RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

March 18-April 7 Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts holds 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.

March 29-April 03 Artist Babul Mahmood holds his second solo at the Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. The exhibition is open

from 3 to 8 p.m. April 5-10 'Earthen', an institute of three artists Debashis, Swapan and Shahadat, holds a Terracotta Art Exhibition at the Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. The inaugural ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. and the show will be opened by M. Anwarul Kabir Talukder. State Minister for Finance and Planning Artist Abdus Satter and Philippe Nicaise, Alliance Francaise Director, will also attend the ceremony. The show continues up

to April 10 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Book Fair

April 2-15 'Shrabon'--a literary publishing house, holds an amazing book fair at its stall at the Aziz Super Market, to protest the ongoing USled war against Iraq. The fai features a huge collection of books written to condemn war over the time. The fair also presents T-shirts, stickers, and posters--all inscribed with warcondemning slogans. The book fair is open until April 15.



Actor Vin Diesel poses with costar Jacqueline Obradors at the premiere of their new film "A Man Apart" in Hollywood on

Theatre

"The Lesson" a play replete with symbols It's yesterday once again...

Presentation of an Ionesco play

AT'S Kamaluddin Nilu, who presented the play at Goethe Institut recently, speaks to Fayza Haq of The Daily Star.

Daily Star: Why did you choose to present this play: does this have any socio-economic importance?

the production attained a magnificent

DS: What is the theme of the play? KN: Danger of knowledge, killing and to be able to extricate from the charge of murder by using a political-



Kamaluddin Nilu in a scene from CAT's production The Lesson by French playwright Eugene Ionesco

Kamaluddin Nilu: The play has a tremendous relevance to the present socio-political situation in Bangladesh. The main problem dealt with in the play is that of a language lesson at the end of which the professor erotically kills his girl student. Ionesco's motive here is to make an attack on language, in the play he demonstrates that language has its efficacy as a physical weapon with which you can kill. You must agree that this is invariably happening in every sphere of our national and family life. Another important aspect is that, you are a killer but you are not being charged or brought to trial, only because you are carrying a political-party symbol.

The relevance of the play to the Bangladeshi milieu has been more conspicuous in view of, I must say, the tremendous translation done by the young play-translator, Saidus Saklaen. He has communicated well the inherent absurdity, beauty, message and motive of the play, and it is due to his wonderful translation that I could

the play. Another inherent meaning is to 'kill' the enthusiasms and passions for learning in oneself which is shown by the professor's stabbing of the girl student to death.

DS: What is the plot around which the play moves?

KN: The professor subdued by his apparent timidity and over-politeness and his teaching of the girl student, who is smart enough and very ardent to learn, form the main plot of the play. Also the maid, Marie, in the play plays her role trying to refrain the professor from being aggressive while giving the lesson as she always found that the professor had killed all his girl students

The play has also got a prelude (this is related to the directorial line) where the professor looks back to his past and recalls his good days. The intention of this addition is to show that due to his losing of nearest ones and the present loneliness, the professor has acquired

DS: Can you give some details about

the playwright?

KN: Eugene Ionesco is a French playwright of Rumanian origin, and one of the most popular and frequently performed exponents of the "Theatre of the Absurd" which dominated the French theatre after 1950, Drawing on the theories of Antonin Artaud, Ionesco rejected the literary theatre, the theatre of ideas, the theatre of psychological truth: instead he sought to return to a more primitive theatre which would simply be theatrical, and which through its exaggerations and illogicalities might penetrate beyond

DS: Could you say something about the director of the play?

KN: The director of the play is Ms. Mejrema Reuter. She is living in Bangladesh with her husband, Mr. Carl Reuter, director of The British Council, Dhaka. Ms. Mejrema has theatrical background and known as a theatre director. Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) wanted to produce The Lesson, and I was willing to act in the play and we engaged her as director. DS: Can you give some details

(experience) about the three actors (the professor, Mademoselle and Marie) in the play? KN: I took the role of professor in the

play quite seriously and I think I could keep pace with the temperament of the character to the extent as depicted by Eugene Ionesco. Sabina Sultana and

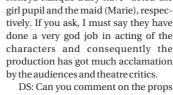
Rokeya Rafique Baby have acted the girl pupil and the maid (Marie), respectively. If you ask, I must say they have done a very god job in acting of the characters and consequently the production has got much acclamation by the audiences and theatre critics.

and costume?

KN: Props and costumes have been designed considering the contemporary society as depicted in the play. The sets designed for the production are more symbolic than realistic.

performed by CAT?

its mainstream theatre so far produced based on Purhabanga Gitika (1999). Ibsen's Wild Duck (Bunahans in Benvideo film on women and child trafficking, Nishabda Jatra (Silent Departure).



DS: What are the other plays earlier KN: CAT Repertory Theatre under

Eugene Ionesco's The Lesson (2001), Bhasa's Urubhangam (2001), Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House (Putuler Itikatha in Bengali, in 2001), Ibsen's Peer Gynt (Peer Chan in Bengali, in 2000), Rabindranath Tagore's Raja (King of the Dark Chamber, in 2000), Kalidasa's Vikramorvasiya (1999), Bhelua Sundari gali, in 1999), and Ibsen's Ghosts (Krishnabibar in Bengali, in 1996), CAT also produced four plays for school children; a street play, Al-Amin based on child trafficking; and an alternative



Kamaluddin Nilu and Rokeya Rafique in an exciting scene in the play, The

Music

HALACHITRAM recently presented a show of old Bangla songs of the period between 1940s-1970s. The evening seemed to have brought a gust of refreshing amusement over the dull mechanical city life of the Dhakaites -- those who were present at the Goethe Institut auditorium. A series of Bangla songs of the past seemed to have restored the peace of the minds, soothing of the souls, of the audience that are usually accustomed to living in the increasing uproar of the band music.

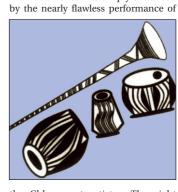
The older among the audience must have revoked the memory of their youth. The younger generation, too, revived their passion for the sweet old melodies that they have inherited from their ancestors. All those evergreen tunes--Hemanta's Tumi eley onek diner porey jeno brishti elo, Manna Dey's Eito shedin tumi aamarey bojhaley, Shandhya's Ogo mor geetimoy, Haimanti Shukla's Aamar bolar kichhu chhilona and many others--all of them surely brought them back a dearly cherished nostalgia for the bygone days of love and passion

Chalachitram Film Society organised the evening soiree entitled 'Eto Shur Eto Gaan' as part of its regular presentation of Bangla songs of what is considered by it as the 'golden era'--the 1940s to 1970s. Chalachitram had held before a few such programmes in which it had mostly presented songs from Bangla feature films of the time. This time, however, Chalachitram picked the genre of Bangla songs, which is widely, if even vaguely, called adhunik Bangla 25 songs of the period originally

voiced by great singers of the time from

both the Bengal were rendered by some young activists of Chhayanaut. And the noble thing about the event was that the proceeds collected from the affordable charge for tickets would go to the funds for the Chhayanaut Bhaban.

The audience was simply entranced



performers were Sumon Chowdhury, Farhana Akter Shirley, Mahua Rahman, Sumon Majumdar, Jannat-e-Ferdousi Lucky, Bijon Chandra Mistri, Nasima Shaheen Fancy and Azadur Raman.

Sumon Chowdhury's rendering of Jodi dako opar hotey, originally sung by Shyamol Mitra, and Manna Dey's Eito shedin tumi, and Mahua Rahman's presentation of Lata Mangeskar's Ki je kori, Shandhya Mukhapaddhyay's Jhora pata jhorkey dakey and Haimanti Shukla's Amar bolar kichhu chhilona earned great applause from the audi-Others were also similarly successful.

Sumon Majumdar sang Mrinal Chakrovarti's Kotha dao bhulbey nago and Azadur Rahman sang Hemanta Mukhopaddhyay's Tumi eley onek diner porey jeno brishti elo that sounded almost like the original tracks by the original singers.

Jannat-e-Ferdousi's rendition of Aakasher oi miti miti tarar shathey koibo kotha, Sumon Chowdhury's Shonago shonar meye, Farhana Akter's Aami shagorer neel, and Bijon Chandra Mistri's Tomar kajol kesh revealed that our country also produced some immortal songs by a few great singers. These four tracks were originally sung by Nahid Niazi, Talat Mahmud, Ferdousi Rahman and Bashir Ahmed respectively.

Chalachitram brought out a booklet containing information regarding the lyricists, music composers and the original singers of the 25 songs. The booklet will surely be helpful the connoisseurs of old Bangla music. It however lacked one important information about the songs: the dates, or at least the period, of their first recording. This would have further enriched the The Bengal is historically very impor-

tant when it comes to cultural activities in this subcontinent. Music has been outstandingly enriched by many talented maestros of this land. But it is regrettable that we have not had any remarkable initiative vet to preserve the golden treasure, especially in Bangladesh. Institutions like Chalachitram and a very few others, however, still practise those old melodies. Maybe they might come up in future with archiving measures that will save our golden legacy of

Roots

The Sitar

Sitar has been India's most favoured classical string instrument for more than a century. Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Vilayat Khan has made them famous in the West for the last 50 years.

The sitar is a plucked string instrument, the fusion between the tambur, an instrument close to the tambura but of smaller size, and the been having frets on its neck. Its body is carved out of tun, (Cedrela

tuna) or teak wood and its main resonator is made out of a pumkin. Many modifications have been

brought to the instrument, such as rhythm strings (cikari) from the been or



19th century.

the general shape of the sitar, adding a bigger resonator and thicker strings, so as to be able to play alaps in much the same color as he would have done on a

Ustad Imdad khan, on the contrary, has developed a smaller, faster sitar.

thetic strings tuned on the notes of the (kharaj).

(kharaj) and has 11 sympathetic strings Its playing strings are tuned MA SA GA PA and its two cikari are tuned in SA.

TV GUIDE

News Headlines Shubbechchha Nin

12.30 Ajker Shangbadpatro 12.40 Health Bulletin 01.00 Khabar 01.05 Selected Programme News Headlines

BTV

12.10

12.15

02.00 02.05 Cartoon Show Open University 02.30 03.00 **English News**

03.10 Bangla Feature Film 04.00 News Headlines 05.00 Khaba 05.30 Magazine Show: Ityada

06.00 Khabai 06.35 Jiboner Ald

07.00 News Headlines 07.05 Boipatro 07.30 Film Show: Three

Stooges 8 o'clock Bengali News E Shaptaher Natok 08.30 Chhavachhanda 09.30 10.00 English News at Ten

Movie of the Week 10.30 Khabar/The News 11.30

CHANNEL-i 07.15 Prothom Shui

10.00 Music Plus 10.30 Chhaya Jhankar 11.00 Dot Com 12.00 Drama Serial: Kichhu

Bashonto Diney 02.00 Protikkha

Janopader Khabai 05.45 Jato Pod Tato Mot 06.10 Music Plus 06.45

07.15 Channel-i News 07.45 07.50 Film Show: Queen 08.25 Drama Serial:

Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (R 09.31 09.35 Drama Serial: Charisma 10.00 Close Up Heat Wave Channel-i Mobile Quiz 10.25

10.30 Channel-i News 11.15 Shangbadpatrey Bangladesh Live Telecast of BTV

ATN BANGLA Islamic Prog ATN Bangla News Gondoraz

Samsung Cine Aaha Drama Serial: Sandatara Priyo Tarokar Sera Gan Talk Show: Face to

Face 12:00 ATN Bangla News 12:20 Aiker Sangbadpotro Musical prog: ATN

Music Bengali feature 1:30 film: Mone Rekho Amai

Jawab

ATN Bangla

Evening News

Mage Serial: Kun

Semanay Mukte

Hada-Ar-Bhudar

Henolux Benudor

ATN Bangla News

ATN Bangla News

Special Talk Show

Kandokarkhar

Bichitra

Prekkhapot

Iraq Zudda

11:00 ATN Bangla News

Drama Serial:

4:50 Ajker Sangbadpotro 5:00 Gram Gonger Sangbad Islamic prog: Sundor Jeboner

7:00

8:40

9:00

Kichhu Money Korbenna Janne Megh Kichhu Roddur 5:50 Film Magazine: A Drama Serial: Tomar Sapteher Chobi Islamic prog Bangla Feature Film: Islamee Sawal O

Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (Q)

Grihagalpo 09.00 Channel-i News

Late Night News Channel-i News

12:00 Bengali film: TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS Premer Samade HBO:11.45 p.m. The Perfect Storm. **HBO**

Cinema Secrets III: 3- Remaking reality The Delta Force Mystery Men Return to Cabin 12:00 by the Lake

Wayne's World 2

Hamburger Hill

Spy

The Thing

Roxbury

Storm

The Perfect

Mystery Men

Movie: The

Core Culture

End of Days

Andromeda:

Harper 2.0

Records:

Primetime

Movie: The

Alternate

Records:

Primetime

Andromeda:

Core Culture

Betrayed

Now See This!

Movie: Mary

Forced Perspective

Queen of Swords:

Guinness World

The Outer Limits

Guinness World

Queen of Swords:

Queen of Swords

The Agency: Pilot

Alternate

Hamburger Hill

A Night At the

Max Knight Ultra

1:45

7:45

10:00

11:45

2:15

AXN

6:30

1:30

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10:30



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21:30

noor outings. His crew is hardly hack port when he tells them he's going out again, even though it's October and the weather can turn ugly. Five join him: the young Bobby, newly in love; Murph, a devoted father recently divorced; Sully a guy Murph despises; Bugsy, who's finally met a woman who likes him; and Alfred, a quiet Jamaican AXN: 10.30 p.m. Frankenstein. Dr. Frankenstein creates a simple creature

Billy Tyne is a sword-fishing-boat

competitive and stung by a string of

captain out of Gloucester, highly

from various body parts. The creature Frankenstein rejects him. Sticking close to the original novel, Kenneth Branagh guides us through the story of Frankenstein's quest for knowledge and his creature's search for his

22:30

Dude, Where's My Car?

On STAR MOVIES at 8.55 p.m. Jesse and Chester, two bumbling stoners, wake up one

morning from a night of partying and cannot remember where they parked their car. This prompts them on a journey to find it and along the way, they encounter a variety of people including their angry girlfriends Wilma and Wanda whose house they trashed, an angry street gang, a transsexual stripper hounding them for a suitcase full of stolen money, a cult of alien seeking fanatics.

PICK OF THE DAY

Shelly's Frankenstein

Quest For K2

Out There

Out There

Explorer's Journa

Firefight

Firefight

Death Zone

Danger Diaries

Quest For K2

Danger Diaries 19:30 **ADVENTURE ONE STAR WORLD** 20:28 (30 Minutes +) 20:30 **Danger Diaries** Cheers 21:00 22:00 6:30 Oprah Winfrey 23:00 Show 7:30 Chicago Hope

Next Wave Surfer's Journal 8:30 Charmed Explorer's Journa 9:30 Ally Mcbeal Sheer Will 10:30 Oprah Winfrey Death Zone Show **Danger Diaries** 11:28 Star Asia Travel Quest For K2 11:30 Titus 12:00 Two Guys And A Girl **Next Wave** Surfer's Journal Suddenly Susan 12:30 Explorer's Journa 13:00 Out There Beautiful Next Wave Surfer's Journal

16:30

17:30

Death Zone

The Bold And The Hollywood Squares 10:30 The Brady Bunch 14:00 14:30 Baywatch 15:30 The Simpsons 16:00 Cheers

Starnews Asia

Frasie

Roswell

18:25 Starnews Asia 18:30 Dark Angel Fight School Star Asia Travel Frasier Roswell Dark Ange Fight School **STAR MOVIES**

6:45 Choke 8:30 Murphys Romance Powder 12:15 Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot 2:00 When Danger Follows You Home According To Spencer Sunset Strip 5:30 Vanishing, The **Dude Wheres My** Car? No One Can Hear

You 12:30 Timebomb **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC** (30 Minutes +) The Mystery Of The Minkes

Truth Files 7:00 Mummy Road Show Tales Of The Living Dead Bwiti The Struggle Against.. 5 Weddings Couple Of Funeral

People Out There Dogs With Jobs S3 11:30 Earthpulse Legends Of The Gobi Okavango:Africa's 13:00 Wild Oasis Talon An Eagles Story Bringing Home The Bears li From

Russia With Love 16:00 Truth Files 17:00 Sea Stories 17:30 Mission Wild Dogs With Jobs 18:00 Earthpulse 18:30 Savage Paradise Trail Of The Cougar Elephant Power

22:00 Hippos Of The

Zambezi

San Miguel Asian 9-

Ball Tour Singapore

23:00 Truth Files **STAR SPORTS** (30 minutes +) Asian 9-Ball Tour 6:00

SINGAPORE Quarterfinals(R) 7:00 Royal Challenge Indian Open Royal Challenge Indian Open Golf 2003 Day Two High-

lights(R) Cycling Paris-Nice 2003 Highlights(R) 8:30 Dream Team (R) 9:00 Gillette World

Sports Special Gillette World Sports (R) Go Kart Champions 9:30 Of The Future Karting Series 2002 Wigan, ENGLAND Highlights(R) Equestrian Fei

World Cup Jumping Series 2002/03 Bordeaux, FRANCE Highlights(T) Sudirman Cup Dr Sudirman Cup 2003 Netherlands,

NETHERLANDS Korea Vs Denmark Semifinals #2(R) World Wide Rugby Super 12'S Rugby Sydney, **AUSTRALIA Nsw** Waratahs Vs Queensland Reds Round 6(T)

16:00 Wrestling Apple

sympathetic strings at the end of the Ratna Rahimat Khan has changed

Crush (T)

Indian Open Royal

Challenge Indian

Open Golf 2003

Day Three High-

Futbol Mundial (T)

Sports Unlimited (T)

Pga Tour Highlights

Championship (T)

Sportsline Tonight

Asian 9-Ball Tour

San Miguel Asian 9-

Ball Tour Singapore

Sportsline (L)

SINGAPORE

Quarterfinals(T)

Cricket Talk Show

Best Of Harsha

Dream Team (T)

Sportsline (T)

Sportsline Tonight

Cricket Talk Show

Best Of Harsha

Online (R)

23:00 Pool Rack 'Em Up 2

- Asia Vs Usa

Online (T)

The Players

16:30 Royal Challenge

lights(T)

17:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

22:30

ESPN

The first type of sitar has 13 sympa-

raga, 3 playing strings to cover three octaves tuned MA SA PA, and a fourth one reaching a bass octave tuned SA At last 3 rhythm strings (cikari) are

tuned SA SA GA. The second type of sitar is smaller,

designed for a greater playing speed. It does not reach the bass octave

Vs Atletico Madrid 10:30 Tony Hawk'S Gigantic Skatepark Tour (R) Lpga Golf Safeway Ping Phoenix, AZ USA Third Round(T)

Premier Snooker League Premier Snooker League 2003 Flint, UNITED KINGDOM (R) Women'S College

Volleyball Ncaa Div I Women'S Volley ball Champion ships New Orleans LA USA Florida Vs Usc Semifinal #2(R) 17:00 Tony Hawk'S

Gigantic Skatepark

Tour (R) Uefa Champions League Best Of **Uefa Champions** League Turin. ITALYJu ventus Fc

Francisco Bustamante Vs Jim 11(R) Rempe (T) 20:00

6:00 Sportscenter Hindi 6:30 Tony Hawk'S Gigantic Skatepark Tour (R) 7:30 Wrestling Apple Crush (R) Goals! (R) Spanish Football

League Best Of

Spanish Football

League Madrid,

SPAIN Real Madrid

Vs Deportivo La Coruna Group Phase 2, Matchday Sportscenter Hindi League Premier Snooker League 2003 Flint, UNITED

Best Of Pga Golf Best Of Streaks (R) 21:00 Premier Snooker

KINGDOM (R) Sportscenter Hindi

Best Of Pga Golf Best Of The Power Hitters (R)