

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Painting and Installation Exhibition**  
 Title: "Save Our Trees-Save Our Planet"  
 Artist: Gulshan Hossain  
 Venue: Goethe-Institut, H-10, R-9, Dhanmondi  
 Date: May 3-24  
 Time: 10am-8pm



**Musical Programme**  
 Title: Rabindra Mela  
 Venue: Channel 1 office premises, Tejgaon  
 Date: May 8  
 Time: 10am-5pm



**Terracotta Exhibition**  
 Organiser: Teachers and Students of the Department of Ceramics, FFA, DU  
 Venue: Zainul Gallery-2, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka  
 Date: May 3-9  
 Time: 11am-8pm



**Photography Exhibition**  
 Title: BBC BUZZ Capturing Moments, Framing Lives  
 Venue: DRK Gallery, H-58, R-15A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209  
 Date: May 1-6  
 Time: 3-8 pm



## Tagore in translation

Sabbir Chowdhury on film adaptations of the maestro's works



Scene from "Chokher Bali" (top) and "Charulata".

KARIM WAHEED

"Films have to be liberated from literature"  
 -- Tagore in "Pashchim Jatri Diary"

"Two-thirds of all feature films are based on literature (fiction and non-fiction)," says Sabbir Chowdhury. A teacher of the English Department, Jahangirnagar University, Sabbir has been actively involved with film societies in Bangladesh for over two decades. Sabbir is a member of FIPRESCI (The International Federation of Film Critics), the general secretary of Zahir Raihan Film Society and vice president of Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies. He also has a not-so-modest collection of over 4,000 movies in all formats -- VHS, LD, VCD and DVD.

Going over film adaptation of literature, Sabbir says, "There can be two ways to adapt: literal and creative. Needless to say, it takes a gifted filmmaker's profound understanding of the literary work and the author's identity to be able to accomplish a creative adaptation."

Addressing film adaptations of Tagore's works, Sabbir says, "Around 70 films based on Tagore's novels, short stories and plays have been made so far in the subcontinent. Most of them are naturally in Bangla. However, there are a few adaptations in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. Apparently Bimol Roy's Hindi feature film 'Do Bigha Zameen' (1953) was inspired by Tagore's poem 'Dui Bigha Jomi'."

The number of adaptations of Tagore's stories is not that impressive

considering Sarat Chandra's "Devdas" alone has had over 8 adaptations. Are filmmakers discouraged to adapt Tagore's literary works? "There are a number of reasons for that actually. Bangla being a regional language in the Indian context, Tagore's works, specifically his novels and short stories, haven't had mass exposure throughout

South Asia. Subtlety is one of the key traits of Tagore's stories, whereas exaggeration of drama is a common feature of Sarat Chandra's works. Commercial films thrive on melodrama; the kind of subtlety prevalent in Tagore's work has not been encouraged.

"Human psyche and nature are major elements in Tagore's stories. It



takes a deft filmmaker to incorporate these elements," Sabbir says.

"If we consider film adaptations of Tagore's literary works, starting from the silent film 'Manbhanjan' (1923) by Naresh Chandra Mitra to the recent movies -- the majority are literal adaptations. In most cases these adaptations are by mediocre filmmakers who have little or no understanding of Tagore. For instance, Tapan Sinha made three films based on Tagore's works -- 'Kabuliwala' (1956), 'Khudhito Pashan' (1960) and 'Atithi' (1965). Of these, 'Kabuliwala' was popular because of its mass appeal; the others were just below average productions.

"Even adaptations by ace filmmakers like Mrinal Sen and Purnendu Pati -- 'Ichhapooran' (1970) and 'Streer Potro' (1973), 'Maloncho' (1979) respectively -- cannot be considered 'Grade A' cinema.

"Satyajit Ray was perhaps the only filmmaker who could successfully translate Tagore into films. And to understand why, we have to consider Ray's background. Both Tagore and Ray belonged to progressive Brahmo families. Ray's father (Sukumar Ray) and Tagore had close ties. When Ray went to Shantiniketan to study fine arts, Tagore was still alive. So, it's understandable that Ray would have a sound understanding of Tagore as an individual and an author.

"Ray used Tagore's stories but his films had their own language. He made changes where necessary (for which he was often criticised), keeping the central idea intact. The best demonstration of creative adaptation of Tagore's work is perhaps 'Charulata' (1964). Ray reconstructed the whole story (Tagore's 'Noshtoneer'). Instead of using the stereotypical narrative voice that'd say, 'this is Bhupati's wife Charu. Charu is lonely...' Ray showed Charu looking through the window, watching passers-by on the street with her opera glasses and then after a while getting bored... That is the language of films, that's how a master filmmaker lets images speak," Sabbir says.

Sabbir continues, "Of the recent adaptations, Rituporno Ghosh's 'Chokher Bali' (2003) was much talked about. The film boasts great art direction but efforts by the actors and the adaptation on the whole are not up to the mark."

"Three film adaptations -- 'Shasti', 'Shubha' and 'Kabuliwala' -- produced in Bangladesh are uninteresting and below average. However, 'Raktokarobi' (by Mustafa Monwar) remains the best TV adaptation of Tagore's work," says the film buff.

## Weeklong 'jatra pala' begins from today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To safeguard one of the most popular indigenous performing arts 'jatra pala' from extinction, a weeklong festival begins today at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Troupes from different parts of the country will stage popular pala throughout the festival. On the inaugural day, Chaitali Opera will stage 'Devi Sultana'.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad is expected to inaugurate the festival this evening as the chief guest, while Kamal Lohani, director general of BSA will preside over the inaugural.

The other troupes to stage 'jatra pala' during the festival are Ananda Opera, New Rong Mahal and Sangeeta Jatra Unit. The troupes will stage

pala titled "Kohinur" (directed by Brajendra Kumar Dey), "Manabi Devi" (Nirmal Mukhopadhyay) and "Jalim Singher Maath" (Prashad Krishna Bhattacharya). Jatra artiste Victor Daniel will stage a solo performance on May 11. The day's performance also includes bibek gan by artistes from different troupes.

Renowned theatre personality Mamunur Rashid will deliver the "Amalendu Biswas Memorial Lecture" on the last day. Among others, Professor Israfil Shahin of Dhaka University; jatra artistes Milon Kanti Dey and Sultan Selim and journalist Abdul Mazid will discuss on the topic.

Under the supervision by Shilpakala Academy, the department of Drama and Film has arranged the festival.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Theatre troupe Palakar staged its new production "Nora'r Tin Konna" at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on May 3. Based on Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House", the play is originally written by Swedish playwright Henning Mankell. Raihan Amin has translated it into Bengali, while Aminur Rahman Mukul directs it. The story of the play follows three daughters of Nora, who meet at their mother's grave 10 years after she passed away.



## ON AIR

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

**ATN BANGLA**  
 09:10 Tri-Nation Cricket Series  
 06:20 Shobaar Jonyo  
 11:30 Bibeker Kachhey Proshno  
 12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

**CHANNEL i**  
 01:05 Musical Programme: Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
 01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma  
 03:05 Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak  
 03:45 Amader Shikha Amader Shangskriti  
 04:10 Muktiudhyo Protidin

06:00 Musical Programme: Chhayajhankar  
 06:20 Banglalink Banglar Pathay  
 12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shangbadpotro

**ntv**  
 12:10 Ei Shomoy  
 01:05 Swastho Protidin  
 05:30 Chetonaye Islam  
 06:45 Amaro Gaitey Ichhchhey Holo  
 11:30 Music U Phone

**ETV**  
 10:50 Financial Bulletin

04:30 Children's Programme  
 05:25 Shangskriti Shonmachar  
 05:45 Sports Plus  
 06:30 Deshjurey  
 07:50 Drama: Istrir Potro  
 10:10 Baula Antor

**Rtv**  
 02:03 Bangla Feature Film Protidin  
 06:03 Star n Sports  
 07:30 Road To Democracy  
 11:30 Tomaar Jonyo Amar Ei Gaan

**DESH TV**  
 04:30 Dur Durantey  
 05:30 Dur Paath  
 06:30 Rupali Geeti Chhondo  
 07:45 Musical Show: Murchhonar Shobdojaal  
 09:45 Desh-e Golpo  
 11:45 Shoja Katha

**BANGLAVISION**  
 03:35 Cinebit Shadakalo  
 05:25 Music Vision

06:40 Point of Order  
 09:05 Media Bhuvan  
 11:25 Selected Programme

**Zee Studio**  
 08:30 Raging Bull  
 11:20 Flawless  
 11:30 Battle for Haditha  
 04:00 National Treasure  
 07:30 Born Romantic  
 09:30 Runaway Bride  
 12:20 Two Lovers

**HBO**  
 12:30 The Murder Of Princess Diana  
 02:30 Patriot Games  
 05:00 Mr. Deeds  
 07:00 Slap Shot: The Junior League  
 09:00 Trnz 228  
 09:30 Deep Blue Sea  
 11:45 Solo

**ESPN**  
 11:30 T20 Superstars

ICC W T20 (2010)  
 12:30 Barclays Premier League 2009/10  
 Match: Liverpool vs. Chelsea  
 02:30 Barclays Premier League 2009/10  
 Match: Manchester City vs. Tottenham Hotspur  
 04:30 Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games - Cross-Country Skiing  
 05:00 Football Focus With John Dykes  
 06:00 Castrol Football Crazy  
 06:30 Uca National High School Cheerleading Championships  
 07:30 Goals!  
 08:00 Global Football  
 08:30 Sportscenter India  
 09:00 Sportscenter Asia  
 09:30 2010 FIFA World Cup Magazine Show  
 10:00 NBA Action 2009/10  
 10:30 Sportscenter India

11:00 Sportscenter Asia  
 11:30 Premier League World

**STAR SPORTS**  
 01:00 Golf Focus 2010  
 02:00 Max Power 2010/11  
 02:30 Barclays Premier League 2009/10  
 Match: Fulham vs. Stoke City  
 04:30 Nike Football Locker Room 2009/10  
 05:00 Almost Anything Goes  
 05:30 Simply The Best  
 06:00 Sea Master Sailing Series 2010  
 07:30 F1 Classics - 1999  
 08:30 Sportsmania  
 09:00 Ace 2010  
 09:30 Score Tonight  
 10:00 TNA Sikander 09/10

**Talk show**

**CHANNEL i**  
 09:50am Grameenphone Tritio Matra  
 12:30pm Citycell Taroka Kathan  
 11:30pm Aloye Bhuvan Bhora

**ATN BANGLA**  
 12:30am Hello Bangladesh

**Drama Serial**

**ATN BANGLA**  
 08:00pm Batasher Ghar  
 08:40pm Ognirath  
 09:20pm Shubarno Swapno

**CHANNEL i**  
 05:30pm Fashion  
 07:50pm Chondro Shikhor Meghboti

**ntv**  
 08:15pm FnF

**DESH TV**  
 10:30pm Metro

**BANGLAVISION**  
 08:15pm Pati Gonit

**News Bulletin**

**BTV**  
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 am.  
 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am  
 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
 News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
 Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

**CHANNEL-i**  
 News (Bangla): 7:00 am,

9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am

**ATN BANGLA**  
 NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am  
 News (English) at 6:00pm

**Rtv**  
 News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am

**ntv**  
 News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm,

1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.  
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.  
 News (English) at 6:00pm

**abc radio**  
 News: 08:00 am, 12:00 pm, 03:00 pm, 06:00 pm, 09:00 pm, 12:00 am;  
 English Bulletin: 1:30pm, 7:30pm

7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

**ETV**  
 News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

**Ognirath**  
 On ATN Bangla at 8:40 pm  
 Drama Serial  
 Cast: Nadia, Anisur Rahman Milon

**Deep Blue Sea**  
 On HBO at 9:30 pm  
 Genre: Sci-Fi  
 Cast: Thomas Jane, Saffron Burrows

**Patigonit**  
 On Banglavisoin at 8:15 pm  
 Drama Serial  
 Cast: Mosharrar Karim, Nadia

10:00 Morning Express  
 12:00 My Time  
 01:00 No Tension  
 04:00 Dhaka Calling  
 09:00 Night Rider  
 01:00 Back to Back music

**abc radio fm 89.2**  
 06:00 Bhorer Janalay  
 09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney  
 12:00 Darun Dupurey  
 03:00 Duranto Bikeley  
 05:00 Shondhataro  
 07:00 Shajer Maya  
 09:00 Raat-er Akashey  
 11:00 Golper Shesh Nei

**RADIO TODAY**  
 07:15 Good Morning Dhaka  
 11:00 Musti Unlimited  
 01:00 Today's Adda  
 04:00 U Tum  
 08:00 Tobey Tai Hok  
 11:00 Raat Bhor Gaan  
 Today's Happy Moments

**RADIO FOORTI**  
 07:30 Hello Dhaka