

WHAT'S ON



Nazrul Utshab
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut Bhavan,
H-72, R-15/A, Dhamondi
Date: July 1-2
Time: 6:30pm



Sufia Kamal Birth
Anniversary
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya,
H-42, R-16, Dhamondi
Date: June 24-29
Time: 12pm-8pm



Recitation
Artist: Pragna Laboni
Venue: IGCC, H-35, Rd-24,
Gulshan-1.
Date: July 1
Time: 6:30pm



Fete de la Musique
Organiser: Alliance Francaise
de Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise de
Dhaka, Dhaka University
Date: June 30-July 1



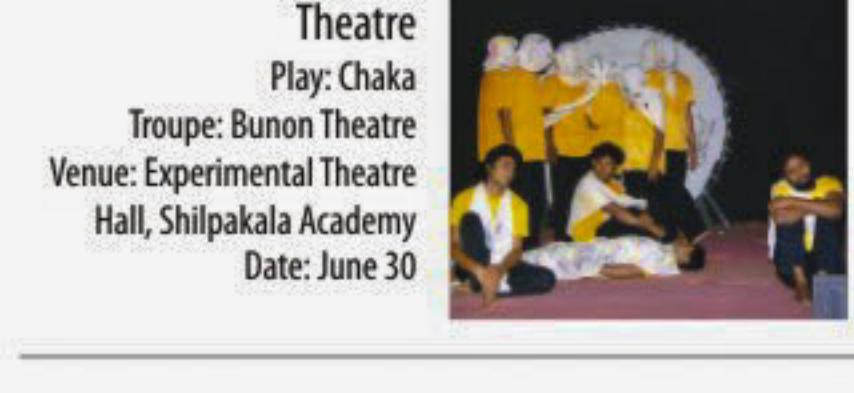
National Recitation
Festival
Venue: National Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 26-July 2
Time: 4pm onwards



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



Theatre
Play: Meraj Fakir-er Maa
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 30
Time: 7pm



Theatre
Play: Chhaya
Troupe: Baitul Thikra
Venue: Experimental Theatre
Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 30



Memorial Programme
On Amalendu Biswas
Venue: National Music and
Dance Centre, Shilpakala
Academy
Date: June 29

Playing the part

Tête-à-Tête with Sohana Sabha



*The firm
footing that
she
established
with her
debut in
"Aaina" has
only been
strengthened
with
consecutive
successes in
"Khelaghori"
and
"Chandra
Grohon".*

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The role of Promila has been prominent since the serial's inception and will continue to play a dominant part till its conclusion. Sohana says she enjoyed playing the role of a bride who crosses over the border with her husband.

Those acquainted with the serial "Manobojmán", have also seen Sohana reveal another facet of herself in the role of Mithila. About the character, who was originally named Monidipa in the novel that the serial was adapted from, Sohana says that Mithila is a personality with childlike tendencies and "Chandra Grohon". But Sohana says this is not the end, she is still eager to play more challenging roles.

Sohana has taken on the challenge of diverse roles and worked to her advantage to become a skilled performer. Her role in the serial "Poush Phaguner Pala" is the latest in her repertoire of acclaim. Mithila evolves into a mature personal-

ity. Sohana adds that she has blended herself into the role during the two years she has played the character.

Apart from serials, Sohana is also busy doing single-episode-TV plays such as "Ondho Tirondaj" and "Eka", while BTV is airing "Shorol Satya".

The actor has also achieved success with her performances on the silver screen. The firm footing that she established with her debut in "Aaina" has only been strengthened with consecutive successes in "Khelaghori" and "Chandra Grohon". But Sohana says this is not the end, she is still eager to play more challenging roles.

"Amar Bondhu Rashed" screened at SUST



A scene from "Amar Bondhu Rashed".

PHOTO: STAR

Five shows of the movie "Amar Bondhu Rashed" were held from June 26-28 at the mini auditorium of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet.

A large number of evidently moved students and teachers came away from the screenings that were an initiative of Chokh Film Society, a cultural organisation of the University.

Based on a novel with the same titled, by noted writer Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, the movie is a production of Impress Telefilm Ltd, and has been directed by Morshedul Islam, who has brought out the best from the performers.

The movie provides a glimpse of the Liberation War, through the eyes of a teenager who fights for the country, motivated by another unique adolescent freedom fighter named Rashed.

Rashed, wise beyond his years, fights with great bravery and confidence and never compromises on his commitment to the nation's independence. This movie revisits the contribution of youngsters to the birth of Bangladesh.

Not many in the packed mini-auditorium could hold back their tears and were completely silent as they followed the unraveling of Rashed's predicament.



PHOTO: STAR

Birth Centenary of Poet Sufia Kamal

Musical Soiree at Bengal Shilpalaya



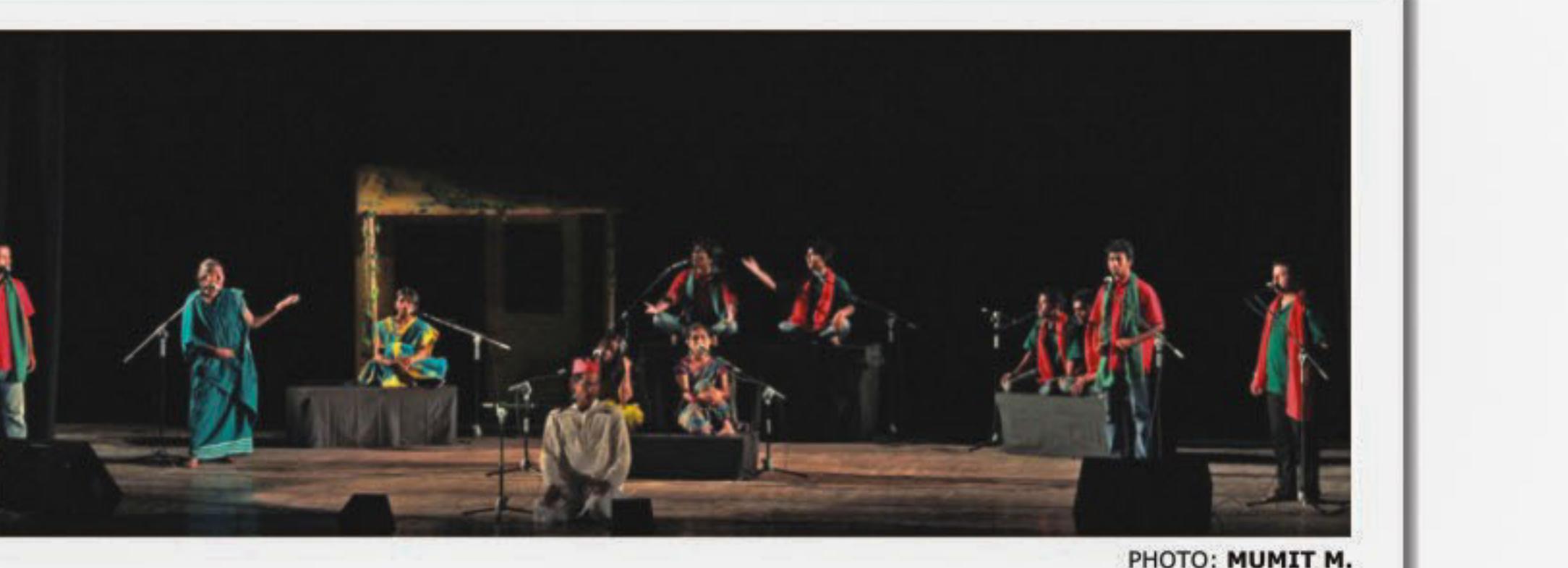
Iffat Ara Dewan sings at the event.

A CORRESPONDENT

As part of the five-day (June 24-28) festival, titled "Taar Dirgha Chhaya", marking birth centenary of poet Begum Sufia Kamal, Bengal Foundation arranged a musical soiree featuring favourite songs of the late pioneering poet at Bengal Shilpalaya on June 27 and 28.

Bengal Foundation produced an album, titled "Jago, Rey Antor, Jago", that also features favourite songs of Sufia Kamal.

Aside from musical soiree, the festival also featured an exhibition of photographs, paintings, the poet's household articles and furniture.



With the theme "Jagroto Koro Udyoto Koro Nirbhoj Koro Hey", the weeklong National Recitation Festival 2011 (starting from June 26), is on at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Apart from solo performances by noted reciters of the country, the festival features group recitation productions by a number of organisations. Directed by Shimul Mustapha, artistes of Boikuntha Abritto Academy staged their production "Bish Birikkher Beej", written by Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah, on June 27. Bangladesh Abritto Samanay Parisad, in association with BSA, has arranged the festival.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Power and intensity Opera "Madama Butterfly"

KAVITA, New Delhi

A young girl as vulnerable, delicate and captivating as a butterfly. Famous opera "Madama Butterfly" hinges on the doomed love story of exquisite 15-year-old Japanese Cio-Cio-San, also known as Butterfly and American naval officer Pinkerton. Recently, the film based on the tragedy was screened in Delhi as part of the series, Summer Delights--A Festival of Opera, Ballet and Concert Films'.

Music connoisseur Dr. RP Jain, a retired professor of Germany at the renowned Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) who has curated and introduced the series for the sixth consecutive year gave the context of the opera: "With the opening up of Japan in the

second half of the 19th century, a naval base was established by the US in Nagasaki. This in turn led to the practice of young American naval officers contracting temporary 'marriages' with Japanese women, especially the so-called Geishas. The mutual misunderstanding between East and West arising out of this contractual arrangement and the subsequent clash of cultures was the cause of much pain and misery," pointed out Jain.

Famous Italian composer Giacomo Puccini wrote "Madama Butterfly" at the turn of the 20th century. The three-act opera, based on short story "Madame Butterfly" is, according to one scholar, believed to hinge on real events in Nagasaki in the early 1890s. The opera ranks alongside Puccini's most frequently performed operas: "Bohème", "Tosca" and "Turandot". Though his rivals derided "Madama Butterfly" initially, once he had revised it, the opera became one of his highly successful works.

The two central characters are those of Butterfly (played by the legendary Italian soprano Mirella Freni) and Pinkerton (redoubtable Spanish-Mexican tenor Plácido Domingo who ranks as one of the famous three tenors alongside Spanish singer José Carreras and Italian singer Luciano Pavarotti). The unscrupulous Pinkerton decides to take a 'temporary' Japanese wife until he marries a "real" American wife. The chosen one is Butterfly, a Geisha alienated from her community because of her decision to embrace the Christian faith of Pinkerton after her marriage, she spends a brief ecstatic period with Pinkerton.

Three years later Butterfly awaits her husband's return. She now has a child. One day when the American consul Sharpless comes to her house and suggests that Pinkerton may not return, she shows him their child and says that in the eventuality of being abandoned she would prefer to die rather than go back to being a Geisha.

The final blow comes when Pinkerton returns but this time with Kate, his new American wife. At the conclusion of the film we see a shattered Butterfly pushing out her child to Kate as she lifts a dagger to commit hara-kiri. Just as she stabs herself and is dying, a remorseful Pinkerton is heard calling her name.

"Madama Butterfly" gave the Delhi audience a much needed exposure to Western opera, a genre only rarely seen in the country.



THEATRE

Chandalika: Desh Bangla Theatre's "untouchable" heroine fails to impress



"Chandalika" is the story of a lower caste woman, Prokrity, whom higher caste people have labelled "untouchable".

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Desh Bangla Theatre staged its latest production "Chandalika", an adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's much popular dance-drama, on June 27 at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The dance-drama has been turned into a narrative form, designed and directed by Bivash Bishnu Chowdhury.

"Chandalika" is the story of a lower caste woman, Prokrity, whom higher caste people have labelled "untouchable". Prokrity develops an infatuation with a Buddhist monk, Ananda. The genesis of the attraction can be traced back to an earlier incident where the monk was offered water by Prokrity.

Tagore adapted the dance-drama from "Jatak", a collection of Buddhist stories. The original story depicts how, having achieved nirvana, Chandali gives up her desire for Ananda. However, Tagore has not provided a glimpse of Buddha or the necessity of acquiring nirvana. His "Chandalika" is more flesh and blood, and dramatic.

In the end, when Prokrity's mother uses witchcraft to force Ananda to come to Prokrity, the latter turns down the object of her affection, as she realises that love cannot be achieved forcefully.

Apart from direction, Bivash Bishnu Chowdhury also designed the set, light and costume.

However, impressive set design could not conceal the below par performances by the actors. Mahjebin Godhuli, as the protagonist, could not do justice to one of Tagore's most memorable characters. She seemingly overacted at times. Aisharya Azad as Prokrity's mother was more impressive, though she seemed too young to play the role.

Among others, Manik Sarkar, Palash Loh, Rajkumar Paul, Kawsar Samad and Syamol Shishir did other roles.

The music, highlighting Rabindra Sangeet, was one of the brighter aspects of the production. The set was also designed aptly. Several props, hanging from above created a mysterious ambience.

"Chandalika" is a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore on his 150th birth anniversary. The play received a grant from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. It is the 9th production of Desh Bangla Theatre.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Prince William's bride Kate Middleton is a distant relative of novelist Jane Austen, according to genealogy website Ancestry.com.

Ancestry.com said that the new Duchess of Cambridge and the author of "Pride and Prejudice" are 11th cousins, six times removed due to their 15th century common ancestor Henry Percy, who was the 2nd Earl of Northumberland.

The family history research group said the connection was fitting given Austen's many female characters who fall in love with, or aspire to marry, men of higher rank.

Middleton, 29, a commoner with no aristocratic background, married Prince William -- second in line to the throne -- in April after a nine-year romance. She is now officially known as Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge.

"Finding this connection between the Duchess of Cambridge and Jane Austen is very exciting since, in many ways, Catherine is the modern Jane Austen heroine: a middle class girl marrying the future King of England," said Anastasia Harman, lead family historian for Ancestry.com.

"Jane Austen may have written about happily-ever-after but it seems Catherine has found a nonfiction hero to spend her life with -- far past the epilogue," Harman added.

Born in England in 1775, Jane Austen is one of the best-known novelists and social satirists in the world with works like "Sense and Sensibility", "Emma" and "Persuasion". She never married.



ETV

Bangla Feature Film
01:10 Gaon O Fun
01:25 Shobuj World
01:30 Isami Sawal O Jawab
02:00 Destination Unlimited
02:55 Proboto Shob E Meraj

CHANDEL
11:05 Sports Time (Live)
01:05 Ebongi
01:05 Amar Chobi
04:05 Aponor Shushtha
09:35 Drama Serial: Phanush

RTV
12:35 Tawheed-er Mursid
Amaar
01:10 Bangla Feature Film
05:00 Protidin-er Gaan
06:00 Drama Serial: Mohellar Bhai
09:50 Drama Serial: Neel
Jyotsna Kalo Saap

ATN BANGLA
01:25 Band View
04:25 Showbiz World
05:20 Isami Sawal O Jawab
08:00 Destination Unlimited
10:55 Proboto Shob E Meraj

Diganta TV
03:05 Jibon Omesta
06:30 Public Parliament
08:00 Drama Serial: Shahaj
09:25 Manush
09:25 Diganta Onsandhan
12:30 Probash Bangladesh

Z CHANNEL
11:05 The One
03:30 The Stepford Wives
11:05 Friday the 13th Part III
01:10 Star Movies
10:25 Pandorum

RADIO
abc radio FM 89.2
06:00 Bhor Janay
09:00 Mukhori Jibone
12:00 Duran Duprey
03:00 Duranto Bilekay
05:00 Shondra Tora
07:00 Shorol Satya
09:00 Raxit er Akhey
11:00 Galper Shech Nei
Radio Foorti

07:30 Hello Dhaka
10:00 Morning Express
12:00 No Tension
04:00 Dhaka Calling
09:00 Knight Riders
10:30 Radio TODAY FM 89.6
08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
12:00 Today's Adda
04:00 U Turn
07:00 Today's Adda

07:00 Hello Dhaka

No Problem
On BANGLAVISION
at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Rizvi, Nafiza
Terminator Salvation
On HBO at 09:30pm
Genre: Action/
Drama
Cast: Christian
Bale, Sam
Worthington

O Chand
On Boishakhi TV at
08:45pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Kellan
Koraish, Moushumi
Biswas
BANGLAVISION
10:10 Gaon O Fun
01:25 Shobuj World
04:30 Amader Ramgarh
09:05 Shondra Kotha
11:30 Gaan
BHO
10:30 Duran Duprey
01:45 Janar Achhey Bolar
Achhey
06:45 Baja Bongaj
Siddika Kabir's Recipe
09:00 Gaan
Gang
ntv
11:30 Glamour World
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar
Achhey
06:45 Baja Bongaj
Siddika Kabir's Recipe
09:00 Gaan
Gang
ntv
11:30 Nat Geo's Nat
9:00 30pm
10:30 30pm
11:30 30pm
12:30 30pm
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