

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

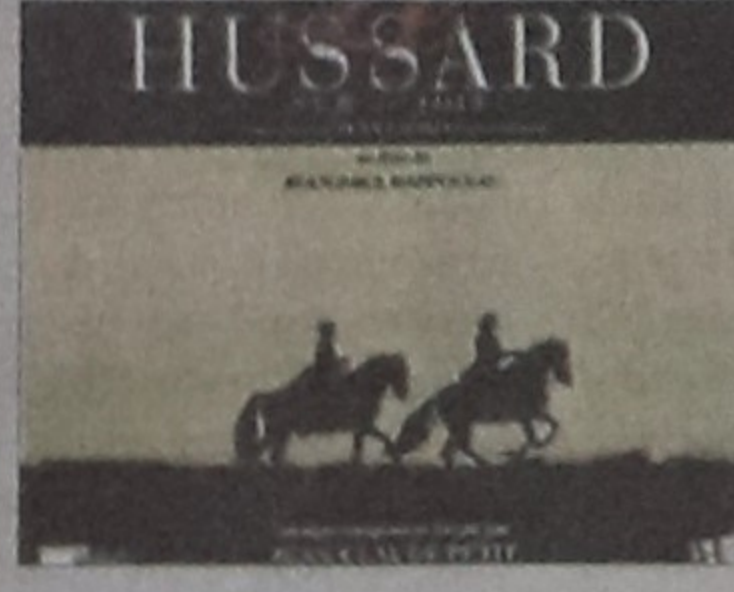
### Film Screening

**Title:** World Film Manifestation Programme  
**Organiser:** Dhaka University Film Society  
**Venue:** Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H-510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** September 21-22  
**Time:** 2pm onwards  
**September 21**  
 \*Anna Karenina (part-I) and \*Molena



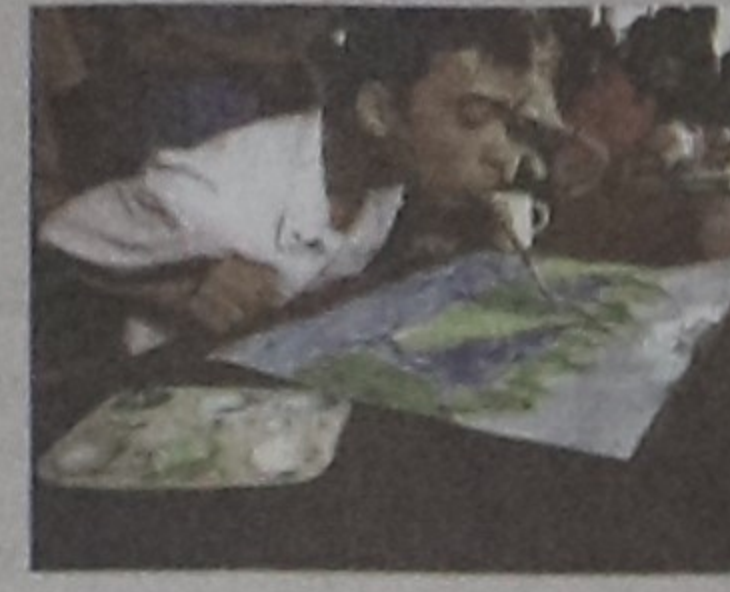
### Film Screening

**Film:** The Horseman on the Roof  
**Director:** Jean-Paul Rappeneau  
**Venue:** Auditorium, Alliance Française de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** September 26  
**Time:** 10:30am and 7pm



### Children Art Exhibition

**Title:** Play with Colour  
**Organiser:** SEID Trust and Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
**Date:** September 19-23  
**Time:** 12pm-7pm



### Exhibition

**Title:** Eid o Amar Swopnobhumi  
**Organiser:** Nitya Upahar  
**Venue:** Gallery Nitya Upahar, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Aziz Co-operative Super Market, Shahbag  
**Date:** September 5-30  
**Time:** 10am-8pm



## Rangamaton Solaiman Mela

Inspiring young theatre activists



Discussants at the event.

ERSHAD KAMOL

Theatre enthusiasts gathered at the National Theatre Stage on September 19, Shilpakala Academy, on September 19 to celebrate the daylong Rangamaton Solaiman Mela organised by Theatrewala, a little magazine on theatre.

This is for the second consecutive time the mela has been organised to encourage the theatre enthusiasts of the country. This year's arrangement was more elaborate in terms of number of programmes and participants.

On the arrangement of the

'Rangamaton Solaiman Mela', coordinator of the mela committee Hasan Shariar, who is also the editor of *Theatrewala*, said, "His rebellious nature S.M. Solaiman is our inspiration and symbol of youth. The mela is not a kind of display of Solaiman's works. Rather, it's a gathering of talents who are contributing to taking Bangladeshi theatre ahead."

The National Theatre Stage premises were decorated with theatre posters, installation, banners and festoons. In the morning, convenor of the mela committee Faiz Zahir inaugurated the programme, which was followed by a presentation of *Gambhira* performed by

Parimal Majumder and his troupe.

Dances and songs presented by the young theatre activists were a special treat of the day. Though it was a gathering of the young, theatre personalities such as Ataur Rahman, Mamunur Rashid and Nasiruddin Yousuff were present as well.

Moreover, 12 theatre troupes—Aranyak Natya Dal, Udichi, Shubachan Natya Sangsad, Prachyanat, Theatre Art Unit, Nagarrik Natyangan, Centre for Asian Theatre, Palakar, Natyadhara, Swapno Dal, Oikik Theatre and Opera Natorke Dila—displayed live performances, video installation and photographs at twelve pavilions, which were named in the mem-

ory of late theatre personalities of the country such as AKM Bazlul Karim, Moksud-us-Saleheen, Nurul Momen, Anis Chowdhury, Shaheed Munier Chowdhury, Mohammad Zakaria, Zia Hyder, Selim Al Deen, Abdullah Al Mamun, Syed Waliullah, Nazma Anwar and Bangajeet Dutta.

Other attractions of the day were campfire, discussions and screening of a documentary on Selim Al Deen titled *Ei Je Ami*, directed by Esha Yousuf.

The programme ended with an eight-point declaration highlighting such issues as the proper use of theatre halls at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, stopping

the nuisance by the outsiders at the Chinese restaurant and Coffee House of the academy, trial of the war criminals and others.

Even during the mela celebration, some outsiders claiming to be influential locals created problems for the organisers of Rangamaton Solaiman Mela. Noted actor-director Azad Abul Kalam, one of the members of the mela committee, said, "Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is our national property. But over the years we have seen that notorious people gather at the Coffee House of the academy and create disturbances. We want immediate action against it."

Theatre enthusiasts at the campfire.



Actors of Opera Natorke Dal at the programme.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

## "Banglalink Banglar Pothey" on Channel i

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

*Banglalink Banglar Pothey*, a reality travel show, will be aired tonight at 9:35 pm on Channel i. The aim of the show is to present different districts of our country along with its history, natural beauty, culture and other interesting aspects. The audience gets a glimpse of different districts of the country without actually going

there. The show also includes road directions, interesting sites as well as unknown spots of a district, interviews of the local people and quiz for the audience. This episode of *Banglar Pothey* will focus on the district Netrokona. A production of Thematic production house, the show is directed and hosted by Hasan Imam Choudhury Tinku.



A scene from the travel show.

## In animated "Igor", building the better monster



John Cusack is the voice of the lowly misfit with a dream in "Igor".

No animated horror spoof in which Eddie Izzard voices a bad guy named Dr. Schadenfreude can be a total loss. Not even "Igor" pieced together from Tim Burton and various other sources with more desperation than inspiration.

True, Molly Shannon is dementedly charming as Eva, a massive, sweet, Frankenstein-like monster who, under the influence of James Lipton, just wants to perform "Tomorrow" from "Annie."

Eva was created by Igor (voice of John Cusack), a hunchback who aspires to be a mad scientist instead of merely one's lackey.

When Igor's master dies accidentally, King Malbert (Jay Leno)—whose design is just the most obvious nod to Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas"—decides Igor has the potential to dethrone Dr. Schadenfreude as the

annual winner of his mad scientists fair.

Dr. S has other ideas, of course, especially after he learns Eva's evil bone hasn't been activated.

What follows is mostly an excuse for a wearying parade of pop-culture references and voice cameos by celebrities, including Jennifer Coolidge, Sean Hayes and Arsenio Hall.

Most of the laughs belong to Steve Buscemi, a hoot as Igor's rabbitsidekick.

The film's design is suitably cartoon Gothic, but appreciating any of the visuals is difficult when director Tony Leondis—following the current vogue for kid-targeted flicks—treats every scene as if he's in a speed race for cutting and camera movement.

Source: Internet

## Film on Sonia Gandhi to see the light of day



Sonia Gandhi

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A feature film loosely based on the life of Sonia Gandhi, the chief of India's ruling Congress party, is set for release after its makers won a two-year court battle against the censor board.

The movie *Sonia*, directed by Thakur Dinesh Kumar in 2005, will see the light of the day later this year, most probably on Sonia Gandhi's birthday on December 9.

The film is about a non-resident Indian, a graduate from one of the United States' best cinema schools, who is asked to make a film on Sonia Gandhi and the recent political scene in India. It shows the making of the film, the hurdles faced in choosing the

heroine for it, arranging funds to make the movie and, above all, the political opposition.

Kumar had challenged the Censor Board's direction that he seek Sonia Gandhi's approval before releasing the film. However, he moved the Mumbai High Court against the Censor Board order, contending this was against the fundamental right of self-expression.

Kumar told the media, "I have the freedom to make a creative film. I can be critical but not defamatory and I should not misrepresent facts. The High Court has ruled that there is no provision for personal approval under the Cinematography Act".

He said the censor board has cleared the film with "minor cuts". Kumar claimed that Sonia is neither a propaganda film nor a biopic. It's a fiction, a dramatised piece of her life. It has been researched and is "not a figment of our imagination".

The film does not have a star studded cast and no flashy sets usually associated with Bollywood stuff, acknowledged Kumar claiming "It is however rich in human and emotional content".

Meanwhile, Jagmohan Munda's proposed biographical film on Sonia Gandhi is yet to take off because the Congress party has slapped a legal notice on the producer asking him not to go ahead with the project.



Bangladeshi illusionist Aliraj has been performing at shows in Thailand for almost a month says a press release. So far he has staged shows in 55 cities in the "land of white elephants." Aliraj will continue his Thailand tour till October 10. The illusionist has also performed on the Thai national TV channel.



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