

RECOMMENDATIONS

Anniversary

**December 19**  
On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Bishwo Shahitto Kendra, the institute will arrange a day-long programme from 9 am to 10 pm on Friday at the Kendra premises.

Photography Exhibition

**December 19-31**  
The Alliance Francaise has organised a photography exhibition titled 'Intimate dairies of Twin Nationalities' by Anwar Hossain starting from December 19 at 6:00 pm. The display will remain open for all from 5 pm to 9 pm everyday.

Painting Exhibition

**December 12-22**  
A painting exhibition of artist Abdull Muqtadir is going on at the Gallery Chitrag from 10 am to 8 pm everyday.

Art and Craft Exhibition

**December 19-26**  
Shipangan has arranged a 8-day-long art and craft exhibition in association with the Craft Dept of the Institute of Fine Arts. The show will remain open for all from 10 am to 9 pm everyday.

Int'l short film festival

**December 20-21**  
As part of the 8th international short film and independent film festival, Dhaka-2003, the 5th Alamgir Kabir memorial lecture will be held on December 20, at the poet Sofia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag, Dhaka at 4pm. As part of the 8th international short film and independent film festival, Dhaka-2003, the national seminar will be held on December 21, 4pm at the poet Sofia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag, Dhaka.

Tagore songs

**December 19**  
Baitalik will hold a musical soiree, based on Tagore song's, titled 'Shey ki bhola jai, today at The National Museum at 6:00 pm

Press Release

The High Commission of India in Dhaka regrets to inform that that performances of the folk dance troupe from Jammu & Kashmir, which were scheduled to be held at Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi on 18, 19 & 20 December 2003 respectively, have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. The inconvenience caused, if any, is deeply regretted.

Audition

Duratta a film by Murshedul Islam

Murshedul Islam, a famous director, is making a film for children entitled *Duratta* based on Humayun Ahmed's story *Putul*, says a press release. Children, aged between 8 to 12 years, interested in taking part in the film are requested to appear for interview with the director at 10 a.m. at the German Culture Centre on December 20.

Celebration

The mind shapers

Bishwo Shahitto Kendro celebrates its silver jubilee

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK AND HARUN UR RASHID

It was mid-day when we entered through the gates of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, situated at Bangla Motor, when a cool breeze swept across. The huge building being freshly painted, the hedges trimmed, Anjon Dutt's songs played from the music system filled the air with contentment. We waited upstairs from where a partial view of the building was visible. *Dia* (earthen lamps) were placed all along the railing and high walls to be lit in the evening. Outside, the hustle and bustle of the city life was going on in full swing but nothing seemed to disturb the peace inside the campus. Sipping from a steaming cup of tea, we watched the entire scenario, a huge library for students, well stocked with books, the auditorium downstairs, the sprouting greenery all around. It was like a picture out of a book.

Bishwo Shahitto Kendro (BSK) celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary today, the 19th of December, 2003.

"What was the main philosophy behind your building an organisation to enlighten the young minds?" we asked.

"We want to make well rounded persons" said Abdullah A Sayeed, chairman of the trustee board of the BSK. "We want to develop the children into a disciplined force, to uphold the moral values, and instill the quality of a good human being with faith, honesty, integrity and patriotism in the young minds." The other members of the trustee board are Luthfur Rahman Sharif, Mehboob Jamil, M Fariduddin, AKM Rafuddin and Dr. Atiur Rahman.

Quoting from Rabindranath Tagore, Abu

The enlightenment programme begins with a well-stocked library in Dhaka amounting to about a lac of books and setting up of mobile library units. By providing book reading facilities to over a 1000 schools and relating to other cultural activities it aims at providing the school and college students with literature to enrich their intellectual faculties.

The mobile library units provide book-lending services to 180 spots in Dhaka, Chittagong and the Khulna metropolis, catering to hundred thousand students of schools and colleges. Eventually the mobile library units propelled by 4000-5000 volunteers, will be extended to all the district towns covering all the upozillas, small townships and market places covering 4000 spots catering to three hundred thousand readers.

A small library stocked with classics and chosen books is being built in each of the 500 branches of the nation wide enrichment programme.

The weekly programme held in schools facilitates the young readers and gradually encourages the reading habit. Children from different schools gather together and are offered about 16 books a year, suitable for their age. If they require more, an additional 9 more books are provided. Every Friday they take the books home and return it next week in exchange for another book. At the end of an academic year the children who get to read the most number of books are rewarded from the Kendro. Every year BSK presents books worth taka 15 to 20 Lacs amongst its participants at the school level.

Study circle is another important endeavour of the Kendro that holds lectures and seminars on subjects including philosophy politics, history, fine arts, music, film etc. Eminent per-

Sayed is also one of our remarkable writers. Asked how much he can do of it, he says, 'An organiser doesn't have much scope for writing.'

Jokingly he adds, 'Politicians write books only when they go to jail. I'm also trying...' But the jokes apart, Sayeed has written five books in last 19 years and considers it as an achievement.

Regarding the development of the country Sayeed opines that we have developed materialistically beyond imagination, but deteriorated in our values by the same proportion. 'Now that we are rich, we have to bring back the values,' he sarcastically adds.

Asked if he wants to interact with the English medium schools, Sayeed informs that once he was invited by two or three of them. 'But the endeavour didn't last long!' Sayeed, however, has schemes for introducing English in the nationwide project soon. 10 books in English have already been prepared.

In the year 2500 BC, the great philosopher Socrates was often seen in broad daylight running about the streets of Athens with a lantern in his hand. People could hear him shouting out aloud, 'Come back in the path of light'. The great scholar had used the lantern as a symbol to bring mankind away from the darkness of ignorance to the path of knowledge.

Bangladesh may not be able to boast of a Socrates in its midst, but if we look back, our region has had its share of torch-bearers pushing the limits of education and culture to new heights. What is heartening is the role of a number of a handful of enlightened personalities, who did not fail to leave a powerful footprint in the realm of knowledge.

The Kendro has initiated a monumental project in publishing. This vast project will

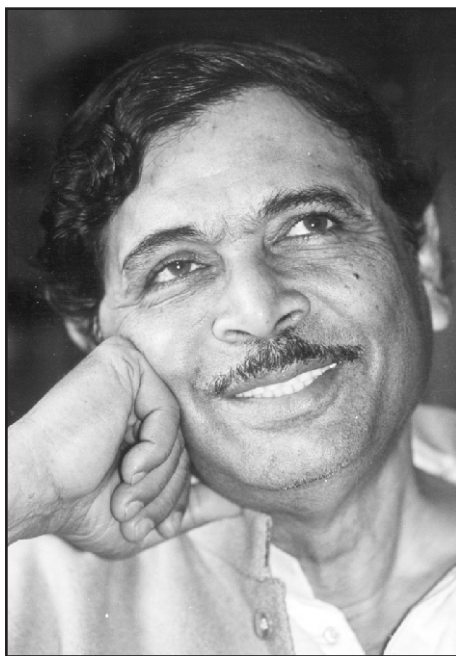
sonalities in these fields are often invited to conduct these sessions.

The audiovisual programme enriches the aesthetic sensibilities. By becoming members at a nominal charge one can listen to the world's greatest collections of concerts, supplied with music cassettes, and an arrangement is made for 10 listeners to listen to music simultaneously.

The opening song began with a series of old songs like *E Shudhu Gaaner Din*, *Shudur Akashey Tumi*, *Aj Money Hoy*, *Eka Gaan Likho Amar Jonyo*, *Ganer Khatay Swaralipi Likhey* and others. The performers Bijoya, Sunil, Nirupom, Shushanto, Uttam, Neetu and Pujan sang the first few lines of these popular songs and ended by singing *E Shudhu Gaaner Din* in a chorus.

Songs of some very popular singers like

Manobendra Mukherjee, Hemanta Mukherjee, Jagjit Singh, Manna Dey, Asha Bhonsley, Sabina Yasmeen and Shahnaz Rahmatullah were also rendered. *Tumi Je Amar Kabita*, *Ami Jhorer Kachhey Rekhay Gelam*, *Eto Shur Ar Eto Gaan*, *Ami Eto Je Tomay Bhalobeshchhi*, *Bajey Go Beena*, *Amar Swapno*, *Je Chhilo Drishtir Shimanay* and some other very famous songs entertained the audience.



Abdullah A Sayeed the visionary

produce the 'thoughts of the Bangali' in the last two centuries covering various fields. 'When the project will end next June, there will be about 250 volumes covering the thoughts of the Bangali on politics, philosophy, sociology, literature, music and many other subjects. Surely the work of encyclopaedic volume will be a milestone in our history.'

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Performing arts

A subtle solo and fusion music with finesse

Drum beats and solo act performance from West Africa at Goethe Institut

FAYZA HAQ

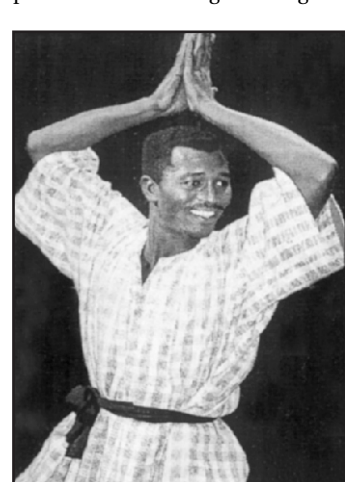
RECENTLY, on a weekend, the people crowding the Goethe Insitutit auditorium burst into repeated applause, listening to the musicians from Burkina Faso in West Africa. The visitors had played with accompaniment of the "tabla", "dhol" and "khonjoni" by local CAT (Centre for Asian Theatre) members, like Dilwar Hussain, Shadat and Mithu. The visitors played the drums, guitar, instruments similar to the xylophone and harp, taking turns on the guitar and the traditional drum, with jingling, glistening metal rings hanging from it.

The visitors wore their traditional "kurtas" and the Bengali "lungi" at times, while the audience joined in the sing-along with rapture and unmitigated glee. The non-stop hour-long solo acting in English that unfolded adventure, experience, folk-lore and fairytale, before that, was also breathtaking, leaving the audience surfeit with pleasure. Viewers ranging from seven to seventy sang and clapped gustily when called for. It is not often when one can easily measure the viewers' participation and pleasure. There was no tea or cookies to persuade the audience to stay on, but they did so for over two hours with a brief interlude in between. The programme was to promote cultural diversity, to combine African technique, style and form with Bangladeshi ones. It was definitely avant-garde and positive.

Issaka Sawadogo, the main performer, and artistic director of Carrefour International Theatre de Ouagadougou (CITO), Burkina Faso, supported by NORAD, has learnt on the job, not having been to any theatre school back in Africa. He believes that in country the family and the street are the nurturing grounds for music and acting. He has been performing for 17 years, visiting different African countries like Niger, the Ivory Coast, and European countries like

Norway, France and Belgium, as well as USA. He says, "Our group consists of Toa Emmanuel (who played the harp), a dancer and choreographer, and Flatie Dambell. In our country we learn to dance since childhood. As for the play that I presented, it was written by me: it is a combination of stories that I had collected over the years."

"The Awakening" contained the story of a blind man who is searching for his roots. Through magical powers the protagonist is able to take on the shapes of different persons and in doing this he gives



"The Awakening" contains the story of a blind man searching for his roots.

stories from Africa, which is full of myths, legends and fairytales. In this manner we meet a blacksmith making jewellery and weapons and a farmer living in harmony with nature, watering and harvesting, as the seasons change. The anecdote of the "kalabash" (drinking cup) brings in the crafty philosophies of Africa. The performance combine irony with seriousness, mixing music with dancing and song. The play has three different versions: in English, French and Norwegian.

"I came across Nilu

Kamaluddin in Norway, at the National Theatre, for which I've been working for nine years. The other two members were musicians I'd met up with back home, in Burkina Faso, West Africa. The group decided on the tunes and songs, having rehearsed for the programme for two weeks in Africa. Sawadogo said that the CAT members, while listening to their rehearsal in Dhaka, wanted to join in too and so the fusion followed. The West African group felt that it would be interesting indeed to have Bangladeshi music as accompaniment to the Burkina music," Sawadogo says, "We have the same rhythm in our hearts and minds: it was easy to work around the Bangladeshi percussion instruments with our type of songs and music full of joie de vivre." This, he said, was his second trip to Bangladesh, as he had come before, during the Ibsen Festival organized by CAT, in November last year.

Asked to give his impression of Bangladesh, Sawadogo says, "I was overwhelmed by the vast population. I believe that when you want to learn about a culture, you have to know about the people. I was curious about the economy and political situation and some outspoken intellectuals informed me about the problems that you are facing and I found all this information mind-expanding."

Margaret Aaby from NORAD, who was the producers of the performances that evening, sums up the performance by saying, "We are mainly here to present an African fairytale story, and while we are here, we want to present some parts of West African culture. The one-man performance is about ancient African roots while in the concert is used the traditional instruments like the 'chora'. All the three African performers are well-known 'grios' or musicians who learn their art from their elders in the family, in their own country and in France. Sawadogo, however, is also trained in Norway."

Around the world



Indian painter Maqbool Fida Hussain gives art lessons to orphan children of the 'SOS Children's Villages of India' in Bombay recently. Hussain one of India's foremost artists spent time with the children over tea at his house and they quizzed him on various aspects of his life. The SOS CVI an independent organisation provides care to some 200,000 children in India.



Michael Jackson will be formally charged with child molestation 18 December or 19 December 2003, nearly a month after his dramatic arrest.

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

PICK OF THE DAY



**STAR MOVIES:** 9:45 pm. *Big Trouble*. Comedy. Tim Allen, Rene Russo. A chain of events are inspired by the arrival of a mysterious suitcase in Miami. Arthur Herk, a corrupt business owner, wants to get his hands on the case. At the same time, two hitmen want to get him wacked. Tired of his constant fixation on drinking and television, Herk's wife and daughter decide to find new love interests in divorced dad Eliot Arnold and his son Matt. More complication is added when, two thieves decide to steal the case and lead a Miami police team and two FBI agents on a wild goose chase that ends inside the airport terminal.

**HBO:** 9:30 pm. *Hollow Man*. Horror/Sci-Fi/Thriller. Elisabeth Shue, Kevin Bacon. The film features Kevin Bacon in the title role as Sebastian Caine, a scientist who discovers a formula for invisibility. After an experiment makes him slowly disappear, Caine begins to go insane, and soon threatens the lives of his fellow researchers. Elizabeth Shue and Josh Brolin star as the targets of Caine's mayhem, along with William Devane, Kim Dickens and Mary Jo Randle.

3:30	Hocus Pocus	5:30	Judwaa (Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Rambha)	5:00	2 Guys A Girl & A Pizza Place
5:10	Planet Of The Apes	7:00	The Abyss	5:30	Knight Rider
7:00	The Abyss	9:45	Big Trouble	6:30	The Simpsons
11:15	Nightwaves	12:45	Power Elite	7:00	Home Improvement
12:45	Power Elite			7:30	Friends
				8:00	Just Shoot Me
				8:30	Tna Wrestling
				9:30	World's Wildest Police Videos
				10:30	Nash Bridges

2:30	Kucch Kar Dikhana Hai	3:30	Kalash	4:00	Kundali
4:30	Aur Phir Ek Din	5:05	Meri Saheli	6:00	Hum Saath Aath Hain
6:30	Fox Kids	7:30	Sonpari	8:00	Karishma Ka Karishma
8:30	Kucch Kar Dikhana Hai	9:30	Shararat-Thoda Jaadu		

3:00	Human Edge	3:30	Hot Science	4:30	National Geographic's Taboo
5:30	Return To The Wild	6:00	Sea Stories	6:30	Dogs With Jobs S3
7:00	Toyota World Of Wildlife S3	7:30	Dragons Of The Namib	8:30	Scientific American Frontiers
9:30	Tomorrow's World	10:00	Human Edge	10:30	Hot Science
11:30	National Geographic's Taboo				

5:30	Vienna City Guide	6:30	Sea Legends/Sailing	7:30	Crowned Lemurs and the Crocodile Caves
8:30	Moscow Siege	9:30	The Roots of Conflict	10:30	100 Years Of Flight Antonov 225
11:30	New Detectives Forsaken Trust				

2:30	Secret Life of the Tiger	3:30	Emergency Vets Locks of Love	4:00	Animal Doctor
4:30	Wild Rescue	5:00	Breed all about it	5:30	Vets in Practice
6:00	Monkey Business	6:30	Planet's Furniist	7:00	Amazing Animal Videos
7:30	Secret Life of the Tiger	8:30	Sea Lion Sickness	9:00	Queen Elizabeth National Park
9:30	Bosca's Story	10:00	Four Story Fall	10:30	Keeli & Ivy : Chimps Like Us
11:30	The Blue Planet				

4:00	Goals! (R)	8:30	Sportscenter India (L)
12:30	English Premier Football League 2003/04 Leeds United Vs Fulham (T)	2:30	The Skins Game 2003 Day One(T)
4:30	Sports Unlimited (T)	5:30	Nba Basketball Phoenix Suns Vs Portland Trailblazers (S)
8:00	Sportsline (L)	8:30	English Premier League Preview (T)
9:00	Futbol Mundial (T)	9:30	Nba Inside Stuff (T)
10:00	Wrestling Apple Crush (R)	10:30	Sportsline (R)
11:00	National Bank Series New Zealand Vs Pakistan 1's T Test Day 1 Highlights(S)		

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

**BTv**  
News Headlines(Bangla) at 9:40 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:10 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News(Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News(Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.  
**CHANNEL-L**  
Breakfast News 07:15 am, 9:00am  
News(Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.  
Telesat of BTv news(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**ATN BANGLA**  
News(Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
Telesat of BTv News(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
Latest News(Bangla) at 09 a.m, 10:00 a.m, 11:00 am, 1pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm, and 8:00 pm.  
**N tv**  
News Headlines(Bangla) at 5:02 pm, 6:30 pm, 9:45 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.  
**TARA BANGLA**  
NewsHeadline(Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, Tara News(Bangla) at 8:30 pm.  
11:30 pm.  
Tara News Bangladesh(Bangla) at 9:30 pm.  
**BBC World**  
Every hour on the hour

<b>BTv</b>	07:35	Suprabhat Bangla-desh
	08:25	Documentary: Janmabhumi
	08:35	Programmes From BTv Archive
	09:05	Natun Kuri 2003
	10:30	Hello Aprakey
	11:30	Drama Serial :Shwapner Deshey
	03:15	Sangbad Potrer Pata Theke
	03:25	Bangla Feature Film
	05:40	Cartoon Show
	06:10	E Shoptaher Asia
	06:35	Programme From Chittagong Centre
	07:05	Maloncha
	07:30	Film Show: Alif Laila
	08:30	Apar Charparsh
	09:00	Magazine: Lal Golap
	10:30	Talk Show
	11:00	Believe It or Not
<b>CHANNEL-i</b>		
	09:45	Tritia Matra
	10:30	Tele Somoy
	12:00	Islam Ki Boley
	02:00	Islamic Programme: Satyer Sandwaney
	03:30	Tritia Matrai Aponi
	05:30	Jonopoder Khabor
	6:10	Music Plus
	06:45	Talk Show
	07:50	Drama Serial:

	08:25	Dwandha Sangat Drama Serial: Horek
		Rokom Jibon
	09:35	Drama Serial: Ekarnyabarti
	10:00	Drama: Kalpurush
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>		
	10:15	Talk Show: Annodristee
	5:10	Shes Akkhor
	6:20	Amra Karbo Joy
	7:40	Drama Serial : Puramon
	8:15	Drama Serial: Theteo Jibhon
	8:50	Mega Serial: Lal Neel Bagune
	9:25	Mega Serial: Baba
	10:35	Pop Dhamaaka
	12:20	Feature Film: Azad
<b>HBO</b>		
	10:15	Zebra Lounge
	12:00	Big Fat Liar
	1:45	Omega Doom
	3:30	Max Knight : Ultra Spy
	5:15	Days of Thunder
	7:30	American Pie 2
	9:30	Hollow Man
	11:45	American Gigolo
	2:00	Se7en
<b>STAR MOVIES</b>		
	9:15	Windfall
	10:00	Antitrust
	11:45	Fallen
	1:45	Get Well Soon