WHAT'S ON

British-Bangladesh Jazz-Folk Evening
Organiser: British Council
Venue: Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi
Date: January 15; Time: 6:30pm

Folk Music Programme
Remembering Abdul Latif
Organiser: Matir Sur Sangeet Parishad
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh
Date: Jan 14
Time: 5pm

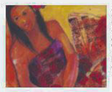
Chobi Mela VII
Festival of Photography
Organiser: Drik Gallery and Pathshala
Venue: Drik Gallery, Shilpakala Academy, DU premises and more
Date: Jan 25-Feb 7

6th International Children's Film Festival
Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbagh
Date: Jan 19-25
Time: 11am onwards

Group Art Exhibition
Title-Inspired
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Shahbagh
Date: Jan 9-16
Time: 10am-8pm

Theatre
Play: Raktakarabi
Troupe: Nagarik Natya Sampradaya
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Jan 17
Time: 7pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Rezowan Pilow
Venue: Auditorium Gallery, Dhaka Cantt Girls' Public School & College
Date: Jan 1-23
Time: 10am-7pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: The Making of Kuhu Art-2
Artist: Kuhu
Venue: Radius Art Gallery, Gulshan
Date: Nov 30-Jan 15
Time: 10am-8pm

The nation and the world in **Sayeed Ahmed's** plays

Renowned playwright recalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sayeed Ahmed Foundation for Culture and Art organised a commemorative programme on the occasion of the playwright's birth and death anniversary at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on January 11. Ahmed was born on January 1, 1931 and died on January 21, 2010. The programme featured a discussion and staging of his play "Kalbela".

At the seminar, Professor Sakhawat Hossain read out a keynote paper titled "Sayeed Ahmed-er Natok-e Swadesh O Antorjatikota". The paper focused on the essence of patriotism and internationalism in Ahmed's plays. Theatre personalities Ataur Rahman, Aly Zaker, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Liaquat Ali Lucky (director general of BSA) and noted artist Mustafa Monwar took part in the discussion.

The speakers asserted that while Ahmed only wrote five unique plays, he made a great impact on Bangladeshi theatre. His plays were staged in different parts of the world. Ahmed wrote several books on theatre and art. He regularly wrote for a number of leading newspapers and journals. He was closely connected with internationally renowned artistes, painters, novelists and playwrights.

Theatre troupe Palakar staged the drama "Kalbela" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of BSA. The play was directed by Aminur Rahman Mukul. At the programme, poet and playwright Syed Shamsul Haq spoke about Ahmed's plays, life and different aspects of his creativity. Suraiya Begum, secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, was also present at the programme.

Ahmed was considered one of pioneering cultural personalities of the country, especially in the field of theatre. Among his most notable plays are "Kalbela" (1962), "Milepost" (1965), "Trishnae" (1968), "Ek Din Protidin" (1974) and "Shesh Nawab" (1988).

His plays have been translated into English, French, German and Italian.

Ahmed received the Bangla Academy Award in 1974 and the Legion d'Honneur from the French Government in 1993.

Ahmed was well known to the BTV audience for his "Bishwa Natok" (world classics) where he introduced and directed plays of international fame.

Harmony and beauty in Bangladeshi craft

In conversation with **Ruby Ghaznavi**

FAYZA HAQ

At the National Crafts Council meeting at Bengal Gallery in Dhaka recently, Bengal Gallery director Subir Chowdhury and Bengal Foundation Director General Luva Nahid Chowdhury, as well as Bangladesh National Crafts Council members Chandra Shekhar Shaha and Ruby Ghaznavi discussed the state of crafts in Bangladesh -- focusing on promotion and development of crafts to reach world standards. They also made the point that the media has an important role to play in popularising crafts.

Ruby Ghaznavi said that the idea behind the establishment of the Crafts Council was to develop crafts like shatranji and banshi. Asserting that crafts are considered frivolous by policymakers -- even though the industry employs the second largest number of people, right after agriculture, she said there has been a boost for crafts gaining patronage and popularity in recent years through the council's association with Bengal Foundation.

Four crafts mediums are selected every year and get focus, and the best craftsmen in the field are awarded certificates and cash prizes, she said, adding that this year's categories are: tepa putul or clay figures -- including animals and conventional dolls; shatranji or woven mat; cane basketry; and woodcraft. The reason behind choosing specific mediums every year is so that the selection is spread over different craftsmen, to honour and acknowledge their work, Ghaznavi added. Four winners get 50,000 taka awards each, along with crests and certificates, while other talented craftspersons are also given certificates of appreciation.

One of the problems craftsmen face is that many do not participate in the selling, and another factor is that they cannot afford to leave their crafts with crafts authorities for selection. The Crafts Council doesn't know how to solve this problem. The president of the council is Munira Emdad of Tangail Sari Kutir.

"Some of us buy them off, so that all their products are sold," Ghaznavi said.

According to Ghaznavi, four winners and others are invited to the "Karu Mela" every year, where the items are sold directly to the visitors. The retailers are contacted, and this helps the craftspersons market their products.

Moreover, Ghaznavi said workshops are held so that there is an exchange of ideas. However, not too many modern designs are presented that are incomprehensible to them; rather the council aims at preserving tradition with charm and simplicity, and strive to improve their skills and designs.

The Council prefers to give prizes to craftspersons who adhere to tradition. Even in modern furniture shops, the carving is done by traditional artisans. The Crafts Council documents the designs and the techniques are recorded. The Council hopes to make this known to the public, in a befitting manner.

A nation is known by its crafts, says Ghaznavi.

Visitors throng the crafts fair

PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

Texas Chainsaw 3D tops Box office

Leonardo DiCaprio in "Django Unchained".

John Luessenhop's slasher film "Texas Chainsaw 3D", the seventh film of the franchise, has topped the US Box office in its very first week of release, grossing 21.7 million dollars in five days. It pushed back last week's topper, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey", the on-screen adaptation of JRR Tolkien's novel that is the prelude to the "Lord of the Rings" series -- to third spot. Quentin Tarantino's latest venture "Django Unchained" that has scored four Oscar nods, also pushed up one spot to go up to number two on the list. Tom Hooper's multi-starrer musical film adaptation of Victor Hugo novel "Les Miserables" is at four, followed by Andy Fickman-directed "Parental Guidance". "Jack Reacher", the Christopher McQuarrie thriller starring Tom Cruise and Richard Jenkins is at number six, while Jude Appatow's "This is 40" -- sequel to "Knocked Up" -- is placed at number seven. "Lincoln", Steven Spielberg's heavyweight that has seven Golden Globe and a staggering 12 Oscar nominations under its belt, is going strong for the 8th week of release, placed one spot down from last week to be at number eight. The next two spots on the top 10 of the Box Office are filled by comedy flick "Guilt Trip" and "Promise Land", with Matt Damon in the lead role.

Source: IMDb

Bororiar Mela

(Top) Horse race at the Bororiar Mela. Scores of people braved the cold to join the fair.

PHOTO: STAR

HOSSAIN SERAJ, *Magura*

The traditional Bororiar Mela was held on January 11 (Poush 28 of the Bengali calendar) at Bororia village under Balidia union in Mohammadpur upazila, located about 30 kms from the district headquarters.

The annual mela that attracts large number of enthusiastic visitors every year fielded a number of traditional events like horse race, lathikhela (mock fight with sticks), Jhapan-khela (snake charmers) during the day and jatrapala (folk opera) at night.

Younus Ali Sardar a college teacher in the area, said that the mela held at Magura, is an occasion for the sale and display of products from adjoining districts like Narail, Faridpur as well as far off places like Chittagong.

Former union parishad chairman Abul Kalam Fakir said that the mela has become a much awaited event for locals of all ages.

The visitors to the fair were drawn by the wooden furniture, toys, cooking utensils, spades, hoes, knives, scissors, attractively designed saris and lungis made by local weavers and handlooms.

Goods also came from Chittagong which included exotic handmade ornaments crafted from sea-shells.

Children, of course, headed for the sweetmeat stalls and merry-go-round.

Bororia and the adjoining villages took on a festive appearance. People from different parts of the country assembled at their relations and friends' houses in Bororia and adjoining villages on the occasion of this ancient traditional event that dates back around 157 years. Women were seen busy making indigenous cakes and other delicacies to entertain their guests.

THEATRE

Natyajan premieres **Shesh Rakkha**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Natyajan premiered its latest play Rabindranath Tagore's comedy "Shesh Rakkha" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on January 11. Mohsina Akhter has directed and designed the play.

The story follows three young couples, who somehow make mistakes at the initial stage of their respective relationships, and later realise what went wrong. Although the story is a compilation of glimpses of these relationships, as a whole, it features a domestic surrounding, as all the characters are family friends. There is a fourth couple in the storyline but it has little presence on the stage.

The young director, who completed her Masters in Theatre from Dhaka University, has given the Tagore play a new look. She tried to establish her visions through contemporary costumes and apt light design. However, she did not deconstruct the storyline.

Two friends -- Nibaran and Shibcharan -- want to fortify their friendship through having their respective offspring marry each other. Godai, son of Shibcharan, and Indumati, daughter of Nibaran, are the ones who are supposed to get married.

Komol is an orphan who lives with Nibaran's family. Young lawyer Chandra is a close friend of Godai.

Indumati and Komol are friends with Chandra's wife. Binod, another friend of Godai, hears Komol singing at Chandra's home. Without even seeing her, Binod decides to marry Komol and the marriage takes place eventually.

The coinciding romantic interests and marriages create situations meant to generate laughter.

Arnila Guha as Indumati, Khandakar Sohan as Godai, and Taslima Shimu as Khantamati generated laughter through their performances. The cast also included Sumana Islam, Rashidul Hasan, Mohsin Shamim, Bijan Sarkar and Tabibul Islam.

Using two wings of the stage and creating a panoramic performance space was an apt choice for the director, as it created a relaxed ambiance. Uttam Guha was the art director.

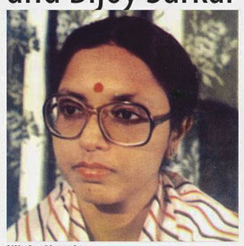
Another show of the play was held last evening at the same venue.

"Shesh Rakkha" is Natyajan's 9th production.

A scene from the play.

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

Musical soiree in memory of Nilufar Yasmin and Bijoy Sarkar



Nilufar Yasmin

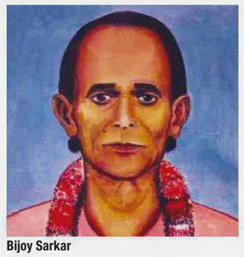
A CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Cultural Foundation will hold a musical soiree along with a discussion at National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on January 21 at 6pm.

The soiree, in memory of eminent singer Nilufar Yasmin and mystic bard Bijoy Sarkar, will feature musical performance by singers Afsana Runa and Mahfuzar Rahman Mohabbat.

Deputy managing director of Agrani Bank Limited Obayed Ullah Al Masud will be chief guest while president of Agrani Bank Officers' Welfare Association Jamir Hossain Gazi will be present as a guest of honour. Editor of monthly Sargam and senior vice-president of National Press Club Kazi Rawnak Hossain and flautist Gazi Abdul Hakim will speak at the event.

In a bid to promote Bangladeshi culture, Dhaka University Cultural Foundation has been organising programmes regularly for several years.



Bijoy Sarkar

Tanvir Mokammel re-enacts Chuknagar genocide for upcoming film

A CORRESPONDENT

The second phase of Tanvir Mokammel's national-grant recipient film "Jibon-Dhuli" is set to begin in Khulna and Bagerhat from January 20. The scenes shot during this phase will depict the Chuknagar genocide, the biggest genocide during the Liberation War. Around 300 theatre artistes and local actors will participate in the shooting, while the Bangladesh Army is providing military equipment to the film unit.

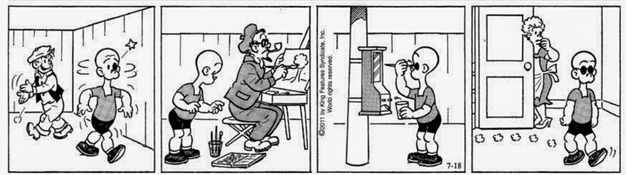
About 40 percent of the shooting for the film -- featuring Ramendu Majumdar, Shatabdi Wadud, Wahida Mallick Jolly, Chitralekha Guha and Pran Roy in central roles -- has been completed.

A scene from "Jibon-Dhuli".

Kabitapatra Parishad celebrated its 10th anniversary on January 12. Reputed poets Al Mahmud, Fajal Sahabuddin, Belal Chowdhury, Robiul Hussain, Mohammad Nurul Huda, Habibullah Seraji and others participated in the event. Members of Kabitapatra Parishad and National Press Club, and Suman Bhattacharjee, Human Resources Director of Citycell were also present at the programme. Citycell and the Tropical Homes Limited sponsored the programme with Channel i and daily Nayadiganta as media partners.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker

Henry by Don Tranchte



All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

ATN BANGLA
11:20 Business and Finance
01:25 Matir Subash
09:20 Drama Serial: DB
01:00 Onno Drishti

CHANNEL i
09:45 Tritiyo Matra
07:50 BBC Bangladesh Shonglap
09:35 Drama Serial: Probashe Porobashe
10:30 Aloy Bhuban Bhora

ntv
08:45 Bangla Feature Film
05:30 Apnar Jiggasha
09:00 Comedy Show
09:45 Drama Serial: Ochena Protibimbo

ETV
06:00 Kalpoloker Galpokatha
08:15 Drama Serial: Ekhane Probesh Nishedh
09:45 Cinema Express

Maasranga Television
10:02 Bangla Feature Film
08:40 Drama Serial: Khonikaloy
09:20 Drama Serial: College
11:30 Shajiir Baramkhana

CHANNEL 9
09:00 Bangla Feature Film
07:20 Drama Serial: Baukurani
10:30 Drama Serial: Idiots
11:15 Daily Sports

CHANNEL 24
06:30 Life Style
08:00 Musical Launch
11:30 Sports

RADIO

abc radio FM 89.2
05:30 Kacha Lanka
06:30 Mitha Kara
07:20 GP Launch
07:45 Megh Barata
08:10 Adda
09:30 Love Hour
11:10 Shabda Golpo Drum

Radio Foorti
07:30 Hello Dhaka
10:00 Morning Express
12:00 My Time
01:00 No Tension
04:00 Dhaka Calling
09:00 Night Rider
01:00 Back to Back Music

RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
12:00 Today's Adda
04:00 U Turn
07:00 Tobey Tai Hok
10:00 Raat Bhor Gaan

Shakkhi Durbal
On ETV at 08:20pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Hassan Masud, Humaira Himu

The Animal
On HBO at 07:55pm
Genre: Comedy
Cast: Rob Schneider, Colleen Haskell

Idiots
On Channel 9 at 10:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Chanchal Chowdhury, Purnima

11:30 Ekushey-er Business
07:50 Music Station
09:30 Drama Serial: Malka Banur Love Story
10:10 Cine Hits

Boishakhi TV
10:40 Bangla Feature Film
04:00 Shorashori Doctor
08:00 Drama Serial: Boro Barir Chhoto Bou
11:00 Reporters Dairy

BANGLAVISION
01:05 Bangla Feature Film
06:25 Front Line
08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First
11:25 Probashi Mukh

Rtv
12:35 Bangla Feature Film
09:05 Drama Serial: Boyra Poribar
09:50 Bridal Show
12:00 Star of Politics

Desh TV
03:00 Gaan R Gaan

Gtv
11:30 Bangla Feature Film
09:00 Gaan-e Gaan-e Adda
09:35 Drama Serial: Mayajaal
11:05 Aponi Kichhu Bolun

Fox Movies
05:10 Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within
07:00 Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
08:35 Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked
10:05 Water for Elephants

HBO
04:20 Ong Bak 2
06:15 Source Code
07:55 The Animal
12:10 Lethal Weapon 3

Star World
02:30 Grey's Anatomy
04:30 Melissa & Joey
09:30 Packed to the Rafters
11:30 Two And A Half Men

DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA
08:40pm Jhulanta Babura
ntv
08:15pm Metro Life
ETV
08:20pm Swakkhi Durbal
Boishakhi TV
09:20pm Ognipoth
BANGLAVISION
09:05pm Red Signal
Rtv
08:15pm Makrasha
Desh TV
07:45pm Sat Kahon
Maasranga Television
08:00pm Hashibari
CHANNEL 9
08:15pm Nagarik
CHANNEL 24
09:00pm Ashin

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

BTV
11:00pm Oikyomatyor Bangladesh
ATN BANGLA
11:30pm Je Kotha Keu Boleni
CHANNEL i
12:30pm Taroka Kothon
ntv
12:00am Ei Shomoy
ETV
12:05am Ekushey-er Raat
Boishakhi TV
12:00am Zero Hour
Rtv
11:30pm Our Democracy
Maasranga Television
12:02am Shamprotik
CHANNEL 24