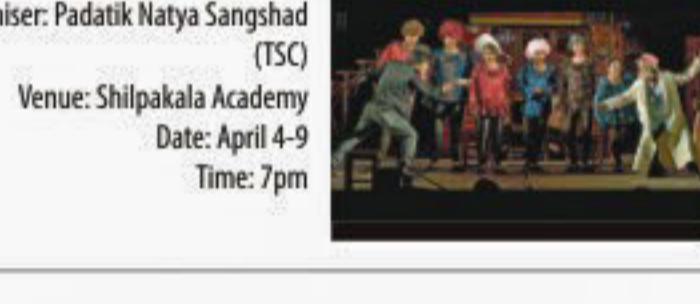
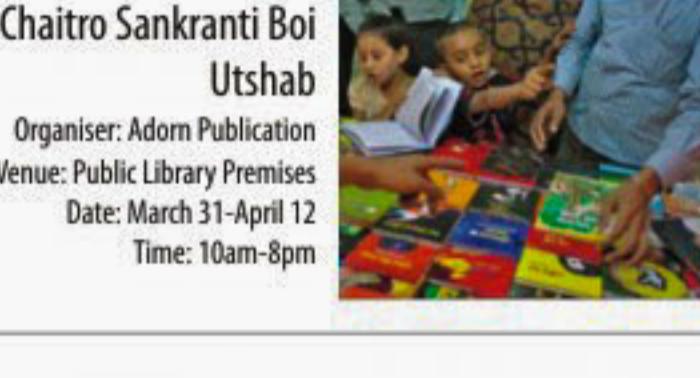
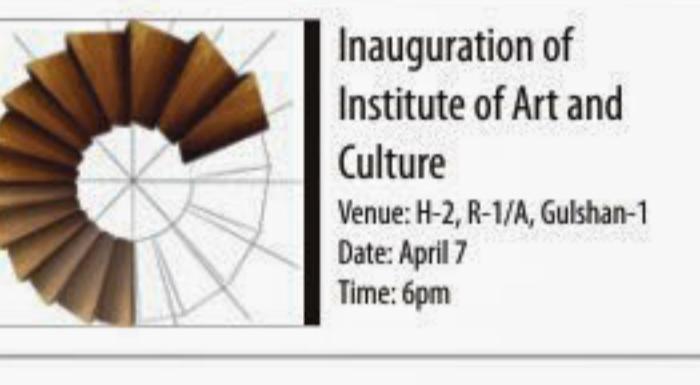
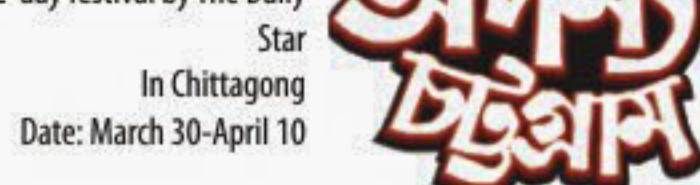


## WHAT'S ON

Odromo Chattogram  
12-day festival by The Daily Star  
In Chittagong  
Date: March 30-April 10

## Houston drowned in very hot water, cocaine in system



Whitney Houston drowned in a hot bathtub in a Beverly Hills hotel room with cocaine in her system and white powder nearby, a final coroner's report revealed on Wednesday.

Detectives found white powdery substances, a rolled-up piece of paper, a small spoon and a mirror in the bathroom shortly after Houston's naked body was found face down in the bathtub on February 11, the 40-page Los Angeles County coroner's report said.

Houston, 48, had a history of drug addiction. An autopsy in March determined she died of accidental drowning due to the effects of cocaine and heart disease.

Wednesday's report revealed that Houston had a perforated nose, indicating substance abuse, filled with a bloody discharge.

Detectives said she was found in about 12 inches of extremely hot water, which was determined to be 93 Fahrenheit (34 Celsius) some six hours after her death.

The singer also had traces of marijuana in her system and an open bottle of champagne was found in her room at the Beverly Hilton, hours before she was due to attend a pre-Grammy party.

The "I Will Always Love You" singer appears to have been left alone in the hotel room for less than an hour.

Houston was one of the world's best known singers in the 1980s and 1990s with hits such as "Saving All My Love For You" and "I Wanna Dance with Somebody."

REUTERS

## Nandanpurer Mela-e Ekjon Kamala Sundari O Ekti Bagh Ashe নন্দনপুরে মেলা-এ একজন কামলা সুন্দরী ও একটি বাগ অঞ্জলি

staged at District Shilpakala Academy



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong  
Theatre enthusiasts were moved by the performance of the artistes of Tirkaj Natya Goshthi on Monday as the troupe staged the play "Nandanpurer Mela-e Ekjon Kamala Sundari O Ekti Bagh Ashe" at District Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong. The show was part of the theatre festival organised by The Daily Star as part of its "Odromo Chattogram" celebration.

The play portrays the story of people, their sorrows and hopes during the Liberation War in 1971.

The play has been written by Badruzzaman Alamgir and directed by Shamim Hasan.

Kumkumi, a village woman, was abducted by the Pakistani army and abused. After she became pregnant, out of disgust, she threw her 'war baby' into the river. Soon after this Kumkumi died from snakebite. Mangal saves the baby.

The baby boy, named Jaidul, grows up alongside his own daughter Lappa. Jaidul grows up listening to the tales of the Liberation War.

As Jaidul grows up, he looks different from the locals and everyone starts gos-



siping about it. Jaidul is very patriotic and tales of the Pakistan army's brutality makes him angry.

Meanwhile he falls for Lappa. But Lappa does not reciprocate.

Jaidul becomes severely ill and dies. Before death he prays to God to be reincarnated as a tiger and his prayers are

answered. People become afraid but they notice that the tiger does not harm anyone. It just destroys the pitch of a road, which the Pak army used during the war.

Rakibul Hasan, a viewer, said that he was enthralled by the acting of Nasir, who played Sutradhar.

Sabina Bari, another viewer, said that the acting of Nishu, who portrayed the character Lappa, moved her. She also appreciated the actor who portrayed the character Jaidul.

Use of local myth and forms has made the play unique, said director of the play Shamim, who is also a teacher of dramatics department at Chittagong University.

The cast included Khaled Helal, Nasir, Hannan, Faruk, Manik, Plaban, Lusai, Saikat, Sourav, Bayezid, Selim, Suman, Heera, Tuli, Naima and Nishu. Stage designer was Shamim Hasan; music director was Dr. Dipankar Dey; choreographer was Proma Abanti and costume designers were Naima and Heera.

"Nandanpurer Mela-e Ekjon Kamala Sundari O Ekti Bagh Ashe" is the 32nd production of Tirkaj Natya Goshthi, a theatre troupe of the port city.

## Reflection of life in theatre

In conversation with Ahmad Iqbal Haider



PHOTO: STAR

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writer from Chittagong

Ahmad Iqbal Haider is popular name in Bangladeshi theatre. His 37 years of illustrious career has furnished the Chittagong theatre scene with many achievements and accolades. He is the team leader of Tirkaj Natyadol, one of the leading theatre troupes of Chittagong. At present he is the Artistic Director of Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC).

Ahmad Iqbal Haider was the convener of "The Daily Star Odromo Chattogram Theatre Festival" that came to an end on April 4 at two venues (TIC and District Shilpakala Academy) of the port city. President of International Theatre Institute (ITI) Worldwide, Ramendu Majumdar, inaugurated the festival as chief guest on March 31.

"Nine leading troupes of Chittagong staged their productions at the festival. I salute The Daily Star for organising such a festival. We also invited troupes from Rangamati, Cox's Bazar and other districts of Chittagong division; but due to dearth of theatre venues we had to shorten the festival in five days," said Ahmad Iqbal Haider.

"The heritage of Chittagong theatre is very old and unique. The practice of mime is frequent too in Chittagong. We are really honoured and happy that the leading English daily of the country has recognised theatre activists through the 'Odromo Chattogram' initiative. Credit also goes to Chittagong theatre troupes. We hope to reach a new height with the help of The Daily Star in the days ahead," asserted the director.

The artiste has so far directed 56 plays including "Bishorjon", "Rathijatra", "Raktakarobi", "Raja", "Dakghar" (all by Tagore); "Merchant of Venice" by William Shakespeare; "Oedipus" (by Sophocles); "Madhumala" (by Kazi Nazrul Islam); "Buro Shalhikher Gharey Rown" (by Michael Madhusudan Dutta); "Dwarruddha" (by Jean Paul Sartre); "Atotai" (by Selim Al Deen) and "Smriti: '71" (by Zia Haider).

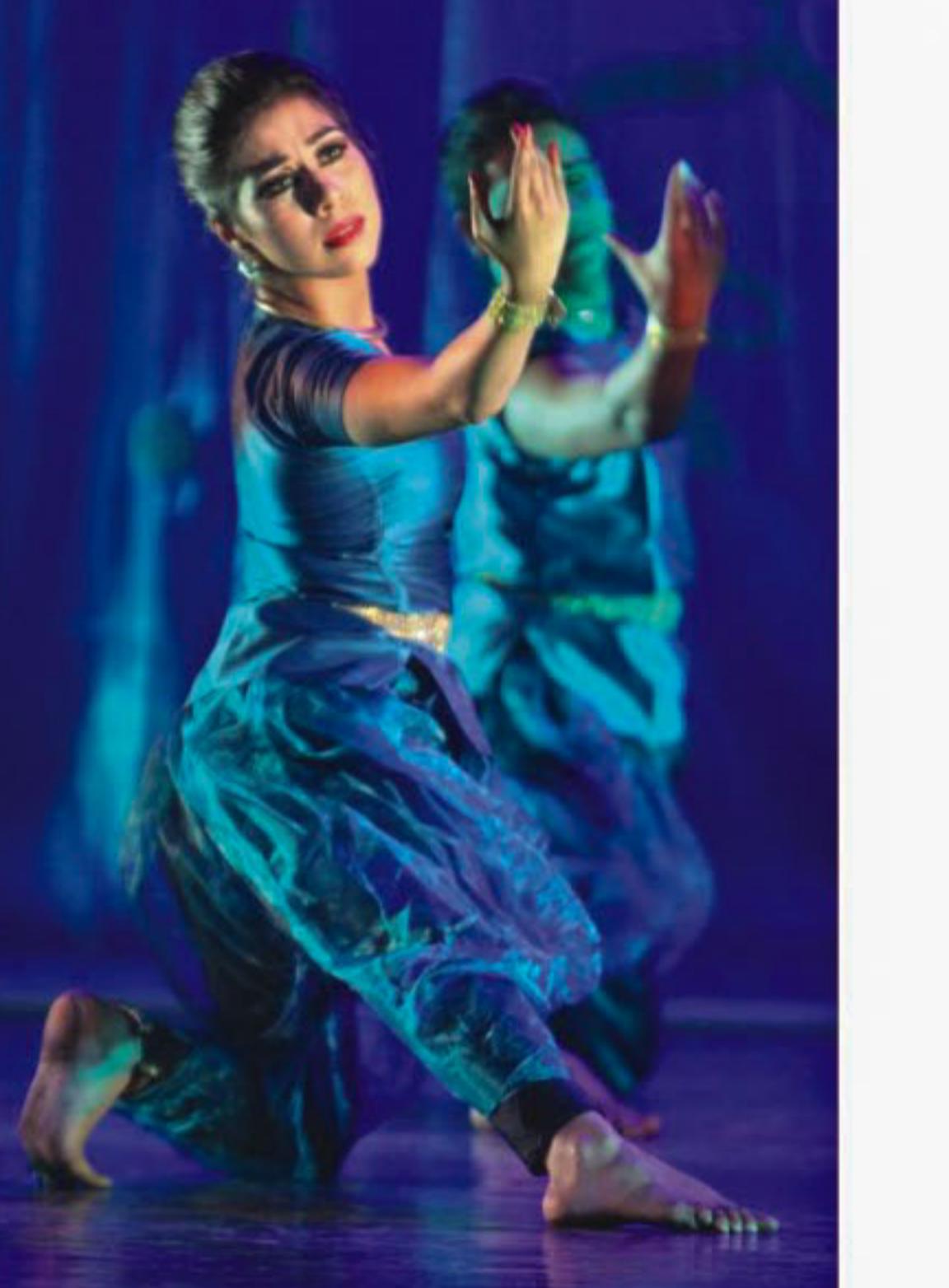
"Bishorjon" has been staged 201 times in Chittagong. It is really a landmark and a matter of pride as well for not only Chittagong but also Bangladeshi theatre. "Rathijatra" has been staged 168 times, while "Raktakarobi" has been staged 99 times -- waiting to touch landmarks. Besides, I have directed two experimental productions -- "Nijhor-er Swapnobhongo" and "Tapur-Tupur" -- based on Tagore poems," mentioned Haider.

Apart from direction, the dedicated theatre activist and organiser has so far designed light for 54 productions, set for 38 plays; planned costumes for 20 productions, background for 12 plays; edited and translated 15 plays and enacted more than 2000 times in 30 productions.

Haider started working in theatre in 1975. The artiste introduces himself as a theatre activist. He sees the reflection of his life in theatre and hopes to carry it on till the end. He played significant roles in the contractions of studio theatre and modern TIC in Chittagong for which he dreamt of.

He is also the organising secretary of ITI Bangladesh Chapter and participated as a Bangladeshi representative in 31st, 32nd and 33rd ITI World Congress held in Manila, Philippines; Madrid, Spain and Xiamen, China in 2006, 2008 and 2011 respectively.

## Shadhona's Fireflies wins over Indian audience



While the entire nation was praying that a very young team of Bangladeshi cricketers could win the Asia Cup 2012, in Delhi another youthful team of Bangladeshis won their way into the hearts of art connoisseurs of the Indian capital. Under the aegis of cultural organisation Shadhona, "Fireflies", a production based on Tagore's book of poems with the same title, was staged on March 22, 2012 at the Nrityakatha Dance Festival, held at the Kamani Auditorium, organised by the Lokchhanda Cultural Unit. The three-day festival hosted six experimental productions by six well-known dance groups, according to a press release.

When Rabindranath Tagore visited Japan, he was fascinated by the Japanese epigrammatic poems, called Haiku. Tout de suite he wrote a short book of poems called "Fireflies". These poems resemble the sayings of a wise man rather than poetry. The compact style conveys memorable poetic expressions with great force and intensity. The brevity and crispness of these verses combined with the wit and wisdom contained in them make these poems extremely delightful. Each epigrammatic 'firefly' represents a brief yet luminous thought on life, beauty, or Divinity. The Bengali version of some of these poems are also to be found in the bilingual "Lekhan" (1926) and "Sphulinga" (1946).

Shadhona has now transcended this ethereal work of Tagore into dance and music. The presentation has been conceptualised by Courtney Sato, a young dancer from Hawaii. Dance has been choreographed by Amit Chowdhury, and music directed by Nirjher Chowdhury.

In the March 31, 2012 issue of India's leading daily, The Hindu, a review by Leela Venkataaram, the foremost dance critic of India, reads as follows:

"Nothing could beat the slick artistry of 'Fireflies' presented by Shadhona group from Bangladesh working for South Asian unity through music and dance. These Haiku-inspired winged fancies of Tagore, more prose than poetry, are wise luminous ideas on life/earth/God and a multi-cultural world, pointing to clean thoughts of an open mind. And catching the fragrance of this unsullied purity of mind, was the refined elegance of the production with six dancers moving with the greatest of grace and symmetry.

"Like fireflies, winged thoughts flew in the air -- like just dancing without aiming at a destination, like offerings made to wayside shrines rather than grand temples at end of the road, like rivers reaching the sea, like work finding fulfilment in depths of leisure, like the silence of the Bindu in lyrics like 'Akash bhora, shoorja tara...' like Life accepting darkness for its spouse for the sake of creation. Full marks to Amit Chowdhury's choreography, the melodic softness of Nirjher Chowdhury's music designing and of course the overall supervision of Lubna Marium."

Dance in Bangladesh had come of age.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Two recently produced Tagore plays -- "Kaler Jatra" and "Shesher Kobita" -- were staged on the opening day of the six-day theatre festival arranged by Padatik Natya Sangsad (TSC). The festival began at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on April 4. Padatik has been arranging the festival, "Syed Badruddin Hossain Smriti Natyabhabo O Smarak Shammanana 2012", to commemorate the birthday of its former president and noted educationist, the late Syed Badruddin Hossain.

Noted cultural personality Kamal Lohani inaugurated the festival through lighting candles. Among others, veteran theatre personality Ataur Rahman and Secretary General of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Jhuna Chowdhury, addressed the audience at the inaugural ceremony. Syed Tasnin Hossain, presi-

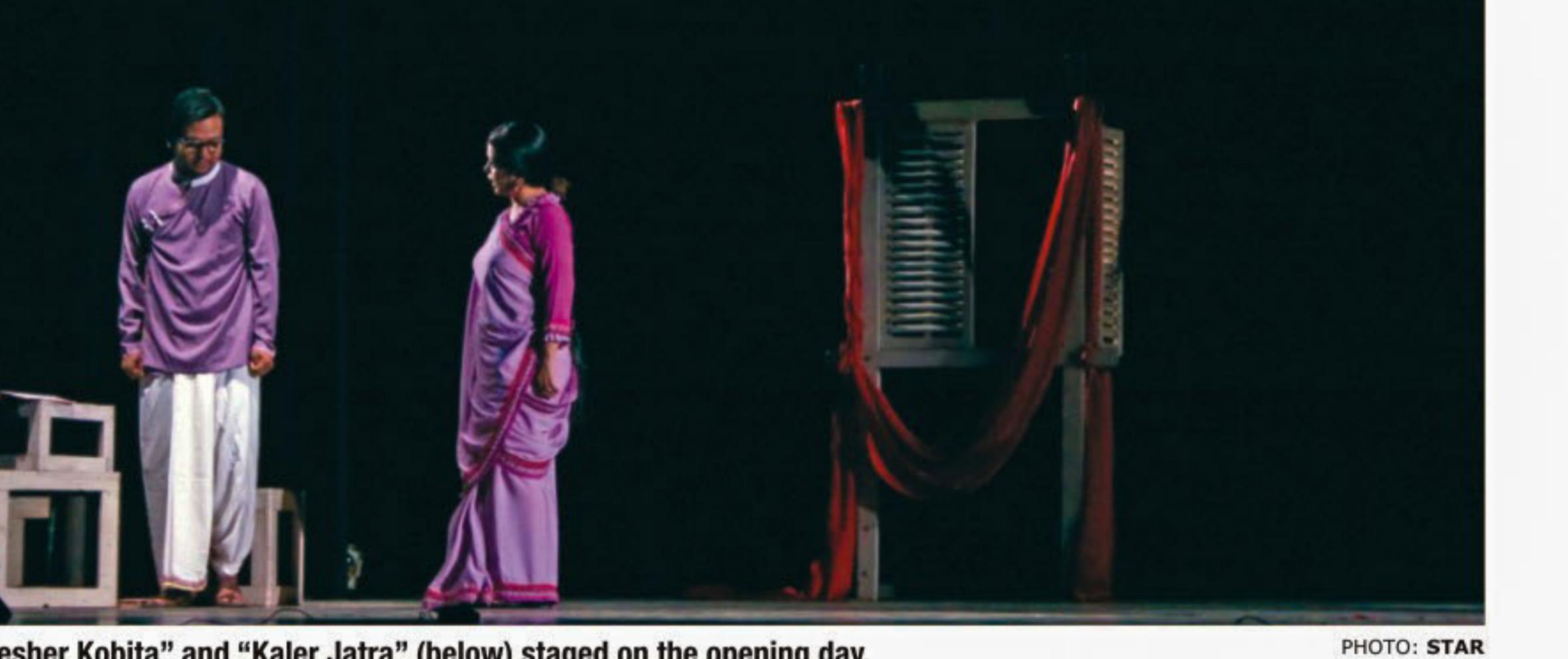


PHOTO: STAR

dent of Padatik, presided over the session.

"Kaler Jatra" was staged by Padatik at the Experimental Theatre Hall. An adaptation of Tagore's "Rother Roshi", the play has been directed by Golam Sarwar.

The play follows a 'roth jatra', an ancient ritualistic Hindu festival. People start gathering at the venue, even in the morning. Efforts are made to move the 'roth' (chariot), but to everyone's surprise it doesn't budge. A priest comes and reads out the holy words, but the chariot remains stationary. The warriors come and pull the bridge but to no avail.

The cast includes Sayeeda Shamshi, Genia Azad, Shakhwat Hossain, Samay Samad, Jony Khadem and Hamidur Rahman. Junayed Usuf designed the set and light.

Prangne Mor staged "Shesher Kobita" at the National Theatre Hall. The play has been dramatised by Syed Badruddin Hossain Smarak Shammanana' (memorial award) on the last day.

The oft-read tragic-romantic story "Shesher Kobita" zooms in on Amit Roy and Labanya Debi, who meet

The festival will end on April 9.

each other after a minor collision of their respective vehicles on a hilly road in Shillong. Amit and Labanya gradually fall for each other. There are other important characters in the story as well, such as Shobhoni and Ketoki.

Ananta Hera and Ramij Raja alternatively acted as Amit, while Nuna Afroz, Shubhendu and Shumi played Labanya in different scenes.

Faiz Zahir designed the set. Taufique Azim designed the lights. Apart from acting, Ramij Raja also did the music direction.

The festival features twelve troupes, including one from India. Today, Nagarik Natyampradayan will stage "Raktakarobi" at the Experimental Theatre Hall, while Loko Lato (Siddheswar) will stage "Leelabati Akhyan" at the Studio Theatre Hall.

Theatre personalities Ramendu Majumdar and Nasirul Hossain will be felicitated with 'Syed Badruddin Hossain Smarak Shammanana' (memorial award) on the last day.

The festival will end on April 9.

## Beetle Baily



## ABC concert today

With the success of the first ABC Concert last year, LiveSquare will hold another such show today at the auditorium of Engineers' Institute in Dhaka. Featuring three popular bands -- Artcell, Black and Cryptofate, the concert will start at 5pm, according to a press release.

LiveSquare, in support with Airtel Bangladesh, will hold the event.

Ticket for the concert costs Tk 799. Tickets will be available at Shwarme House (Banani, Uttara and Dhammndon), The Bench (Gulshan), and the Book Worm (Old Airport Road).

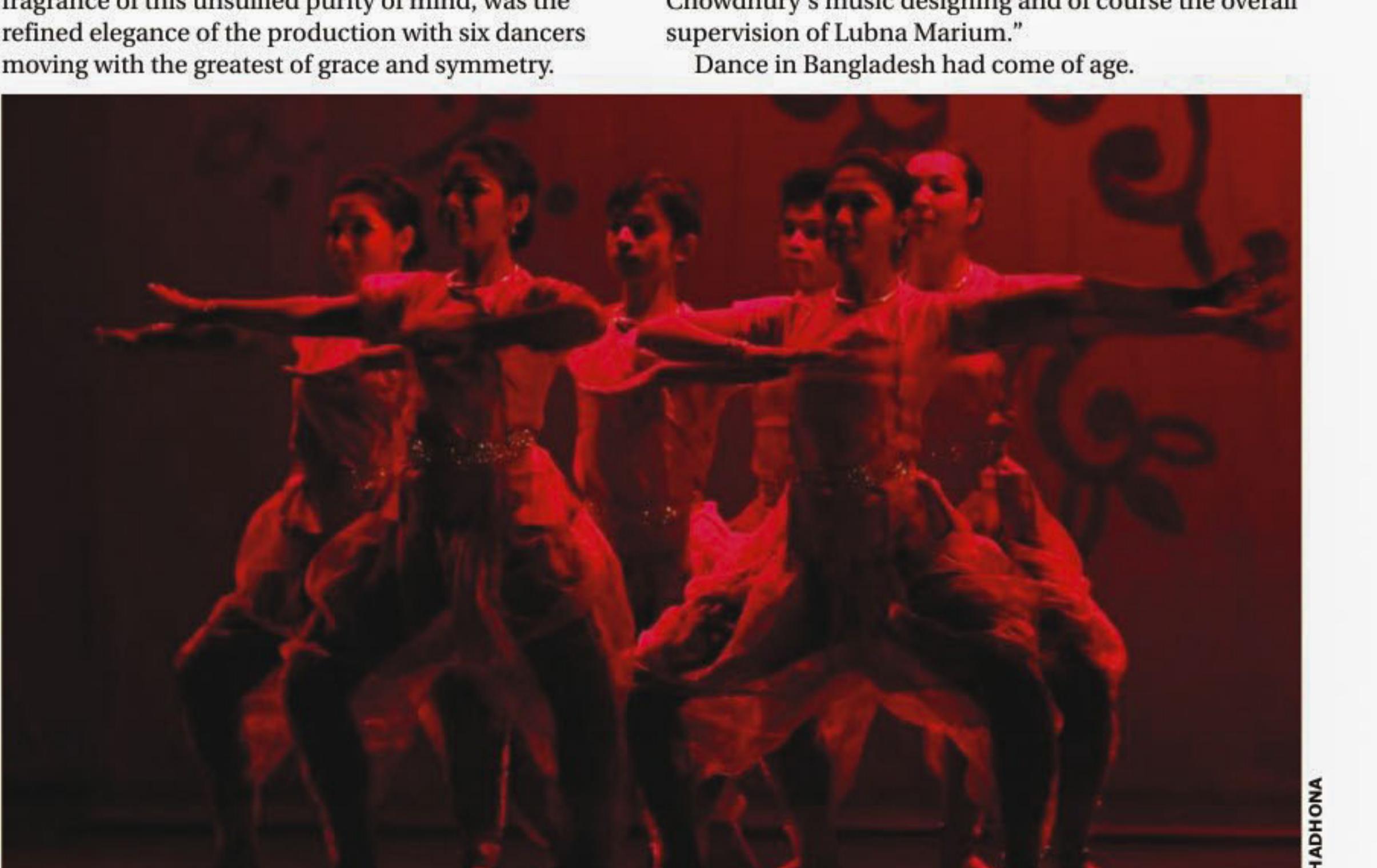
Update regarding the concert is available on [www.facebook.com/LiveSquareconcerts](http://www.facebook.com/LiveSquareconcerts).

PHOTO: SHADHONA

"Fireflies" has been conceptualised by Courtney Sato and choreographed by Amit Chowdhury; music has been directed by Nirjher Chowdhury.

## Astronomy &amp; Astrophysics Workshop

April 12- June 14, 2012

Every Thursday 5.30 - 8.30 p.m.

Registration Fees Tk. 2,000  
All participants will be given certificate

Contact for Registration:

9116314, 017 111 87555,

019 111 58435

Organized by:  
Bangladesh Astronomical Association  
& Russian Centre of Science and Culture in DhakaIn cooperation with:  
Theoretical Physics Dept., University of Dhaka &

The Daily Star

## NEWS BULLETIN

Bioshakhi TV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm
BANGLAVISION	News (English) at 9am, 6pm, Bioshakhi TV
CHANNEL 1	News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm, News (English) at 9am, 6pm, Bioshakhi TV
CHANNEL 2	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10pm, Bioshakhi TV
CHANNEL 3	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, News (English) at 9pm, 3pm, 6pm, Bioshakhi TV
ETV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, Bioshakhi TV
Maarsanga Television	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, Bioshakhi TV
Maarsanga Television	News (Bangla) at 7pm, Bioshakhi TV

ATN Bangla	10:00pm
ATN English	10:00