



National Theatre Fest on Liberation War begins

JAMIL MAHMUD

The walls of the Shilpakala Academy have been decorated with collage of paper cuttings, posters and photographs. The National Theatre Hall has been decorated with lights and festoons. Red carpet was there to welcome the dignitaries and audience. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the biggest theatre festival in recent times, "National Theatre Festival on the Liberation War", on July 2 afternoon at the National Theatre Hall. The festival features over 100 plays on the theme of the Liberation War.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, in association with Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, has organised the fortnight-long festival. The organisers included an additional venue, National Music and Dance Centre Auditorium, along with the three regular venues -- National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall -- for staging plays.

Presided over by Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad, the inaugural ceremony also featured speeches delivered by Ramendu Majumdar, ITI Worldwide President; Advocate Promode Mankin, State Minister for Cultural Affairs; Suraiya Begum *ndc*, cultural secretary; and Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of

Shilpakala Academy and chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation.

After the inaugural ceremony, the Prime Minister along with distinguished guests enjoyed Loko Natyadal's (Shiddheswari) play "Mujib Maney Mukti". Directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky, the play chronologically depicts the life and accomplishments of the Father of the Nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In the evening, District Shilpakala Academy, Habiganj staged "Jyotishanghita" at the same venue. Zooming in on an indigenous freedom fighter, the play has been designed and directed by Sudip Chakroborthy. Prachyanat staged "Circus Circus" at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Directed by Azad Abul Kalam, the play highlights the state of a newly liberated Bangladesh through the story of a circus troupe.

As the festival features major participation from outside Dhaka, it has turned into a gathering for theatre activists from across the country. The out of Dhaka participants are college-level theatre troupes as well as wing organisations of Shilpakala Academy. Some of them -- Government Victoria College, Comilla; Meherpur College; Keshab Chandra College, Jhenidah; Govt. Bhola College; Rajshahi College; and Rajendra College, Faridpur -- staged plays on the first day. Their plays were: "Muktijuddho O Ekjon



Collage on Shilpakala Academy wall. A scene from "Jyotishanghita" (top). PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

Dhirendranath, "Chhoy December", "Rakhal Rajar Swapno", "Birpala", "Muktir Protibhash" and "Bijoyer Prantey".

Plays at the National Theatre Hall and Experimental Theatre Hall will start at 7 pm everyday, while shows at the other two venues will start at 6:30 pm.

A dream come true in conversation with Fatiha Zakir Paula, winner of "Sing with MLTR"

SAMIA SHAMIM

Dreams can become reality, but some things are more than one can ever dream of. This was the case with one young Bangladeshi singer when she not only met with one of her favourite international bands, but also performed with them on stage.

Recently, Michael Learns to Rock (MLTR), one of the most widely known international pop-rock bands, visited Dhaka and Paula got a chance to perform with them. Paula, winner of the "Sing with MLTR" contest, took the stage along with MLTR vocalist Jascha Richter, drummer Kåre Wanscher and guitarist Mikkel Lentz, and gave a mind-blowing performance. She shared her experiences with The Daily Star.

Tell us about the selection process.

Paula: I was among more than 3,000 applicants who registered online for the contest "Sing with MLTR", organised by Creinse Limited. After a gruelling selection process we were narrowed down to 50, and took part in the TV round, which Channel 9 hosted and aired. Shafin Ahmed (Miles) and Naseem Ali Khan (Souls) were the judges and they selected the top 10 in the first round.

How did you reach the top slot?

Paula: The first round was a crucial stage for me. The second round included SMS voting. I felt the pressure coming on since my competitors were equally talented and passionate about winning this competition. Eventually, based on both the judges' decisions and the SMS support we moved on to top 5. At this stage the judges organised grooming sessions for us where they gave us tips and cues to perform our best. That really helped me overcome my weaknesses and I am very grateful to them. At the final stage, MLTR judged our performances. All five of us sang equally well, but there was something I had to come up with to stand out from everybody else.

How did it feel to be on stage with MLTR?

Paula: Sharing a stage with MLTR has been a once in a lifetime experience for me. Strangely I was feeling very relaxed on the day of the show. All of them made me feel at home during the practice sessions. I felt like I was the fourth member of the band. Getting recognition from world-class musicians has left me with unbound faith and confidence and their good wishes will take me a long way.



Paula sings with MLTR. PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Afzal-Suborna pair up after a decade

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The once popular TV actor duo -- Afzal Hossain and Suborna Mustafa -- are to pair up in a telefilm, titled "Prem Bachitey Janey". Twelve years back, the actors appeared together in a single-episode TV play called "Shudhu Tomar Jonno".

Written by Faria Hossain and directed by Arif Khan, the tele-film will go on air during the forthcoming Eid-ul-Fitr. The shooting for the tele-film will begin on July 13 in Dhaka.

Afzal and Suborna paired up in a number of TV plays including "Kool Nai Kinar Nai", "Parley Na Rumki", "Zohra", "Oh Debdoot", "Rokter Angurlata".

"Prem Bachitey Janey" is a story depicting family affairs where Afzal Hossain will don as a businessman while Suborna Mustafa will play a professor.

Director Arif Khan said, "A crisis will emerge in the story of the tele-film. I am considering myself lucky to be able to bring these two icons together after a long time for the audience."

At present Afzal Hossain is busy with directing a TV serial, titled "Chhoto Kaku"; on the other hand, Suborna Mustafa is busy with her own production house and shooting for two TV serials -- "Kana Siraj-ud-Daula O Komol Bibir Otithishala" and "Gronthikgon Kohey" (remake).

Poush Fagun-er Pala turns 200

A CORRESPONDENT

The 200th episode of mega serial "Poush Fagun-er Pala", jointly directed by Afsana Mimi and Rakesh Basu, was aired yesterday at 9:20 pm on ATN Bangla. The series will be aired tonight, at the same time, as well.

Tanvir Hossain Probal has adapted the series from Gajendrakumar Mitra's novels set in Kolkata.

The star-studded serial features Azad Abul Kalam, Bijori Barkatullah, Sanjida Preeti, Sazu Khadem, Afroza Banu, Sohana Saba and others. The last Humayun Faridee played Noren in the serial. The character is being played by Mamunur Rashid now. Zahid



A scene from the serial. Hassan and Mou have appeared in the serial too. The series has been shot at Beliswar village, in Dhamrai. Recently shooting was done in Srimangal and Manikganj. About the series, Afsana Mimi said, "We're delighted to have completed 200 episodes. This wouldn't have been possible without the appreciation from the audience. We intend to wrap up this series by its 225th episode."

ATN BANGLA	01:25 Band View	08:40 Pothey Pantorey
	04:20 Showbiz World	09:40 Drama Serial: Choshma Motin
	08:00 Destination Unlimited	12:30 Probashe Bangladesh (Live)
	08:40 Drama Serial: Chand Phul Omaboshya	
	10:55 Bibeker Kache Proshno	Maasranga Television
CHANNEL i	11:05 Sports Time	10:02 Bangla Feature Film
	12:30 Taroka Kothon	06:30 Binodon Sharadin
	01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan	08:00 Drama Serial: Biye Hobe
	03:05 Tele-film	09:30 Hari Jiti Nahi Laj
	09:35 Drama Serial: Boeing 757	11:00 Music Digest
ntv		CHANNEL 9
10:05 Bangla Feature Film		09:15 Bangla Feature Film
02:30 Tele-film: Money for Nothing		06:00 Classic Cartoon
06:15 Shubho Shondhya		09:25 Gen X
08:15 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe		10:30 Drama Serial: Apon Apon Khela
11:30 Drama Serial: Chowdhury Villa		11:45 Sports Daily
		CHANNEL 24
		01:05 Travel Show
		03:05 Drama Serial: Jadur

RADIO	
abc radio FM 89.2	07:30 Hello Dhaka
06:00 Bhorer Janalay	10:00 Morning Express
09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney	12:00 No Tension
12:00 Darun Dupurey	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00 Durant Bikeley	09:00 Knight Riders
05:00 Shondha Tara	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
07:00 Shaj-er Maya	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
09:00 Raat-er Akashey	12:00 Today's Adda
11:00 Galper Shesh Nei	04:00 U Turn
Radio Foorti	07:00 Tobey Tai Hok

Bodle Jao Bodle
Dao Michhil
On Desh TV at 09:45pm
Talk Show
Host: Mahmuduzzaman Babu

The Road
On Fox Movies at 11:55pm
Genre: Adventure/Drama
Cast: Viggo Mortensen, Charlize Theron

Boro Bhalobashi Gaan
On Boishakhi TV at 08:35pm
Documentary
Guest: Syed Abdul Hadi

ETV	11:30 Ekushey-er Business	08:10 Shahaar
	06:30 Neel Payrar Gaan	11:45 Made in Bangladesh
	07:50 Fashion & Tune	11:45 Sports 24
	09:30 Drama Serial: Kamini	12:00 Talk Show
	10:10 Docu-Drama	GTV
Boishakhi TV		11:30 Bangla Feature Film
11:15 The Business Show		06:30 Sholo Ana Bangladesh
04:15 Shorashori Doctor		08:00 Drama Serial: Janani
08:35 Boro Bhalobashi Gaan		09:05 Crime Fiction
09:20 Drama Serial: Ognipath		11:00 Z-documentary
11:00 Reporters Dairy		Fox Movies
BANGLAVISION		03:30 Michael Jackson's This Is It
01:05 Bangla Feature Film		05:25 Skyline
05:20 Bichitra		07:00 The Sixth Sense
09:05 Nacho Bangladesh Nacho		08:50 Glasgowbury 2011: Goldplay
11:25 Music Club		10:25 Xtinction: Predator X
Desh TV		11:55 The Road
05:00 Durpath		HBO
06:30 Durer Janala		10:35 The Back-up Plan
07:45 Drama Serial: Saatkahon		02:25 The Core
09:45 Bodle Jao Bodle dao Michhil		05:10 Kull the Conqueror
12:30 Total Sports		07:10 Ip Man
Diganta TV		09:30 The Mummy
11:30 Chitra Bichitra		12:00 The Big Bang
03:30 Career Line		Star World
		02:30 White Collar
		04:30 The Simpson's
		09:30 Master Chef Australia

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN BANGLA	08:15pm Bokulpurer Jatri
09:20pm Poush Phaguner Pala	
CHANNEL i	08:15pm Parsho Protikria
07:50pm Bayanno Golir Ek Goli	
ntv	08:15pm Radio Chocolate
09:00pm Fad O Bogar Golpo	
Boishakhi TV	08:30pm Maasranga Television
08:00pm Patheror Kanna	
BANGLAVISION	08:40pm Bachelor the Family

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

TALK SHOW	
ATN BANGLA	12:05am Ekushey-er Raat
06:15pm Kothamala	
12:30am Lead News	
CHANNEL i	06:25pm Front Line
12:05pm Tritto Matrai Apni	
11:30pm Aloy Bhubon Bhora	
ntv	07:40pm Our Democracy
12:30am Ei Shomoy	
ETV	11:45pm Shoja Katha