

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

**April 16-20**  
5-15 years old children participate in an exhibition of paintings entitled *We Don't Want War* starting at the Drik Gallery. The display of around 42 art-works--painting, collage, and cartoon--is open for visitors everyday from 3 to 8 p.m.

Poetry

**April 23**  
The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran will hold a poetry evening on the occasion of the Chehlom of the Holy Martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hossain (AS). Poet Asad Chowdhury will preside over the programme to be held at the Cultural Counsellor's Office auditorium starting at 4.30 p.m.

Calligraphy

**April 13-20**  
On occasion of Bangla Nabo Barsha, Bangladesh Calligraphy Academy has for the first time arranged an exhibition of Bangla calligraphy at the Sculptor Novera Hall of the National Museum. Artists Arfur Rahman, Mubasswir Majumdar, Rafiqullah Gazali, Ha Mim Kefayettullah, Ferdous Ara Ahmed and Masum Akhter have participated in the exhibition.

Nree

**April 13-28**  
Nree is holding a photography and research work exhibition on Kantaji Temple and Nayabad Mosque of Dinajpur at the La Galerie of Alliance Francaise de Dacca. The exhibition will run everyday from 9 a.m. 12.00p.m. and 5-8p.m. and 5-8p.m. on Saturdays.

Theatre

**April 17-23**  
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organises a week-long staging of drama by the theatre groups outside Dhaka at the Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium of the Public Library. The shows start everyday at 7 p.m. The schedules of the plays are as follows:

**April 20** *Jibon Shathi* by Jyoti Natya Sampraday, Brahman Baria

**April 21** *Dukhia Sukhia* by Monu Theatre, Moulvibazar

**April 22** *Dadur Chhori* by Antarango Natygoshti, Rajshahi

**April 23** *Champa O Shat Bhai* by Prakritojan, Bogra.

Exhibition

# Holding up the heritage

## Exhibition of photographs of historic terracotta works

FAYZA HAQ

"NREE"'s exhibition of photographs on Kantaji temple and Nayabad mosque at La Galerie Alliance Francaise was to create awareness of our rich heritage. "Nree" stands for man and the research participants under this banner feel that man is the pivotal point of all culture. The forum deals with the reclamation and conservation of ancient culture of Bangladesh, specially around Dinajpur. The participants go in for digital preservation, taking digital pictures of the terracotta of the two places, Kantaji and Nayabad, as they present our past, as Montasir Rahman Gora, of the Urban and Rural Planning of the Khulna University explains. As the buildings consist of bricks, they are destroyed with the passage of time due to the heat, rain and erosion. The pictures, with details of size and location, will help understand the art. Time has consumed many of the terracotta plaques and the process continues because no detailed information of each individual terracotta has been reserved. Most of the upper terracotta plaques of the temple are beyond the vision of the visitors. As a result the visitors are deprived of the aesthetic beauty.

The project was to make a detail data base of this portion of our heritage and to preserve this data. Montasir Rahman says, "If you take pictures of terracotta art all over Bangladesh you can conduct in-depth research on them as students and experts cannot live and work in the area for long. The



Kantaji Temple

technique that we use for preservation is photographic documentation and transfer them to diskettes. The places that we have chosen are close to each other, being two kilometers apart. We have chosen this as I come from that place. Maher Nigar Mou, from the Anthropology Department, Dhaka University, is also from Dinajpur. Being students, choosing work near our home will facilitate our research as regards food and lodging. Again, we would like to do something for our own community. This is a big task and we have been persevering for three years."

The Kantaji temple is fully decorated with terracotta tiles consisting of about 15,000 unit tiles carved with human beings, animals and floral

motifs as well as boats and houses, presenting Hindu mythology. As the terracotta has a visual impact the researchers decided to take a photographic approach to preserve it. Fifty years from now the tiles could be ruined but the pictures would preserve their richness for the future generation to visualize this art and if they have an opportunity to reconstruct it then they can, inch by inch.

In the exhibition at Alliance Francaise the Bengali art has been introduced to the people. Secondly, though a positive way this should arouse the desire to preserve this art, without putting the blame on anyone for their present neglected condition. Representatives of the community

where the work has been done were present at the opening of the exhibition and they lent their voice to the preservation work of the art works presenting an appeal from the people to the government. The photographs in the exhibit hall, seen in black and brown, had been taken by Montasir Rahman and Anup Kumar Basak, a student of architecture at BUET.

Asked how the three of them, Montasir, Anup and Maher, had got together, one was told that they were friends from earlier on. In 1998 Montasir and Anup worked together at Norail, in connection with a cultural group, "Gono Natya Sangstha", that performed plays and in the process wished to preserve their historical sites through photographs and were prepared to fund the expenses. Montasir and Anup, at that time, decided to visit Norail. Gradually they progressed to Dinajpur, working there from 1999 to 2002. It took them months as they had to photograph 12,000 of the 15,000 existing tiles. The Kantaji temple tiles present gods, goddesses, elephants, camels, horses, deer, weapons, ships, done by local artisans, bringing in the religious theme, decorations and contemporary social life. There, scenes from Ramayana and Mahabharata are presented in details. The clothes speak of Mogul times, during which the Hindu king reigned. European influences are also seen as in the case of the parallel clothes and ships as the temple had been built in the late Mogul period.

The mosque too has small, unusual decorations amounting to 120 pieces. It is believed that the mosque was begun after the completion of the temple by some of the workers who had been Muslims. The specialty of the mosque is that there are figures included in the motifs such as those of peacocks and pigeons found in the terracotta tiles along with the conventional floral designs. This proves that in the then Hindu dominated Dinajpur Muslims too flourished and there was communal harmony.

Theatre

# A rural theatre festival

## Shilpakala Academy holds a week long staging of drama

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A few theatre groups and dramatists are trying to get back the lost glory of Bengali dramas. These groups and playwrights are spread out all over the country. For lack of proper patronisation they are unable to reach the greater sensible audience. To promote these promising groups and playwrights beyond Dhaka Metropolitan, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has been organising festival of stage drama every year for the last twenty-two years. As a part of that, this year they have arranged a week long programme at the Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium at the Public Library on April 17th. A. K. M. Mosharrar Hossain, state minister for fuel and mineral resources inaugurated the programme as Chief Guest, while secretary for cultural affairs Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury was present as special guest.

The programme started with the welcoming speech by Director of performing arts of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy SM Mohsin. He promised to continue encouraging the theatre

groups by all means to spread out drama all over the country. In his speech the chief guest said that we should carry on these types of provisions to encourage practicing our own culture which was one of the manifesto of our liberation war. He gave word to continue all kinds of help possible. The inaugural ceremony came to an end with the speech of Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Ahmed Nozair.

The scheduled drama for that day by 'Bodhon Theatre' of Kushtia was staged next. They performed their 18<sup>th</sup> production 'Bokful Kanny', which came on air under the grant of Bangladesh government and The Group Theatre Federation of Bangladesh. With a profound allegory of a fairy tell the drama tells about humanity, society above all of our country. It shows lust for power and spill of blood to seek power that changes humans into beasts. This drama tried to establish the truth that virtue always wins beating the evil.

This drama is written by Aslam Ali maintaining the classical model. To give a true classical air Aslam Ali used three unities of Greek drama. It is jointly directed by Ali Afroze Pinu and Shamim Parvez Sagar. Both the directors as well

as the group showed a very good team work.

While talking to The Daily Star, Assistant General Secretary of Group Theatre Federation of Bangladesh and renowned TV artist Rokeya Rofiq Baby said " Many theatre drama are being produced out of Dhaka. I enjoyed the Drama, it is a very good piece of organised team work. She praised the choreography of the drama and the effort of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy."

At the answer of how the participating groups would be benefited by this effort, Programme Secretary of Group Theatre Federation of Bangladesh and General Secretary of Somoy Natya Goshty Akhtaruzzaman said " By this programme we have the opportunity to come under the same roof and the participating teams will be encouraged to produce standard dramas". "It should be regretted that the budget given by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is not sufficient. To help theatre revolution, it should be increased," he added.

Other dramas of this festival will be staged at 7 pm every day at the same venue, till April 23.



"Bodhon Theatre" of Kushtia performs "Bokful Kanny" on stage at the opening day of the festival.

# TV GUIDE

CHANNEL-i

- Morning Session**  
6:10 Islamic Programme  
7:15 Prothom Sur  
9:30 Music Plus  
10:00 Gaaner Khabor  
11:00 Radunir Ranna  
11:30 Magazine: Flop show  
12:15 Tara O Shampa Reza  
12:50 Drama: Purbaragh  
2:00 Bangla Movie: Abadan
- Evening**  
5:35 News: Janophoder Khabar  
5:45 Magazine for woman: Nillanzona  
6:10 Music Plus  
6:45 Solo Musical programme of Leena Taposhi Khan: Prokritee O Gaan.  
7:15 Channel-i: News  
7:45 Ispahani i Tele Quiz (Q)  
7:55 Unnayan Manusher Jannya  
8:25 Drama serial :Grihagolpo  
9:00 Channel-i news  
9:31 Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (R)  
9:35 Aamar Chabi  
10:00 Drama : Khela  
10:25 Channel-i Mobile Quiz  
10:30 Channel News  
11:15 Shangbadpatrey Bangladesh  
11:30 Live Telecast of BTV Late Night News  
12:15 Channel-i News

ATN BANGLA

- 6:00 Islamic prog:  
8:00 ATN Bangla News  
8:25 Ibne Cina  
9:00 Ghotona Probhah  
9:35 Stadium  
10:10 Secret Woman  
12:00 ATN Bangla News  
12:30 The Daily Newspaper Aker Sangbadpotro A TN Music  
1:20 Bengali feature film : Danggabaz  
4:20 Nabin Boran  
4:50 The Daily Newspaper Discussing Prog: Aker Sangbadpotro Gram Gonger Sangbad  
5:50 Musical prog: Saat Rang  
6:25 Islamee Sawal O Jawab  
7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News  
7:30 Surer Madure  
8:05 Sandatara  
8:40 Musical prog:  
9:00 ATN Bangla News  
9:25 Amar Thekana  
10:00 ATN Bangla News  
10:30 Talk Show Edaning  
11:00 ATN Bangla News  
12:00 Bengali feature film: Mayear duwa

HBO

- 6:30 The Locusts  
9:00 Peggy Sue Got Married  
11:00 Code Name Phoneix  
12:45 Hero  
3:00 Masters of the Universe  
5:15 Extreme Measures  
7:30 The Temp  
9:30 Timecop  
11:30 Child's Play 3  
1:15 Cry Freedom  
4:30 Attraction
- AXN**  
6:30 The Right Stuff  
7:30 Relic Hunter Mr Right  
8:30 Now See This  
9:30 Guinness World Records:  
10:30 Ripley's Believe It Not!  
11:30 Fear Factor  
12:30 Movie: U-571  
2:30 Movie: Far and Away  
5:30 Rated  
6:30 24#2  
7:30 CSI Crime Scene  
10:30 Investigation The Accused is Entitled  
8:30 AXN Action Theatre Premiere  
Movie: Nick of Time  
11:30 Sun Movie: Sheena  
12:30 Rescue 911
- STAR MOVIES**  
7:00 Jack  
9:00 Sphere  
11:15 City Hall  
1:15 Another Stakeout  
3:15 Bill & Ted's Excellent Adven-

ture

- 5:00 Pretty Woman  
7:00 Josie And The Pussycats  
8:45 U-571  
10:45 Soldier  
1:30 Billy Bathgate
- STAR WORLD**  
6:00 J.A.G  
7:00 Billboard Us Countdown  
9:00 The Lost World  
10:00 Ally Mcbeal  
11:00 Mutant X  
12:00 Artistic Licence  
1:00 Dark Angel  
3:00 Kids Say The Darndest Things  
3:30 Travel Asia  
4:00 Baywatch Hawaii  
5:00 The Simpsons  
5:30 Malcolm In The Middle  
6:00 Focus Asia  
6:30 Iht World  
7:00 The X Files  
8:00 Star Trek The Next Generation  
9:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal  
9:30 Focus Asia  
10:00 Top Drive  
10:30 The X Files  
11:30 Star Trek The Next Generation
- ADVENTURE ONE**  
7:00 The Hunt For Amazing Treasures  
7:30 Stikine Challenge  
8:00 Football Fever  
8:30 Fresh Air Crew  
9:00 Out There  
9:30 Baseclimbii:Defying Gravity  
7:30 Baba Taraknath  
10:30 Explorer's Journal  
11:30 On Assignment  
12:00 No End Credit  
Version-Ng & [2]  
11:00 Danger Diaries

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

**VAINDAMME**  
HBO: 9:30p.m. *Timecop*. The perfection of time travel brings with it new opportunities for criminals. The government sets up a special police force (T.E.C.) to ensure the new technology isn't abused. Max Walker, one of these timecopers learns of a corrupt politician's plot to become president using the device. Senator McComb discovers Walker on his trail and the real action begins--in Walker's own past!

**AXN: 8:30p.m. Nick of Time**. Gene Watson arrives home in Los Angeles, with his daughter. Soon, his daughter is kidnapped. He is given a gun, and the picture and itinerary of a person, and told that if he hasn't killed that person in one hour and fifteen minutes, his daughter will be killed. We then follow him through that time.

PICK OF THE DAY

**U-571**  
On Star Movies at 8:45p.m. In the midst of World War II, the battle below the seas rages. The Nazi's have the upper edge as the Allies are unable to crack their war codes. That is, until a wrecked U-boat sends out an SOS signal, and the Allies realise this is their chance to seize the 'enigma coding machine'.

- 2:00 Cycling Mongolia  
3:00 Ng Explorer  
4:00 Explorer's Journal  
5:00 Danger Diaries  
6:00 Cracking The Canyon  
6:30 Football Fever  
7:00 Fresh Air Crew  
7:30 Out There  
8:00 Icebound100  
8:00 Icebound100 Years Of Antarctic Discovery  
9:00 Explorer's Journal  
10:00 Football Fever  
10:30 Fresh Air Crew  
11:00 Out There  
12:00 Icebound100 Years Of Antarctic Discovery
- STAR GOLD**  
6:30 Bollywood Beats  
7:00 Hit Filmein Hit  
7:30 Bollywodd Beats  
10:30 Bollywood Beats  
10:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit  
11:00 Geet Gata Chal  
11:30 Kuch Yaadein
- 11:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit  
12:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M  
12:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit  
12:30 Angaaray  
3:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit  
3:30 Gharwali Baharwali  
5:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit  
7:00 Shri Shri Superstar  
7:30 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit  
7:35 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M  
8:00 Jubilee Plus  
8:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit  
8:30 Major Saab  
11:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit  
12:00 Ek Din Achanak  
**STAR PLUS**  
6:30 Star Geetmala  
7:30 Dr Morepen Tanga

- 9:00 Air Force One  
10:00 On Assignment  
10:30 Mission Everest  
11:00 Next Wave S2  
11:30 The Littlest Rhino
- ESPN**  
6:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Middlesbrough, England Middlesbrough Vs Arsenal (S)  
8:00 Australia Tour Of West Indies The Cable & Wireless Test Series 2003 Trinidad, West Indies West Indies Vs Australia 2nd Test, Day 1, Highlights(S)  
9:30 School Quiz Show Espn School Quiz 2003 Review Show (T)  
10:30 Premiership Extra (T)  
11:00 Nba Special 2003 Nba Playoff Preview (R)  
11:30 Premiership Extra (R)  
12:00 Australia Tour Of West Indies The Cable & Wireless Test Series 2003 Trinidad, West Indies West Indies Vs Australia 2nd Test, Day 2, 1st Session(L)  
11:00 Nba Anthology Chicago Bulls: 1996-97 Championship Season (T)  
10:35 Australia Tour Of West Indies The Cable & Wireless Test Series 2003 Trinidad, West Indies West Indies Vs Australia 2nd Test, Day 2, 2nd & 3rd Session(L)
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
6:30 The Littlest Rhino  
7:30 Tarsier-The Little Alien  
8:30 A Tale Of Tofu  
9:30 Thunder Dragon  
10:30 In The Footsteps Of Living Stone  
11:30 Swiftwater Rescue Shape Of Life  
12:30 Next Wave S2  
1:30 People Out There  
2:00 Thunder Dragon  
2:30 Self-Portrait  
4:30 Ng Explorer  
5:30 On Assignment  
6:00 Tomorrow's World  
6:30 Spirit Of The Seas  
7:00 National Geo-Genius Sr2  
7:30 Mission Everest  
8:00 Built For The Kill

- 4:00 Uefa Champions League Highlights 2002/03 Uefa Champions League Weekly #24 (T)  
5:00 Race Day Imola, San Marino Foster's San Marino Grand Prix(L)  
5:45 Formula One 2003 Formula One World Championships Imola, San Marino Foster's San Marino Grand Prix(L)  
8:00 Chequered Flag Chequered Flag: Formula One Imola, San Marino Foster's San Marino Grand Prix(L)  
8:30 Australia Tour Of West Indies The Cable & Wireless Test Series 2003 (Jip) Trinidad, West Indies West Indies Vs Australia 2nd Test, Day 1, 1st Session(L)  
10:05 Nba Anthology Chicago Bulls: 1996-97 Championship Season (T)  
10:35 Australia Tour Of West Indies The Cable & Wireless Test Series 2003 Trinidad, West Indies West Indies Vs Australia 2nd Test, Day 2, 2nd & 3rd Session(L)
- STAR SPORTS**  
7:00 World Of Rugby The Irb's World Of Rugby (T)  
7:30 Golf Programming The Golf Club 2003 (T)  
8:00 Sports Unlimited (T)

- 9:00 Formula One Qualifying 2003  
Formula One Sat Qualifying Imola, San Marino Foster's San Marino Grand Prix Quali.(R)  
10:00 Sbk Superbike Sbk Superbike Magazine Highlights(T)  
10:30 Pga Tour Golf Mci Heritage Hilton Head Island, Sc Usa Third Round(S) 03:00:00  
1:30 Tri-Series In Bangladesh Tvs Cup 2003 Dhaka, Bangladesh 7th Odi, Final, Preview(L)  
2:00 Tri-Series In Bangladesh Tvs Cup 2003 Dhaka, Bangladesh 7th Odi, Final, 1st Session(L)  
3:30 Tri-Series In Bangladesh Tvs Cup 2003 Dhaka, Bangladesh 7th Odi, Final, Lunctime Show(L)  
6:15 Tri-Series In Bangladesh Tvs Cup 2003 Dhaka, Bangladesh 7th Odi, Final, 2nd Session(L)  
10:45 Tri-Series In Bangladesh Tvs Cup 2003 Dhaka, Bangladesh 7th Odi, Final, Review(L)  
10:30 Tennis Masters Series Tennis Masters Monte-Carlo Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo, Monaco Final(S)