

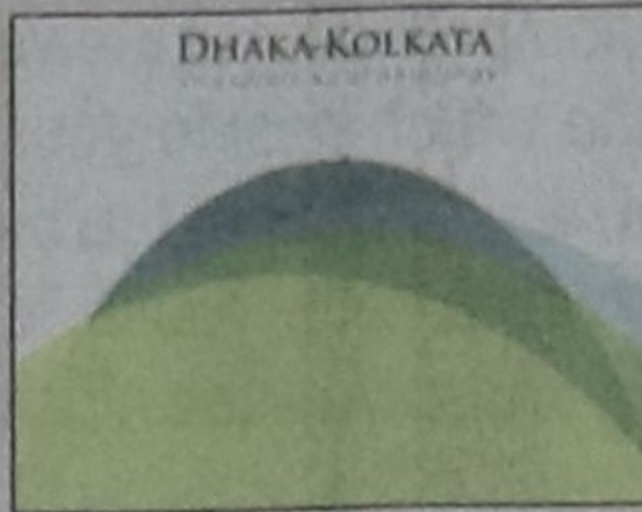
## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Int'l Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival**  
Title: Ibsen Through New Eyes  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy & Jahangirnagar University  
Date: November 12-23  
Time: Everyday 5.30pm onwards



### Painting Exhibition

**Title:** Dhaka-Kolkata  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
**Date:** November 13-22  
**Time:** 12-8pm



### Kazi Nazrul Islam Smriti Swarna Padak '09

**Organised by:** Shubhechha Sangskritik Forum  
**Venue:** National Music and Dance Centre, BSA  
**Date:** November 18  
**Time:** 6.30pm



### Book Fair

**Title:** Nobanner Boi Utshab  
**Organiser:** Adom Publication  
**Venue:** Central Public Library, Shahbagh  
**Date:** November 5-21  
**Time:** 10am-8pm



## "We need a South Asian theatre programme"

-- Dr. Anuradha Kapur, director of NSD



Kapur-- honoured at the festival.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

KARIM WAHEED

Director of the National School of Drama (New Delhi) Dr. Anuradha Kapur is in Dhaka to attend the ongoing Ibsen International Seminar and Theatre Festival 2009. Dr. Kapur is travelling with the Indian theatre troupe 'Vivadi'. The group staged Ibsen's "John Gabriel Borkman" (directed by Dr. Kapur) on November 16 at National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Dr. Kapur has written widely on theatre. Among her much-acclaimed publications is "Actors, Pilgrims, Kings and Gods: the Ramlila at

Ramnagar". She has taught and directed in India and abroad and her theatre work is recognised extensively. She was conferred with the 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Direction' in 2004.

During a conversation over tea in the green room, Dr. Kapur touched topics like Ibsen's relevance in the post-modern world and the need for wider collaboration in South Asian theatre. Excerpts from the conversation:

Dr. Kapur on Vivadi: "I'm one of the founder-members of Vivadi. It's a working group of painters, musicians, writers and theatre practitioners, which was formed in 1989."

On the theatre festival high-

lighting Ibsen plays: "When you focus on a particular playwright, traces of what's contemporary in his/her work emerge."

On Ibsen's contemporaneity: "Some of the major concerns of 19th century are still very relevant. Even though our lives have been affected by post-modern issues, subjects like an individual's correlation with the society will always remain applicable."

On NSD's association with Bangladeshi theatre: "The National School of Drama has a very cordial relationship with Bangladeshi theatre activists and enthusiasts who have studied there. In fact, one of NSD's major concerns is to encourage collaboration and dialogues. So, we're always keen on exchange programmes. Several Bangladeshi directors have staged their productions at NSD's theatre festivals."

Her impression of Bangladeshi theatre: "It's very vibrant! I've seen works of Kamaluddin Nilu and Jamil Ahmed. I'd say Bangladeshi theatre is marked by the impressive and active participation of young individuals as well as technical expertise of the seasoned directors and writers. It is very active here too. What I find particularly impressive is the ongoing effort to maintain a close tie with the indigenous/folk forms."

On South Asian theatre, on the whole: "Diversity is the strength of South Asian theatre. Language is not a barrier any more. There should be more collaboration. A South Asian theatre programme would be beneficial for us all. This could be a mobile project; parts of it can be held at universities across South Asia."

## Int'l Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival '09

# Vivadi Theatre from New Delhi stages "John Gabriel Borkman"

CORRESPONDENT

Reputed Indian theatre troupe Vivadi staged Ibsen's penultimate work, "John Gabriel Borkman", at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on November 16. Dr. Anuradha Kapur, Professor of Acting and Direction at the National School of Drama and one of the founder members of Vivadi, directed the play.

"John Gabriel Borkman" is a story of the simmering 19th century tensions of repression and ambition. The protagonist stands apart from the stereotype romantic characters of that period.

The play is based on an incident that occurred in Christiania (Oslo) in the 1850s, when an army officer, accused of embezzlement, committed suicide.

Ibsen's version of the narrative examines the plight of the Borkman family following the indictment and incarceration for eight years of the titular character, a banker/miner, for illegally speculating with his investors' funds. Through this crime, Borkman faces the last tragedy of his life.

Though "John Gabriel Borkman" continues the line of naturalism and social commentary that marks Ibsen's middle period, the final act suggests a new phase for the playwright, a phase brought to fruition in his final, more symbolic work, "When We



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Passion in "John Gabriel Borkman".

Dead Awaken".

Harish Khanna played the role of Gabriel Borkman, while Mandakini Goswami was Mrs. Borkman and Vipin Bhardwaj played the role of Erhart Borkman. Bidyavati Phukan, Savita Rani and Rajesh Tailang played other lead roles.

Sankar Venkateswaran composed music for the play. Daulat Vaid was the light designer, while Vishal K. Dar was the set designer of the play.

The same day, two adaptations of Ibsen's most acclaimed play "A Doll's House", were staged. Aarshi

Theatre from Kolkata staged "Putul Chithi" at the Studio Theatre. Abanti Chakraborty directed the play. Palakar staged "Norar Teen Konya" at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Aminur Rahman Mukul directed the play.

Today, two plays will be staged. Desh Natok will stage "Bhokto" (an adaptation of "Brand") at the Experimental Theatre Hall at 5pm. Shamsul Alam Bakul is the director of the play. Moaser Theatre, Tehran, Iran will stage "The Wild Duck" at the National Theatre Hall at 7pm.



Intensity in "Norar Teen Konya".

## Celebrities champion street children

In a bid to generate awareness on children's rights, for the first time, this year, JAAGO Foundation (a local NGO) will celebrate Universal Children's Day, says a press release. On November 18, friends and supporters of JAAGO Foundation will step into the traffic of Dhaka City and sell flowers, popcorn, toys and other items on behalf of the street children.

Some of these friends will include celebrities like Bangladesh national team cricketers Mohammad Ashraful and Sakib ul Hasan; actors Zahid Hasan, Sadia Islam Mou and Nader

Chowdhury; musicians Hridoy Khan, Balam, Elita, Laura and Ornob; band members from Warfaze, Black, Nemesis, Radioactive and Powersurge; business personalities Ashfaqur Rahman, Managing Director, Novartis, Akku Chowdhury, Executive Director, Transcom Foods Ltd and Nazim Farhan Chowdhury, Deputy Managing Director, Adcomm Limited and many others. The celebrities will sell the everyday items at the Gulshan 2 traffic signal point.

JAAGO's aim is to take at least 500 street children from 10 different traffic signal points of Dhaka city to Wonder-

land at Gulshan-2 on the day while these stars, along with students from various academic institutions, will replace them at the traffic points. At the end of the day, the proceeds from the sale of these items will go to the street children again.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will support the event by providing security facilities to the volunteers who attend this event.

To add to the fun, the Meridian Channel I Khude Gaan Raaj champions will perform at Wonderland at 4:00pm on to entertain the street children.

## Student's Day celebrated with fanfare

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, Sirajganj

The cultural committee of Khwaja Yunus Ali (R): Medical College and Hospital (KYAMCH) at Enayetpur in Sirajganj district arranged a week long cultural programme to mark "Student's Day".

The programme included a rally, musical shows, unveiling of the college magazine cover, debate, recitation and a prize giving ceremony.

Dr. M.M. Amzad Hossain, chairman of the institution, inaugurated the programme on November 14 at the

college campus. Renowned singer Bappa Majumder and Ibrar Tipu were present as special guests.

On the first day, students and teachers of the college brought out a colourful procession that paraded the college campus. Later, a rally was held at the college auditorium headed by Mohammad Yusuf, director of KYAMCH.

Among others, Principal, Dr. Hossain Reza, cultural committee adviser Dr. W.K. Sen Gupta, Professor Julfikar Ali, Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman and Dr. Rubayet Ferdous Hossain

addressed the gathering.

Renowned singer Fatema Tuz Zohra and Sadi Mohammad rendered songs at the cultural function at the college auditorium.

During the inauguration of the programme, the speakers said that, the function is an annual feature for the students of the college to display their extracurricular skills through cultural performances. They also urged the authorities concerned to declare November 14 as National Student's Day and called on them to observe this momentous day every year.

fridge/freezer and TV\*

**Upto 100%**

Discount ensured through

scratch card on any brand fridge/freezer and TV

**SINGER Offers**

**You can win 100% discount**

Mrs. Parvin Begum of Kawnia Branch Road has won 100% discount, who bought a TV from Barisal Sadar Road SINGER Plus Shop.

Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman of Lalbagh has won 100% discount, who bought a Fridge from Bangabandhu Avenue SINGER Plus Shop.

**INTEREST FREE**

**90 Days**

**Make a choice from various brands of Fridge/Freezer and Television made in Korea, Thailand and China**

**SINGER SAMSUNG Whirlpool Haier**

Enjoy **0% interest** upto 90 days

**Hello!**

**SINGER CALL CENTER**

9884113, 01552205160-2

This offer is valid till December 7, 2009

www.singerbd.com

**SINGER Plus**

Modern Life Begins Here

Please visit your nearest SINGER Plus shop today