

CULTURAL FEAST

Photography 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

Solo Exhibition
Title: SPAGAT In two Worlds
Artist: Murshida Arzu Alpiana
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya
Date: February 16-28
Time: 12-8 pm

Group Exhibition
Title: Appointment - 2006
Venue: Shipangan, Road 5 House 25 Dhanmondi
Date: February 11-March 3

Musical Programme
Title: 10th Orchestra musical evening
Organiser: Orchestra
Artist: Fanda Perveen
Date: March 03
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Al community Club Hall, House no-40, Road no-35 Gulshan-2, Dhaka

Book Launch
Title: Shimanto Shingraho
Date: February 28
Time: 5.00 pm
Venue: Foot Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum

African Film festival '06
Date: February 28
About: My Father (by Mehmet Haroun, Chad) at 4:00 pm
Belle for Algiers (by Gillo Pontecorvo, Algeria/Italy) at 6:00 pm

Shanta Islam Unfazed by challenges

KAVITA CHARANJI

"Jodi tor dak shume keo na ashe tobe ekla cholore."

THIS Tagore song has inspired Shanta Islam over the years. "Many people have to go it alone in life. Why look for a shoulder to lean on?" questions the attractive actress, director and writer when she drops in for a chat.



Shanta in a scene from the monodrama Rajkanyar Golpokotha staged at South Korea

Right now she is busy as a director and writer of TV plays and tele films. Among her current works is a mega serial titled Aro Ek Din. Then there is also her gripping talk show, Jugabandi. Describing this show, Shanta says, "The objective is to put popular perceptions about celebrities in a proper perspective. In the view of the majority, celebrities live without pain and struggle. This is far from true. People have to realise that famous people are not immune to sorrow and suffering."

The programme goes on air on Rtv, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Shanta's first episode featured recitor Pragna Laboni and her reciter-architect husband Kazi Arif. The duo talked about their likes and dislikes, their highs and lows. Each of the episodes has a celebrity couple's favourite cultural personality-in this case famous poet Shamsur Rahman, who expressed his opinion on the couple, commended their recitation and their role as Muktiyuddhas. Another staple is the role of psychiatrist-writer Anwar Syed Haque, who observes the selected couple, analyses the relationship and gives her inputs about the relationships.

Shanta has trod a solitary road to

Bangla channels.

Shanta has also played leading roles on the stage. Among her plays, she mentions Juddha Ebon Juddha (written by famous dramatist Syed Shamsul Haque and directed by Tareq Anam Khan) where she enacts the character of Royal Shakespeare Co, UK. This play was staged 46 times and her co artists were Aly Zaker, Ferdousi Majumder, Khaled Khan and Shankar Shawjal. Another popular play is Moyer Singhachon where she played the central female character of Princess Balaka. "As an actress these roles were challenging and heroine-oriented. In my writing, direction and choice of role, I look on the subject from a woman's perspective," says Shanta.

Last year was memorable for Shanta. She acted in a solo stage drama, Rajkanyar Golpo Katha in locations such as Canada, US and Korea.

Shanta has also ventured into film. Beginning with Anurya Jiban, she has done several other films. Anurya Jiban fetched her the National Film Award as best actress, while she won the best actress award from the Bangladesh Film Producer Distributor Association for her work in Rakter Adhikar.

As a script writer and director of TV plays and serials, she has done works such as Ete Dimoy Anurya Rakam, Anontaka, Jiban Ak Asha and Ekuku Choolagay.

Shanta is unfazed by the challenges that come her way. To quote her, "Storms will come but I firmly believe that with dignity and honesty, no one can stop you."

3rd Int'l Film Festival of Bangladesh from March 1

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With the intention to provide a common platform for the films from all over the world, 3rd International Film Festival of Bangladesh will run from March 1-16. The festival is being organised by Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS).

At a press conference held at Sheraton Hotel, Chairperson of the festival Enam Ahmed Chowdhury and festival director Golam Rabbani Biplob provided information on the programme.

Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the festival at the National Theatre Stage, Shilpakala Academy. About 111 films from 60 countries are to be screened during the festival. 51 foreign delegates including several renowned filmmakers and producers are expected to attend the event.

Films are categorised in several sections such as International Showcase, Contest of International Films, Retrospective and Festival Focus, celebrating 50 Years of Bangladeshi Cinema, Homage, Bangla Showcase, Films for Children, Melange of Dhallywood and Bollywood. The festival also includes seminars, open forum and publications.



Enam Ahmed Chowdhury (L) addressing the press conference

Three noted film personalities will be honoured with Lifetime Achievement Awards.

This year the focus of the festival is on Palestinian films. Noted Palestinian filmmakers have been offering quality films even in the midst of political unrest. Award-winning films made in 2005 and this year will be screened in International Showcase category. In the Contest of International Films section, a total of 12 selected films produced in Asia will be screened. Bangla cinema has recently completed its 50 years. To celebrate the feat, 13 memorable Bangla films will be screened. Five selected movies specifically made for children will be shown

at Shishu Academy Auditorium. Bangladesh Motion Picture Exhibitors Association, Bangladesh Film Producers Distributors Association, Bangladesh Film Directors Association, Bangladesh Cinematographers Society, Bangladesh Film Artists Association are jointly organising the gala event. International Federation of Film Societies is the international associate.

The films will be screened at Central Public Library Auditorium, Shishu Academy Auditorium, National Museum Auditorium, Star Cineplex at Bashundhara city and 18 different movie theatres in Dhaka, Chittagong, Savar and Narayanganj.

Yet another award ceremony for Bangladeshi cinema

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Concord Entertainment Company Ltd is holding a grand event where several Bangladeshi films and film personalities will be awarded. For the first time such an award giving ceremony will take place at a theme park - Fantasy Kingdom in Ashulia.

At a press conference held recently at the Fantasy World, Dhaka, the organisers announced the nominations for the awards to be given in 16 categories. The categories include best film, best director, best actor, best actress, best

music director, best playback singers and so on.

At the press conference, filmmaker Chashi Nazrul Islam, also chairperson of the jury board said, "This award will encourage filmmakers, actors and others related to the film fraternity who are working tirelessly to maintain the flow of vulgarity-free quality cinema."

Films nominated in the 'best film' category are: Mollahbarir Bou, Shasti, Hajar Bochor Dhorey and Kaal Shokaley.

The award-giving programme will take place on March 3.



Hajar Bochor Dhorey

ITI Theatre Festival '06 Theatre: Creating Space for Harmony

"Need to preserve indigenous art forms" - Nasiruddin Yousuff

Nasiruddin Yousuff is President of the Committee for Cultural Identity and Development (CIDC), part of the ITI Worldwide Committee. The committee focuses on promoting dramatic forms and expressions, which are essential components of cultural identity. Current CIDC projects deal with wide-ranging themes such as resolving socio-political conflicts through artistic collaboration. Diverse mythical representations are also studied. Nasiruddin Yousuff says, "We have pointed out the ethnic and marginalised cultural representations. We should work to protect the endangered indigenous performing art forms from extinction as well as maintaining diversity. ITI can only

discuss the issues with UNESCO. However, the organisation does not have the power to make changes. "Every country should take initiatives to preserve the ethnic performing art forms that are on the brink of extinction. Although there are over 43 ethnic minority groups living in Bangladesh, we only have scant knowledge on the performing art forms of communities like Chakmas, Munipuris and Garos. We have not taken initiatives to study or preserve the performing art forms of other minority groups."

Nasiruddin Yousuff believes that minority groups should be encouraged to practice their own performing art forms. According to Yousuff, "Amateurish presenta-



Nasiruddin Yousuff

Four International seminars held at the festival



(L-R) Syed Shamsul Haque, Ramendu Majumder and Jennifer Walpole seen at the seminar

Besides staging of 21 plays, dance-drama and jatra-pala, four international seminars were held at the ITI Theatre Festival '06 titled Theatre: Creating Space for Harmony.

Each day two seminars were

held on February 24 and 25 at the CIRDAP Auditorium. The title of the first seminar on February 24 was Human Values, the Arts and Social Harmony. Secretary General of Indian Centre of ITI, Reoti Sharan Sharma was the keynote

speaker of the seminar, which was presided over by Professor Kabir Chowdhury. The keynote speaker critically analysed the presentation of human values in the performing art forms of different traditions worldwide.

The title of the second seminar on February 24 was Cultural Tolerance and the Pursuit of Harmony. Mafidul Haque was the keynote speaker of the session, which was presided over by Syed Shamsul Haque.

On February 25, the title of the first seminar was Theatre: Understanding the Universal Expression. Keynote speaker of the seminar was Professor Abdus Selim and the event was presided over by Jean Pierre Guingane, vice-president of ITI Worldwide Committee.

The last seminar at the theatre festival was Theatre: Country to

Today's Attraction: Projapati and Katha '71

As part of the ongoing theatre festival Dhaka Padatik will stage Katha 71 by Kumar Protishi Bahl at the Experimental Theatre Stage today.

Katha 71 is a saga of genocide carried out by the Pakistani military regime in 1971. Bahl, in his play, has depicted fractional stories of genocide by the Pakistani Army and their collaborators. The play ends optimistically by awakening the younger generation to the reality and spirit of the War.

Debansh Ghosh directs the play.

Natyakendra stages Projapati today at the Mahila Samity Stage. Projapati, the translation of popular American playwright Thornton Wilder's Matchmaker, is based on Austrian playwright Johan Nestroy's drama A Day Well Spent. Tareq Anam has translated and directed Projapati, maintaining



Tareq Anam Khan (R) and co-actor in a scene from Projapati

the authenticity of the original comedy.

The scheduled third play of the day -- Khudhito Pashan -- will be

staged tomorrow at the Mahila Samity Stage.

by Ershad Kamol

TV GUIDE

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 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.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm. News (English) at 8:20 am, 7:00 pm. Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

Table with columns for time slots and program titles for BTV, Channel-i, and ATN Bangla.

Table with columns for time slots and program titles for Rtv and ATN Bangla.

PICK OF THE DAY



Let's Move On Channel-i at 7:50 pm Game Show Host: Farzana Brownia

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Table with columns for time slots and program titles for STAR PLUS, HBO, and STAR MOVIES.

Table with columns for time slots and program titles for DISCOVERY and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.

Table with columns for time slots and program titles for ESPN and TEN SPORTS.