

WHAT'S ON



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



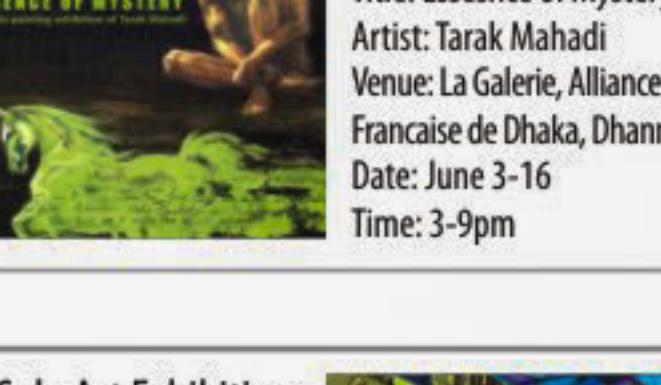
Nazul Festival
Organiser: Nazul Sangeet Shilpi
Partid: Shilpkala Academy
Venue: National Music & Dance
Centre Auditorium, Shilpkala
Academy
Date: June 5-9; Time: 6:30pm



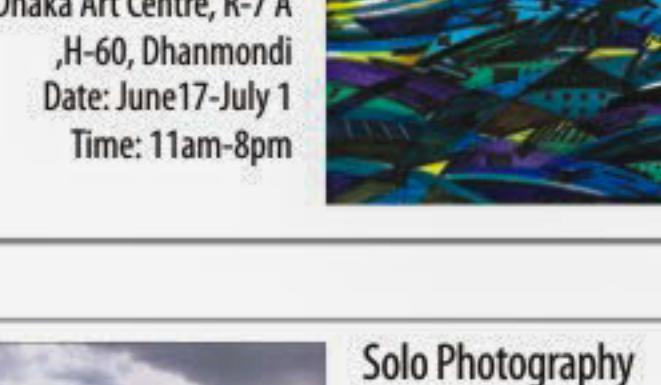
Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Group
Theater Federation
Venue: Shilpkala Academy
Date: June 3-17
Time: 7pm everyday



19th National Art
Exhibition
Organiser: Shilpkala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery,
Shilpkala Academy
Date: May 28-June 17
Time: 11am-8pm



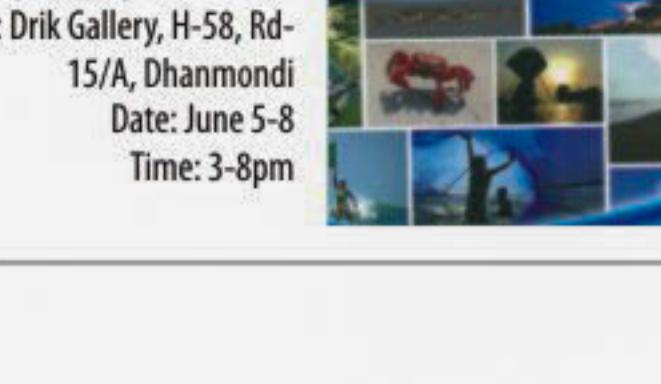
Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Essence of Mystery
Artist: Tarak Mahadi
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance
Francaise de Dhaka, Dhammconi
Date: June 3-16
Time: 3-9pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A
H-60, Dhammconi
Date: June 17-July 1
Time: 11am-8pm



Sole Photography
Exhibition
Title: Focus-2
Photographer: Noyuzmane Prince
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts,
Dhammconi
Date: June 3-14; Time: 12-8pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: Bay of Bengal in Focus-1
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-7
15/A, Dhammconi
Date: June 5-8
Time: 3-8pm

National Theatre Festival '11

Tagore's Bisharjan In a New Light



"Nishimon Bisharjan" is a statement against religious extremism in a contemporary setting.

JAMIL MAHMUD

As part of the ongoing National Theatre Festival by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Mahakal Natyasaampradaya premiered its 27th production "Nishimon Bisharjan" -- based on Rabindranath Tagore's "Bisharjan". The play was staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, on June 6.

Written and directed by Anan Zaman and Ashiq Rahman respectively, the play is a statement against religious extremism in a contemporary setting.

The stage was designed to resemble an arena. The set had four backdrops. One of those backdrops was designed to look like a temple.

Tagore wrote "Bisharjan" in 1890. It's regarded as one of his finest plays. Through this play, Tagore took a stand against religious extremism and bigotry in the then society. Both the playwright and director of "Nishimon Bisharjan" have tried to keep that essence intact.

The play unfurls in the pala (indigenous performing art) form. The actors started with bandana (homage to Divinity) as done in pala performances.

Nishimon, a girl from north Bangladesh, narrates her tragic story to the river Gomti. She has lost her beloved, Tarataj, who was killed during a suicide bomb attack. Later, it is revealed that Tarataj was a member of an extremist group, and he was carrying the bomb.

As the current day story of Nishimon and Tarataj unravels, two characters from the original "Bisharjan" -- King Govindamanika and Raghupati -- are also introduced. Though initially these characters from two different times get their individual stage space, at one point they meet at a crossroad. Nishimon shares her woes with the king and asks him about his.

Both the playwright and the director have tried to draw a simile between the leader of the extremist group and Raghupati (from the original Tagore play). The same way, Nishimon has been likened to Aparna, and Tarataj conveys the message of sacrifice that Jai Singh did in "Bisharjan". Identities of these characters mingle through montage.

Poly Biswas as Nishimon delivered the strongest performance. Mir Zahid Hasan as Raghupati was credible. Hasan Al Mamun, Bithun Ahmed and Arif Hossain as King Govindamanika, Jai Singh and Tarataj respectively, were the other lead actors. The cast also included Md. Shahnewaz, Kaniz Fatema and Bahar Rahman.

Apart from direction, Ashiq Rahman also designed the set, light and props. At times, it seemed that there were more performers than the stage could accommodate. The space was not seemingly adequate for free movement during some chorus performances.

As the play was staged in the traditional pala form, the actors were louder when delivering dialogues. This loudness, however, was excess at times.

Mahakal Natyasaampradaya received a grant from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs for the production.

Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" banned in Lebanon



Lebanese officials have reportedly banned Lady Gaga's new album, deeming it "offensive to Christianity". Police have impounded copies of "Born This Way", currently No 1 from London to Tokyo. Its recent single, "Judas", has been criticised by Catholic groups and was banned from Lebanese radio in April.

Lebanon's office of general security impounded boxes of "Born This Way" as they arrived at Beirut international airport last week, according to the LA Times. Though officials first claimed to be "deciding what to do with the albums, there are now reports of a ruling based on article 75 of Lebanon's law for distribution of print media: "Distributors are prohibited from circulating media that diverges from public decency and morality, or is at odds with nationalistic or religious beliefs." Lebanon has 18 officially recognised religions, which include five Catholic sects. Maronite Catholics make up more than 20 percent of the population.

"Lady Gaga has a huge fan base in Lebanon," said Fady Masoud, senior music supervisor at Beirut's Virgin Megastore. "We care that this CD is released because it will produce great revenue." In its first week, "Born This Way" sold more than 2 million copies worldwide.

In March, title track of the album was banned by Malaysian radio for its "offensive" references to homosexuality.

Source: Internet

Lifescape: Photography exhibition at North South University

North South University Photography Club (NSUPC) has organised a solo photography exhibition featuring one of its founder members, Saud Al Faisal. Titled "Lifescape", the five-day exhibition opened on June 6 at NSU's Bashundhara Campus, according to a press release.

"Lifescape" is a visual insight into the lives the photographer came across while travelling around with his camera. He has tried to highlight lives of the people who amazed him.

Faisal inspired NSUPC to organise the International Inter-University Photography Exhibition, a major photo event in south-east Asia.

song would apparently have to be requested by Lebanon's Catholic Information Centre. "If they are going to offend us we are going to cancel the album," explained Father Abd Abu Kassm, director of the centre. "We will not accept that anyone insult the Virgin Mary or Jesus or Christianity ... Call us traditional, call us backward, call us whatever you want. We will not accept it."

Meanwhile, Lebanon's information ministry insisted that it is, and always has been, against all forms of censorship." Information minister Tarek Mitri previously worked to lift a ban on animated film "Persepolis", which was accused of being "offensive to Iran and Islam".

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Source: Internet

"Rabi Bichitra" launched by IGCC

As part of the year-long joint celebration by Bangladesh and India, marking 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, a book titled "Rabi Bichitra" was launched at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) auditorium, High Commission of India in Dhaka, on June 4, according to a press release.

The book published by the High Commission of India is a tribute to Tagore. It contains excerpts from a Tagore essay, titled "Manusher Dharma" (religion of man), as well as Tagore's photographs and some of his paintings. The publication also contains 20 articles and two poems by authors from Bangladesh and India.

Professor A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique, vice-chancellor of University of Dhaka, was the chief guest at the event. Sitaram Yechury, member of Indian Parliament, was the special guest.

The programme commenced with the screening of a short film on Tagore's life. The audience included eminent scholars, writers and cultural activists of Bangladesh.

The chief guest with the special guest and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Rajeev Mitter, formally unveiled the book "Rabi Bichitra". The IGCC also felicitated the Bangladeshi writers who have contributed



(From left) Sitaram Yechury, A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique and Indian High Commissioner Rajeev Mitter at the event.

articles for the compilation.

Among the Bangladeshi writers who have contributed to the compilation are: Dr. Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank;

Professor Anisuzzaman; Dr. Sanjida Khatun; Hayat Mamud. Indian contributors include Professor Amartya Sen; artist K.G. Subrahmanyam and Samarendra Sengupta.

ATN BANGLA

12:15 IT Zone
01:25 Band View
06:15 Special Talk Show
08:00 Destination Unlimited
10:45 Bihanga Kotha
10:55 Bibeke Kache Proshno

11:05 Sports (Live)

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

04:30 Aporan Shushthu

06:20 Dosh Bideshe Ranno

09:35 Nobo Gaane Nobo

Prane

12:20 Ami Rabindranath-er

Kotha Bolchhi

CHANNEL i

11:05 Sports (Live)
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
04:30 Aporan Shushthu
06:20 Dosh Bideshe Ranno
09:35 Nobo Gaane Nobo

NITV

11:05 Glamour World
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar
Achhey
05:30 Aporan Jigga
06:10 Shubho Shondhya

08:15 Siddika Kabir's Recipe

Z Studio

10:30 How to Lose Friends & Alienate People

04:20 Meet Bill

06:20 Seabiscuit

11:30 View from the Top

Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End

Star Movies

05:20 Jerk Theory

07:00 Net

09:00 Marine 2

10:40 Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li

HBO

02:00 Carriers

RADIO

abc radio FM 89.2
06:00 Bhor Janay
09:00 Mukhonto Joney
12:00 Duron Shoney
03:00 Duron Bokkey
05:00 Shondha Tora
07:00 Raat er Maya

09:00 Raat er Akashay

11:00 Galper Sheh Nei

12:00 Radio Foorti

09:30 Hello Dhaka

Morning Express

10:00 No Tension

12:00 Dhaka Today

04:00 Kora Riders

RADIO TODAY FM 89.6

05:00 Good Morning Dhaka

07:00 Today's Adda

Star World

02:00 Two And A Half Men

03:30 Las Vegas

09:00 The Simpson's

10:30 Castle

11:30 How I Met Your Mother

National Geographic Channel

02:30 Caught in the Act

07:30 I Didn't Know That

09:30 Mega Factories

11:30 Air Crash Investigation

Discovery Channel

02:30 A Haunting

07:30 Time Warp

09:30 Monster Bug Wars

11:30 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud

BBC World

04:00 BBC World News

11:00 World Business

12:00 HARD talk

14:45 Sport Today

12:00 World News Today

ATN BANGLA

08:40pm Ogniphi
09:20pm Poush Phagner Pala

CHANNEL i

06:00pm Chhoy Jubok-er
Shongpar
07:50pm Hrid