

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Film Screening

Film: *Gone With the Wind*
Director: Victor Fleming
Organiser: Bangladesh Film Institute
Venue: BFI auditorium, 160, Lake Circus, Kalabagan
Date: January 29
Time: 5:30pm



Theatre

Play: *Troilus and Cressida*
Troupe: Nagorik Natyasampradaya
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: January 29
Time: 7pm



Adibashi Mela '09

Organiser: Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and Channel I
Venue: Shoibal Shaikat, Cox's Bazar
Date: January 30
Time: 11:05-5pm



2nd Children's Film Festival '09

Organiser: Children's Film Society Bangladesh
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: January 24-30
Time: 11am onwards



Remembering the guru

Chhayanat's homage to Waheedul Haque

JAMIL MAHMUD

On the 2nd death anniversary of cultural personality and organiser Waheedul Haque, Chhayanat arranged a memorial programme at its main auditorium on January 27. Apart from Chhayanat, different cultural organisations and well-wishers paid homage to the iconic figure in Bangladeshi cultural arena through rendition of songs and recitation.

The programme started with a group rendition of the Nazrul song "Jago amrito piashi". This was followed by a welcome speech given by noted Nazrul artiste and general secretary of Chhayanat, Kahirul Anam Shakil.

Renowned economist Professor Sanat Kumar Saha, who is also a notable essayist, a music exponent and a scholar, gave a memorial speech on Haque at the programme. The speech titled "Manusher Dharma: Waheedul Haque" touched on Rabindranath Tagore's hypothetical assessment on the true nature of humans.

Going over Haque's contribution to our collective cultural movement, Professor Saha referred to him as "the front-runner" and "a true follower of Tagore".

"Haque led the 1960's cultural movement against the then Pakistani government. When an attempt to ban Tagore songs was initiated, Haque played a key role in resisting it," said Professor Saha.

According to the speech, Haque's organisational capacity brought many Bengali intellectuals together to fight the ongoing cultural aggression. Haque realised the importance of Tagore in stimulating Bengali nationalism to survive in its secular form.

Chhayanat President, Dr. Sanjida Khatun introduced Professor Saha to the audience, while Kahirul Anam Shakil conferred on him an 'uttario'.

After the memorial speech Chhayanat artistes rendered songs. Folk singer Chandana Majumder rendered a Lalon song "Aar katodin jani". Kahirul Anam Shakil sang "Meghey meghey andho". Noted Tagore singer Mita Haque performed "Shudhu tomar bani noygo".

Elora Ahmed Shukla, Partho Tanvir Naved and Laisha Ahmed Lisa rendered "E parobashey robei ke", "Pagol jey tui" and "Kichhui to holo na" respectively.

Among others, ATM Jahangir, Tanzina Parvin Toma, Azizur Rahman Tuhin and Anindya Rahman performed at the



Professor Sanat Kumar Saha delivering the memorial speech.



A group rendition by artistes of Chhayanat.



Chandana Majumder renders a Lalon song at programme.

programme.

Throughout the programme, excerpts from readings by Waheedul Haque were played. The recitations were titled "Paye Cholar Path 1-3" and "Bhul Shargo 1-4".

Chhayanat's memorial programme wrapped up with a group rendition of "Gabbir rajani namilo hridoye".

After performances by Chhayanat artistes, members of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parisad, Kanthoshilan, Anandadhoni, Nalanda, Bangladesh Bratochari Samiti and Saroj Sangskriti Britto performed.

Earlier in the morning, Chhayanat arranged an hour-long musical programme at its premises to mark Haque's death anniversary. At the programme, artistes of Chhayanat performed several group renditions including "Surer guru", "Morey daki loye jao", "Turni jey shurer agun" and "Antor mamo bikashita karo".

Waheedul Haque passed away on January 27, 2007.

Pastoral tunes draw audience at Shilpakala

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With an aim to popularise folk songs among city dwellers, Music and Dance department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) organised a four-day folk song festival, which started on January 26 at the plaza of National Art Gallery, BSA. Prominent and promising folk artistes are performing at the festival everyday, drawing a sizeable, enthusiastic audience at the plaza.

ASM Ali Kabir, secretary to the Establishment Ministry, was present at the inauguration of the festival as chief guest. Presided over by the director general of BSA, Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, the event had Sharful Alam, secretary to the ministry of cultural affairs and Golam Mostofa, CEO of Hakkani Publishers as special guests. Sunil Chandra Das, director, Department of Music and Dance, BSA



Anjali Ghosh performs at the festival.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

welcomed the audience.

The speakers emphasised on the importance of preserving the opulent heritage of Bangladeshi folk songs, which remains a key source of inspira-

tion for the struggling, hardworking majority of our country living in the villages.

A splendid performance by eminent folk artistes followed the inaugu-

ration. The first day's programme featured renowned artistes Farida Parveen, Dilruba Khan, Nashid Kamal, Bishyajit Roy, Anima Mukti Gomez and others.

The second day's event featured performances by Sohel Khan, Anjali Ghosh, Abdul Karim Khan, Rupu Khan, Syed Golam Ambia, Shahnaz Bel, Fakir Shahabuddin and others -- entertaining the audience for hours. Group renditions by Alam Dewan, Manzila Dewan, Hammadur Rahman, Zaber Hossain and their respective troupes were also lauded by the audience.

Highlights of the third day's programme were performances by popular folk singers Kiran Chandra Roy, Ifat Ara Nargis, Tapan Majumdar, Abdul Bari Siddiqui along with a number of up and coming artistes.

The festival ends today.



PHOTO: STAR

Nikkhan Nriya Shilpi Goshthi, Rajshahi recently staged a dance performance protesting brutality on Palestinian children by Israeli forces. The programme was held at Bhuban Mohan Park in the city.

The new face of tourism promotion

Aamir Khan urges proverbial Indian hospitality

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

When it comes to lending his face to a noble cause, one of Bollywood's most bankable stars, Aamir Khan, is never found wanting.

After having championed the cause of environment protection, Aamir has joined a campaign against ill-treatment of foreign tourists in India and defacing historical monuments with graffiti.

The actor, who was roped in by the Indian Tourism Ministry as its brand ambassador last year, is appearing in two separate infomercials with the message that foreign tourists should be accommodated in every way to make their holiday in India enjoyable and that monuments should be protected from graffiti.

In one infomercial, Aamir is seen as recalling the Indian tradition of treating the guest as an epitome of God and asking the people to respect foreign tourists and assist them. The actor also assures foreign tourists that India is a



safe tourist destination.

In the other film, the actor propagates the message that monuments should not be defaced with graffiti or writings on them, as is often found.

Some stray incidents of attacks on foreign tourists and the Mumbai terror attack in November last year, along with global economic meltdown, has sparked speculation about a decline in foreign tourist arrival in India and the Indian government is trying to dispel any impression that the country is not a safe tourist spot.

Some countries had issued advisories to its nationals to be watchful about security in India and to avoid certain places in the country. However, almost all of them have been withdrawn since then.

Many believe that Aamir, who is basking in the huge success of his latest film "Ghajini" (the film has become the biggest hit of 2008 grossing Rs 200 crore worldwide), extending his help to boost the campaign to woo foreign tourists and keep the monuments free from graffiti could not be more timely.

Acting: A labour of love

In conversation with Zahid Hossain Shovon

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Actor Zahid Hossain Shovon's performance in the three running daily soaps "Doll's House", "Gulshan Avenue" and "Shongsar" have been much lauded. These serials are aired on ATN Bangla, Banglavisión and Channel-i respectively.

Shovon is also currently busy with a drama serial called "Chor Kuthuri", aired on ATN Bangla. In the pipeline is another mega-serial "Eka", to be aired soon.

"I usually go for supporting roles in TV serials, since acting is not my day job. I am passionate about acting but my job (Shovon works for Best Air) doesn't leave me with enough time to concentrate solely on TV plays," explains Shovon.

The actor says that at one stage he did consider pursuing acting as a profession, and quit his job at Thai Airways, so that he could focus on TV plays and Dhaliwood (mainstream Bangladeshi film industry) films. However, due to unavoidable reason he changed his mind eventually. "It's more

convenient to take up acting as a part-time profession, or what is known as an 'amateur' actor in the circuit," Shovon says.

As an 'amateur' artiste Shovon has had a extensive career in theatre as well. Though he has played central characters in several plays produced by the group, Theatre (Natok Sarani). Currently he plays the protagonist of "Balod", which his troupe has been staging for many years.

Asked why the troupe hasn't come up with new productions of late, Shovon says, "The current theatre scenario in Bangladesh is quite different from how it was in the 1970s. After the electronic media boom in the mid-'90s, most talented actors became busy with TV plays.

"Theatre troupes in the country face a dearth of dedicated actors/directors/ activists/enthusiasts. This explains why more or less all troupes struggle to produce new plays, and continue staging popular productions. However, we plan to bring out new plays soon."

"It's more convenient to take up acting as a part-time profession, or what is known as an 'amateur' actor in the circuit."



About his plans, Shovon asserts that he wants to continue acting -- on the side -- on both TV and theatre. He also plans to direct the upcoming production of his troupe.