

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Film Screening
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: July 18-19
Time: 3pm onwards
Today: 'House of Fools' & 'Black Cat, White Cat'



Exhibition

To commemorate Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah's Birth Anniversary
Organiser: Bangalee Shamagra
Venue: Bangalee Shamagra Museum, Khair Mansion, 235/2, Elephant Road
Date: July 10-24
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Sylvan Forms
Sculptor: Ferdousi Priyabhashini
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: July 19-28
Time: 12 pm-8 pm



Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: The Life and Struggle of Garment Workers
Photographer: Taslima Akhtar
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: July 18-24
Time: 3-8pm



Tagore's 150th birth anniversary celebrations

First phase of the yearlong programme ends



Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna sings during her presentation.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first phase of Chhayanaut's yearlong programme commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore ended on July 17. Held at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the two-day programme featured songs, recitation, dance, short sketches and lectures.

On the second day, renowned Tagore singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna delivered a lecture, titled "Rabindranath-er Premer Gaan." Members of Chhayanaut as well as invited artists rendered songs.

The programme commenced through a choral rendition of "Oi Mahamanob Ashy" by Chhayanaut art-

istes. Tapan Bhattacharya performed a solo, "Dekha Na Dekhaye."

After the renditions, Bonna delivered her lecture. The lecture was full of references and the noted artiste made demonstrations through performing excerpts from songs. Six students of Bonna

joined her in singing. Bonna pointed out that in Tagore songs, earthly and divine love often intertwine and cross path. "Out of love for nature and the Creator, he created his love songs for humanity," said Bonna. She demonstrated with singing "Oi Mahamanob Ashy."

Bonna also said that songs composed by Tagore between the ages of 17 and 29 are mainly melancholy. "During this period Tagore wrote songs such as 'Dujoney Dekha Holo' and 'Kichhui Toh Holo Na'," she said.

Among the invited artistes, Papia Sarwar, Mridul Kanti Chakraborty and Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury rendered songs. Among invited organisations, Surtirtha, Sangeet Bhaban, Protiti and Dhaka Metropolitan branch of Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammlan Parishad presented group songs.

Noted danseuse Tamanna Rahman performed a solo, while members of Rewaz Performers' School took part in a group dance. Mir Barkat read out a letter written by Tagore to his niece Indira Devi.

The second phase of the celebration will be held on September 24 at Chhayanaut Auditorium in Dhanmondi. The programme will also mark the 100th anniversary of "Geetanjali".

Grameenphone is sponsoring the yearlong celebration programme that will end through a three-day programme on May 7-9, 2011.



A group performance by young artistes.

Tamalika Karmakar: Daring to stand apart

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tamalika Karmakar is known in the cultural arena as an actress of substance. As a child artist, her talents won her a major recognition through Notun Kuri Award. She won a National Film Award as well. Though at present she is not doing films, the actress is actively involved in theatre. Tamalika is also seen on TV but she is very selective about the serials/plays she takes up.

Among her ongoing TV serials are "Lilaboti" and "Kagojer Ghar" on ATN Bangla. "Lilaboti" is being directed by Arun Chowdhury, and "Kagojer Ghar" by Chayanika Chowdhury. About the serials, Tamalika says, "My roles in both serials are up to my standards. They're very interesting characters."

Among other serials featuring Tamalika is "Shomporko" directed by Ananto Heera. She has completed shooting for "Ochena Manush" directed by Murad Parvez. About her workload involving TV serials, the actress says, "I can be overwhelmingly busy with TV plays if I want to, but that's not my intention."

She considers "Moyur Baha" a memorable work. Directed by Rulin Rahman, the serial was lauded by viewers. "Paap-punyo" is another noteworthy serial, according to Tamalika. "When considering plays on the Liberation War, 'Paap-punyo' would



surely come up," she says.

Tamalika's TV career started on a high note; her performance in the hugely popular series "Kothao Keu Nei" put her on the map. "Kothao Keu nei" is the most watched serial in the history of BTV. I played a call girl in the serial. Back then I wasn't really sure what a call girl is. That role became the turning point of the career."

What other roles does she

About not doing a lot of TV serial/plays, Tamalika says, "I don't believe in rat race. What would I accomplish by doing as many TV plays as possible? Besides, the commercial aspect of my profession has never drawn me. Maybe it's something inherent. As long as I can have a dignified lifestyle, I'm good."

Another trait that sets this thespian apart is her committed involvement with theatre, despite attaining mass recognition through TV plays. She is a member of Aranyak Natyadal. "The stage is my first preference as a medium. No other medium provides an actor with the instant gratification and direct response from the audience that theatre does. Theatre has taught me commitment," she says.

Recently the actress did a show in the US. The journey home has been an unusual experience: "From US I flew to Dubai and missed my flight. Took another flight to India. From India, I went to Sylhet and from there, straight to Jaipurhat. It was a journey without any break. Aranyak had a show in Jaipurhat. Right after the show, I had to leave for Cox's Bazar to shoot for a TV play. This was a memorable journey."

Among her upcoming projects are some serials and Eid-special plays. Tamalika has completed shooting for Humayun Ahmed's "Noshoto Bashor." The play will be aired during the coming Eid.

Gaan-e Gaan-e Gunijon Shongbordhona

Sabina Yasmin honoured

ZAHANGIR ALOM

One of the leading artistes of the country, Sabina Yasmin, was honoured by Citibank N.A. at Utshab Hall of Radisson Water Garden Hotel on July 17. As part of the 'Gaan-e Gaan-e Gunijon Shongbordhona' programme, Sabina Yasmin was greeted with a standing ovation at the event. A legion of A-list artistes paid homage to Yasmin with special performances and moving words on her contribution to Bangladeshi music.

Citibank, N.A. country officer Mamun Rashid welcomed all at the event.

As the chief guest of the programme, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Dipu Moni, along with Mamun Rashid, felicitated Yasmin.

The singer received a crest and a portrait of her.

MC of the event, Sabah Azim (of Citybank) read out a biography of Yasmin. Sabina Yasmin's first playback was at the age of 13, for the film "Agun Niye Khela" directed by Zahir Raihan. She has recorded more than 10,000 songs so far. Yasmin completed her honours and masters from the Department of Sociology, Dhaka University. She is a recipient of Ekushey Podok, Swadhinata Podok, National Film Award (12 times) for playback and more.

In her speech, Dr. Dipu Moni said, "Our generation grew up humming the outstanding, melodious patriotic songs of Sabina Yasmin. Aside from providing banking services of an international standard, Citibank N.A. is honouring renowned personalities for their respective contributions to our culture. Quality is not encouraged in a country if the qualified persons are not recognised."

Sabina Yasmin said, "This day is very special to me. I've been awarded and honoured many times for my singing, but I don't recall being honoured as a 'gunijon.' Citibank's efforts will surely



Sabina Yasmin with Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Dipu Moni (left) and Mamun Rashid (right), country officer of Citibank N.A.

encourage artistes and cultural enthusiasts."

The late Nilufar Yasmin, Sohrab Hossain, Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Feroza Begum, Ferdousi Rahman and Farida Parvin have so far received this honour.

The first performance at the cultural programme was by Tagore singer Sadi Mohammad. Sadi opened his performance with the song "Esho Shyamol Shundor," a favourite song of Yasmin. Next he rendered "Pagla Hawar Badol Diney," an ode to monsoon.

Next on stage was *adunika* singer Samina Chowdhury. Samina performed the first playback of her career, "Jonmo Theke Jolchhi Mago." Amjad Hossain and Alauddin Ali wrote and composed the song respectively. "Eto Brishti," "Kobita Porar Prohor Eshechhey" and "Amar Majhey Nei" were the other songs she rendered.

Noted Nazrul artiste Ferdous Ara made her homage to Yasmin through the song "Anjoli Laho Mor Sangeetey." She also sang a monsoon ballad "Shaon-o Raatey Jodi" and "Borosh Hritu Elo Elo."

Folk singer Kiron Chandra Roy performed "Pubali Batashey" followed by "Takdum Takdum Bajai Bangladesh-er Dhol" on the occasion.

The highlight of the evening was live performance by Sabina Yasmin. The diva sang two of her favourite songs on request from the audience. The artiste rendered a patriotic number "Ekti Bangladesh Tumi Jagroto Jonotar," written and composed by Nazrul Islam Babu and Ajit Roy respectively.

Her next performance was a tribute to the recently deceased actor and director Bulbul Ahmed. She rendered "Shoto Jonomer Shapno Tumi Amar Jiboney Eley," from the film "Rajlokhi Srikanto" directed by Bulbul Ahmed. Ahmed also played the protagonist in the film. Dr. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal and Alauddin Ali wrote and composed the song.

Zahid Hossain on keyboard, Moniruzzaman on *banshi*, Emon on lead guitar, Asad on bass guitar, Nirmol Kumar Das on *dotara* and Chandan Dutta on *tabla* accompanied the singers.

Movie Watch

"Inception": A heady thriller of mind games and mystery

"Inception," the science fiction thriller by writer-director Christopher Nolan that easily qualifies as the most highly anticipated movie of the summer, opens with a dramatic shot of huge waves breaking onto a nameless shore. And that image suggests the best way to watch a film with such a tightly coiled plot, cerebral conceits and formidable ambition. Rather than trying to game out "Inception" on first viewing, it's best to let it wash over you, and save the head-scratching and inevitable Talmudic interpretations for later.

Chances are, there will be a later: "Inception" is the kind of film that will no doubt drive scores of viewers for a second go. But the key to success in a movie as purposefully complex as this one is that you see it again not because you have to, but because you want to. "Inception" is that rare film that can be enjoyed on superficial and progressively deeper levels, a feat that uncannily mimics the mind-bending journey its protagonist takes.

That would be Dom Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio), who makes his living navigating the minds of other people, sharing their dreams and stealing ideas in an elaborate psychological gambit known as "extraction." Along with his henchman Arthur (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and a vaguely sinister sleep-inducing gadget, Cobb has worked mostly with businesses engaged in super-complicated corporate espionage.

But as "Inception" opens, a client named Saito (Ken Watanabe) hires Cobb for an altogether different assignment: Rather than steal an idea, he wants Cobb and Arthur to plant one in the mind of Robert Fischer (Cillian Murphy), the would-be heir to an energy conglomerate, in a process called "inception."

It's a tough job, and Cobb proceeds to assemble a crack team of dream-



weavers to help him pull it off, including a wily forger named Eames (Tom Hardy), a chemist named Yusuf (Dileep Rao) and a young architect named Ariadne (Ellen Page), who in addition to designing the maze-like dreamscapes much of "Inception" transpires in, acts as an essential proxy for filmgoers who are likely to find themselves utterly lost in the director's own convoluted ideas.

Nolan has always been prone to making hermetic, self-serious movies, from his 2000 breakthrough film "Memento" to "Batman Begins" and "The Dark Knight." But he lets a little more air into "Inception," in the form of an occasional joke and an essentially popcorn-movie premise.

To its credit, "Inception" plays equally well on an entirely different plane, namely the kind of twisty mind-game that suggests the work of Charlie Kaufman ("Adaptation") and the "Matrix" movies. As Cobb crafts and exe-

cutes his scheme, issues surface involving a beautiful woman named Mal (Marion Cotillard), whose name is pronounced "moll" and whose smoky, seductive beauty indeed suggests a classic femme fatale of yore.

Nolan, who reportedly used as few computer effects as possible while shooting "Inception," spares no detail for a movie in which there are no accidents, even in the most irrational non sequiturs.

Drawing as much inspiration from Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier as he does from M.C. Escher, Nolan nonetheless manages to create a world all his own in "Inception." And that's a world that, while clearly a product of an auteur's idiosyncratic impulses, meets viewers at precisely that liminal state between dream and reality where movies work best.

Compiled by Correspondent