

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Remembering Waheedul Haque
 Title: Waheedul Haque Sharonik Milon Ushab 2010
 Organiser: Konthoshilon
 Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library
 Date: March 18-20
 Time: 9:30 am onwards



Musical Soiree
 Title: Desh Ghor-er Gaan
 Organiser: Chhayanaut
 Venue: Bakultola, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
 Date: March 19-20
 Time: 5pm-9.30pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Hridaye Bangladesh
 Photographer: Chanchal Mahmud
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R-27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: March 19-30
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Boats Exhibition
 Title: Traditional Boats of Bangladesh
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattachali Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: March 23-April 19
 Time: 10am -5pm



A celebration of youth

Prachyanat's in-house theatre festival ends



Scenes from "A New Testament of Ancient Mariner" (top) and "Keramatnama".

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Featuring young theatre activists, the four-day festival "Mahola Magan" by the troupe Prachyanat ended on March 18 at the Studio Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. On the last day, two plays -- "Keramatnama" and "A New Testament of Ancient Mariner" -- were staged at the venue.

The festival began on March 15. Six plays, along with the troupe's popular musical ensemble "Phul Pakhi O Nodir Gaan", were staged at the festival.

All of the plays were previously staged at smaller gatherings, at Prachyanat's own premises, where audiences were small. The troupe has been staging plays written and directed by young activists since 2008. The festival was a good opportunity for them to showcase their potentials.

The plays staged at the festival were written and directed by Hira Chowdhury, Saiful Islam

Jarnel, Rinkan Sikdar, Rantik Bipu and Farhad Hamid.

Improvisation and new interpretations were appar-

ent in the plays. Apart from direction and scripts, the young activists also demonstrated their skills in music,

costume, light and set designing.

Under the guidance of music director Rahul Anand, young musicians Xem, Nobel, Sharif, Shahriar Shaon and others composed numbers for the plays. Abul Hasnat Bhuiyan did the light designs for all plays, except "Bioscope" (light design by Rafiqul Islam).

Plays staged on the last day of the festival, "Keramatnama" and "A New Testament of Ancient Mariner", were directed by Rinkan Sikdar and Farhad Hamid respectively.

While "Keramatnama" had the essence of a traditional theatre form, "A New Testament of Ancient Mariner" was an interpretation of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner". Dialogues of the latter play were in English.

Jayita, Rafique, Ripon, Nobel, Shimanta and Shaon acted in "Keramatnama". The cast of "A New Testament of Ancient Mariner" included Hira Chowdhury, Suman, Sanjida Preeti, Sazeeb and Allen.



Cultural programme for children with special needs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Some 65 differently-abled children took part in a unique cultural programme in Rajshahi last Thursday on the occasion of National Children's Day.

Some of them rendered songs, some recited poems, while others danced and enjoyed the programme -- demonstrating their excitement through repeated clapping.

Mahbuba Ahmed Moutushi, who has down syndrome, drew attention of the parents and guests attending the programme when she sang "Dhano Dhanye Pushpe Bhora".

"Ektara Tui Desher Kotha" by the autistic Sunny may have sounded out of tune, but what the rendition lacked in technicality, it more than made up with patriotic sentiments.

Rhidoy, who has cerebral palsy, recited the rhyme "Ardum Bagdum Ghoradum



A differently-abled child sings at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Shaje", while Megha recited "Hattima Timtim".

When Sifat was asked to sing, he came on the stage and taking permission, took a seat. He sang "Jao Pakhi Bolo Tarey", the mega-popular

song from the film "Monpura".

Their parents said that children with disabilities are seldom given opportunities to celebrate their creativity.

With the slogan "Amra

shobai tomaderi shontan, amrao pari tomader ditey morjada aar shomman," a Rajshahi based NGO, Foundation for Women and Child Assistance, organised the programme.



Artist Aditya Mohsin's latest album "Bipul Tarango Rey" was launched on March 18 at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts. Editor of the Bangla daily Prothom Alo, Matiur Rahman, unveiled the album. On the occasion the singer rendered songs from the album, along with some familiar and not-often heard Rabindra Sangeet. Mohsin started with the patriotic song "Sharthok Janom Amar" as homage to the month of independence. Other songs performed by the artiste were "Majhey Majhey Tabo Dekha Pai", "Bipul Tarango Rey", "Bon-e Jodi Phutlo Kushum", "Deep Nibey Gchhey" and "Aaji Jemon Korey".

Can talent outweigh size in Hollywood?

It has not been that long since Gabourey Sidibe attended the 82nd Annual Academy Awards as a best actress nominee and folks are already questioning whether her career is over.

Despite the accolades bestowed upon the actress in the past few months, it's unclear if the film industry can go against the norm and cast a young woman who is not only African-American, but also larger than the Hollywood standard in a non-niche role, as the romantic lead in a major film vehicle, for example.

"What movie could she play in?" Howard Stern questioned on his live satellite show. "You feel bad because everyone pretends that she's part of show business, and she's never going to be in another movie."

The comments made on Stern's show sparked a heated debate among moviegoers and industry observers, with some believing the shock-jock was simply saying what everyone else is thinking.

Jeffrey Wells, a columnist who's lent his candid perspective on the industry to a variety of outlets over the years and now blogs about it on HollywoodElsewhere.com, said in an e-mail, "Gabby is a lovely person and a fine actress, but the hard fact is that she's way, way too fat," adding that the actress will suffer from health problems as well as limited career opportunities if she doesn't

lose weight.

"I don't want Gabby to not work, but the only roles she'll have a shot at playing will be down-market moms and hard-luck girls working at Wal-Mart," Wells continued. "No casting director would choose her to play anyone in the upscale executive world ... because no one in the executive world looks like her."

The thing about Sidibe, casting directors said, is that aside from the irresistible charm, wit and confi-

dence she exhibits in interviews, which certainly don't hurt her prospects, she's a remarkable talent. The 26-year-old, who was born in Brooklyn, New York, displayed an irrefutable amount of it in "Precious," and her performance becomes more mind-boggling when one learns that her resume previously contained just two small parts in college plays.

As Sapphire, the author of the novel "Push" that

"Precious" is based on, put it during an interview with CBS News' Katie Couric last fall, it's not like they used a girl who has a story similar to the lead character, where they could simply put her on camera and tell her to think about her mother and cry.

"This girl is a real actress," Sapphire said. Typically, she added, "when we do have an actress that looks like her, she's the comic character or the old woman or something, [but] we have a heavy, dark-skinned black woman as the star of the show."

Rachel Tenner, a casting director for best picture nominee "A Serious Man", insisted that the star power Sidibe showed in "Precious" will be enough to help her push past the presumptions about what type of role she can and cannot play.

"Obviously, there aren't a million parts made for her," Tenner said. "Do I read 50 movies a year that are for her physicality? No. But, there are a lot of directors who appreciate the work that she did, and that may help her get considered for roles that are not written for her."

Thus far Sidibe's skill has snagged her a role in a Sundance Lab film, "Yelling to the Sky," where she portrays a popular high school bully.

Source: CNN



Gabourey Sidibe has been at the centre of debate questioning whether her size will cut her growing career short.

Baby Naznin begins her nationwide tour in Dhaka

Concert at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre



Baby Naznin performs at the concert.

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular singer Baby Naznin began her nationwide tour through performing at a concert in Dhaka on March 18. The concert, titled 'UCB Presents Baby Naznin Live' was held at Hall of Fame, Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city. The concert was arranged by Cultural Journalists' Forum of Bangladesh (CJFB).

At the show, Naznin presented several of her huge hits, including "Kal Shara Raat", "Elomelo Batashey", "Oi Rangdhanu Thekey", "Du' Chokhey Ghum Ashe Na", "Morar Kokiley", "O Bondhu Tumi Koi" and more. A number of renowned instrumentalists of the country assisted Naznin at the concert.

Her repertoire also featured Urdu ghazal, Arabic and English numbers. According to the artiste, she started with classical music, Rabindra and Nazrul Sangeet lessons.

Following her Dhaka concert, Naznin will perform in five divisions -- Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Rangpur.

Prior to the concert, Chairman of United Commercial Bank Ltd. (UCB) M.A. Hashem; director of UCB MA Sabur; managing director of Partex Group Shawkat Aziz Russell; Chairman of Globe Soft Drinks Ltd. Harunur Rashid; CEO of Persona Kaniz Almas Khan; President of CJFB Enam Ahmed and Chairman and CEO of Ekushey TV Abdus Salam spoke on the artiste.

Ekushey TV was the media partner of the event. Singer Jewel and Farhana Nisho were the MCs.