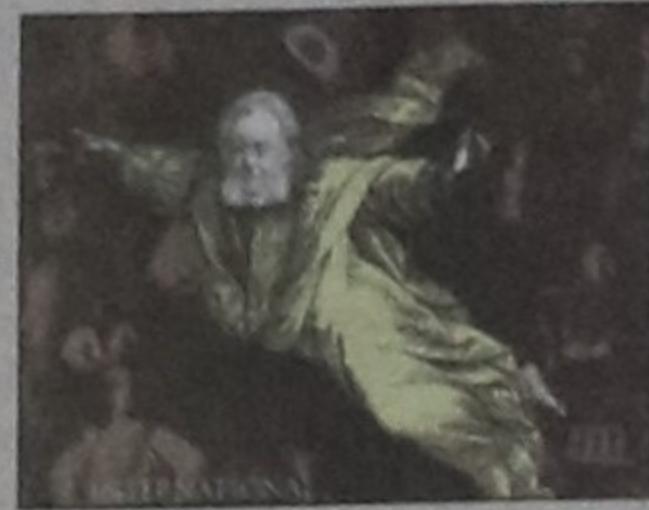


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Int'l Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival  
Title: Ibsen Through New Eyes  
Venue: Shilpkala Academy & Jahangiragar University  
Date: November 12-23  
Time: Everyday 5:30pm onwards



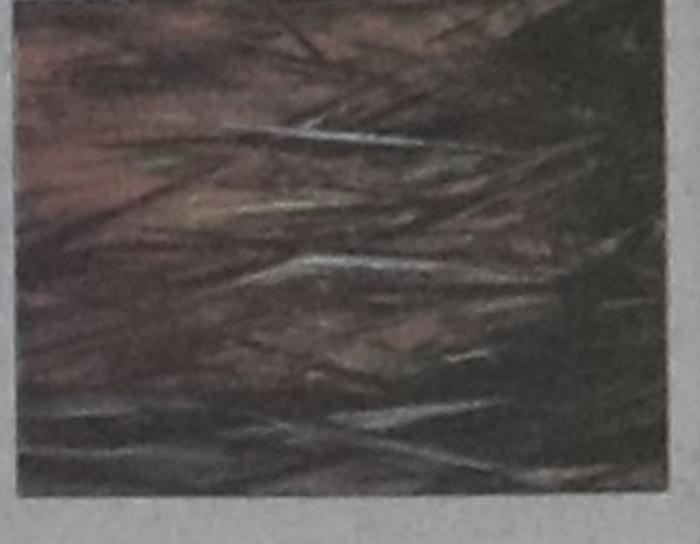
**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Of Conflict and Harmony  
Artist: Mustafa Khalid Palash  
Venue: Asiatic Art Gallery, Nimgol, Ramma  
Date: October 23 November 22  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Dance Recital**  
Title: Margam- A Recital of Classical Dances  
Organiser: World Dance Alliance- Bangladesh  
Venue: Chhayanaut Shangskriti Bhavan, Dhamundi  
Date: November 16  
Time: 7pm



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



## Essence of Ibsen presented in indigenous theatre form

Shilpkala Academy stages "Adrishya Paap"



Kripa Sindhu Roy Sarkar and his troupe stage the play.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



JAMIL MAHMUD

To enrich contemporary theatre, different Bangladeshi troupes have been incorporating folk elements in their productions.

Nevertheless, it was an innovative idea by the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) to stage an Ibsen play in the form of an indigenous performing art, 'Kushan Gaan'.

On the second day

(November 13) of the ongoing International Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival '09, The Department of Drama, BSA staged an adaptation of Ibsen's "Ghosts" at Experimental Theatre Hall. Golam Sarwar

was the director of the play. 'Kushan Gaan' is still in practice in the northern part of the country. Kripa Sindhu Roy Sarkar and his troupe from Kurigram are reputed artistes of the genre.

'Kushan Gaan' usually highlights stories from the epics "Ramayana" and "Mahabharata" through narratives and singing. It was for the first time that the troupe was presenting a different kind of story.

Ibsen's "Ghosts" delineate how immoral and illicit relationships can destroy a family.

The adaptation of "Ghosts" zooms in on Amena Begum, an aristocrat, married to a dignified individual named Mahtab Chowdhury. After her marriage, Amena discovers

Mahtab's lascivious character. To save her son from her husband's bad influences, Amena sends Usman (the son) to the city in the name of higher education.

In the meantime Mahtab gets the maid Shakhina pregnant. Shakhina gives birth to a child and names her Rezia. Mahtab Chowdhury ignores his paternal duties and marries Sakhina off to another person. Days later Mahtab dies.

After Mahtab's death, Amena starts to believe that her husband's property and fortune were built on sins. She decides to donate all the property to build an orphanage.

Several years later, Usman comes home. He comes across Rezia and they fall for each other. Amena discovers the relationship and reveals the truth to Rezia. Rezia decides to leave everything for the unknown. Usman meanwhile realises that he has a degenerative disease, which gradually drives him towards death. The orphanage is destroyed in a fire.

Along with Kripa Sindhu Roy, Md. Aenal Haque, Anil Kumar Rao, Md. Mithu, Kakoli Rao, Lata Rao and Lipi Rao also performed in the play. Kripa Sindhu and Golam Sarwar jointly planned and adapted the play.

Today, Aranyak Natyadal will stage "Shortugna" (an adaptation of "An Enemy of the People") at the Experimental Theatre Hall at 7pm. Mamanur Rashid is the director of the play. Kotha Abritti Charcha Kendra will stage a recital "Antar Jatra" highlighting Ibsen's poems at the Studio Theatre Hall at 5:30pm.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

To celebrate its 18th anniversary, cultural organisation Shangskriti Bikash Kendra arranged a cultural programme at its premises in Paribagh on November 12. The programme featured renditions of classical music by young artistes. Shangskriti Bikash Kendra arranges programmes regularly to promote young talents.

## Celebrating the art of dance

### First Annual Hijra Dance Competition held

On November 12, the first Annual Hijra Dance Competition was held at the Dance and Music Centre, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy.

The event had for objective to regroup all Hijras of Dhaka and their friends to celebrate the art of dance in a joyful atmosphere, says a press release. Each dancer had three minutes to perform their routine.

Thirty-three dancers, between the ages of 15 and 45, competed in front of a crowded room of 500 for the top prize. This year's winners are: Miss Nisha (first), Miss Katha (second) and Miss Bobby (third).

The event was recorded for a documentary film on the Hijras of Dhaka that is set for broadcast on French television in 2010.



Those who walked away with the prizes.

## TV Watch

### Hassan Masud and Tanzika on "Amar Ami"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Actor Hassan Masud and upcoming actress Tanzika are guests on tonight's "Amar Ami".

In an interactive session with Noushin, the host the invited guests will take part on the show -- sharing their untold stories, their introduction to the media, future plans and personal experiences.

"Amar Ami" is a weekly celebrity talk show aired on Banglavision. The show is aired every Sunday at 9:05 pm. The programme is produced by Ananto Zahid.



Guests on tonight's show

## Ram Dhamija: The roving photographer

KAVITA, New Delhi

"Photography to me is a meeting point of head and heart," says the reclusive 87-year-old Ram Dhamija whose 41 photographs were recently on display at an exhibition in New Delhi, titled "Preoccupations: Forty Years of Imaging India."

Traversing the length and breadth of the country on his professional work with the camera as his companion, he has touched base in places like Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Kashmir, Ladakh and Bengal. The recent exhibition reflects his passion for shooting cultural personalities, ordinary men and women and idyllic landscapes.

Among the subjects from the art world are preeminent Bharatanatyam dancer Balasaraswati (Delhi, 1970s), the striking Kumudini Lakshmi (Delhi 1960s), Kathak dancer and choreographer (the first choreographer in Kathak in India, according to Ram). Then we have Hungarian artist Elizabeth Brunner (Delhi, 1950s) holding a rabbit. Also on the walls is a photograph of Simkie, Uday Shankar's dance partner (Delhi, 1950s).

As a writer and photo-journalist, Ram had a first hand view of the period (1940s-the mid '80s) when

and white photography. I work mostly with available natural light and available working conditions," points out Ram. Describing how he shot Balasaraswati, he asserts that he met her one afternoon in her verandah and, in available light, captured her on his camera. "She was the best dancer of our country in her time. When I shot her, she was not in her conventional costume. I told her that you don't need any extra clothing so go ahead, I asked her choose a song and then dance. I concentrated on images; I have about 60 vignettes of her in different poses, of which 27 are on display."

Among Ram's other brilliant frames are his series on the Rajasthan drought (1968-69) such as 'Farmer with turban; drought' and 'Woman with bracelets'. There's also a photograph, titled 'Girl writing' (1956, in the extremely backward Bastar, an administrative district of Chattisgarh state in Central India), while the landscapes include a highway in Rajasthan and a haystack in Haryana.

As a writer and photo-journalist, Ram had a first hand view of the period (1940s-the mid '80s) when

independent India was in a state of transition which he effectively captures with his camera. Ram also worked with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the Press Information Bureau, a job that took him all over the country, armed with his camera. In addition, he put together a rich collection of images of performers and craftspeople as he traversed India with his wife Jasleen Dhamija, an international expert in textiles, handcrafts and living traditions.

The credit for the exhibition must of course go to his son Himman Dhamija,



Images from Ram Dhamija's repertoire

