

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sarod Recital

In honour of Sarod legend Ali Akbar Khan
Artists: Rajrupa Choudhury and Ashim Choudhury
Venue: Chhayanaut Sanskrit Bahaban
Date: July 9, Time: 7pm



Musical Soiree

Title: Srotar Ashor
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanaut Sanskrit Bahaban
Date: July 10
Time: 7:30 pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Pahariya Pathey
Artist: Shohag Parvez
Venue: La Galerie Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: July 3-7
Time: 9-12am, 5-8pm



Photography Exhibition

Title: The Face of Bangla
Photographer: Nayeem
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-55, R-15/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka
Date: July 3-11
Time: 3-8 pm



Loko Natyadal celebrates 28th anniversary

"Kanjush" and "Shonai Madhab" staged



Loko Natyadal's "Kanjush" is the first production in Bangladesh to have more than 500 shows. PHOTO: MUMIT M

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Theatre Troupe Loko Natyadal (Banani) celebrated its 28th anniversary with staging two of its popular productions, "Kanjush" and "Shonai Madhab." "Kanjush" was staged at the Mahila Samiti Auditorium on July 5. "Shonai Madhab," which touched the landmark of 100th show, was staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on July 6.

Loko Natyadal was founded on July 6 in 1981. Over the decades, the troupe has produced 23 plays, having more than 1200 shows. Its most successful play "Kanjush" -- an adaptation of Moliere's "The Miser" -- is the first production in Bangladesh to have more than 500 shows. The troupe has performed overseas several times and received acclaims. Loko Natyadal has demonstrated its social commitment by holding charity



programmes to help the poor, flood/cyclone victims, and ailing theatre activists. At present, three different fractions of Loko Natyadal (using the same name) are active. The July 5,6 events were organised by the Banani

fraction of Loko Natyadal. The troupe is an associate of People's Theatre Association. Adapted by noted actor-director Tarik Anam Khan, "Kanjush" is directed by Kamrun Nur Chowdhury. A comedy of morals, the play

narrates the story of a gluttonous miser, Haider Ali who trusts no one when it comes to money. Tarik Anam Khan has set the story in Old Dhaka, using the typical dialect of the residents of that area. The humorous exchange of dialogues adds new dimensions to the Moliere classic, which addresses hypocrisy, greed, dishonesty and opportunistic tendencies of the elites.

"Shonai Madhab" is a 'padabali jatra' based on a popular story from "Mymensingh Geetika." Eugene Gomez has directed "Shonai Madhab," while Mostofa Anwar Swohon has done the music.

Aslam Shihir, Kamrun Nur Chowdhury, Shamshad Begum, Mostofa Anwar Swohon, Zahidur Rahman, Zahid Chowdhury, Abdullah Al Harun and Monika Biswas performed in the two plays.

The troupe is currently working on its next production "Geet Gobindo."

Sheuli Bhattacharjee: The violinist with panache

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Music runs in Sheuli Bhattacharji's blood. On the completion of her music studies in India last year, the talented violinist is once more making waves in Bangladesh with her participation in stage programmes, TV shows, as a teacher, studio worker and enlisted artiste of Bangladesh Betar. Says a smiling Sheuli, "It feels great to receive audience recognition."

Sheuli grew up in Sylhet. Her romance with the violin began when she was a sixth grader. Her father was a major source of encouragement and her first teacher. Soon the young girl developed a passion for the instrument and decided that she would devote herself full time to music.

On the completion of her higher secondary, Sheuli received a scholarship from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to study music. There was no turning back from this point. She went on to do her honours from the MS University of Baroda and a master's from Rabin Drabharati University. Soon after she earned the ICCR scholarship once more. In 2002 she returned to Gujarat to do her PhD in music from the



Sheuli Bhattacharjee

MS University of Baroda. Finally she returned home to Bangladesh last year.

Sheuli has been trained by eminent teachers VC Ranare, Rakesh J Mahisori, Pandit VG Jog, N Rajan, Shuloya Banerjee and Shomir Shill.

Has she faced any hurdles along the way? Young artistes do not get adequate exposure

With enough patronage, musicians can focus on their art and produce quality music," asserts Sheuli.

Sheuli has a message for aspiring violinists: "You can either follow the Western or Hindustani routes. Generally musicians in the subcontinent follow the second option. However, the Hindustani

'guramukhi' or teacher dependent path is tough and does not have any short cuts. So one has to show complete commitment to the instrument."

Sheuli has a dream of her own: To be a recognised musician in the subcontinent and never deviate from the path of producing quality music.

TV Watch

Drama serial Shorolikoron on Desh TV tonight



A scene from the serial.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Shorolikoron" will be aired on Desh TV tonight at 9:30 pm.

The story revolves around Isha, Amit, Asif, Zerin and Rima -- a group of friends studying at the same university. Isha and Amit chat between classes. They are close. Amit starting ditching classes and spends most of his time on campus alone. Isha tries to talk some sense into him, but her well intentions have adverse effect on him. Gradually Isha gets frustrated and starts avoiding Amit. Amit's friend Asif, the joker in the group, tries to resolve the differences between the two. Meanwhile, Asif also notices certain changes in his friend Rima.

Mosharrif Karim, Rownak Hasan, Nadia, Wahida Mollik Jolly, Nova, Pran Roy and Al Mansur play the central roles in the serial. Directed by AK Azad, the serial has been written by Rizwan Khan and Yusuf Ali.

Bahirana Audio Visual makes its debut with the launch of Nayak

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With an aim to promote traditional cultural practices, a new audio-visual company 'Bahirana' made its debut on July 5. The launching ceremony was held at the Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum. The programme also included launching of the band Leela's debut album "Nayak." Eminent personalities including singers, critics and cultural activists attended the event.

A discussion was the highlight of the programme. Khalekur Rahman Arko, chief executive officer, Bahirana gave the welcome speech that was followed

by launch of the album "Nayak." Veteran artiste Ajit Roy unveiled the album.

Among others, Professor Anu Muhammad; Professor Ahmed Kamal; M. Enamul Haque; journalist Faruk Wasif; Professor Piash Karim; 'gana sangeet' artiste Kamruddin Absar and leader of the band Leela, Arup Rahi spoke at the programme.

"It would be great if people start purchasing more music albums rather than illegally downloading songs, and help implementing the copyright law," said Rahi at the programme.

In his speech Professor Kamal said, "Culture is the soul of a nation. Through

culture the sorrows, pain and bliss of a nation are sketched. A song is the most effective medium to articulate these emotions."

The album "Nayak" features ten songs, including two Lalon Geeti "Lanthan" and "Pakhi." The Lalon songs, featured in the album, are the band's homage to the mystic bard. Other songs in the album include "Shonar kishan," "Piasha," title song "Nayak" and "Yasmin," an ode to Yasmin of Dinajapur.

Apart from Lalon songs, the rest are written and composed by Arup Rahi. Music house Agniveena will distribute the album.



"Nayak," debut album of the Leela, was launched at the programme. PHOTO: MUMIT M

Poet Abdul Latif Bhuiyan remembered

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

Faridpur Sahittaya Parishad (FSP) held a memorial meeting following the fourth death anniversary of poet Abdul Latif Bhuiyan at FSP premises on July 4.

The event featured discussion on life and literary works of the poet Abdul Latif Bhuiyan and recitations.

Professor ANM Abdus Sobhan was the chief guest with Professor M A Samad in the chair.

Among others Munshi Harun ur Rashid, president Faridpur Sangbadik Samity; professor Altaf Hossain; Ahmed Kamal Roichi, vice presidents of FSP; Mafiz Imam Milon, joint secretary of FSP spoke at the function.

The discussants said that the poets literary works were very lucid and reflected the crises of human life. He is the pride of Faridpur, they added. Monoranjon Bose, Pasha Khondoker, and Mamun ur Rashid recited poems.

Baksho on ATN Bangla tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

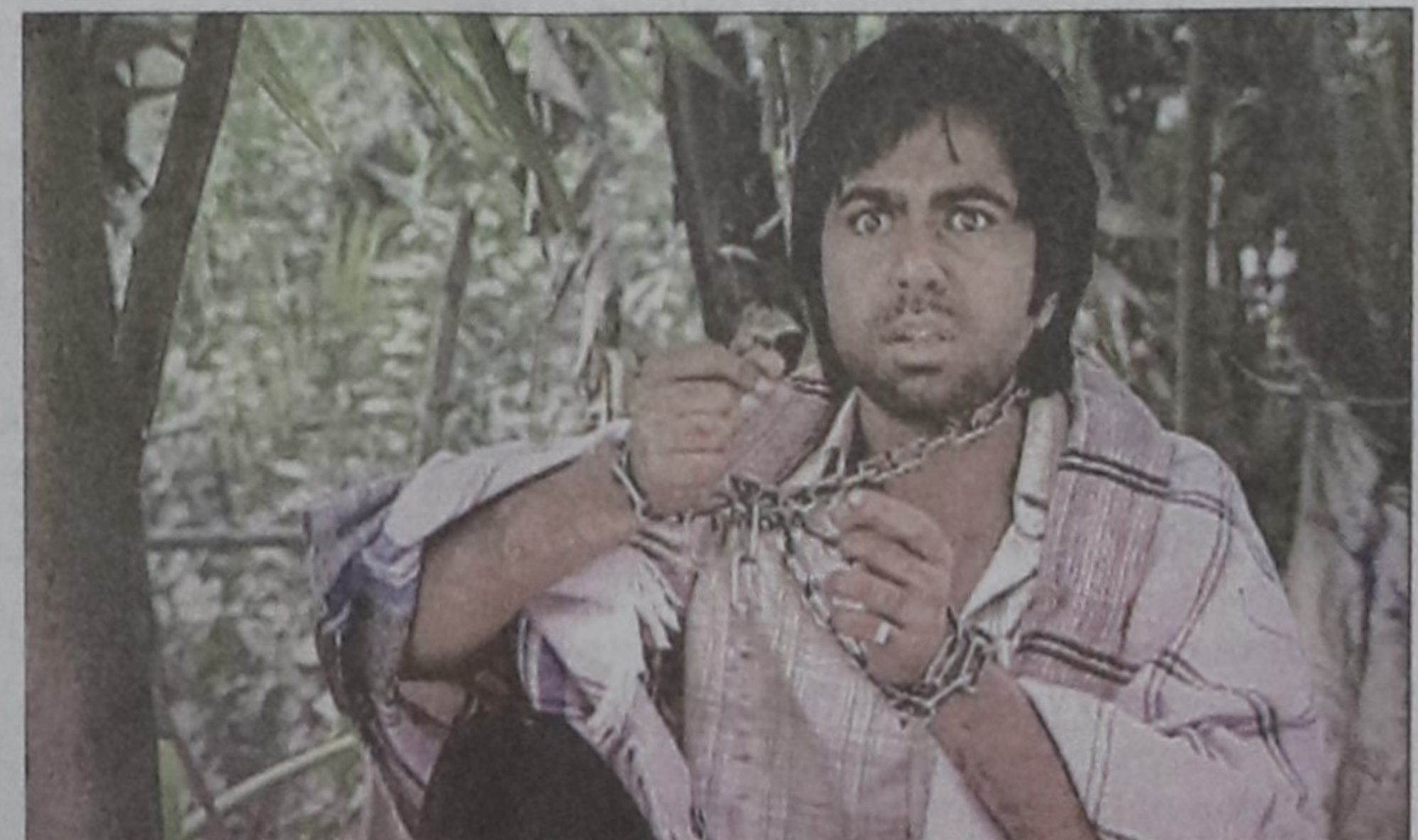
Drama serials "Baksho" will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 8pm. The serial, "Baksho," is written by Mahiuddin Ahmed and directed by Dipankar Dipon.

The plot of "Baksho" revolves around a businessman named Dilwar Gazi. Though he is affluent, Dilwar has chosen a spartan way of life. However, he is authoritarian in his family

relationships: his wife Hasna Hena, two sons -- Shahjahan and Limon, and daughters -- Rosy and Keya.

One day, Dilwar has a nightmare in which he sees himself passing through endless number of doors. Dilwar craves for sound sleep, but fails. Nightmares continue to haunt him.

Diti, Srabonti, Intekhab Dinar, Homayra Himu, Black Anwar, Amirul Haque Choudhury, Afroza Banu, Oporbo and others play lead roles in the serial.



Apurbo in a scene from "Baksho."