





<p><b>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</b></p>	<p><b>International Dance Day</b>                  Organiser: Dance Artists Association and Shilpakala Academy                  Venue: National Theatre Centre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy                  Date: April 23-29                  Time: 6.30pm</p> 	<p><b>Workshop</b>                  Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7/A, H-60, Dhanmondi                  Conducted by: Monirul Islam and Murtaja Baseer                  Date: April 26-July 26                  Time: 10am-8pm</p> 	<p><b>Musical Programme</b>                  Organiser: Nandan                  Venue: Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanaut Shangkri Bhaban, Dhanmondi                  Date: April 30, 2010                  Time: 6:45pm</p> 	<p><b>Solo Art Exhibition</b>                  Title: Manifestation                  Artist: Nahid Rokhsana Ananna                  Venue: Zainul Gallery-2, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU.                  Date: April 24-28                  Time: 11am to 8pm</p> 
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## 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

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 Islam.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

### Weeklong Folk theatre fest

## Reviving traditional theatre forms



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

As part of the ongoing Folk Theatre week, starting from April 24 at Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bahurupi (a troupe from Sauria, 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.

## 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 artists joined Shurolok in this celebration. Another noted musician, Daulatur Rahman accompanied the Shurolok singers and Mita on keyboard and overall music coordination. Mita's performance 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 Melbourne-based artiste. The function was sponsored by the Australian government's multicultural organisation, the Victorian Multicultural Commission, and was attended by expatriate Bengalis and Australians of various backgrounds.



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



Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan in "Raavan".

## TV Watch "Raat Biratey" on Banglavision tonight

A CORRESPONDENT  
 The entertainment street-show "Raat Biratey" will be aired on Banglavision at 11:25pm. Tonight's celebrity guest is dancer-actress 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 Kawmain Sourav.



Nissa (right) with the host of the show.