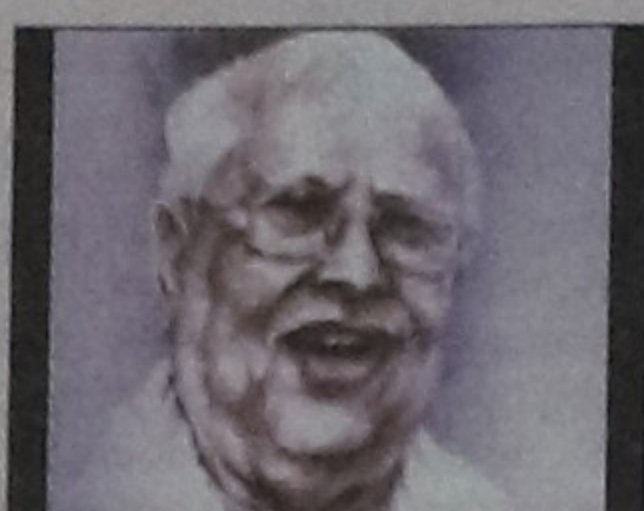


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Reminiscence

On Poet Mahbub Ul Alam Chowdhury  
Organiser: Kranti Shilpi Goshthi  
Venue: Music and Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: November 7  
Time: 5pm



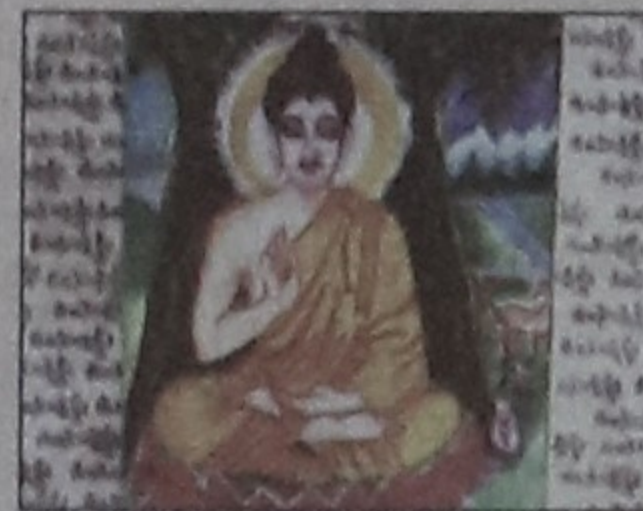
### Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Ballads and Paintings  
Artist: Abdus Shakoor Shah  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, Malibagh  
Date: October 24-November 7  
Time: 11am-6pm



### Painting Exhibition

Title: Faces of Buddha: An Expression of early medieval spirit  
Organiser: IUB Art Club  
Venue: Art and Aesthetics Gallery, 90 Park Road, Bandhura, Dhaka  
Date: October 28-November 11



### Solo Painting Exhibition

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



## Theatre education takes centre stage

Regional seminar begins in Dhaka



National Professor Kabir Chowdhury speaks at the inauguration.

PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

MAINUL HASSAN

A four-day regional seminar on theatre education opened at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) yesterday morning. The event has been arranged by Bangladesh centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), in cooperation with BSA. The endeavour is supported by UNESCO.

The inauguration programme, titled 'Theatre Education: An Avenue for Development', was held at Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA.

The programme started with a traditional Manipuri dance by Sudeshna Swayamprabha. The dance was choreographed by Sharmila Bandopadhyay.

A discussion followed. Dr Alauddin Ahmed, adviser to the Prime Minister, was the chief guest.

Among others, National Professor Kabir Chowdhury; Piyasiri Wijenayake MP, Sri Lankan minister for cultural affairs; Kamal Lohani, director general, BSA and Ramendu Majumder, president, ITI worldwide were present at the event.

Wijenayake is attending the seminar as part of the Sri Lankan delegation. Delegates from several countries are expected to attend the event.

Wijenayake congratulated ITI Bangladesh for holding the event. In his speech, he informed his government's endeavours in including theatre in the school curriculum.

"Theatre education in Sri Lanka was introduced nearly two decades ago and now it is taught in schools from sixth grade as well as in many universities and colleges," he informed.

"The ministry of youth affairs has established

five centres for teaching drama and theatre in five provinces, under the supervision of the ministry of culture. A special degree programme has also been introduced under the Open University," Wijenayake said.

Ramendu Majumder said, "The main purpose of this seminar is to recommend ways and means to promote theatre education in the school curriculum in South and South East Asian countries. Hopefully, this programme will also help foster better understanding amongst individuals and associations."

"We strongly believe that focusing on arts education, particularly theatre, and wider practice of performing arts can play an effective role in addressing the increasing social unrest, conflicts within the communities and rise of fundamentalism," Majumder added.

Dr Alauddin Ahmed said, "Theatre can a very powerful medium in raising awareness against social unrest and crimes. The government has plans to include theatre in the school curriculum."

The opening ceremony was presided over by Ataur Rahman, president ITI Bangladesh.

The inauguration programme included another Manipuri dance performance (choreographed by Bimbavati Devi) by Warda Rihab. Nrityalok Shangkriti Kendra staged a performance titled "Bangladesh-er Dhol", choreographed by Kabirul Islam Ratan.

On the opening day a seminar on 'State of Theatre Education in the Region' was held at Seminar Room, BSA. The session was chaired by Ramendu Majumder.

Apart from seminars, the event also includes a

theatre festival. Every evening -- from November 6 to 9 -- theatre troupes will stage plays at the Experimental Theatre Hall at 7 pm. On the opening day a traditional 'Charya Dol' from Lakshmipur performed at the festival. Today BSA will stage its production "Gazi Kalu Champabati". On November 8, Jahangirnagar University Theatre Department will stage the play "Rahu Chandaler Har" and on the closing day Dhaka University Theatre Department will stage "Mricchakatikam".

Today two seminars -- on 'Theatre Education in Theory and Practice' chaired by Asaduzzaman Noor, MP and 'Formulating National Policies to Incorporate Theatre in Education' chaired by VC of Dhaka University Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique -- will be held at Seminar Room, BSA at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm, respectively.

On November 8, a discussion with the teachers and students of theatre departments of DU and JU will be held at 10 am at Dhaka University.

On November 9 a dialogue with policymakers and practitioners will be held at Seminar Hall, BSA at 10:30 am.



Sudeshna Swayamprabha during a Manipuri performance.

## "Gazi Kalu Champabati": Shilpakala Academy's latest production delves into a popular myth

JAMIL MAHMUD

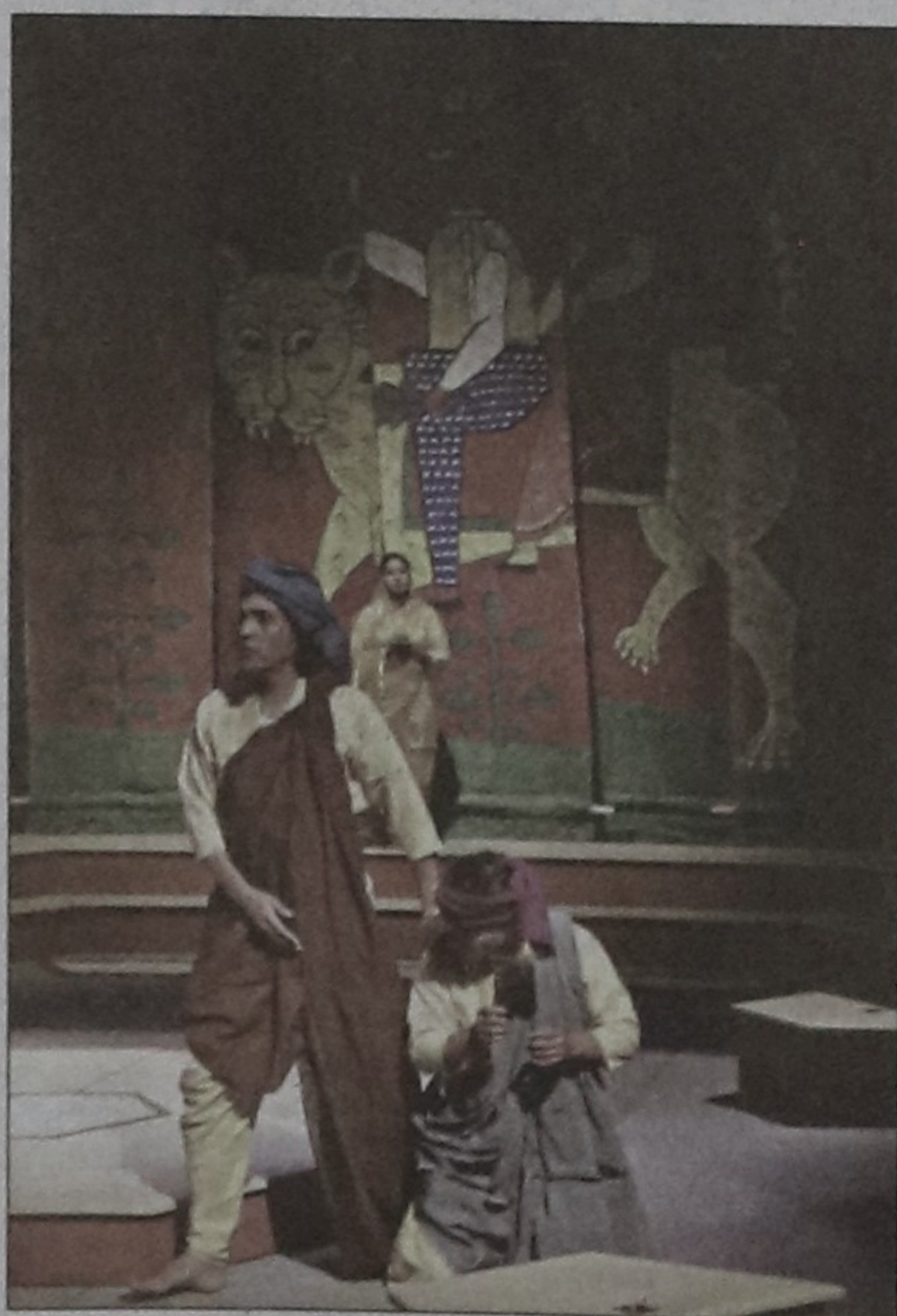
As part of its commitment to performing arts, one of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's (BSA) major activities is to produce theatre plays every year. Unfortunately however, since its inception in 1974, the state organisation has only produced four plays.

BSA's first production, "Eksho Bosta Chal", (an adaptation of a Japanese story) premiered in 2006.

In recent times, the organisation staged two plays. Selim Al Deen's "Putra", on the theatre icon's birth anniversary, and an Abdullah Al Mamun play "Shapath".

The fourth and latest production by BSA is "Gazi Kalu Champabati" -- a pala (an indigenous performing art form, combining theatrics and music) based on a myth popular in the southern part of the country.

"Gazi Kalu Champabati" was staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall on



The BSA production is based on a myth popular in the southern part of the country.

November 5. The play is by Sheikh Khoda Baksh, based on the ballads written by Halumeer and Abdur

Rahim. The play was adapted jointly by Simon Zakaria, Saidur Rahman Lipon and Junayed Yusuf.

Golam Sarwar, deputy director of the Drama department of BSA is the director of the play. Shadhona -- a centre for advancement of South Asian music and dance -- associated BSA in bringing the production on stage.

The legend of Gazi, Kalu and Champabati is well known for the characters' mystic traits and secular appeal. Gazi was the son of Shah Sekandar Ali. He emerged in the seventh century as 'Gazi Pir', a secular Muslim holy man. Gazi Pir actively encouraged religious harmony.

The myth of Gazi Pir narrates how he leaves the comfort of palace at an early age and creates a den in the deep forest along with his adopted brother Kalu. In the forest, wild animals become his disciples. It is believed that Gazi and Kalu initiated a domain in the jungle called

'Shonapur'.

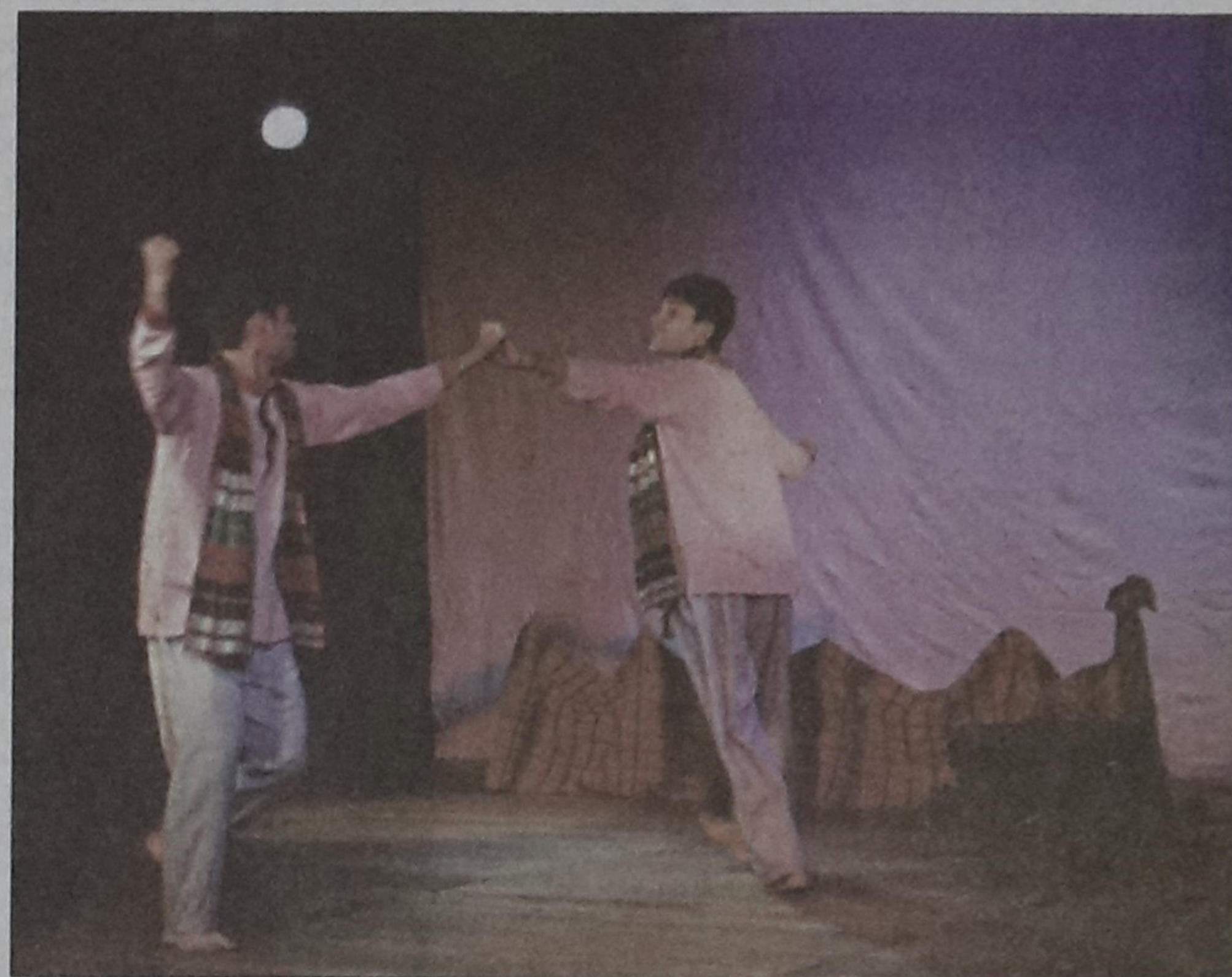
One day, while roaming around in the jungle, Gazi spots a temple, where he finds a beautiful woman lying on the floor. Gazi falls in love with the woman whose name is Champabati.

Eventually Gazi and Champabati get married despite different religious backgrounds. But, it was in Gazi's fate that no love or family ties could keep him away from the sacred path. Gazi leaves his home again in search of the Creator.

Saidur Rahman Lipon played the role of Gazi Pir. Khandakar Tajminur, Kazi Shila, Shiuli Haque and Shishir Rahman played the other central characters. Parimal Majumdar was the music director of the play. Mohammad Jasimuddin was the light designer. A large pata chitra design as the backdrop set the ambience. Renowned artist Shambhu Acharya painted the pata chitra.

## Conflict over water

Karigar stages "Joljuddho"



A scene from Karigar's production "Joljuddho".

PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Karigar staged its second production "Joljuddho" at Studio Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on November 4 and 5.

Written and directed by Sorkar Haidar, the play focuses on conflict among people over possessing water sources.

Water is nature's most precious gift and a resource we depend on for sustenance. The plot of the drama "Joljuddho" emerges from the story of Karbala. The play is also an observation of people living by a river, whose lives have changed due to the construction of embankments. The narratives flow like a river.

The overt and covert sorrows of these people are intertwined with the river in such a way that the water seems to speak.

Why does a river change its course? What happens to the people it displaces? Based on the punthi (folk narratives), "Shahidee Karbala", the play tries to find answers to these questions.

Performed by just two actors -- Asif Milton and Sattar Hira, the play features traditional music of North Bengal in the background. Abdar, Rahman Mustafiz and Hemanta Kumar Das did the background music.

The production was assisted by Liberty Bangladesh.

## Snake charming, 'jatrapala' and 'lathi khela' in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

A daylong programme, featuring 'jhapan khela' (snake charming), 'jatrapala' and 'lathi khela', were held at Goalbaria Bhaina in Magura sadar upazila last Thursday.

Nabaganga Natyagoshthi, led by Abdul Jalil Mondal, of the village organised the events.

In the morning 'jhapan khela' was held. Snake charmers Dhala Mian of Rupati village, Zillur Rahman of Palita-Beroil, Shukur Ali Sheikh of Jagdal and Shamsher Ali Molla of Shatakhal village stunned the audience with their risky acts involving snakes.

Sixty-four 'lathial' from four upazilas of Magura and adjoining districts took part in the 'lathi khela' segment of the event.

Participating 'lathial' included Sohrab Sarder, Shawkat Sarder, Akbar Sarder, Obaidul Sarder, Golam Hossain

Sarder, Awal Sarder, Daliluddin Sarder, Felu Sarder and Shamsul Sarder.

The same night, a 'jatrapala' titled "Jibon Niye Khela", written by Abdus Samad, was staged. The cast included Akbar Hossain, Jamir Hossain, Ripon Mian, Ebadat Mondal, Dipali Biswas, Suchitra, Anjali

Biswas and Basanti Rani. The event went down exceedingly well with the audience.

A 'mela' was also held at the same venue. Traders from different upazilas of the district attended the 'mela' with their goods. People, especially children, thronged the venue with much enthusiasm.



A snake charmer at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

## Mumbai Film Festival comes to a close

The curtain closed on the 11th edition of Mumbai Film Festival organised by the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) amidst the who's who of the Indian and world cinema gracing the closure of the event with their presence. MFF is a Reliance Big Entertainment initiative and has the distinction of being the only international film festival in India to be organised by an independent body of practicing film professionals.

MAMI committee led by Chairman Shyam Benegal and trustees Yash Chopra, Jaya Bachchan, Amit Khanna, Amol Palekar along with the festival jury members including renowned Hollywood screenwriter and director Paul Schrader, Sri Lankan filmmaker Vimukthi Jayasundara, Indian filmmaker Shaji N. Karun and former director of Locarno Film Festival Irene Bignardi graced the occasion. Also present were Anil and Tina Ambani, Amitabh Bachchan and Theo Angelopoulos.

"This festival brought together some of the best cinematic talents from across the globe," said Shyam Benegal, chairperson of MAMI. "We watched some very well-crafted films covering a range of themes and issues."

Amitabh Bachchan was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for completing 40 years in the Bollywood film industry. His oeuvre comprises from rib-tickling comedies to tear-jerkers to subtle, nuanced performances in art-house films. Theo Angelopoulos, the maestro from Greece, received the International Lifetime Achievement Award for his thought-provoking and visually appealing cinema. His distinctive style and works have influenced a number of your filmmakers. Dev Anand's production house Navketan Films was facilitated for completing 60 golden years in the film industry.

Source: Internet