

WHAT'S ON

Dhaka Int'l Theatre Fest
Organiser: ITI Bangladesh centre
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 21-30
Time: 7pm everyday

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Monirul Islam
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, Dhanmondi
Date: May 27-June 15
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Exhibition
Sculptor: Samiran Dutt
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: May 13-24
Time: 10pm-8pm

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

Solo Sarod Recital
Artist: Abhik Lahiri
Organiser: ICC, High Commission of India, Dhaka
Venue: Music and Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 28, Time: 6:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Ishan Baibhab
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi
Date: May 23-29
Time: 12p-8pm

Jewellery Exhibition
To raise fund for tsunami victims in Japan
Organiser: Audi
Venue: 12mm, H 24, Rd 113, Gulshan 2
Date: May 27-28, Time: 11am-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: 7
Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, Shahbagh
Date: May 19-25
Time: 11am-7pm

Amar Bondhu Rashed screened in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

"Amar Bondhu Rashed", a film based on the Liberation War directed by Morshedul Islam and produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd, was screened at Captain Abdul Halim Chowdhury auditorium in Manikganj last Friday afternoon. Shaheed Rafique Memorial Library organised the screening. The film -- following an adolescent freedom fighter -- is based on a novel by Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, a renowned writer and educationist. Children and their guardians attended the show.

DS CAFÉ



This month DS Café will have popular actor Mahfuz Ahmed take your calls. Readers will have the opportunity to converse with him on different issues and interesting aspects of his memorable roles. Call 8126155 on May 25, between 3 and 4pm, to speak to Mahfuz Ahmed!!!!



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Manipuri Theatre staged "Kohe Birangana" and Buds Theatre staged "Shades" (right) on the opening day.

Exhibition featuring north-east Indian painters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, in collaboration with Kirat (an organisation of artists from north-east India), is holding an art exhibition titled "Ishan Baibhab" featuring works of 28 painters from Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. The exhibition begins today and will continue till May 29 at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Dipu Moni will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Jitendra Chaudhury, minister, Department of Industries and

Commerce, Rural Development and Forests, State Government of Tripura, India, and Rajeev Mitter, Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, will be present as special guests. Pabitra Kar, chairman of Kirat, and the chairman of Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd, State Government of Tripura, will be present as guest of honour.

On the occasion of the exhibition, a press conference was held yesterday at Bengal Café. Veteran Bangladeshi painter Rafiqun Nabi; Tripura Painter Chinmay Roy; Tripura poet Ratul Dev Burman; Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts and Sarwar Jahan (assistant manager of Bengal Gallery), among others, spoke at the programme.



Rafiqun Nabi speaks at the programme.

1st Dhaka International Theatre Fest by ITI, Bangladesh Kicks Off

A CORRESPONDENT

'1st Dhaka International Theatre Fest', organised by Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), opened at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on May 21. Ramundu Majumdar, the President (world-wide) of ITI formally inaugurated the 10-day programme, while Information and Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad was present as the chief guest. Also present as special guests were Director General of BSA, Liakat Ali Lucky and Secretary General of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), Jhuna Chowdhury.

In his message, Ramendu Majumdar welcomed the participating theatre groups from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Singapore and Hong Kong. "Because of its various continuing initiatives like organising seminars, festivals, workshops and above all, bringing out publications, Bangladesh ITI enjoys a prestigious position among the ITI member-countries," he said.

The inaugural session of the programme was followed by a staging of the Manipuri Theatre production, "Kohe Birangana". Shuvashis Sinha has written and directed the play based on Michael Madhusudan Dutt's "Birangana Kabyo". The play can also be seen as the playwright's response to Madhusudan Dutt's epic.



Madhusudan's "Birangana Kabyo" features the agony of female characters from the epic "Mahabharata". "Birangana Kabyo" has 11 verses, from which Shuvashis adapted four for his play. The play features stories of Shakuntala, Draupadi, Dushala and Jona.

The play is a narrative of letters written by these four characters to their respective husbands, starting with Shakuntala, who writes a moving letter to her husband

Dushyanta, who has abandoned her.

Where Shuvashis highlights the grief of being forsaken through Shakuntala, he tries to depict a resentful woman as he narrates the story of Draupadi. In her letter to Arjun, Draupadi unleashes jealousy and rage, as she is aware that Arjun is indulging in pleasures whereas she has been subjected to a life of difficulties.

The audience sees a wise and politically aware woman in Dushala, who writes to her

husband Jayadratha. Jayadratha has become Arjun's adversary by killing the latter's son Abhimanyu. Arjun wants to take revenge. When Dushala learns of this, she writes a letter to Jayadratha, telling him that he made a mistake by killing Abhimanyu.

The last act of the play features Jona's letter to her husband Neeldhaja. After Arjun killed his son, Neeldhaja signs a peace accord instead of avenging the death. A bereaved Dushala writes a letter rebuking her husband's seeming cowardice.

Shuvashis has written the play in a lyrical form known as "poyar".

Jyoti Sinha played the four characters. It is a tough act for any performer to adapt four major literary characters in a single production with ease. Jyoti made a truly commendable effort to reach the zenith of the characters' emotions.

Compared to "Kohe Birangana", Buds Theatre Company's (Singapore) production "Shades" seemed rather run of the mill. The play is a simple love story with controversial undertones based on cultural and religious identities.

The play attempted to show a contrast between religious dogmas and the adverse impact of globalisation on the individuals in Singapore.

The festival features 25 plays at the National, Experimental, and Studio theatre halls at 7pm everyday.

Monirul Islam's solo exhibition at Gallery Chitrak



Monirul Islam
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gallery Chitrak will hold a solo art exhibition featuring noted Bangladeshi expatriate painter-printmaker Monirul Islam. The exhibition will begin on May 27 and will continue till June 15.

Islam is well known for his etching and aquatint. He controls his medium and technique with a certain mastery. His specialty is his subtle lines and the balance between space and composition.

Use of space is an important aspect of his works and the artist likes to work with varied unfamiliar forms, transforming them amazingly into familiar expressions.

At the exhibition, Monir's etching and aquatint will be displayed. He also uses acrylic, watercolour, oil, pencil and other mediums.

Arturo Perez Martinez, Ambassador of Spain to Bangladesh will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Professor Abul Barakat, president, Bangladesh Economic Association and chairman of Janata Bank, will be present as special guest. Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury will preside over the inaugural session.



Way to the Pilgrim

Street theatre festival in Kishoreganj

TAFSHILUL AZIZ, Kishoreganj

A three-day long street theatre festival in Kishoreganj ended recently.

Bangladesh Potho Natok Parishad, in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, organised the festival at Shahid Minar premises on

Gurudayal Government College campus in Kishoreganj. Nine theatre groups staged their plays during the festival with the slogan "Natok hobey raajpothe, jibon-juddho eki shathe".

Most of the plays at the festival focused on Liberation War, need to bring war criminals to justice, corruption, eve teasing, underage marriage and other social issues.

On the inaugural day, Nobodiganta Theatre staged the play

"Shyamol Chhaya"; Charjapad Natyagoshthi staged "Jaal" and Manobadhikar Natya Goshthi staged "Aundher Dhondo".

On the second day, Nibedita Natyangang staged the play "Chhokku Pagla" and Bahubreehi Natya Parishad staged "Khapa Paglar Pyachal".

On the concluding day of the festival, Chandrabote Theatre staged the play "Trash"; Procheeto Shangkritik Parishad staged "Ekhone Shomoy" and Ekota Natya Goshthi, Kishoreganj staged the play "Royal Bengal Tiger". Sharif Sadi, principal of Kishoreganj Municipality Women's College inaugurated the festival.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

Nazrul Memorial Centres: In Dire Need of Attention



The Nazrul Memorial Centre in Kazir Shimla.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Nazrul memorabilia at two Smriti Kendra (memorial centres) in villages Kazir Shimla and Namapara, of Darairampur, Trishal draw the attention of visitors far and wide.

Nazrul, born in Churulia of Burdwan district, West Bengal on May 25, 1899 spent a year of his boyhood in Kazir Shimla and Darairampur in Trishal here and studied at Darairampur High School.

Later Nazrul lodged at the House of Bechutia Bepari at Namapara, as his school was far from Kazir Shimla. However, Namapara is given more importance than Kazir Shimla, say locals.

Later Kazi Rafizullah, a sub-inspector of police, took Nazrul to his village home at Kazir Shimla in 1914.

Nazrul memorabilia housed at the two centres include gramophones and records (released by His Masters Voice Company); manuscripts in Bengali, English, Hindi and Urdu; a cot used by Nazrul during his stay at Kazir Shimla and some rare black and white photographs of the poet.

The memorabilia can be seen on the second floor of the centres. Though the memorabilia collection is meagre, visitors flock enthusiastically to have a view, says Kazi Azizul Haque, an employee of Kazir Shimla Nazrul Smriti Kendra.

He also said that the old library, which was deserted after the construction of the Smriti Kendra in 2003, can be re-launched as a rest house for tourists who come from distant places.

Professor Syed Giasuddin Ahmed, vice-chancellor of Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University said that the collection of Nazrul memorabilia at both the centres should be increased for the benefit of visitors. People, including students from far and near visit the centre everyday, he added.

The library at each centre should be enriched with more books and other facilities like residential quarters for Nazrul researchers, said Ahmed.

Azfar Rahman, a professor of the Bengali Department of Govt. Ananda Mohan College said that, Nazrul is a beacon who encourages us to raise our voices against fundamentalism, oppression and injustice, so the collection of memorabilia should be better taken care of.

Durdana Khanam, daughter-in-law of Kazi Rafizullah, said that her family

donated land for the Nazrul Library in 1974 but the establishment is unfortunately in a derelict state now. "We want greater development of the memorial centres with proper supervision by the government," said Durdana.

There were pledges on different occasions marking the poet's birth anniversary celebration, to establish other institutions at Kazir Shimla to pay homage to Nazrul, but such pledges are yet to be fulfilled, lament the locals.

The pledges include the establishment of two faculties of Nazrul University -- Agriculture and Cultural -- and an open place for "Nazrul Mela", but no initiative



PHOTO: STAR

A gramophone used by Nazrul.

has yet been taken, said Kazi Wahid, a 3rd year student of Mymensingh Polytechnic Institute.

On the concluding day of the national-level celebration marking the Nazrul birth anniversary, a simple programme is organised annually at Kazir Shimla but there is a thin turnout, said residents of Kazir Shimla.

The two memorial centres also face acute shortage of staff. Though openings for 17 posts at the two centres were announced in 2003, the establishments are run by a skeleton staff of five, of whom four are on a daily basis, according to sources.

BTV	03:05 Cartoon	11:35 Ebong Class-er Bairey
04:30	Bachori	01:05 Bangla Feature Film
05:05	Jatiya Television School	04:30 Drama Serial: Alokit
	Bitarko	Angin
08:40	Krishti Dibanshi	09:05 Moner Kotha
09:05	Drama	11:25 Probashi Mukh
ATN BANGLA	04:30	Desh TV
11:35	Chhobir Gaan	04:30 Desh Janpad
12:10	Motamot	04:30 Durpath
07:25	Chuchitra-er Galpo	06:30 Bajarye Notun
04:25	Matir Subash	07:45 Hothat Ekdin
06:20	Aladin	12:30 Total Sports
10:45	Bihango Kotha	10:30 Bangla Feature Film
01:05	Ebong Cinemar Gaan	04:15 Shorashori Doctor
03:10	Abhan	05:15 Boishakhi-CNN
05:15	Krishti Shangbad	Sharabishwa
09:35	Veet Channel i Top	05:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan
11:30	Travel On	Reporters Diary
		Boishakhi Samkriti O
		Binodon Sangbad

abc radio FM 90.2	12:00	My Time
09:00	Mukhonto Jibony	01:00 No Tempon
12:00	Duron Dapurey	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00	Duranto Bikley	09:00 Night Rider
05:00	Shondhata	01:00 Back to Back music
07:00	Shajer Maya	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
09:00	Rak-er Akshay	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:00	Gulper Shesh Nei	12:00 Today's Adda
Radio Foorti	04:00	U Turn
10:00	Morning Express	10:05 Today Tai Hak

No Problem
On BANGLAVISION at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Kollan
Korishi, Nafiza

Spider-Man 2
On 2 Studio at 09:30pm
Genre: Action/
Crime
Cast: Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst

Lolita
On ETV at 09:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Anisur Rahman Milon, Sumaiya Shimu

12:20	Bangladesh-er Kotha Balchhi	Diganta TV
09:05	Shombhabonar Bangla-desh	
08:45	Bangla Feature Film	01:30 Alokit Poth
01:00	Shastha Protidin	06:30 Suphala Bangladesh
04:10	Janar Achhey Balaar	08:05 Desh Mahadesh
	Achhey	09:25 Chitra Bichitra
05:30	Aponar Jigasha	12:05 News of the Day
06:45	Ogrojo	
09:00	Maggi Test an Balance	Z Studio
ETV		11:00 Angie
10:02	Desh Jurey Oporadh	01:30 The Godfather: Part III
	Porikroma	Friday the 13th Part VIII:
11:30	Ekushey-er Business	Jason Takes Manhattan
04:30	DW Today Tomorrow	Love Story
07:50	Tara Bhora Raatley	07:30 Spider-Man 2
10:10	Sine Hits	11:45 Along Came a Spider
12:05	Ekushey-er Raat	Star Movies
Rtv		11:35 I Love You, Beth Cooper
12:35	Tawheed-er Marshid	03:05 Half Past Dead 2
	Amarr	A Few Good Men
01:10	Bangla Feature Film	07:00 Sniper 3
05:00	Protidin-er Gaan	10:05 Nobel Sen
09:50	Bridal Show	11:55 Reign of Fire
11:30	Drama Serial: Bak Bakum Payra	HBO
	Protidin-er Patrika	03:00 Where The Wild Things Are
12:00	Banglavisoon	05:15 Thunderbirds
09:05	Shudhu Gaan	07:15 Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason

DRAMA SERIAL			
ATN BANGLA		Rtv	
08:00pm	Maqbul	08:20pm	Busy for Nothing
09:20pm	Parapar	09:05pm	Boiya Paribar
CHANNEL i		BANGLAVISION	
05:30pm	Jato Durey Jai	08:15pm	No Problem
07:50pm	Shogno Bazar	ETV	
ntv		08:20pm	Ohongkar
08:15pm	Manabzamin	09:30pm	Lolita
11:30pm	Akash Chhoya	Desh TV	

rtv	10:25pm	Digital Bangladesh	12:10pm	Ei Shomoy
ATN BANGLA	11:05am	Vision 2020	10:40am	Tarkalop
CHANNEL i	11:30pm	Je Kotha Keu Boloni	07:40pm	Our Democracy
09:45am	Trito Matra	BANGLAVISION	06:30pm	Front Line
12:30pm	Taroka Kothon	Desh TV	11:45pm	Shoja Kotha
rtv		Boishakhi TV		

BTV	10:25pm	Digital Bangladesh	12:10pm	Ei Shomoy
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rtv		Boishakhi TV		