

WHAT'S ON

**Dhaka International Music Conference**  
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum  
Date: July 15

**Memorial Meeting on Aminul Islam**  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhamondi  
Date: July 16  
Time: 5pm

**10th Anniversary of Prachyanat School**  
Play: Tempest  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: July 15, Time: 3pm

**Concert**  
Featuring Warfaze, Shironamin, Rajib, Porshi, Balam and Mila  
Venue: National Indoor Stadium, Mirpur

**Bhawaiya Festival 2011**  
Organiser: Sound Touch Rangpur  
Venue: Town Hall, Rangpur  
Date: July 13-15  
Time: 3pm

**Book Launch**  
Title: Moncho Kusum Shimul Yusuf  
Venue: Conference Lounge, National Press Club  
Date: July 16

**Album Launch**  
Artist: Nashid Kamal  
Venue: Ladies' Community Centre, Rd-83, Gulshan  
Date: July 15  
Time: 5:30pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Artists: Farida, Ranjit and Makud  
Venue: H-300, R-198 New DOHS, Mahakhali  
Date: July 9-19

# Theatre icon remembered

## Abdullah Al Mamun's 69th birth anniversary observed



"Meraj Fakir-er Ma" is one of the most successful productions of the troupe. PHOTO: MUMIT M.

**JAMIL MAHMUD**  
On his 69th birth anniversary, late theatre icon Abdullah Al Mamun was remembered by his troupe Theatre with a three-day celebration programme held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The programme was inaugurated on July 13 at the Studio Theatre Hall of the academy. The first day's programme featured a memorial lecture named after Mamun, staging of the play "Meraj Fakir-er Ma" and opening of a photo exhibition. Recalling Mamun's talents in diverse sectors of arts and culture, his lifelong friend and ITI Worldwide president Ramendu Majumdar termed him as an 'artiste of multi-talents'. Abdullah Al Mamun was one of the architects who helped Bangladeshi theatre attain its current position. His contri-

bution in the sphere of TV plays was enormous and he pioneered the mega serial in Bangladesh. Mamun also showcased his talent in cinema by directing film such as "Shareng Bou", said Majumdar, also chief of Theatre. Majumdar asserted that his troupe will hold a colourful festival next year to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the late theatre personality. The memorial lecture which has been initiated this year, will be a regular fixture. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Foreign Secretary and art and culture enthusiast Mohamed Mijarul Quayas. His topic "Theatre, Theatre and Theatre" mainly focused on the production of a play, from script readings to its staging. Written and directed by Mamun, "Meraj Fakir-er Ma" was staged after the lecture. The play, which features theatre

icon Ferdousi Majumdar as the protagonist, is one of the most successful productions of the troupe. The play focuses on the age-old conflict between religion and humanity. What if, one morning one discovered that one's identity was in question? Or that one's religious beliefs did not match those of one's parents? "Meraj Fakir-er Ma" zooms in on the fact that while religion has always played a key role in our society, in most cases the essence of religion has been misinterpreted, to benefit fringe elements. The question, which Mamun put forward, is should religion precede humanity? In the play, these are the questions that the young Meraj Fakir is forced to ask himself when his mother is dragged into a conflict. Ramendu Majumdar played the shrewd character, Kazi Tabarok. The

character of Geda Fakir, which Mamun used to play, was enacted by Shekanul Islam Shahi. Tofa Hossain played the role of Meraj Fakir. The exhibition of photos and posters featuring Mamun's involvement with in theatre is at the lobby of the National Theatre Hall. The Foreign Secretary inaugurated the exhibition. The three-day programme also features staging of two more plays not directed by Mamun. Yesterday, "Baramkhana", a biographical work on Fakir Lalon Shai was staged at the National Theatre Hall. Written by Pantho Shahriar, the play has been directed by Tropa Majumdar. Today the programme ends with the staging of another Tropa Majumdar directorial work "Mukti". The play has been adapted by Mohamed Mijarul Quayas.

# Promoting traditional continuity

## Banglalink scouts for talents

**MEHEDY HASAN, Rangpur**  
Bhawaiya songs form an inextricable part of the cultural heritage of the people of Rangpur division who have a deep link with this genre of folk songs composed with heart rending tunes in their dialect. With the passage of time Bhawaiya has only become more refined and deeply imbedded in the national culture and heritage. Noted artists like Abbasuddin Ahmed, Harolal Roy, Mohesh Chandra and Kasimuddin have painstakingly enriched the genre with their soulful presentations. Even today there are many upcoming talents in the region who are contributing to uphold the excellence of Bhawaiya. However, due to absence of patronage of the genre and the Bhawaiya Academy, cultural organisations in the region have not reached their potential. Mobile phone operator, Banglalink seems set to change this dismal scenario. For the second time the company lent its support for a Bhawaiya festival in Rangpur. Veteran singer Sirajul Islam inaugurated



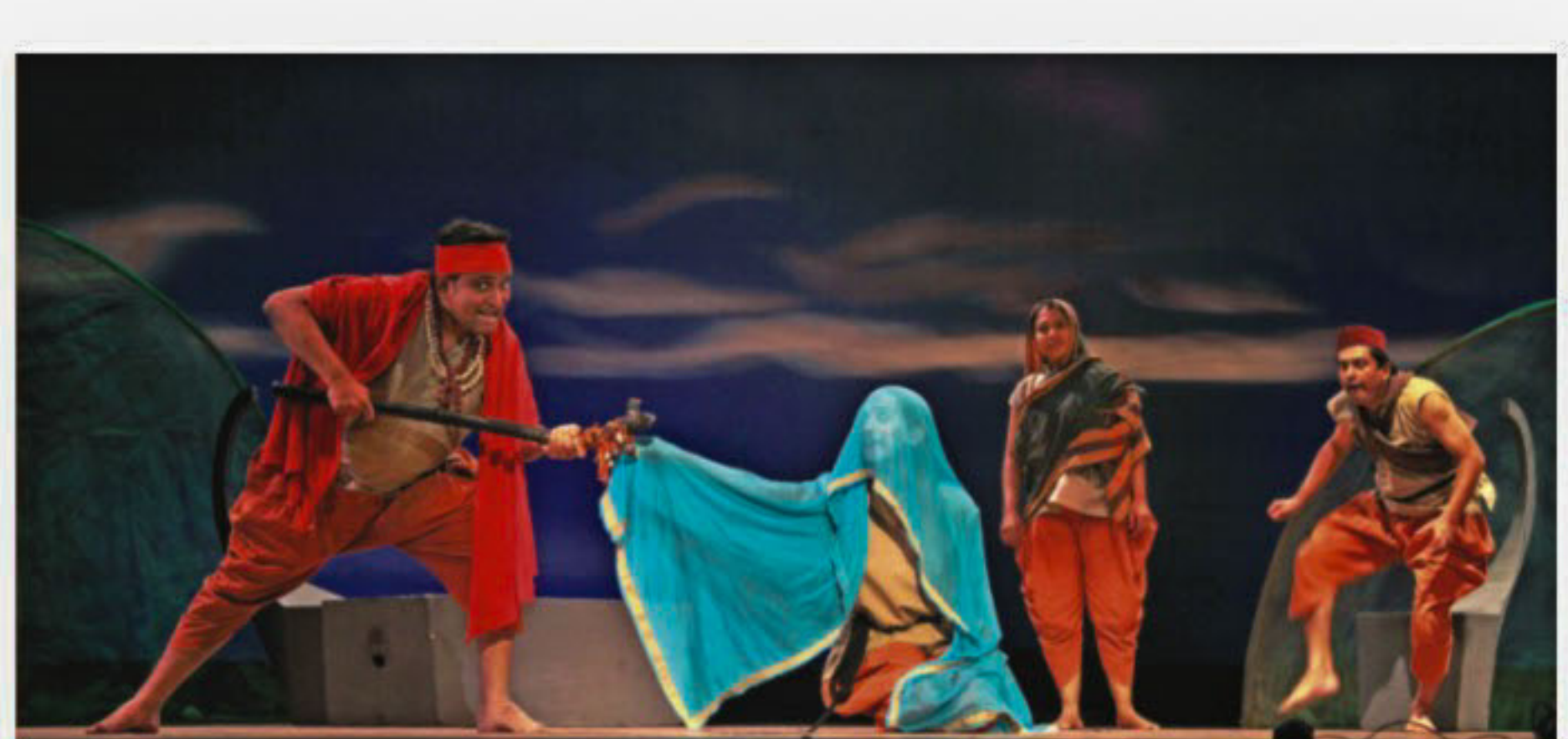
The festival was inaugurated with a colourful rally that paraded the town. PHOTO: STAR

the three-day festival sponsored by Banglalink and organised by Sound Touch on July 13 at Rangpur town hall. The festival was inaugurated with a colourful rally that paraded the town. This was followed by a competition on Bhawaiya songs. Additional Divisional Commissioner of Rangpur, Narayan Chandra Barma was the chief guest at the inaugural session. Among those present were mayor of

Rangpur municipality Abdur Rouf Manik; regional director of Bangladesh Betar of Rangpur station Syed Mostafa Kamal and regional commercial head of Banglalink Mizan Maruf. The Festival featured a competition of bhawaiya songs, discussion, and presentation of songs by veteran artistes from eight districts under Rangpur division. A total of 350 child artistes from Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, and Panchagarh enrolled for the competition. On a lyrical note, Additional Deputy Commissioner Narayan Chandra Barma said, "We have enough talent in the field of Bhawaiya but in the absence of sponsors they are nipped in the bud. This is truly a timely step. When musical barrenness is in vogue in the country, Bangla Link has shown determination to resurrect our rich folk traditions through this festival." Regional Commercial Head of Banglalink Mizan Maruf said, "We believe that the festival will encourage children to display their talent and become famous artistes in future."

# Children's Theatre festival kicks off in Dinajpur

**KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur**  
A three-day 'Children's Theatre Festival' kicked off amidst festivity on Wednesday evening at Dinajpur Shisu Academy. Around 13 theatre troupes including one from the indigenous community are taking part in the festival. Chief guest Md. Abdul Maleque, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education) inaugurated the festival, organised by Dinajpur Shisu Academy. Professor Safar Ali President of Bangabandhu Parishad was present as special guest at the inaugural session. Santal Shishu Kishor Theatre of Dinajpur performed a play on the indigenous lifestyle which enthralled the packed audience. Paul Ganga Shishu Nattyadal of Biralupazila, Gallery Sarang and students of Birampur Girls' High School also staged plays the same day.



Theatre Art Unit staged its popular production "Amina Sundari" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on July 13. Based on a 300-year-old folk tale from the Chittagong region, Nachhar Mulum O Bhelus Sundari, the play was adapted by SM Solaiman and directed by Rokeya Rafiq Baby. Love, dedication and the agonies of lives of women in our society are the themes of the play. PHOTO: MUMIT M.

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# French award ceremony on hold as Mumbai reels from terror

With Mumbai reeling under another terrorist strike, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan on Wednesday requested the French government to postpone an award ceremony scheduled in the capital later in the evening. The 37-year-old Bollywood actress was the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) from the French government. The felicitation ceremony organised by the French embassy was dramatically cancelled at the last minute. After a delay of over an hour unusual for events organised in diplomatic circles Aishwarya and Abhishek Bachchan made an appearance at the venue around 9pm accompanied by Jerome Bonnafont, the French ambassador to India, and Farooq Abdullah. Expressing his "condolences and condemnation", Bonnafont

# EXHIBITION

## Photos of Bijoyer Sand Sculpture on display



Professor A A M S Arefin Siddique, was chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.

**A CORRESPONDENT**  
The photos of the Bijoyer Sand Sculpture Festival 2010 are being exhibited at the Zainul Art Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), University of Dhaka. Organised by Green World, the three-day exhibition was inaugurated on July 13. The photos on display are images of the sculpture festival at Cox's Bazar which featured sand sculptures of the heroes of the Liberation War. Sand sculptures are fascinating but short-lived artworks usually crafted on beaches. The sculpture festival was a joint initiative of Green World Communication Limited, Department of Sculpture, FFA, DU and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation. Eminent sculptor Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan headed the young students' team along with three of his colleagues: Associate Professor Enamul Huq Enam, Md. A A M Kaoser Hassan Togo and Md. Atiqul Islam. The festival was the first of its kind in the country in terms of scale. Professor A A M S Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka was chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the photo exhibition. The special guests were Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan, Chairman, Department of Sculpture, FFA; Md. Hemayet Uddin Talukder, chairman, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and Muhammad Aziz Khan, Chairman, Summit Group.

# ART EXHIBITION

# Lucky Nasreen's simplistic art with potent emotions



Artworks on display.

**AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN**  
Lucky Nasreen's second solo art exhibition at National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, wrapped up on July 12. The six-day exhibition featured over 50 artworks by the self-taught artist. A teacher by profession, the only formal training in art that Nasreen has had was a diploma from an art school in Delhi in 1974. Nasreen is the former chairperson of the Department of Philosophy at Tejgaon College, and she currently teaches at Darul Ihsan University. It is evident from her works that much of her interest leans towards oil painting. Although the exhibition did not have a central theme, natural beauty, motherhood and femininity were recurrent motifs the works displayed there. The thematic complexities and sometimes nihilistic elements that pervade modern art have not found prominence in the works of Nasreen. As a result, her works are, above all, simple, com-

municative and probably provoke less head scratching in the audience than the (post)modernists' works. However, for Nasreen, there is more to the exhibition than just displaying her works and selling them. Near her home-- a little far from Zigatola-- Nasreen runs a school called Shishur Hashi for the children of women who work as domestic helps in the middle class households of the area. "The children that I take are very young and need constant attention. I provide them with toys, meals and teach them some elementary lessons in literacy," said Nasreen. And the money that Nasreen gets from selling her artworks are an additional boost to the fund (of which she is virtually the sole provider) for her school. "Sometimes when I run short of resources, I get desperate and do, what may be called, 'push-sell' my works to my friends," she added. From her first exhibition, which was held in 2008, she managed a considerable amount for her "little school", informed the self-composed artist.

Coming back to her paintings, since art is only a leisure activity for Nasreen, one could see that she lacks a professional painter's acumen. Nevertheless, some of her works, including "Hemonto", "Motherhood 2-3", "Composition 1" and "Forceful" communicate a lucid sense of calm and tranquility. For example, "Motherhood 2-3" are acrylic and oil on canvas and these paintings are acutely emotional and are capable to impart sense of tenderness to the viewers. In many of her abstract paintings she had shunned the use of lines. The subject of many of her works, including the abstract paintings is female figures and femininity. Liberated (acrylic), Scattering (oil) and Boundary (mixed medium) have feminist agendas. Although it may seem a little outdated, a recurring object in her works is flowers in vases in warm, glowing colour and sometimes in rich hues. On the whole, her work gives an insight into her affectionate mind. As for the school, one can't help feeling that it needs assistance.



SOURCE: THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Humayun Faridee at his creative best

**A CORRESPONDENT**  
Humayun Faridee is busier than ever before both as actor and director. After enjoying a considerable popularity with "Bharabari Barabari" and "Chhayabithi", he is directing a new drama-serial titled "Takhana Hemantakal". The play is written by Shafiqur Rahman Shantonu. Besides directing, Faridee will be portraying the role of a business tycoon. The star cast includes Syed Hasan Imam, Mamunur Rashid, Zahid Hasan and Mou. Faridee plans to tell the story of two families living in the same house in the city. Boishakhi TV will air this approximately 52-episode serial. Two more single episode TV plays for the upcoming Eid are also on cards, while he is immersed in acting in a couple of TV plays currently. Clearly Faridee is at his creative best.



<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	<b>ETV</b>
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabar	10:02 Sonamuni Shukhe
05:10 Bhalobasha Ekono	Oshakhe
05:45 ATN Star Show	Bangla Feature Film:
08:00 Tele-film: Shil Bari	Anjuman
11:00 Drama: Opur Ekdin	Barko
	Drama: Jalchhap
	Phone O Live Studio Concert
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	<b>Z Studio</b>
01:30 Hridayer Gaan	10:30 Abandon
02:40 Tele-film: Rabi Shomikaran	01:30 Center Stage
05:15 Krishi Shangba	04:15 The Recruit
07:50 Khude Gaanraj	07:30 George of the Jungle
12:00 Aiker Shangbadpatro	09:30 Ghost Machine
<b>ntv</b>	11:30 Seabiscuit
10:30 Aponar Jiggasha	
02:30 Tele-film: Pherari Pakhi	<b>Star Movies</b>
05:30 Tili-er Fake	10:10 Year of the Dragon
06:45 Rupasadhuani	02:20 Rebound
11:30 Hip Hip Hurray (Live)	03:55 When in Rome
<b>Rtv</b>	05:30 Fantastic Mr. Fox

<b>RADIO</b>	
abc radio FM 99.2	72.00
09:00 Makbutha Abony	82.00
12:00 Duran Durany	96.00
03:00 Duranto Bideley	10.00
05:00 Shondhata	01.00
07:00 Shor Hoya	RADIO TODAY FM 99.6
09:00 Raat-er Khabari	06.00
11:00 Golper Shesh Net	Good Morning Dhaka
<b>RADIO FOOTRI</b>	12:30 Islamic Program
08:00 Addabazi	02:15 Rapali Gaan

**Shil Bari**  
On ATN BANGLA at 08:00pm  
Tele-film  
Cast: ATM  
Shamsuzzaman, Chanchal Chowdhury

**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**  
On HBO at 09:30pm  
Genre: Adventure/Fantasy  
Cast: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma

**Ek Tarfa Bhalobasha Shongtha**  
On Rtv at 07:40pm  
Single Episode Tv  
Play  
Cast: Tushar Mahmud, Nisho

10:10 Career Today	07:00 Surrogates
09:10 Cinema Ki Gaan	08:35 Daybreakers
05:30 Music 3 Music	10:15 Deadly Impact
07:40 Drama: Ek Tarfa Bhalobasha Shongtha	<b>HBO</b>
11:30 Studio Concert	10:35 Escape from Alcatraz
11:30 Studio Concert	12:55 Invisible Target
<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	03:15 Flash Point
10:10 Bhalo Thakun	05:00 Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
11:05 Amader Rannaghar	07:00 17 Again
04:05 Music Together	09:30 Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince
06:10 Gaan O Fun	
09:05 Tele-film: Nurunnahar	<b>Star World</b>
11:25 Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo	11:30 India's Most Desirable
<b>Desh TV</b>	03:30 Mad Love
11:00 Desh Amar	08:30 Two And A Half Men
03:00 Bangla Feature Film: Monchi Diye Bhalobashi	10:30 White Collar
07:45 Makh O Makhora	11:30 Modern Family
09:45 Drama	<b>National Geographic Channel</b>
11:45 Call-er Gaan	02:30 Extraordinary Dogs
<b>Boishakhi TV</b>	07:30 Nat Geo Amazing
04:15 Shorochori Doctor	10:30 Against All Odds
05:15 Boishakhi-CIN	11:30 Nat Geo Investigates
Sharabishwa	<b>Discovery Channel</b>
06:20 Bishay-er Bangla	12:00 Destroyed in Seconds
08:45 Drama: Chhot Ekti Bhalobasha	02:30 Machines of Malice
11:30 Boishakhi Bindon O Sanskriti Sangbad	08:30 Man vs. Wild
	10:30 Dual Survival

<b>DRAMA SERIAL</b>	
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	09:05pm Oloshpur
06:00pm Proxy	09:50pm Lodging Master
09:35pm Phansuh	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>
<b>ntv</b>	08:15pm Mittha Tumi Dosh
08:15pm Rajkotta	Pigra
09:45pm Ojona Gantaboo	09:45pm Gulshan Avenue
<b>Desh TV</b>	<b>Boishakhi TV</b>
08:15pm Shogno-shuk	08:10pm Omno Shokal

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

<b>TALK SHOW</b>	
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>
12:30am Lead News	12:05pm Moba Shatta Al-
<b>Rtv</b>	04:00am Tarikalap
10:40am Tarikalap	<b>CHANNEL i</b>
09:45am Trio Matra	10:50pm Sat Kahon
12:05pm Kara Alaap	12:00am Zero Hour
05:30pm Shomyokhi	Diganta TV
11:30pm Follow Up: First	12:05am News of the Day