

**WHAT'S ON**

Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Fest  
Organisers: Bengal Foundation & ITC-SRA  
Venue: Army Stadium, Banabazar, Dhaka  
Date: Nov 29-Dec 2

**CHAPAI CHOBBI-1**  
An International Craft Fair  
Venue: Chhota Bazaar  
Sector 4, Uttara  
Date: November 24-December 4  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

**Print Exhibition**  
Title: Chhota Chobi-1  
Venue: Galleri Raya, H-20, R-16,  
Sector 4, Uttara  
Date: November 24-December 4  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

**Int'l Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Theatre Art Unit  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy  
Date: November 14-24  
Time: 6:30pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Sheik Shorajap  
Venue: Natyabed  
Natyabed Experimental Theatre Hall,  
Shilpakala Academy  
Date: November 24

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali  
Date: Nov 16-24  
Time: 11am-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Mike Woodcock  
Venue: Bengal Institute of Art and Culture,  
Gulshan  
Date: Nov 15-20  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Sabrina Mezzalqui  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge,  
Gulshan  
Date: Nov 3-22  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Commemorative Programme**  
Title: Remembering Sunil Gangopadhyay  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan-1

## Prachyanat holds three-day street theatre fest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of its yearlong celebration marking its 15th anniversary, one of the leading Bangladeshi theatre troupes, Prachyanat, arranged a three-day street theatre festival at the amphitheatre inside Suhrawardi Udyan in Dhaka. The festival took place on November 15 to 17. Nine plays by seven troupes were staged at the festival.

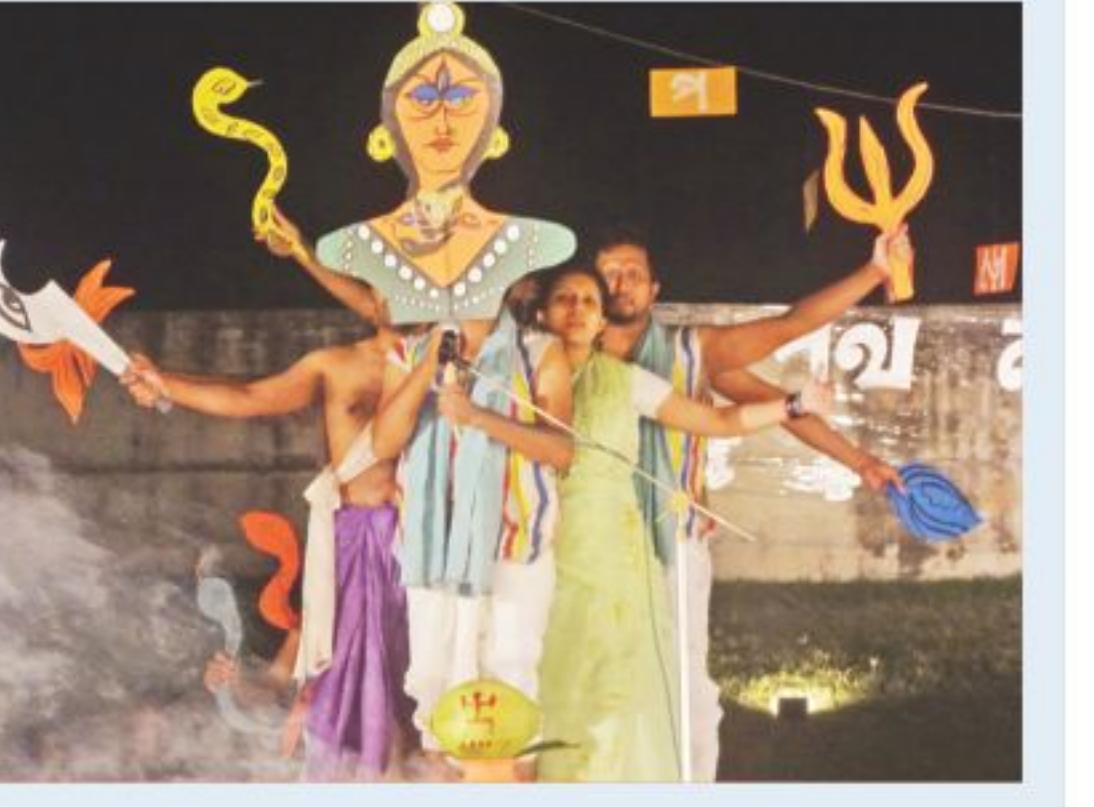
Veteran theatre personality Mamunur Rashid inaugurated the festival. Among others, Azad Abdul Kalam, chief of Prachyanat; and Indian theatre personalities Bivash Chakraborty and Bansi Kaul, who were in Dhaka to attend the Theatre Art Unit festival, spoke at the inaugural programme.

Prachyanat staged three plays at the festival. The invited troupes were the theatre wing of Udichi; Oikik Theatre; Opera Theatre; Natyabed; Jahangirnagar Theatre (Auditorium) and Jahangirnagar Theatre (TSC).

Prachyanat staged "Lash-er Desh", "Gorto" and "Bish Panchai" at the festival. "Lash-er Desh" has been directed by Saiful Islam, while the others have been directed by Kazi Taufiqul Islam.

Each day featured staging of three plays. A huge turnout enjoyed the plays, especially the evening shows, as many Dhakaites like to come to the park to relax.

Apart from staging plays, the organisers honoured three talented and young female actors, one



on each day. The awardees are: Samiun Jahan (Dhaka Theatre), Jyoti Sinha (Manipuri Theatre) and Fauzia Karim (Theatre Art Unit).

Samiun has impressed audiences with her memorable performances in "Nimojon" and "Tempest". Jyoti Sinha is the lead female actor of her troupe, while Fauzia Karim has been performing as lead actress in several plays including "Amina Shundari" and "Shesher Kobita".

In between shows, Prachyanat members entertained the audience with songs from their popular productions.

On the last day, after staging of three plays, the festival came to an end with a brief performance of traditional *lathi khela*.

The festival slogan was "Poth Chherona Pother Manush".



PHOTO COURTESY: PRACHYANAT

## The mystic in perspective Lalon's songs move the audience

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

'Lalon Sandhya', an event dedicated to the mystic bard Lalon, was held recently in Barisal calling for a study of his philosophy to combat religious fundamentalism and prevent commercialisation of Lalon's songs.

Gano Shilpi Sangha organised the programme at Ashwini Kumar Hall in the city. The event was presided over by Shanti Das, president of the organisation.

Among others, Akkas Hossain, Manabendra Bataboyal and Nazrul Islam Chunnun discussed the life and philosophy of Lalon.

The speakers said Lalon sought to answer universal and existentialist questions beyond any particular religious faith.

Lalon believed in a loving relationship between the benevolent creator and his creation, and believed that a person who refuses to respect and honour humanity goes against the



mas, which needed deep study to reveal meaning and practice, said the discussants.

Lalon composed a large body of songs, and around 530 of them are known to date. But many more remain unlisted in the oral tradition among mendicant Baul-Fakir singers.

The inner meanings of Lalon's songs were not known to the common people. Uninitiated people become charmed by the poetic beauty of these songs without at all being aware of their subtleties. So Lalon's songs should be studied deeply, the speakers stressed.

After the discussion Sayambhu Sarkar, Purba Sarkar Payel, Roni Haolader, Sanjoy performed Lalon songs.

PHOTO: STAR

creator, they explained.

Lalon uniquely combined both esoteric discourses and the tradition of mendicant singers. His songs were popular but at the same time esoteric with metaphoric riddles and enigmatic.

Educationists, poets, artists, litterateurs, journalists along with people from different walks of life attended the fair. Ahmed's brothers Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Dr. Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince distributed prizes among the children.

Dr. Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince distributed prizes among the children.

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