

WHAT'S ON

Bijoy-er Natya Utsab '11 Organiser: The Daily Star and BGTF Venue: BSA Date: January 25-31 Time: 6:30pm and 6:45pm

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

Chobi Mela VI At seven different venues Theme: Dreams Organiser: Drik Date: Jan 21-Feb 3

4th Int'l Children's Film Festival Organiser: Children's Film Society Bangladesh Main Venue: Central Public Library premises, Shahbagh

Group Art Exhibition Venue: Gallery Basilio, H-300, R-196, New DOTS, Mohakhali Date: January 14-29 Time: 10am-8pm

Hindustani Classical Vocal Music Artist: Shri Anam Chatterjee Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1 Date: January 28

Retrospective Exhibition Artist: Mostafiz Haque Venue: Santo Mariam University, H-18-20, Sector-3 Date: January 19-25

Classical Music Performance Artist: Dada Tanpa Kanti Baidya Venue: TSC Auditorium, DU Date: January 26 Time: 4-9pm

The Daily Star-BGTF Theatre Festival



Ebhong Bidyasagar



Loko Nayak



Joldash

The weeklong theatre festival to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Independence, 20th anniversary of The Daily Star and 30th anniversary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation begins today at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The Daily Star along with Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) has arranged the fest that features 21 plays by as many troupes. Every day, three plays will be staged simultaneously at National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall. The plays will start at 6:30pm everyday. Here information about today's plays: "Ebhong Bidyasagar" Troupe: Aranyak Natyadal Playwright: Mannan Heera Director: Mamunur Rashid Venue: National Theatre Hall Synopsis: The historic-fiction revolves around the great social reformer Ishwar Chandra Bidyasagar. Mamunur Rashid plays the titular role. Cast: Mamunur Rashid, Deepak Suman, Momena Chowdhury, Rubly Chowdhury, Tamalika Karmakar. "Joldash" Troupe: Dhaka Padatik Playwright: Harun-ur-Rashid Director: Nader Chowdhury Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall Synopsis: "Joldash" narrates the plight of fishermen of rural Bangladesh, who once lived a content life. But when rivers start to die, the fishermen's fate took a downward spiral. Cast: Manjurul Islam, Masud Ahmed, Sabrina Aktar and Sabiha Zaman "Loko Nayak" Troupe: Pranganey Mor Playwright and Director: Ananta Heera Venue: Studio Theatre Hall Synopsis: The play narrates the life of the legendary Bengali bard Mukunda Das. Cast: Ananta Heera, Nuna Afroz, Ramiz Raju, Shishir Rahman, Sarwar Alam Shaikat

Indian Classical Music Loses a Titan Pandit Bhimsen Joshi passes away



Pandit Bhimsen Joshi

One of India's most famous musicians, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, died at a hospital in the western city of Pune, aged 89. A legendary singer of Hindustani classical music, Joshi had been ailing for some time and was being treated at the hospital for nearly a month. Joshi received India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 2008. The maverick singer was one of the few classical musicians to record film music. He also participated in a popular national integration jingle. Born in 1922 in Gadag in southern Karnataka state, Joshi left home at the age of 11 to pursue his musical dreams. He hopped from one long distance train to another, paying for his tickets by singing to ticket collectors. He was even arrested a few times for travelling ticketless. He also sought out households where he heard musicians lived and did household chores -- the young Joshi once worked as a house-help at a leading Bengali actor Pahari Sanyal's house after he heard that the actor was very fond of music. Joshi eventually returned home to train under a teacher. He worked as a staff musician at India's state-run radio station, All India Radio, before he recorded for the first time in 1944. Joshi was a prolific performer, travelling extensively at home and abroad and aggressively promoting his overseas concerts through poster campaigns. "The sun has set on Indian classical music", "an irreparable loss" were how noted singers and artists reacted to Joshi's death Monday but said his music would live on to be celebrated by generations. "When I heard about his death, I felt that the sun has set in the morning...the sun has set on Indian classical music," eminent Hindustani classical singer Pandit Jasraj said reacting to the demise of the legend. "I would like to remember him as my brother, guru...as my everything," he added. "An era of Hindustani classical music

has ended. One of the pillars is gone," said singer Shankar Mahadevan. Shubha Mudgal expressed disbelief at Panditji's demise. "He had a strange ability to rejuvenate himself. Even after a long illness, he would come back strong...even during his current illness, I really believed that he would be able to pull it off," she said. "I have no words to express the loss," she added. Renowned filmmaker Shyam Benegal described Pandit Joshi as the "finest Indian classical artist of his generation". He said he was struck by the humility of the legend during their interactions. "I had an opportunity, a couple of years back, to work with him...He was a wonderful human being. It was not modesty, but genuine humility," Benegal told a news channel. Playwright and actor-director Girish Karnad said Pandit Bhimsen Joshi's passing away was expected and that his life should not be mourned, but celebrated. "The loss is a personal loss...But it is not a loss otherwise. I do not know anybody else who exploited their potentiality to the full. He gave his everything to Indian music," said Karnad. COMPILED BY CORRESPONDENT

China to Host Next ITI World Congress



Mohamed Sayeed Al Dhanhani, Vice Chairman of Fujairah Culture and Media Authority and ITI Worldwide President Ramendu Majumdar jointly opening the new international office of ITI in Fujairah, UAE. Others seen in the photo are (from left to right) Saif Al Afkham, Ali Mahdi and Tobias Biancone.

The 33rd World Congress of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) will be held in Xiamen, China from September 19 to 25, 2011. This announcement was made at the meeting of Presidents and Secretaries of all the eleven permanent committees of ITI -- held on January 15 in Fujairah, UAE, according to a press release. Sheikh Rashid bin Hamad Al-Sharqi, chairman of the Fujairah Culture and Media Authority, formally inaugurated the meeting. Ramendu Majumdar, president of ITI Worldwide, presided over the session. Among others, Tobias Biancone, secretary general of ITI; Ali Mahdi and Christina Babou-Pagourelis, vice presidents of ITI and Mohammed Saif Al-Afkham, president of ITI Fujairah, UAE centre were present at the opening ceremony. "Two other delegates from Bangladesh -- Mofidul Haque, president of ITI Communication Committee and Professor Shafi Ahmed, vice president of ITI Theatre Education and Training Committee -- participated at the joint committee meeting. A new international office of ITI was jointly inaugurated by Mohamad Sayeed Al Dhanhani, vice chairman of the Fujairah Culture and Media Authority, and Ramendu Majumdar, president of ITI. This office, gifted by the Fujairah government, will serve as a regional base and second office of ITI besides the Paris headquarters.

Street Theatre Festival in Faridpur and Jamalpur



Scenes from the plays. PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur The programme was inaugurated by cultural personality Dr. Noni Gopal Saha. A discussion was held prior to the plays. The discussants were of the view that street theatre is an exceptional art form which not only entertains the masses but also mirrors reality. The joint endeavour of The Daily Star and Bangladesh Pothonak Parishad to present street plays across the country is a unique attempt to revive the art form, they asserted. Freedom fighter Abul Foyez Shah Newaz, president of Faridpur Sahitya O Sangskriti Unnayan Sangstha (FSOSUS), was the chief guest at the discussion. Abu Sufian Chowdhury Khusol, secretary of FSOSUS, attended as special guest. Among others, noted teacher and journalist Jagdish Chandra Ghosh; Professor Altfat Hossain; Professor Rezvi Zaman and The Daily Star correspondent Rezaul Karim spoke on the occasion.

As part of the same festival, two street plays were staged at local Shahid Minar last Friday. Prior to the staging of the plays a discussion was held. Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur Sirjaj Uddin Ahmed was present as chief guest. Before the discussion, Mukhlesur Rahman Fakir, a local theatre personality, inaugurated the programme. Fakir said, "As a regular reader of The Daily Star, I enjoy its unbiased reports and informative views on different issues." Freedom fighter Amrito Theatre and Bhor Halo staged the plays. Leader of Amrito Theatre, Mukta Ahmed, directed the plays. "Barnochora" features the heinous roles of Razakar and Al-badar during the Liberation War. The audiences were moved by performances of the artistes. The play "Mohabidya" reminded the audience of corruption in Bangladesh.



Three Academics Honoured Rokeya Hall Alumni -- in Laughter, Pleasantries, Nostalgia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Based on the theme "Subarna Smritir Modhur Anandey Esho Mili Mora Srijoni Chhondhey", Rokeya Hall Alumni Association arranged its first reunion ceremony on January 22 at the premises of Rokeya Hall, one of the oldest dormitories for women students of Dhaka University (DU). The alumni kicked off the day's programme by hoisting the national flag accompanied by the rendition of the National Anthem. This was followed by a Tagore song Anando loko and Mora jhonhar moto uddam by our National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. DU Vice Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the daylong celebration in the morning at the hall grounds in the presence of present and former hall members. The alumni brought out a colourful procession in the morning that went around the various streets on the campus. The association posthumously honoured three eminent academics, Professor Akhter Imam, Professor Nilima Ibrahim and Professor Noorunnahar Fyzennessa, who famously served as hall proctors, for their prominent role in the dorm and society. National Professor Kabir Chowdhury



Singing of those who were...

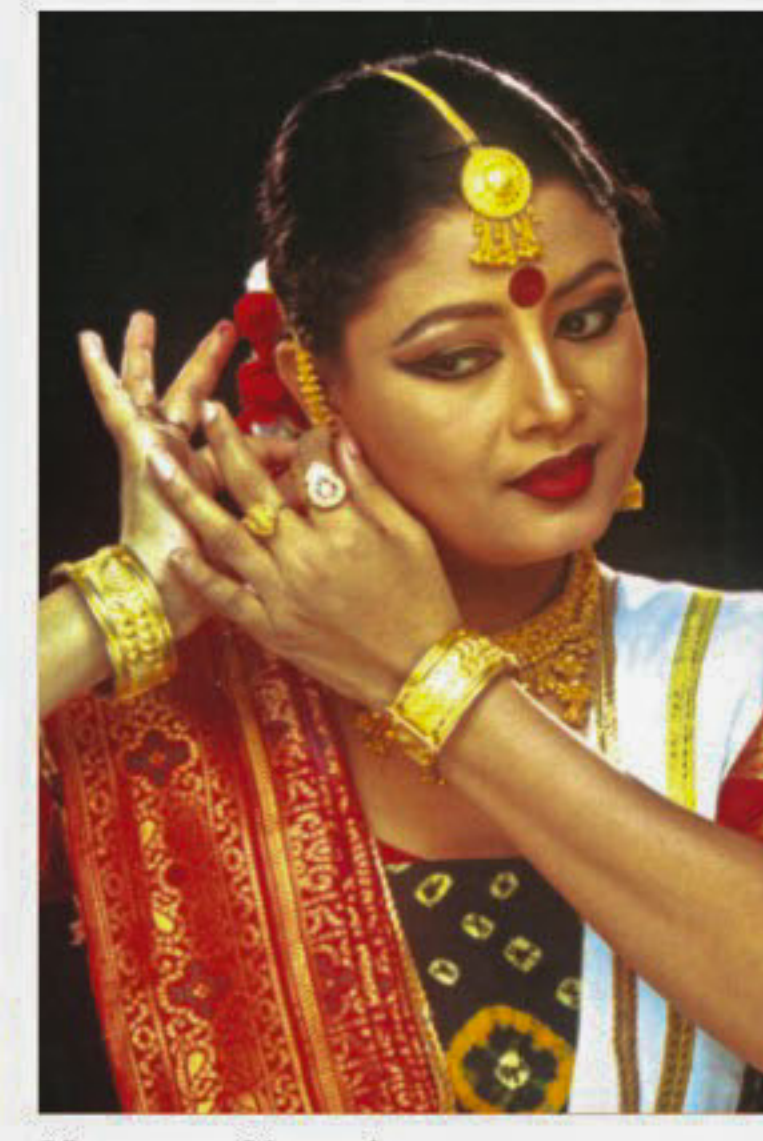
graced the inaugural session as the chief guest, while the first vice-president of Rokeya Hall Students' Union, Protiva Mutsuddi, was the special guest. "The misinterpretation of religion had kept women in chains. At present, the dream of the pioneer of women's emancipation, Begum Rokeya, is quite close to reality. The association should play a significant role in protecting women's rights in society," Professor Kabir Chowdhury said. The alumni spent the entire day in exchanging pleasantries and indulging in nostalgia. Celebrity artiste Ferdousi Rahman reflected on her days at the campus; noted dancers, among whom were Laila Hasan and Zeenat Barkatullah, performed dances while singer Mehrin rendered songs at the cultural function in the evening.

DS CAFE

DS Café has received a tremendous response from you, our readers. And now we offer you another treat the chance to vote in the celebrity of the month. January's shortlist is: (A) Ayub Bachchu; (B) Azizul Hakim (C) Munmun Ahmed. So just send in your vote and you'll get on the line with your favourite star, who'll take on all your questions on February 5. Mail to: culture_dailystar@yahoo.com. Subject of the email should read: "DS Café: Vote". The last date of entry is February 3, 2011. We're all ears...



Azizul Hakim



Munmun Ahmed



Ayub Bachchu

Bangla Academy to Celebrate Madhusudan's 187th Birth Anniversary



A CORRESPONDENT

Bangla Academy has organised a discussion and cultural programme on the occasion of 187th birth anniversary of Michael Madhusudan Dutt, widely considered to be one of the greatest poets in Bengali literature and the father of Bangla sonnet. The programme will be held today at the Seminar Hall of the academy. Professor Golam Murshid will read out a paper on Madhusudan's literary works. Professor Shantanu Kaiser will speak on "Meghnad-Badh Kabya" and its literary elements. Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, will deliver the welcome speech. National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will preside over the programme.

Table listing various TV programmes including Star Movies, ETV, Drama, Desh TV, BANGLAVISION, and Boishakhi TV.

Table listing DRAMA SERIAL programmes including ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, ntv, and ETV.

Table listing NEWS BULLETIN programmes including BTV, CHANNEL I, ntv, and ETV.

Table listing TALK SHOW programmes including ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, ntv, and ETV.