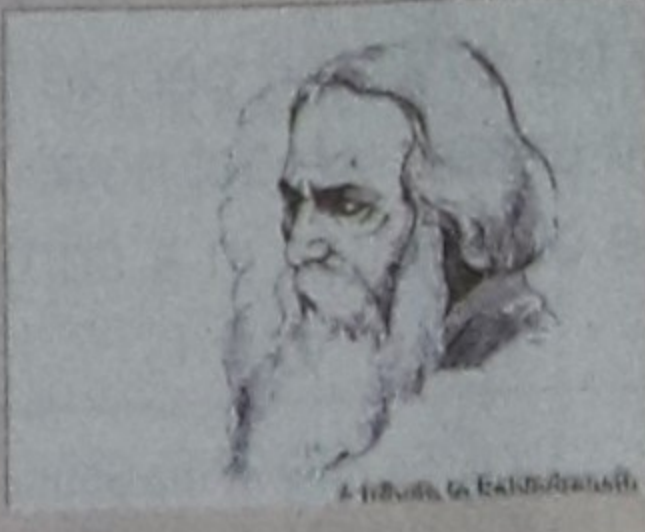


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Sensation Within
Artist: KMA Quayyum
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: July 24-August 4
Time: 12-8pm



CD Launch
Title: Tomar Khola
Hawa
Artist: Samina Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Foundation, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: July 31
Time: 7:30pm



Photography Exhibition
To mark the 84th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmed
Organiser: Liberation War Museum (LWM)
Venue: LWM, 5, Shegunbagicha
Date: July 23-29



Art Exhibition
Title: Shishu Chitro Prodorshoni 2009
Organiser: Zainul Abedin Art School
Venue: National Museum, Shahbag
Date: July 24-August 4
Time: 12-8pm



Mahakal Natya Sampraday Theatre Festival '09 Nuruldin-er Shara Jibon: A moving study of Indigo Revolt



Actors of Bogra Theatre in "Nuruldin-er Shara Jibon."

MAINUL HASSAN

On the fourth day (July 26) of the ongoing theatre festival by Mahakal Natya Sampraday (celebrating 26 years of the group), Bogra Theatre staged Syed Shamsul Huq's acclaimed play "Nuruldin-er Shara Jibon" at the National Theatre stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The production was directed by Towhidul Islam Emon.

Based on an uprising by farmers in Bengal during 1889, a chapter known in history as *Neel Bidroho* (Indigo Revolt), the play features the struggles of the masses in British India. Because of the Industrial Revolution in England, the demand for indigo was on the rise, and a major share of it happened to come from the subcontinent. In Bengal, farmers were forced to grow indigo plants -- instead of rice or other major crops -- by the British rulers. Despite repeated complaints and peaceful protests from the farmers, the English turned a deaf ear to them, implementing cruel punishments. Eventually the poor and the deprived united in their protest against the British and their cronies, *zamindars* (landlords).

The play starts with Nuruldin (played by Deen Mohammad), lying dead at the battlefield of Moghul Hat, a British stronghold in Patgram, which he tried to take by force. The audience is then shown a flashback -- the background of Nuruldin and the uprising. Nuruldin was a farmer in the North Bengal region. Lost in time, his name occasionally surfaces from the fables narrated by local farmers. Under his leadership, farmers from Rangpur, Dinajpur, Kuchbihar and other parts of North Bengal took a stand against the British and the local *zamindars*, with the hope of attaining financial freedom. But pitchforks and bamboo sticks were certainly no match for cannon and gunpowder. So, inevitably, while leading a head on attack on Moghul Hat, Nuruldin was defeated and killed. In death, Nuruldin became an unending source of inspiration, an icon, in times of need, whenever the oppressed faced the oppressor.

Other characters in the play are Lizbeth (played by Nasrin Khanam), Thompson (played by Shobuj Islam), Collector Goodlad (played by Kabir Rahman), revenue supervisor Morris (played by MM Mahin), Lieutenant McDonald (played by Faruk Hossain), and Ambia, Nuruldin's

wife (played by Shilpi).

The other central character in the play is Abbas (played by Yunus Khan), a trusted friend and fellow activist of Nuruldin.

"The role of Abbas functions as our collective conscience," said Towhidul Islam Emon, director of the play. A member of Prachyanat, Towhidul is the guest director of the play.

About selecting the play, Towhidul Hassan, general secretary, Bogra Theatre, said, "It is an effort to generate interest in our history among the young. Our history is opulent with inspiring tales of valour. It was because of the selfless contributions of many that we have a free country. More should be done to honour the memories of these often nameless heroes."

The play ends with a message of keeping the torch of hope alive so that the sacrifices of heroes such as Nuruldin is not forgotten. The play also addresses other issues, such as religious harmony between Muslims and Hindus.

This was the 60th production by Bogra Theatre, and the 6th staging of "Nuruldin-er Shara Jibon."

Today at the festival, Mahakal Natya Sampraday will stage "Ahom Tamoshay."

400 years and still going strong

Nurul Alam Atique's upcoming TV show on Dhaka city

JAMIL MAHMUD

TV director and film activist Nurul Alam Atique is coming up with a new programme on Dhaka city.

Titled "Dhaka Kotha," the show swings between the past and present of the city. The show is to mark the 400th anniversary of Dhaka as a Mughal capital. A vast range of aspects related to Dhaka will be highlighted throughout the programme.

Research for the show has been completed and shooting is on at various locations, informed Atique. It has not been decided yet as to which channel will broadcast the show, but the 52-episode programme will go on air from the first week of 2010 (the 400th year of Dhaka as a capital city) and will run throughout the year.

Talking about the content of the show, Atique said that "Dhaka Kotha" will feature contemporary issues, history, observations and opinions of the residents, experts' interpretations etc.

"One of the issues that will be highlighted is the power sector. At present power crisis is one of the most discussed concerns. The show will feature different points of view on the issue. It may also shed light on the origins of electricity in



Nurul Alam Atique

Dhaka, and the reaction of the inhabitants to the immense powers of science," said Atique.

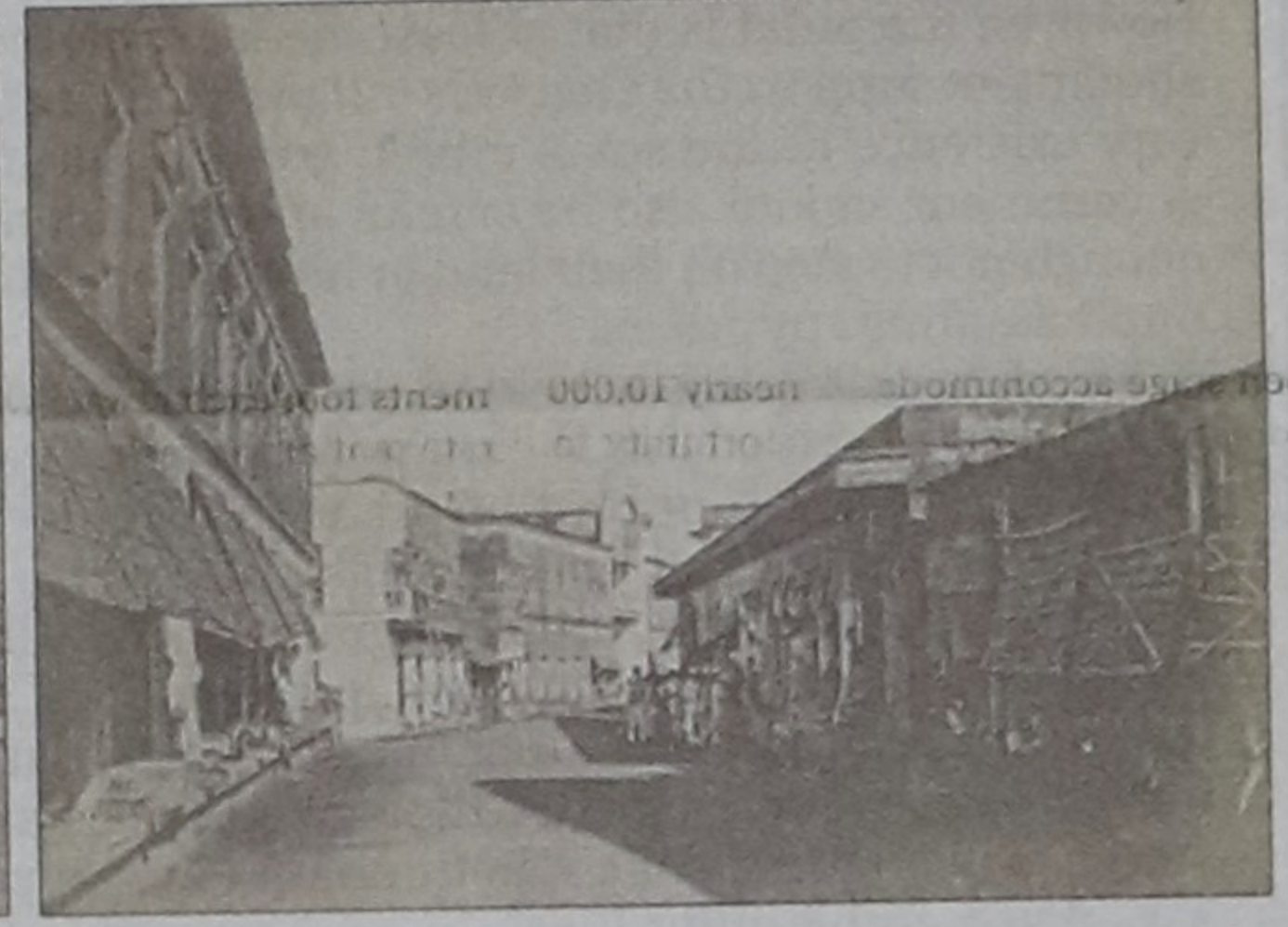
Each episode will focus on a single theme/topic, including the youth of Dhaka, apartment culture, Mughal food, Buriganga river, terrorism in Dhaka, the Faculty of Fine Arts (DU), shopping malls, mime, religion, fashion, Dhaka at night, newspapers, footpath and festivals.

Atique said that the first episode will

highlight *Pahela Baishakh*, first day of the Bangla year.

The director views his programme as an informative one. Sharmin Lucky will host the show. Lucky also hosted "Chandrabinu" -- a TV show directed by Atique -- which recently ended on Channeli.

Each episode of "Dhaka Kotha" will run for 20-22 minutes. The show is being produced under the banner of Pandulipi Karkhana.



The Dhaka that was (from left): Lalbagh, 1880 (Johnston and Hoffman) and Nawabpur, 1970.

Songs from Rajshahi on tonight's Shera Kantho

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Tonight's episode of the "Lal-Sabuj" segment of musical talent hunt "Channel i Shera Kantho '09" will feature songs from the Rajshahi region. Seventeen contestants from the Rajshahi zone will perform regional songs in tonight's episode. The "Lal-Sabuj" segment, featuring regional songs, started couple of weeks ago.

Renowned singers Shakila Zafar, Kanak Chanpa and music director Emon Saha are judging this round.



Judges on the show (from left): Shakila Zafar, Emon Saha and Kanak Chanpa.

A special episode featuring songs on/related to Dhaka is the highlight of this round. Hosted by Tajzi, the programme is aired at 7:50pm every Tuesday.

Michael Jackson estate to support mother

AFP, Los Angeles

Executors of Michael Jackson's estate said the late pop star had provided full financial support to his mother when he was alive and his estate should continue to do so after his death, The Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

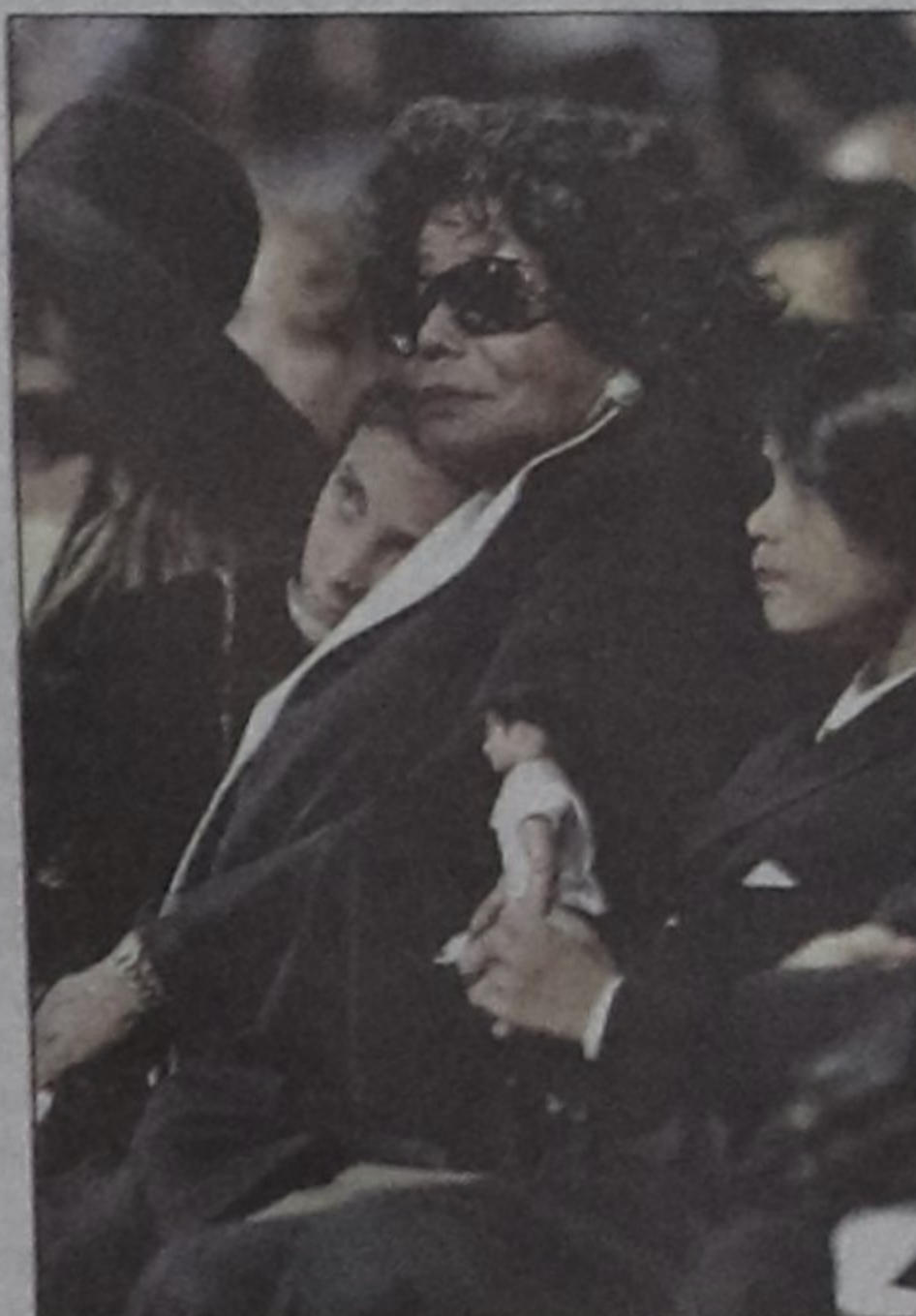
The daily newspaper said that in court papers filed last Thursday, the administrators of the estate asked for approval to pay a monthly allowance to Katherine Jackson, 79.

The specific amount requested was not disclosed, the reports said.

"The special administrators are informed and believe that Mrs. Jackson has no other sources of income currently available other than Social Security income," lawyers for administrators John Branca and John McClain wrote in the filing, according to the paper.

Jackson's mother is caring for her son's three children, and the administrators requested an additional monthly allowance for them.

According to the court papers, the Jackson children are beneficiaries of an insurance policy "but the insurance proceeds have not yet been collected," the LA Times said.



Katherine Jackson (centre) is caring for her son's three children.

Harry Potter's spell broken

"G-Force" topples "Half-Blood Prince" at box office

An elite squad of guinea pigs has worked its own brand of magic at the box office, taking the No. 1 spot from boy wizard Harry Potter.

The 3-D "G-Force" was the top movie at the box office last weekend, opening with \$32.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Walt Disney release from producer Jerry Bruckheimer, with its mixture of live action and computer-generated animation, is a "Mission: Impossible"-style adventure. It features voiceover work from Nicolas Cage, Sam Rockwell, Tracy Morgan and Penelope Cruz as resourceful rodents.

Last week's No. 1 film, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," came in a close second with an estimated \$30 million. That's a whopping 61-percent drop from its huge opening last weekend of \$79.5 million.

Coming in third was another of the week's wide releases, the battle-of-the-sexes romantic comedy "The



A scene from "G-Force."

Ugly Truth," which had a \$27 million opening.

"G-Force" triumphed in a crowded summer marketplace with its combi-

nation of 3-D effects and the Disney and Bruckheimer brands, said Mark Zoradi, president of Disney's motion-picture group.

"You never go into a situation where you're competing against two important movies -- the second weekend of 'Harry Potter' and the opening weekend of 'The Ugly Truth' -- you never go in cocky," Zoradi said.

The one-two of PG-rated movies reinforces the fact that summer is prime family movie time, said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

"This summer is all about packaging and escapism," Dergarabedian said of the strong showing for "G-Force." "People were scratching their heads and dragging their kids to go see this thing. They were watching the trailers with absolute shock going, 'Is that really happening?' But as a kid you're like, 'I gotta go see it.' This is a testament to the fact that Jerry Bruckheimer, like ('Transformers' director) Michael Bay, knows exactly what summer movie audiences want."

Source: Internet

Bamboo orchestra holds audience in its sway

KAVITA, New Delhi

Just the other day, Delhi resonated to the beat of a bamboo orchestra. Courtesy Vayali, a Kerala-based group, a six-member band held the audience captive with a drum, flute and cylindrical percussion instruments fashioned from bamboo. Heading the team was the dhoti-clad software engineer Vinod Nambiar (on the drum), who is the main force behind the group.

The band was playing at an event organised by Pravah, an NGO and Ashoka: Innovators for the Public, supported by the Sir Ratan Tata Trust under the Youth and Civil Society Initiative and the Global Fund for Children, under their Change Loom project.

The bamboo orchestra set the

tune for the programme. Likewise the band played at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Vayali was first exposed to the bamboo orchestra at the Traditional Music and Rhythm Festival in Japan (2006). Says the Vayali website, "The Vayali Bamboo Orchestra in the past has incorporated traditional folk music and given a whole new appeal to the depleting interest in ethno-music."

Apart from its bamboo orchestra, Vayali has other projects as well: Documenting the folk art of Kerala, Imparting the knowledge of folk art to the younger generation, using art as a medium for generating livelihood for artists and preserving nature and resources.



Vayali performs at the programme.