

WHAT'S ON

Book Fair
Organiser: Oitijhya
Venue: Central Library
Premises, Shahbagh
Date: April 24-May 20
Time: 9am-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre,
Dharmundi
Date: May 12-18
Time: 12pm-8pm

Film Festival
Organiser: Zahir Rabbani Film Society
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Rd
Date: May 12-21
Time: 4pm onwards

Solo Exhibition
Sculptor: Samiran Dutt
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery,
Dharmundi
Date: May 13-22
Time: 10pm-8pm

Satyajit Roy Retrospective
Organiser: Indira Gandhi Culture Centre
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
Date: May 13-16
Time: 3pm and 6pm

Short Film Festival
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: TSC Auditorium, DU
Date: May 15-19
Time: 3pm onwards

Friday Film Show
Film Title: Man to Man
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dharmundi
Date: May 27
Time: 6pm

Jatio Shishu-Kishore, Adibashi Natyo Utshab
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, GSA
Date: May 9-19
Time: 4:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: FFA and BGFA
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dharmundi
Date: April 16-21
Time: 12pm-8pm

ESSENTIAL TAGORE

Nobel laureate poet's literature translated by Bangladeshi and Indian writers



(From left) Radha Chakravarty, Dr. Anisuzzaman, Dr. Dipu Moni, Dr. Fakrul Alam and Abul Khair Litu at the book launch.

AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN

Book launch programmes are becoming more frequent than ever in Dhaka these days -- a positive trend. The launch of an anthology of English translations of Rabindranath Tagore's writings, titled "The Essential Tagore", at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhaka on May 14 saw leading thinkers, academics, translators, and artists of Bangladesh. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Dipu Moni, reached the venue well before the event started and stayed until Dr. Fakrul Alam (one of the translators and editors of the book) concluded the programme that ran well over two hours.

In her speech, Dr. Dipu Moni highlighted Rabindranath's contributions to the modernisation of Bangla language, nationalism, and Bengali culture on the whole. The minister expressed her personal fondness for the poet's literature as well.

Apart from the brief presentations, the major attraction of the evening was the readings of Tagore's original texts in Bangla and their English translations. The programme also featured live performances of Rabindra Sangeet. Even though the organisers took over the adjacent Bengal Café to accommodate the visitors, some people had to remain on their feet.

"The Essential Tagore" is the largest collection of Tagore's works, available in English, at this moment. Harvard University Press has the global (except South Asia) publication and marketing rights. Visva-Bharati controls the South Asian publishing rights.

The book consists of mostly new translations, but there are some translations that have been published previously as well. It's divided into ten segments: po-

etry, songs, autobiographical works, letters, travel writing, prose, novels, short stories, humorous pieces and plays. The anthology features two plays ("Raktakarabi" and "Tasher Desh"), ten short stories, extracts from four novels, around fifty poems, fifty songs, several letters, and substantial extracts from autobiographical and travel writing.

Compiled by some of the most acclaimed writers and translators of India and Bangladesh, the book has been co-edited by Dr. Fakrul Alam, Professor, Department of English, University of Dhaka and Radha Chakravarty, Associate Professor of English at Gargi College, University of Delhi. The collection also features translations by the co-editors.

Sharmila Sen (Executive Editor-at-Large, Harvard University Press) and Kumkum Bhattacharya of Visva-Bharati spoke on behalf of the publishers before Dr. Dipu Moni officially launched the book.

Rabindra Sangeet singer Bulbul Islam's rendition of "Jagately Ananda Jagey" was followed by its English translation read by Fakrul Alam. Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam and Kaiser Haq also read their translations of Tagore's verses.

It was refreshing to hear Radha Chakravarty read her translation of "Chhelebhela". Humour, the primary essence of the piece, has been brilliantly retained in the translation.

Dr. Anisuzzaman, Professor Emeritus, University of Dhaka, who presided over the programme, gave an insightful speech about the English translations of Tagore's works over the decades.

Dr. Fakrul Alam concluded the evening with his thanksgiving speech.

THEATRE

DU students bring Sayeed Ahmed's "Trishnay" to the stage

JAMIL MAHMUD

The Department of Theatre, Dhaka University (DU) brought a new play to the stage. The play, "Trishnay", was written by one of the pioneering playwrights of the country, Professor Sayeed Ahmed. Ahmedul Kabir, lecturer of the Department, has directed the play.

The premiere of the play was held at the Natmandal auditorium on DU campus on May 13. The play was staged consecutively for three days till yesterday at the venue.

The sixth semester students of the department staged the play and did the set and light designing as well, as part of their curriculum.

Professor Ahmed was one of the playwrights who introduced 'theatre of absurd' in our country. "Trishnay" belongs to this genre. Based on the familiar Bangla folk tale of the jackal, the crocodile and her seven infants, the play symbolically addresses social crises involving fraudulence.

The story unfolds as the animals of a jungle attend a meeting after facing the existential crisis caused by the continuous aggression from humans.



At the meeting, the jackal's astuteness impresses the crocodile. She decides to send her seven children to the jackal for their initial lessons. The jackal devours six of them.

From this point on, Professor Ahmed's play deviates from the folk tale. After eating the young crocodiles, the jackal's conscience awakes. He

realises that he has committed a horrible sin. Interestingly enough, the jackal's last remaining student stands by his teacher as he knows the former has had a change of heart.

Then one day the mother crocodile visits the jackal's den. The infant tells his mother to come back later, as he and his master have to come up with a plan. But the mother comes to know about their plot. Instead of becoming angry, the mother crocodile feels content thinking that at least one of her children has survived and been enlightened.

The play mainly focuses on the Darwin theory: 'Survival of the fittest'.

The use of colours on the actors' faces to mark them as animals was an interesting effort. Moreover, the performers enacted their respective characters according to the animals' behaviours; the crocodiles were crawling on the stage throughout the play.

Nawrin Sazzad played the mother crocodile, while Naved Rahman donned the role of the jackal. Masud Rana played the sole surviving young crocodile. The cast also included Sanjeeb Kumar Dey, Zahid Hasan and Tanvir Nahid Khan.



PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

Pioneering playwright and theatre activist Badal Sircar no more



FROM PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Noted Bengali playwright Badal Sircar, one of the pioneers of street plays and absurd theatre in India, died of cardiac arrest at his house in Kolkata on Friday after protracted illness. He was 86.

Known for his plays like "Baaki Itihash", "Ebhong Indrajeet", "Pagla Ghoda" and "Juloos", Sircar was one of the torch-bearers of the "alternative theatre" movement which brings the art form out of proscenium into the public arena where actors wear the costume no different from people in day-to-day life in order to reach out to them. The idea was to break the barrier between the performer and the spectator.

Sircar triggered a new wave of experimental theatre that captured the imagination of the people, particularly the youth. He believed that theatre is a collective exercise to awaken the social consciousness of all participants,

including viewers.

Deviating from the linear narration and conventional stage techniques, he promoted the concept of "Angan Mancho", that is performance in public areas like parks, courtyards and terrace rather than confined to theatre halls or the traditional stage.

Badal Sircar was interested in theatre and culture since his childhood. He studied civil engineering at the Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur, and finished his Master of Arts in comparative literature from Jadavpur University.

Sircar's career in theatre began in 1951 when he adapted "Cinderella" into a play from his sister's text book. The playwright later shifted to London where he did a course in town planning and was influenced by theatre stalwarts like Joan Littlewood, Anthony Serchio, Richard Schechner of the Performance Group and Polish director Jerzy Grotowski in the 1960s.

After his stay in Nigeria and France as a town planner, Sircar founded his own theatre group 'Shatabdi' in 1976, a new wave troupe that took Sircar's plays to Kolkata's Surendranath Park to involve the audience.

Sircar entered the stage as an actor but soon started writing and directing plays. He shot to limelight after writing "Ebhong Indrajit", a landmark play in Indian theatre which was first published and performed in 1965. He sustained his fame with plays such as "Baaki Itihash", "Tringsho Shotabdi", "Pagla Ghoda", "Shesh Nahi" and "Juloos". His anti-establishment plays address issues such as the alienation and angst of the post-Independence unemployed urban youth and insensitivity of the urban middle-class.

Sircar was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1972 and four years before that the Sangeet Natak Akademi award.



Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi has organised a residency programme for artists to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Participating Bangladeshi painters are Hamiduzzaman Khan, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Abdul Mannan, Mohammad Eunus, Nasreen Begum, Sheikh Afzal, Mohammad Iqbal and Golam Faruq Bebul. The camp was formally opened by fellow of the Lalit Kala Akademi, Professor A. Ramachandran on May 10. Noted Indian painters, high officials of the Ministry of Culture of India and the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi attended the inaugural session of the art camp. The camp will continue till tomorrow. An exhibition, featuring the works of these painters, will be inaugurated on May 18.

Workshop on Aesthetics of Satyajit Ray Films



John W. Hood

A CORRESPONDENT

Noted Australian film critic and buff John W. Hood will be conducting a workshop on film aesthetics at Bangladesh Film Institute at Kalabagan in Dhaka.

The workshop, on the subject "Satyajit-e Nandantatwa: Chhatri Dhrupadi Chhobi-te" (Satyajit's aesthetics in four classical films), will start on June 6 and continue till June 9.

Hood is a well-known expert on South Asian cinema. His notable publications are "Beyond the World of Apu", "Chasing the Truth", "The Films of Mrinal Sen", "Time and Dream", "The Films of Buddhadev Dasgupta" and more.

CANNES 2011

Palme d'Or race begins to come into focus



Tilda Swinton stars as a mother haunted by the actions of her son in "We Need to Talk About Kevin".

It's never too early to begin handicapping the Palme d'Or race. The film-festival world's most prestigious prize captures the attention of attendees in Cannes and provides the festival with a certain level of suspense.

Based on some informal polling about the films that have screened, two movies have emerged as strong early contenders: Joseph Cedar's father-son picture "Footnote" and Lynn Ramsay's violent-child tale "We Need to Talk About Kevin." The choice of either would break from recent tradition, but also contain a certain logic.

"Footnote" is the rare Israeli film not to contend with issues of war or national politics, and some jurors may question if it has the scope to merit a Palme. But the film, which centres on

goers to be in the mix.

Still to screen are films from past winners such as the Dardenne Bros. and Lars von Trier. Also pundits are wondering if this could be the year of Pedro Almodovar -- despite an illustrious career and a near-permanent spot at Cannes, the Spanish director has never won a Palme. He'll have to do it this year with a movie that has genre leanings, a revenge thriller titled "The Skin I Live In." The movie does screen late in the festival, which some consider an advantage.

Two even bigger question marks hang out there, though, starting with Terrence Malick's "The Tree of Life". If the long-awaited auteur film lives up to expectations -- and they are considerable -- look for the film to move in prime Palme position after it screens today.

Meanwhile, Michel Hazanavicius' silent film "The Artist" has buzz in its favour. The movie screened Sunday morning, and though it remains to be seen whether it's enjoyed as novelty or something more, don't be surprised if it comes out on top. The Cannes competition jury tends to favour formal rigor above many other factors, which is part of the reason "The White Ribbon" took the prize back in 2009.

Then again, the Cannes competition jury favours surprise above many other factors too, as anyone who watched "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall Past Lives" win last year can attest.

Source: Internet

Weeklong Book Fair in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A weeklong book fair began on the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) campus on Thursday.

A voluntary organisation of the university students, KIN, has organised the event to raise funds for the treatment of a Sylhet MC College student Anupam Dev, who broke his spinal cord in an accident. Marking the opening of the fair, a procession was taken out on the campus.

Participated by several hundred students of different departments, the procession paraded the main streets on the campus and ended in front of the Central Library Building.

Eminent writers' books published by seven publication houses, including Oitijhya, Ityadi, Little Mag, Pathsutra, Utsha, Shomoy, Prathama, are available at the weeklong book fair that will remain open between 10am and 8pm every day.

The organisers said the proceeds from the fair would be spent for the treatment of Anupam.

Anupom broke his spinal cord in a road accident about a year back. His parents have spent much for his treatment, but he is yet to recover, sources in the family said.

"We will try our best to keep our support for Anupam until he recovers fully," the organisers said. They also urged the affluent to extend their assistance for Anupam.

Drama Unfolds
Three day street theatre festival in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A three-day theatre festival began at Town Hall Saheed Minar premises yesterday.

The festival, titled "Zila Pathonatok Utsab-2011", has been organised by Bangladesh Pathonatok Parishad with the assistance of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, and will conclude on May 17.

A total of nine theatre groups from the district and one from Kishoreganj are performing at the festival.

Bahurupi Natya Sangstha; Mokhush Natya Sangstha; Compass Natya Sampraday of Bangladesh Agricutural University (BAU); Bidrohi Natya Goshthi; Natyalok Sampradaya; Ekota Theatre from Kishoreganj; Chhayanaat Sahitya Sangskritik Dol; Ensemble Theatre;

Angina Natya and Sangskritik Goshthi are staging their productions at the festival.

The plays being staged at the festival are: "Daidaitiya"; "Roktakto Barnamala"; "Ek Je Chhilo Sonar Koiny"; "Chitta Binimoy"; "Baddhobhumite Shesh Drishya"; "Royal Bengal Tiger"; "Kisher Badya Bajego"; "Khyapa Paglar Pechal" and "Bornochora".

Shahadat Hossain Khan, secretary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha and convener of the street theatre festival, said that three plays are being staged every day. The festival is organised annually in Dhaka by Bangladesh Pathonatok Parishad but this year it is being held at the district towns, he added.

Khan also expressed the hope that the festival would have a positive impact on drama enthusiasts and activists.

BTV

03:05 Cartoon
04:30 Bashori
05:05 Jatiya Television School

08:40 Krishi Dibashishi
09:05 Drama

ATN BANGLA
11:35 Chhobir Gaan
12:10 Motamot
01:25 Chalachitra-er Galpo
04:25 Matir Subash
06:20 Aladin
10:45 Bhangra Kotha

CHANNEL 1
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
03:10 Albani
05:15 Krishi Shangbad
09:35 Veet Channel i Top
Model 11
Travel On
Bangladesh-er Kotha
Balchhi

Desh TV
04:00 Desh Janopad
04:30 Durpath
06:30 Bajarey Notun
07:45 Hothat Eodin
12:30 Total Sports

Boishakhi TV
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
04:15 Shorashori Doctor
05:15 Boishakhi CNN
Shadibhwa
05:30 Shudhu Cinemar
Gaan
10:50 Reporters Dairy
Boishakhi Sanskriti O
11:30 Binodon Sangbad

Z Studio
10:00 The Hurricane
01:30 Boys and Girls
05:00 The Godfather: Part II
09:30 RV
12:15 Unbreakable

RADIO

abc radio FM 89.2
09:00 Mukhonto Jiboney
12:00 Duran Durapore
03:00 Duranto Bikoley
05:00 Shomubhara
07:00 Raat-er Akashay
11:00 Golper Shesh Net
Radio Forti
12:00 My Time

01:00 No Tension
04:00 Dhaka Calling
09:00 Night Rider
01:00 Back to Back music
04:00 TODAY FM 89.6
08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
12:00 Today's Adda
04:00 U Turn
07:00 Today Lai Hak
10:00 Raat Bhor Gaan
12:00 Humum Pecha

Boyra Paribar
On Rtv at 09:05pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Afzal Sharif,
Shirin Bokul

Unbreakable
On Z Studio at 12:15am
Genre: Drama/
Fantasy
Cast: Bruce Willis,
Samuel L. Jackson

Lolita
On Rtv at 09:05pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Tushar Khan,
Sumaiya Shimu

Star Movies
10:40 Remember Me
12:40 Black Hawk Down
03:05 Prince of Persia
08:35 Night at The Museum
10:25 All About Steve
12:05 Mother

ETV
10:10 Desh Jurey Oporadhi
Porikroma
04:30 Ekushey-er Business
04:30 DM Today Tomorrow
05:50 Sports Plus
10:10 Sine Hits
12:05 Ekushey-er Raat

Rtv
12:35 Tawheed-er Marshid
Amar

01:10 Bangla Feature Film
Protidin-er Gaan
09:50 Bridal Show
12:00 Protidin-er Patrika

BANGLAVISION
09:05 Shudhu Gaan
11:35 Ebong Class-er Bairoy
01:05 Bangla Feature Film
04:30 Drama Serial: Alokoito

Angina
Moner Kotha
11:25 Probashki Mukh

Star World
03:30 Desperate Housewives
08:30 Two And A Half Men
10:30 Dexter
11:30 Family Guy

National Geographic Channel
01:30 True Stories
02:30 Alive Against All Odds
09:30 Big, Bigger, Biggest
11:30 Big Cats: Week

BBC World
11:30 World Business Report
02:30 HARD talk
11:45 Sport Today
12:00 World News Today

DRAMA SERIAL
ATN BANGLA
09:20pm Parapar
CHANEL I
05:30pm Jato Durey Jai
07:50pm Shogno Bazar
ntv
08:15pm Manabzamm
11:30pm Akash Chhoya
Rtv
09:05pm Boyra Paribar

BANGLAVISION
08:15pm Mad Bhai
09:45pm All Rounder
ETV
09:30pm Lolita
Desh TV
08:15pm Gahiny
09:45pm Set Karon
Boishakhi TV
08:45pm Nisarga

NEWS BULLETIN
BTV
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am,
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm,
News (English) at 10:00am,
4:00 pm, 10:50 pm,
Late Night News (Bangla and
English) 11:30 pm. (To be
telecast on all Bangla
channels).
CHANNEL-1
News (Bangla): 7:00 am,
8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 8:00 pm,
10:30 pm, 12:30 pm
ATN BANGLA
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm,
10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00
am, 4:00 am
News (Bangla): 8:00am,
01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm
News (English): 8:00 am,
6:00 pm.

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 7:30am,
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
ntv
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,
11:00pm

TALK SHOW
BTV
10:25pm Digital Bangladesh
Rtv
10:40am Tarikalap
11:05am Vision 2020
11:30pm Je Kotha Kew Boloni
12:30pm Lead News
CHANEL I
09:45am Trilo Mata
12:30pm Taroka Kothon
ntv
12:10am Ei Shomoy
10:40am Tarikalap
07:40pm Our Democracy
11:30pm Front Line
11:45pm Shog Kotha
Boishakhi TV
12:00am Zero Hour