

WHAT'S ON

**Documentary Screening**  
Documentary: The Speech  
Venue: SUST Auditorium, Sylhet  
Date: April 26  
Time: 5:30pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Symphony of Colours  
Artist: Syed Abdullah Khalid  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, S-4, Uttara  
Date: April 12-29

**Grand Group Art Exhibition**  
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2  
Date: April 1-30  
Time: 10am-8pm

**Solo Photo Exhibition**  
Title: A Dream of Venice  
Photographer: Stephan Rabold  
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H. 10, Rd9, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 15-May10

**Dhaka Street Theatre Fest**  
Organiser: Patho Natok Parishad  
Venue: Central Shahred Minar  
Date: April 19-25  
Time: 4pm onwards

**Solo Exhibition**  
Title: Self and Multiples  
Artist: S.K. Sahajahan  
Venue: Bengal Gallery, H-27S/F, Rd-16, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 23-May2

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Present Perfect Continuous  
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, R-3, H-26, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 22-30  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Int'l French Drama Fest**  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy  
Date: April 23-27  
Time: 7pm everyday

# A Major Initiative by ITI

## Weeklong monodrama fest begins at Shilpakala Academy

JAMIL MAHMUD

The Bangladesh centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI) has arranged a weeklong theatre festival that features 11 monodramas at the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Titled 'Monodrama Festival 2011', the initiative is the first of its kind in the country and a major step forward by the organisers to add diversity to an already recognised field of theatre. The festival began on April 23 with the staging of Theatre's (Bailey Road) "Kokilara". Seasoned actress Ferdausi Majumdar's performance in the play captivated the audience at the packed Studio Theatre Hall.

ITI Worldwide President Ramendu Majumdar formally inaugurated the festival. Majumdar also played his part as the Chief of Theatre, as he gave a brief introduction of the play "Kokilara" to the audience prior to its staging.

Presided over by Ataur Rahman, president, ITI Bangladesh centre, the brief opening programme also saw Dhaka Theatre chief and Secretary General of ITI Bangladesh centre, Nasiruddin Yousuff, and newly appointed Director General of Shilpakala Academy and Chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Liakat Ali Lucky, as speakers.

Theatre personalities present on the occasion shared their views on the arrangement of such festivals biennially.

"Kokilara" premiered nearly 22 years ago and stopped its staging after 74 shows. The April 23 show was the 75th after a long interim. The late theatre icon Abdullah Al Mamun had written the play and was the director when it was performed regularly on stage.

The play is originally over two hours long and divided into three phases. On April 23, the first part (duration: nearly 50 minutes) was staged. This segment featured Ferdausi in the role of a domestic help, who faced with an existential crisis, decides to commit suicide.

"Kokilara" is considered the most stirring performance by Ferdausi. She usually enacts 16 different characters in the full-length play. "I had the experience of performing in a non-verbal monodrama, titled 'Eka'. But 'Kokilara' appeared even more challenging. I used to become very tense before each show," Ferdausi once said to The Daily Star.

Yesterday Islamuddin Palakar staged the folk ballad "Saiful Muluk Boduijama".

Other monodramas being staged at the festival are: "Binodini" (by Dhaka Theatre), "Ami Birangana Bolchhi" (Nagarik Natyangana), "Sita-r Agnipariksha" (Shadhona), "Kohey Birangana" (Manipuri Theatre) and "Before Breakfast" (Department of Theatre, Dhaka University).

The festival will end with the staging of "Binodini" on April 30.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

# Int'l French Drama Festival begins in the city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, jointly with theatre troupe Natukay and Fame School of Dance, Drama and Music (Chittagong), has arranged the 4th International French Drama Festival at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. On the opening day, April 23, Collectif Prêt à Porter, a French theatre troupe and Fame School of Drama staged their respective productions.

Prêt à Porter staged a show they called "Ça Cartonne à Washington" (It's a hit in Washington). A blend of acrobatics, comedy and conversational acting, the show ran for nearly half an hour. It featured two performers: Anaïs and Tom.

Throughout the show, both performers notably engaged the audience with their improvised conversation. Their characteristics lied beneath -- when Anaïs was saying something, Tom opposed her and vice versa. At times they uttered Bangla words with a half-English half-French accent that had the audience roaring with laughter.

However, the brightest part of their performance was very physical. They displayed some acrobatic moves such as balancing on each other and good aerial skills.

Fame School of Drama staged an adaptation of the Eugene Ionesco play "The Lesson". Ashim Das was the director of the play.

The play narrates the story of a psychopathic teacher and his new student, a beautiful young woman. When the student fails to comprehend the rather unconventional teaching method, the teacher goes crazy and at one point stabs her to death with a sharp knife. Later, his maid's confession reveals that the teacher is a serial killer who has carried out such heinous crimes 39 times before.

Today two plays will be staged. The theatre wing of Udichi will stage its latest production "Rajnoitikh Hotya", an adaptation of Jean Paul Sartre's political play "Les Mains Sales". Theatre School will stage "Godor Protiksha", an adaptation of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot".

Before the show on April 23, an inaugural programme was held at the venue.

Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Information and Cultural Affairs, was the chief guest at the festival. Managing director and CEO of City Bank Limited, K. Mahmood Sattar, was the guest of honour. Saliha Lefevre, director, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, presided over the inaugural session.

City Bank Limited is the sponsor of the festival that ends on April 27.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

## A Jugalbandi of Sitar and Vocal Melody

"Raag Anurag" featuring Reenat Fauzia and Badhon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sitarist Reenat Fauzia and her cousin, singer Badhon (daughter of the music diva Sabina Yasmin), have been featured on an audio album, titled "Raag Anurag". Under the banner of Mapt, the album was recently launched at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

What makes this album stand apart is that it includes five ragas-based adhunik songs -- "Chand Tumi Boro Beshi Klanto", "Besh Tho Chhilo Mishti Modhur", "Taampur Taar-e Prem Kande", "O Pakhi Poran Khuley" and "Jodi Mon Thekey Sob Smriti" -- recorded by Badhon, followed by sitar renditions of the respective ragas -- Jog, Kiriwani, Bageshree, Nat Bhairo and Mishra Bhairavi -- by Reenat Fauzia.

Noted musician Sheikh Sadi Khan has directed the music. He also composed three of the songs. Reenat Fauzia composed two songs and wrote "Chand Tumi Boro Beshi Klanto". Lyrics of the other four songs were written by Mohammad Rafiquezzaman, Munshi Wadud, Sufi Asmar Ali and Afroza Nizami.

"I wanted to experiment with lyrics and tunes. Every song has been developed on a specific rag. I wanted to provide the untainted flavours of the ragas as well. Badhon has tried to vocally embody the improvisation while Reenat Fauzia presented those ragas as they are. We hope music connoisseurs would enjoy our efforts," Sheikh Sadi Khan said.

Milon Bhattacharya, Sanjib, Swapan and Nakib on tabla; Kamrul on flute; Nuruzzaman Badshah on violin and Ujjal Sinha on keyboard have provided sangat (accompaniment).

Reenat's previous albums are: "A Touch of Love", "Tribute to Grandfather Ustad Ayet Ali Khan" and "Haramanik" (with Professor Mridul Kanti Chakrobarty). Badhon's first album "Protichhobi" was a duet with her mother Sabina Yasmin and second album was "Phalguni Hawa."

## Norio Ohga, 'father of the CD', passes away

The former president and chairman of Sony, Norio Ohga, who was credited with developing the compact disc, has died aged 81, the company has said.

Ohga, who led the company from 1982 to 1995, died of multiple organ failure in the Japanese capital, Tokyo.

Sony's chairman, Sir Howard Stringer, said his predecessor's foresight and vision had transformed the company into a global entertainment leader.

Ohga was still a senior adviser to the company at the time of his death.

In 1953, Sony's co-founders recruited Ohga while he was still studying at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and hoping to pursue a career as an opera singer. They sensed his knowledge of sound and electrical engineering would benefit the firm.

He was an executive by his 30s - a rarity in a Japanese company - becoming the president of CBS Sony Records (now Sony Music Entertainment) in 1970s.

From the start, he recognised the potential of the compact disc, and personally drove Sony's initiatives to introduce the format.

During the development of the CD, it was Ohga who pushed for a disc that was 12cm (4.8in) in diameter, because it provided sufficient capacity at 75 minutes to store all of Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony".

Sony sold the world's first CD in 1982

and CDs overtook LP record sales in Japan five years later. Ohga's specifications are still used today, and have shaped formats developed since, including MiniDisc and DVD.

In 1989, he oversaw the \$3.4bn purchase of Hollywood studios Columbia Pictures, which was criticised as unwise and costly at the time.

Ohga also presided over the launch of Sony's game business, which went on to develop the successful "PlayStation" console.

"By redefining Sony as a company encompassing both hardware and software, Ohga-san succeeded where other Japanese companies failed," said Sony Chairman Howard Stringer, using the Japanese honorific.

"It is no exaggeration to attribute Sony's evolution beyond audio and video products into music, movies and game, and subsequent transformation into a global entertainment leader to Ohga-san's foresight and vision," he added.

Ohga stepped down as Sony's president in 1995 and continued to serve as chairman and representative director until 2000.

He was also the chairman of the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Source: BBC



## Beckham, Elton, Mr. Bean to attend royal wedding

AP, London

David Beckham, Elton John and Mr. Bean actor Rowan Atkinson will mingle with dozens of royal guests at Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding, according to an official guest list released Saturday that includes one uncomfortable presence -- the Bahraini crown prince accused of a brutal crackdown on protesters.

St. James's Palace also released the seating plan at Westminster Abbey, which showed that relatives of William's mother Princess Diana are sitting across the aisle from the royal family, joining the Middletons in an exception to the traditional division of a church into a bride's side and groom's side.

There was no explanation of the seating arrangement, but the Spencers have not had a good relationship with the royal family, especially after Diana's brother Charles Spencer attacked the royals during a speech at her 1997 funeral.

More than 46 foreign royals are seated behind the British royals. They include Bahrain's Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, an invitation that could prove awkward in light of his government's rough treatment of mainly Shiite pro-democracy protesters.

Some human rights campaigners have started to petition Foreign Secretary William Hague to revoke the invitation, saying the prince should not be allowed to attend the occasion. At least 30 people have died in Bahrain since mid-February, including four who died while in official custody, and many well-known activists and lawyers have been imprisoned.

Other foreign royals who are attending include those from Denmark, Norway, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Morocco. Only a handful of celebrities are invited, including the Beckhams, director Guy



petition Foreign Secretary William Hague to revoke the invitation, saying the prince should not be allowed to attend the occasion. At least 30 people have died in Bahrain since mid-February, including four who died while in official custody, and many well-known activists and lawyers have been imprisoned.

Other foreign royals who are attending include those from Denmark, Norway, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Morocco. Only a handful of celebrities are invited, including the Beckhams, director Guy

Ritchie, soul singer Joss Stone, and Atkinson -- a close friend of William's father Prince Charles.

Although about 1,900 guests have been invited to the couple's wedding ceremony at Westminster Abbey, half of them will sit in the section of the abbey where views of the altar are restricted, and they will have to rely upon video screens to follow the service.

Queen Elizabeth II and other royal family members will sit in the front row across the aisle from Middleton's parents and brother James. They will be closest to the abbey's sanctuary, where William and his bride will stand.

Foreign dignitaries, the Middletons' family friends, British government and defence officials, families of British soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, William's army colleagues, and people who work for William's charities will be seated around the abbey.

Palace officials said that only crowned heads of states are traditionally invited to royal weddings, and that political leaders who are not from the 54-member Commonwealth of nations, such as President Barack Obama or French President Nicolas Sarkozy, weren't sent invitations.

About 60 of the guests will then attend a champagne and canapés reception at Buckingham Palace hosted by the queen.

## Indian painter Sahajahan's solo exhibition at Bengal Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhaka, in cooperation with Akar Prakar Gallery (Kolkata), has organised a solo painting exhibition featuring the works of noted Indian painter S.K. Sahajahan. The 10-day exhibition, titled "Self and Multiples" at Bengal Gallery in Dhanmondi, was inaugurated by veteran Bangladeshi artist Quayyum Chowdhury on April 23.

Senior Indian art critic Pranab Ranjan Roy was present as special guest. Artist S.K. Sahajahan and Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, among others, spoke on the occasion.

About 38 artworks are on display at the exhibition which will continue till May 2.

The artist has observed society and his surroundings with a thoughtful passion. Lines are the most noticeable feature in his acrylic and mixed media works. The lines are not overly polished. Male, female figures and other forms are recurring motifs in his

Fine Arts from Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan. He has held several solo and group exhibitions at home and abroad. The painter's works have been selected by several well-recognised auction houses in Europe.

(From left) Artist S.K. Sahajahan, Subir Chowdhury, Quayyum Chowdhury and Pranab Ranjan Roy at the opening of the exhibition.

## Nationwide Competition to Resurrect the Jatra Tradition

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Production house Jatravision is organising a competition on Jatrarpala. At a recent press conference, the organisers announced that the primary selection for the contest will commence in June this year. Mobile phone operator Robi is sponsoring the competition. Chief Adviser of Jatravision and renowned jatra actor, Jyotsna Biswas; Jatravision Chairman, Aruna Biswas; producer Mithu Biswas and officials of Robi attended the conference.

Over 100 jatra (an indigenous theatre form) troupes are expected to compete at the selections in Gopalganj, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka, Narsingdi, Netrakona, Sirajganj and Bogra. Jyotsna Biswas said that jatra is "one of the most powerful

of our folk traditions. But it has also been an art form hitherto neglected by the urban, educated class." She thanked the government and private organisations for taking initiatives to breathe new life into this traditional art form. On a similar note, Javed Ahsan of Robi said that the competition will be an important step towards revitalising the tradition of jatra.

Ten stages will be set up in different regions of the country on which 12-16 jatra will be performed each day during the competition. The troupes, willing to compete in the festival, are required to have no more than 15 members. The judges will select three troupes from each venue (region). Thirty troupes, qualified for the second round will be fighting to earn a spot among the top ten at the finals.

Jyotsna Biswas speaks at the programme.

BTV	04:30 Bashori	05:05 Jatiya Television School Bitarko	08:35 Documentary: Banglar Pothey Pranorey	08:40 Krishi Dibanshi	09:00 Drama: Kala Dibya	09:30 Drama: Obosheshe Ekdin	ATN BANGLA	11:35 Chokor Gaan	12:10 Motamat	01:25 Chalcitra-er Galpo	04:25 Matir Shubash	06:20 Aladin	10:45 Bihango Kotha	09:30 Shangbadpatre Bangladesh	01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan	05:15 Krishi Shangbad	04:15 Shorashori Doctor	05:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan	10:50 Reporters Dairy	11:30 Boishakhi Sanskriti O Binodon Sangbad	Z Studio	10:30 Shanghai Knights	01:30 Transformers	04:30 Invisible	06:45 Shaolin Martial Arts	09:30 Breaking and Entering	11:45 A Beautiful Mind	Star Movies	10:45 Barbershop 2	12:35 Alvin and the Chipmunks	02:10 Brenda Starr	03:45 George of the Jungle	07:00 My Life in Ruins	08:40 Last Action Hero	10:55 Cabin Fever 2 Spring Fever
-----	---------------	--	--	-----------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------	------------	-------------------	---------------	--------------------------	---------------------	--------------	---------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------	---	----------	------------------------	--------------------	-----------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------	-------------	--------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------------

abcradio FM 89.2	08:30 Adh Osk	02:05 Oprasota	03:00 Duranto Bikley	03:30 Adh Osk	04:30 Bhulo Tuko Sange	05:30 Kachalenka	Radio Footi	10:00 Morning Express	12:00 My Time	01:00 No Tempon	04:00 Dhaka Calling	05:00 Night Rider	01:00 Back to Back music	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka	12:00 Today's Adda	04:00 U Turn	07:00 Tobey Tai Hok
------------------	---------------	----------------	----------------------	---------------	------------------------	------------------	-------------	-----------------------	---------------	-----------------	---------------------	-------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------	--------------	---------------------

**Boyra Paribar**  
On Rtv at 09:05pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Hassan Masud, Humaira Himu

**A Beautiful Mind**  
On Z Studio at 11:45pm  
Genre: Biography/ Drama  
Cast: Russell Crowe, Ed Harris

**Babar Bari**  
On Boishakhi at 08:15pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: ATM Shamsuzzaman, Bulbul Ahmed

09:35 Veet Channel i Top Model 11	11:30 Travel On	12:00 Aikar Shangbadpatro	ETV	11:30 Ekushey-er Business	05:50 Sports Plus	06:30 Desh Jury	07:50 Tommy Miah Recipe	12:05 Ekushey-er Raat	Rtv	01:10 Bangla Feature Film	05:00 Protidin-er Gaan	06:00 Are You Ready	09:50 Bridal Show	12:00 Protidin-er Patrika	BANGLAVISION	09:05 Shudhu Gaan	01:05 Bangla Feature Film	09:05 Moner Kotha	11:25 Probash Miah	Desh TV	04:00 Desh Janopad	04:30 Durghat	06:30 Bajray Notun	07:45 Hathar Ekdin	12:30 Total Sports	Boishakhi TV	10:30 Bangla Feature Film	HBO	12:30 Invisible Target	02:45 Species II	04:30 The Curious Case of Benjamin Button	08:00 The Ugly Truth	11:15 The Vampire's Assistant	Star World	01:30 The Bold and The Beautiful	03:30 Desperate Housewives	07:30 Coffee With Karen	08:30 How I Met Your Mother	10:30 Dexter	11:30 Community	National Geographic Channel	01:30 Air Crash Investigation	07:30 I Didn't Know That	09:30 Engineering Connections	10:30 Mission Army	11:30 True Stories	Discovery Channel	10:30 Blue Planet	11:30 Sole Survivor	02:30 Prehistoric	08:30 Feast India	11:30 Toughest Military Jobs
-----------------------------------	-----------------	---------------------------	-----	---------------------------	-------------------	-----------------	-------------------------	-----------------------	-----	---------------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	--------------------	---------	--------------------	---------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------	---------------------------	-----	------------------------	------------------	---	----------------------	-------------------------------	------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------	-----------------	-----------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-------------------	-------------------	------------------------------

ATN BANGLA	08:00pm Maqbul	09:20pm Parapar	CHANNEL i	05:30pm Jato Dure Jal	07:50pm Shogno Bazar	Rtv	09:05pm Boyra Paribar	BANGLAVISION	08:15pm Mad Bhai	09:45pm All Rounder	ETV	08:30pm Ohongkar	09:30pm Lolita	Desh TV	09:45pm Sat Kahon	10:30pm Phirey Ashi	Boishakhi TV
------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------	-----------------------	----------------------	-----	-----------------------	--------------	------------------	---------------------	-----	------------------	----------------	---------	-------------------	---------------------	--------------

8TV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm	News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm	Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels)	CHANNEL-i	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm, 1:00am	ETV	News (Bangla): 8:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 6:00 pm	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30pm, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm	News (English) at 6:00pm Rtv	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	Rtv	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm, 1:00am	ETV	News (Bangla): 8:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 6:00 pm
-----	--------------------------	---------------------------	--	--	-----------	---	------------	---	-----	--	--------------	--	---	------------------------------	---	-----	---	-----	--

BTV	10:25pm Digital Bangladesh	12:10pm Ei Shomoy	ATN BANGLA	11:05am Vision 2020	10:10pm O Bandhu Amar	11:30pm Je Kotha Keu Boloni	07:40pm Our Democracy	CHANNEL i	06:10pm Front Line	BANGLAVISION	06:10pm Front Line	Desh TV	11:45pm Shoka Kotha
-----	----------------------------	-------------------	------------	---------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------	-----------	--------------------	--------------	--------------------	---------	---------------------