

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

August 28-September 8 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold an exhibition of the works of painter Kalidas Karmakar and Photographer Enam Ul Haque titled 'Innocence and Anguish' at the academy gallery.

Poster exhibition

September 1-12 Goethe Institut holds a poster exhibition at its Exhibition Hall featuring works by Pierre Mendell and Klaus Oberer.

Drama Lane

Table with 3 columns: Group, Plays, Date. Includes Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Dhaka Padatik, Bahubachan, Theatre, Britta.

Reminiscences

Those carefree, casual and cushy days Uttam Ghosh speaks of his unforgettable memories of Shantiniketan

FAYZA HAQ

Uttam Ghosh who won a President's award at India for his performance in drama, and who has a film to his credit, and who aims to do his PhD on Tagore's treatment of women in his works, recalled his carefree and fruitful years at Shantiniketan.

Once, after he had been admitted to Shantiniketan, he went to Nilima Sen's house. Sen advised Ghosh to take music as his subsidiary subject.

me. "Every Wednesday, after 'Mandir' attendance, he would make his way to Rani Chandra's house. She would be ready to greet him with cashew nuts and sweet meats along with soft leaven bread for breakfast with the words, "Today you must have a proper meal with me. Our guru Rabindranath fed us in the same manner and we want to make you, who have come from afar, feel at home. You have sung Lalon and other folk songs of your homeland for me and that is enough

He added, "I earlier had the experience of acting with various troupes in Bangladesh but my new colleagues at Shantiniketan were

Rabindrasangeet, classical vocal and instruments) where I studied. There are also the drama and dance departments. There are no session jams there," said Ghosh. As a student of drama, Ghosh participated in many functions at Shantiniketan such as "Paush mela", "Maagha mela", "Buddho Purnima" and "Brikkho Ropon" (planting of trees) where music teachers asked him to perform with others which he did with much enthusiasm and eager-



Open air classes of Paat Bhaban

PHOTO: DR. NOAZESH AHMED

At one time, said, Ghosh, Rani Chandra had lived in Bangladesh. Again, at Amrita Sen's house, Ghosh felt totally at home, even though, at that time, she was very sick and all that Ghosh could do for her was to sing a song. He once visited her home when she was 78, and her grand-daughter Nanda (Amrita Sen's daughter) was there and she too befriended him.

There are many "bhobans" at Shantiniketan, recounted Ghosh, "This includes 'Patobhaban' for students upto Class X and there is 'Uchchoshikha' for Classes XI and XII, after which there is the 'Shikhabhaban' (Science faculty), 'Hindibhaban', 'Chinabhaban', 'Kolabhaban' (for painting, sculpture, printmaking, design) etc which teaches up till the Masters classes. There is also the 'Sangeethabhan' (where they teach

ness. Most of the participants here were from "Sangeethabhan", but others from other faculties also joined in jubilantly. Studies were combined with fun and frolic and one hardly felt the strain of studies. "When I saw the foreign students like the Germans and Japanese taking an interest in eastern musical instruments I felt all the more compelled to concentrate in my studies, getting my inspirations from these visiting students from afar," said Ghosh. On moonlit nights they would meet and sing foreign, Hindi and Bangla songs in some house or the other. They would also dance and exchange jokes. If sometimes, he failed to turn up for classes, the teachers took personal interest, and sent some student to investigate into Ghosh's absence: such was the care and concern. The impact of the Shantiniketan connections were such that Ghosh still keeps in touch with these foreigners with whom he studied at one time. The Shantiniketan days for Ghosh were indeed a time to remember.

Film

Maiden documentary film festival in the city

CULTURE DESK

DHAKA is going to hold a documentary film festival for the first time. With the motto "To reach our culture, life and living, joy and sorrow, soil and people, above all our glorious history" Palash Visual Communication in association with the German Culture Centre will hold this festival from September 23 to 25.

Under the title 'Bangladesh Documentary Film Festival 2003',



Marma by Khalid Mahmud Mithu.



Camera of Footpath by Shahiduzzaman Badal.

nearly 40 films are expected to be screened on the occasion. A competition between the participating films will take place in different categories.

The audience will enjoy free entry for the entire event. Seminar and symposium will be arranged as part of the festival scheduled to be held at the German Culture Centre.

Interested documentary filmmakers may still submit their application to get entry in the festival.



Spring festival: a sequence of spontaneous dance by students

PHOTO: DR. NOAZESH AHMED

interjection. "Again," Gosh said, "Nilima Di addressed him as me as 'tui' and this naturally made me feel at home at once. She then asked me to come to her to learn whenever I had the time. I learnt 'Rabindrasangeet' from her for the first time and the first song that I tried to master with her was 'Mono jago mongol'. Next I met Mohor Di, Gora Shrobdrikari, Rani Chandran and

something apart." When "Tasher Desh" was being enacted there, Poritosh Da selected me as the prince, I didn't know dancing then and was at a loss as to how I could play the part adequately. However, I got help from teachers like Jiten Singh, my guardian, and Lily Islam, from Bangladesh, who was then completing her PhD on 'Rabindrasangeet' also encouraged



PHOTO: AFP

The picture shows the fourteen-year-old Iranian director Hana Makhmalbaf who is in Venice to present her movie 'Lezate divanegi (Joy of Madness)' in competition in the first feature film session. The 60th International Venice Film Festival opened on August 27 with Woody Allen's out of competition movie 'Anything Else' and runs until September 06 with 20 films in competition for the Golden Lion main prize and 18 films in the experimental counter-current section.

TV

Chaynika Chowdhary: from child actress to playwright

CULTURE DESK

FROM a child TV actress, Chaynika Chowdhary has now become an up-coming TV drama writer. Some of her TV dramas have been already telecast by BTV e.g. on 28 August, her play 'Valobashi' was telecast on NTV. This is both directed and written by her.

The Daily Star: You have been acting, singing, dancing and reciting from your childhood. You have also acted in a few TV plays as an adult. Comment on your career.

Chaynika Chowdhary: In my childhood. Inspired by my mother, I have taken part in cultural activities. I did my Rabindrasangeet course in

'Chaynaut', where I got a first class. I was also involved in acting. Later, my marriage and children made me give a large gap to my career.

TDS: From when did begin writing TV dramas?

CC: My first drama was 'Bodh'. It was produced by actor Mahfuz Ahamed in 1996 and was directed by Faria Hossain. Up to now I have directed ten TV plays.

TDS: Did you have any problems as a female director?

CC: Not at all. While I am working I do not consider myself as a female. Your work is a main thing. But I personally think that women do better in plays because they have the ability of using their special discernment.

TDS: Why did you choose to write plays?

CC: TV is an entertainment media and I write plays to please the audience.

TDS: Now a days it has become a regular fad to make 'mega serials'. What is your opinion about this?

CC: Some of the TV serials on Star Plus and Sony Entertainment TV have cast spells on our audiences. I did not find anything unpleasant in this. However, there are plays which are full of illicit love and bawdy slow-motion scenes. It is difficult to say if the audience will accept all this or not.

TV GUIDE

Table with columns for News Bulletin, ATN Bangla, and BTV programming schedules.

Table with columns for ATN Bangla, Channel-i, and BTV programming schedules.

Table with columns for Bangladesh, Tara Bangla, and BTV programming schedules.

Table with columns for Today's Highlights, Star Movies, and Star World programming.

Table with columns for Pick of the Day, Raymond, and Star Plus programming.

Table with columns for Discovery, Animal Planet, and Star Gold programming.

Table with columns for Discovery, Star Sports, and National Geographic programming.

Table with columns for Round/Women's, ESPN, and TEN Sports programming.