DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 27, 2010 culture_dailystar@yahoo.com



International **Dance Day** Organiser: Dance Artists Association and Shilpakala Venue: National Theatre Centre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: April 23-29 Time: 6.30pm



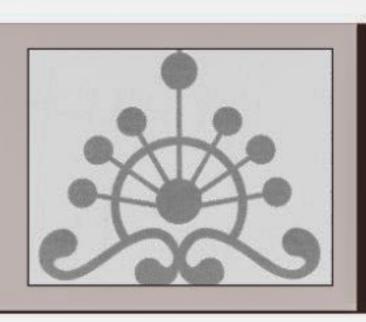
Workshop Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7/A, H-60, Dhanmondi Conducted by: Monirul Islam and Murtaja Date: April 26-July26 Time: 10am-8pm



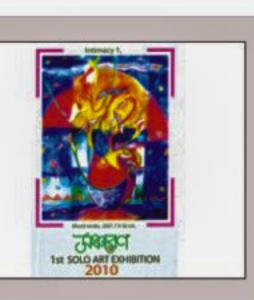
Musical Programme Organiser: Nandan Venue: Ramesh Chandra **Dutt Memorial Auditorium**, Chhayanaut Shangskriti Bhaban, Dhanmondi Date: April 30, 2010 Time: 6:45pm

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bangladesh



Solo Art Exhibition Title: Manifestation Artist: Nahid Rokhsana Ananna Venue: Zainul Gallery-2, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU. Date: April 24-28 Time: 11am to 8pm



Kochi Sharok Padatik Natya Utshab'10

Meraj Fakirer Ma staged



The play addresses religious bigotry and how the misinterpretation of values affects the society.

MAINUL HASSAN

There were mixed emotions amidst the audience at the National Theatre Stage, BSA on April 25 (on the second day of the ongoing Kochi Sharok Padatik Natya Utshab 2010). Theatre (Baily Road) staged Abdullah Al Mamun's "Meraj Fakirer Ma". As the play progressed, the absence of Abdullah Al Mamun was deeply felt.

The play addresses religious bigotry and how the misinterpretation of values affects the society.

The protagonist is Meraj Fakir (played by Tofa Hossain). He is one of the main clerics in Polashpur village. Meraj dreams of a Muslim state and holds a deep resentment towards the non-Muslims. His world comes crashing down when one day it is revealed that his parents eloped 39 years ago and his mother Alo Bibi (played by Ferdousi Majumder) happened to come from a Hindu family. The situation deteriorates further when Meraj realises that Alo Bibi never actually embraced Islam; she has been a Hindu all along. An outraged Meraj runs to the Islam.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

house to kill his mother but stops as he remembers the Islamic instructions on how a son/daughter should treat his/her parents.

The news that Alo Bibi is actually a Hindu quickly breaks out in the village and Meraj's long-time rival, another cleric Geda Fakir(played by Shekanul Islam Shahi) tries to exploit the situation to his benefit by turning the simple-minded villagers against him.

The cast also includes Ramendu Majumder, Tropa Majumder, Khurshid Alam and Tamanna

Bangla New Year celebration in Melbourne

Like every year, Shurolok Music Appreciation and Performance Group, a Bangladesh-Australian cultural organisation celebrated the Bangla New Year in Melbourne recently, says a press release.

This year's event was held in one of the most prestigious halls, the Federation Square, at the heart of Melbourne. Mita Huq, one of the more well known Rabindra Sangeet artistes joined Shurolok in this celebration. Another noted overall music coordination. Mita's perfor- grounds.

mance was riveting.

Shurolok singers presented a short but impressive performance, comprising songs of Nazrul, Rabindranath and other poets.

The function was directed jointly by renowned Tagore singer Chanchal Khan and Nirupama Rahman, Shurolok's Melbournebased artiste. The function was sponsored by the Australian government's multicultural organisation, the Victorian Multicultural musician, Daulatur Rahman accompanied the Commission, and was attended by expatriate Shurolok singers and Mita on keyboard and Bengalis and Australians of various back-



Mita Huq (centre) and Chanchal Khan (right) sing at the programme.

Buzz

"Raavan": Will Mani Ratnam turn the villain into the hero?

One of this year's most anticipated Indian films is Mani Ratnam's tri-lingual: "Raavan" in Hindi, "Raavanan" in Tamil and "Villain" in Telugu.

The Hindi version stars Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (as Sita), Abhishek Bachchan (as Raavan) and South Indian actor Vikram (as Ram) in the lead roles. The Tamil and Telugu versions are minus Abhishek. Instead, they have Prithvi Raj in the lead.

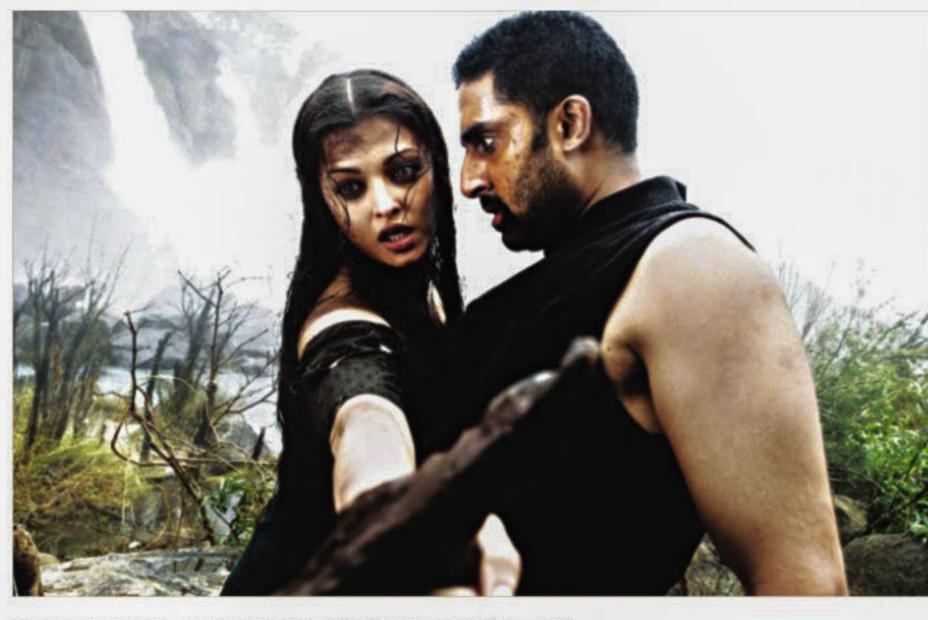
From the questions the director asks on the movie's Web site, it is evident that it is his quest to look at the epic "Ramayan" from today's perspective.

The buzz is that that Mani Ratnam has made audience.

the film from Raavan's perspective. For evidence, look no further than the director's note: "Ten heads, Ten minds, A hundred voices, One

Did such a man ever exist? Was he just a myth or does he live even today? What is the line that divides good and evil? Does our understanding change when we look from the opponent's perspective?

One of the highlights of "Raavan" is A.R. Rahman's music. Incidentally it was Ratnam's "Roja" that introduced Rahman to a wider



Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan in "Raavan".

Weeklong Folk theatre fest

Reviving traditional theatre forms





As part of the ongoing Folk Theatre week, starting from April 24 at Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bahurupi (a troupe from Saturia, Manikganj) performed three pala -- "Lathi Khela", "Jadu Khela" and "Buro Burir Shong" -- on April 25. "Lathi Khela" is of two kinds: entertaining and competitive while "Jadu Khela" shows turning leaf into fish, making puffed rice over dry sand without fire and more. "Buro Burir Shong" features enough elements that induce laughter. Uses of masks are noteworthy in "Buro Burir Shong". Chan Mian, a disciple of Guru Darbesh Ali (who founded Bahurupi), has been performing these pala for the last 36 years in the village Janna.



TV Watch

"Raat Biratey" on Banglavision tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

The entertainment streetshow "Raat Biraatey" will be aired on Banglavision

at 11:25pm. Tonight's celebrity guest is danceractor Nissa. The budding artiste will share her experiences about her life, acting, music and passions with the viewers.

"Raat Biratey" is hosted by Majnun Mizan and produced by Kawnain Sourav.



Nissa (right) with the host of the show.