CULTURE

CULTURAL FEAST

Photography Exhibition

71to: 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 Alpana Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya Date: February16-28

Group Exhibition Title Appointment-2006 Venue, Shipangan, Road 5 House 25

Date: February 11-March 3 Musical Programme

Artiste: Fanda Perveen Date: March 03 Venue: All community Club Hall, House no-40, Road no-35

Book Launch

Title: Shimanto Shangraho Date: February 28 Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum

African Film festival '06

Date: February 28 Abouna, My Father (by Mehmet Haroun, Chad) at 4:00 pm Battle for Algiers (by Gillo Pontecorvo, Algeria/Italy) at 6:00 pm

Shanta Islam

Unfazed by challenges

KAVITA CHARANJI

"Jodi tor dak shune keo na ashe tobe

HIS 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.

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, Jugalbandi. 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 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 Muktijuddhas. Another staple is the role of psychiatrist-writer Anwara Syed Haque, who observes the selected couple, analyses the relationship and gives her inputs

about the relationships Shanta has trod a solitary road to



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

success. As an actress she has behind her several TV plays, such as Rupnagar, Eti Amor Bon, Manush, and Nayak. To her credit she has performed leading female roles in around 100 and above plays, serials, telefilms in package productions, which have been aired by the leading

Shanta has also played leading roles on the stage. Among her plays, she mentions *Juddha Ebong Juddha* (written by famous dramatist Syed Shamsul Haque and directed by Tareq Anam Khan) where she enacts the character of Zeenat Mohal. There's also Shakespeare's The Tempest, directed by Deborah Warner, renowned director 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 Moyur Singhashon where she played the central female character of Princess Balaka. "As an actress these roles were challenging and heroine-oriented. In my writing, direc-tion and choice of role, I look on the subject from a woman's perspective,

Last year was memorable for Shanta. She acted in a solo stage drama, Rajakannyar Galpo Katha in locations suchas Canada, US and Korea.

Shanta has also ventured into filmdom. Beginning with Annya Jiban, she has done several other films. Annya 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 workin Rakter Adhikar.

As a script writer and director of TV plays and serials, she has done works such as Eie Dimey, Annya Rakam, Anontakal, Jibon Ak Asha and Ektuku

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.

ITI Theatre Festival '06 Theatre: Creating Space for Harmony

"Need to preserve indigenous art forms" - Nasiruddin Yousuff

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

"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-



tion of these performing art forms should be discouraged."

Four International seminars held at the festival



(L-R) Syed Shamsul Haque, Ramendu Majumder and Jennifer Walpole

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

Each day two seminars were Sharan Sharma was the keynote session.

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

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

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 country, in which delegates from 11 countries presented an overview of the theatre scenario of their own countries. President of Bangladesh Centre of ITI, Ramendu Majumdar chaired the

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 (BFF8).

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

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 PHOTO: STAR

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. 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

Three noted film personalities at Shishu Academy Auditorium.

Bangladesh Motion Picture Exhibitors Association, Bangladesh Film Producers Distributors Association, Bangladesh Film Directors Association, Bangladesh Cinematographers Society, bangiadesh Film Artists Associa Award-winning films made in tion 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 Naravangani

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, film-

maker 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, Hajaar Bochhor Dhorey and

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



Hajaar Bochhor Dhorey

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.

Debashish Ghosh directs the

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



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

The scheduled third play of the

day -- Khudhito Pashan -- will be by Ershad Kamol

the authenticity of the original staged tomorrow at the Mahila Samity Stage.

08:30

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

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

News Bulletin

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. 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

English) at 11:30 pm. TARA BANGLA News Headines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm. 7:30 pm. Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm. 11:30 pm. Tare News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

Archives 09:25 Shashwato 10:00

Shastho Tathya 12:30 02:15 Computer Round Pakhi Shongeela 04:30 Protyashar Alo Talk Show:

Shondhyamaloti 07:00 Special discussion on Ekushey 07:30

Ekush Amar Ahongkar Drama Serial: Kachher Manush Aronye Anador 10:25 Teknaf Thekey Shonali Shokal

ntv Aajker Shokal Drama Serial: Labonyoprobha 09:30 Frankly Speaking Colours Circus Lights 12:05 Shurer Joisha Muldangon 01:00

04:25

06:20 06:50 08:25

Channel-i 09:30

Shongbad Public Reaction 11:05 12:30

Ebong Cinemai Public Reaction 02:40 City Cell 04:05 Bashundhara Amader Gear

Sa Re Ga Ma Love Cafe Antoraler Katha 07:50 Let's move 09:35 D Rock star Drama Seria Shel Turni El

ATN Bangla 09:25 Drama serial: 11:05 ATN Teroka 2nd Round (music)

Cinema Cinema

Katha Apnar Jigyasha Nari Gharey Siddiga Kabir's

Kichhu Kotha 09:10 Kichhu Gaan 09:50 Drama Serial:

Aaj Dupurey O

04:25 Boimela Protidin

12:50 Ganey Shurey Motamot Drama Serial Nana Ronger 03:45 Drama Serial: Anondo Bedona Islam Ki Bolev Amra Ki Kori

04:20 04:45 Snax Quiz Time Islami Sawal O Drama Serial The Sword of Drama Serial

Pagol Pagol

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

Drama Serial: Shukher Legiya 08:30 09:00 Drama Serial Hai Hoi Roi Roi 09:30 Drama Serial: Andharer Jatn 10:35 Rtv

Citycell Face to 06:30 Desher Gaan 07:30 Hridoye Shur Aashey Deho Mori-e 09:30 Antorango Aaj Potrikay

Drama Seria

Dhaka Crime

Drama Serial:

11:00

Rater Galpo 11:30 Drama Serial: Asountuk 11:00 Jibon Charcha 01:00 Tomar Bina Tarer Geeti 02:30 Hridoye Janopode 03:45 Ajker Bangladesh 04:15 Drama Senal: Bhorer Swapno 05:00 Human Nature Path Chawatei Anando 06:30

Jade

On HBO at 09:30 pm

Genre: Suspense/Thriller

Cast: David Caruso, Linda Fiorentino

Rtv Exclusive 06:35 Sonali Rupali Drama Serial: Boral Parer 08:00 Shitlai Gaon Jihon Charcha Drama Serial: Bondhu Jugal Rtv Exclusive Weddings of the world

HBO 10:00 Neil Simon's the Goodbye Girl Half Past Dead 12:00 02:00 Escape from Mars 09:30

> The Fugitive STAR MOVIES 09:15 Wrong Turn

Taking Lives

The Big Preview, Munich

Austin Powers in Goldmember

Age Of Innocence The

Preacher's Wife The

Ever After: A Cinderella

Black Hawk STAR PLUS 10:30 Meri Saheli Shagun

12:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet 20 M 12:55 Taaza Hits 01:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 02:00 Bhabhi 02:30 Kesar 03:00 Saanth Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

Kahiin To Hoga 04:30 K.Street Pall Hill 05:00 Shagun 05:55 Taaza Hits 06:00 Maan House Of Mouse Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

Bahu Thi

Akkad Bakkad Bambey 08:30 Mum Tum Aur Hum 09:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay Milee 09:30 STAR WORLD 11:00 King Of Queens 11:30

Friends

Seinfeld

Kevin Hill

08:00

12:00

12:30

01:00

05:30

07:30

08:00

Absolutely Fabulous Coupling Everybody Loves Raymond 01:30 The A Team 03:30 Bold And Beautiful General Hospital Desperate Housewives DISCOVERY War Zone FBI Files 01:30 Wild Discovery

02:30 **Detective Stories** Living Pulse 03:30 Mystery Hunters Wild Discovery War Zone Dangerman Adventures with Geoff Mackley 06:30 07:30 Wild Discovery Junkyard Wars Fastest, Tallest, Biggest Science Frontiers

11:30 Crime Night NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Microkillers

Seconds From Disaster 11:30 Inside Hurricane Katrina Mixed Strand Animal Olympians Backyard Science Doc Eureka 05:30 Planet Wild 06:00 Snake Wran-Storm Stories 07:30 National Geographic

Showreal Asia

National Geographic's Taboo STAR SPORTS 09:22

04:30

Sri Lanka Tour Of Vs Sri Lanka 1st Test Day 3 1st Session (L) Hitz (R) Sri Lanka Tour Of Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs Sri Lanka 1st Test Day 3 2nd & 3rd

Tna Wrestling

05:30 06:30 Tha Wrestling Programming 07:30 H社(R) Gillette World Sports 08:00

Sri Lanka Tour Of

Bangladesh Banglades Vs Sri Lanka 1st Test

Day 3 Highlights(S) ESPN Bull Ridma 09:00 Ice Cricket World (R) 10:00 Motorsport Asia (R) League Totlenham Hotspur Vs Wigan Athletic (T)

Spanish Football League Cricket Classics (R) English Premier League Highlights (R) Football Focus (L) 05:30 Winter X-Games Winter X-Games X - Day 4 (T) Football Focus (R) Sportscenter India (L) Sportscenter Asia (S)

Super Spells Super Spells With Wasim TEN SPORTS 08:00 Gamer TV

09:30

Highlights Trans World Sports **Dubai Marathon** Italian League Highlights* Legends ATP Tennis 03:30

Portugease League Benfica y Porto WWE: Smackdown ODI H/Ls

Pakistan v India : 5th Highlights: Ep 23

Italian League