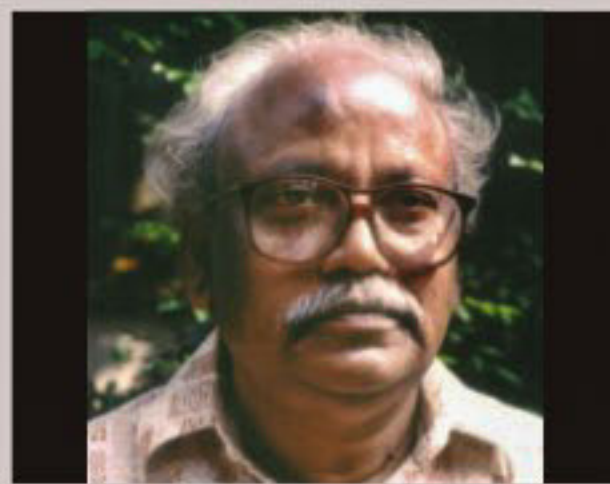


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

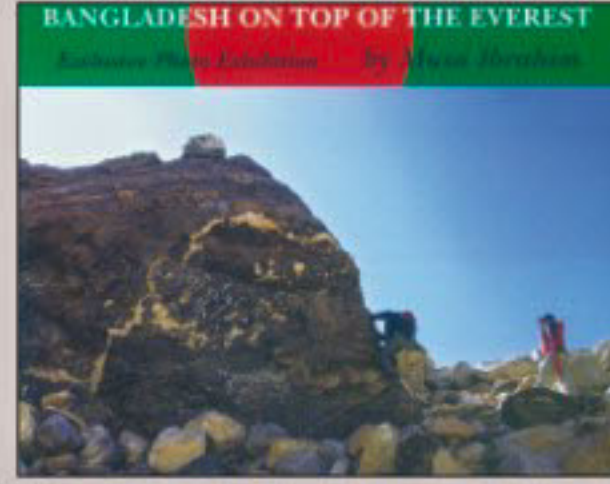
**Theatre Festival**  
Today's Play: Ebong Bidyasagar  
Venue: Main Auditorium, Chhayanaut Shangkriti Bhaban, Dhanmondi  
Date: December 2-5  
Time: 7pm



**Drawing Exhibition**  
Artist: Rafiqun Nabi  
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi  
Date: December 3-20  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Bangladesh on Top of the Everest  
Photographer: Musa Ibrahim  
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: November 26-December 9  
Time: 9am-8pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Time and Beyond  
Artist: Hamiduzzaman Khan  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, Rd 16, Sector 4, Uttara  
Date: December 4-15



## Unity in Diversity

Indigenous arts and crafts entice Dhakaiites at cultural fest



Cultural programme, an exhibition and a fair offering handicrafts and everyday items that are inseparable part of the indigenous lifestyle, are highlights of the festival.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan 'Unity in Diversity', a three-day cultural festival featuring indigenous groups from different parts of the country, is being held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Titled 'Cultural Diversity Festival 2010', the programme began on December 2.

The programme has been jointly organised by Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Ministry of Hill Tracts Affairs.

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, inaugurated the festival and presided as chief guest at the opening ceremony. Delegates, ambassadors of various countries and high officials, among others, attended the inauguration.

Cultural programme, an exhibition and a fair



offering handicrafts and everyday items that are inseparable part of the indigenous lifestyle, are the highlights of the festival. Handicrafts, paintings, agro products, non-timber forest products, tradi-



tional attires and ornaments are on display and for sale at the festival. The fair at the Milkyway of the conference centre has been drawing a good number of enthusiastic Dhakaiites everyday.

The exhibition features 113 stalls by indigenous communities from both hilly and plain areas. Chakma, Marma, Bawm, Tanchangya, Rakhain, Tripura, Garo, Santal and other indigenous communities are taking part in the festival.

Groups of weavers representing the Chakma, Bawm and Tripura communities have set up their stalls -- demonstrating their traditional weaving techniques. Though the weaving tools are apparently similar, they are known by different names and are used in unique ways to produce fabric. The Chakmas call their loom 'bain', while the Tripuras and Bawms call theirs 'ritani' and 'thiamtah' respectively.

Usually women do the weaving. They produce attires both for men and women known as 'pinnan', 'khadi', as well as blankets, shawls and fatuas.

Visitors also thronged the stalls offering food. Homemade cakes, pickles, jam and spicy dishes which the indigenous people consume everyday

and prepare for special occasions, are a hit with the fair-goers. Cakes such as 'bini pitha', 'chhyana pitha' and 'bora pitha' are some of the popular treats.

Exotic paintings, handicrafts, and T-shirts are major attractions. Shawls and ornaments including necklaces, rings and belts seemed to draw women of all ages.

The Hall of Fame of the conference centre is vibrant with dances and music by artistes from different communities. Through performances, the artistes demonstrate their respective cultural traditions. On the first day of the festival, artistes of 10 indigenous groups performed. Among them performances by Marma, Chakma, and Santal artistes were remarkable.

The cultural programme ends today. The exhibition and fair will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm till December 5.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

## Debut theatre performance at Chhayanaut

Udichi stages "Bou Bashonti"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi staged its acclaimed production "Bou Bashonti" at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut Shangkriti Bhaban on December 2. Through the show, Chhayanaut opened its doors to theatre enthusiasts in the city. The venue will have theatre performances regularly from now on.

Chhayanaut recently decided that it will allow theatre troupes to stage their plays at its auditorium on a regular basis. The auditorium has been renovated to suite the purpose.

"Bou Bashonti" is part of a three-day theatre festival to celebrate the occasion. The play has been written by Ratan Siddiqui

and directed by Azad Abul Kalam. It narrates the story of a village that was not directly affected during the Liberation War. Residents of the village continue to live their lives, pretty much unfazed. However, some changes become apparent towards the end of the play.

Ratan Dev and Anowarul Haque perform the lead roles in the play.

Anowarul Haque said that though initially light was not sufficient on the stage, it did not really ruin the performance, and on the whole the experience of holding the auditorium's debut theatre show was a positive one.

Today, Aranyak Natyadal will stage "Ebong Bidyasagar". Starting at 7 pm, the play is open to all.

## Johnny Depp: "Disney hated Jack Sparrow"

The wonderful Johnny Depp has been opening up about his inspiration for arguably his most famous character, Captain Jack Sparrow from the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series, revealing that the big bosses at Disney originally hated his performance.

In an interview with Vanity Fair, the actor said former chief executive Michael Eisner "couldn't stand" the way he interpreted the role.

Depp went on to earn an Oscar nomination for his performance.

A Disney spokesman said the company "could not be happier" with his work.

"The entire team at Disney could not be happier with Johnny Depp's performances in the Pirates trilogy which is why we are so excited to be bringing back a fourth instalment to audiences next summer," he added.

Depp says in the Vanity Fair interview: "They couldn't stand him. They just couldn't stand him ... I think it was Michael Eisner, the head of Disney at the time, who was quoted as saying, 'He's ruining the movie.' ... Upper-echelon Disney-ites, going, 'What's wrong with him? Is he, you know, like some kind of weird simpleton? Is he drunk? By the way, is he gay?'"

Depp continues: "And so I actually told this woman who was the Disney-ite... 'But didn't you know that all my characters are



gay?' Which really made her nervous."

Depp famously based the character on the Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards, who appeared in "At World's End", the third film in the series, following "Dead Man's Chest", which also starred Keira Knightley and Orlando Bloom.

Depp is currently filming a fourth instalment -- "On Stranger Tides" -- which is due out next year.

Source: Internet

## Patriotic songs at Prothom Alo's anniversary celebration in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Leading Bengali daily Prothom Alo celebrated its 12th anniversary at a regional level at a community centre in Rajshahi last Wednesday night.

Beginning with the national anthem by artistes of Hindol Shangkritik Goshthi, the programme featured patriotic songs.

Singer Mahmuduzzaman Babu rendered some of the songs, while videos of a few songs prepared by Prothom Alo were screened.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman renewed the newspaper's vow to stand by the people of the country through ensuring honest



PHOTO: STAR

Local singers perform at the celebration.

honesty... We want to advance with a dream for an enlightened Bangladesh," he said.

Among others, Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton; BNP's joint secretary Mizanur Rahman Minu; teachers, including Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Abdus Sobhan and Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Abdul Mannan attended the programme.

journalism, objectivity and creativity.

He reiterated the newspaper's pledge to love the country like one loves his/her mother, and thus bringing a positive change.

"We have many obstacles, but we don't want to deviate from our position in favour of

honesty... We want to advance with a dream for an enlightened Bangladesh," he said.

Among others, Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton; BNP's joint secretary Mizanur Rahman Minu; teachers, including Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Abdus Sobhan and Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Abdul Mannan attended the programme.

### Australian Property Immigration MELBOURNE




Melbourne - the world's most livable city

Architecturally designed homes



**Townshend Homes Group**  
Est. 1954

For more info call  
**+88 001 744 613 459**

**EXHIBITION/ SEMINAR**

"WESTIN" Dhaka/Gulshan 2 exhibition/ on 1 consultation  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
Dec 3rd & 4th  
11am - 6pm

Learn how a safe and secure investment in one of Melbourne's Leading Property Developments can provide you with visa links and a world class education for your children.

CALL FOR PERSONALISED ADVICE FROM A LEADING AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION LAWYER.