CULTURE

CULTURAL FEAST

Book Fair



Title: Amor Ekushey Book Fair Organiser: Bangla Academy Venue: Bangla Academy Date: February 1-28

Theatre Festival

Venue: National Theatre Stage Shilpakala Academy

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Play	Troupe	Dat
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Raprang	Arenyak	Feb
	Natyadal	
Projapati	Natyakendra	Feb
Girous Circu	s Prachyanaut	Feb
Shyamapren	n Prangone Mor	Feb 1

Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Marina Goltyaeva Date: January 30- February 5 Venue: Exhibition Hall of the Russian Centre of Science and Culture

Title: Breakfast News Artist: Yasmin Jahan Nupur Date: February 3-13 Venue: Alliance Francaise Dhaka

Photo Exhibition

Title: My World, My Future Organisers: British Council, Dhaka and Map Photo Agency Venue: British Council, Dhaka Date: February 2-28 Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Title: Southern Glances Organiser: North South University Photography Club Venue: Drik Gallery Date: February 4-10 Time: 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Movie and TV play

screening Director. Tauguir Ahmed Feb 8 Tanvir Mokammel Feb 9 Whash Konnya Shimim Akhtar Feb 14 Organiser: Döhoni Cholochitra LTD. Venue: Ddhoni Cholochitra Auditorium,

Ekushey **Book Fair** picking up

KARIM WAHEED

IKE every year Amor Ekushey Book Fair '06 began on February 1. On the third day in the afternoon, the queues went all the way to Doyel Chattar and TSC (Teachers Students Centre). Fortunately the queues did not get stalled. People seemed to get used to the idea of going through the heightened security system at the

However, all did not seem to be velvety. Starting from this year, even the stall-owners' vehicles carrying supplies of books are not allowed beyond the TSC point or Doyel Chattarfor security reasons.

Representatives of several publishers, stall-owners and attendants complained that this new 'security measure" is a huge inconvenience. Abdus Salam at the Bishwa Shahita Kendra stall said, "Perhaps the authorities do not realise how difficult it is to carry books all the way from TSC when a van is not allowed. Considering the current bomb threats, I understand the heightened security measures but the authorities should consider

Some did not mind this "inconvenience" though. Emdadul Haq at Systec Publications' stall said, "We moved everything necessary to the stall on January 31. The new security measure will ensure



Serpentine queues at the Ekushey Book Fair

everyone's safety at the fair and everyone should accommodate the

authorities regarding this process." The readers seemed enthusiastic. Children, accompanied by parents or relatives, were seen checking out the new publications at different stalls. Some stalls tried to lure the young readers in innovative ways. Ankur Prokashoni's main attraction is the Bangla translations of the Harry Potter series. One of the stall attendants was seen wearing a

wizard's pointy hat, which pulled in

quite a crowd of keen youngsters. The book fair that first started at the Bangla Academy premises in 1972 gained momentum in the next few years. In 1984, the book fair was officially named *Amor Ekushey Gronthomela*. By 1992, the number of stalls at the fair exceeded 350 about 270 different publishers and organisations participated. This year the number of participating publishers and organisations is 305. Some of the new books published

on the occasion of the fair are on the occasion of the fair are: Diversity and Citizenship, edited by Mesbah Kamal, Utturey Shangkeertan by Tania Noor and Humayun Qadir Rochonabali (1st part) edited by Abu Shahriar. The Booklaunch of Amander Ekattur -- a memoir of the Liberation War, was held at the Nazrul Stage on February

Another attraction for the readers this year is the increased percentage sedunt on books. This year, the publishers of Bangla Academy have decided that the discount of books will be 30 percent; until last year the discountwas set at 20 percent. Part of the book fair is the

discussions and cultural programmes at the fair premises. On February 3, a discussion, titled Bingsho Shotoker Chintadhara, was held. The discussion was presided over by Mohammad Abdul Quaiyum. Qazi Rafiqul Haque, Razia Sultana and Abul Ahsan Chowdhury participated in the discussion. A cultural programme was held in the

Street theatre festival

Theatre troupes from outside Dhaka perform six plays

ERSHAD KAMOL

The main attraction of the third day of the week-long street theatre festival was the participation of theatre troupes from outside Dhaka. Uchcharan Natya Sampradaya from Chittagong, Shongshoptak Natya Dal from Narayanganj, Rajshahi University Drama Association, Rudra Natya Dal from Bagerhat and Gobindaganj Theatre from Sylhet staged Ar Ekti Juddha, Khepa Paglar Pachal, Posta Akali, Biral Tantra and Shaheed Minar respectively at Central Shaheed Minar premises on February 3. Moreover, the renowned theatre troupe of Dhaka, Prachyanaut staged Mandar.

was depicted in the plays on the third day. The playwrights such as SM Solaiman, Mannan Heera, Abidul Islam, Zahidur Rahman Shaon, Rahul Anand and Abdul Hannan expressed their wrath and anguish through a satire on contemporarysociety

The third day of the week-long street theatre festival began with the staging of Uchcharan Natya ampradaya's production Ar Ekti Juddha, written by Abidul Islam and directed by Shamim Ahmed. The play focused on the need of another war to eliminate evil from the society

SM Solaiman's 'rough theatre' Khepa Paglar Pechal is a satire on politics as well as the powers that be.

Paglar Pechal was directed by

Mannan Heera's play Posta Akali, directed by Dilip Kumar Adhikari, is a cry of the oppressed farmers of the

Biral Tantra by Zahidur Rahman Shaon is a satire on our faulty democratic system, while Abdul Hannan's play Shaheed Minar glorifies the martyrs of the Language Movement in 1952.

Rahul Anand's play Mandar is an implicit satire on contemporary

The week-long street drama festival arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation will continue till February 7.



A scene from one of the plays staged at the festival

PHOTO, STAR

Kasturi: The up and coming danseuse

KAVITA CHARANJI

A young bookworm at the fair

The attractive Bharamatyam, folk and modern dancer Kasturi Mukherjee is entirely committed to her medium. Embarking into this performing art at the tender age of four, she has travelled a great distance--as enlisted artist of BTV, performer and teacher. Among her notable performances was in Tagore's dance drama Chitrangada (where she played the role of the heroine in 1990) and Shurjomukhi Nadi in 1995.

Kasturi's art has also taken her to distant lands. In November 2005, she winged off to China for a performance. Recently she went to Japan, Myanmar, Malaysia and Turkey as part of a Bangladeshi cultural delegation. Up next is a trip to Italy early February where a group of folk dancers from Bangladesh will participate in a dance festival in Rome and Sicily

Kasturi also dons the hat of a Bharatnatyam teacher. She teaches the dance form at the Greendale International School as well as at her Nataraj Academy (with 15 students). "Unlike other institutes, my students can practice a whole day. I want my students to develop an equal love for dance as me," says Kasturi.

And that's not all. Twice a year she makes her way to Kolkata, more specifically her revered Bharatnatyam guru Thankamani Kutty, to refine her creative skills. "I go to learn new items from guruji such as Natraj Anjali, Shiva Astakam,

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ntv

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Kasturi Mukherjee

Natanam Adinam and others," says an enthusiastic Kasturi. Explaining her preceptor's forte, she says!"Jam a great admirer of her dance and teaching styles. She keeps in mind that I am from Bangladesh. Though the distance between the airport (near where I stay) and guruji's house in Gariahat is a one and a half hour drive, I feel highly motivated to make this journey."

Kasturi firmly believes that folk dance is a popular medium in Bangladesh because it speaks to people with rural roots. Talking about this genre, she says that there is a wide and appealing variety of folk dances--among them *Dhan Kata* (performed in the harvest festival), fishermens' and snake charmers' dance.

Folk dances score over classical dances such as Bharatnatyam, she asserts, because the songs are in Bangla, while in the latter the language is unfamiliar. However, she strongly believes that all dances are based on the classical art.

Kasturi has her favourites in Bangladesh's dance firmament. Among the folk dancers, she mentions the names of Kabirul Islam Ratan and Sohail Rahman, while she also appreciates Minu Haque's Odissidance.

Far from sitting back and taking a breather, Kasturi has ambitious goals for the future. Her dream is to expand her academy and make room for 100 students. Her message for upcoming talents: "Love your art and take pains to perfect



Apon Aloy, a talk show on ntv has attained popularity among the TV viewers. The programme presents the biographies of eminent personalities and their contribution to the nation. Politics and social issues are also discussed in the TV show. Today's episode features Baul maestro Shah Abdul Karim's achievements as well as his views on contemporary issues. The show will be aired at 6.50 pm tonight.

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Interpol Investigates

interpol Investigates

Seconds From Disaste

Seconds From Disaster

National Geographic

Wild Orphans

Catastrophe

The Mafia

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Bhober Hat-e Lavlu-Masum duo's new venture

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the heels of the successful TV serial Ronger Manush, playwright Masum Reza and director Salahuddin Lavlu are making another serial, Bhober Hat-e. Like its predecessor Ronger Manush, the 104-episode serial Bhober Hat-e also depicts the colourful lifestyle of rural denizens. This time the play relates the story of two brothers who have cut off ties for 25 years. However, the brothers' offspring seek a family reunion.

Manush, such as ATM Shamsuzzaman, Wahida Mallick Jolly, Salahuddin Lavlu, Bonya Mirza and others are also performing in Bhober Hat-e. Fazlur Rahman Babu, Meer Sabbir, Chanchal and others are the new additions to the team.

Highlights (R)

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Tri-Series Australia Vs

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TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

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

4 Nawratan Colony, New Bally Road

News Bulletin

BTV News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am.12:10 pm. 2:00 pm. 3:00 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-i News (Bangla) at 7:15 am. 9:00am,

2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am. Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am.10:00am. 2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm, 11pm. News (English) 8:20am,7:00pm Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m,10:00 am, 11:00 am.1:00pm.3:00 pm.

4:00pm.6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am. 12:00 am. 6:15 pm. 9:30 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 am. 2:00 pm. 5:00 pm.7:30 pm.10:30 pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and

TARA BANGLA News Headines (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

BBC WORLD Every hour on the hou

English) at 11:30 pm.

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Talk Show: Aloy

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09:30	Just Band
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01:00	Music Music
02:30	Sholo Proshno
03:30	Alker Bangladesh
04:00	Look At Me
06:00	Bishwa Jurey
08:35	Apon Shimanay
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08:50	Drama Serial:
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True Crime

The Last Boyscout

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10:30	Yatra
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11:30	Chall Ka Naam
	Antakshiri
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12:30	Kabhi Khushi Kabh
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01:00	Musafir Hoon Yaar
01:30	Mirch Masala
02:30	Shanna Ki Shaarii

03:00 Pardey Ke Peechey

The Fugitive On HBO at 08:30 pm Genre: Action / Thriller Cast: Dennis Quaid, Dina Meyer, Jason Isaacs

04:00	Jeet
05:30	Chall Ka Naam
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