

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

February March 18-April 7
Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts is holding a solo exhibition of abstract art by Mahmudul Haque, one of the major exponents of the trend in contemporary times. The exhibition will run through April 7 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

World Theatre Day

March 27
On occasion of World Theatre Day, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and ITI Bangladesh jointly organises a celebration ceremony. The programme schedule follows:

- 4.00 p.m. Assembly of theatre activists at the Mohila Samity premises
 - 4.30 p.m. Rally
 - 5.30 p.m. Tea
 - 6.30 p.m. Seminar, Award distribution and cultural show
- Interested are requested to collect their coupon within March 24.

Choiro Sankranti

April 13
Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation arranges a cultural show on the occasion at the Mohila Samity auditorium. The programme will start at 6 p.m.

Music

March 21
Chalachitram Film Society organises a soiree of aadhunik bangla songs of the 1940-1970s. The programme will take place at the German Cultural Centre at 7 p.m.

Film

The Russian Cultural Center, Dhaka and Zahir Raihan Film Society organises Sergei Eisenstein Retrospective, dedicated to his 105th Birth Anniversary. The following films will be screened:

- Thursday March 21:**
- 4.00 p.m.: October
- 6.00 p.m.: Alexander Nevsky
- Sunday, March 22:**
- 4.00 p.m.: Ivan the Terrible, Part-I
- 6.00 p.m.: Ivan the Terrible, Part-II

Heritage

Relics from the past

Bangladesh National Museum puts its newly collected items on display for public

HARUN UR RASHID

HOW many of us have visited the Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) in recent times? The National Museum recently exhibited finds that it collected in 2002. A total of 486 pieces of artifacts and relics bearing archaeological and historical interest far across time and region were on display. BNM also published a catalogue of these items that are now preserved at the National Museum and its branch at the Ahsan Manzeel Museum.

BNM has four departments for collecting and preserving ancient objects: History and Classical Art, Ethnology and Ornamental Art, Contemporary Art and World Civilisation, and Natural History. The collection of 2002 has items of all the four categories.

There are 189 items of sculptures, coins, stone inscriptions, manuscripts, deeds and documents, and works of terracotta under the History and Classical Art department. Ethnological and ornamental objects include 87 pieces of everyday utilities, earthenware, dresses, wooden artwork, and items of folk art. 137 items of contemporary art are also there which have been collected from



Panbata made of brass and zink of the 20th century.

around the world. The Natural History department and Ahsan Manjeel Museum have added 73 pieces of geological objects to the collection.

Among the most ancient relics in this collection are a few sculptures of the 11th and 12th centuries. The sculptures, all made of black marble, represent Lord Buddha, Ganesha, Uma Maheswar, Boraho-Vishnu and Vishnu. These were collected from

Comilla, Natore, Narayanganj, Chandpur, Chapai Nababganj Panchagarh and Dhaka. A manuscript of 19th century, written on cotton-pulp paper, was collected from Comilla. It contains Bangla writing on Islamic matter.

There are some gold coins that have come down from the 7th century. Two gold coins are from Hijri 3rd century during the reign of Abbasian Caliph Al Muktafi Billa. Besides, there are silver coins that



Artwork presented by Madam Kiyang Kiyang, wife of Thun Su, the Prime Minister of Myanmar.

were in use during 14th to 17th centuries.

Among the ornaments are twentieth century silver-made *hanshuli*, locket, bangles for arms and ankles, rose-water sprinkler, container of attar, kettle, plate, glass-holder, betel-leaf pot etc.

Most of these relics were purchased from different sources. A considerable amount of objects were, however, given to the museum as presents too. A Sweden based Bangladeshi Taiyab Hossain, handed over a huge collection of dolls representing traditionally dressed men and women from various cultural settings of the world.

Dr. Johra Begum Kazi gave the museum from her personal collection a silver medal of the Viceroy of

1935, a brass medal of 1964, two hand-written letters of Mahatma Gandhi the paper of which was made in local mills. Three statues of Lord Vishnu and one Shivalinga, made of black marble, were gifted by one Khurshid Hamid from Dhaka. The sculptures date back to the 12th century.

The National Museum surely has further enriched its collection by the added treasure of historical objects. Those who have gifted from their personal collection deserve national recognition. The catalogue does not, however, mention prices of the purchased items, which could help people realise their worth. Yet such endeavours are always praiseworthy, for they build up a nation's heritage as well as preserve it.

Event

Bhangra in Dhaka

ELITA KARIM

ON the 16th evening of March, Dhaka got a taste of the Punjab Folk at the National Museum, thanks to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and The High Commission of India. Upon entry, the spectators were greeted with a charming traditional welcome of colorful designs made with flowers and leaves. The hall was filled with the Indian community of Dhaka. It was truly a pleasure to see families full of parents, children, uncles and aunts, even grandparents sitting together, eagerly waiting to go back to their homeland through the folk music.

G.P.S. Ahluwalia's troupe rendered beautiful songs, dances, instruments and stories from the

beats of the dhol and other folk instruments. Some of the instruments were as simple as two wooden sticks and pots made of bronze. Nevertheless, the music produced by these instruments sung of the people, the fields, the sunsets and the evenings of Punjab. Some of the songs and dances even carried happy messages of the beginning of a new year, harvesting of fresh crops, woes of lovers and the creation of relationships through marriage.

Bhangra, which was the second last item of the show, is much more than standing with two pointers of each hand pointing to the sky and jumping to the beat. This dance depicted the joy and bliss of the farmers and the common people of the land. It was evident that even back at home, these people,



Bhangra dance depicting joy and bliss of the farmers.

villages of Punjab. The colourful costumes of red, green, orange, yellow and purple undoubtedly took the audience to the Punjabi households where, besides the existence of traditional values within the families, the famous dishes of *Makhe ki Roti* and *Sarso ka Saag* could be tasted.

G.P.S. Ahluwalia is one of the leading exponents of Bhangra dance in India today. He, along with his group *Virasat Entertainers*, have performed all over India and has directed and choreographed numerous stage shows. He founded the group in the year 1999 to promote and revive the culture, music, theatre and traditions of Punjab through young and talented boys and girls. Ahluwalia has also been awarded the District Appreciation Award by Government of India.

After a prayer song, the troupe of men and women dressed in their traditional cloths danced to the

dressed in vibrant colours, dance with joy and happiness. Giddha, the last item of the show, had the womenfolk do the talking through their animated steps and actions. The dance gave a picture of a bride and groom who are about to get married and the desires and needs expressed by the various relatives of the couple.

Dance is said to be just another language of the people. The fact that it can take a number of forms is truly amazing. The Punjabi dancers illustrated happiness, joy, sorrow, pain and the various human feelings sensed by the people of their land. There is a lesson to be learnt here, which is having pride in one's own culture and discovering one's roots in order to enhance tradition.

TV GUIDE

BTV	12.10 pm News Headlines	12.15 <i>Shubhechha Nin</i>	12.30 <i>Ajker Shagbadpatro</i>	12.40 Health Bulletin	01.00 Khobor	01.05 Selected Programme	02.30 News Headlines	02.05 Cartoon	02.30 Bangla Feature Film	03.00 News (English)	04.00 News Headlines	04.40 <i>Crickit Cricket Quiz</i>	04.50 Highlights of World Cup Match	05.00 Khobor	06.00 <i>Khobor - Desh Jonopod</i>	06.15 Live Telecast of ICC World Cup India Vs Kenya Semi-final Match	07.00 News Headlines (English)	Share Bazaar, Weather Report	08.00 8 o'clock Bengali News	10.00 English News at Ten	11.30 Late Night News/ News Headlines			
CHANNEL-i	06.15 Islamic Programme	07.15 <i>Prothom Shur</i>	10.00 Music Plus	10.30 <i>Kichhu Money Korben Na Dot Com</i>	11.25 Drama Serial: <i>Kichhu Megh Kichhu Roddur Sun Crest Dhak-dhol Concert</i>	12.35 Drama Serial: <i>Tomar Bashonto Diney</i>	02.00 Bengali Feature Film: <i>Malamaal</i>	05.35 <i>Jopnopoder Khobor</i>	05.45 <i>Joto Pad Toto Mat</i>	06.10 Music Plus	06.45 <i>House Full</i>	07.15 Channel-i News	07.45 Ispahani-1 Tele Quiz (Question)	07.55 English Drama Serial: <i>Queen</i>	08.25 Drama Serial: <i>Ghahagalo</i>	09.00 Channel-i News	09.31 Ispahani-1 Tele Quiz (Result)	09.35 <i>Sanchita</i>	10.00 <i>Close Up Heat Wave</i>	10.25 Channel-i Mobile Quiz	10.30 Channel-i News	11.15 <i>Shagbadpatrey Bangladesh</i>	11.30 Live Telecast of BTV's Late Night News	Channel-i News

ATN BANGLA	6:00 Islamic Prog	8:00 ATN Bangla News	8:25 Sustha Thakun	9:00 Drama Serial: Sandatara	9:35 Priyo Tarakar Sera Gan	10:10 Talk Show: Face to Face	12:00 ATN Bangla News	12:30 <i>Ajker Sangbadpotro</i>	12:50 Musical prog : ATN Music	1:30 Bengali feature film: Santona	2:30 ATN Bangla News Headlines	4:50 <i>Ajker Sangbadpotro</i>	5:00 Gram Gonger Sangbad	5:15 Islamic prog: Sundor Jeboner Janne	5:50 Islamic Song	6:25 Islamic prog : Islamee Sawal O Jawab	7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News	7:30 Mage Serial: Kun Semany Mukte	8:05 Drama Serial: Hada-Ar-Bhudar	Kandokarkhan	8:40 Henolux Benudon Bichitra	9:00 ATN Bangla News	9:15 Prekhhapot	10:00 ATN Bangla News	10:35 Musical Song	11:00 ATN Bangla News	12:00 Bengali film: Moha Sammelon
HBO	6:30 The Militia	8:15 Get Carter	10:15 Primal Force	12:00 Analyze This	2:00 Annie: A Royal Adventure!	4:00 Friday The 13 th Vi: The Final Chapter	5:45 The Graduate	8:00 Shot In The Heart	10:00 The Assassin	12:15 Any Given Sunday	3:15 Analyze This	5:15 Friday The 13 th Vi: The Final Chapter															
AXN	6:30 Movie : Route 9	9:30 Queen of Swords: The Pact	10:30 Seven Days : Brother, Can You																								

Spare A Bomb?	Andromeda: D Minus Zero	12:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime	1:30 Martial Law: Requiem	2:30 Movie: Route 9	5:30 Guinness World Records : Primetime	6:30 Andromeda: Double Helix	7:30 Core Culture	8:30 Queen of Swords: The Emissary	9:30 Now See This!	10:30 The Horror Movie : Sanctimony										
STAR MOVIES	7:15 Supremova	9:00 Eve Of Destruction	11:00 Crazy In Alabama	1:00 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit	3:00 Terminator 2: Judgment Day	5:15 The Others	7:00 As Good As It Gets	9:25 Mulholl and Drive	12:00 Tootsie											
STAR PLUS	(30 Minutes +)	5:30 Bhabhi	6:00 Star Geetmala	7:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom	7:30 Aatma	8:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M	9:00 Fox Kids	9:40 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M	10:00 Kabhiekabhiemereg harmeinbhucha	10:30 Meri Saheli	11:00 Kabhii Sautan Kabhii Saheli	11:30 Shanti	12:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M	12:30 Kasautii Zindagii Kay Bandhan	13:30 Bhabhi	14:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	15:00 Kabhi Aaye Na Judai	15:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii	16:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz Series	16:30 Saans
STAR GOLD	(30 Minutes +)	6:30 Geet Bahar	7:00 Abhiman (B/W)	10:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit	11:00 Bade Dilwala	13:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit	14:00 Geet Bahar	14:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M	11:28 Star Asia Travel	11:30 Titus	12:00 Two Guys And A Girl	12:30 Suddenly Susan								
STAR WORLD	(30 Minutes +)	6:00 Cheers	6:30 Oprah Winfrey Show	7:30 Chicago Hope	8:30 Charmed	9:30 Ally Mcbeal	10:30 Oprah Winfrey Show	11:00 Star Asia Travel	11:30 Titus	12:00 Two Guys And A Girl	12:30 Suddenly Susan									

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS	HBO: 12.15 a.m. <i>Any Given Sunday.</i> An aging football coach finds himself struggling with his personal and professional life while trying to hold his team together. A star quarterback has been knocked out of the game and a naive football player replaces him only to become exposed to the world of sports and become a danger to himself and to his players. Meanwhile, the coach finds himself constantly at battle with the team owner's money and power hungry daughter intent on moving the team out.	HALMARK: 11.00 p.m. <i>Zelly and Me.</i> Phoebe is a young orphan who's caught between the jealous, possessive love of her grandmother, Coco, and the nurturing, unconditional love of her dreamy governess, Zelly. With courage and imagination, Phoebe must learn to accept love wherever it is offered and reject the pain that is meted out with it in this poignant, coming-of-age story that stars Glynis Johns and Isabella Rossellini.
PICK OF THE DAY	Mulholland Drive On Star Movies at 9.25 p.m. A bright-eyed young actress travels to Hollywood, only to be ensnared in a dark conspiracy involving a woman who was nearly murdered, and now has amnesia because of a car crash. Eventually, both women are pulled into a psychotic illusion involving a dangerous blue box, a director named Adam Kesher, and the mysterious night club Silencio.	

HALLMARK	7:00 Scholastic Clifford - And Birdy Makes Three / Home Is Where Th	7:30 Caillou - Episode # 17	8:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 39	9:00 Johnson County War - Part # 2	11:00 The Locket	1:00 Mcleod's Daughters - Episode # 14 - Dirty Pool	2:00 Adoption Series - Episode Number 00003	3:00 Scholastic Clifford - And Birdy Makes Three / Home Is Where Th	3:30 Caillou - Episode # 17	4:00 Flipper - Episode # 11	5:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 39	6:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 130 Pathfinder	7:00 Zelly And Me	9:00 The Guardian - Episode # 16 Solidarity	10:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 134 Virtuoso	11:00 Zelly And Me							
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	(30 Minutes +)	6:00 The Greatest Shoal On Earth	7:00 Truth Files	8:00 Mummy Road Show	8:30 Tales Of The Living Dead	9:00 Staying Alive	9:30 Staying Alive	10:00 5 Weddings Couple Of Funeral	11:30 People Out There	10:30 Dogs With Jobs S3	11:30 Earth Pulse	12:00 The Mystery Of The Minkes	13:00 The Octopus Show	14:00 Tiger Sharks	15:00 Curse Of The Methuselah Tree	16:00 Truth Files	17:00 Sea Stories	17:30 Mission Wild	18:00 Dogs With Jobs S3	18:30 Earth Pulse	19:00 Animalicious	20:00 The Power Of Water	21:00 Wildlife Warriors

ESPN	(30 minutes +)	6:00 College Gymnastics Sac Gymnastics Super 6 Kickoff Gainesville, FL USA (R)	7:30 Best Of Pga Golf Best Of The 60'S (R)	8:00 Pro Billiards 2002 Sudden Death 7-Ball Baltimore, MD USA (R)	9:00 Asian X-Games Qualifiers Asian X Games V Presented By Toyota Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA Episode Seven(R)	10:00 Uefa Champions League 2002/03 Uefa Champions League Group Phase 2, Matchday 12(R)	12:00 X-Games Preview/Recap 2002 X Games VIII Stomped (R)	12:30 Motorsport Asia (T)	13:00 Pro Wakeboard Series 2002 Pro Wakeboard Series (Women'S) Detroit, MI USA (R)	13:30 Pro Billiards 2002 Sudden Death 7-Ball Baltimore, MD USA (R)	14:30 Ama Motocross Ama Motocross (125 Cc) Binghamton, NY USA (R)	15:00 Goals! (R)	16:00 Asa World Tour Asa Pro Tour - Vert Finals Del Mar, CA USA (R)	16:30 In The Driver'S Seat Rock Crawling (R)	17:00 Taking Guard Semifinal 2(L)	17:30 Uefa Champions League 2002/03 Uefa Champions League Group Phase 2, Matchday 12(R)	20:00 Sportscenter Hindi (L)	20:30 Spanish League Highlights 2002/03 Spanish League Highlights (T)	21:00 Uefa Champions League 2002/03 Uefa Champions League Group Phase 2,
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22:00 Attack-In Pursuit Of Africa	23:00 Truth Files	Matchday 12(S)	23:00 Sportscenter Hindi (T)	23:30 Best Of Pga Golf Best Of The 60'S (R)															
STAR SPORTS	(30 minutes +)	6:30 Gillette World Sports Special Gillette World Sports (R)	7:00 Max Power Max Power 2003 (R)	8:00 Watersports World (R)	9:00 English Premier League Highlights English Premier League Highlights	10:00 National Rugby League 2003 Telstra Premiership New South Wales, AUSTRALIA The Sharks Vs Melbourne Storm Round 1(R)	12:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Manchester, ENGLAND Manchester City Vs Birmingham City (T)	14:00 Max Power Max Power 2003 (R)	15:00 Asian Pga Tour Phoenix Dynasty Cup Guangdong, CHINA Third Round(T)	17:00 Taking Guard Semifinal 2(L)	17:30 Taking Guard Semifinal 2(R)	18:00 Go Kart Champions Of The Future Karting Series 2002	18:30 Sportsline Unlimted (T)	19:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (L)	20:00 Pga Tour Highlights The Honda Classic (T)	21:00 Tennis Masters Series Pacific Life Open, Indian Wells Indian Wells, CA USA Highlights(T)	22:00 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (T)	22:30 Pool Rack 'Em Up - Best Of Jimmy White Craig McGillivray Vs Jimmy White (T)	23:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (R)