

WHAT'S ON
 40th Anniversary of Dhaka Theatre
 A Collage Performance from the Representative Productions of the Troupe
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA



Group Print Exhibition
 Title: Finding A Voice
 Venue: Gallery Chitrag, R-6, H-4, Dhanmondi
 Date: July 28-August 3
 Time: 10am-8pm



Group Exhibition
 Title: Finding A Voice
 Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, Cha-72/1/D, Progoti Shorani, Uttar Badda
 Date: July 5-31



Charity Art Exhibition
 Title: Fida'r Jonno
 Venue: Zainul Gallery-2
 Date: July 14-30
 Time: 10am-8pm



Film Screening
 Title: World Best Comedy Film Show
 Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Venue: International Digital Cultural Archive, BSA
 Date: July 22-31; Time: 7:30pm



NEWS bytes

Radio Shadhin launches counselling show

A CORRESPONDENT
 Radio Shadhin 92.4fm – one of the fastest-growing private radio stations of the country - is launching a weekly counselling show titled "Tumi Bolo Amra Shunchi" at 11pm tonight. Dhaka University Professor and noted psychologist Dr. Mehtab Khanam, Media personality Sara Zaker and clinical psychologist Shahnur Hossain will be expert counsellors on the show.
 A press conference in this regard was held yesterday.
 The show will air on 92.4FM every Monday from 11pm. Any one can reach the show directly by calling a dedicated number 09666 924 924 and ask for suggestions from the counsellors. Moreover, they can also call this number anytime any day of the week and leave their message. In addition, they can email their problems to rstumbolo@gmail.com or to tumibolo@radioshadhin.fm.

Of Glory and Achievement
Dhaka Theatre: Standing on the landmark of four decades

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Dhaka Theatre touches the magical milestone of 40 years today. Four successful decades have passed since the troupe started its journey on July 29, 1973.
 To commemorate the historic occasion, Dhaka Theatre has chalked out yearlong celebration programmes including a seminar titled "Four Decades of Dhaka Theatre and Three Decades of Gram Theatre" that was held on July 27 at Seminar Room of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Professor Afsar Ahmed read out the keynote paper while Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury presided over the seminar.
 A brief stage presentation of the 40-year journey along with a collage performance based on the representative productions of the troupe including "Shongbad Cartoon", "Kittankhola", "Muntasir Fantasy", "Shakuntala", "Keramot Mangal", "Haat Hodai" and "Bono Pangshul" will be held at National Theatre Hall of BSA at 7:45pm today.
 Some of the biggest names in the Bengali film and theatre industry and veteran members who have moved on

to different lives in different places and have emerged from Dhaka Theatre, are all making a comeback on stage.
 A two daylong "Selim Al Deen Theatre Festival and Seminar" will begin on August 17 at National Theatre Hall of BSA. A grand theatre festival along with an international seminar and exhibition will be held in November, this year. Both old and new plays of the troupe will be staged at the festival.
 Four decades back, a group of freedom fighters and friends including Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu, Shafiqur Rahman, Syed Salahuddin Zaki, Raisul Islam Asad and Selim Al Deen formed Dhaka Theatre after a period of thought and plans. Forty years into the journey surrounded by the wonder that is theatre, everyone who has been a part of this institution, new and old, has had a special bond with it -- a certain kind of passion to keep going and taking themselves further along with it. The troupe has so far produced renowned thespians including Shimul Yusuff, Subarna Mustafa, Humayun Faridee, Raisul Islam Asad, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Pijush Bandhyopadhyay, Afzal Hossain and Shomi Kaiser.



SAJAL'S Eid calendar

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
 Sajal is one of the most popular and busy actors of our time. His schedule gets even more hectic in the run up to Eid. Recently, the actor talked to The Daily Star about his Eid dramas, celebration plans and more.
How many TV plays are you working on for Eid?
 Sajal: I act in one-hour-dramas throughout the year. I do not work in drama serials. I begin shooting for Eid TV plays two months before the festival. I have worked in many TV plays and hope that around 20 of them will be aired.
Which of these did you like?
 Sajal: It's difficult to pick one. One of the plays -- directed by film star Moushumi -- is a very good one. Several of the dramas I did were directed by Mohon Khan; I acted in five episodes of "Bhul Tikanai Jatra". Shahin Kabir Tutul also directed one, where I had six heroines.
What factors do you consider before taking on an Eid drama?
 Sajal: Obviously, the story is important. I avoid ones with a weak story. Next in importance is the character, co-actress and director.
What's your Eid plan?
 Sajal: I will spend Eid day at home in Dhaka with my family. My school and media friends usually visit me at my home in the evening, and we usually have dinner together and chat. Every Eid, I go to my grandfather's house in old Dhaka at noon. It is a family tradition for all our relatives to get together there.
What is your usual Eid attire?
 Sajal: I like wearing panjabi for Eid day. I'm not rigid on colours, though I like black and white.



While his violin silently weeps...
In conversation with Niranjan Bhowmick

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
 Niranjan Bhowmick, a skilled violinist of Muktagacha, keeps his audience captivated with the moving strains of his instrument.
 Sixty-five year old Niranjan -- son of late Nripendra Kumar Bhowmick, a renowned violin player at Muktagacha zamindar palace -- believes in regular practice to fine tune his talent.
 Niranjan worked as a volunteer for vaccinations at Tufanganj camp in Cooch Behar, India, during the War of Liberation in 1971, and enthralled his comrades with his violin. Niranjan now wants to popularise the instrument

among the younger generation.
 Early on, Niranjan took lessons from his father. Later, he studied under eminent violin masters, Dyoti Kishore Acharya Chowdhury, Jamini Pal, Bijoy Krishna Bhattacharya, Netai Kundu and Kanchiram Adhikari. He was also trained in the tabla by Punya Chandra Sarker.
 The ragas that charm the artiste the most are Megha Malhar, Malkauns, Behag and Jaunpuri.
 Niranjan stood first in a violin competition in 1980 in Dhaka Division. He also joined the cultural team of Dhaka University in 1987 while doing his diploma in Library Science from the institution.
 "Whenever I played the violin at

programmes, I received loud applause from the audience," said a proud Niranjan.
 With advancing years, Niranjan has slowed down. However, the moving strings of his violin make him a popular figure at kirtans held at Kirtankhola Temple of Muktagacha.
 A retired government employee, Niranjan was also well-known in the district as cricket and football commentator.
 Going back to his eventful past, Niranjan said that he was fortunate to be present at the performances of some great classical artistes at the zamindar palace, arranged by Jibendra Kishore Acharya Chowdhury, then a prominent patron of classical music.

It's True!



The hurdy-gurdy is a stringed musical instrument that produces sound by a crank-turned rosined wheel rubbing against the strings. The wheel functions much like a violin bow, and single notes played on the instrument sound similar to a violin. Melodies are played on a keyboard that presses tangents against one or more of the strings to change their pitch. The hurdy-gurdy is generally thought to have originated from fiddles in either Western Europe or the Middle East some time prior to the eleventh century A.D. The most popular use of the instrument is found in Swiss folk-metal band Eluveitie.

WAG: An Oasis for Art Practitioners

ZIAUL KARIM back from Croatia
 Imagine an ambience where creative minds get together, share experiences, converse interactively, draw inspiration to rekindle flames of creativity--or just sit back and relax! Too utopian to be true? But World Art Games, popularly known as WAG, is an oasis for art practitioners, traversing genres and mediums, where all creative people can mix and mingle, exchange ideas and promote peace while using the language of art.
 A brainchild of the Croatian artist Peter Weisz, WAG is a non-profit organisation. Reflecting on the organisation's motto, Peter says "Unity in diversity is at the core of the philosophy on which WAG is built." Youthful though in his '60s, and bubbling with energy, Peter leads WAG from the front as the president of the organisation.
 Peter is fully aware that there are many arts biennales, but no arts Olympic, to provide a comparable forum.



who had been murdered touched everyone in the audience at the Ludbreg City Library. But in talking about his friend's death he raised philosophical issues about dying and asked questions about what would possibly be the best tribute to someone who is dead. In concluding, he invited others to talk about their experience of the loss of loved ones.
 For next door neighbour from Assam, Wahida Ahmed, the margin of difference between fantasy and reality is negligible and perhaps they even overlap. Her painting depicting the Twin Tower explosion with children's paper airplanes encircling the towers shows that our realities are as fragile as the paper airplanes.
 Laila Sharmeen decorated her street painting at the Open University of Umag with traditional Bengali motifs of flower, fish and bird and Bangla alphabets to evoke the quintessential colours of Bengal and also pay tribute to Bangladesh's Language Movement. She drew the basic design for the 40 feet painting, explained the colour scheme to artists from India, USA, Colombia, Finland, Netherlands, and Croatia and then invited them to apply paint on the work. She also engaged people from local community and tourists visiting Umag to turn her project into a collaborative-community painting. The scene of the street painting was carnivalesque, especially because of the Pokko Cherri Band from Malaysia that played foot tapping numbers.

must win the right to stage WAG through bids to host a 10 day bi-annual event.
 Held in the Croatian cities of Ludbreg, Vukovar and Umag, the first World Art Games hosted over 200 artists, musicians and performers from more than 40 different countries including Bangladesh. With Colombia, Argentina and Mexico together fielding 38 artists, Latin America dominated the games events.
 With the 'Little Prince' pin in the buttonhole of his jacket, Sergio Jimenez's presence electrified the games scene.
 Sergio gave one performance called "Every single being is a world in itself" at Ludbreg main square, where "The Center of the World" plaque is located. Croations, it should be pointed out, believe that the center of the world is located at that point. Blindfolded, Sergio circled the square and slowly closed in on the plaque, placing papers on it and taking prints of the plaque by rubbing it with a charcoal. He believes that the human body is a territory and he views it as physical territory. He



Colombian artist Sergio Jimenez performing "Second Skin". (Top) Bangladeshi artist Laila Sharmeen works on her street painting.

distributed papers among the participating artists of WAG, requesting them to mail the 'piece of the center of the world' to his address in Bogota.
 Sergio's next move was to create 'Second Skin' with Colombian Fashion designer Andrea Castro at Castle Bethany. He orchestrated his moves on this occasion with the tempo of the music and the catwalk of the models.

He approached the audience in a series of movements and had them draw lines on his body with markers. The idea was to get him drawn by people from different culture and society.
 Artist, critic and curator from Texas, USA Anthony Merino was the most loved person of the games for his simple and unpretentious demeanour. His presentation about his black friend

Laila and I reached the Croatian capital Zagreb a few days before the games started and had an opportunity to visit the Museum of Arts and Crafts, then hosting Caravaggio's masterpiece "Supper at Emmaus". The painting was loaned by Italy to commemorate Croatia's accession to the European Union.
 This redolent image captures much of the spirit of the WAG-- so full of events richly punctuated with great food and excellent excursions!
 Ziaul Karim is an art critic

TV WATCH
Umshunyo
 on the eve of Eid



Boishakhi TV will be airing a one-episode play on 'Chand-raat' (the eve of Eid) featuring Rokeya Prachy, Farzana Chhobi, Arman Parvez Murad, film star Popy and child artiste Asha. The play is centred on street-child Moyna who goes through various questions of life, finding answers to some while others elude her. Apparent strangers give her love and support, but societal restrictions come in the way. Moyna's journey eventually meets its inevitable end, but the marks she leaves are indelible.
 "Umshunyo", written and directed by Salman Haider, will be aired at 8:50pm.