

WHAT'S ON

**Birth Anniversary**  
Celebration of Poet  
Sufia Kamal  
Venue: Main Auditorium,  
Chhayanat

**Tagore Dance Festival**  
Organisers: Dance & Dance  
Drama Sub-committee &  
Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala  
Academy

**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Samina Chowdhury  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural  
Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1  
Date: June 22  
Time: 8:30pm

**Discussion & Musical  
Programme**  
On Bijoy Sarkar, Radharaman  
Datta & Kamol Dasgupta  
Venue: Music & Dance Centre  
Auditorium, Shilpakala

**Discussion & Cultural  
Programme**  
On Kabir Ramesh Sheel &  
Sachin Dev Burman  
Venue: Music & Dance Centre,  
Shilpakala Academy

**Fete De La Musique**  
Featured Bands: The Bridge,  
Benzin & Old School  
Venue: National Theatre Hall,  
Shilpakala Academy

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Beautiful Bangladesh  
Artist: Shuhag Parvez  
Venue: Galien Raja, H-20, R-16  
Sector-4, Uttara  
Date: June 15-22  
Time: 11am-9pm

**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Fahmida Nadeem  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural  
Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1  
Date: June 23  
Time: 8:30pm

# Modernising BFDC

## In conversation with Pijush Bandyopadhyaya

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Pijush Bandyopadhyaya has treaded into all media, including theatre, television, films and radio and has seized success at every step. An acclaimed cultural activist, Pijush is one of the founder members of Dhaka Theatre. Pijush, who recently took over the role of Managing Director of BFDC (Bangladesh Film Development Corporation), also fought valiantly in the Liberation War. He recently talked to The Daily Star on his plans to develop the film industry.

**What's your take on the recent government announcement on terming films as an industry?**

**Pijush:** I feel it's a great start. The idea of BFDC, its infrastructure, and establishment -- all came from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in 1957. This recent announcement is a milestone for us, as the government officially recognised cinema as an industry. It is a great honour for all the people involved with films. The announcement also opened many windows for our films. All the benefits of the industry policies can be enjoyed from now on -- which should help realise the dreams surrounding our films. People from both inside and outside BFDC will be benefited by this move. I urge both the talented newcomers and the veterans to step forward and work together to make full use of these opportunities.

**What are your goals as the new managing director of BFDC?**

**Pijush:** I want to take a two-pronged approach with our films. One would be to change the perspective of our society, and the other would be to use cinema to present the achievements and culture of our country to the rest of the globe. If we have proper planning, as well as the support of the government, much can be achieved. Our current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is very keen to improve and develop Bangladeshi cinema. I also hope that quality movies will be able to stop the erosion of society.

**What steps have you taken after taking office?**

**Pijush:** We are slowly working towards our goals. After becoming the MD, I was shocked to see that BFDC didn't have its



own library; so work on setting up one has begun. BFDC also doesn't have its own archive. We want to make arrangements to preserve the worn-out machines, which in its days produced many crowd-pleasers. We will also try to preserve many important documents, so that the history of our film industry can later be presented to the next generation. We are also trying to speed up the process of setting up a film institute. We have taken some plans to arrange better accommodations for BFDC employees too.

**How much modernisation does BFDC require?**

**Pijush:** I feel it is extremely necessary. If the modernisation is not done, then our Prime Minister's Vision 2021 will fail. If we cannot bring modern touches to our films, then we will continue to fall behind films from other countries.

**Many movie theatres are being shut**

**down. What is your opinion on this?**

**Pijush:** The shutting down of cinema halls is a very sad thing. Because there will be no purpose of a film, if the audience do not have a place to watch. There are many reasons behind movie theatres closing down. The Hall owners did not act responsibly and did not attempt at introducing modern facilities. They did not give priority to the viewers' demands and comfort. So many halls were forced to shut down. They could've been commercially successful, but lacked the initiative.

**Can Bangladeshi cinema regain its lost glory?**

**Pijush:** I think so. The government's support is needed to meet that goal. We cannot bring modern touches to our films as with a subject. I believe that this generation -- with its fresh ideas -- will help regain the glory of our cinema.

# Memorial speech on poet Sufia Kamal

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 101st birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will arrange a memorial speech and award giving ceremony. The programme will be held today at BIAM Auditorium, New Eskaton, Dhaka.

Essayist and researcher Morshed Shafiqul Hasan will deliver the memorial speech. Ayesha Khanom, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, will preside over the programme. Maleka Banu, secretary, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, will deliver the welcome speech at the programme. National Professor Mustafa Nurul



Islam will receive the 'Kobi Sufia Kamal Shammamona Padak 2012' at the programme. Tagore dance drama "Chandalika" will also be staged at the programme.

# Dance Festival

A CORRESPONDENT

Shilpakala Academy along with the Cultural Ministry of Bangladesh have organised a dance festival celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Tagore from June 22-24 at Shilpakala Academy Natyashala Auditorium.

The event includes seminars, dance workshop, and dance performances and dance dramas. Eminent dancers Tamanna Rahman, Deepa Khandakar and Sharmila Banerjee along with their troupes will perform in the various segments of the festival.

# Workshop for creative publishers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shabbagh Boipara Sangha has organised a workshop for creative publishers in our country. The workshop is now on at the Seminar Room of National Public Library in the city. Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury inaugurated the workshop on June 18.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, managing director of University Press Limited and president of Bangladesh Gyan O Srijonshil Prokashak Samiti was present as special guest. Publisher and essayist Mofidul Haq, publishers Mojibur Rahman Khoka, Anwar Farid and Alamgir Siddiq, president of Bangladesh Book Publishing and Selling Association, among others, attended the programme.

Zillur Rahman, deputy director of National Public Library; Faisal Arefin and Khan Mahbub are conducting the workshop.

About 50 publishers are taking part in the workshop. The workshop has focused on typography, manuscript preparation and copy editing, ISBN and bibliography, proof reading as well as book making, marketing and more.

The workshop ends today.

# Michael Learns to Rock comes to Dhaka today



A CORRESPONDENT

Internationally acclaimed band Michaels Learns to Rock is coming to Dhaka today. They will perform live at Bangabandhu International Conference Center on June 22. This is their first tour to Bangladesh.

Creinse Limited is the organiser of the concert. Director of Creinse Limited, Abu Sayeed Zahir says, "We are very happy to organise such an event of international magnitude, through which we aim to create a bridge between global and local

music. We hope we will organize more such exciting events in the near future for the people of the country."

For the first time a performer from Bangladesh will have the opportunity to perform with this band. A musical reality show ("Sing with MLTR") has already begun on Channel 9. The winner will have the opportunity to sing with the band live.

Michael Learns to Rock is a Danish pop-soul rock band that perform songs in English. Formed in 1988, the band has sold over 11 million

records worldwide, mainly in Asia, and in addition, another 6 million or more paid downloads for their single "Take Me To Your Heart" which was awarded 'Most downloaded single of the year 2006'. They have produced seven studio albums as well as many live and greatest hits albums, and are currently about to release their eighth studio album, "Scandinavia".

The co-partner of this concert is Matrix; ticketing partner is Bkash; airline partner is Qatar Airways; radio partner is Radio Today and television partner is Channel 9.

# Opening exhibition at Alluvial Arts creates ripples in San Francisco

A CORRESPONDENT

Alluvial Arts' inaugural exhibition 'Soul & Symbols of a Delta: Contemporary Art from Bangladesh', opened with a bang at the San

Francisco-Silicon Valley community on June 6. From June 6 to 17, over 250 people viewed the works of Kalidas Karmakar, Proshanta Karmakar Buddha and Nagarbasi Barman, the three Bangladeshi artists being featured at the show.

The show was well received by the local art community and the general public, most of whom were seeing contemporary Bangladeshi art for the first time. They were genuinely impressed by the quality of the artwork as well as the curation and presentation. As one gallery director who attended the show said, "It is so refreshing to see someone represent South Asian art to a US audience with such careful thought put towards the preservation and communication of the value of the art. In the case of etchings for example, their value is legitimised through careful monitoring and communication to potential buyers. It is this level of professionalism of Alluvial Arts that will further establish the credibility of Bangladeshi art in the international markets."

People from the art community specifically commented on the global appeal of the art while recognising its connection to the soul and character of Bengal. Furthermore, they valued the quality of the art as "world class" in terms of conception, composition and originality, as well as for the masterful technique of the artists. In the words of a San Francisco-based artist who attended the show, "I am drawn to how Nagarbasi's imagery flows between representational and abstraction effortlessly. I also like Kalidas' smaller lithographic works which incorporate the musical



Art enthusiasts at the exhibition.

PHOTO: ALLUVIAL ARTS

sheets -- it is very well conceived and perfectly executed."

As for Proshanta's works, a viewer commented on his sparse use of colour to direct the gaze of viewers and establish the individuality of his images, as particularly intriguing.

Attendees from the San Francisco-Silicon Valley art community included the curator of South Asian Art from San Francisco's Asian Art Museum, the largest Asian Art Museum in the US; curators from the Yerba Buena

Berkeley and the University of San Francisco's art history departments; as well as the biggest collectors of South Asian art in Silicon Valley. The show featured 70 pieces of art of which 32 were sold, mostly to foreign, non-Bengali buyers.

The show was organised by Samira Rahmatullah, founder of Alluvial Arts, at a gallery in downtown San Francisco. Alluvial Arts plans to hold many more exhibitions in the future with other talented contemporary artists of Bangladesh, as it works towards establishing an understanding and positive impression of contemporary Bangladeshi art within the mainstream,

US art community.

Alluvial Arts' mission is to promote contemporary art from Bangladesh in the San Francisco Bay Area and across the US. Through art shows, public programmes and publications, Alluvial Arts hopes to bring greater exposure to the depth of content and talent among contemporary artists in Bangladesh and to connect art communities and collectors across the US with a yet relatively undiscovered source of contemporary art that is refreshing, engaging, and that holds all the promise of a place and people coming into their own.

# THEATRE

## Shanglaap celebrates anniversary through staging Debotar Grash



An epic voyage is the core aspect of the play.

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shanglaap Group Theatre staged "Debotar Grash" on June 18 at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to celebrate its 34th anniversary. The play is an adaptation of a Rabindranath Tagore poem with the same title. Majumdar Biplob has dramatised the play, while Mostafa Heera has directed it.

Prior to the show, the director spoke to the audience, highlighting the troupe's activities and the play's significance.

An epic voyage is the core aspect of the play. During the voyage, a group of people, who are returning home after a pilgrimage, face a tempest. Among the travellers is a priest who is caught in a dilemma

between religion and humanity even as he tries to determine the cause of the tempest.

Among them is an adolescent called Rakhai. The passengers point fingers at him and his mother, reminding the latter that she once said that she would sacrifice her son to the water. They don't understand that these were hollow words and said out of immediate frustration.

Fahim played Rakhai, while the cast also included Shoma, Habib, Monir, Mainul, Monalisa and Babu. Junayed Usuf did the set and light designing. Shanglaap started its journey in 1978. So far, the troupe has produced over 20 plays including "Neel Darpan", "Naal Piran", "Bhorer Kotha" and "Sharoshi". "Debotar Grash" is the 22nd production by the troupe.

# Theatre festival in Chittagong

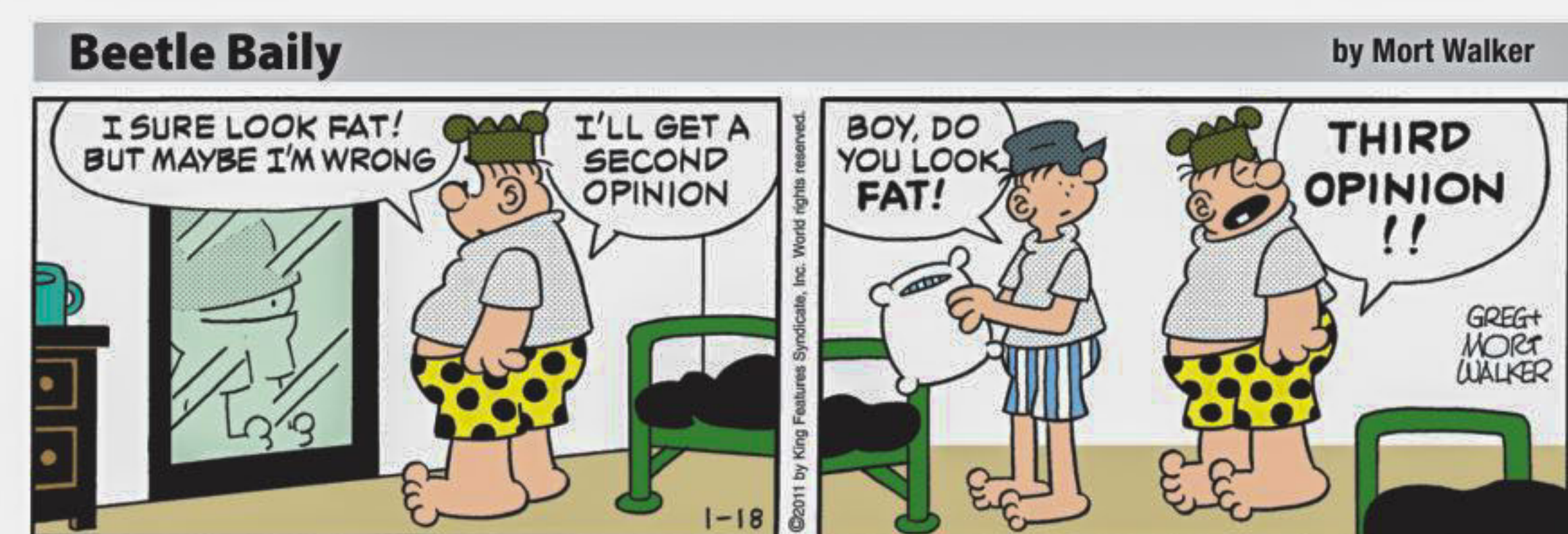
Ritu Bhittik Natya Mela Parishad, in conjunction with the Deputy Indian High Commission in Chittagong, has organised a theatre festival titled "Badol Shajer Natok 1419" at Theatre Institute, Chittagong. The festival was inaugurated on June 18, and will continue till June 21, says a press release.

Chittagong University Vice Chancellor (VC) Professor Md Anwarul Azim Arif inaugurated the festival as chief guest, while Indian Assistant High Commissioner to Chittagong, Somnath Ghosh, was present as

special guest. At the programme, Sukhendu Smrity Natya Padak was conferred on veteran makeup artist Shadhon Dey.

At the festival, "Modhumala" (by Nazrul Islam); "Shomoyer Proyojone" (Zahir Raihan); "Bitye" (by Anton Chekhov) and "Paap Punya" (by Leo Tolstoy) are being staged.

The festival also features a discussion on drama, street theatre, Tagore songs, poetry recitation, exhibition, dance, and workshop.



ATN BANGLA	06:30 Binodon Sharadin
01:25 Band View	08:00 Drama Serial: Bye Bye
05:10 Deha Odeha Cox's Bazar	09:30 Hari Jai Nathi Laj
08:00 Destination Unlimited	11:00 Music Digest
08:40 Drama Serial: Chand Phul Omabohya	12:05 Eson Protidin
	CHANNEL 9
10:55 Bibeker Kache Proshno	09:15 Bangla Feature Film
	Zambabwe VS South Africa
CHANNEL 1	05:00 (Live)
11:05 Sports Time	09:25 Gen X
12:30 Taroka Kothon	10:30 Drama Serial: Apon Apon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan	Khela
03:05 Talk-Show	11:45 Sports Daily
07:50 Spelling Bee	CHANNEL 24
ntv	04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar
	01:05 Travel Show
04:10 Achhey	03:05 Drama Serial: Iskur Shukur
06:10 Shubho Shondhya	08:10 Made in Bangladesh
08:15 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe	11:45 Sports 24
09:00 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan	12:00 Talk Show
	GTV
11:30 Drama Serial: Chowdhury Villa	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
	Sholo Ana Bangladesh

RADIO	
abc radio FM 89.2	10:00 Morning Express
06:00 Bhorer Janalay	12:00 No Tension
09:00 Mukhorjo Jibonoy	04:00 Dhaka Calling
12:00 Darun Dupury	09:00 Fatah Peters
03:00 Deshoro Shobay	RADIO TODAY FM 89.5
05:00 Shondha Tara	06:00 Green FM
07:00 Shaj-er Maya	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
09:00 Raat-er Akashy	12:00 Today's Adda
11:00 Gajper Sheel Nei	04:00 U Turn
Radio Footi	07:30 Today's Hi-Hi
07:30 Hello Dhaka	10:00 Raat Bhor Gaan

**Spelling Bee**  
On CHANNEL 1 at 07:50pm  
Education Based Programme  
Host: Romana Malik  
Munam & Intiaz Nawsher

**The Tree of Life**  
On Fox Movies at 08:40pm  
Genre: Drama  
Cast: Brad Pitt, Sean Penn & Jessica Chastain

**Bodie Jao Bodie**  
Dao Michill  
On Desh TV at 09:45pm  
Talk Show  
Host: Mahmuduzzaman Babu

ETV	11:30 Ekushey-er Business	08:00 Drama Serial: Jannoni
	06:30 Neel Parayr Gaan	09:05 Crime Fiction
	07:50 Fashion & Tune	12:00 Shongbad Shongbad
	09:30 Drama Serial: Kamini	Fox Movies
	10:10 Star Magazine Show	11:20 The Da Vinci Code
Boishakhi TV		01:50 Angels & Demons
11:15 The Business Show		04:10 The 6th Day
04:15 Shonakshi Doctor		07:00 Rio
08:35 Boro Bhalobashi Gaan		08:40 The Tree of Life
09:20 Drama Serial: Ognipath		11:55 Sur's Up
11:00 Reporters Dairy		HBO
BANGLAVISION		03:00 Initial D
01:05 Bangla Feature Film		05:15 Alien Predator
05:20 Bichitra		07:10 Blade II
09:05 Nacho Bangladesh Nacho		09:30 The Eagle
11:25 Music Club		12:00 Rush Hour
Desh TV		Star World
05:00 Darpath		03:30 Two and a Half Men
06:00 Shajher Maya		08:30 The Big Bang Theory
06:30 Durer Janala		09:30 Master Chef Australia
07:45 Drama Serial: Saatkahon		10:30 Castle
Maasranga Television		National Geographic Channel
05:30 Amazing Animals		08:30 Ultimate Disasters
		09:30 Deadliest Predators

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN BANGLA	08:15pm Bokulpuer Jatri
09:25pm Poush Phaganer Pala	Rtv
CHANNEL 1	08:15pm Parsha Protikha
09:35pm Bhetor Bahr	08:30pm Radio Chocolate
ntv	09:45pm Dakshinyayer-e-Din
Boishakhi TV	08:30pm khonkhaloy
08:00pm Pathorer Kanna	CHANNEL 9
BANGLAVISION	08:40pm Bachelor the Family

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	Boishakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm,	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm,
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	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm,

TALK SHOW	
ATN BANGLA	12:00am Ekushey-er Raat
06:15pm Kothumala	Boishakhi TV
12:30pm Lead News	12:00am Zero Hour
CHANNEL 1	BANGLAVISION
12:05pm Trilo Matrai Apni	06:25pm Front Line
11:30pm Aloy Bhubon Bhorar	Rtv
ntv	10:40am Tarakalip
12:30pm El Shomoy	07:40am Our Democracy
ETV	Desh TV