

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

14th Asian Art Biennale 2010
 Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Venue: National Art Gallery (BSA) and Osmani Memorial Hall
 Date: October 8-November 6
 Time: 11am-7pm



Duet Art Exhibition
 Artists: Tajuddin Ahmed and Syed Iqbal
 Venue: Tivoli Art Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2
 Date: November 5-15
 Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Musical Soiree
 Artist: Nandita Yasmin
 Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1.
 Date: November 6
 Time: 7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Khurshid Alam Saleem
 Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, H-26, R-3/A, Dhanmondi
 Date: October 31-November 10
 Time: 10am-8pm



Dhaka University theatre festival begins

"Madhyambyaog" staged on the first day



"Madhyambyaog", originally written by Sanskrit playwright Bhasha, narrates a story from the epic "Mahabharat".

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The weeklong 5th Annual Dhaka University Theatre Festival began on November 4 at the university's TSC Auditorium. The Department of Theatre, DU has arranged the festival, featuring four plays by different universities.

On the opening day, "Madhyambyaog" -- adaptation of a Sanskrit play -- was staged.

Eminent theatre personality and ITI world-wide president Ramendu Majumder formally inaugurated the festival. Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of DU, was the chief guest at the programme.

Teacher of the department and noted TV actress Wahida Mallick Jolly directed "Madhyambyaog", originally written by Sanskrit playwright Bhasha. It is a narrative of a story from the epic "Mahabharat".

The play zooms in on a Brahmin family, returning home after attending a festival. The family members lose their way deep into a forest and there they meet Ghatotkach -- portrayed in the play as an *anarya* (belonging to low caste). Ghatotkach is looking for human flesh to offer to his mother Hirimba, a demon. He selects one of the Brahmin's sons and the

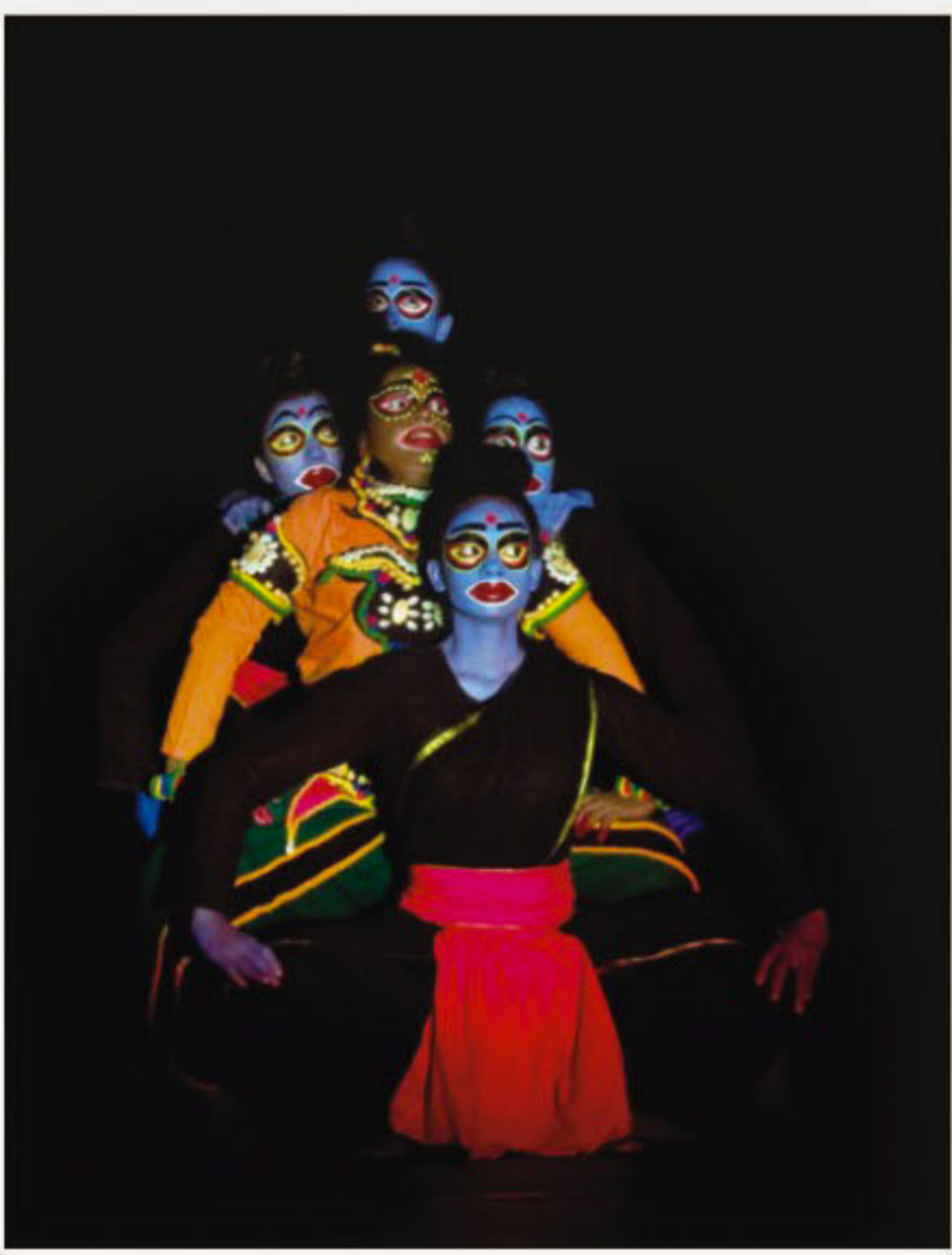
young man decides to sacrifice himself to save his family.

On their way to Hirimba, Ghatotkach and the Brahmin's son come across 'Madhyam Pandav' (second of the five Pandav brothers) Bhim. After listening to the story, Bhim offers himself up to Ghatotkach and requests him to release the Brahmin's son.

Ghatotkach agrees, as he is in a rush. The story reaches its climax when Bhim meets Hirimba. Instead of killing and eating Bhim, Hirimba bows to him. It is revealed that Hirimba was married to Bhim, and Ghatotkach is their son.

Kazi Tamanna Haque, Fahmida Sultana and Champa Talukdar played the lead roles. Most of scenes have been articulated through dance. Warda Rehab and Arpita Shome trained the actors and choreographed the particular scenes. Tapan Kumar Sarkar directed the music.

"Madhyambyaog" will be staged tomorrow as well. The festival also features plays by Jahangirnagar University and Rajshahi University. Another play by Dhaka University, "Shiddhanto", will be staged on November 7-9. Everyday the show begins at 6:30 pm.



"Moner Manush" goes to Lalon's shrine

Campaign for the film starts in Kushtia



PHOTO: STAR

Gautam Ghosh with the veteran Baul Abdul Karim. Bauls perform at the event (below).

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Campaign for the film "Moner Manush", which frames the life and times of Lalon Shai, kicked off at the mystic bard's shrine at Chheuria in Kushtia last Thursday afternoon.

Helmer of the film Goutam Ghosh, one of the most acclaimed filmmakers of India, launched the campaign.

Among others, noted Lalon researcher and Professor of Bangla at Islamic University, Dr. Abul Ahsan Choudhury; Kushtia Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan; the Bangladeshi distributor of the film Ashirbad Chalachitra's head Habibur Rahman; general secretary of Lalon Academy Tajjal Ali Khan; Additional Police Superintendent of Kushtia Subhas Chandra Saha and Khulna Divisional Sales Manager of Banglalink Tanvir Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

The film has been produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd.

On the occasion, a cultural programme was also held at the shrine. Baul artists from Lalon Academy presented the bard's timeless songs.

Banglalink sponsored the programme. Channel i aired the programme live from Chheuria. Star Ananda, an Indian satellite television channel, aired the programme in India.

The film is likely to be released on December 3 simultaneously at theatres in Bangladesh and India.

According to the director, the film is a sketch of Lalon, his background and creation of his songs.

"I think I had a responsibility to bring Lalon's story to the screen. I invested all my efforts on this particular project from this point of view," Goutam Ghosh told this correspondent at Chheuria.

Legends and stories about Lalon, and his philosophies have been given serious attention while working on the film, Ghosh said.

The filmmaker is also hopeful that people of both Bangladesh and India will like the movie.

At the programme, Impress Telefilm Ltd. honoured seasoned Baul singer Abdul Karim with a crest and Tk 50,000. Habibur Rahman, on behalf of the producers, handed over the cheque to the artist.



Diwali wishes from Julia Roberts

Oscar winning Hollywood star Julia Roberts, who recently converted to Hinduism, says "Diwali should be celebrated unanimously throughout the world as a gesture of goodwill."

In her Diwali wishes, published on the website of The Times of India, Roberts adds that essence of both Christmas and Diwali is the same as both "are festivals of lights, good spirits and death of evil."

Roberts further points out that Diwali "not only belongs to Hinduism but is universal in nature and in its essence too. Diwali ignites the values of self-confidence, love for

humanity, peace, prosperity and above all eternity which goes beyond all mortal factors. When I think of Diwali, I can never imagine a world broken into fragments by narrow feelings of communalism and religion which does not care for human benevolence."

"Ever since I developed my liking and fondness for Hinduism, I have been attracted and deeply fascinated by many facets of the multi dimensional Hinduism... spirituality in it transcends many barriers of mere religion," Roberts stated.

Source: Internet



Emerging filmmakers in focus

Documentaries on Dhaka at British Council

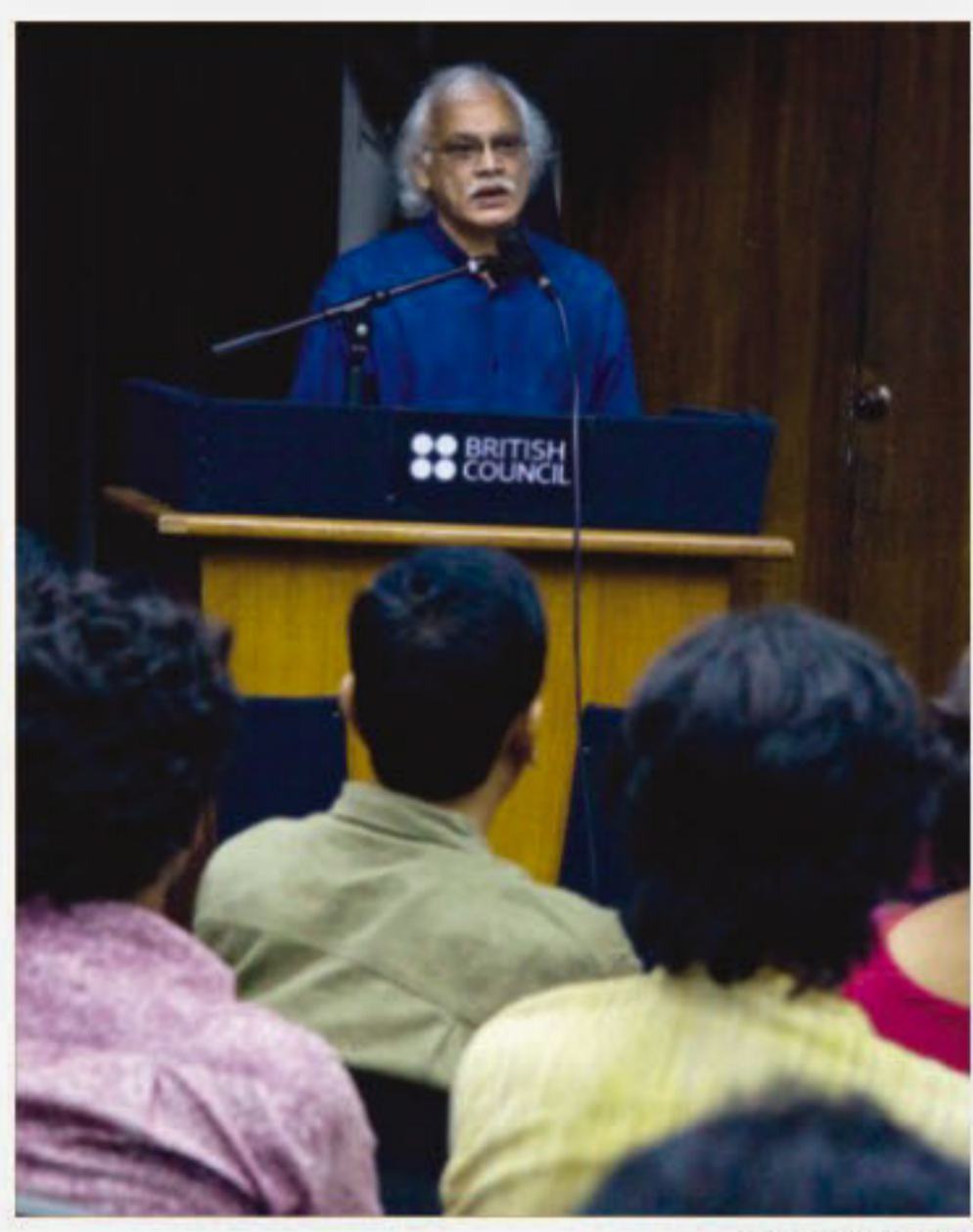


PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Manzar-e-Hasin Murad speaks at the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British Council and Bangladesh Documentary Council (BDC) jointly arranged a documentary premiere press launch, titled "Dhaka Stories", at British Council auditorium, on Fuller Road, in the capital on November 4.

Secretary to the Ministry of Information, Hedayetullah Al Mamun, was the chief guest at the event. Acting Director of British Council, Murray Keeler, delivered the welcoming speech. BDC advisor Manzar-e-Hasin Murad and head of Culture, Climate and Citizenship Department of British Council, Syed Masud Hossain, also spoke on the

occasion.

Four documentaries -- "Waiting For Godot", "Bitter Lemon", "My Dream" and "Calling Home" directed by Arifur Rahman, Nazmun Nakeb, Rezwan Ali Khan and Shadman Alvi -- were premiered under 'Dhaka Stories' respectively.

The documentaries are the outputs of a weeklong workshop held in March this year, conducted jointly by British Council and BDC. Scottish Documentary Institute assisted the workshop.

It is worth mentioning that all four documentaries are being screened at Sheffield Doc Fest 2010, the biggest documentary film festival in the UK. Arifur Rahman, one of the 16 participants of the workshop, is representing Bangladesh at the festival. The festival is taking place from November 3 to 7 at Sheffield, UK.

"Waiting For Godot" depicts lives of day labourers who gather at the markets in the suburbs to offer their services. The ones left behind suffer the consequences of not working.

"Bitter Lemon" envisages the bitter experiences drawn from a traffic police officer's point of view. He complains how breaking traffic laws have become "common" in Dhaka.

"My Dream" follows Sumon, a shrewd businessman, who makes a decent living as a disabled beggar. Like everyone else, Sumon too has a dream.

"Calling Home" features a rickshaw puller Abdul Aziz who moved to Dhaka after the river took away everything he had in his village. He works hard everyday to support his family and his daughter's education.

Noted filmmakers Tareque and Catherine Masud, as well as BDC President Shabnam Ferdousi, were in the audience and encouraged the participants.

Eeshita Azad, project manager, Arts and Skills, British Council anchored the event.

3D conversion best for classic films

-- James Cameron



James Cameron has taken a swipe at studios that add 3D to films in post-production, saying that 3D retro-fitting should only be used for classic movies like "Jaws" or "ET".

The "Avatar" director said it had been a "mistake" to attempt to add 3D to the latest "Harry Potter" film, "the Deathly Hallows: Part 1".

And he predicted that the practice of adding 3D to movies in post-production would end with the widespread take-up of 3D by TV broadcasters.

Speaking at the Blu-Con event in Beverly Hills, Cameron repeated his assertion that studios should not attempt to "shoehorn" 3D conversion -- after the film has been shot -- into the normal post-production time frame.

"I maintain you can't do a good conversion of a two-hour movie with high quality in a few weeks like they tried to do with 'Clash of the Titans'."

Source: BBC