

WHAT'S ON

Celebrating Life 2012
Grand Finale
Highlight: Classical Music by Pt. Ajay Chakraborty & Kaushiki Desikan
Venue: Indoor Stadium, Mirpur
Date: November 2, Time: 6pm

Engraving Exhibition
Artist: Francesco Goya
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: Oct 9-23
Time: 12pm-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: "Tearu & Time"
Artist: Asifraul Hasan
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-2, Gulshan-1
Date: Oct 12-23
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Tajudin Ahmed
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture R-1/A, H-2, Gulshan-1
Date: Oct 31-Nov 10
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: The Stilled Journey of Life
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture R-1/A, H-2, Gulshan-1
Date: Oct 12-23
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Musical Soiree
Artist: Sayed Chakrabarti
Organisers: KCC & Bengal Foundation
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: November 2, Time: 7pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Explorers, Dream, Discover
Artist: Venita Karim
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Circle-3
Date: Oct 13-25
Time: 12-8pm

Jewellery Exhibition
Venue: 160 Bhaban Market (2nd Floor), Gulshan Circle 2
Date: October 24
Time: 11am-7pm



VISIONS of EMPOWERMENT

BRAC success story in images

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nine-day photography exhibition, titled "Visions of Empowerment", ended on October 20 at Drift Gallery in the capital. Shumela Khatun, a BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) health volunteer from Chankhanda village of Jamalpur district, inaugurated the exhibition on October 12 on behalf of BRAC.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Shishu Kendra; Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor at the Department of English of Dhaka University; Muhammad A. Ali, managing director of BRAC Enterprises and Investment; Asif Saleh, senior director of BRAC, also attended the inaugural programme.

As part of its 40th founding anniversary celebrations, BRAC organised the exhibition. This ambitious exhibition sought to capture the spirit of BRAC, traversing over four decades. As the theme of the exhibition began to emerge, it was obvious that the images were not just about one theme or personality but about people, who had become empowered in a triumphant act of self-empowerment.

The space these images occupy is that of social activism against poverty, discrimination, denial and fighting for rights to livelihood and dignity. The exhibition was scheduled to coincide with World Poverty Day on October 17.

But BRAC is much more than about poverty alleviation. Its involvement is in almost every aspect of the lives of its members -- whether in health, education or legal empowerment. In doing so, BRAC has always considered women as the key players in weaving success stories. These women, who struggled against all odds, have created a positive space for themselves in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world.

The images presented at the exhibition were all complete narratives -- able to tell their own stories; but together they sing a bigger, more comprehensive song, one that demonstrates the indomitable spirit of humanity.

BRAC, founded in 1972, has grown into the world's largest NGO with development operations in 10 countries in South Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Encompassing programmes from micro credit to disaster management, BRAC has always been a frontline agency working in frontiers of development and empowerment.



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Durga Puja festivities

Chanchal Chowdhury returns to his roots

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Chanchal Chowdhury was born and raised in Kamarhaar village, Pabna district. He came to Dhaka for studies, and made a name for himself as an actor. The star, however, has not forgotten his roots, and returns each year to his village during Durga Puja.

This year is no different. Chanchal will spend a week at his village home during the festivities, and has already cleared out his shooting schedule. "With Eid and Puja so closely spaced this year, I've finally gotten a decent break at home," said the actor.

In the Kamarhaar village, five houses privately arrange Puja festivities on a grand scale. Big celebrations are held at Chanchal's sister's house and their maternal uncle's home. The actor says, "Our village is very small. We make all the preparations for Puja."

Childhood Puja celebrations meant the joyous anticipation of wearing brand new attire, says Chanchal. The actor says the feeling of elation reached its peak during his school days. The entire year was a wait for Durga Puja, he adds.

However, such feverish excitement has faded with age, and been replaced by the excitement of a reunion of relatives and close friends during celebrations.

Chanchal informs that his village is secular, with both Muslims visiting Hindu houses during Puja, and Hindus sharing the joys of Eid with their Muslim friends. The communal harmony has always made Kamarhaar a special place for Chanchal.

Chanchal also mentioned a commendable effort by his father during Durga Puja. "My father sets up a pavilion, where the destitute can come and receive free medical attention from my wife, my brother and his spouse -- all of them are doctors. The service is offered for free during all the Puja days, and my father supervises the exercise and hands out free medicine. Both Hindu and Muslim villagers are welcome to receive medical attention."

With Eid and Puja set side by side this year, an Eid get-together has also been arranged at Kamarhaar, where Brindababu Das and Shahmaj Khushi will visit. On Eid-ul-Azha, BTV will air "Jochhna Raat" written by Brindababu and featuring Chanchal in a lead role. Desh TV will also air a five-episode special "Pataal Purir Golpo" while Ekushey will telecast "Love Rashid" where Chanchal plays the eponymous role.

The actor adds that half a dozen of his dramas will be aired this Eid.

SOURCE: BBC



The man who defined Bollywood Romance

One of India's most influential filmmakers, Yash Chopra, has died from dengue fever in Mumbai, aged 80.

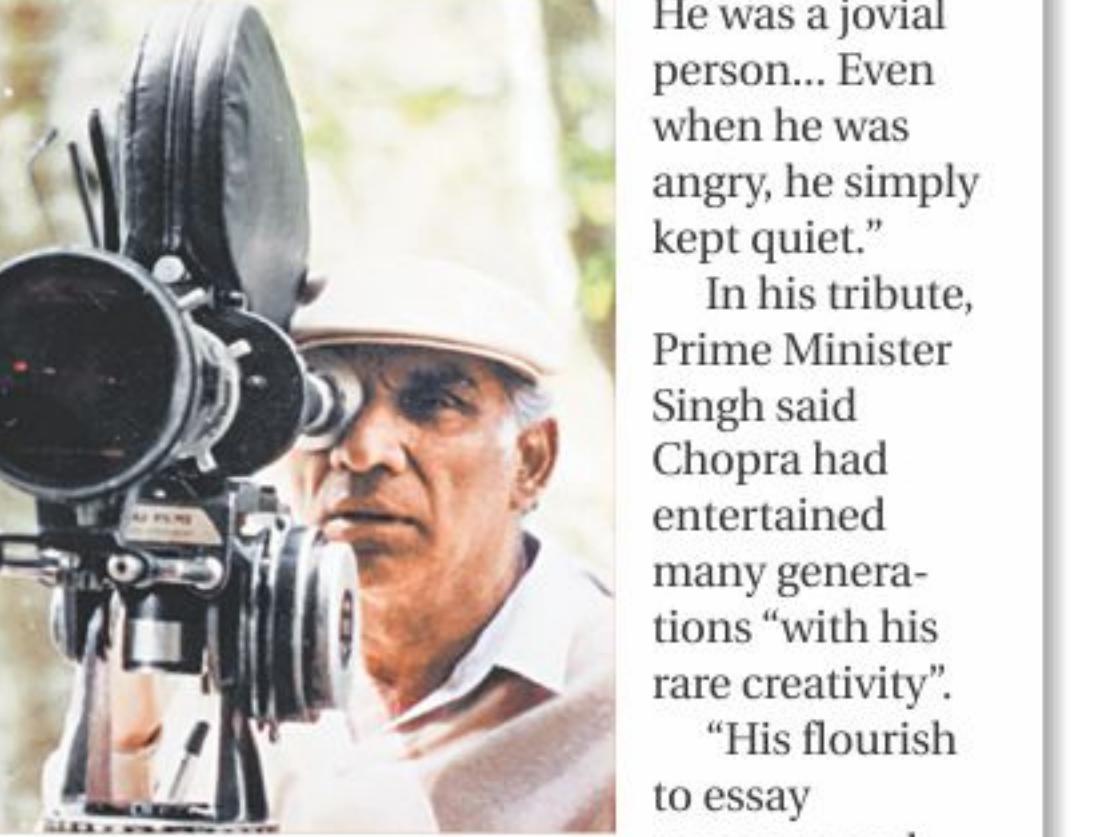
Over five decades, Chopra, dubbed the "King of Romance", gave Bollywood some of its biggest blockbusters. His film studios Yash Raj Films helped establish some of Indian cinema's biggest names, including Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan. In his tribute, Prime Minister Singh said Chopra had entertained many generations "with his rare creativity". "His flourish to essay romance and

social drama was unmatched," the Indian prime minister said, adding that the filmmaker had established the international reputation of Indian cinema.

Yash Chopra started his film career working for his brother before establishing Yash Raj Films and going on to produce more than 40 movies -- 12 of them as director.

Chopra died in Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital on Sunday and was also suffering from kidney ailments, according to Dr. Prakash Jiyani.

Singer Lata Mangeshkar said: "He made me sing in all his films."



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In his tribute, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described Chopra as an "icon of Indian cinema".

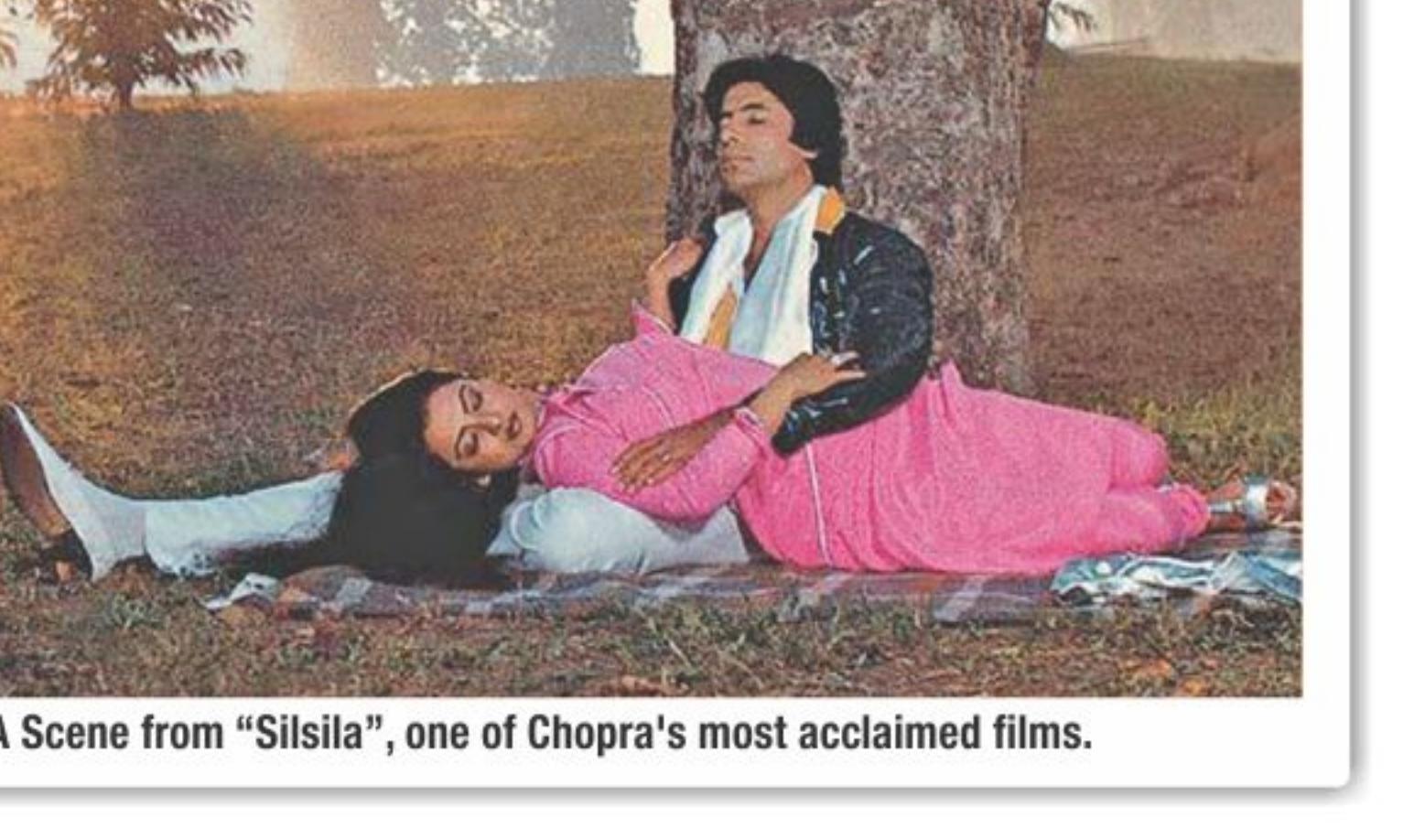
Yash Chopra will be remembered as the man behind some of Bollywood's most watched films, known not just in India but also around the world.

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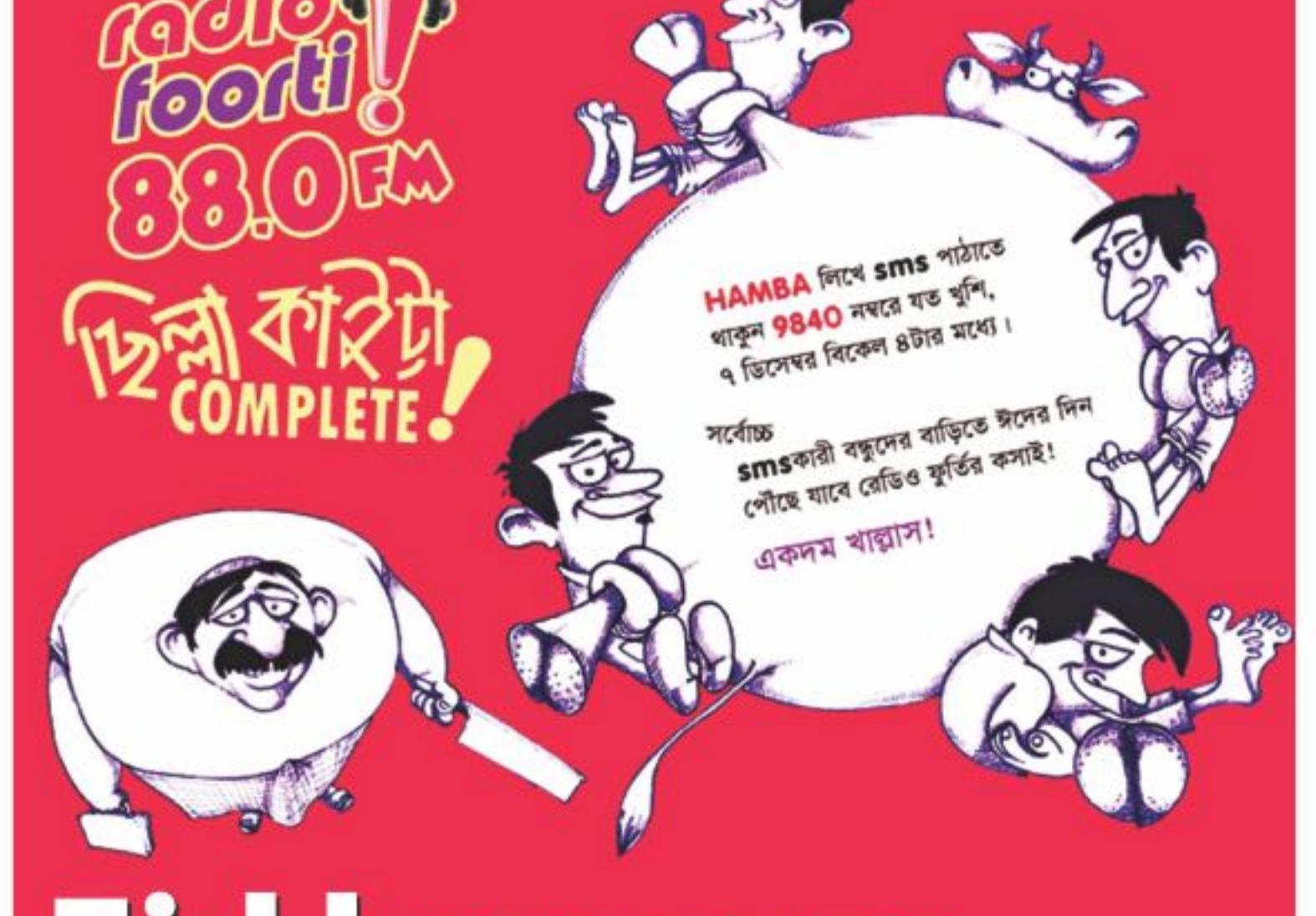
On his birthday last month, he said "Tab Tak Hai Jaan" -- being released next month -- would be his last movie as a director.

Singer Lata Mangeshkar said: "He made me sing in all his films."

SOURCE: BBC



A Scene from "Silsila", one of Chopra's most acclaimed films.



Eid bonanza on Radio Foorti

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, Radio Foorti (FM 88.0) has planned various programmes for its listeners. Some of these programmes are quite innovative. For example, just send an SMS writing "HAMBA" to the number 9840 and the lucky winners will be provided with butchers for readying their sacrificial animals on Eid morning. Radio Foorti is calling this "Chhilla Kaitta Complete".

Starting from Eid day, a programme titled "Double Dose" -- featuring a popular singer duo in each programme -- will go on air at 7 pm for three consecutive days. Bappa Mazumder, Elita Karim, Kona, Parvez, Joy and others will attend the programme as guest artistes.

Another programme, titled "Foorti Superstar Encounter", filmmaker Mustafa Sarwar Farooki, actor-producer Ananta Jalil and seasoned actor Ilias Kanchan will take the hot seat on three consecutive days at 9 pm.

From live songs and interviews, mainstream Bangla film parody "King of Ghana" will be aired on Eid day at 11 pm, while another romantic comedy "Foorti Opera" will be aired at the same time on the next day.

And last, but not the least, 100 selected songs requested by the listeners will be aired all day long on the three days of Eid. Listeners have been sending requests for their favourite songs for the last 10 days.

Bold feminine voices

Dance-drama by Shadhma

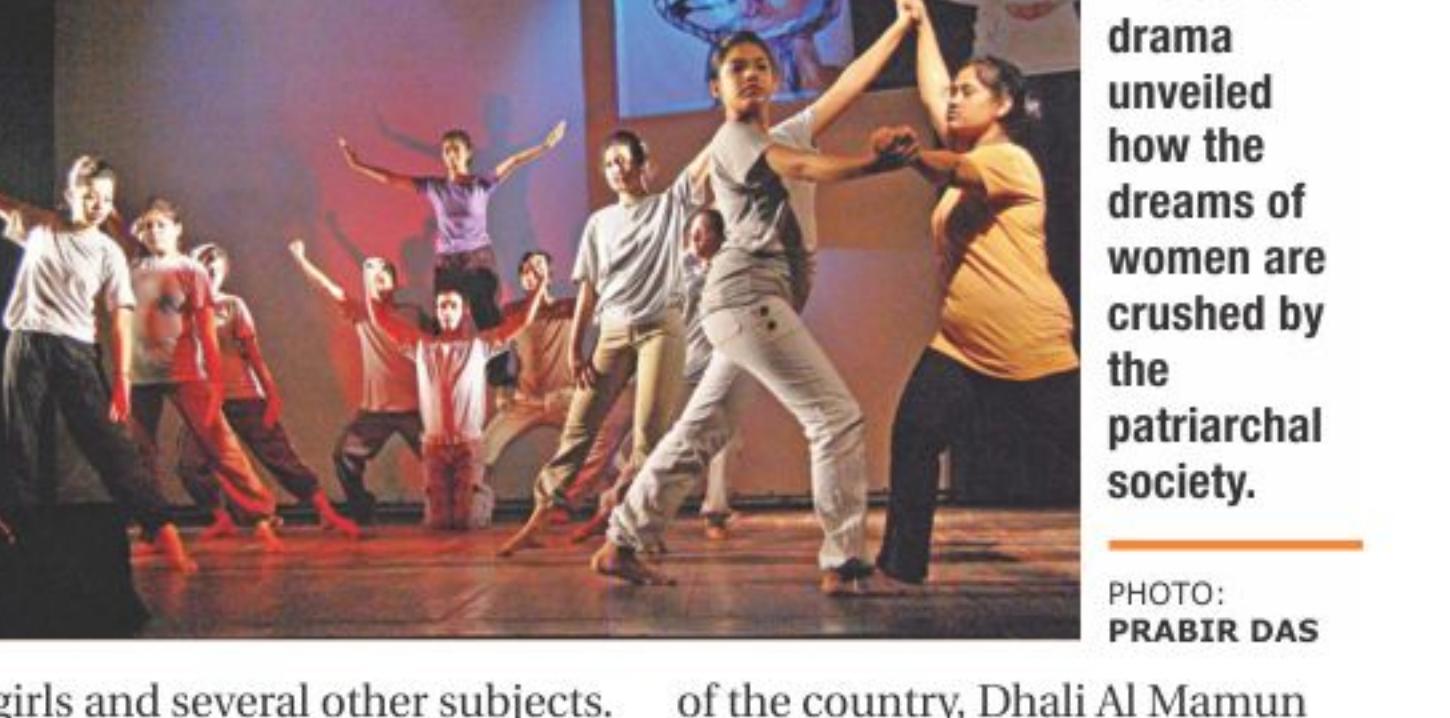
PRANABE SHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Planned by Shamim Hasan and choreographed by Sabir Ahmed, the story of the dance-drama featured five episodes -- "Birth", "Power", "Freedom", "Obstacle", and "Malala", who was recently attacked by the Taliban to thwart her indomitable desire to campaign for education for girls in Pakistan's Swat valley. The dance-drama depicted the social attitude toward women and the obstacles they face in their everyday lives.

Successfully interwoven, the episodes of the dance-drama unveiled how the dreams, ideas and aspirations of women are crushed by the patriarchal society.

Appropriate use of four Rabindra Sangeet -- "Andalokole", "Shankhero bihabul", "Barshano Mandrito" and "Ami Srabon Akash" -- was a highlight of the production.

Though apt use of movements and expressions, the depictions depicted childbirth, harassment



of girls and several other subjects. Group recitation and dialogues were also effectively incorporated in the dance-drama. Effective use of fabric and lights earned rounds of applause from the audience.

Shamim, who conceptualised the dance-drama, said that it has been based on personal experiences of the artistes that were expressed at the workshop.

At the end of the show, a brief discussion on the dance-drama was held where eminent painters

translated the play into Bangla. Through his translation, Rubayet has created an idiom in the play that he sees as a "combination of words", borrowed from Rabindranath Tagore and Selim Al Deen.

Two Manipuri artistes and guest actor Rubul Noor Lodi as Prospero will be included in the cast. Seasoned actor Shimul Yousuf will enact the role of Ariel, while Esha Yousuf will play Miranda.

The fortnight-long festival will start on October 27 and will continue till November 12. An 18-member Dhaka Theatre troupe will leave the country on November 5. They will stage two shows of the play -- on November 8 and 9.

Indian theatre legend Girish Karnad is a key member of Ranga Shankara. Shimul Yousuf as Ariel and Rubul Noor Lodi as Prospero in the play.

PHOTO COURTESY: SIMON KANE

Clay artisans honoured in Barisal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

Daaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts; Hasan Arif, secretary general of Samilitto Sangskritik Samanayya Parishad; Saidur Rahman Rintu, president of Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industries; Nikhil Sen; Manabendu Babotabak; Akkas Hossain; Dilip Chandra Ghosh; Swapna Chandra Dutta spoke at the programme.

Many of them have abandoned their profession in need of economic and institutional support, they said.

The five-day celebration of Sharadiyo Durgotsab, the main religious festival of the Bengal Hindus, started in festive mood from Saturday evening in 547 Puja mandaps (venues) of the district.

Crest, cash, clothes and sweets were handed among 40 Pauls and Kumars from different upazilas of Barisal district.

The speakers were of the view that for hundreds of years, the Pauls and Kumars have preserved a local tradition despite enduring

economic hardship and not receiving recognition for their contribution.

Sharadiyo Durgotsab is possible because of the efforts of the artisans, who at the end of their painstaking, laborious work return home with a negligible amount of honorarium.

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The five-day celebration of Sharadiyo

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THEATRE

Tempest to sail to India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Theatre's much acclaimed Shakespeare adaptation "The Tempest", which was staged at the Global Shakespeare Festival in UK earlier this year, is going to attend another reputed international festival -- this time in Bangalore, India. The play will take part in the "It's Shakespeare -- Ranga Shankara Theatre Fest 2012".

"The organisers invited us after a recommendation from the Globe Theatre who arranged the festival in the UK," said Rubayet Ahmed, who

translated the play into Bangla. Through his translation, Rubayet has created an idiom in the play that he sees as a "combination of words", borrowed from Rabindranath Tagore and Selim Al Deen.

Arranged by local theatre troupe Ranga Shankara, the festival will see staging of Shakespeare plays in eight languages.

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Indian theatre legend Girish Karnad is a key member of Ranga Shankara.

PHOTO COURTESY: SIMON KANE

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