

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Jai Bangla
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 27-Oct 10
Time: 12-8pm



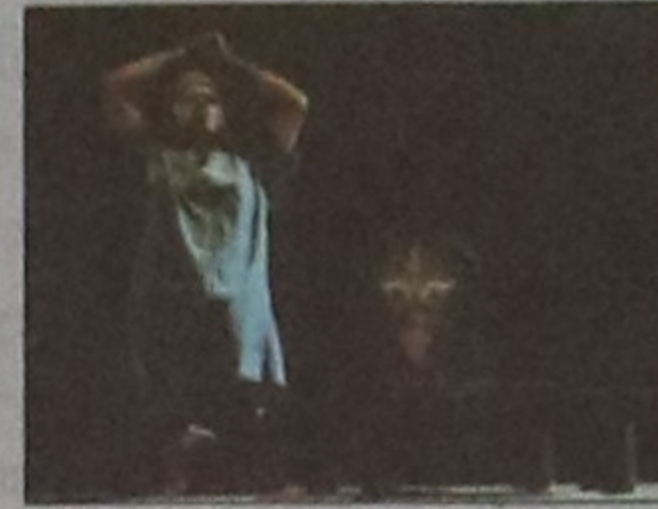
Theatre

Play: Kathal Bagan
Troupe: Nagarik Natya Sampradaya
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: September 30
Time: 7pm



Theatre

Play: Koinna
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 1
Time: 7:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Kantha Kahini
Artist: Fahmida Akhter Kakoli
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: Oct 1-14



Colours of China

Cultural troupe from Inner Mongolia performs at Shilpakala



Artistes from Inner Mongolia sing, dance and perform acrobatics at BSA on September 28.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

JAMIL MAHMUD

As part of the cultural exchange between Bangladesh and People's Republic of China, a troupe from China's autonomous Inner Mongolia region is in the city now. The 26-member troupe is performing at a three-day cultural programme at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The programme began on September 28.

On the inaugural day, the troupe performed a diverse range of traditional songs, dances and acrobatics. The performance enthralled the audience, which included a good number of Chinese expatriates in Bangladesh.

Prior to the cultural programme, a brief inaugural session took place at the venue. Advocate Promode Mankin, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, was present as the chief guest. The Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xianyi was the special guest. Kamal Lohani, director general of BSA, gave the welcome speech. Md. Sharful Alam, secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, presided over the programme. Among others, leader of the Inner Mongolian cultural troupe spoke at the

inaugural.

Recently a 15-member cultural troupe from Bangladesh visited Inner

tries is effective at present.

The cultural programme commenced through a group dance. Attired with tradi-

male artistes performed a dance that depicts eagle soaring high in the sky. According to Inner Mongolian traditions, the eagle is a symbol of valour.

Dance dominated throughout the programme, as the next performance was also a dance by a group of female artistes. The piece was quite similar to the traditional 'bottle dance' of the Marma community of our country.

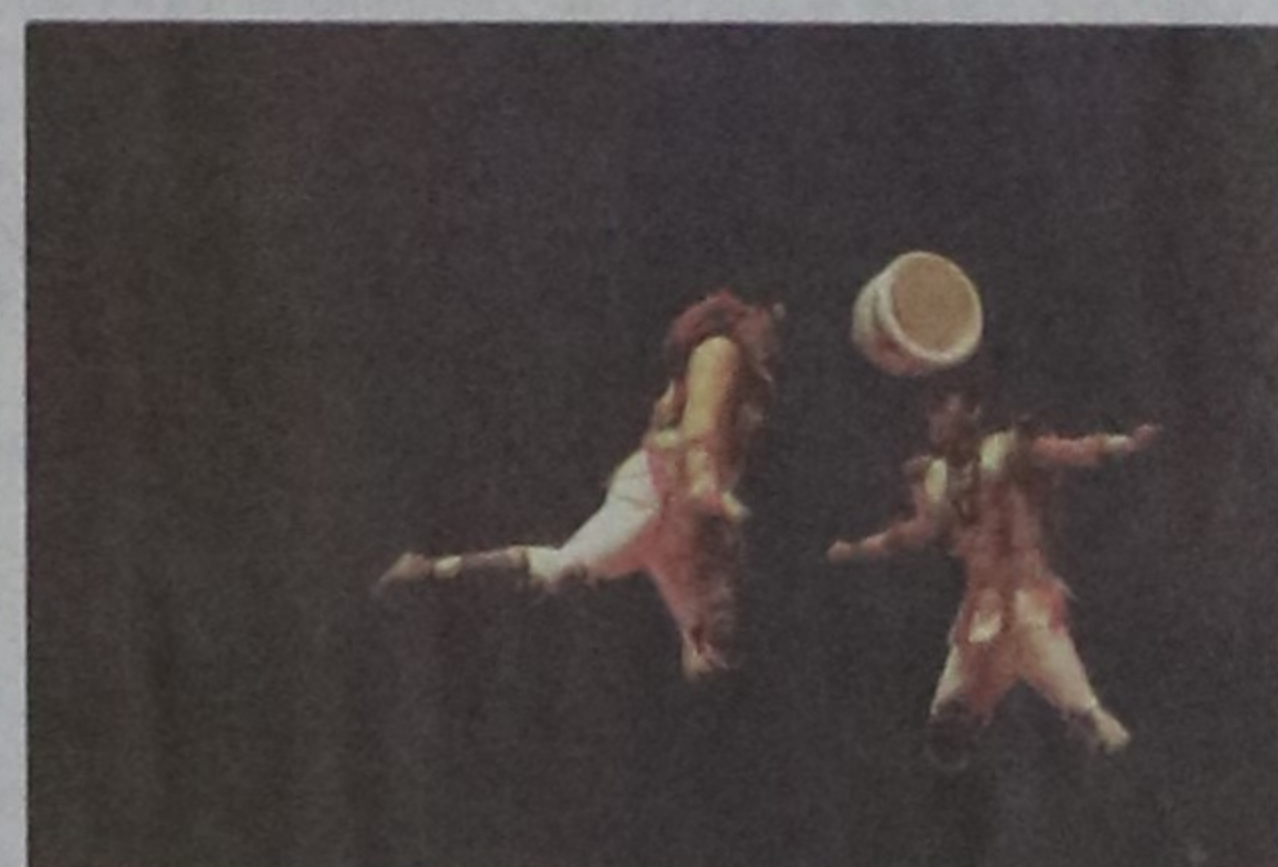
Next on stage was a devotional song. In Inner Mongolia, the styles of rendition are quite unique. They term the style 'voice from the heaven.' Vocalists sing in extreme pitches. At the programme the artistes sang with traditional instruments. There was an ode to the motherland through a solo rendition. Artistes also took part in a fashion show and performed an instrumental.

Acrobatics is perhaps the most popular performing art in China. At the programme, the troupe performed two acrobatic items. The first day's show ended with a group performance of dance and music. The performance summarised the whole evening.

Today, the show will start at 8pm at the same venue. A photography exhibition featuring the diverse cultural identity of Inner Mongolia is on at the National Museum.

Mongolia as part of the exchange programme. Md. Sharful Alam informed that a three-year cultural agreement between the two coun-

tries is effective at present. The cultural programme commenced through a group dance. Attired with tradi-



Jackson fans rush for tickets to This Is It

AFP, Los Angeles

Michael Jackson fans scrambled to snap up tickets for the upcoming film about the entertainer's final concert rehearsals, studio chiefs said Monday, cranking up hype for the eagerly antic-

ipated movie.

A statement from Sony Pictures Entertainment said fans around the globe had rushed to buy tickets ahead of the release of "This Is It," which will include unseen footage of Jackson preparing for his series of London comeback shows.

Advance screenings of the film will begin on October 27 before a worldwide release a day later. The movie will screen for two weeks only.

Sony said an "unprecedented number" of shows across the United States had sold out and other cities including London, Sydney, Bangkok and Tokyo had experienced similar levels of demand.

London distributor Vue Entertainment said the film sold 30,000 tickets within 24 hours, director Stuart Boreman enthused, outstripping demand for films such as "Harry Potter" and "The Lord of the Rings."

"I've never seen anything like it in the 25 years I have been film buying," Boreman said. "It's a true phenomenon and sales show no sign of slowing down."

In the United States, more than 500,000 fans performed searches for showtimes on the film's official website, Sony reported.

Japanese fans snapped up more than one million dollars worth of tickets within 24 hours of their release, an advanced-sales record unmatched by any movie in history, Sony said.

Tickets for first showings also sold out in Thailand, the studio reported.



Jackson's backup dancers write on a poster of the film "This Is It" in Los Angeles.

Jaya Ahsan evaluates Eid-special programmes

SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

Known to be one of the prettiest and most talented actresses of the small screen, Jaya Ahsan shared with The Daily Star how she celebrated Eid and the special TV shows on the occasion that caught her attention.

According to Jaya, "Eid is a family celebration for me and this means fun, togetherness and happiness. I celebrate it in a pretty simple way with my family and in-laws. This is a time when I get all the blessings from my elders. I also like to spend the day watching and analysing my plays where a lot of labour and energy had been put in."

She continued, "This Eid I enjoyed watching my projects like 'Tarpore Angurlata...', 'Keo Noi Shunnota' and 'Kagoj O Carbon-er Shommon'. I always try to watch Farooqi and Amitabh's work as well; I truly appreciate their ingenuity. I also watched this play called 'Maya'; the team did a great job I think."

However, the actress blamed incessant TV commercials for disrupting the plays and their narratives, and diverting the attention of the viewers. Jaya stated,



Jaya Ahsan in Nurul Alam Atique's "Dubshatar".

"TV commercials do not allow instant, frequent and episodic excitements to be properly presented or even understood in the plays. So, the viewers don't get hooked. Many end up spending several hours before the television and yet not fully enjoying even a

single programme. I earnestly hope that the TV authorities will look into it." Talking about her holidays, the beaming actress informed that she is still on her holidays. "The holy month of Ramadan is very special to me and I never work during this month."

Throughout the month, I pray and fast, and spend quality time with my family. In fact, I take days off on all our religious occasions. I'm all set to resume work from the 10th of October."

The writer is a freelance contributor



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- Strategic and innovative thinker, a natural leader, with business sense, receptiveness to change and ability to build positive relationships with people from different backgrounds
- Highly developed reasoning skills with ability to solve a wide range of problems
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- Minimum university graduate with at least 10 years of experience in relative fields*

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