

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre
Play: Khona
Troupe: Battala
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 17
Time: 7pm



French Drama Festival
Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka and Natukay Theatre Group
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 15-21
Time: 5pm onward



Fatih Akin Retrospective
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Auditorium, Goethe Institut, H-10, R-9 Dhanmondi
Date: May 16-17
Time: 3.30pm onwards



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Rooted Creativity-2
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275/F Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-29
Time: 12 pm-8 pm



French Drama Festival begins at Shilpakala

Camoletti's "Don't Dress for Dinner" staged on opening day



Dignitaries at festival opening.



A scene from "Thakur Ghorey Ke Re".

JAMIL MAHMUD

The weeklong 3rd International French Drama Festival began at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on May 15. Jointly organised by

Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Natukay Theatre Group and Fame School of Dance and Drama, the festival features adaptations of seven renowned French plays by different local troupes. On the opening day Natukay and Shobdo Natyacharcha

Kendra jointly staged "Thakur Ghorey Ke Re", an adaptation of the Marc Camoletti comedy "Don't Dress for Dinner".

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury inaugurated the festival, where Deputy Speaker of Parliament Colo-

nel (Retd) Shawkat Ali was the chief guest.

Patrick Branco, Charge d'Affaires at the French Embassy; ITI Worldwide president Ramendu Majumdar and chairman of City Bank Aziz Al Kaiser were the special guests. Jacques Bounin, deputy director of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka and convener of the festival presided over the inaugural.

Professor Kabir Chowdhury in his remarks said that in Bangladesh French drama and literature are preferred especially in different universities and colleges. He also evaluated his own translations of French writings. "The literary works and dramas that I translated do not satisfy me because they are from English. I believe if they were from French language they would be more in-depth," said Professor Chowdhury.

In his comments, Ramendu Majumdar appreciated the initiative and urged both the French authorities and Bangladeshi theatre activists to find ways of working on contemporary French plays. He said, "French playwrights such as Moliere, Jean Paul Sartre, Samuel Beckett and Eugene Ionesco are well known to Bangladeshi theatre lovers. But little do we know about contemporary French playwrights such as Yasmina Reza. It would be nice if the French authorities make it possible for Bangladeshis to get better acquainted with contemporary French plays."

After the inaugural, the play "Thakur Ghorey Ke Re" was staged. The play is set in a

renovated French farmhouse about a two-hour drive from Paris. Bernard hopes to pack off his wife, Jacqueline, to her mother's place for the weekend so that he can have a romantic tryst with his mistress, Suzanne. As an alibi, Bernard has hired a cook Suzette and invited his friend Robert to dinner. But things go awry for Bernard, when Jacqueline learns about the arrival of Robert. As Robert and Jacqueline talk on the phone, it becomes obvious that they are having an affair.

While Bernard and Jacqueline are out shopping for groceries, Suzy arrives. She is the caterer, not the mistress. Robert doesn't realize it and introduces Suzette as his girlfriend when Bernard and Jacqueline return. Bernard is angry because of the mix-up, and Jacqueline feels betrayed because she thought she was Robert's only mistress.

Al Nomaan has designed, translated and directed the play. Today, Theatre for Cancer Foundation will stage "Biye Birambona", an adaptation of Moliere's play "The Forced Marriage". The weeklong festival will also see adaptations of Sartre's play "The Wall", Beckett's "End Game" and "All that Fall", Helene Cixous' "Drums on the Dam" and Ionesco's "The Rhinoceros". Theatre (Bailey Road), Prachyanat, Bibartan Theatre (Jessore) and Fame School of Drama (Chittagong) will stage the plays.

City Bank and American Express are the sponsors of the festival.

Robbie Williams singing on World Cup song

Robbie Williams and Russell Brand have been unveiled as vocalists on a remake of 3 Lions for the World Cup.

The pair share singing duties on the track, which has been revived by original creators David Baddiel, Frank Skinner and The Lightning Seeds.

Released on Monday, the song features an operatic introduction and has been produced by Trevor Horn.

The Football Association announced in January there would be no official England song for the tournament.

It is the first time since 1966 that there has been no song to mark the campaign, leading to various unofficial anthems.

The official song for the World Cup in South Africa is Time For Africa, performed by Shakira and Freshlyground.

Pop star Williams said: "I've always been approached to write football songs but have always declined as I thought 3 Lions could never be beaten, so I am really happy to be part of this record."

Producer Horn, who has replaced the terrace chants at the start of the 1996 original with an operatic opening, said the remake "had to be done".

"I am either the brave one or the foolish one who said I will have a go - I did it for England," he added.

3 Lions was first released as the anthem for the Euro 96 tournament and topped the charts.

It returned to the top spot two years later. The song, performed under the name The Squad, also features football commentator John Motson.

It also returns to the lyrical references of the original release, including those to Gary Lineker and 1966 World Cup heroes Bobby Moore and Sir Bobby Charlton.

Source: BBC



Theatre troupe Prachyanat staged its production "Punarjanmo" at Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on May 15. A deconstruction of Henrik Ibsen's "When We Dead Awaken", the play is directed by Azad Abul Kalam. The cast includes Sanjeeda Preety, Ritu-e-Sattar, Topon Majumder and others. The play has been adapted by Shahidul Mamun. Rahul Anand is the music director, while M Shaiful Islam is the set and light designer.



Dr. Sanjida Khatun (3rd - left) seen with guests at the launching ceremony of "Shubhu Kormo Pathay", the latest album of Tagore songs by Onamika Tripura (4th-left), at Chhayanaut Shangskriti Bhaban on May 15. The album includes 12 songs. Six Tagore numbers "Shubhokormo Pathay", "Kotobaar Bhebechhinu", "Sheidin Dujoney", "Aj Joyotsnaraatey", "Hey Khoniker Otithi" and Ei Kathati Money Rekho" are recorded in Kak-Barak -- the dialect of the Tripura community. The album has been launched under the banner of Laser Vision.

Mini screen

Who will be the biggest fan of Runa Laila?



Swoning in dance delight?

A CORRESPONDENT

Runa Laila is one of the celebrities featured on an entertainment programme for Zee TV Bangla, titled *Ke Hobe Biggest Fan* (Who will be the biggest fan) hosted by the noted Bollywood director, Anuraag Basu (Murder, Gangster, Metro and soon to be released Kites). The show starring Runa Laila will be telecast soon, said the diva.

Ke Hobe Biggest Fan is a reality show on Zee Bangla that shows the life-journey of a celebrity. In each of the episodes, one popular celebrity reveals about his family, personal life,

education, childhood, first love, hobbies, past time and his aspirations.

However, what sets the show apart from other celebrity shows is the participation of fans.

The anchor of the show, Anurag Basu, asks questions to the fans about the celebrity. The fan who answers all the questions accurately is crowned as the 'Biggest fan' of the Star from West Bengal.

The questions and answers are divided into five segments - Screen Test, Action, Flash Back, Censor and Climax.

Ke Hobe Biggest Fan is telecast on Zee Bangla every Thursday to Saturday at 9.30 pm.

Hard work pays off

Leena Taposhi receives PhD on Nazrul

A CORRESPONDENT

Nazrul singer Leena Taposhi Khan recently completed her PhD on "Use of Ragas in Nazrul Songs", under the supervision of Nazrul exponent Professor Rafiqul Islam. It took her three-and-a-half years to come by her degree. Earlier she had completed her MPhil on "Variations of Nazrul Songs and their Characteristics" from Dhaka University.

Leena said, "Nazrul is a part and parcel of our national identity as well as an essential part of our tradition. Most Nazrul songs are raga-based and each raga has a distinct feature."

Leena was encouraged to be a singer by her father MA Khan, a music enthusiast. She began to train in music in 1978. After graduating from the Music College in Dhaka, she went to Vishwabharati University on a scholarship to study classical music from 1981 to 1988.

During her stay in Kolkata, she also trained in Nazrul Sangeet under Dhiren Mitra. Noted Nazrul singers Sohrab Hossain and Khaled Hossain were her mentors in Dhaka.

Leena currently works as teacher in the



Santo Mariam University of Creative Technology. She is also the deputy director of the same institute. She has six albums to her credit till now.

Mahfuz-Ishita on "Chand Phul Amaboshya"

A CORRESPONDENT

Spectators will soon get to see Mahfuz Ahmed and Ishita in a mega serial titled "Chand Phul Amaboshya", written and directed by Faria Hossain and Arif Khan respectively. For the first time, the actors will play the roles of brother and sister.

"I took a break from TV serials, as I had to budget time for my son. After a long hiatus, I now personify the character "Kabita" in this serial," said Ishita

For his part, Mahfuz Ahmed said, "I have acted as a husband or a lover opposite Ishita in a number of TV serials. This time I am acting as her brother. I am enjoying my part as the character appears new."

