

WHAT'S ON

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

**Nazrul Festival**  
Organisers: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad & Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Music & Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

**Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 3-17  
Time: 7pm everyday

**19th National Art Exhibition**  
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 28-June 17

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Essence of Mystery  
Artist: Tanak Mahadi  
Venue: La Galerie Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 3-16

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Falah  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A, JH-60, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 17-July 1  
Time: 11am-8pm

**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Title: In Search 2  
Photographer: Naymuzzaman Prince  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 3-14; Time: 12-9pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Bay of Bengal in Focus-1  
Venue: 15/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 5-8  
Time: 3-8pm



CIRCUS IN THE CITY

Though lately, the urban, educated class is seemingly uninterested in circus, the shows at BSA have generated interest among people from all walks of life.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



A CORRESPONDENT

The exotic acrobatics and caricatures by two circus troupes are drawing more crowds than Bangladesh Shipakala Academy (BSA) premises can possibly accommodate. Organised by the Department of Dramatics & Motion Picture, BSA, the eight-day circus festival features performances by The Lion Circus of Dhaka (June 1-4) and The Rowshan Circus from Nilphamari (since June 5).

Though lately, the urban, educated class is seemingly uninterested in circus, the shows at BSA have generated interest among people from all walks of life. The crowd seemed amused by the tricks of the dwarfs and jesters, while a balancing act on a rope had them thrilled with apprehension of an accident.

A common feature of both circus

troupes is the pranks and comic acts by a dwarf and a jester. The tricksters had the audience break down in laughter. The Lion Circus Troupe's act, titled "Loose Rope Balancing", had a man demonstrating several skills while maintaining balance on a rope, tied seven feet high across the stage. It was probably the most exciting part of the show.

The Rowshan Circus troupe's performance was truly entertaining although some of the acts seemed a little crass at times. The bellowing crowds seemed incredulous when a member of the troupe swallowed gallons of water without a pause and then filled empty jugs with the water coming out of his mouth.

"Chinese Latim Balance", "Fire Dance" and "Roller Skating on the Table" are among the most enjoyable acts by The Rowshan Circus.

The festival ends on June 8.



Programme highlighting Nazrul's life and works

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Marking the 112th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, a programme highlighting the secular, humanist ideology of the poet, was held on June 4 in the district.

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi's Sathkira unit organised the programme that included a discussion, recitation of poems, play, songs and dances. The discussion was held at Sathkira Officers' Club auditorium with Udichi Sathkira unit's president Maniruzzaman Chhattu in the chair.

Sathkira deputy commissioner Md Kefayetullah was the chief guest.

Nazrul researcher Sheikh Karimul Alam; Professor Abdul Hamid; Professor Nimai Mandal; poet Paltru Bashar, among others, took part in the discussion on the life and literary works of Nazrul.

Paying homage to Nazrul, the speakers said that the nation is indebted to him for his immense contribution to Bangla literature and music. They were of the view that the "rebel poet" enlightened the society through his inspiring poetry, songs, novels and plays.

Nazrul's anti-imperialist and revolutionary writings inspired people to take part in nationalist movements, they said.

After discussion, the cultural programme was held at the venue.

Spirit of Liberation War in Focus  
Three-day theatre festival in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A three-day street theatre festival ended in Pabna on Saturday amid much festivity. In association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh Patha Natak Parishad, leading theatre troupe of Pabna, Darpan Sangskritik Goshthi, organised the festival held at Pabna Town Hall premises.

Additional deputy commissioner, Pabna Md. Sajedul Islam inaugurated the festival on June 2. President of Darpan Sangskritik Goshthi, A.N.M Hai Al Hadi chaired the opening programme. Professor Md. Abdul Mannan; Professor Md. Abdul Latif and president of Shammilito Sangskritik Jote's Pabna unit, Biplob Bhattacharya spoke on the occasion.

The speakers stressed on the role of street theatre in generating awareness on various social issues among the masses. Theatre is a powerful weapon to combat the bleak reality, they added.

Street theatre is more significant as it

reaches people from all walks of life who don't have the opportunity to attend proscenium-based performances, they were of the view.

Ten plays were staged during the three-day festival. Troupes from Pabna and adjoining districts staged their productions at the festival.

Plays staged at the festival were: "Shadhinota Dirghoshshash" by Darpan; "Shironamhin" by Gonoshilpi Sangstha, Pabna; "Mahabidya" by Manobadhikar Natyoparishad, Pabna; "Ponta Okali" by Railway Artists Group, Ishwardi; "Koibollo" by Opera Natyoparishad, Dhaka; "Rajai-Rajai" by Nondon Theatre, Kushtia; "Mohono" by Chiknai Theatre, Chatmohar; "Rajai Bengal Tiger" by Anushilin Ashi and "Shadhinota Judhho" by Theatre 77.

"All plays staged at the festival reverberated the spirit of the Liberation War. Through this festival we have tried to inspire people to keep the values of our freedom movement alive," A.N.M Hai Al Hadi, president of Darpan, said.

Nazrul Festival at Shilpakala Academy



Artistes of Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad during a chorus (top); Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay reads Nazrul's speech "Jodi Aar Banshi Na Bajey" at the festival.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Marking 112th birth anniversary of the National Poet, Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad (NSSP), in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), has arranged a five-day Nazrul Utshab (festival) at National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of BSA. Nazrul exponent and head of trustee board of Nazrul Institute, Professor Rafiqul Islam, inaugurated the festival as chief guest on June 5.

President and general secretary of NSSP, Ferdousi Rahman and Sujit Mustafa respectively, spoke at the opening programme.

Sujit Mustafa informed the audience on the current activities and upcoming projects of NSSP. Ferdousi Rahman demanded a Nazrul Practice Centre where artistes can rehearse and practise the creations of the National Poet throughout the year.

In his moving speech, Professor Rafiqul Islam said, "This year

marks 90th anniversary of Nazrul's "Bidrohi", one of the most powerful poems of the 20th century. "Bidrohi" ushered in a new era; brought about an assertive masculinity in Bangla poetry and inspired the nation to boldly speak out against oppression. This poem boosted the morale of freedom fighters during the Liberation War as well."

Referring to an essay, titled "Banglar Bangla", written in 1940/41 by Nazrul, Professor Rafiqul Islam quoted the poet as saying, "Bangla Banglar houk; Banglar jai houk; Banglar jai houk."

The cultural part of the programme kicked off with a chorus "Tora Shob Jaidhwan Ki" by artistes of NSSP. Another chorus, "Ami Purab Desh-er Puro Nari", by singers of Nazrul Lalitkala Kendra followed.

Among seasoned artistes, Nashid Kamal rendered "Prem Katari Laag Gayi" while Yasmin Mushari performed "Shokhi Bandh-lo Bandh-lo Jhulonia".

Reciter Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay read out Nazrul's speech "Jodi Aar Banshi Na Bajey".

Badrunessa Dalia, Faizul Haque Bijoy, Chowdhury Mostak Hossen, Sharmin Shathi Islam, M.A. Mannan and others performed "Shanjher Pakhira Phirilo Kulaye", "Ami Jodi Arab Hotam", "Gul Bagichar Bulbuli Ami", "Keno Kande Poran Ki Bedonaye", "Amina Dulal Nachey Halimar Koley" and more on the first day of the festival.

Warda Rehab presented two dances at the event, and Alauddin Mian played tunes of Nazrul Sangeet on his violin. The festival features instrumental renditions of Nazrul compositions: saxophone, guitar, flute and sitar on each day.

Gazi Abdul Hakim on flute, Firoz Khan on sitar, Almas Ali on violin, Pallab Sanyal on tabla, Binod Roy on keyboard and Taffmin Khan on guitar instrumentally assisted the singers.

The event was hosted by Dr. Nashid Kamal.



National Theatre Festival '11  
Natyakendra stages "Aroj Charitamrita"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Natyakendra staged its production "Aroj Charitamrita" on June 5 at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The show was part of the ongoing fortnight-long National Theatre Festival, organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation.

Based on the life and works of philosopher Aroj Ali Matubbar, the play has been written by Masum Reza. Tarique Anam Khan directed the play.

The play depicts the hardship that the philosopher suffered throughout his life because of his values and convictions.

Aroj Ali, a self-taught philosopher, was born in 1900 in the village of Lamchari, Barisal district. He studied for only a few months at the village maqtab (religious school). He acquired most of his knowledge on varied subjects, including

science and philosophy, through his own efforts. He shunned conventional religious traditions, and for this, he was treated as a blasphemer by his neighbours.

Aroj Ali Matubbar died in 1985. His writings "Shotyer Shandhaney" (The Quest for Truth) and "Srishtir Rahashya" (The Mystery of Creation) are widely acclaimed.

The play narrates the philosopher's life, starting from his early childhood.

Lincoln Abhi played the adolescent Aroj, while Abid Rehan played the adult Aroj. Lucy Tripti Gomes played Aroj's wife. The cast also included Jhuna Chowdhury, Yusuf Hassan and Sangeeta Chowdhury.

Mosharraf Karim directed the music. Tauquid Ahmed designed the set of the play.

The same day, Barisal Natok staged Manik Bandyopadhyay's "Pragaitashik" at the National Theatre Hall.

The National Theatre festival will continue till June 17. Today, Theatre Art Unit will stage "Amina Shundori" at the National Theatre Hall, while Aranyak Natyadal will stage "Baraang" at the Experimental Theatre Hall.



A scene from the play.

54TH VENICE BIENNALE

Old Gleam Encircles Fresh Art

"Illuminations," the title of the main exhibition at the 54th Venice Biennale, is meant to evoke the notion of artists as a source of enlightenment. But that does not necessarily mean new, cutting-edge artists. Much of this Biennale is more subdued and less experimental than in years past, more of a nostalgic meditation on life and art than a revelatory peek into the future.

Bice Curiger, this year's director, underscored this with the first three artworks that visitors encounter on entering the Palace of Exhibitions, the 1895 colonnaded building at the centre of the Giardini di Castello, the historic home of the Biennale. Rather than starting her show with work by living artists, as most would have expected, she installed three paintings by the 16th-century Venetian master Jacopo Tintoretto, creating a chapel-like aura in the grand central hall.

"I like to think of Tintoretto as an outsider," she said, adding that many of the contemporary artists in the show -- including established figures like Cindy Sherman, Christopher Wool, Seth Price and Sigmar Polke -- could be considered outsiders as well.

"It's anti-classicism," Bice explained of the Tintorettoes, on loan from the nearby Gallerie dell'Accademia and the church of San Giorgio Maggiore. "His demolition of a static order, the loss of harmony." In his "Last Supper" from 1594, for example, "Christ is no longer at the centre of the scene, and the table lies diagonally across the painting."

Finding the new in the very old does make a certain sense in this ancient city set in a shimmering lagoon, where the Biennale will be on view until November 27. A treasure-hunt-like patchwork of exhibitions scattered across the city, it runs the



Untitled wax sculptures by the Swiss artist Urs Fischer burn slowly at the 54th Biennale in Venice.

gamut from immersive environments and one-artist shows to disjointed (and often confusing) sprawling exhibitions.

It is also a bigger event than ever, with 89 countries represented, 12 more than in 2009, including several first-timers, like Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Malaysia and tiny Andorra. Alongside them is Bice's exhibition, in two parts, one at the Giardini and the other at the nearby Arseneale, the network of shipyards, factories and warehouses where Venetian fleets were once built. There are also more off-site shows in the city, stuffed into abandoned churches, disused palaces and empty industrial buildings.

Some Venice Biennale-goers complained that much of the art

seemed outdated and flat. "It's reflective," said Lisa Phillips, director of the New Museum in New York. "With the governments controlling who gets the pavilions, they don't really capture the spirit of what's happening artistically. Maybe it's time to reconsider that practice."

But Thomas P. Campbell, director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, who was making his first trip to the Biennale, saw the spectacle differently. "Being a Venice newbie I am not as jaded as some of my colleagues, so I really enjoyed it," he said. "I found it chaotic, kaleidoscopic and exciting."

As the title "Illuminations" implies, the theme of light is ubiquitous. In the Arseneale lines formed to see one of the American artist James

Turrell's dreamy installations, in which changing light creates an alternate universe of space and color. Nearby the Swiss artist Urs Fischer caused something of a sensation with a monumental functioning wax candle in the full-scale form of Giovanni Bologna's 16th-century sculpture "The Rape of the Sabine Women."

Even video art had a historical story line. Pipilotti Rist, also Swiss, showed three framed LED screens with engravings of 18th-century Venice overlaid with 21st-century moving images of the sky and sea. And in the Japanese pavilion the artist Tabaimo created vast projections -- melding animated manga with traditional ukiyo-e (floating world) wood-block-inspired illustrations -- that cascade down curved and mirrored walls. The project, the artist has said, was about "receding into isolation in the face of globalisation."

More personal was the German pavilion, this year's winner for best national pavilion, which displayed work by Christoph Schlingensiefel, the artist and filmmaker. The entire space was transformed into a replica of the church where he spent his teenage years as an altar boy, with videos he made relating to his battle with cancer.

The artist Thomas Hirschhorn, whose environmental installation consumed the Swiss pavilion, also dealt with time. He created a science-fiction-like setting out of a mishmash of stuff -- old cell phones and televisions, computer screens, magazines, dolls and plastic chairs -- much of it wrapped in aluminium foil; it was a world of high-speed obsolescence.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

ATN BANGLA	Boishakhi TV
12:15 Off Time	10:30 Bangla Feature Film
01:25 Drama	04:15 Shorashori Doctor
06:15 Katha Mala	05:15 Boishakhi-CNN Shara
08:00 Mokbul	Bishwa
10:45 Bihanga Kotha	10:00 Reporter's Diary
10:55 Nandini	11:30 Boishakhi Binodon O Sanskriti Sangbad
CHANNEL i	Diganta TV
01:05 Ebong Cinemar	12:30 Score Cards
01:30 Hridoyer Gaan	03:30 Carrier Line
04:05 Business Talk	05:30 Dosh Diganata
07:50 Khudoy Gaanraj	08:00 Shahaj Mamush
12:00 Aajker Shangbadpatro	09:25 Ranna Banna
ntv	Z Studio
10:05 Android Master	04:30 25th Hour
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar	07:30 Wedding Daze
Achhey	09:30 Remember the Title
Ajker Jaggasha	12:00 Reign of Fire
06:45 Crime Watch	Star Movies
08:15 Manabjamin	

abc radio FM 90.2	7:00 Hello Dhaka
06:00 Bkorer Janaboy	10:00 Morning Express
09:00 Mukhonto Jhoney	12:00 No Tension
12:00 Duran Dugurey	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00 Duranto Bikeloy	05:00 Knight Riders
05:00 Shonkho Tara	06:00 RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
07:00 Shay-er Mara	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
09:00 Raak-er Akashy	12:00 Today's Adda
11:00 Galper Shech Nei	04:00 U Turn
Radio Footi	07:00 Tobey Tai Hok

**Poush**  
Phaguner Pala  
On ATN BANGLA at 09:20pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Sharmili Ahmed, Afroza Banu



**Carriers**  
On HBO at 11:30pm  
Genre: Drama/Horror  
Cast: Chris Pine, Piper Perabo



**Raat Biratey**  
On BANGLAVISION at 11:25pm  
Street Show  
Guest: Asad Chowdhury



ETV	11:05 Gone In Sixty Seconds
11:30 Ekushey-er Business (Live)	03:35 Everybody's Fine
04:30 Elating Belating	07:00 Letters To Juliet
05:50 Sports Plus	08:50 District 13 Ultimatum
06:30 Desh jurey Sanglap	10:35 Shadow Man
07:50 Need Paerar Gaan	HBO
10:10 Golpa Salpa Gaan	12:30 Bait
Rtv	01:00 Case 39
01:10 Bangla Feature Film	01:15 Yes Man
05:00 Protidin-er Gaan	09:30 Event Horizon
05:30 Amader Ward	11:30 Carriers
12:00 Protidin-er Potrika	Star World
12:05 Crime Focus	11:00 Family Guy
BANGLAVISION	08:50 Degenerate Housewives
09:05 Shudhui Gaan	08:30 Two And A Half Men
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	09:00 The Simpsons
05:25 Bajet Protidin	11:30 How I Met Your Mother
06:30 Style File	National Geographic Channel
09:05 Shurer Bhela	11:00 Creative Vision
11:25 Raat Biratey	03:30 True Stories
Desh TV	07:30 I Didn't Know That
04:00 Durh Janapad	09:30 Big, Bigger, Biggest
04:30 Dapath	11:30 Air Crash Investigation
06:30 Obak Pritibhi	Discovery Channel
07:45 Binodon Durya	11:30 Air crash Confidential
12:30 Total Sports	02:30 Rampage

ATN BANGLA	08:20pm Busy for Nothing
08:40pm Ora Kojon	09:05pm Boyra Paribar
09:20pm Poush Phaguner Pala	ETV
CHANNEL i	08:20pm Ohongkar
09:35pm Farush	09:35pm Ghazal Baki Bhai
ntv	BANGLAVISION
09:45pm Doshaker Golpo	08:15pm No Problem
11:30pm Terminal	Desh TV
Rtv	08:15pm Gohney

NEWS BULLETIN	
8TV	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30pm
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm	10:30pm
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels)	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 pm	News (English) at 6:00pm
CHANNEL-i	ntv
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 pm
ATN BANGLA	ETV
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm, 1:00am
	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm

ATN BANGLA	07:00pm Our Democracy
11:10am Vision 2020	BANGLAVISION
09:45am Trilo Mata	10:10pm Front Line
12:30pm Taroka Korhon	Desh TV
ntv	09:45pm Bondhu Ki Khobar
12:10pm Ei Shomoy	Bolo
Rtv	11:45pm Shoya Kotha
10:40am Tarokalap	Boishakhi TV
	12:00am Zero Hour