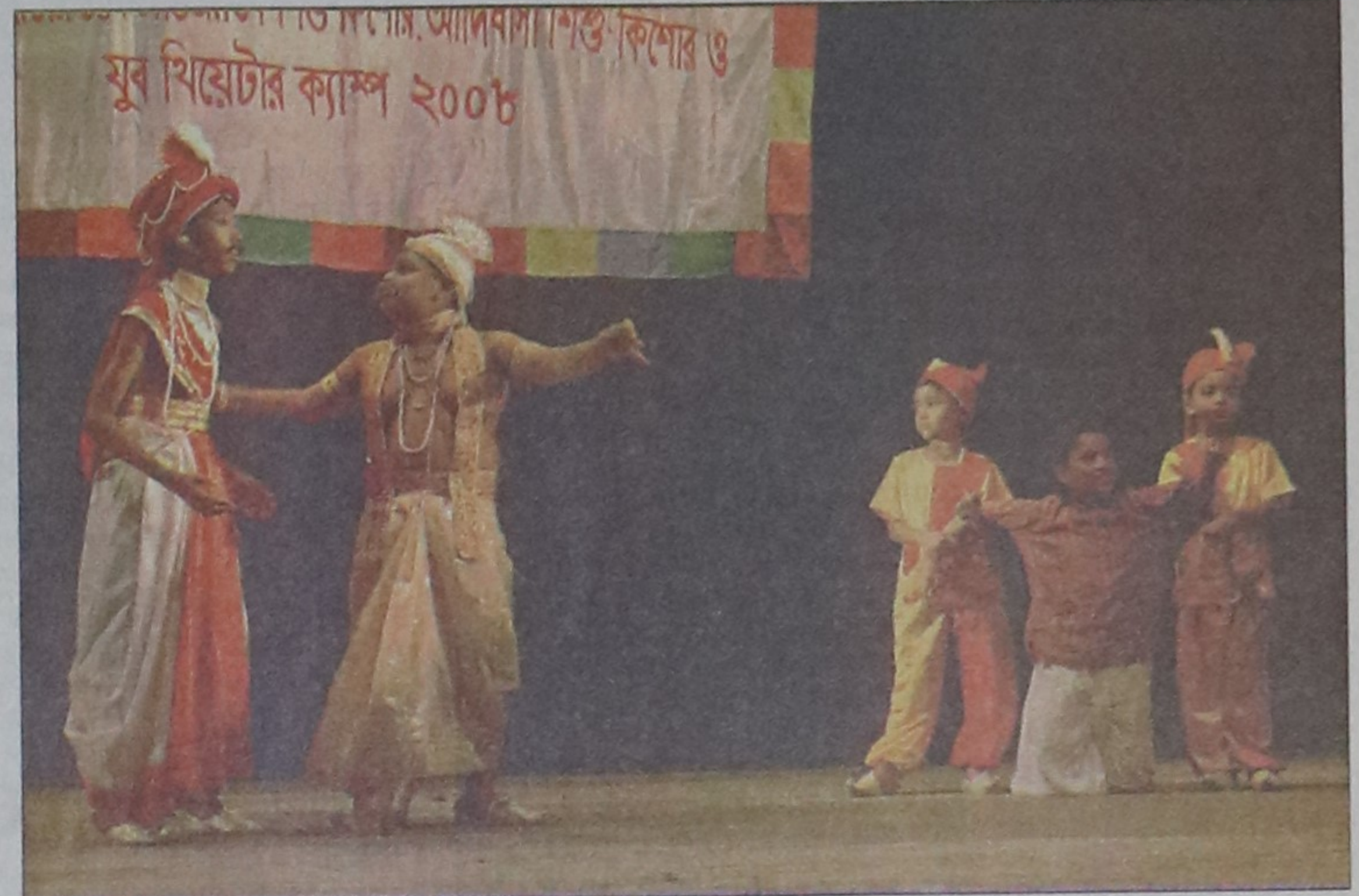
A fortnight-long theatre festival, organised by People's Theatre Association (PTA), was inaugurated by Cultural Affairs Adviser Rasheda K. Chowdhury on June 6. The venue: the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library.

The title of the festival is '9th National And 1st International Children And Youth Theatre Festival'. Organisers expect as many as 10,000 children and youth to attend the festival.

One hundred and twenty five children's theatre troupes from different corners of the country as well as from India are participating in the festival. In terms of numbers of participating troupes, it is the biggest ever theatre festival.

The programme began with a colourful procession, which travelled through the University of Dhaka area. Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui was the chief guest. Theatre personalities Ramendu Majumder, Asaduzzaman Noor, M Hamid, SM Mohsin and Golem Kuddus were among the discussants at the programme. The discussion was presided over by Liaquat Ali Lucky, the convener of the festival committee.

"Appreciating the endeavour to



Child artistes perform in a play at the festival

PHOTO STAR

promote children's theatre, Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury said, "I congratulate the organisers for this ambitious initiative. I hope the government will play a role in such programmes in the future."

"Appreciating the endeavour to

Siddiqui said, "The large turnout of child actors bodes well for the cultural scenario of the country."

Besides staging theatre performances, children will perform dance, circus, mime and other art forms. Moreover, there will be

workshops for children and young theatre activists at the seminar room, Central Public Library.

PTA has organised the festival in association with Swedish SIDA, Swedish ITI, Art Venture and ActionAid.

Columbia, CBS Films to remake "My Fair Lady"

Columbia Pictures will film a remake of the classic Broadway and Hollywood musical *My Fair Lady*, jointly with CBS Films.

The new version will use the original Lerner and Loewe songs of the much-loved Broadway show, and will not alter its Edwardian London setting, Columbia Pictures co-presidents Doug Belgrad and Matt Tolmach said.

The producers plan to shoot much of the new film on location in the original London settings of Covent Garden, Drury Lane, Tottenham Court Road, Wimpole Street and the Ascot racecourse.

They will also look to adapt Alan Jay Lerner's play more fully for the screen by drawing additional material from *Pygmalion* -- the George Bernard Shaw play that served as the source material for the musical -- to cater to present-day audiences.

"*My Fair Lady* is not just the quintessential stage musical and classic film, but a fantastic story," Belgrad said.

The original Broadway musical, with dialogues and lyrics by Alan

Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe, was first staged in 1956. It starred Julie Andrews, making her a star, and won the Tony Award for best musical.

Hollywood then adapted it for the screen in 1964. Directed by George Cukor, with Audrey Hepburn playing Eliza, a flower girl transformed into a high-society lady by a phonetics professor, the film won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor.

"With 40 years of hindsight, we're confident that by setting these wonderful characters and brilliant songs in a more realistic context, and by exploring Eliza's emotional journey more fully, we will honour both Shaw and Lerner at the same time as engaging and entertaining contemporary audiences the world over," said producer Duncan Kenworthy.

The casting of Eliza is crucial, he said. "We are currently in discussion with a major international star to play the role."

Source: Internet

Cultural programmes for the rights of the underprivileged



PHOTO STAR

A sequence of a drama titled 'Bhul Jakhon Bhango' staged to raise awareness against early marriage.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Paritran, an NGO based at Laxmanpur village in Tala upazila, has dedicated itself to fighting for the rights of the Dalits and other disadvantaged people. Several months ago, the organisation embarked on an innovative cultural programme to generate awareness among the ultra poor Dalits and uneducated so that they can participate in the ongoing national identity card and voter listing (with photographs) drive.

The NGO has been organising cultural programmes, including drama, folk songs (Baul song and Jari gaan) and dance since November last year. The programme kicked off at Khalilnagar, a remote village in Tala upazila, in 1998 and it has been staged in Keragachhi, and

Panikauria high school premises in Kalaroa upazila and other villages in Sadar, Debhata and Kaliganj upazilas.

The artistes of Paritran, an NGO implementing the laudable programmes funded by the Asia Foundation, arranged a *Jari gaan* at a discussion held at Panikauria high school premises in Kalaroa upazila on Thursday afternoon. The performers were Koushalya Das, Lipika Das, Mallika Das, Chaitanya Das, Ashoka Das, Arabinda Das, Sahadev Das, Satya Das, Dipak Das, Sudev Das and Asim Das.

The programme has had a positive fallout in raising mass awareness about the importance of national identity cards.

The NGO will arrange the similar programmes at different venues, especially in the rural areas and will also arrange motivational programmes and rallies.

Padatik Natya Sangsad to recruit new members

Theatre troupe Padatik Natya Sangsad Bangladesh announces recruitment of new members through a workshop, says a press release. Those interested can collect forms from various outlets: TSC Food Corner, DU; Shondesh, Aziz Super Market, Shahbag; Coffee House, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Shegunbagicha and Victoria

Confectionary, 54/3, Johnson Road.

Applicants must be over 15-years-old, with at least a SSC/O-level certificate. The filled-up form, along with a passport and a stamp sized photograph, have to be submitted at the mentioned outlets. The last date for the submission of the forms is June 23.



Audrey Hepburn (as Eliza) and Rex Harrison (as Prof. Higgins) in 1964 classic