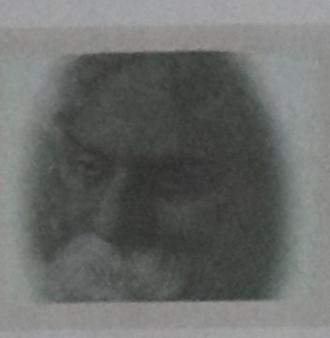
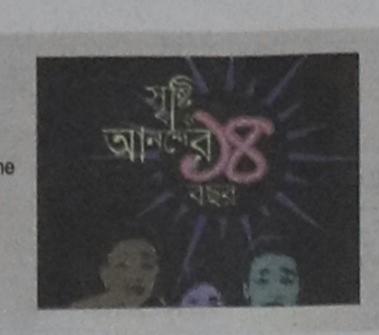




Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan Organiser: Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan Parishad Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag Date: March 20-22 Time: 9:30 am onwards



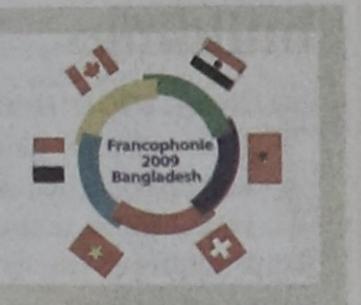
National **Pantomime** Festival '09 Organiser: Pantomime Movement Venue: Theatre Institute, Chittagong Date: March 20-22 Time: 4pm everyday



Installation Title: Kagojer Chhayay Artists: Wakilur Rahman and Dhali Al Mamun Organiser: The daily Prothom Alo Venue: Nalinikanto Bhattashali Gallery, National Museum Date: March 20-30



Francophone Film Festival Organiser: Alliance Française de Dacca, Zahir Ralhan Film Society Venue: Auditorium, AFD, Rd 3 Dhanmondi Date: March 16-24 Time: 5om onwards March 22: Heads and Tails, Hunting and Gathering



'Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan '09

300 participants from across the country congregate at Public Library



PHOTO: STAR



The three-day convention features dance and music by seasoned and promising Tagore artistes from across the country.

JAMIL MAHMUD

The 28th Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan began at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag on March 20. Organised by Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet presided over the programme.

Shammilan Parishad (JRSSP), this three-day annual programme features nearly 300 participants from across the country.

speech. Tagore exponent and presiinaugurated the programme. Eminent educationist and President of JRSSP, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, South Indiah inridanga.

The morning session featured songs, recitation and dance. Noted The inaugural session took place while noted artiste Sharmila early on March 20 morning. Noted Bandyopadhyay performed a dance. A outside Dhaka who do not get the

Tagore artiste and General Secretary of group recital of "lahora" (of percus-JRSSP, Bulbul Islam gave the welcome sions) was the highlight of the session. Nilmoni Sinha, Gautam Sarkar, dent of Chhayanat, Dr. Sanjida Khatun Swarup Hossain and Enamul Haque performed respectively on Manipuri 'mridanga,' 'tabla,' 'pakhawaj' and

A competition on Rabindra Sangeet featured 50 adolescent singers from across the country. Bulbul Islam media personality and lawmaker informed that the competition, which Asaduzzaman Noor recited a poem, started a few months back, intends to groom and inspire talented singers

exposure they deserve.

In the afternoon, a seminar titled, "Shatobarsho Agey: Jatiyo Shikkha Andolon O Rabindranath" was held at the venue. Eminent educationist Professor Anisuzzaman presented the keynote paper. Among others, Professor Shafi Ahmed, Department of English, Jahangirnagar University discussed on the topic.

The evening session featured over 30 artistes performing songs, dances and recitation. Veteran actress Ferdausi Majumdar inaugurated the evening session, accompanied by a chorus of "Aguner parashmoni chhowao praney" rendered from the backstage.

Rokaiya Hasina started her solo performance with "Madhuro dhoni bajey." Nargis Chowdhury and Biswajit Sen Gupta (from Barisal) rendered "Kul thekey mor" and "Aamar hiyar majhey" respectively. Among others, Iffat Ara Dewan, Selina Huda, Tapan Bhattacharya, Babul Chakrabarti (Chandpur), Rana Sinha (Sylhet) and Aniruddho Sen Gupta (Chittagong) sang at the programme.

Pallabi Krishnan and Tamanna Rahman performed dance, while Hasan Arif recited poetry at the programme.

Today, apart from performances, a convention of the representatives from different districts will be held in the morning. In the evening, the concluding programme will take place at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium. Botanist Dwijen Sharma will grace the programme as chief guest. This year's 'Rabindra Padak' will be announced at the programme.

Last year the convention was held in the northern district of Jaipurhat.

Nahabat's physically

challenged son, Eshak, who

develops a complex akin to

sibling rivalry, "dreams" that

he will be cured if the buffalo is

sacrificed. Unable to deny his

fatherly duties, Nahabat finally

decides to sacrifice Sohrab

But the powerful beast

breaks free and runs away. He

is overwhelmed by the cruelty

of his human kin and also

considers them his only

inspiration to live. Sohrab

eventually come backs to the

yard where he grew up, with

the realisation that this is his

Presented in the form of

"ritual theatre," the play

with a heavy heart.

final resting place.

A treat for information seekers

Kindling interest in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A CD titled Mymenpedia, a vast storehouse of information about Mymensingh, was launched at the local Shilpakala Academy on March 19. Dhaka divisional commissioner Dr. Khandaker Shawkat Hossen unveiled the CDthe first of its kind here -- as chief guest.

Deputy commissioner of Mymensingh, Mohammad Ziaur Rahman Khan who prepared the pedia, replete with the area's rich history and culture, presided over the ceremony. Among others, mayor of Mymensingh Municipality, advocate Mahmud Al Noor Tareq; additional deputy commissioner Mohammad Mohsin; additional police superintendent, Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman; heads of different educational institutions and cultural personalities attended the function.

Earlier a discussion was held to mark the 2021. launch. The speakers said that the district of some 225 years' vintage and popular for folk ballads such as "Mahua", "Malua" and "Chandrabati", had produced many valiant and noted sons. Among those born in Mymensingh were Acharya Jogodish inthis reasonably priced CD," he said.

Chandra Bose, the world renowned scientist; littérateur, journalist and politician Abdul Mansur Ahmad, littérateur Abul Kalam Shamsuddin; Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore visited the district, while National Poet Kazi Nazrul stayed in Trishal in his younger days.

The district, through which flow many rivers like Old Brahmaputra, Kansha, Khiru, Sutia and Sumeshwari, has a rich historical and cultural background, but until now there was little known about the district. This pedia, said the speakers, will help people to extend their knowledge about about Mymensingh, one of the oldest districts of this subcontinent.

Talking about the contribution of Mohammad Ziaur Rahman Khan, the speakers said that the people of Mymensingh will remember his initiative. The pedia, they said, could set Banlgadesh into the digital era by

In his speech, Khan said that Mymensingh's rich literature and culture needed preservation so that it could be saved from extinction. "I have tried to include a great deal of information about Mymensingh

Selim al Deen's Dhaboman: Death, the inseparable companion

Shimul Yousuf directs Dhaka theatre's latest production

NADIA SARWAT

Dhaka Theatre premiered its latest production "Dhaboman" on March 20 at the National Theatre Stage. Through this Selim Al Deen play, noted actress Shimul Yousuf made her debut as a theatre director.

On her newest identity, Shimul Yousuf said, "I didn't consider directing plays before. But I felt a void when Selim Al Deen, who was a mentor and friend to me, passed away unexpectedly. It's my effort to survive the loss."

"It's painful to premier a Selim Al Deen play without him physically present among us. Written during his last days, this play has an indication of death silently stalking life," Nasiruddin Yousuff said at the

"Dhaboman" belongs to the post-colonial 'narrative' theatre, a form conceived by Al Deen that highlights our indigenous traditions and art forms, countering the western concept of theatre. Set in a village by the Someshwari River in the greater Mymensingh area where Bengalis have been living side by side with the Mandis, the play features a buffalo named Sohrab as its protagonist. In the Mandi culture, buffaloes are honoured as manifestation of god.

Raised by Nahabat, a Bengali villager, Sohrab is treated not as a farm animal,

traditional annual buffalo-fight and Sohrab does win his first fight. But done by Shimul Yousuf.



Presented in the "ritual theatre" form, the play uses indigenous ceremonial traditions as narrative.

adopts traditional ceremonial elements of the Mandi culture,

along with "Madar Pirer Geet," "Muharram-er Jari," "Padma Nachan," "Kach Nritya," "Lathi Khela," "Nat Pala" and more. Sporting the grandeur of an epic, the play has nature and animals interact with the human characters to disseminate a message against slaughtering.

Shimul Yousuf performed the role of Bibek (conscience), another indigenous theatrical element. Shahiduzzaman Selim, Chandan Chowdhury, Nasrin Nahar, Rosy Siddiqui, Jayasree Bandopadhyay, Sajjad Ahmed and Asaduzzaman Aman played the major roles. Esha Yousuff played Sohrab the buffalo; Al Deen himself apparently

but as his owner's child. Sohrab grows up to be a powerful animal and considered her to be perfect for the role. Nasirul Haque Khokon was Nahabat takes great pride in him. He wants the buffalo to win the the light designer of the production. Music and set design were

Latest Warfaze album to be released on Nokia 5800

Nokia is set to lure Bangladeshi music lovers 5130XpressMusic, with its highly competiwith 5130XpressMusic -- the newest addition tive price is targeted at music enthusiasts to the brand's XpressMusic range and a first of its kind to team up with musical powerhouse Warfaze with the exclusive release of the band's Album on Nokia 5800, according to a press release.

Prem Chand, general manager for Nokia's emerging Asia markets, recently announced the launch of 5130XpressMusic in Bangladesh. "For many people in emerging markets like Bangladesh, their mobile devices are their favourite, and sometimes only, source of entertainment. The appeal of music is universal and so should be music lovers' access to their favourite songs. The

and will make mobile entertainment more accessible. The release of an album on a mobile device instead of traditional use of CDs is also unprecedented. It is the first of its kind here," he said.

The 5800 XpressMusic will come preloaded with the yet to be released Warfaze album with 13 tracks including two completely new tracks titled "Tomake" and "Omanush." Nokia has exclusive rights to the album until April 14.

"We are delighted to team up with Nokia, a brand truly close to peoples' hearts," said the band members.