

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

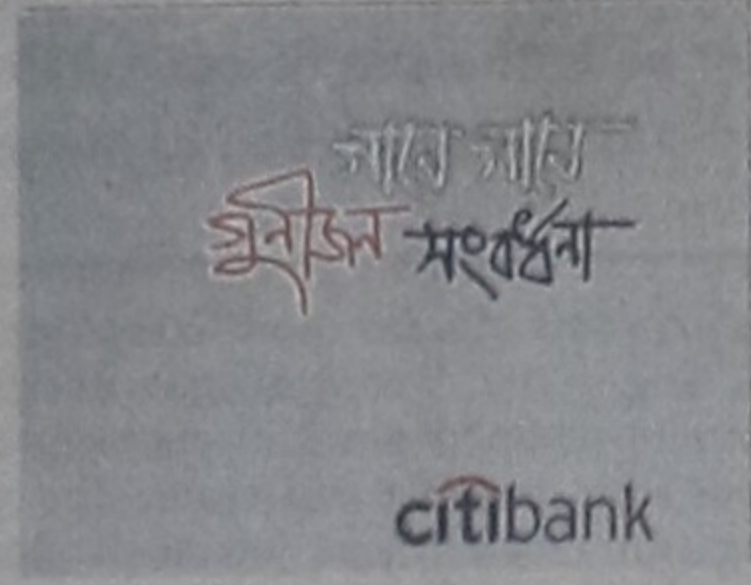
### Solo Exhibition

**Title:** The Limitless Luminosity of Lines  
**Artist:** Safuddin Ahmed  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
**Date:** June 23-July 13  
**Time:** 12pm-8pm



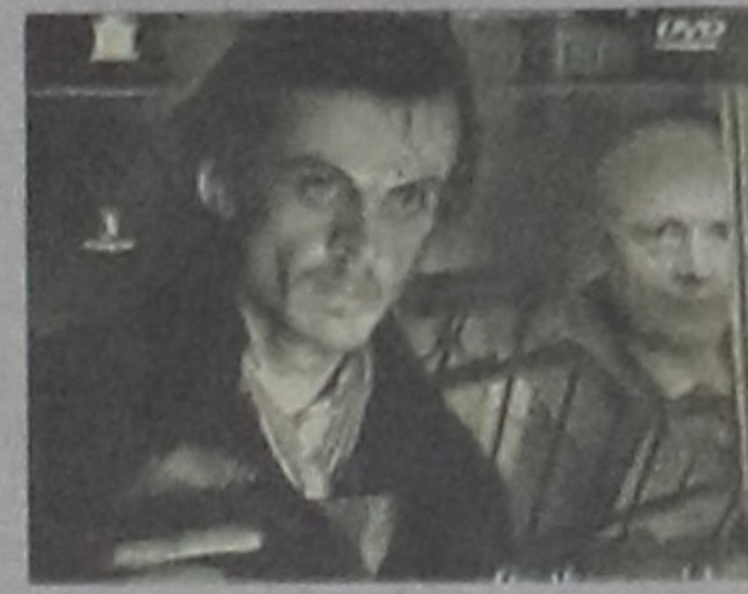
### Award Giving Ceremony

**Title:** Gane Gane Gunjon Sangbardhana  
**Organiser:** Citibank  
**Venue:** Utsab Hall, Radisson Water Garden Hotel  
**Date:** July 11  
**Time:** 5pm  
Invited guests only



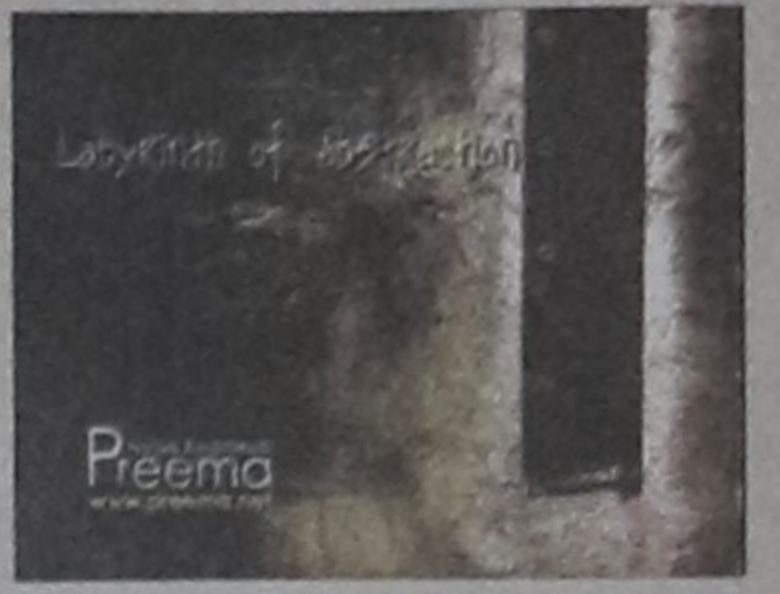
### Film Screening

**Film:** Crime & Punishment  
**Venue:** Library, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** July 8  
**Time:** 12pm



### Solo Exhibition

**Title:** Labyrinth of Abstraction  
**Artist:** Nazia Andaleeb Preema  
**Venue:** La Galerie, Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** July 3-16  
**Time:** 9am-12pm, 5pm-8pm (Saturdays 5pm-8pm)



## Loko Natya Dal's 27th anniversary celebration

A confusing occasion for the audience

ERSHAD KAMOL

Three fractions of Loko Natya Dal organised the 27th anniversary celebration programme at the same time at different venues on July 6, which confused the audiences, even theatre leaders.

Loko Natya Dal (Siddheswari) organised their anniversary programme at the National Theatre Stage. Loko Natya Dal (Banani) organised their programme at Mahila Samity Stage and Loko Natya Dal (TSC) arranged their celebration at Imperial College Auditorium.

The programme organised by Loko Natya Dal (Siddheswari) had no discussion, rather troupe members celebrated the occasion through dance and music. A 'physical theatre' titled *Banglar Mukh*, written and directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky, was also staged. The final attraction of the programme was a staging of *Kanjush*, an adaptation of the Moliere play *The Miser* by Tarique Anam Khan and directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky.

The anniversary programme at Mahila Samity Stage organised by Loko Natya Dal (Banani) began with a discussion where human



rights activist Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Shalish Kendra, was the chief guest. M. Hamid, chairman of BGTF, Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general of BGTF, Selina Khalek, chairperson Bangladesh Mahila Samity and Mohini Mohan Chakroborty, adviser of the troupe, were the special guests at the programme. The discussion was presided over

by Eugene Gomez, president of Loko Natya Dal (Banani).

The discussion was followed by a cultural programme featuring music, recitation and staging parts of two old productions -- *Padma Nadir Majhi* and *Shonai Madhob*. The programme ended with a staging of the troupe's new production *Mora*.

Another fraction, Loko Natya

Dal (TSC) organised a cultural programme at the Imperial College Auditorium. Secretary General of BGTF joined the programme after attending the previous anniversary celebration at Mahila Samity.

The activities of the three fractions on July 6 was thoroughly confusing. A few regular theatre troupes made jokes about the peculiar situation at Shilpapakala.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Activists of Loko Natya Dal (Siddheswari) sing at National Theatre Stage (left), participants at the discussion programme at Mahila Samity Stage organised by Loko Natya Dal (Banani)

Even the press and electronic media were in a dilemma regarding how to cover the events.

When the Secretary General of BGTF was contacted, Jhuna Chowdhury said, "It's embarrassing for the theatre activists that the division between them has become a laughing stock."

Theatre personality Tariq Anam Khan commented, "I don't support the tendency of division for per-

sonal interest. And the process of distinguishing one fraction from another by using the name of a neighbourhood in brackets demeans the status of the troupe. It should be remembered that it's not the name but the work that is important to the audience."

"Those who want to do something different should form a new troupe instead of existing as fractions. And many theatre activists

forming new troupes such as Natya Kendra, Desh Natok and Prachyanat have attained popularity," he added.

Loko Natya Dal was formed on July 6, 1981. Because of the division, Loko Natya Dal now has three fractions and interestingly all of the fractions are members of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), the common platform for theatre troupes in Bangladesh.

What role can BGTF play? The Chairman of the organisation, M. Hamid said, "We can do nothing unless the resolution of BGTF is changed."

"It's not a unique phenomenon. Three fractions of the troupe 'Theatre' are also members of BGTF. Interestingly all the fractions claim themselves as the mainstream. But, I feel this tendency should stop," he added.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

A scene from *Pragoitashik*, a Nagorik Natyangan production. The play was staged at the Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpapakala Academy on July 6. *Pragoitashik* depicts rural life, addressing the primeval human instincts of lust, rage and desire to possess. *Pragoitashik* is an adaptation by Mahmudul Islam Selim of a short story by Manik Bandyopadhyay. The play is directed by Lucky Enam.

## Tint of glamour Dhaka Fashion Week '08

MANNAN MASHHUR ZARIF

Showcasing exquisite *saris* and glamorous *salwar* suits, Dhaka Fashion Week 2008 was inaugurated at the Gulshan Club on July 6, 2008. The event marks Dhaka's 400th anniversary celebration. Underlying theme of the first day was "Festivals and Culture of Dhaka." Pride Textiles and Farah Anjum Bari presented their prêt-à-porter, followed by a presentation of a bridal ensemble by Farzana Shakil. Segmented in four distinct flavours of the festivals of Dhaka, the "Celebration of Life" was a vibrant display in pastel hues and contrasting shades. The Fashion Week will continue till July 12, 2008. The event, organised by Tupa and Associates, was presented by Marico in association with *The Daily Star*.

Suave *Baishakhi* wear embellished with floral appliqué design by Farah Anjum Bari (left). Mixed and matched, design by Pride (right)

PHOTO: STAR



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