

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 Chitra, Dhamondi
Date: May 27-June 15
Time: 10am-8pm

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

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

Solo Sarod Recital
Artist: Abhisek Lahiri
Organiser: IGCC, High Commission of India, Dhaka.
Venue: Music and Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

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

Jewellery Exhibition
To raise fund for tsunami victims in Japan
Organiser: Aadi
Venue: 1 Zumi, H 24, Rd 113, Gulshan 2
Date: May 27-28, Time:

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

1st Dhaka Int'l Theatre Festival

Adaptations of and experiments on classics on the stage



Scenes from "Muktadhara" (top) and "Eti Yokaste".

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Three local troupes staged four plays on the second day (May 22) of the ongoing 1st Dhaka International Theatre Festival at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI) has arranged the festival with support of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and BSA.

Among the three troupes, Theatre and Theatre Art Unit staged "Muktadhara" and "Magoj Shamachar" respectively at the National Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall. Aranyak staged two plays -- "Eti Yokaste" and "To Be or Not To Be" -- at the Experimental Theatre Hall.

Both Theatre and Theatre Art Unit's plays are adaptations of Rabindranath Tagore's literary works.

Theatre brought "Muktadhara" to the stage as homage to Tagore on his 150th birth anniversary. Naïla Azad has directed the play that featured a group of young actors. Among seasoned thespians, Ferdousi Majumdar and Traupa Majumdar performed in the play.

The storyline focuses on a dam constructed on a waterfall called 'Muktadhara'. The King of Uttarkut, Ranjit, has ordered the royal engineer Bibhuti to build the dam. The intention is to teach the people of Shibtara a good lesson, since they often disobey the King. Bibhuti does so but the kind and compassionate Prince Abhijit does not agree with his father's plan. His compassion and refusal to allow the King to exploit the people of Shibtara, prompts him to demolish the dam and let loose the force of the waterfall.

Theatre Art Unit's "Magoj Shamachar" is

based on Tagore's poem "Juta Abishkar". The play features an anarchic king of an imaginary state, who is surrounded by silly sycophants. Hasan Shahriar is the play-wright, and Saif Suman is the director of the play. Through the play, the director has tried to address the sad reality of the political culture in a comic way.

Aranyak's plays are experimental adaptations of world classics. "Eti Yokaste" is an adaptation of the Greek classic "Oedipus". Through improvisational performances, the play tries to explore the woes of Jocasta, the mother and wife of King Oedipus. The play was written and directed by Deepak Suman.

"To Be or Not To Be" is an adaptation of the Shakespeare classic "Hamlet". Abu Hasim Masduzzaman has directed and written the play.

Today three plays will be staged. The department of Theatre, Dhaka University will stage "Dumb Waiter" at the National Theatre Hall. Padatik Natya Sangshad and Dhaka Drama will stage "Janomanko" and "Chhaya Brikkho" respectively at the Experimental and Studio Theatre Hall.



Three-day programme in Trishal on Nazrul's 112th birth anniversary

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A three-day national level programme marking the 112th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will begin in Trishal here (at Nazrul Stage) on May 25. Jointly organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Mymensingh district administration, the celebration is to conclude on May 27.

The programme includes a rally, discussions, cultural shows, congregation of poets and staging of plays. Eminent artistes of the country will attend the cultural shows at the celebration. A fair, titled 'Nazrul Mela' will also be held at Trishal upazila headquarters marking the occasion.

President Md. Zillur Rahman is expected to formally inaugurate the programme as chief guest. Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, will preside over the event.



State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Advocate Promod Mankin; Advocate Reza Ali, MP and Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Syed Ashrafur Islam will be special guests. Secretary to Cultural Affairs Ministry,

Suraiya Begum; Nazrul's granddaughter Khilkhil Kazi and Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Lokman Hossain Miah will also address the inaugural session. Poet Nurul Huda will deliver a lecture on Nazrul.

Cultural organisations from the district and Dhaka will perform at the celebration.

On the second day, May 26, adviser to the Prime Minister, H.T. Imam, will be the chief guest. State Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Captain (Retd.) Mujibur Rahman Fakir; Professor M. Amanullah, MP; Hayat Rahman Khan, MP and Vice-Chancellor of Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) in Trishal, Professor Syed Giasuddin Ahmed, will be special guests. Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Lokman Hossain Miah will preside over the programme.

On the concluding day, May 27, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid

will be the chief guest.

Meanwhile, JKNIU, named after the "rebel poet", has also undertaken a three-day programme on the campus marking the poet's birth anniversary. The programme includes rally, cultural shows, debate competitions for children, a book fair and a photo exhibition on Nazrul.

Dr. A.K. Azad Chowdhury, chairman of University Grants Commission, will inaugurate the programme as chief guest.

A cultural function will mark the three-day celebration at Gahi Samyer Gaan Stage on the campus, sources said.

Different socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions across the district will also observe the birth anniversary of Nazrul with different programmes.

Nazrul stayed for about a year in his boyhood in Trishal and studied at Darirampur High School.

Pop Sensation of Yesteryears Pilu Momtaz Passes Away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pop phenomenon of yesteryears, Pilu Momtaz, is no more. She died of heart attack at Apollo Hospital, Dhaka at around 2am yesterday. She was 52. Born in Dhaka, Pilu Momtaz was the third of renowned artiste Ustad Momtaz Ali's seven children.

In the newly independent Bangladesh, Pilu Momtaz, along with her peers -- Azam Khan, Ferdous Wahid, Fakir Alamgir and Najma Zaman -- initiated 'Bangla Pop' that attained mass popularity.

Pilu Momtaz was a treat to the ears and eyes on TV and on stage. Her impassioned vocals dominated the radio waves as well. Her mega-hits include "Ekdin Tho Choley Jabo", "Chara Gaachh-e Phool Phuitachhey", "Majhi Nao Chhaira Dey" (a Jasim Uddin song), "Rita Choley Jeo Na" and more.

Her covers of familiar folk songs "Orey Sampanwala" and "Nani Go Nani" amplified her fame.

Her last stage performance was a chorus with Ferdous Wahid and Fakir Alamgir at last year's 'Citycell-Channel i Music Awards'. The trio dedicated their performance of the classic "Ek Second-er Nai Bhorosha" to their late friend, singer Firoz Shai.

Critics and music enthusiasts observe that the contemporary Bangladeshi female Pop artistes are knowingly and unknowingly influenced by the style Pilu Momtaz pioneered.

The artiste left behind her husband Lieutenant Colonel Anwaruzzaman and their only daughter Homayra Zaman Mou and a number of fans and well wishers. Her namaz-e-janaza was held yesterday after the Aasr prayer at DOHS Bandhara Jaam-e-Mosque. Later, she was buried at Banani graveyard, next to her father's grave.



Impressive Cultural Diplomacy

Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi hosts programme honouring Tagore

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The Maitree (Friendship) Hall at the Bangladesh High Commission here was, on May 21, the venue of a "jugalbanti" (duet) featuring Rabindra Sangeet singer Dr. Chanchal Khan and reciter Dahlia Ahmed on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Both Khan and Ahmed were on show in the Indian capital for the first time and they ensured it was a memorable one. Recital of Tagore's songs by Ahmed and their rendition by Khan followed each other in turn for one and half hours in front of a packed audience that included Chief Minister of Meghalaya state, diplomats, leading cultural personalities, Bangladeshi expatriates working in international organisations and NGOs, students from Bangladesh, and the Mission officials and their family members.

The programme began with the Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Tariq Ahmed Karim welcoming the guests. Karim spoke about the universality of the spirit of Tagore and the joint celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of the poet by Bangladesh and India.

The sizable presence of non-Bangla speaking people in the audience was not disappointed because Chanchal Khan also rendered the English versions of the songs and explained their theme, background and context. He was ably supported by Ahmed.

In the interest of non-Bengali audience, Khan recalled the influence of Irish, Scottish and English folk music

traditions on Tagore's songs and sang the numbers "Ami Kaa Petey Roi" and "Amar Poth Chawatei Ananda" to buttress his point.

Khan also sung Tagore's songs influenced by the Baul tradition and also "Baro Asha Korey" and "Laboney Purno Pran" whose music had originated from Carnatic ragas.

The showstopper, however, came when Khan rendered "Jodi Tor Daak Shuney Keu Na Aashey" in Bangla and then its English translation by late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to wrap up the programme by drawing the 250-plus audience into the song.

"It is not merely a song. It is an inspiration. I deliberately chose Indira Gandhi's translation because she was a Visva Bharati student when Tagore was alive," Khan told The Daily Star later.

Dahlia Ahmed's recitation of Tagore's poetry in Bangla and English with her usual flair and smoothness captivated the audience.

The function also brought to light once again an often-hidden talent of Bangladesh's Deputy High Commissioner Mahbub Hassan Saleh as a recitation artist. On a request from Chanchal Khan, the diplomat recited the poem "Sonar Tori".

The programme was yet another feather in the hat of the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, which has in the last two years unleashed cultural diplomacy. In a refreshing break from the past. The cultural diplomacy has seen holding of a first-ever Bangladesh Film Festival in the Indian capital a year ago -- a resounding success -- and screening of films by directors like Zahir Raihan.



Chanchal Khan (centre) and Dahlia Ahmed (to his right) at the programme.

Monica Jahan Bose's solo painting exhibition in Washington D.C.

The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington D.C. recently held artist Monica Jahan Bose's solo painting exhibition, titled "Who Have You Left Behind?". The exhibition featured bold mixed-media paintings and a feminist, fabric installation, using burnt saris and other materials. This exhibition was part of the celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Tagore, according to a press release.

The 31 paintings at the exhibition were fragmented narratives -- often autobiographical, telling stories with underlying nuances about the

rights of women, religious fundamentalism, and global warming. Bose's works also reflect the immigrant experience of longing and displacement. Blending together text, fabric, photographs and symbols from east and west, Bose has charted out a unique visual language befitting her diverse professional background and heritage.

Akrumil Qader, the Bangladesh Ambassador to U.S.A., inaugurated the exhibition. The opening was attended by American art enthusiasts, expatriate Bangladeshis, and other nationals. The exhibition ended yesterday.



Visitors at the exhibition.

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!!!!



Cannes Gives Top Prize to "The Tree of Life"

In a strong year that was nearly eclipsed by off-screen scandals, the top prize for the 64th Cannes Film Festival was given to "The Tree of Life," the long-awaited film from the American director and writer Terrence Malick. A story about transcendence that divided critics, who were alternately transported and turned off by its religious themes and elliptical storytelling, it is the first film from Malick since "The New World" (2005). The famously shy Malick did not appear to accept his award, which was introduced by Jane Fonda, who spoke in emphatic French before saying, "And maintenant, now, let's cut to the chase." The competition jury president, Robert De Niro, hurriedly announced the winner.

In addition to De Niro -- who received a standing ovation on taking the stage -- the jury included the actors Uma Thurman, Jude Law and Martina Gusman; the writer Linn Ullmann (the daughter of Liv Ullmann and Ingmar Bergman); and the directors Olivier Assayas, Johnnie To and Mahamat Saleh Haroun.

It had been a strange, even surreal festival marked by ecstatic visions and doomsday fantasies and nearly hijacked when the Danish director Lars von Trier, in competition with "Melancholia," announced at the press conference for his movie -- perhaps jokingly and certainly stupidly -- that he was a Nazi. He later apologised, but was thereafter declared persona non grata by the

Cannes board of directors. "Melancholia" remained in competition for the Palme d'Or in name only, and many thought that von Trier's remarks would cost one of his stars, the widely praised Kirsten Dunst, the female acting prize. But she won.

The best actor prize went to Jean Dujardin, a star of "The Artist," a silent-cinema tribute -- in black and white and with almost no dialogue -- from the French director Michel Hazanavicius.

The Grand Prix, effectively the award for the Palme runner-up, was shared by "Once Upon a Time in Anatolia," a 157-minute metaphysical road movie from the Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan, and "The Kid With a Bike," a story about a child dumped by a parent, from the Belgian filmmaking brothers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne.

The directing prize went, somewhat surprisingly, to another Dane, Nicolas Winding Refn, for "Drive," starring Ryan Gosling as a stunt wheelman for the movies who also works as a getaway driver. The movie had its fans, especially perhaps those who were happy for a jolt of action (and English dialogue) amid all the art films.

The jury prize was given to "Polisse," from the actress-turned-director Maïwenn, who also appears in this rather frenetic if engaging drama about cops working in a child protection unit.



(Top) Jean Dujardin won the best actor prize for his role in "The Artist", by Michel Hazanavicius; Kirsten Dunst poses with her award for Best Actress at Cannes.

The Israeli writer and director Joseph Cedar deservedly won the screenwriting prize for "Footnote," a story about warring father-and-son Talmudic scholars. Cedar wasn't there to accept in person, having not yet returned to Cannes from Tel Aviv.

The Palme d'Or for the short film competition went to "Cross Country," from the Ukrainian director Maryna Vroda; the Jury Prize was given to "Badpakje 46" from the Belgian director Wannes Desteop. The Camera d'Or, for a first-time director, went to "Las Acacias" from Pablo Giorgelli, which was in Critics' Week, a separate competitive parallel section. The grand prize at Critics' Week was won by "Take Shelter," from the American director Jeff Nichols, which had first played at Sundance.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

ATN BANGLA		Z Studio	
12:15	Off Time	10:30	Harsh Times
01:25	ATN Music	01:30	Spider-Man 2
06:20	Katha Mala	04:30	Along Came a Spider
08:00	Mokul	07:30	Duplex
10:45	Bihango Kotha	09:30	Fun With Dick and Jane
10:55	Nandini		
CHANNEL i		12:20	The Manchurian Candidate
11:05	Khudsey Gaanraj		
01:05	Ebong Cinemar		
	Gaan	10:45	Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason
01:30	Hridoyer Gaan		
04:05	Arshinagar	02:45	The Punisher
12:00	Aajker Shangbadpatro	05:15	Terminator Salvation
ntv		07:30	Don Juan DeMarco
		09:30	The Informant!
11:00	Rupmadhury	11:45	Cocodile
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolar		
	Achhey		
		Star Movies	
05:30	Ajker Jiggasha	11:20	Sniper 3
06:45	Crime Watch	02:55	A Knight's Tale
RADIO			
abc radio FM 89.2		07:30	Hello Dhaka
06:00	Bhorer Janalay	10:00	Morning Express
06:30	Mukhotojoyee	12:00	No Tension
07:00	Duran Durany	04:00	Dhaka Giding
03:00	Duranto Sikoley	09:00	Kolkata Filles
05:00	Shovella Taz	RADIO 100.0 FM 89.6	
07:00	Shajer-Maye	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
09:00	Rait-er Akashay	12:30	Today's Adda
11:00	Galper Sheshi Mei	04:00	U Turn
Radio Foorti		07:00	Taty's Hot

Fanush
On Channel i at 09:35pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Jitu Ahsan, Noushin

The Informant!
On HBO at 09:30pm
Genre: Comedy/Drama
Cast: Matt Damon, Lucas McHugh, Carroll

Gohiney
On Desh TV at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Subarna Mustafa, Raisul Islam Asad

08:15	Manabjamine	05:10	Code, The
09:00	Glamour World	07:00	Bewitched
		08:50	Trade
		10:50	Adam
01:10	Bangla Feature Film	12:35	Mary Shelley's Frankenstein
05:00	Protidin-er Gaan		
05:30	Amader Ward		
12:00	Protidin-er Potrika		
12:05	Come Focus		
BANGLAVISION		10:30	How I Met Your Mother
09:05	Shushui Gaan	03:30	Degrassi: The Next Generation
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	09:00	The Simpsons
06:30	Style File	10:30	Doctor
11:25	Rat Biratey	12:00	Family Guy
Desh TV		11:30	National Geographic Channel
04:00	Desh Janopad	10:30	Creative Vision
04:30	Durpath	11:30	Nat Geo Wild
06:30	Obak Prithibi	03:30	Seconds from Disaster
07:45	Bhondol Dunिया	07:30	I Didn't Know That
12:30	Total Sports	09:30	Big, Bigger, Biggest
		11:30	Great Migrations
Boishakhi TV		11:30	Discovery Channel
10:30	Bangla Feature Film	10:30	The Science of Sex Appeal
04:15	Shorashori Doctor	11:30	Rampage
05:15	Boishakhi-CNN Shara		
	Reporter's Diary	02:30	Destroyed in Seconds
10:00		07:30	Discovery Saved My Life
11:30	Boishakhi Bhondol O Sanskriti Sangbad	10:30	I Shouldn't Be Alive
		11:30	Future Weapons

DRAMA SERIAL			
ATN BANGLA		08:20pm	Busy for Nothing
09:05pm	Poosh Phaguneri Pala	09:00pm	Boya Paribar
CHANNEL i		11:30pm	Namur Bhan Jamindari
05:30pm	Joto Durey Jai	BANGLAVISION	
09:35pm	Fanush	08:15pm	No Problem
ntv		09:45pm	Gulshan Avenue
09:45pm	Dorshoker Golpo	Desh TV	
11:30pm	Akash Chhoya	08:15pm	Gohiney
Rtv		09:45pm	Sat Kahon

ATN BANGLA	08:20pm	News (Bangla)
09:20pm	Poosh Phaguneri Pala	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 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, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
05:30pm	Jato Durey Jai	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
09:35pm	Fanush	ETV
ntv		News (Bangla): 9:00am, 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm.

TALK SHOW		
ATN BANGLA	10:40am	Tarokalap
10:30am	Lead News	Our Democracy
11:10am	Vision 2020	
CHANNEL i	06:05pm	BANGLAVISION Sports Time
09:45am	Tristio Matra	
12:30pm	Taroka Kothon	Desh TV
ntv		11:45pm Shoja Kotha
12:10pm	Ei Shomoy	
Rtv		Boishakhi TV