

WHAT'S ON

Tagore Dance Drama "Shyama"
By artistes of Viswabharati University
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Dravid Saitot
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: Sept 16-29
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Painter: Binayesh Qandari Bhowmik
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi
Date: Sept 20-29
Time: 12pm-9pm

Photography Exhibition
To celebrate 22 years of Drik
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 56, Rd 15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: Sept. 25-30
Time: 3-9pm

Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: Studio 48
Title: Reminiscence of Childhood
Venue: Shilpanagari Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: Sept. 27-29
Time: 12-9pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Portraits: Riddle of Characters
Artist: Apurba Kanti Das
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: Sept. 30-Oct. 13
Time: 3-9pm

Musical Soiree
Venue: Chhabir Haat, Shahbag
Date: September 30
Time: 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Memorial Programme on Tanque Masud, Mishuk Manier & Anwaruzzaman
Venue: Pust Salka Karnaal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: September 27
Time: 5:00pm



Four faces of motherhood

Prachyanat premieres Mayer Mukh

JAMIL MAHMUD

Theatre troupe Prachyanat brought an adaptation of British playwright Arnold Wesker's "Four Portraits of Mothers" to the stage. Adapted into Bangla by Moom Rahman, the play "Mayer Mukh" premiered at the Goethe Institut auditorium in Dhaka on September 24. Kazi Toufikul Islam Emon directed the play. Consisting of four monologues on the theme of motherhood, the play is a journey into the sensitive world of mothers.

The play starts with single mother Ruth (played by Lucy Tripti Gomes) getting ready for an outing with her daughter. As she packs suitcases, she scolds her daughter for no apparent reason. Ruth, however, apologises, and possibly regrets not being married. Through Ruth's monologue, it seems that the daughter (whom the audience never sees) needs a father.

The second mother is Naomi (Reetu A Sattar), an elderly lady. Naomi actually pretends to be a mother. Naomi's

story is articulated through a phone conversation with her nephew Danny, whom she treats as her own son. Through the conversation, Naomi's loneliness and yearning to taste motherhood become apparent.

The third portrait features Miriam (Joyita Maholanbish). The audience finds her talking to a psychoanalyst. Miriam blames everyone, including her husband and mother. She considers her mother to be a failure as a caregiver. She seems afraid of making the same mistakes as her mother.

The fourth monologue features Deborah (Sadika Parveen Swarna), a young woman who naively admires everything about motherhood. There is a certain kind of uncomplicated love in Deborah, who feels that motherhood won't engage her.

Among the four actresses, Reetu A Sattar is a regular face in Prachyanat plays. All performers seemed to have captured the essences of their characters. Performances were more or less steady. Each monologue continued for nearly 25 minutes.



The play is a journey into the sensitive world of mothers. PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Visually the play was rather tame, considering the troupe's other productions such as "Koinna", "Circus Circus" and "A Man for All Seasons". Use of multimedia projection as the backdrop -- a collage of news on motherhood -- was an innovative idea. Design of the set was minimalist. Md. Saiful Islam designed both the set and light.

To conjure an ambience of solitude, Rahul Anand's flute sounded perfect. Anand did the musical scores along with Rifat Ahmed Nobel.

Among distinguished guests, Judith Mirschberger (director, Goethe Institut-Dhaka) enjoyed the play.

Drik celebrates 22 years

A CORRESPONDENT

Drik Picture Agency organised a discussion programme to mark its 22nd anniversary on September 24 at the rooftop of its office building in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. A photo exhibition highlighting the organisation's motto -- to always ask hard questions -- was opened after the discussion. Managing director of Drik, Dr. Shahidul Alam, and filmmaker-editor Catherine Masud spoke on the occasion.

Drik, formed in 1989, has become a familiar name in the global photography circuit, particularly in developing countries. Dr. Alam asserted that the agency works relentlessly for social equality, and that challenging carefully constructed perceptions that perpetuate inequality and oppression is its central driving force. He hoped that "in coming years the rural journalism network, the masters course in broadcast journalism at Pathshala and the ramping up of the Majority World Agency, will radically change how majority of the world, particularly the rural poor, are represented."

Dr. Alam's speech was followed by Golam Kasem Memorial Lecture III, delivered by Catherine Masud. In her paper on "The state of moving image in Bangladesh", Masud proposed a number of ways through which the Bangladeshi film industry can be revolutionised.

Guest of honour Frederiek Biemans, of World Press Photo, also gave a brief speech highlighting how powerful images combined with information have the ability to question delicate social issues and encourage public debates, discussions on them. Biemans opened the exhibition.

The exhibition at Gallery I features three of Drik's staff photographers. Mahbub Alam Khan's photo-essay is titled "Bangladesh, for the people, by the people". His photos question the price of economic development without considering the inevitable consequences it has on common people. Through his works he followed the protests that began in 2006 against open-pit coal mining in Dinajpur. Video clippings of an interview of Professor Anu Muhammad, by Dr. Shahidul Alam, are also being played.

Wahid Adnan's works are moving witnesses of the crash of Dhaka Stock Exchange in 2010 and the following riots. The frustration and helplessness of hundreds of stakeholders, many of whom had gone bankrupt as the market plunged, have been demonstrated in his works.

Saikat Mojumder has brought photos of a red light district in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The photos tell the heart-rending tale of young girls who are trapped into prostitution due to unbearable poverty.

The exhibition ends on September 30.

Frederiek Biemans and Catherine Masud inaugurate the exhibition; Dr. Shahidul Alam (middle) is also seen in the photo. PHOTO COURTESY: SAIKAT MAJUMDER



Authors and poets celebrate 'Literature Day'

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Poets and authors from different districts of the northern region recently celebrated Literature Day at Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur district.

Amrita, a local cultural organisation, hosted the event at Chirirbandar Pilot High School auditorium. The aim of the programme, said the organiser, was to generate interest in literature among rural people.

Around 50 poets and authors of Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Rangpur took part in the programme.

Md. Amirul Islam Prodhon, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Chirirbandar, attended the occasion as chief guest. Babu Krishnapada Roy, headmaster of Chirirbandar Pilot High School, chaired the programme.

Masud Mustafiz, Lutfar Rahman and Liakat Ali recited poems, followed by performances of Chirirbandar Pilot High School students.

Bhairab Shangskritik Chattar celebrates 34th anniversary

AMANUR AMAN, Kusthia

Bhairab Shangskritik Chattar, a traditional literary and cultural in Meherpur district, observed its 34th anniversary on Friday.

On the occasion, a discussion was arranged at the premises of the organisation in the evening. A cultural programme was also held after the discussion.

Advocate Anwar Hossain, president of the organization, was in the chair.

The discussion was addressed by Meherpur Deputy Commissioner (DC), Begum Saharana Banu, as chief guest.

Anisuzzaman Mintu, general secretary of Bhairab Shangskritik Chattar, gave the welcome speech. At the cultural programme, local artistes performed songs, dance and poetry recitation.

The organisation also launched the 162nd issue of Srot, a regular literary magazine of the organisation.

THEATRE TODAY

"More technical support needed for experimental productions"

-- Sudip Chakroborthy, theatre teacher and director

JAMIL MAHMUD

Sudip Chakroborthy is a young theatre teacher and activist. Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre, Dhaka University, Sudip is an emerging director as well. He has been working as a guest director with different troupes. His recent directorial works -- "Mahajoner Nao" (a Subachan production), "Phona" (Shabbaboli) and "Lal Jamin" (Shunnon Theatre) -- have been lauded by the critics and audience.

Glimpses of his ingenuity and experimental approach are apparent in these plays. While "Mahajoner Nao" is a biographical play on 'Baul Samrat' Shah Abdul Karim, "Phona" is a bold representation of anomalies inside an army camp. "Lal Jamin" recounts the Liberation War experiences of a character.

Primarily Sudip had a goal to become a writer, but after he enrolled in the theatre department that goal changed. He launched his new mission with more zeal. His passion for theatre, especially direction, grew while he was a student. He has set



mental works, and minimal use of technology are barriers to go further," Sudip said, adding, "We should embrace technology both on and off stage."

Sudip does not believe that without institutional knowledge theatre practice is impossible. Rather he feels that institutional knowledge can only bolster an individual's creativity. "We have numerous examples of successful theatre directors, actors, technicians and activists, who had no institutional education. Their innate creativity and unflinching dedication to the performing art form drove them to success," said Sudip.

It is often said that issues related to infrastructure are affecting Bangladeshi theatre. Shortage of venues always remains a much talked about issue among theatre activists. But Sudip said that renovation of the existing auditoriums across the country could solve the problem. Moreover, he believes that the European concept -- "theatre is not possible without scenium" -- does not hold true.

As a young individual he observes that his fellow activists usually go for big

troupe. Moreover, they prefer TV/films to stage because of the lure of money. However, not everyone is after that. "Many young individuals want a solid career in theatre. Some of them are working with utmost sincerity. They need proper supervision and encouragement," said Sudip.

He also observes that theatre students mainly prefer to join television channels as producers or technicians.

As a teacher, Sudip thinks that students not pursuing careers in theatre are a failure of our education system. "Financial insecurity is the main cause here. Passion and dedication are also important. But most importantly, we need to change our education system. Theatre should be introduced at primary or secondary school level," said Sudip.

Sudip ended the conversation with a few suggestions. He wants to see theatre students and activists to be up-to-date with technology to conduct impressive experiments. Theoretical knowledge and practical skills regarding oriental and occidental theatre are also needed.

A celebration of Tagore

Marking 81st anniversary of Rabindranath's visit to Russia



On September 22, people milled around the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Dhanmondi in Dhaka to attend a programme organised by Soviet Alumni Association, Bangladesh to mark the 81st anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Russia, says a press release.

Renowned Bangladeshi writer, poet Syed Shamsul Haq who is also the president of Bangladesh-Russia Friendship society presided over the function. A. P. Demin, Head of the Cultural Department, Russian Embassy in Dhaka gave a short account of Tagore's visits and meetings in Russia. Present as chief guest was Engr. Gholam Mostofa, Chairman, Dhaka WASA and President, Soviet Alumni Association, Bangladesh.

Members of the literary organisation "Jion Kanthi" gave a performance based on Tagore's "Letters from Russia". The show was staged by a young scholar of Russian literature and assistant editor of Daily Prothom Alo Zahid Reza Noor. The audience enjoyed the show all the more as many aspiring student-dancers of the Dance department of Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts performed dances under the guidance of Syeda Samsi Ara Saika, Farhana Chowdhury Baby and Benozir Salam.

Karam Puja celebrated in Thakurgaon

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

The two-day "Karam Puja" (a major festival of the Orao community, from the northern districts of Bangladesh) was celebrated on September 18 and 19 in Thakurgaon district.

Thakurgaon Karam Festival Celebration Committee held a discussion, cultural programme and prayers on the occasion.

Deputy Commissioner of Thakurgaon, Muhammad Shahiduzzaman, inaugurated the festival as chief guest in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila. Superintendent of Police, Md. Shah Alam, Thakurgaon Sadar upazila chairman, Sultanul Ferdous; Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Touhidul Islam and executive editor of the local daily Lokayan, Professor Montosh Kumer De, were special guests. Convener of Thakurgaon Karam Festival Celebration Committee, Alfonso



Kerketa was in the chair.

Young Orao girls observed a dawn to dusk fast on the first day of the festival. In the evening special dishes for guests and kinfolk were served.

Later the girls fetched branches of the Karam tree from the vicinity in a colourful procession, while boys and girls sang and danced to the beats of drums.

At sunset an altar was built, where they planted the branches of the Karam tree. During the ritual, young men and women danced around the altar. Then began the puja where the priest recited verses explaining the

significance of the festival, which according to researchers is celebrated by indigenous people to express their affinity with nature. They also prayed for happy communal lives. The festival ended the next day with the immersion of branches of the Karam tree in the Tangon River.

Babul Titta, general secretary of district unit of Jatiya Adibashi Parishad (an organisation of indigenous communities) said that the festival is celebrated in Pachpiranga, Jagannathpur, Gobindanagarh and Chandpur villages of the district.

China Ram Tirk, leader of Orao community of Jagannathpur village, said that Karam is one of the major festivals celebrated by the 37 indigenous families of the village. "Though our unique culture seems headed towards extinction, we want to preserve the traditions and heritage for generations to come," he said.



Dhaka Jatra Vision has arranged a five day "Rabi Jatratala Profijogita 2011" at Tito auditorium, Bogra. Artistes of "Swadesh Matya Sangstha" of Sirajganj staged jatratala "Banglar Beiman" on the opening day (September 23). PHOTO: STAR

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| ATN BANGLA | Boishakhi TV |
| 12:15 Off Time | 10:30 Bangla Feature Film |
| 05:20 Obhram Bangladesh | 04:15 Shorashori Doctor |
| 08:40 Drama Serial: Ei Shabony | 08:10 Drama Serial: Ecaruser Dana |
| 10:55 Drama Serial: Utaradhikar | 10:50 Reporters Dairy |
| 01:15 ATN Music | 11:30 Boishakhi Sanskriti O Binodon Sangbad |
| CHANNEL i | Maasranga Television |
| 01:05 Ebong Cnemar Gaan | 10:02 Bangla Feature Film |
| 04:05 Magazine Program: Arshi Nagar | 06:30 Neer-er Kabbo |
| 06:00 Drama Serial: Dahab | 09:02 Drama Serial: Santaran |
| 06:20 Drama Serial: Robin Hood | 09:30 Hari Jitee Nahi Laaj Gaanpoka |
| 07:50 Khude Gaanraj | Diganta TV |
| ntv | 01:30 Business Time Line Career Line |
| 04:10 Janur Achhey Bolar Achhey | 06:30 Jibon Onneshha |
| 06:50 Crime Watch | Drama Serial: Shaha Marush |
| 09:00 Glamour World | 08:30 Manush |
| 08:15 Drama Serial: Dur | 08:30 Priyo Shilpi Priyo Gaan |

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| abcr radio FM 89.2 | Radio | Hello Dhaka |
| 06:00 Bhorer Janalaya | 12:00 No Tension | Manning Express |
| 09:00 Mukhonto Jiboney | 12:00 Dhaka Calling | No Tension |
| 12:00 Duran Dupurey | 06:00 Radio Today FM 89.6 | 12:00 Dhaka Calling |
| 03:00 Duanas Silekhey | 06:00 Radio Today FM 89.6 | 06:00 Radio Today FM 89.6 |
| 05:00 Shomola Tara | 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka | 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka |
| 07:00 Shy-er Maja | 12:00 Today's Adda | 12:00 Today's Adda |
| 09:00 Raak-er Akashay | 04:00 U-Turn | 04:00 U-Turn |
| 11:00 Galper Shekh Nei | 07:00 Today Tai Hok | 07:00 Today Tai Hok |
| Radio Footi | 10:00 Raat Shor Gaan | 10:00 Raat Shor Gaan |

Raat Birayet
On Banglavisison at 11:25pm
Street Show
Guest: Rumi Rahman

Green Zone
On HBO at 09:30pm
Genre: Action/Drama
Cast: Matt Damon, Jason Isaacs

Pother Dabi
On Maasranga Television at 08:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Miri Sabbir, Bindu

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| 11:30 Paharer Batashera | Z Studio |
| Rtv | 03:50 The Count of Monte Cristo |
| 12:35 Bangla Feature Film | 06:30 Spider-Man 2 |
| 05:00 Cinema R Gaan | 09:00 Venom |
| 09:50 R Music | 11:30 The Other Man |
| 11:30 Drama Serial: Ranger Shungbar | Star Movies |
| 12:05 Kichhu Dekha Kichhu Kotha | 07:00 National Security Letters To Juliet |
| ETV | 10:20 When In Rome |
| 11:30 Ekushey-er Business | HBO |
| 04:30 Gaaner Opore | 07:35 Kull the Conqueror |
| 05:30 Binodoner Bishwa | 07:40 A Day Near |
| 07:50 Music Station | 09:30 Green Zone |
| 08:20 Drama Serial: Ohongkar | 12:00 Rocky IV |
| BANGLAVISION | StarWorld |
| 11:05 Shokal Belar Roddur | 03:30 Cops |
| 01:05 Bangla Feature Film | 07:30 India's Most Desirable |
| 05:20 Porikha Prostuti | 09:30 Master Chef Australia |
| 09:05 Ghaki Chai | 10:30 Bones |
| 11:25 Raat Birayet | 12:00 Home Improvement |
| Desh TV | Discovery Channel |
| 04:30 Durgath | 02:30 Swords: Life on the Line |
| 06:30 Obak Pithiba | 08:30 World War II in Colour |
| 07:45 Drama Serial: Gohirey | 09:30 Man vs. Wild |
| 09:45 Ke Hote Chay Katipoti | 10:30 Man Woman Wild |
| 12:30 Total Sports | 11:30 A Haunting |

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| ATN BANGLA | DRAMA SERIAL |
| 06:00pm Adarsha Mess Bari | 09:00pm Boyra Panbar |
| 07:20pm Pooch Phagurer Pala | ETV |
| 09:35pm Eka Pakhi | 09:30pm Ghatat Baki Bhai |
| ntv | BANGLAVISION |
| 09:45pm Akasher Niche Manush | 06:15pm No Problem |
| Rtv | Desh TV |
| 08:20pm Shant Parusher Dhaka | 08:15pm Sat Kahon |
| | 08:45pm Bosshakhi TV |
| | 08:45pm O Chand |

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| ATN BANGLA | NEWS BULLETIN |
| 06:30 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am | BANGLAVISION |
| 06:30 News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm | News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm |
| 09:05 Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels) | News (English) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm |
| CHANNEL-i | News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am |
| News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am | News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am |
| ATN BANGLA | ETV |
| NEWS (Bangla): 7:30 am, 11:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am | News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm |

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| ATN BANGLA | TALK SHOW |
| 10:30am Lead News | 10:40am Tankulap |
| 11:15am Vision 2020 | 07:40pm Our Democracy |
| CHANNEL i | ETV |
| 09:45am Tritio Matra | 10:10pm Galpo Shalpo Gaan |
| 12:30pm Tarika Kothon | Desh TV |
| ntv | 11:45pm Shaja Kotha |
| 12:30am Ei Shomoy | Bosshakhi TV |
| Rtv | 12:30am Amr Hour |
| | Maasranga Television |