

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

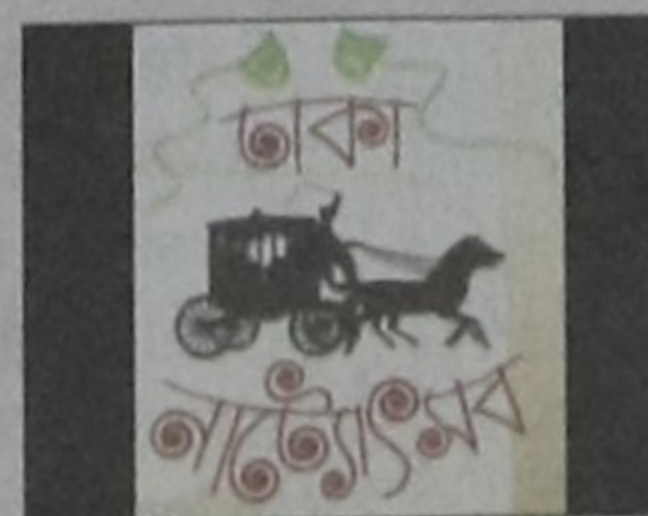
**Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Aranyak  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Shagunbagicha  
Date: October 22-25  
Time: 7pm everyday  
Today: Ebong Bidyasagar



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash  
Venue: Asiatic Art Gallery, Nimtoli, Ramna  
Date: October 23 - November 22  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Theatre Festival**  
Title: Dhaka Natyashab '09  
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation  
Venue: Zahir Raihan Cultural Centre, Shurapur  
Date: October 15-31  
Time: 7pm everyday



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Shudurer Mita  
Artist: Mustaque Ahmed  
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, H 21, Rd 4, Dhanmondi  
Date: October 23 - November 5  
Time: 10am-8pm



## Landmark for Aranyak

Theatre festival by the troupe begins



Hasan Azizul Haque (centre) inaugurates the festival.

JAMIL MAHMUD

To celebrate the 100th shows of its two acclaimed productions -- "Mayur Shinghashan" and "Shangkranti" -- Aranyak Natyadal arranged a four-day theatre festival at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The festival, titled "Mayur O Shangkranti" Utshab, began on October 22 at the National Theatre Hall, BSA. Apart from the landmark productions, two other Aranyak plays "Rarang" and "Ebong Bidyasagar" will also be

staged during the festival.

The inaugural took place at the lobby of National Theatre Hall amidst the presence of hundreds of theatre activists and cultural personalities. Eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque inaugurated the festival, while Kolkata-based theatre personality Arun Mukhopadhyay was the chief guest at the programme.

The event began approximately half-an-hour late with a group dance. Artistes of Nrityanchal performed the dance. Space constraint seemed to be a challenge for the dancers as some

performers bumped into each other. Members of Aranyak staged two brief performances -- compiled from "Mayur Shinghashan" and "Shangkranti". Members of Prachyanat performed 'lathi khela' at the programme.

A brief discussion was also part of the inaugural. Mamunur Rashid, chief secretary, Aranyak gave the welcome speech. In his speech Rashid went over the troupe's activities and emphasised on its ideology.

"The featured plays convey the ideology of Aranyak's contemporary

theatre activities," said Rashid at the programme.

The four plays being featured at the festival are the latest productions of Aranyak. Amongst the four, "Mayur Shinghashan" is the oldest, which was first staged in 1997.

Hasan Azizul Haque congratulated the members of Aranyak for their endeavour and said that the troupe should take inspiration from this landmark and move forward.

Arun Mukhopadhyay appreciated the dominance of youth in Aranyak's activities, specifically in Bangladeshi theatre scenario.

Among others, Kamal Lohani, director general, BSA; veteran theatre personality Aaur Rahman (of Nagarik Natya Shampraday) and Liaquat Ali Lucky, chairman, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation spoke at the programme.

On the first day, the 100th show of "Mayur Shinghashan" was staged at the National Theatre Hall.

Written by Mannan Heera, the play was directed by Shah Alam Dulal. The story of "Mayur Shinghashan" zooms in on a theatre troupe in a mufassil area. Shah Alam Dulal, Mamunur Rashid, Mannan Heera, Momena Chowdhury, Chanchal Chowdhury and Tamalika Karmakar play the central roles in the production. Today, "Ebong Bidyasagar" will be staged at the National Theatre Hall.

Apart from plays, the festival also features seminar and an award giving ceremony. The seminar will be held this morning at the Seminar Hall, BSA. The award giving ceremony will take place on the concluding day (October 25) at the Experimental Theatre Hall.



Members of Prachyanat (left) and Nrityanchal perform at the inaugural programme.



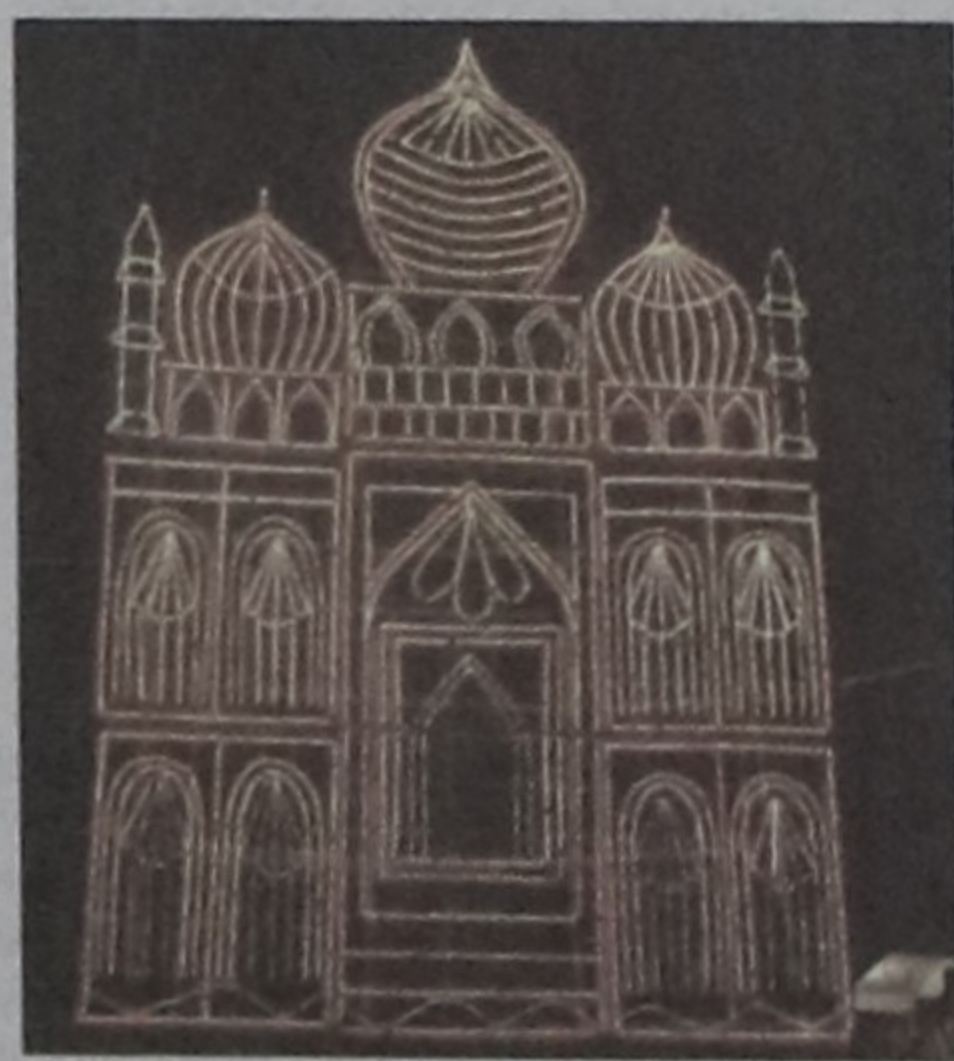
## Magura gets decked-out for Katyani Puja festivities

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

The five-day Katyani Puja celebration -- a 59-year-old tradition in Magura -- begins today amidst much enthusiasm and great devotion.

Although Durga Puja is the greatest religious festival of the Bengali Hindus, Magura district is an exception where Katyani Puja has become the main event. The annual event is celebrated one month after Durga Puja.

It was Satish Chandra -- an affluent man of Parnanduali area in Magura who initiated the tradition about 59 years ago. Since then this puja has become very popular within the



Beautifully decorated gates and arches have been erected at different points of the town on the occasion.

community and has been celebrated with much fervour for the past 22 years, turning the event into a point of convergence for all where enthusiastic spectators from even India and Nepal also assemble.

A 'mela' (fair) is also arranged on the occasion that also has, over time, turned into a centre for cultural exchange and an ideal place for exhibiting products from different districts.

The idol of Katyani is similar to that of Durga but in addition an image of Lord Krishna is also placed at the 'mandap' during the puja.

Large and beautifully decorated gates and arches have also been erected at different points of the town including the entrance of the mandaps.

## Rahman's "Jai Ho" wins again in Belgium

Oscar winner musician AR Rahman's "Jai Ho" has again won laurels at the World Soundtrack Academy awards in Ghent, Belgium.

The song from "Slumdog Millionaire" won in "best original song written for film" category at the ninth World Soundtrack Awards announced at Ghent, and the ceremony, in addition to Rahman, was reportedly attended by world film music personalities like Alexandre Desplat, Marvin Hamlisch, Reinhold Heil, Johnny Klimek, Alti Ovarsson, Jerome Lemmonier and Andrew Lockington.

Music for "Jai Ho" was provided by Rahman; lyrics by Gulzar and Tanvi Shah and performed by Rahman, Sukhvinder Singh, Tanvi Shah, Mahalaksmi Iyer and Vijay Prakash.

The World Soundtrack Awards are distributed annually for outstanding achievement in scoring music for motion pictures and other achievements in five categories. Academy is aimed at organising and overseeing the educational, cultural and professional aspects of the art of film music, including the preservation of the history of the soundtrack and its worldwide promotion.

Source: Internet



The song from "Slumdog Millionaire" won the award for "best original song written for film".



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Prachyanat staged its production "Circus Circus" as part of Architecture Week arranged by North South University at its Bashundhara campus on October 22. This was the 58th show of the play. "Circus Circus" narrates the struggle of artistes of a rural circus troupe, which travels across the country and puts up shows. Azad Abul Kalam is the writer and director of the play. The cast includes Sakhawat Hossain Rezvi, Toufikul Islam Emon, Rahul Anand, Shatabdi Wadud and Shahana Rahman Sumi, among others.

## Jibanananda's death anniversary observed in Barisal

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

A two-day programme marking the 55th death anniversary of poet Jibanananda Das, one of the most influential Bengali poets of the post-Tagore era, was observed recently in his home city of Barisal.

Jibanananda Das Smaran Udjapan Parishad of Jatiya Kabita Parishad's Barisal branch organised a discussion on the life and achievements of the poet and recitation of his poems. The function was held at Barisal Sangrahashala Auditorium last Thursday afternoon.

Kheayali Group Theatre arranged a programme on the occasion at Abdul Khalek Auditorium yesterday.

Barisal Shangkritik Sangathan Samannay Parishad, Prantik Sangeet Bidyalay and Shangkritik Parishad of BM College also observed separate programmes.

Participants at the programmes discussed the life, works, achievements of the great poet and his influence on Bangla literature and culture.

Jibanananda, best known as the poet of "Ruposhi Bangla", is the creator of 'Banalota Sen' -- an unparalleled character embodying the serene Bengali beauty, asserted the speakers.

They said Jibanananda Das was a trailblazing Bengali poet of his time. His poetic imagination was a notable feature of 20th



A portrait of Jibanananda Das.

century Bangla poetry, they pointed out.

They also demanded implementation of the Dhanshiri River Eco Park project and excavation of the Dhanshiri River, building a museum, memorials and sculptures of the poet in places connected with his life and works.

Jibanananda was born on February 17, 1899 in Barisal and died after a road accident on October 22, 1954 in Kolkata.

## Top US bands blast use of music in Guantanamo interrogations



REM's Michael Stipe is backing the campaign

AFP, Washington

A group of top US bands including REM and Pearl Jam recently expressed outrage that loud music was being blasted at Guantanamo detainees as part of "terror" interrogations.

They said they were filing a lawsuit in a bid to declassify documents on the use of the music, and joining the "National Campaign to Close Guantanamo" which was launched by former US military generals and lawmakers hoping to shut the prison at the US Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The musicians launched "a formal protest of the use of music used in conjunction with torture that took place at the prison and other facilities and announced they were supporting an effort seeking the declassification of all secret government records pertaining to how music was utilised as an interrogation device," the group said.

The musicians include Trent Reznor and Tom Morello, whose music with the bands Nine Inch Nails and Rage Against the Machine have already been linked to interrogations at the prison, according to previously released gov-

ernment records.

"Guantanamo is known around the world as one of the places where human beings have been tortured -- from waterboarding to stripping, hooding and forcing detainees into humiliating acts -- playing music for 72 hours in a row at volumes just below that to shatter the eardrums," said Morello.

"Guantanamo may be Dick Cheney's idea of America, but it's not mine. The fact that music helped create was used in crimes against humanity sickens me," he added.

Retired general Robert Gard said he sympathised with the musicians "whose music was used without their knowledge as part of the Bush administration's misguided policies."

A 2004 Defense Department report cited by the group detailed an interrogation method known as the "futility" technique, which included playing the music of Metallica and Britney Spears to detainees.

President Barack Obama vowed on his second day in office to shutter the facility, a magnet for global criticism of US tactics in the Bush administration's "war on terror," by January 22, though White House aides say they face an uphill fight to keep that promise.