

RECOMMENDATIONS

Meeting
May 18
Muldhara, an organisation of poets, journalists and cultural activists, will hold a bilateral meeting entitled Dui Banglar Kobita O Gaan (Poems and Songs of the Two Bengal) at 41 Naya Pallan. The meet will present one of the poets of the '70s in Bangladesh Syed Al Faruk and one of eminent feminist poets from West Bengal, India, Mallika Sengupta. Also artists Nahid Nazia of Bangladesh and Neepabithae, a newly discovered singer of India will be present to promote songs of their own countries.

Book launching
May 19
Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA) arranges the launching ceremony of the book *Bangladesh Art-a Collection of Contemporary Paintings* on May 19 at the Grand Ball Room of the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. The programme starts at 3.45 p.m.

Theatre

Upholding tradition of the sea

ZAHEDUL ALAM

No other group ever produced any drama about sampan and the life of sampan man - something that makes Chittagong different from other part of the country. Although same commercial dramas and films were made but those do not reflect sampan and the life style of sampan men adequately. The struggle of life, hopes and sorrows of the people of coastal area in southern Chittagong are very well dramatised in *Sampannaia* staged recently by one of Chittagong's promising theatre groups Uttaradhiakar. The dramatic conflict, the velocity of the story, harmonic music, exceptional lighting, colourful costume and acting skills makes *Sampannaia* memorable to the audience.

Zahedul Alam is a Dramatist of Chittagong.

Anniversary

Shawkat Osman tributed

The 5th death anniversary of the great litterateur observed

HARUN UR RASHID

ON his last birthday celebration when he was alive, he wrote to the younger generation, 'It's impossible to return from where I'll go this time, but remember that my love (like the crab that can move forwards and backwards) is always there for you.' It has been five years now that he has gone to that land of 'no-return'. The person was one of Bangladesh's most important litterateurs Shawkat Osman.

Shawkat Osman Parishad observed the fifth death anniversary of the eminent novelist on May 14 at the Liberation War Museum auditorium. A number of literary and cultural personalities, and some family members of Shawkat Osman paid their tribute to the great man and reminisced their acquaintance with him.

Shawkat Osman lived a very hard life always struggling against poverty but never surrendering to its pressure. But his literary taste and sensitive mind made him always feel for the poor. Some brilliant pieces of novels ever written in Bangla came out through his pen.

It is interesting to note that 'Shawkat Osman' was not his real name--he was named Sheikh Azizur Rahman. In fact, some earlier writings came under this paternal name. But at a time he felt he needed a different name, for there had already been a poet of that name. Regarding his penname he once told that there might have been an indirect connection to one of his elder sisters named Sufia Khatun. This sister of his was in favour of naming him Shawkat Ali. Later, while taking the penname, he just added the Osman-part.

Among his most important works are novels *Boni Adom*, *Janoni*, *Kritodash-er Hashi*, *Jahannam Hoitey Biday*, *Jalangi*, *Rajshakkhi*, *Pitirpurusher Paap*, and *Rajpurush*. He also wrote a few books of poems like *Nijoshuvo Shangbad-data Prerito*, *Sheikher Shambora*, and collections of short-stories like *Pinirapole*, *Shabek Kahini*, *Janno Jodi Tobo Bangey*, *Puraton Khanjar*. He was also a famous writer among children with his great creation *Oten*



Shaheer Bungalow, Mosquitophone, Khudey Socialist etc.

The speakers at the event, however, expressed their regret that his last writings entitled *Rahanama* has not yet been published even after five years of his death. The piece was first published in installments in the *Daily Janakantha*. It is kind of his autobiography.

Poet Nasir Ahmed described Shawkat Osman as an emblem of

independent man who also knew to respect others' liberty. Nasir recollected the event of his adapting Osman's novel *Dui Shainik* into a TV drama-serial for BTV. He said that Osman gave him every liberty to make changes necessary for the adaptation. Nasir informed that Shawkat Osman watched all the episodes of the serial.

Shawkat Osman was a man of secularity fighting all through his life against any sort of communalism. Once on a book he presented to poet Nasir Ahmed wrote, 'It is sad that one has to be a Muslim or Hindu before one is a human being.' He had to spend a very bitter time during his last days when he was threatened by the religious zealots for his secular ideas and beliefs.

Freedom fighter Abir Ahad had the most surprising gift for the nation as he gave three unpublished rhymes by Shawkat Osman in his own handwriting. Certainly these three manuscripts would be of interest for people.

Earlier Shawkat Osman Parishad placed floral wreath on Osman's grave at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur.



Shawkat Osman Parishad places wreath on the grave of eminent litterateur Shawkat Osman at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur on Osman's 5th death anniversary.

Festival

Cannes film festival with ballet, French swashbuckler and Monica Bellucci

AFP, France

THE 12-day feast of celluloid and hype that is the Cannes film festival opened on the French Riviera Wednesday with an off-beat ballet performance, a glamorous Monica Bellucci and a lightweight French swashbuckler.

The event, which will climax May 25 with the award of the prestigious Palme d'Or for best film, boasts a crammed programme of screenings of new films from around the world, ranging from Hollywood blockbusters to intimate productions from relative unknowns.

The 20 films selected to vie for the Palme this year will form the core of the festival, but a staggering 700 other titles will also be shown in special screenings, parallel official sections and the bustling market, where deals are made and films are bought and sold.

Highlights in the programme include "The Matrix Reloaded," which will be shown out of competition Thursday and "Mystic River," a thriller directed by Clint Eastwood which is one of the Palme nominees.

Many of the estimated 30,000 industry types and journalists attending the festival will also be seen at the dozens of exclusive parties for which the event is famous.

Most of the parties are lavish

soirees designed to promote films, such as a big bash Saturday for "Terminator 3" in the presence of Arnold Schwarzenegger, though some -- held in villas overlooking Cannes -- are simply excuses for excess.

The first of the daily ceremonies that allow international celebrities to sweep past some of the 3,000 accredited media members saw Meg Ryan, who is on this year's jury, Penelope Cruz (without companion Tom Cruise, who is working), Andie MacDowell, Prince Albert of Monaco and Gina Lollobrigida walk the red carpet into the main festival building.

Italian beauty Bellucci walked on stage to greet them, dressed in a long pearl-grey Dior number that made her stand out in the darkened theatre.

After a nervous speech and the presentation of each member of the jury, she introduced a bizarre number involving ballet dancers from the French city of Marseille smearing themselves with paint to a soundtrack that brought out snatches of dialogue against the noise of a whirling film projector.

Bellucci then called on Cruz and Vincent Perez, the two stars of the opening night's film, "Fanfan la Tulipe," to officially bring the curtain up on the festival.

"I declare the 56th Cannes film festival open," the two said simul-



PHOTO: AFP

Indian actress and jury member Aishwarya Rai poses for photographers as she arrives at the palais des festivals to attend the screening of "Les Egares" by French director Andre Techine during the 56th Cannes film festival on May 16.

aneously.

Their film, a French swashbuckler set in the time of King Louis XV that was screened out of competition, got a lukewarm reaction during its press screening earlier in the day, with one critic describing it as "luff."

It was likely to be quickly forgotten Thursday, however, when the competition for the Palme d'Or starts in earnest -- and when the long-awaited "Matrix" sequel screens ahead of a slick launch party in a mocked-up future complex.

Security at the festival, usually tight anyway, was stepped up this year, with the 2,000 police and private guards especially vigilant

because of the suicide bomb attacks against Westerners in Saudi Arabia on Monday.

Barricades twinkled in the sun, newly-installed video-cameras swept the scene and officers enforced parking bans and stringent bag-and-body-screening.

Security was "at the maximum" level, city police chief Andre Trouvesaid.

Adding another unwelcome reminder of reality, French health authorities handed accredited festival-goers a leaflet describing what to do in case of suspected symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

TV GUIDE

BTV

12:10	News Headlines
12:15	Shuvechcha Nin
12:30	Shongbadprotre Pata Theke
12:40	Shasthathatha
1:00	News
1:05	Ei Dhaka Shei Dhaka
1:30	Shapta Shur
2:00	News Headlines
2:05	Cartoon
2:30	Amader Ranna: Cooking Programme
3:00	News (English)
3:05	Alor Shatadal
3:35	Shukhi Poribar
4:00	News Headlines
4:05	Bashori
4:30	Shatarupa
5:00	Khabar
5:05	National Television Debate
5:45	News For Children
6:00	News: Desh O' Jonopod
6:10	Geetanjali
6:35	Programme from Chittagong station
7:00	News Headlines
	Share Market
	Weather Forecast
7:05	Mati O' Manush
7:30	Shotoful Futte Dao
8:00	News in Bengali
8:30	Drama Serial: Amader Choto Nodi
9:00	Drama: Akash Lina
10:00	News at Ten
10:25	Weather Forecast
10:30	News Documentary
10:35	The X Files
11:30	Late Night News / News Headlines
	Closing
CHANNEL-i	
6:10	Islamic Programme
7:15	Prothom Sur
9:30	Musik Plus
10:00	Drama Serial: Khoda Boxer Hat
11:00	Dadunir Ranna
11:30	Flot Show
12:15	Tara O'Shampa Raza
12:50	Jeabon Chabbi
2:00	Bangla Feature film: Pream
5:35	Jonopoder Khabor
5:40	Nelanjana
6:10	Musik Plus
6:45	Baniya O' Arthonithi
7:15	Channel-I News
7:45	Ispahani-I tele quiz (q)
7:55	Unnayan Manusher Jyanna
8:25	Griha Golpo
9:00	Channel-I News
9:31	Ispahani-I tele quiz (R)
9:35	Amar Chabbi
10:00	Drama: Channel-i mobile quiz
10:25	Channel-i mobile quiz
10:30	Channel-I News
11:15	Sangbad Pothre
11:30	Live Telecast of BTV late Night News
12:15	Channel-I News

ATN BANGLA

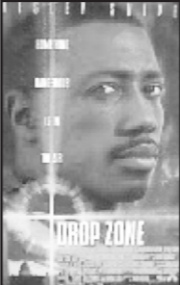
6:00	Islamic prog:
8:00	ATN Bangla News
8:25	Irani Serial Dubbed in Bangla: Ilbne Cina
9:00	Reporting prog: Ghotona Probhah
9:35	Sports Magazine: Stedum
10:10	English Serial Dubbed in Bangla: Secret Woman
12:00	ATN Bangla News
12:30	The Daily Newspaper Discussing Prog: Ajker Sangbadpotro
12:40	Musical prog: ATN Music
1:20	Bengali Feature Film: Abhezan
4:20	New Singer Competition Prog: Nabin Boran
4:50	The Daily Newspaper Discussing Prog: Ajker Sangbadpotro
5:00	Gram Gonger Sangbad
5:50	Musical prog: Saat Rang
6:25	Islamic prog: Islamee Sawal O Jawab
7:00	ATN Bangla Evening News
7:30	Musical prog: Surer Madure
8:05	Drama Serial: Sandatara
8:40	Game Show: Bhabhi Nonodine
9:00	ATN Bangla News
9:25	Drama Serial: Ersha
10:00	ATN Bangla News
10:30	Special Talk Show: Edaning
11:00	ATN Bangla News
12:00	Bengali Feature Film: Santan Jakhen Satru
TARA BANGLA	
7:00	Tara Aloy
7:30	Jalshaghar
8:30	Tara News
9:30	Tara News Bangladesh
11:30	Tara News
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	
6:00	Nick's Quest
6:30	Ticks of the Snows
7:30	Taming the Tigers
8:30	Kabul Zoo Rescue
9:30	In The Shadow of The Shark
10:30	Mission Everest

11:00	Nick's Quest
11:30	Journey Through the Under
12:00	Wild Orphans
12:30	Afghanistan Revealed
1:30	Next Wave S2
2:00	National Geo-Genius SR2
2:30	Mission Everest
3:00	Built for the Kill
4:00	Wild Orphans
4:30	NG Explorer
5:30	Gila Monster!
6:00	Tomorrow's World
6:30	On Assignment
7:00	National Geo-Genius SR2
7:30	Mission Everest
8:00	Built for the Kill
8:00	Myths & Logic of Shaolin Kung Fu
10:00	Mission Everest
10:30	Wild Orphans
11:00	Next Wave S2
11:30	Super Croc 1 Hour Version

STAR PLUS

6:00	Mirch Masala
6:30	Geet Bahar
7:30	Dr Morepen Tango - Sat
8:25	Film Topper-301 Series
8:30	Gurukul-Ancient Wisdom of In
9:30	Jai Mata Ki
10:30	Yatra
11:00	Samnewali Khidki
11:30	Hai Na Bolo Bolo
12:25	Film Topper-301 Series
12:30	Chupa Rustam
1:00	Musafir Hoon
1:30	Mirch Masala
2:00	Taaza Hits
2:05	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20
2:25	Mail Milap
2:30	Ziddi
6:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet 20
6:25	Taaza Hits
6:30	Fox Kids Sunday-500 Series
7:00	Mission Everest
7:25	Film Topper - 301
7:30	Sonpari
8:00	Jubilee Plus
8:30	HelenThe Golden Girl
11:00	Kismey Kitnaa Hai
12:00	Taaza Hits
STAR MOVIES	
7:45	What's Eating Gilbert Gra
9:00	City of Angels
11:00	Doctor Dolittle

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



AXN: 8.30p.m. **Drop Zone.** A team of skydiving crooks led by DEA-agent-turned-bad Bussey specialize in landing on police roofs and breaking in so their evil computer nerd can steal undercover agents' files and sell them to drug lords. Federal Marshal Snipes lost a brother to this crew and learns skydiving with the help of tough-but-lovable instructor Butler so he can track them down.



HBO: 9.30 p.m. **Cyborg.** Set in a post-apocalyptic future where starvation and disease are plaguing the few remaining inhabitants of Earth. Scientists are close to discovering a cure for the plague that is sweeping the country. Gibson Rickenbacker is a strong fighter who leads a group to Atlanta to gain information needed for the cure, along the way attempting to avoid the villains.

12:45	Space Truckers		2003 (T)
2:30	The Negotiator	8:00	Cricket: Australia Tour of West Indies the Cable & Wireless one day int'l series 2003
4:45	The Legend of Bagger Vano		Jamaica, West Indies West Indies Vs Australia 1 st ODI, Highlights(S).
7:00	Novocaine	9:30	Auto Racing: Formula One Qualifying 2003
8:45	Planet of The Apes		Formula One Sat Qualifying Spielberg, Austria
10:45	Against All Odds		Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying (R)
12:00	3 Strikes	10:30	Tennis: Tennis Masters Series Tennis Hamburg, Germany Semi-final#1(S)
SONY		12:30	Cricket: Australia Tour of West Indies the Cable & Wireless one day int'l series 2003
7:30	Sant Asaram Vani		Jamaica, West Indies West Indies Vs Australia 1 st ODI, Highlights(R)
8:00	Shri Krishna	9:30	Auto Racing: Formula One Qualifying 2003
9:00	Shree Ganesh		Golf: PGA Tour Golf EDS Byron Nelson Classic Irving, TX
10:00	Mahabharat	10:30	USA Third Round(S)
11:00	Bournvita Quiz Contest	5:00	Auto Racing: Race Day Spielberg, Austria
11:30	Honey I Shrunk The Kids		Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying (R)
12:30	Kya Hadsaa Kya Haqeeqat	7:30	Golf: Golf Programming the Golf Club
1:30	Sunday Matinee Harmony		
5:00	Chartbusters		
6:00	Music Mantra		
6:30	Disney Hour		
7:30	Kapil Dil Se		
8:00	Cricket Masters		
8:30	Kya Hadsaa Kya Haqeeqat		
9:30	Bollywood Time		
11:30	Shaam-E-Ghalib		
STAR SPORTS		2:00	Auto Racing: Formula One Qualifying 2003
6:30	Auto Racing: Formula One Qualifying 2003		Formula One Sat Qualifying Spielberg, Austria
	Formula One Sat Qualifying		Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying (R)
	Spielberg, Austria		
	Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying (R)		
7:30	Golf: Golf Programming the Golf Club	5:45	Auto Racing: Formula One 2003

PICK OF THE DAY



Planet of the Apes

On Star Movies at 8.45 p.m.

It is the year 2029: Astronaut Leo Davidson boards a pod cruiser on a Space Station for a routine reconnaissance mission. But an abrupt detour through a space time wormhole lands him on a strange planet where talking apes rule over the human race. With the help of a sympathetic chimpanzee activist named Ari and a small band of human rebels, Leo leads the effort to evade the advancing Gorilla Army led by General Thade and his most trusted warrior Attar.

	Formula One World Championship Spielberg, Austria Austrian Grand Prix(L)	8:00	Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Pakistan Triangular '03: 4th ODI, Pak v SI H/Ls
	Auto Racing: Chequered Flag Chequered Flag: Formula One Spielberg, Austria Austrian Grand Prix(L)	9:00	Chilli Factor
8:00	Auto Racing: Chequered Flag Chequered Flag: Formula One Spielberg, Austria Austrian Grand Prix(L)	9:30	Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Pakistan Triangular '03: 4th ODI, NZ vs Pak
	Australia Tour of West Indies the Cable & Wireless one day int'l series 2003	5:30	WWE: Specials: Backlash 2003
8:30	Australia Tour of West Indies the Cable & Wireless one day int'l series 2003	7:30	Bajaj Caliber 115 Sports Update
	West Indies Vs Australia 2 nd ODI, 1 st Session(L)	7:35	WWE: Specials: Backlash 2003
		10:55	Bajaj Caliber 1 15 Sports Update
		11:00	Telefonica world Series' 03: Round 3, Magny Cours
		11:30	Bajaj Caliber 1 15 Sports Update
		11:35	Telefonica world Series' 03: Round 3, Magny Cours
ESPN		ANIMAL PLANET	
9:30	School Quiz Show ESPN School Quize 2003 review Show	8:30	Wild Rescues Baby Rhino, Sheba, Sea Empress
10:30	Cricket Gold	9:00	Croc Files
1:30	Western Union World Football	9:30	Animal Planet Safari Champions Of The Wild
8:30	Sportscenter Sportscenter Wee	10:30	Cats/Velvet Claw Pet or Pest?
9:05	Best of PGA Golf Fantastic Finish	11:30	Planet's Funniest Animals
9:30	Behind the Fights in the Corner	12:00	Breed All About It
10:30	UEFA Champions League Highlights	12:30	Animal Doctor Kindifam
10:35	Sportscenter Sportscenter Wee	1:00	Friday Rescues
11:35	School Quiz Show ESPN School Q		
TEN SPORTS			
6:30	Speed		
7:00	Heat		

11:00	Geet Gata Chal	Countdown
11:30	Kuch Yaadein Kuch Baatein	10:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
11:55	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit	12:30 Ally McBeal
12:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M	1:30 Mutant X
12:25	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit	2:30 Artistic Licence
12:30	Ernest In The Army Hindi Dubbed	4:30 Buffy the Vampire Slayer
3:00	Without Ticket	5:30 Kids Say the Darndest Things
3:25	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit	6:00 Travel Asia
3:30	Ziddi	6:30 Baywatch Hawaii
6:55	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit	7:30 Futurama
7:00	Celebrate with Music	8:00 Malcolm in the Middle
7:30	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit	8:30 Kumars At 42
7:35	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M	9:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
8:00	Jubilee Plus	9:30 Goodnessgradi
8:25	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit	10:00 Top Drive
8:30	Love Ke Liye Kuch Bhi Carega	10:30 The X Files
11:55	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit	11:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
12:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M	12:00 Dharma & Greg
ADVENTURE ONE		DISCOVERY
6:00	Explorer's Journal	8:30 Terra X: In The Shadow of Pharaohs
7:00	The Hunt For Amazing Treasures	9:30 Discover India :The Red Fort And The Taj Mahal-India
7:30	The Seal Hunters Cave	10:00 Discover India : Palaces of Jodhpour-India
8:00	Football Fever	10:30 Junkyard Wars Kids
8:30	Fresh Air Crew	11:00 Going Wild with Jeff Corwin : New York City
9:00	Out There	11:30 Real Kids Real Adventures: Over The Edge
9:30	Ascent On G2	12:00 Popular Mechanics For Kids
10:00	Explorer's Journal	12:30 Eccentriks
11:30	Crossing The Empty Quarter	1:00 Wedding Story: Lynn & Jim
12:00	When Nature Strikes Back	1:30 Extreme Wild: Between Two Worlds
1:00	Danger Diaries	2:30 Shark Files: Deep Water, Deadly Game
2:00	Windborn	3:30 Shipwreck In The China Sea
3:00	NG Explorer	4:30 White Gold Of The Dragon Sea
4:00	Explorer's Journal	5:30 Amazing Worlds/Wonders of the World: Jamaica
4:30	Danger Diaries	6:30 Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld-Monaco
6:00	Fires of War	7:00 Great Crimes And Trials: The Ku Klux Klan Killings
6:30	Football Fever	7:30 Engineering Against Earthquakes
7:00	Fresh Air Crew	8:30 Fighting Hurricanes
7:30	Out There	9:30 Saving Our Crumbling Coastlines
8:00	Ornate Caves Of Borneo	10:30 Night Safari: Night Underwater
9:00	Explorer's Journal	11:30 Supernatural Science: Physical Feats
10:00	Football Fever	
10:30	Fresh Air Crew	
11:00	Out There	
11:30	Ornate Caves Of Borneo	
STAR WORLD		
6:00	Morris Cerullo	
6:30	Benny Hinn	
7:00	Kids Say the Darndest Things	
7:30	Thunderbirds	
8:30	Billboard US	