

WHAT'S
ON THIS
WEEK

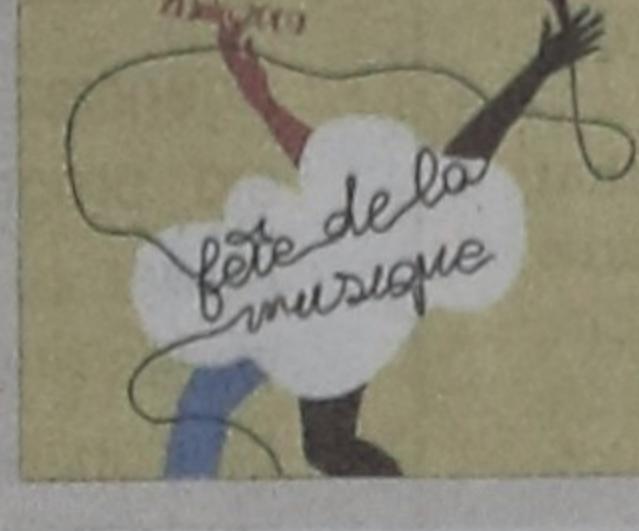
**Solo Sculpture
Exhibition**
Title: Sensibility Objectified
Sculptor: Sarbari Roy
Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of
Fine Arts, H 275F, Rd 27
(old), Dhammadi
Date: June 26-July 5
Time: 12-8pm



**5th Int'l Children
Art Biennale**
Organiser: Bangladesh
Shishu Academy
Venue: Auditorium of
Bangladesh Shishu
Academy
Date: June 21-July 5
Time: 11am-6pm



**Fete de la
Musique**
Organiser: Alliance
Française de Dhaka (AFD)
Venue: La Galerie, AFD,
26, Mirpur Rd, Dhammadi
Date: June 21-July 2
Time: 6:30pm onwards

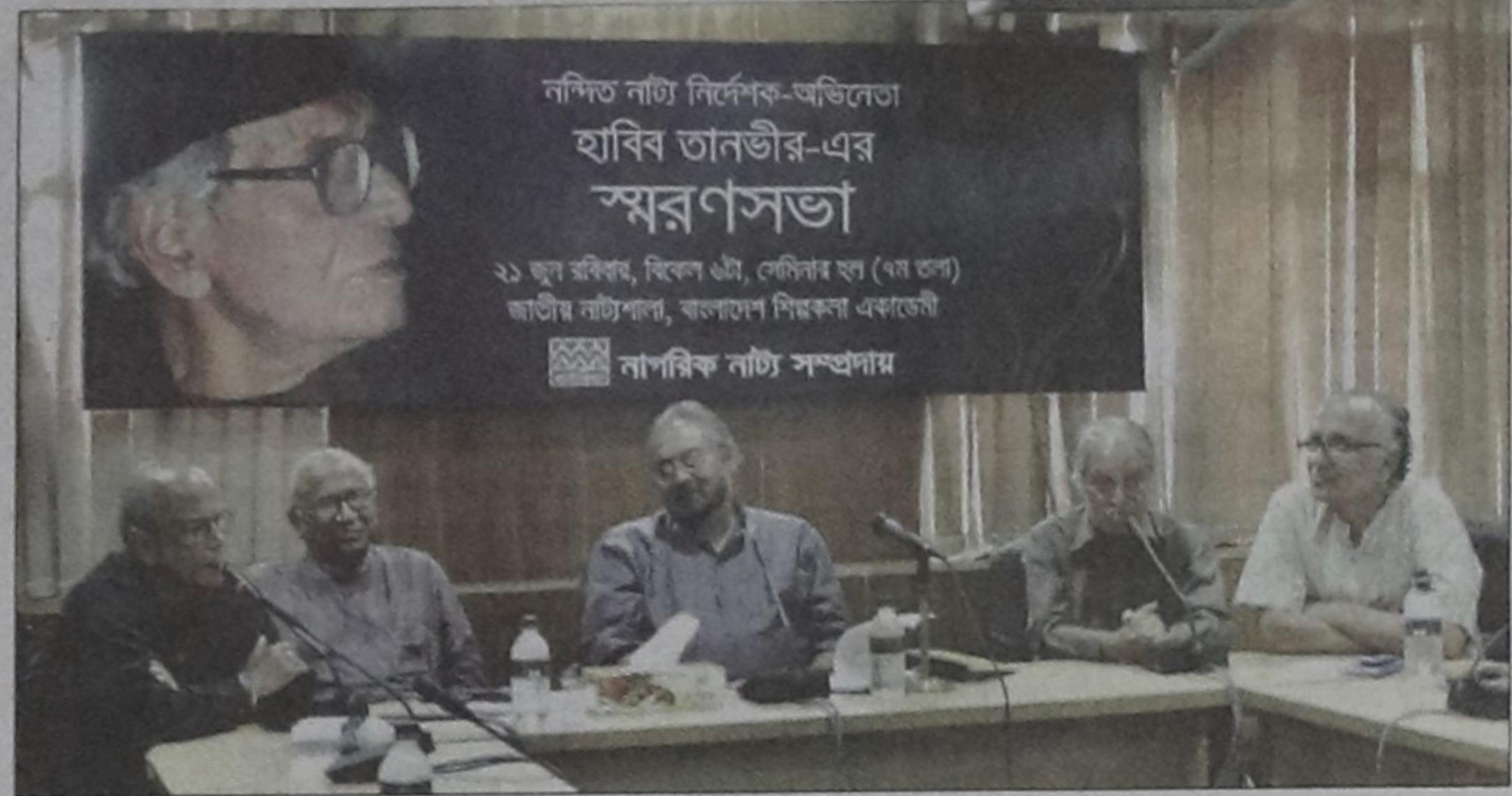


Film Screening
Film: Lalon
Filmmaker: Tanvir
Mokammel
Venue: Bangladesh
Film Centre, 160, Lake
Circus (4th floor),
Kalabagan
Date: June 25
Time: 6pm



Habib Tanveer remembered

Memorial programme by Nagarik Natya Samproday



(From Left) Syed Shamsul Haq, Ataur Rahman, Aly Zaker, Sayeed Ahmed and Ramendu Majumdar at the programme.

NADIA SARWAT

The story originates from a folk myth from Madhya Pradesh. A king is enamoured with a beautiful wine-seller, Kalharin, and a son is born to her. The boy grows up to be a strong warrior who defeats his own father in a battle. Kalharin gets her son married, only to find her son dissatisfied. The son gets married 140 times; neither of his wives can make him happy. When Kalharin asks her son what's wrong with him, she is shocked and appalled to learn that her son only desires his mother, thus no other girl can ever satisfy him. The brave mother persuades her son to go to a well and pushes him in it. She herself jumps in the well as well," seasoned theatre personality Sayeed Ahmed narrated the story with an Oedipal

element from a play directed by the iconic Indian theatre personality Habib Tanvir (1923-2009). Professor Ahmed, who was a friend of Tanvir, shared his reactions after watching the rehearsal of the play "Bahadur Kalharin" during a visit to India.

Professor Ahmed was speaking at a memorial programme -- in honour of the acclaimed playwright, director and philosopher -- organised by Nagarik Natya Samproday. The event was held recently at the Seminar Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. A pioneer in Indian theatre, Tanvir set a new trend, bringing forth the indigenous theatrical form to the urban audience through his Bhopal-based troupe Naya Theatre. Tanvir visited Bangladesh for the first time with two of his most famous plays, "Agra Bazaar" and "Charan Das Chor" at the invitation of Nagarik Natya Samproday in

1990. The artiste breathed his last on June 8 this year.

Eminent cultural personalities and theatre activists were present at the programme presided over by the president of Nagarik Natya Samproday, Aly Zaker. General secretary of the troupe, Ataur Rahman, welcomed the audience and moderated the lively discussion. Among others, poet-litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq, ITI President Ramendu Majumdar and theatre personalities Mamanur Rashid, Nasiruddin Youssuf, Sara Zaker, Golam Sarwar and Jhuna Chowdhury spoke at the event.

"There are some who devote their life to art, to make the world a better place through their artistic creations. Even after their physical death, they continue to inspire us. A true artiste, Habib Tanvir was one such inspiring figure, not only to theatre activists in the subcontinent, but the world over. During the few days we had him here in Dhaka, we were enlightened in many ways. We remember a man who was an out and out theatre-lover till death," said Ataur Rahman in his welcome speech. He also discussed on Tanvir's life, theatrical style and major works.

Syed Shamsul Haq said, "When talking about Tanvir, we tend to focus on his unique theatrical style. But to me, the application of his theatrical approach is just a means to reach where he wanted to take us actually -- towards several basic philosophical questions regarding humanity."

"Tanvir will continue to live in the world he created on stage, a world with so many diverse characters," Mamanur Rashid noted.

"As a director, Tanvir believed in nurturing the spontaneity of an actor, rather than teaching him/her 'acting.' This is what made his productions so endearing," commented Ramendu Majumdar.

For his contribution to theatre, Habib Tanvir received several prestigious awards and titles, including Padma, Shree, Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Kalidas Samman and more.

Cultural Academy for indigenous artistes in shambles

KONGKON KARMAKER,
Dinajpur

Indigenous artistes of the northern districts have no platform for their cultural practices despite having many young talents in the communities.

According to sources, in 1976 President Ziaur Rahman set up a 120-seat Cultural Academy at Shuihari village for the local indigenous communities. The academy -- stretched over one acre -- inspired the indigenous communities to be more active in their cultural practices and provided them with an opportunity to present their traditional music and dance to others living in the area.

However, thanks to subsequent government indifference, the academy has not received any fund for the last 20 years and is now in



The academy is in a dilapidated state and desperately needs renovation.

shambles.

Around 600 indigenous artistes of the institute performed at several national and international events, including opening and closing programmes of SAAF

Games in 1985 and '95. All that is past glory now.

Santal, Ora(n)o, Mundari, Kamar, Kora, Bhunjari, Bhuiyan and Malo communities now do not have an institute where young artistes can train or practice.

Professor Ganesh Shoren informed that encouragement from the government is much needed to uphold indigenous traditions and culture. He also said that

indigenous artistes have talents, but often lack education, as many villages do not have even elementary schools.

General secretary of the institute, Professor Shoren told The Daily Star that in the past the Cultural Academy had groomed hundreds of performers who had enthralled audiences at home and abroad.

During a visit to the academy recently, this correspondent found that the building is in a dilapidated state and desperately needs renovation. Its furniture is also missing.

Local indigenous groups have repeatedly urged the government to set up a full-fledged Cultural academy at the current venue in Shuihari village and thus provide them with a platform where they can train their young talents in their traditions and heritage.

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Fruit festival held in Pabna University

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

The first fruit festival in Pabna was held on June 21. Students of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) organised the fest at the university site in Rajapur village of the district head-

quarter. Around 40 varieties of fruits were on display. A discussion was also held on this occasion.

Vice Chancellor of PUST Dr. Amin Uddin Mridha was the chief guest at the event while the deputy commissioner of Pabna, Dr. AFM Monjur Kadir spoke as special guest. Teachers,

students and journalists stressed on the value of different variety of fruits of the country, at the discussion.

Juicy fruits in the summer in Bangladesh grow in abundance in different areas of the country. This provides for a wide range in taste and food value, said the discussants.

Vice Chancellor of the university Dr. Amin Uddin Mridha said that the festival was aimed at introducing an assortment of fruits gathered from different parts of the country to the students.

A wide variety of mangoes, jackfruit, pineapple, watermelon, papaya, coconut and other local fruits were on display along with the rare types such as painnagola, chineer, kowfal, lal-jamrul, bonkathal and more.



Around 40 varieties of fruits were on display at the festival.

PHOTO: STAR

Octogenarian widow refuses to give in

Documentary Indumati Baitha shot in Natore

Indumati, an 80-year-old widow, lives in Sonapatil village, Natore district. At an age, when she should be cared for, Indumati is still her family's sole earner and caregiver, says a press release.

"Indumati Baitha," a documentary zooming in on the life of this remarkable woman, has been shot recently in Natore. Biplob Kumar Pal, a young filmmaker, has made the film. Narrating voice has been provided by noted actor Pijush Bandopadhyay.

According to Biplob, "Indumati is a symbol of unending struggle, just to be able to barely make it. After her husband was paralysed, Indumati started working as a boatman, transporting people across the Baronia River. Among her five sons and daughters, three are intellectually disabled. After her



Indumati at work.

husband's death, Indumati and the intellectually disabled siblings were abandoned by the able members of the family. But Indumati never gave in. Her struggle to feed her three offspring continues."

The filmmaker was keen on

making the documentary after he came across photos of Indumati in several national dailies.

Source and photo: BanglarChokh.com

First look: What a beautifully weird 'Wonderland' Burton's made

You might have gone down the rabbit hole before. But never with a guide quite as attuned to the fantastic as Tim Burton.

Those who have grown curioser and curioser about what the offbeat re-inventor of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" might conjure up in his version of "Alice in Wonderland" can feast their eyes on the array of concept art and publicity images now available online to promote the March 5, 2010, release.

"It has been Burton-ised" is how producer Richard Zanuck describes the director's vision of the Lewis Carroll classic. Many elements are familiar, from the enigmatic Caterpillar (Alan Rickman) to the fierce Jabberwock (Christopher Lee). But none has been presented in this sort of visually surreal fashion.

"We finished shooting in December after only 40 days," Zanuck says. Now the live action is being merged with CG animation and motion-capture creatures, and then transferred into 3-D.

The traditional tale has been freshened with a blast of girl power, courtesy of writer Linda Woolverton ("Beauty and the Beast"). Alice, 17, attends a party at a Victorian estate only to find she is about to be proposed to in front of hundreds of snooty society types. Off she runs, following a white rabbit into a hole and ending up in Wonderland, a place she visited 10 years before yet doesn't remember.

Among those who welcome her back is the Mad Hatter, a part tailor-made for Johnny Depp as he collaborates with Burton for the seventh time. "This character is off his rocker," Zanuck says.

Aussie actress Mia Wasikowska, 19, best known for



(From left) Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway and Helena Bonham Carter as The Mad Hatter, The White Queen and The Red Queen.

HBO's "In Treatment," has the coveted title role. "There is something real, honest and sincere about her," Zanuck says. "She's not a typical Hollywood starlet."

There is the usual Burton-esque ghouliness (Helena Bonham Carter's Red Queen, whose favourite retort is "Off with their heads," has a moat filled with bobbing noggin), but Zanuck assures most kids can handle it. "The book itself is pretty dark," he notes. "This is for little people and people who read it when they were little 50 years ago."

Source: Internet



The chatty flowers in Alice in Wonderland take their cue from the talkative trees in The Wizard of Oz.

Mango Festival @ JAMUNA RESORT

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- Fruit Basket (Mango)
- Newspaper
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Around 40 varieties of fruits were on display at the festival.