

WHAT'S ON

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

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Peace in Times of Disquiet
Artist: Mohammad Iqbal
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmad
Date: April 6-17

Musical Soiree
Organiser: Utko Bangladesh
Singers: Sufi Hani & Quazi
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: April 6

Inauguration of Institute of Art and Culture
Venue: H-2, R-1/A, Gulshan-1
Date: April 7
Time: 6pm

Chaitro Sankranti Boli Utshab
Organiser: Adom Publication
Venue: Public Library Premises
Date: March 31-April 12
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Song of the United Heart-River
Artist: Mahbub Ali
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 30-April 8

Theatre Festival
Organiser: Padatik Natya Sangsad (TSC)
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 4-9
Time: 7pm

Tagore Dance Drama
Title: Chitrangada
Organiser: High Commission of India, Dhaka
Venue: Jatiyo Natyashala, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

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."

SOURCE: REUTERS

Nandanpurer Mela-e Ekjon Kamala Sundari O Ekti Bagh Ashe staged at District Shilpakala Academy



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Theatre enthusiasts were moved by the performance of the artistes of Tirjok 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 "Odmmo Chattagram" 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 Luppa. 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 Luppa. But Luppa 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. Meanwhile Luppa runs away from home and joins a circus troupe as a dancer under the name 'Kamala Sundari'. The circus troupe buys a tiger. The troupe stages a show at Nandanpur. During the show, the tiger is agitated by Kamala's dance and breaks open the cage.

Padatik Theatre Fest opens with two Tagore plays

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 Natyotshab 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

"Shesher Kobita" and "Kaler Jatra" (below) staged on the opening day.

dent of Padatik, presided over the session.

"Kaler Jatra" was staged by Padatik at the Experimental Theatre Hall. An adaptation of Tagore's "Rother Roshni", 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, early 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 bridle but to no avail.

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

Prangane Mor staged "Shesher Kobita" at the National Theatre Hall. The play has been dramatised by Ananta Heera and directed by Nuna Afroz.

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

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

Ananta Hera and Ramij Raju alternatively acted as Amit, while Nuna Afroz, Shubhechchha and Shumi played Labonya in different scenes.

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

The festival features twelve troupes, including one from India. Today, Nagarik Natyasampraday will stage "Rakto Karobi" at the Experimental Theatre Hall, while Loko Natyadal (Siddheswari) will stage "Leelabati Akhyani" at the Studio Theatre Hall.

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

The festival will end on April 9.

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 titled, was staged on March 22, 2012 at the Nrityakatha Dance Festival, held at the Kamani Auditorium, organised by the Lokchanda 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 Venkataram, 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 Ninjher Chowdhury's music designing and of course the overall supervision of Lubna Marium."

Dance in Bangladesh had come of age.



PHOTO: SHADHONA

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

Reflection of life in theatre

In conversation with Ahmad Iqbal Haider



PHOTO: STAR

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes 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 Tirjok Natyadal, 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 Odmmo Chattagram 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 'Odmmo Chattagram' 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", "Rathjatra", "Raktokarobi", "Raja", "Dakghar" (all by Tagore); "Merchant of Venice" (by William Shakespeare); "Oedipus" (by Sophocles); "Madhumala" (by Kazi Nazrul Islam); "Buro Shalikhher Gharey Rowri" (by Michael Madhusudan Dutta); "Dwarumuddha" (by Jean Paul Sartre); "Atotayi" (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. "Rathjatra" has been staged 168 times, while "Raktokarobi" has been staged 99 times -- waiting to touch landmarks. Besides, I have directed two experimental productions -- 'Nijhor-e 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.

Astronomy & 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:
0116314, 017 111 87555,
019 116 58435

Organized by:
Bangladesh Astronomical Association &
Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Dhaka

In cooperation with:
Theoretical Physics Dept., University of Dhaka &
The Daily Star

ATN BANGLA	05:02	Square Hospital Doctor's Chamber
09:45 Agni Jhora Bangladesh	06:30	Cine Nama
03:05 Bangla Feature Film	11:00	Fusion Music
05:00 Gram Gorjor Khabor	10:40	Fox Movies
08:00 Reality Show	02:40	Avatar
CHANNEL 1	05:25	Vantage Point
01:05 Prokiti O Jibon	07:00	Homeland
01:30 Hridoyer Gaan	08:00	The Walking Dead
05:00 Janapader Dhoror	10:40	Knight & Day
09:35 Drama Serial: Lonka Kandha	11:45	Tron: Legacy
ETV		
10:02 Sonamoni Shukh-e	11:05	Congo
Oshukh-e	07:20	Speedy Singhs
01:30 Bangla Feature Film	03:30	Panormal
06:30 Musical Programme: Tanana	07:35	Rocky III
12:05 Phone O Live Studio Concert	09:30	Step Up
10:10 Bhalo Thakun	11:45	Superman Returns
		Star World

abcradioFM89.2	12:00	Boier Poka
06:00 Bhoros Janajaly	02:00	Fourti Unlimited
09:00 Mukhorho Jiboney	06:00	Bumper to Bumper
12:00 Darun Dupury	10:00	Club Fourti
03:00 Owarer Sholey	01:00	Back to Back Music
05:00 Shondhura	06:00	Green FM
07:00 Shajer Maya	06:00	Good Morning Dhaka
09:00 Rast-er Akashy	08:00	Flash Back
11:00 Gopier Shesh Nei	12:20	Iskono Program
RADIO FOOTI	02:15	Rupak Gaan
08:00 Addabari		

Istikutum On Boishakhi TV at 9:30pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Tania Hossain, Hassan Masud

Step Up On HBO at 9:30pm

Genre: Crime, Drama

Cast: Channing Tatum, Jenna Dewan-Tatum

Rongila On ETV at 9:30pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Shahiduzzaman Selim, Nawshreen

11:05 Amader Ramnaghar	11:30	Desperate Housewives
06:15 Gaan O Fun	03:30	Touch
11:25 Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo (Live)	05:30	Unforgettable
ntv	10:30	Criminal Minds
12:35 Concert: Bamba Shubhoshondhya	11:30	Joey
06:15 Musical Programme	12:00	Raising Hope
Rtv		National Geographic Channel
10:10 Doctor's Prescription (Live)	11:30	Outback Wrangler
03:45 Natuner Jayogyan (Live)	08:30	Snake Wranglers
05:30 Game Show: Ghar-e Bairey	03:30	Built for the Kill
Diamond World Rtv Star Night (Live)	10:30	Man hunt
07:00 Live Musical Programme: Priyogon-er Gaan	11:30	Deadliest Warrior
06:25 123 Simpur	03:30	Dual Survival
07:45 Mukh O Mukhorota Call-er Gaan	04:30	Man Woman Wild
11:45 Maasranga Television	08:30	Man Vs. Wild
	10:30	I Shouldn't Be Alive
	11:30	Tattoo Hunter
		BBC World
	11:00	BBC World News
	02:30	Rendezvous with Zeinab Badawi

ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
09:20pm Matijheel C/A	08:15pm Harikritye
11:00pm Hawa Mitthai	09:45pm Gulshan Avenue
ntv	08:15pm Rupkotha
09:45pm Kobi	Desh TV
ETV	08:15pm Kuashar Ondokhor
09:30pm Rongila	Maasranga Television
Boishakhi TV	09:02pm Santoron
08:10pm Istikutum	

BTv	Boishakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, 11pm	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm, 11pm
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm	News (English) at 9am, 6pm
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm
News (English) at 9am, 6pm	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm
CHANNEL 1	Rtv
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm
ntv	Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
ETV	Maasranga Television
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am

ATN Bangla	Quran
12:30am Lead News	09:05pm Moner Kotha
CHANNEL 1	Rtv
01:00am Tritto Matra	10:40am Tarokalp
Boishakhi TV	Desh TV
11:00pm Saatkahon	07:45pm Mukh O Mukhorota
12:00am Zero Hour	Maasranga Television
BANGLAVISION	07:30pm Prime Issue
12:05pm Moha Shatto AI-	