

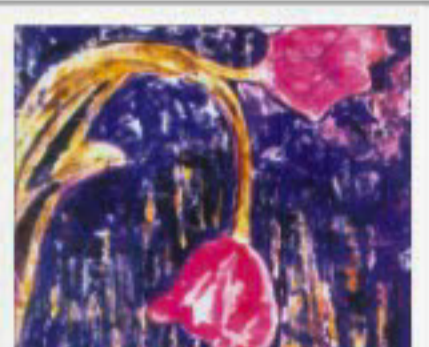
WHAT'S ON

**Folk Festival**  
Organiser: The Daily Star  
Venue: Sakal Tala, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University  
Date: January 28  
Time: 4pm-9pm



**100th Show of 'Raarang'**  
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadai  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: January 22-23  
Time: 6:30pm

**Art Exhibition**  
Reprint of Rabindra Artworks  
Organiser: Chhayanant  
Venue: Chhayanant Sangskriti Bhaban, Dhanmondi  
Date: January 21-28  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Retrospective Exhibition**  
Artist: Mozammel Haque  
Venue: Sante-Maison University, H-18-26, Sector-3  
Date: January 19-25  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Solo Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Saima Akbar  
Venue: IGC, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: January 21  
Time: 6:30pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
Venue: Gallery Basilio, H-300, R-19b, New DOHS, Mohakhali  
Date: January 14-29  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Festival of Colours**  
Venue: Bengal Shilpaya, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
Date: January 14-22  
Time: 12-8pm



**Solo Tapestry Exhibition**  
Artist: Tajul Islam  
Venue: Shilpanagar Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi  
Date: January 3-22  
Time: 12pm-8pm



# Tarin's Surprise Gift for Fans

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**  
Tarin's 25-year acting career is well and thriving; lately she has also made inroads into production. She has worked in numerous TV plays, and appeared in only two feature films, one of which is yet to be released. Directed by Sajal Khaleel, her second movie, titled "Kajoler Dinratir" is an adaptation of celebrated novelist Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's novel. Besides Tarin,

the cast includes, Afzal Hossain, Shamim Shahed and Ferdousi Priyabhashini. "I'm working on this film for two reasons: First, it's about the Liberation War; second, the film is being made for children," said Tarin. Tarin had acted in another children's film, "Kanthal Buri", sometime back. Currently, two of her serials are being aired on TV channels. Along with Bipasha Hayat, she has recently acted in a play directed by Animesh Aich. Tarin produced the play as well.



When asked if she is contemplating direction or hosting TV shows, Tarin said: "Acting is everything to me, it's my passion; I want to stick to it." She has acted with several renowned directors: from the late Abdullah Al Mamun to young and promising directors. "Some of the young directors are really talented and have already shot to fame," she said. Also known for her skills in dancing and singing, Tarin seldom does either nowadays. There is, however, good news for her fans: She is working on her debut album. Written by Zulfikar Russell, the songs are composed and directed by Ibrar Tipu, Bappa Majumdar, Indranil Sen, and Rupankar. "I won't reveal everything in advance about the album," she said smilingly.



QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

While the nation celebrates 40 years of Independence this year, The Daily Star, the leading national English daily, observes its 20th year of independent journalism across the country. To mark both milestones, Bangladesh Pothonatak Parishad and The Daily Star have jointly organised a month-long Street Theatre Festival, beginning from January 14. As part of the festival, street plays are being held at 50 locations in 47 districts.

Street plays were staged at Thakurgaon and Panchagarh last Sunday. At Thakurgaon Baramath on Sunday afternoon, prior to the staging of the play, a discussion was held. Deputy Commissioner of Thakurgaon, Muhammad Shahiduzzaman, was present as chief guest. Superintendent of Police BM Harun-ur-Rashid; popular actor Litu Anam; district unit President of Sammilita Natya Parishad and eminent cultural personality of the district, Professor Monotosh Kumar Dey attended the programme as special guests.

Among others, editor of a local daily 'Lokayan', Abu Torab Manik, and general secretary of Thakurgaon Press Club, Luthfar Rahman Mithu, addressed the gathering. After the discussion, noted TV and theatre personality Lucky Enam inaugurated the event. The speakers were of the view that The Daily Star has been playing an important role in promoting Bangladeshi culture. It has set a unique example of fearless and impartial journalism over the last 20 years. They also expressed the hope that this trend would continue in future and help in building an informed and aware nation.

In her speech, Lucky Enam said, "This initiative of The Daily Star is welcome as it helps to promote street theatre, through which we played an important role during the upsurge in 1969." She also paid homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the Liberation

War and urged the people to uphold the spirit of the war. Litu Anam thanked The Daily Star for its initiative to promote theatre, which can awaken incite public sensitivity to various social issues. Later, Nishchintapur Theatre staged a street play titled "Path", directed by Sabbir Islam. Shapla Natya Goshthi staged another play titled "Nanan Rakam Manush, Nanan Rakam Kotha", directed by Goutam Kumar. "Path" highlighted the brutality of the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators -- Razzakers and Al-badrs -- during the Liberation War, while "Nanan Rakam Manush, Nanan Rakam Kotha" turned the spotlight on anomalies in the society. Several hundred people including students, teachers and professionals attended the programme and were visibly moved by the performances. In Panchagarh, "Ekti Chhoto Golpo", written and directed by Sarcar Haider, and "Shesh Rakto Bindu", written and directed by Rafiqul Zillur Rahman, addressed the gathering. Earlier a procession was brought out and made its way through the main streets of the town.



# Street Theatre Festival in Full Swing

# A Loss to Bangla Filmndom

Gita Dey passes away



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Veteran film actress Gita Dey, who shot to fame by playing the role of a mother of a refugee family, struggling hard financially after migrating from erstwhile East Pakistan, in Ritwik Ghatak's "Meghe Dhaka Tara", died in Kolkata on Sunday night.

Dey, who appeared in nearly 200 Bengali films and dramas spanning over seven decades, died at a hospital after a prolonged ailment at the age of 80. Best known for her portrayal of the scheming, aggressive woman in the family in several films, Dey started her acting career as a child artiste at the age of six in 1938 in a film directed by the famous Dhiren Ganguly popularly known as "DG".

Dey had also been associated with the All India Radio, doing roles in radio plays and TV serials. Along with films, she continued acting on stage till 1996.

Her performance as the mother struggling to keep her family afloat financially in "Meghe Dhaka Tara" won her praise around the world. She also acted in Satyajit Ray's "Teen Kanya". Apart from Ghatak and Ray, Dey acted in films by renowned directors like Debaki Bose and legendary theatre personality Shishir Bhaduri.

Towards the end of her career, she acted in the Bollywood blockbuster "Parineeta", based on a Saratchandra Chattopadhyay classic, alongside Saif Ali Khan and Vidya Balan. Proficient in both comic and negative roles, she did over 2,000 stage shows, including scores of Jatra (folk theatre) performances, tele-films and TV serials. Notable among her films are "Noukadubi", "Saat Pake Bandha", "Malyadaan", "Abhaya O Srikanta", "Jaya", "Mouchak", "Dui Bhai", "Barnochora", "Nishipadma" and "Pita-Putro".

West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee sent his condolences to Dey's family. Describing her as a talented actor, Bhattacharjee said her death was a loss to the film industry.

# A call for preservation

Poet Bande Ali's 105th birth anniversary

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU from Pabna

The 105th birth anniversary of poet Bande Ali was observed on January 17 with a number of programmes. Originally from Pabna, Ali was a noted lyrical poet and writer. His verses depict the simple rural life of Bangladesh, free from complexities and the din and bustle of mechanical life. Not only was a poet he was also an accomplished painter and script-writer. He was also a prominent author of children's books.

Though Ali was originally from Pabna, very few steps have been taken to keep alive the memories of the poet in his hometown which rankles many people in the district.

In a welcome development, a discussion and cultural competition were chalked out by Poet Bande Ali Smriti Parishad (PBASP), Pabna at Debottor Kobi Bonde Ali High School premises, marking his birthday.

"It is our duty to introduce the poet's verses to the young and give them a real picture of Bangladesh in the 19th century. Poet Bande Ali is no more but his works are still there," said agriculturist Zafar Sadeque, a member of the PBASP. Steps should be taken to preserve his memory, he added.

"Simple presentation of our casual life in his writings encouraged me. I love his style and presentation where the innocence of a child is revealed in a subtle

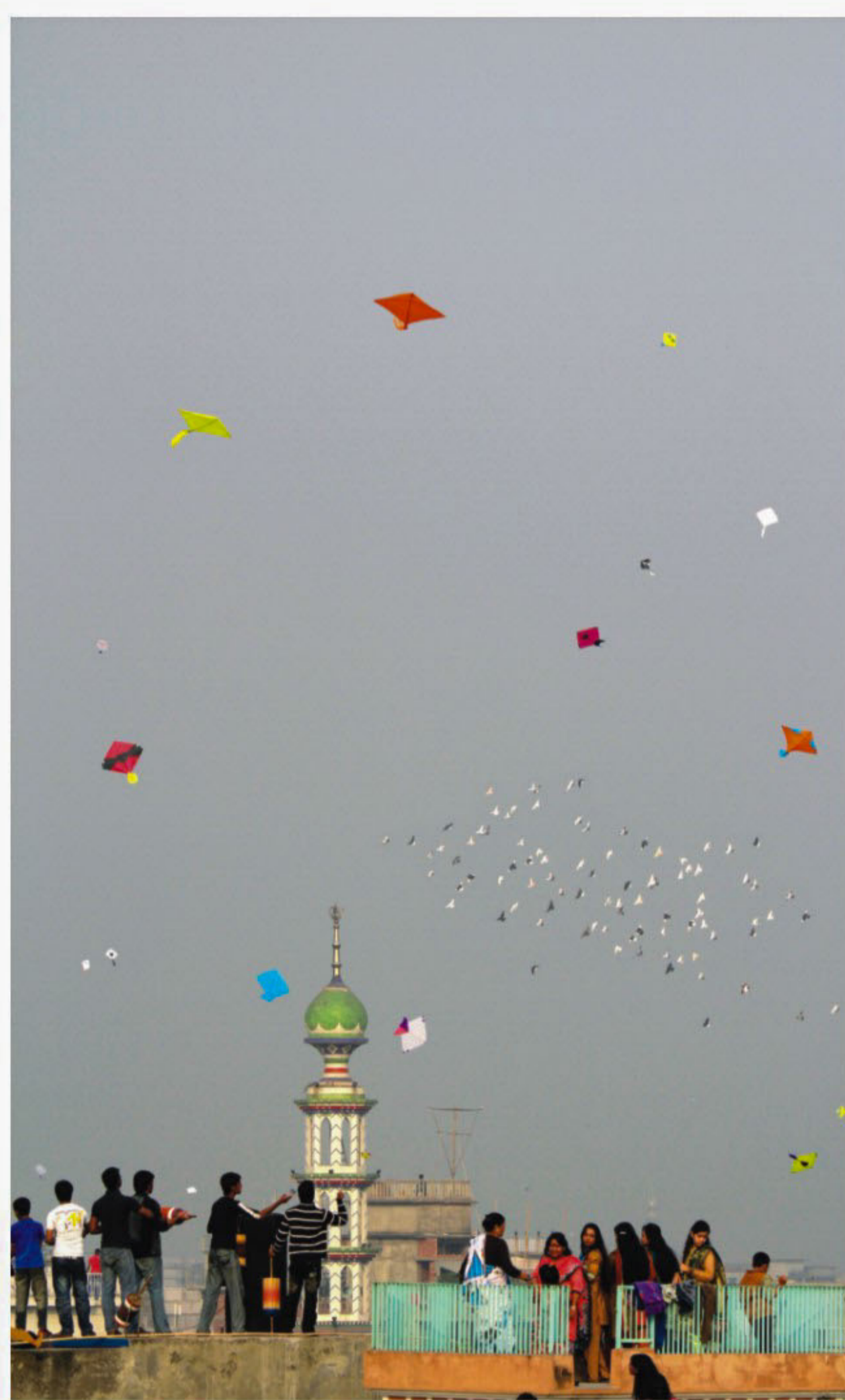
manner," wrote poet Sofia Kamal. The first book of the poet "Char-Jamai" was published in 1927 from Ashutosh Library, Calcutta (now Kolkata). In his lifetime the poet wrote 84 books, including poetry, prose, drama and lyrics -- most of them in a rural setting.

Ali's popular poem "Moinamotir Char" was published in 1931 from "D.M. Library" in Calcutta. It is considered of the most evocative pieces in Bangla literature.

Of the famous books, "Anurag" (1933), "Padma Nadir Char" (1933), "Shapna Shadh" (1936), "Madhumatir Char" (1946), "Aronno Godhuli" (1958) and "Tasher Ghar" (1954) are worth mentioning. Though various books of Bande Ali were published, he was famous for authoring children's literature. Among them, his prominent works are "Megh Kumari", "Jongoler Khabar", "Jangaler Raja", "Shishuder Bishad Sindhu" and "Boka Jamai".

Poet Bande Ali was a school teacher by profession in Calcutta until 1947. He also edited 'Bikash' and 'Bhorer Alo', two well known periodicals of the time in Calcutta. After 1947, the poet returned to Pabna and immersed himself in drawing and writing books. Later, he joined Rajshahi Radio Centre in 1964 where he worked till his last days as a script writer.

He died on June 27, 1979 at his Kazi-hatpara residence in Rajshahi town. He was buried in Radhanager village, Pabna.



Residents of Old Dhaka celebrated the Shakran festival on the occasion of 'Poush Sangkranti' (held at the end of the Bangla month Poush) with much gusto. Kites of various shapes and colours soared high in the afternoon on January 14 and 15. At night fireworks lit up the sky and flame-eaters dazzled everyone with their unusual skills of manipulating fire.



# Dire Straits' 'Money for Nothing' Banned in Canada

The Canadian Broadcast Standards Council has ruled that "Money for Nothing", a Dire Straits hit from 1985, is too offensive for Canadian airwaves. The song is being singled out for the repeated use of an anti-gay slur "that little faggot" -- in its second verse.

This has not stopped some Canadian classic rock radio stations from playing the song. In the days since the ruling, stations in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Edmonton, Alberta have protested the decision by playing an unedited version of the song on repeated for a full hour.

Dire Straits keyboardist Guy Fletcher shared songwriter Mark Knopfler's reaction in the forum of his website, writing "Mark tells me that due to the ban, he has now substituted the word faggot for 'fudger'...for Canada."

"Though 'Money for Nothing' has been a staple of rock radio for over two decades, the move to ban the song came as a result of a complaint by a listener in St. John's, Newfoundland. The ruling does not ban the song outright-- versions with the offending words edited out are safe for airplay.

# A Hunt for New Faces

Talent hunt by BFDC and Channel i

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) and Channel i jointly launched the talent hunt "Notun Mukher Shondhane" on January 17. The talent hunt was launched at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. In the course of the programme, the organisers discussed the details of the new show and upcoming events.

Bachchu, chief coordinator of the event; Mohammad Hannan, President of Film Directors Association and Vice-President of Film Directors Association, Khorshed Alam Khoshru spoke on different aspects of the talent hunt. Among others, noted actors Razzaka, Faruq, Ilias Kanchan, Diti and Anjana shared their views and perspectives at the programme.

A 44-member committee will supervise the event. Senior film directors, producers and cine journalists attended the programme. The event organisers hope to find new faces in several categories like lead actors and comedians.

Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Channel-i and Impress Telefilm Ltd; Momtaz Ala Shakur Ahmed, managing director of the BFDC; Abdul Latif