

## 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: Sajay 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,  
Rd-9, Dhamondi  
Date: April 15-May 10

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

Solo Exhibition  
Title: Self and Multiples  
Artist: S.K. Sahajahan  
Venue: Bengal Gallery, H-27/5, Rd-16, Dhamondi  
Date: April 23-May 2

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

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

# A Major Initiative by ITI

**Weeklong monodrama fest begins at Shilpkala 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 Shilpkala 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 Arafat 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 Shilpkala 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.

Yester day Islamuddin Palakar staged the folk ballad "Saiful Muluk Bodiujamal".

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

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

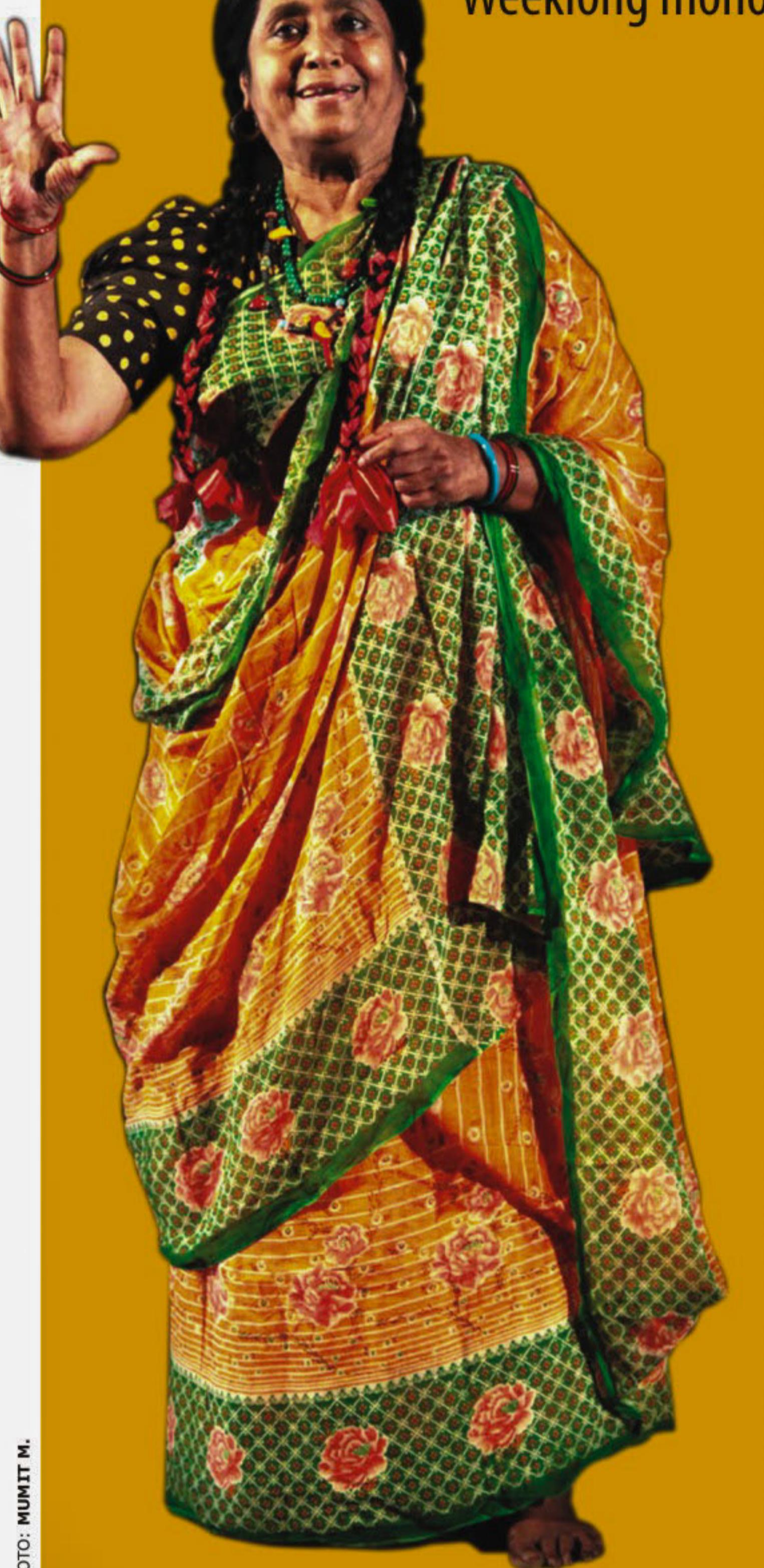


PHOTO: MUNIRU M.

# 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 Shilpkala 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).

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 Udcidi will stage its latest production "Rajnoitik Hotya", an adaptation of Jean Paul Sartre's political play "Les Mains Sales". Theatre School will stage "Godor Protikha", 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. Saliba Lefevre, director, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, presided over 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.

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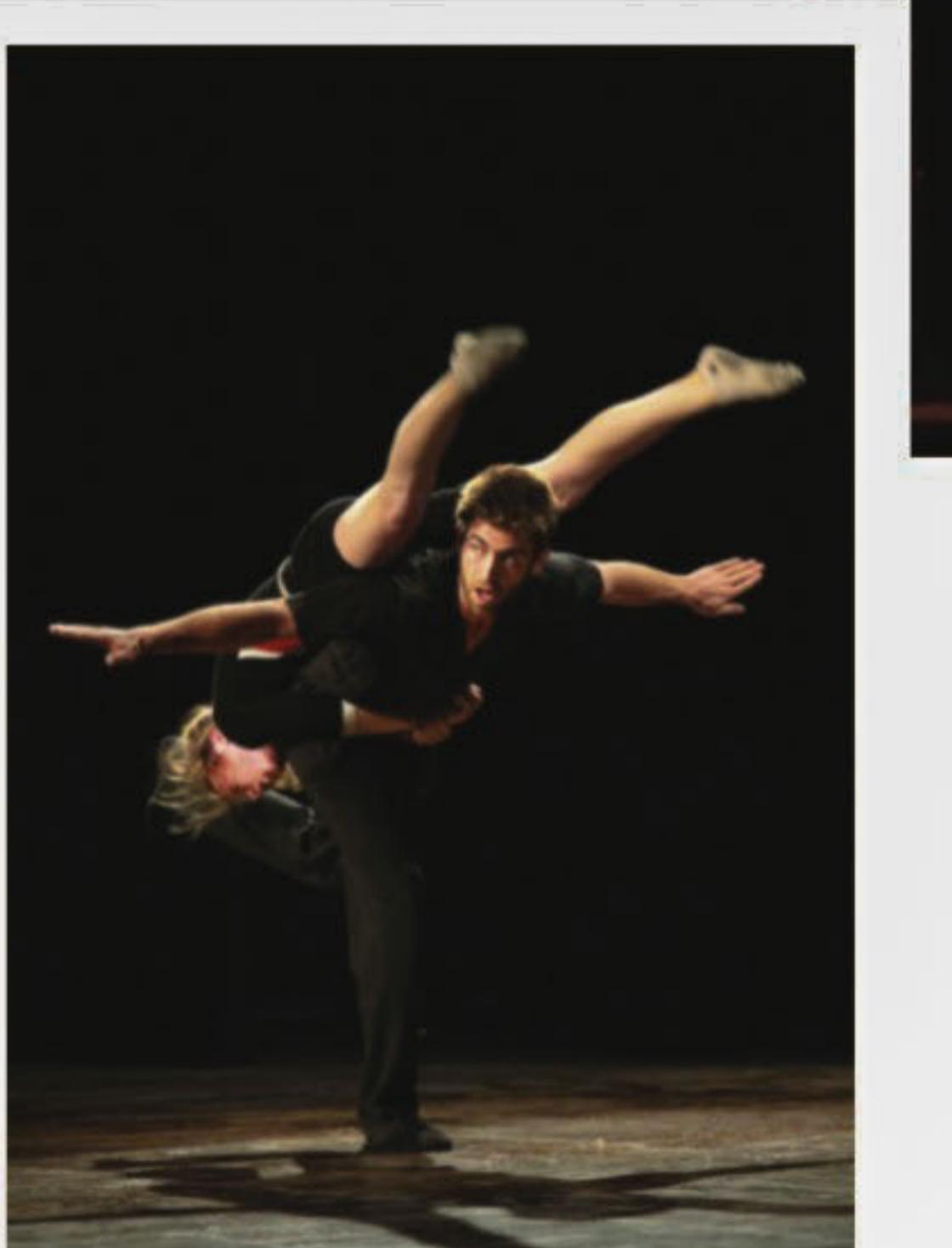


PHOTO: MUNIRU M.  
Fame School of Drama, Chittagong staged an adaptation of the Eugene Ionesco play "The Lesson" (top); French performers Anaïs and Tom in "Ça Cartonne à Washington".

# 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 Dhamondi, was inaugurated by veteran Bangladeshi artist Quayum 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



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

works. The painter is seemingly influenced by Jogen Chowdhury. Traces of Chowdhury's style are noticeable in most of Sahajahan's paintings.

Sahajahan took his advanced diploma in Fine Arts and diploma in

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.

# 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 Shilpkala Academy.

What makes this album stand apart is that it includes five raga-based adhunik songs -- "Chand Tumi Boro Beshi Klanto", "Besh Tho Chhilo Mishti Modhur", "Taapnarpur Taar-e Preni Kandey", "O Pakhi Poran Khuley" and "Jodi Mon Thekey Sob Smriti" -- recorded by Badhon, followed by sitar renditions of the respective ragas -- Jog, Kirwani, 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 Rafiquzzaman, Munshi Wadud, Sufi Asmar Ali and Afrozha Nizami.

"I wanted to experiment with lyrics and tunes. Every song has been developed on a specific raga. 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 Ayeet Ali Khan" and "Haramanik" (with Professor Mridul Kanti Chakraborty). Badhon's first album, "Protichobi", was a duet with her mother Sabina Yasmin and second album was "Phalguni Hawa".

## DS CAFÉ



This month DS Café will have popular singer-composer Bappa Majumdar take your calls. Readers will have the opportunity to converse with him on different issues regarding his music. Call 8126155 on April 29, between 2 and 3pm, to speak to Bappa Majumdar!!

# 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

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 in June this year. Mobile phone operator Robi is sponsoring the competition. Chief Advisor of Jatravison and renowned jatra artist, Jyotsna Biswas; Jatravison Chairman, Aruna Biswas; producer Mithu Biswas and officials of Robi attended the conference.

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

## Nationwide Competition to

# Resurrect the Jatra Tradition

## SHAH ALAM SHAZU

### Production house Jatravison

is organising a competition on jatrapala. At a recent press conference, the organiser announced that the primary selection for the contest will commence in June this year. Mobile phone operator Robi is sponsoring the competition. Chief Advisor of Jatravison and renowned jatra artist, Jyotsna Biswas; Jatravison Chairman, Aruna Biswas; producer Mithu Biswas and officials of Robi

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Over 100 jatra (an indigenous theatre form) troupes are expected to compete at the selections in Gopalganj, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka, Narayanganj, Netrokona, 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	Shorashori Doctor
05:05	Jitip Television School	Shudhu Cinemar Gaam
06:30	Biswadeep	Reporters Diary
08:35	Pothey Prantrony	Boishakhi Sankranti 0
08:40	Krishi Diboshika	Binodin Sangbad
09:00	Shudhu Diboshika	Z Studio
09:30	Drama: Kalo Dhoya	All Knights
11:30	Transformers	Invincible
12:10	Aladin	Shaolin Martial Arts
04:25	Bihang Kotha	Breaking and Entering
06:20	Aladin	A Beautiful Mind
10:45	Bihang Kotha	Star Movies
12:35	Alvin and the Chipmunks	Barbershop 2
02:10	Stargate	Alvin and the Chipmunks
03:45	Brenda Starr	George of the Jungle
07:00	My Life in Ruins	My Life in Ruins
08:40	Last Action Hero	Last Action Hero
05:15	Krishi Shangbad	Cabin Fever 2 Spring Fever

## RADIO