

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Exhibition

Title: European Commission Logo Competition '09  
Organiser: The Delegation of the European Commission  
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 23-May 7  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Searching  
Artist: Nusrat Jahan Nazlee  
Venue: Radius Centre-Bay's Galleria, 5th Floor, 57, Gulshan Avenue  
Date: April 17-May 1



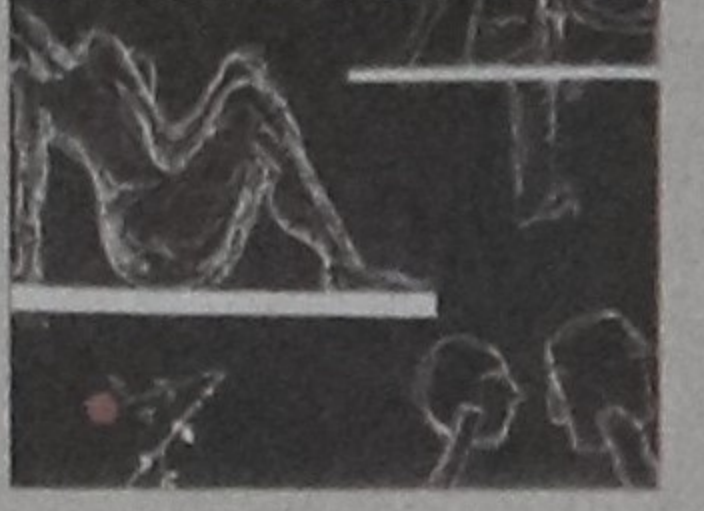
### Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Touching the Reality  
Artist: Golam Faruque  
Venue: Shilpangan, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 17-26  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Lyrical Lines  
Artist: Rashed Kamal Russell  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka  
Date: April 17-30  
Time: 9 am-12 pm and 5 pm-8 pm



## HSBC rings in Bangla New Year

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

HSBC held a two-day programme (starting on April 19) at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre to celebrate the Bangla New Year. Highlighting traditional Bangla songs, dance, poetry recitation and more, the event entertained HSBC's select and corporate clients.

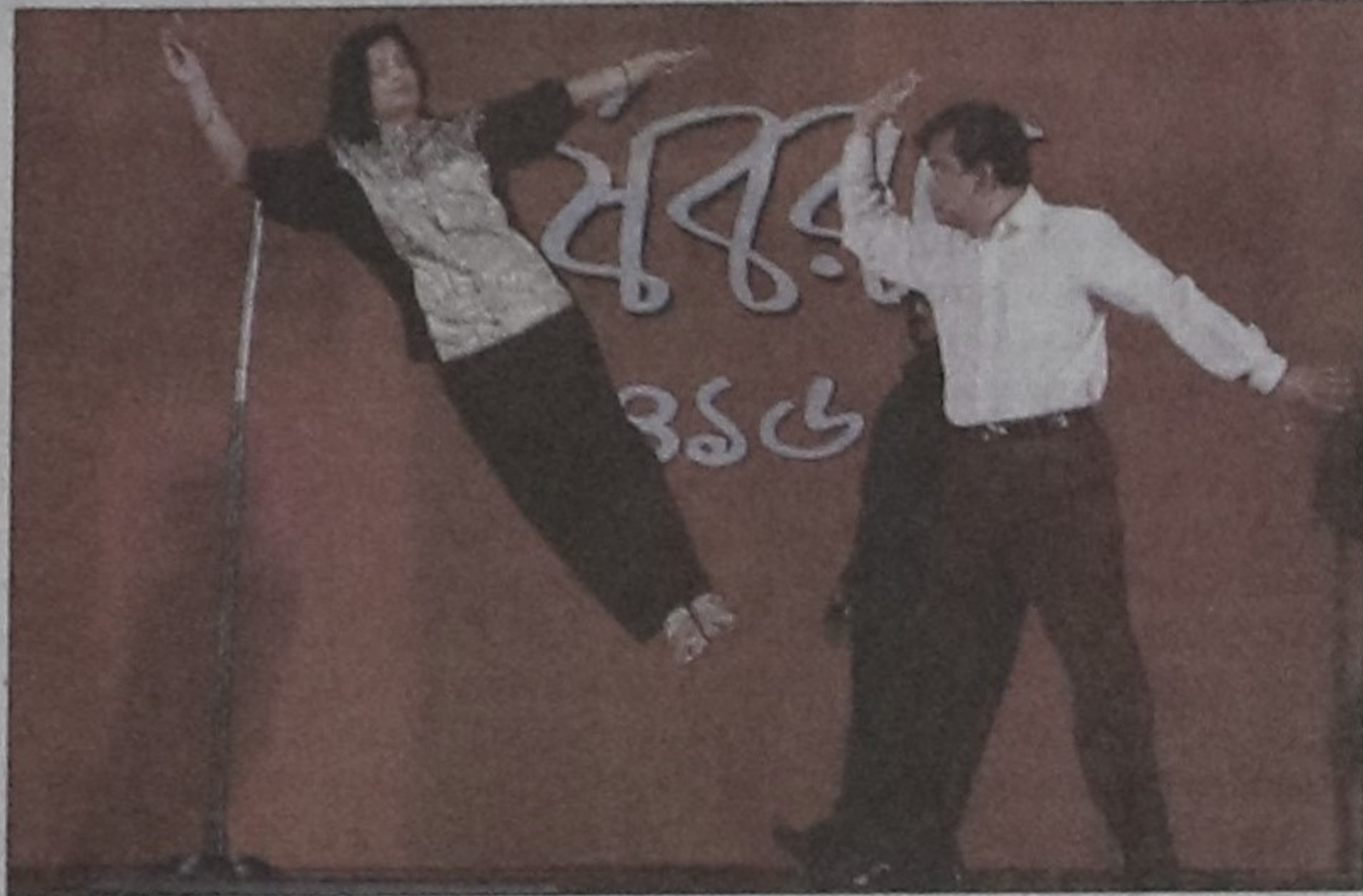
The first day of the programme, for the HSBC select customers, featured Rabintra Sangeet by renowned artiste Mita Haq and her troupe. Shankar Sawjal wowed the audience with his dazzling light and sound show -- recreating elements of rural Bengal. Other attractions included a dance performance by artistes of Shadhona.

On the second day (April 20), at the Celebrity Hall, HSBC corporate clients were greeted with 'narkel-er nadu' and 'ka(n)cha aam-er sharbat.'

Mahbub-ur-Rahman, corporate banking head of HSBC, welcomed the guests and said, "HSBC has been operating in Bangladesh since 1996. Over the last 12 years, this organisation has managed to win the confidence of clients and sincerely tried to make a difference through its corporate responsibility (CR) -- one of the focuses being promotion of Bengali culture. This is our first 'barsho-baran' programme and we thank you for making this a success with your presence."

Rahman also thanked Bengal Foundation for its assistance in planning and organising the event.

Sanjay Prakash, CEO of HSBC, pledged to strengthen the bond with the organisation's clients. "HSBC has survived this ongoing global financial crisis without any bailout support and has even managed to flourish. This has been possible because of the positive confidence vested in us by our clientele. Known as 'world's local bank,'



Jewel Aich during an illusion.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

An ode to the six seasons by Prema (right) and other artistes of Shadhona.

HSBC continues its efforts in preserving and promoting local culture and traditions," he added.

The programme started with recitation of Tagore's "Bidaye Abhishap" by Jayanto Chattopadhyay and Pragna Laboni. After what seemed like an eternity, the duo's conversation style performance wound down and Mita Haq took the stage.

Haq sang three Rabintra Sangeet -- "Jodi amar hridoy duar bondho rahey," "Shawan gagan-e ghor ghanaghata" and "Patar bhela bhashai."

Next was Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb. The upcoming Nazrul singer performed two of the National Poet's compositions -- "Ager moto aam-er daal-e bol dhorechhey" and

"Rumjum rum-o hjum-o ke bajaye."

Zahir Alim, folk maestro Abdul Alim's son, rendered some classics popularised by his late father. Among these were the ever-familiar "Holudia pakhi," "Rupali nadi rey" and Abdul Alim's last recorded song (from the blockbuster "Shujon Shakhi"), "Shob shakhirey paar koritey nebo aana aana."

The highlight of the evening was an impeccable performance by folk virtuoso Chandana Majumder. The artiste who's been around for a decade, but received wide acclaim in recent years with her indomitable determination and refined skills, performed songs of Lalou. The first rendition was "Kha(n)char bitor achin pakhi." The trance induced by Sufism reached higher notes with "Dekhna mon jha(n)k mari ei duniyadani." "Though Lalou has been immortalised for his devotional compositions, the bard did also write some songs about unadulterated human love," said Majumder before rendering "Ami prem roshik hobo kemoney." If the balladeer's powerful pipes -- assisted by 'dhol' -- hit the airwaves like a tidal wave with the song, her next rendition (without any percussion) "Paar-e loye jao amaye" had the feel of dewdrops creating fleeting ripples on still water.

Following the unforgettable performance, dancers of Shadhona presented a composition highlighting the six seasons and their impact on nature. Choreographed and performed -- along with other Shadhona artistes -- by Warda Rihab and Samina Hossain Prema, the piece went well with the audience.

The last attraction of the night was superb illusions by Jewel Aich. The curtains came down as the audience was coming out of the daze induced by the master illusionist's outstanding acts.

## TV Watch

### New programme Ishkool on Ekushey TV

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To generate awareness on the public education system in Bangladesh, a new programme title "Ishkool" is going on air on Ekushey TV, starting from tonight. Jointly produced by Ekushey TV and Plan Bangladesh, the programme will be aired live at 8:30 pm every Wednesday.

The innovative programme will feature a drama serial based on the issues regarding corporal punishment at schools, drop outs, absence of students and teachers in the classrooms, an education system that forces stu-

dents to memorise without understanding the study material and other relevant issues. A live discussion will follow, highlighting the problems shown in the play and possible ways to change the situation. A government officer, working in the education sector, a representative of Plan Bangladesh and three invited guests will participate in the discussion.

Written by Anjir Liton and directed by Atik Rahman, Swagata, Maznun Mizan, Arman Parvez Murad and Abul Hayat, among others, are featured in the drama serial. Produced by Rishita Jahan and Saiful Islam, the programme is hosted by Prabak Karim.



Abul Hayat (back row-2nd from right) with co-artistes in the drama part of "Ishkool."

### Golpo Thekey Natok on Desh TV

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Golpo Thekey Natok: Bindu Thekey Britto" will be aired on Desh TV at 10:02 pm. Nahid Ahmed is the director of the play.

The plot: Zainul goes to his relative's on a vacation. At his relative's he is taken aback when he comes across Shefali. Zainul's former sweetheart, Shefali is now blissfully married.

Her presence brings back happy memories. They loved each other very much but Zainul couldn't fulfil the requirements set by Shefali's father. He recalls Shefali giving him a wrist-watch. Wearing it up until now, Zainul takes it off and returns it to Shefali. The story takes a sudden twist from here on. Gazi Rakayet and Tanima Hamid have played the central characters.



A scene from the play

### After the three Khans, Irrfan is the most bankable!

Thanks to "Slumdog Millionaire," Irrfan Khan has been listed as the one of the most bankable stars from India in Hollywood and has been ranked with the more mainstream Khans of Bollywood in a new Forbes list.

Irrfan is among half a dozen Bollywood actors on the list of "Hollywood's Most Valuable Actors," compiled by the American publication known for its rankings of the world's richest persons.

Other Indians on the list include Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Hrithik Roshan and Aishwarya Rai.

Irrfan ranked at 825 is behind Aamir Khan, Shahrukh Khan and Salman Khan. The global list, topped by Hollywood actor Will Smith, is based on the bankability of actors around the world, voted by members of the global entertainment industry, Forbes said.

The rankings are based on scores given to more than 1,400 working actors globally by the industry people on a scale of zero-to-ten, in terms of their bankability to ensure the financial success of film projects.

Currently, Irrfan has around 5-6 releases this year. His forthcoming projects include "Kal Kisne Dekha," "Paan Singh Tomar," "Right Ya Wrong," "New York," "Acid Factory" and "Hiss."



Irrfan Khan

## Int'l French Theatre Festival ends on a positive note

### NADIA SARWAT

The weeklong International French Drama Festival '09, held at the National Theatre Stage of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, ended with a promise to come back next year on a grander scale. On April 19, at the closing ceremony of the festival, the organisers expressed the hope to make the festival an annual event, as this year's success with more than 3000 audiences, inspired them.

Professor Sayeed Ahmed was present as the chief guest. Ramendu Majumder, president of ITI International; Kamal Lohani, director general of BSA; Patrick Branco, head of the mission, Embassy of France in Bangladesh; Saliha Lefevre, director of Alliance Française de Dhaka and

Jaques Bounin, deputy director of Alliance Française de Dhaka were also present at the closing ceremony.

"The idea for this festival was introduced to us by the Fame school of Theatre, Chittagong. This is the second festival jointly organised by Fame, Natukey Theatre and Alliance Française and it has been a tremendous success. Bangladeshi theatre enthusiasts have shown their keen interest in French plays, so the festival will certainly go on," said Saliha Lefevre, director of Alliance Française de Dhaka. She also mentioned that any interested theatre troupe could participate at the next year's festival.

Among the participating plays, awards for best play, best director and best actor (male and female) were announced at the closing programme.

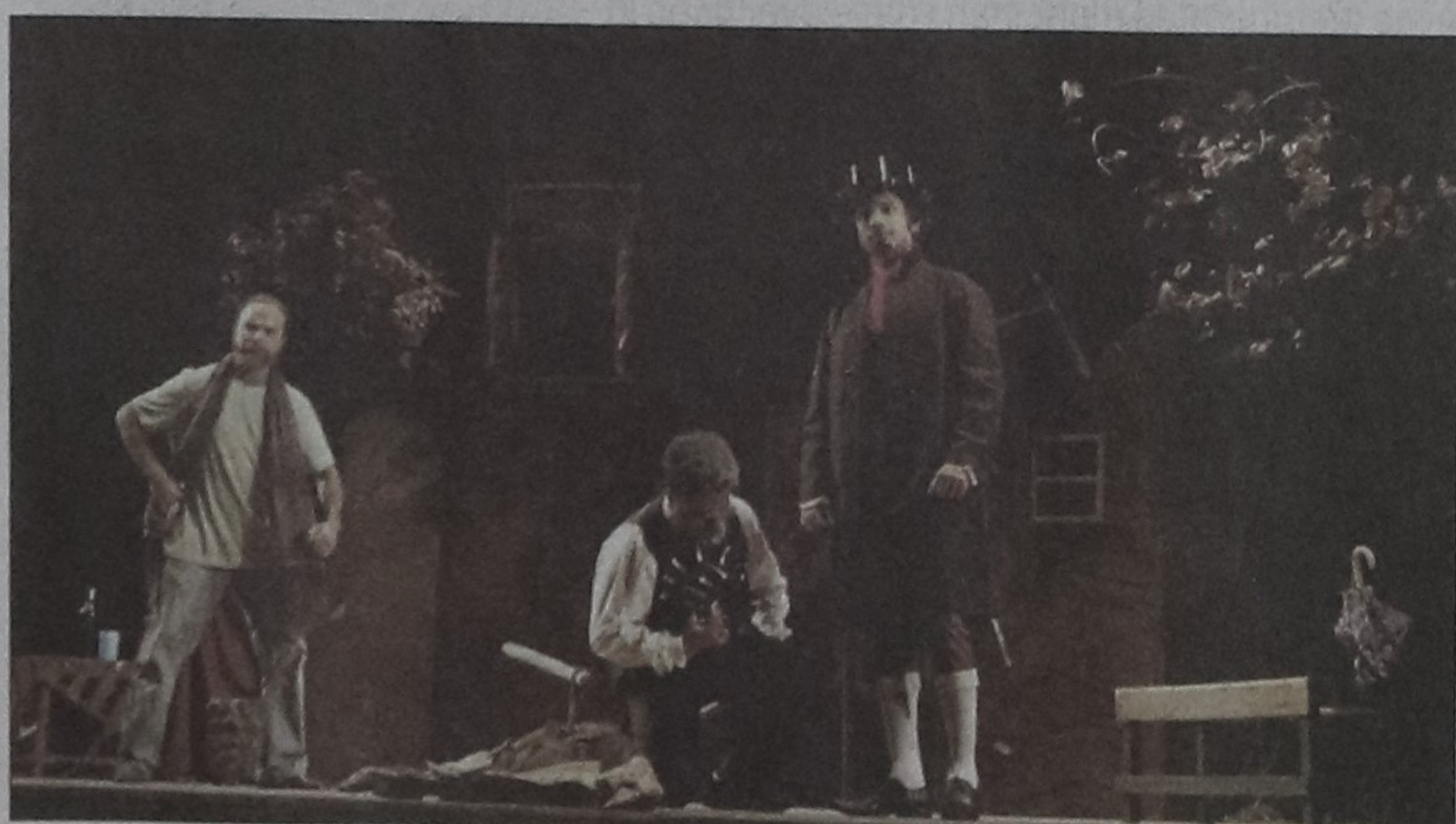
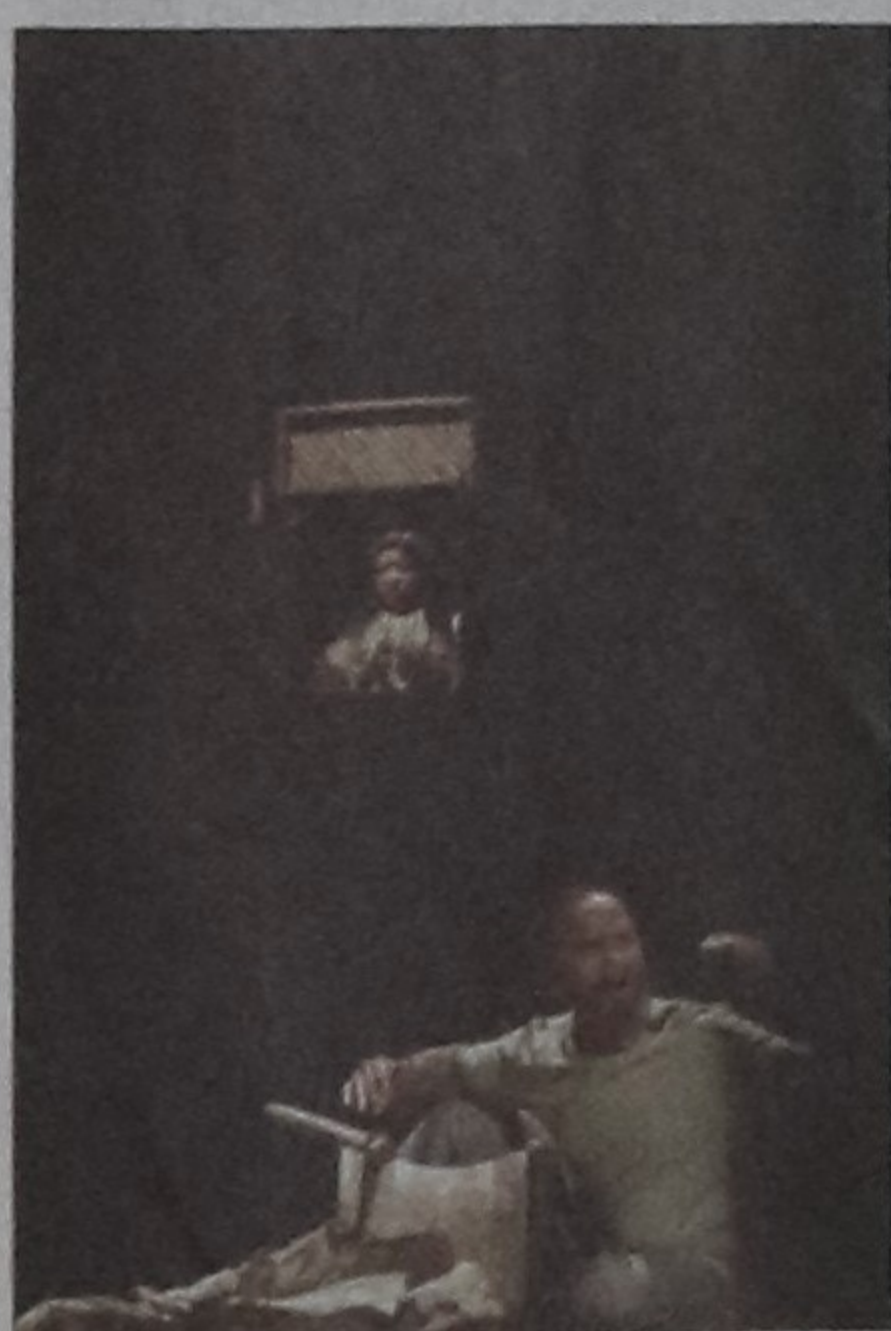
"Romeo et Jeannette," a production by Indian theatre troupe Kalyani Kalamandalam was awarded the best play while Ashim Das for the play "George Dandin" won the best director award. Anupam and Anghi won the best actor and actress awards respectively.

Prior to the closing programme, the play "George Dandin" -- written by the famous French playwright Molière -- was staged by Fame School of Theatre. The play has been translated by Arup Rudra and Chinmoy Guha and directed by Ashim Das. The satire cunningly ridicules the snobbery of the aristocrats and the foolish aspirations of the nouveau rich.

George, a poor, self-made man marries a woman from an aristocratic family to change his fortune. While his

pride is hurt when he finds the in-laws looking down on him, his wife brings in the final disaster by betraying him. Moreover, with the help of her lover and the servant, she cleverly outwits her cuckolded husband's attempts to expose her affair with hilarious consequences. Unable to bear the situation where either way he is a loser, George commits suicide pointing his accusing finger to the hypocrisy of the aristocratic values. Anghi, the best actress of the festival, won her prize for portraying George's unfaithful wife in this play.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Professor Sayeed Ahmed and the late Professor Zia Haider were honoured on the sixth day of the festival for their contribution to the Bangla literature and theatre.



Fame School of Theatre staged the play "George Dandin" at the closing programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M