

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

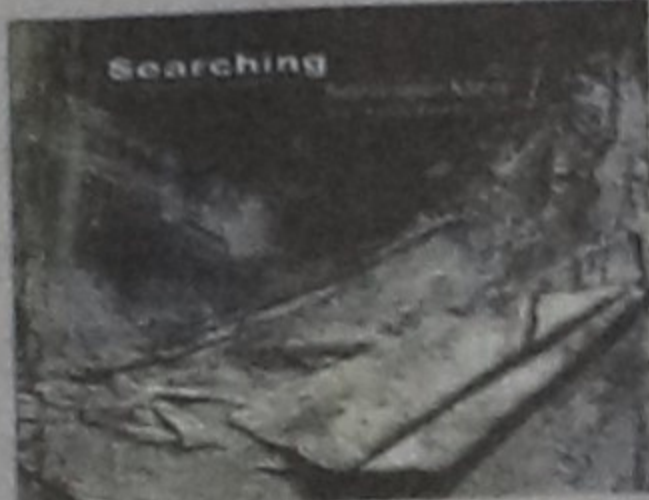
4th National Dance Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Dance Artists' Association
Venue: Plaza, National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: April 23-29
Time: 6pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

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



Film Screening

70th World Film Manifestation Programme
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Goethe Institut auditorium, H10, R9 Dhanmondi
Date: May 10-11
Time: 3pm onwards



Folk Theatre Festival

Organiser: Dept of Theatre & Film, BSA
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: April 23-29
Time: 6:30 pm



THEATRE

Sonata: Loneliness in the big city

MITA CHOWDHURY

Sonata, a one-act play, originally written in Marathi by the eminent Indian playwright Mahesh Elkunchwar, was adapted by Leesa Gazi into a bilingual version Bangla and English. The setting of the play was changed from Mumbai to London and three Indian women transformed into three Bangladeshi women living the lives of Londoners.

Sonata was directed by British Bangladeshi director, Mukul Ahmed and produced by Tara Studio for a week in October 2008. Mukul closely follows the artistic vision of Tara Arts' Artistic Director, Jatinder Verma and works with new writing and the classics.

In Spring 2007 Mukul directed an adaptation of the Adventures of Baron Munchausen and collected a much coveted 4 star from the Times theatre critic, Jeremy Kingston. He will be assistant director National Theatre production of the Black Album in July 09.

Tara Studio was founded in 1977 by Jatinder Verma as a response to racially motivated violence in the UK. Since 1981 the theatre has been based in South London. Its aim is to represent cross-cultural theatre and stage classical and modern plays. Tara embraces the representation of different cultures in performance and visual arts. In British multicultural society this is an integral part of the process of encouraging people from different cultural backgrounds to feel that they belong in British society.

Sonata was part of Tara Studio's



Mita Chowdhury (right) and co-actors in the play.

Displacement Season. All the plays included in this block explored the worlds of people forced to uproot and start a new life thousands of miles away, their loneliness and the sacrifices they have had to make.

Sonata follows the lives of three women and gives an insight into their lives, their history and future. Two of the women have a dark history; they are together despite a particular incident that shaped and changed their lives. The third woman who enters their life seeks refuge from an abusive boy friend but decides to

return to him by the end of the play. The play explores loneliness in a big city, the women's need to return to their hometown and the way they cling to each other for companionship.

Mita Chowdhury (the writer), Leesa Gazi and Zafreen Rahman played Bipasha, Dolon and Ria respectively three college friends who have settled in London. Mita Chowdhury, whose television and stage career initially spanned a period of 10 years, has played a variety of roles in plays written by eminent Bengali playwrights. She left Bangladesh in 1978 to live in Guernsey in the Channel Islands but returned to Dhaka in 2006 to resume her TV and stage career. Mita travelled especially to London last year in order to perform for Tara Studio.

Leesa, who was closely involved with the Group Theatre movement in Bangladesh and was a member of Nagorik Theatre Group for many years, now lives in London. She is currently leading the London-based cultural group Drishtipat Creative. Leesa is also a novelist and a writer of

short stories. She performs regularly in London-based Bengali theatre and has recently directed a highly-acclaimed cultural programme at the South Bank Centre in London.

Zafreen Rahman started off her career as a dancer and toured England for two years with a musical theatre company, Phizzical Productions. Zafreen's first screen performance was as Hasina in the award winning film, Brick Lane. She has recently completed starring in another feature film, Symmetry of Love, that is due to be released next year. Zafreen is also involved with the British Asian radio station, Club Asia, where she is involved with choreographing and dancing for its future theatre productions.

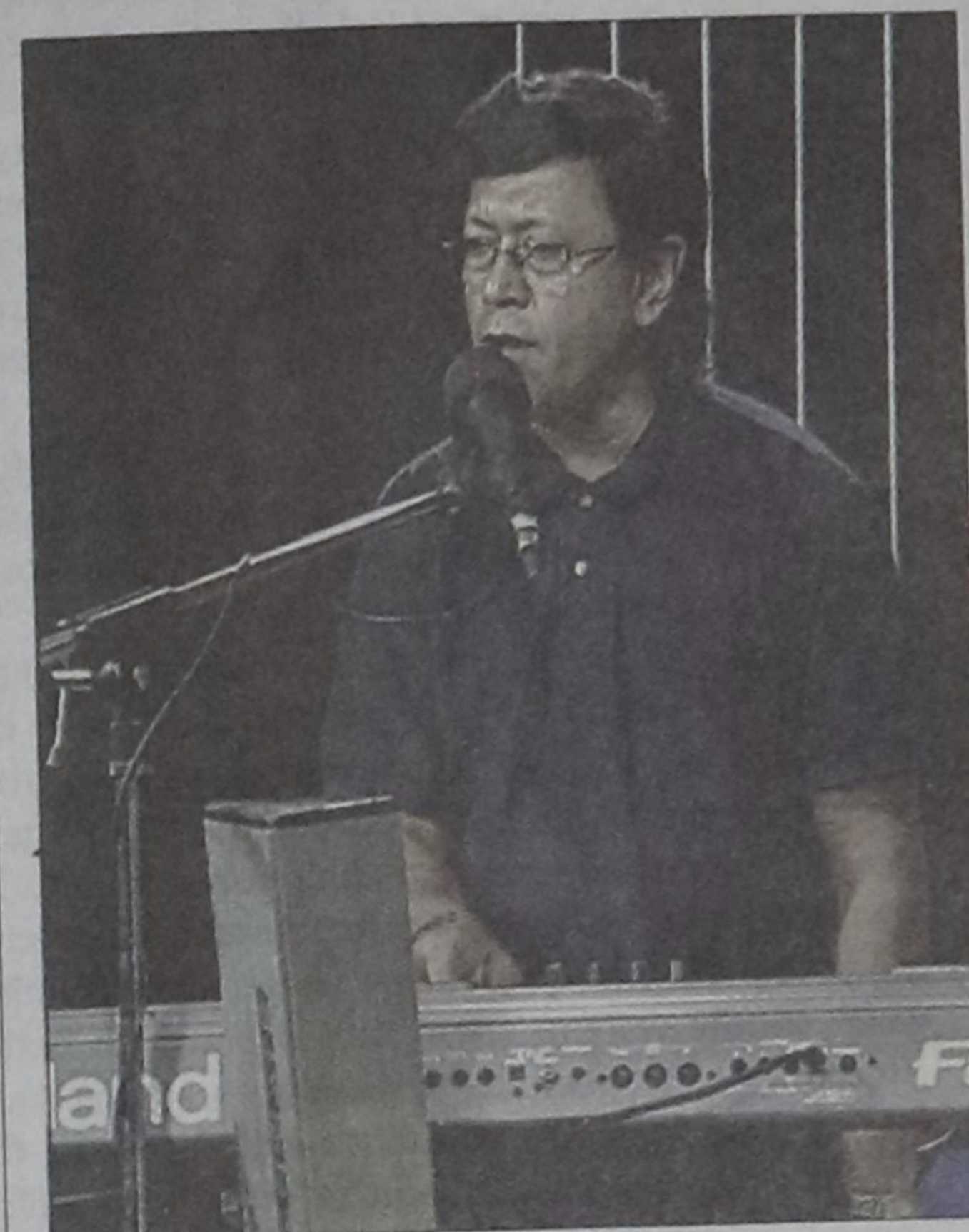
The lighting for Sonata was designed by Ishrat Nishat. Ishrat started her career as a lighting designer from 1988 in Dhaka and has worked in various theatres across the world. Ishrat is a founder member of Theatre Designers Institute in Bangladesh.

The set was designed by Kevin Jenkins.

This was the very first time that a theatre performance contained purely Bangladeshi actors for the mainstream theatre in London. Mukul Ahmed's skillful and sensitive direction enabled all three members of the cast to produce creditable performances. The bi-lingual play was extremely well-received and can arguably be described as a milestone for Bangladeshi performers.

The writer is a noted theatre artiste and activist.

Lucky Akhand on Gaanalap tonight



Lucky Akhand performs on the musical programme

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

After a hiatus, celebrated singer-composer Lucky Akhand appears on TV with Banglavisian's musical programme "Gaanalap."

Akhand's brilliance can be judged by his timeless compositions such as "Ei nil monihar," "Abar elo jey shondhya," and "Amaye deko na," which have found eager audiences among generations of music lovers. Born and raised in a culturally oriented family, Akhand composed several songs for other noted singers as well.

On "Gaanalap," Akhand will perform some of his classics as well as share several untold experiences.

"Gaanalap" will be aired tonight at 9:05pm. Produced by Nahid Ahmed Biplab, the programme is hosted by noted composer-singer Nakib Khan.



PHOTO: MUMIT M
On the fourth day (April 26) of weeklong Folk Theatre Festival at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Rashmoni Sangskritik Dal from Netrakona staged a 'pala,' 'Mahishasur Badh.' Based on the epic battle between goddess Durga and the demon Mahishasur, the 'pala' is usually staged throughout a whole night. But at BSA, the performers had to stage a brief version of the 'pala' due to limitation of time. Rahendra Hajang was the 'palakar' (narrator) of the performance.



Bollywood actor Feroz Khan dies

Flamboyant Bollywood actor, producer and director Feroz Khan has died after losing a year-long battle with cancer.

Khan, 69, died at 1:30am local time on Monday at his farmhouse in southern Bangalore.

The actor, who appeared in more than 50 films, became one of India's best-loved heroes with his role in the 1980 hit film "Qurbani."

His son Fardeen Khan is also a Bollywood actor.

Feroz Khan made his Bollywood debut as the co-star in the movie "Didi" in 1960 and went on to star in

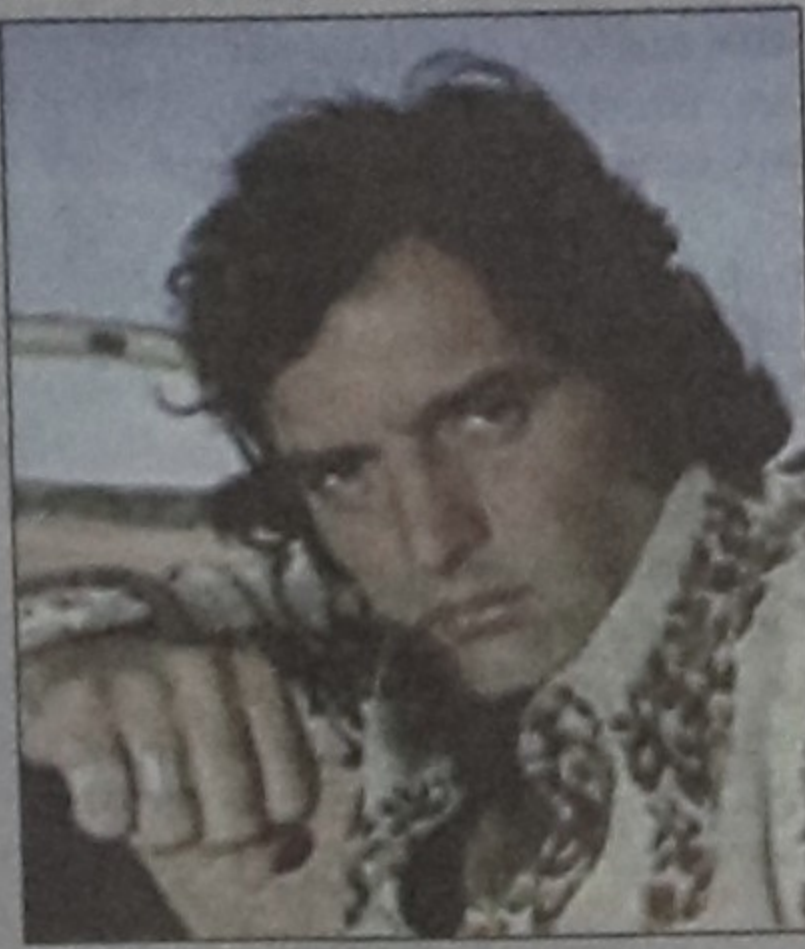
a number of films in the 1970s and '80s.

Although "Qurbani" was the biggest hit of his career, he is also known for "Dharmatma" (A virtuous soul), which was inspired by the Hollywood blockbuster, "The Godfather."

Some of his other hit films include "Jaanbaaz" and "Dayavan."

The last film he acted in was "Welcome" in 2007. For his work, Khan was given several prestigious awards by the Indian film industry.

Source: BBC



Dancers perform at a programme held at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 26. Srishti Cultural Centre arranged the two-day programme titled "Twilight Rhythm Dance Festival" to celebrate the International Dance Day (April 29). Several dance troupes including Nrityanchal, Nritya Nandan, Srishti Cultural Centre, Spandan, Shikhor, Nritya Katha, BAFA and Amra Kajon Shilpi Goshthi performed at the programme.

MOVIE WATCH

Obsessed: Fatal Attraction redux

There are no boiled bunnies in "Obsessed," a clanking, low-rent imitation of "Fatal Attraction" that lacks the imagination to come up with such a novelty. But because Ali Larter plays Lisa, the movie's psychotic lady-who-refuses-to-take-no-for-an-answer like a carbon copy of Glenn Close's demonic temptress in the original, she succeeds in pushing buttons that make you root for her destruction and feel ashamed for doing so.

As Lisa, a sultry office temp, puts the moves on Derek Charles (Idris Elba), a happily married investment banker, she wears an insinuating smirk that turns into a crazy rictus smile. Sidling up to Derek at a fancy bar and ordering two dirty martinis, she announces that she likes hers "filthy."

There is no moral ambiguity in this dumbed-down rehash of the earlier movie, directed by Steve Shill from a screenplay by David Loughery. Unlike Michael Douglas's cheating husband in "Fatal Attraction," Derek never succumbs to Lisa's advances, even when she follows him into a bathroom stall and throws herself on him like a wildcat.

Derek has just moved into a beautiful house with his wife, Sharon (Beyoncé Knowles), and their young son. Until Lisa appears, their only immediate problem is whether to remove the mirror from the bedroom ceiling.

At work, Derek is riding high, having just reeled in a \$150 million account. For a while



(From left) Idris Elba, Ali Larter and Beyoncé Knowles in "Obsessed."

he succeeds in fending off Lisa. But just when he thinks she has abandoned her campaign, she trails him to a corporate retreat, where she poses as his wife to enter his hotel room and tries to kill herself with sleeping pills. After Lisa's attempted suicide, Derek, who neglected to tell Sharon about the harassment, endures a domestic fall from grace. But this perfect husband and father is not down and out for long.

The biggest difference between "Fatal Attraction" and "Obsessed" is the charac-

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent