

WHAT'S ON

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Artist: Jamal Ahmed  
 Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, AJ Heights, Cha 72/1/D, Progoti Shorani, Uttar Badda  
 Date: Jan 9-31  
 Time: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

**Chobi Mela VIII**  
 Organiser: Pathshala and Drik  
 Venue: Different locations in Dhaka  
 Date: Jan 23-Feb 5  
 Time: 10-8pm

**8th International Children's Film Festival**  
 Organiser: Bangladesh Children's Film Society  
 Venue: Central Public Library, BNM, BSA  
 Date: January 24-30; Time: 10-8pm

**1st National Dance-Drama Festival**  
 Organiser: BDA  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: Jan 27-31  
 Time: 6:00pm

**Art Exhibition**  
 Chronology  
 Artist: Kazi Rakib  
 Venue: Galleri Kaya  
 Date: Jan 17-30  
 Time: 11am-7:30pm

**NEWS bytes**

**Kylie**  
to headline Hyde Park festival



Pop star Kylie Minogue will headline the third and final night of the British Summer Time festival at Hyde Park in June. She will be joined by Grace Jones and Nile Rodgers, bringing a disco theme to the event on June 21. The festival also features Taylor Swift and The Who as headliners on the Friday and Saturday night respectively. Kylie previously played in Hyde Park at the BBC's Proms in the Park in 2012, backed by the BBC Concert Orchestra. Fellow club queen Grace Jones added: "I'll bring the Jekyll to Hyde Park."



**Curtains rise on Sufi Fest today**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 The first edition of the Sufi Fest Dhaka 2015 will see its curtains rise today, at the Army Museum grounds in the capital's Bijoy Sarani. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will inaugurate the three-day festival that brings together 15 artistes and musical groups from eight countries. Bangladeshi artistes will open the festival on each day, with Arnob and his group setting the festival in motion. Their music draws melodic and lyrical inspiration from a wide range of sources, from Rabindranath's poetry to the simplicity of folk or the mysticism of bauls. Tunisian group Mechket, who promote Tunisian Sufi music and offer an opportunity to the public to enjoy Sufi in a modern



**Mechket (top) and Arnob and his group will perform today.** perspective, will perform next. Their music is a combination of Turkish, Indian and Tunisian music. The compositions are distinguished by offbeat tracks keeping with the traditional music genre and marked in particular by a freshness and desire for renewal and innovation. Sidi Goma, a group of artistes

from Gujarat, India of African ancestry will then take the stage. Sidi Goma mingles native African music styles, rhythmic and melodic structures with local cultural influences to create a unique sound. The evening's final performer will be Javed Ali, the Indian playback singer who has made a name for himself for his soulful voice and the type of songs he performs. Son of popular qawwali singer Ustad Hamid Hussain, Ali is adept in Hindi, Bangla, Kannada, Tamil and Telegu. He has worked extensively with AR Rahman, most notably in songs like "Kun Faya Kun" ("Rockstar") and "Guzarish" ("Ghajini"). The event begins at 6pm but gates will open at 5pm, with seating based on first-come-first-serve.

**Bachchan** sings Indian national anthem at Jorasanko

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi**  
 Amitabh Bachchan has sung a few songs in films, but singing India's national anthem penned by Rabindranath Tagore without accompanying music and that too in the poet's ancestral home Jorasanko in Kolkata was a moment of pride for him. The picturisation of the national anthem sung by Bachchan for his forthcoming film "Shamitabh" was done at Jorasanko Thakurbari in north Kolkata. Though the R Balki-directed film is slated to be released on February 6, the decision to include the national anthem in the movie was taken only a couple of days ago. "We went to music director Adesh Srivastava's studio in Mumbai who felt it (the anthem) does not require any music," Bachchan told reporters at the press launch of the film in Kolkata. Balki wanted to shoot it at Shantiniketan but it has been done at Jorasanko because of lack of time. As "Rabindranath Tagore wrote the song, we decided that why don't we shoot it where Gurudev was born. Shoojit Sircar has shot the song at Jorasanko," he said.



Bachchan said he was proud to have sung the national anthem. Describing Tagore's ancestral home as an "amazing monument", Bachchan said "It's for the first time I have been there and such an iconic place and I doubt perhaps anybody has ever sung the national anthem there. I feel so proud." In "Shamitabh", his third film with Balki after "Cheeni Kum" (2007) and "Paa" (2009), Bachchan is essaying the role of a frustrated, drunkard person with a baritone voice while South superstar Dhanush is a small town man. Akshara Haasan - daughter of the inimitable Kamal Haasan -- dons the hat of a journalist who brings the two together and turns Dhanush into a superstar with Bachchan his dubbing artiste. "It's the tale of two persons with different talents. What one has, the other one does not have it and both fill that void. And when it reaches the height, then ego comes into play because both started thinking that the popularity gained was because of the other one," Big B said. Asked if he would ever render his voice to poems of Rabindranath Tagore as he has sung Tagore's songs, the megastar said "My Bengali is not that good. I think it should be recited by somebody who knows the language. But if somebody wants to do it in Hindi or English I will be glad to do so."

**Chobi Mela gathers momentum**



Visitors at the Arts Precinct; rickshaws carrying guests of Chobi Mela to the exhibit.



PHOTO COURTESY: DRIK

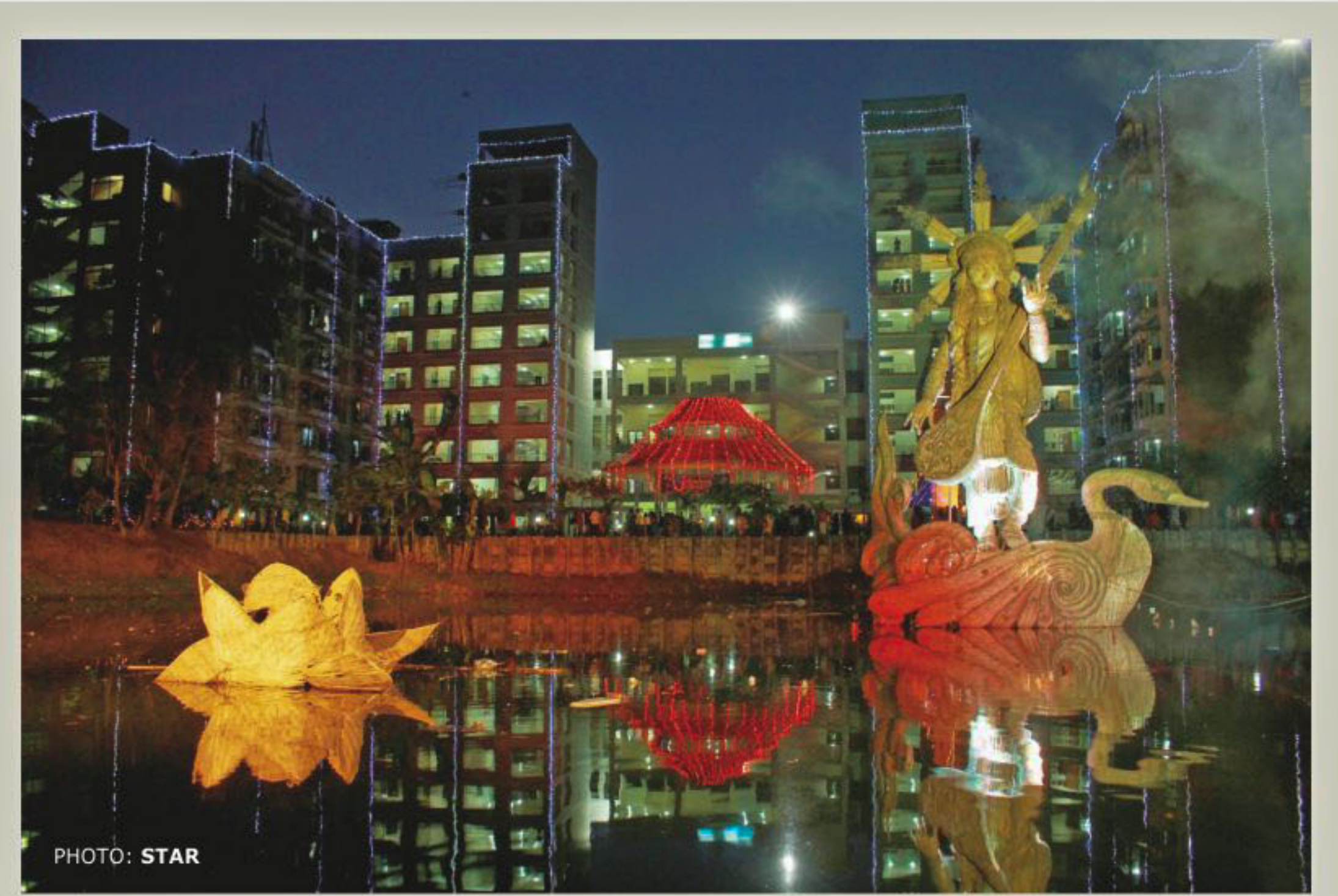
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Chobi Mela VIII, ongoing simultaneously at 11 venues in Dhaka, gathered a huge crowd on the fourth day. The day began with Shamoan Zamir's lectures on Edward Curtis at the Goethe-Institut, followed by Siobhan Riordan's lectures on Surveillance. Later in the afternoon, artist and

guests made a Gallery Visit on rickshaw from Dhanmondi to Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct where exhibitions of German photographer Andrea Diefenbach's "HIV/AIDS in Odessa" and Singaporean photographer Sean Lee's "Two People" are ongoing. Andrea Diefenbach and Sean Lee, accompanied by a group of guests and organisers including Festival Director Dr. Shahidul Alam and curators Munem Wasif, Tanzim Wahab and ASM Rezaur Rahman visited the venue. In the evening, graphics designer Teun van der Heijden delivered lectures on Book Making at the Goethe-Institut, followed by Australian photographer Philip Blenkinsop artist talk. Earlier on Sunday, Cristina Nunez

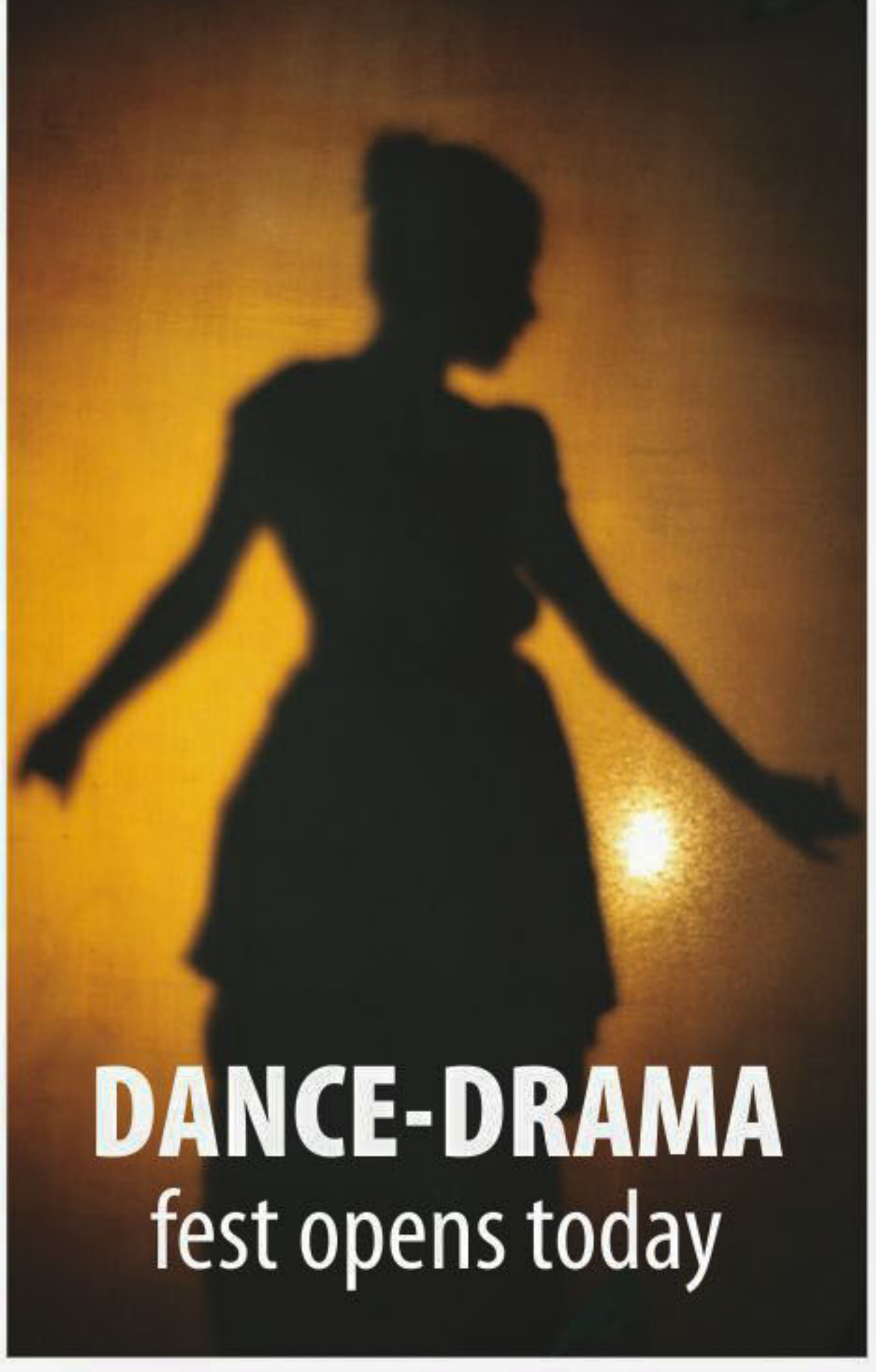
spoke at an artist talk session at the Goethe Institute Dhaka. Before that, photographers and guests visited the event venues in Old Dhaka. Today's itinerary includes a talk by Nayantara Gurung Kakshapati on "Representations of Nepal" and "Staging the image - assimilations from previous issues of pix quarterly"-a Lecture by Tanvi Mishra.



**PHOTO: STAR**  
 Bollywood playback singer Kumar Shanu performs at a musical programme at the Dhaka Officers' Club, celebrating Saraswati Puja. The daylong rituals and celebrations were held on January 25 at the club premises, celebrating the arrival of Devi Saraswati - the Hindu Goddess of knowledge, music, arts and science.



**PHOTO: STAR**  
 In line with the previous years, Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall wore a festive look on the day of Saraswati Puja. The playground saw around 50 mandaps housing idols of the goddess, and men, women and children in bright attires joining the celebrations. Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, music and arts in Hindu religion, is worshipped every year in the Bangla month of Magh (early February). For obvious reasons, Saraswati Puja holds special significance to students; and Jagannath Hall ground hosts its biggest celebration in the country.



**DANCE-DRAMA**  
fest opens today  
**A CORRESPONDENT**  
 On the opening day of the first national dance-drama festival organised by Bangladesh Dance Artistes' Association, "Hajar Tarer Bina" and "Mahua" are set to be staged today at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. "Hajar Tarer Bina" is based on Kazi Nazrul Islam's fight and struggle during his imprisonment," said its director Farzana Chowdhury. It reflects how the rebel poet's muse kept his fighting spirit alive and glowing in the darkness of prison. "Mahua", the other piece, is the directorial vision of Maksudul Alam Milton. The storyline features Mahua, a girl kidnapped and raised by the 'bedey' (snake-charmers) community. The story is taken from a popular folklore that has the zest of love and romance.