

CULTURAL FEAST

The World Music Day '06

Title: Fete de la Musique
Organiser: Alliance Francaise, Dhaka

June 29: 7:00pm Anil Kumar
Shahe/Goutam
Bhattacharya
9:30pm Music Night
June 30: 6:30pm Dance
Performances

Venue: Alliance Francaise, Dhaka
Date: June 29- July 2

Exhibition

Title: Tales of Pseudo Myth
Artist: Ronni Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: June 21-30
Time: 12am-8pm

Book Fair

Title: Barshar Boi Mela
Venue: Bashundhara City Shopping Mall
Date: June 15-30

35th anniversary of Diplomatic relations between Russia and Bangladesh

Photography Exhibition
Title: Summer in Russia
Venue: Vestibule, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Dhaka
Date: July 2-16

Display of Books and Materials

Title: Dedicated to 110th birth anniversary of Russian poet Pavel G. Antokolsky
Venue: Library, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Dhaka
Date: July 2-10

Music Concert

Title: Kang Eun Il Haeungplum
Organiser: The Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Auditorium
Date: July 3
Time: 7pm

Photography Exhibition

Artist: Proshanto Karmakar Buddha
Organiser: Gallery Chittrak and Shaniher Maya Trust
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, House no-21, Road no-4, Dhanmondi
Date: June 24-29

Solo Bharatanatyam Dance

Artist: Rumana Omar
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Dhaka
Date: July 13
Time: 6:30pm

Theatre

Title: Jobalika
Organiser: Padalik Natitya Sangsad
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 2
Time: 7:30pm

Title: Rektokarabi
Organiser: Nagorik Natitya Samprodya
Venue: Mohila Samity, Auditorium
Date: June 29
Time: 7:00pm

The aftermath of exodus

Ongoing photography exhibition at Liberation War Museum

KARIM WAHEED

Mother squats weeping & points to her sons
Standing thin legged like elderly nuns
Small bodied hands to their mouths in prayer
Five months small food since they settled there
On Jessore road Mother wept at my knees
Bengali tongue cried mister Please...

-- September on Jessore Road by Allen Ginsberg

TWO posters greet visitors at the ongoing photography exhibition titled Refugees: 1971 at the Liberation War Museum. The first one shows a young woman, seemingly optimistic. The poster reads: 'Husband shot. Village burned. Hiding in the forest. Then rescue. Shelter. A fresh start. And a widow at 17, the challenge of a new life... It takes courage to be a refugee.'

The exhibition was inaugurated by Pia Prytz Phiri, representative of UNHCR in Bangladesh on the occasion of World Refugee Day and will continue till June 30.

The display includes photographs and news published on the plight of Bengali refugees from the then East Pakistan in Indian camps.

Images show Anjali Lahiri at a refugee camp. The lady with a heart of gold became a ray of hope to thousands of refugees at camps in Meghalaya; working tirelessly to provide medicine and clothes.

Children crying, serpentine queues of skeletal, half clad people waiting for meagre morsels of food -- highlighted in some of the photographs -- make for familiar images; images of people from a war-torn country, dying a hundred deaths a day, unimaginable destitution and helplessness.

Few images feature aid-work by 'Operation Omega' established by volunteers in 1971. The aim of the operation was to take food and medical supplies into East Pakistan and distribute it there. Two groups went to the border of East Pakistan. One was arrested by the Pakistani army; the other got through with its relief supplies.

A noteworthy photograph at the exhibition features Mother Teresa and Senator Edward Kennedy at a refugee camp. There were 829 camps in West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam and surrounding areas, sheltering about 98,99,305 refugees from East Pakistan. Providing the necessities -- food, clothes and medicine -- for the migrants was a colossal task and naturally resources were often inadequate. Malnutrition, and diseases like cholera and dysentery were rampant.

In some photographs, refugee families are seen living in large sewage pipes. Headline of a write up by Colin Smith published in The Observer (June 27, 1971 issue) reads 'East Pakistan gold rush of horror tales'. Another story by Gavin Young published in the same newspaper (November 28, 1971 issue) reads 'Bengal refugees won't budge'.

Cover jackets of folk music albums by Deben Bhattacharjee are also on display. Bhattacharjee, a folk music researcher based in Paris went from one camp to another collecting Bangladeshi folk songs. The cassettes featured those songs.

Currently there are about 21,000 refugees in Bangladesh. Pia Prytz Phiri writes, 'May the refugee experience of your people guide us to make sure it never happens again, but serve to set the standards of treatment of the refugees hosted by you.'

One cannot agree more.



Photograph of refugees taking shelter in sewage pipes in 1971 (Top) and a poster on display

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Poster on display showing a young woman, seemingly optimistic.

Theatre Festival, Chittagong

Baichal to be staged today

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing theatre festival arranged by Nandimukh to mark its 15th anniversary, Baichal will be staged today at Shilpakala Academy Auditorium, Chittagong. Baichal is a production of Karigar, a newly formed Dhaka-based theatre troupe.

Though the love story of a young couple, Golam Shaq's play, Baichal, features the colourful lifestyle of the rural people who celebrate a boat race during the monsoon. Moslehuddin Shikdar directs the play.



A scene from the play

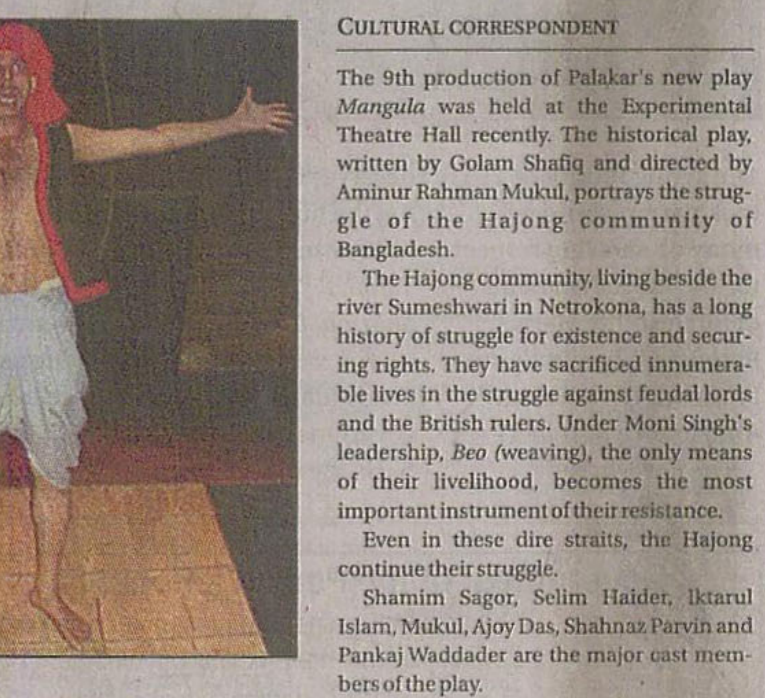
Palakar's play Mangula staged

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The 9th production of Palakar's new play Mangula was held at the Experimental Theatre Hall recently. The historical play, written by Golam Shafiq and directed by Aminur Rahman Mukul, portrays the struggle of the Hajong community of Bangladesh.

The Hajong community, living beside the river Sumeshwari in Netrokona, has a long history of struggle for existence and securing rights. They have sacrificed innumerable lives in the struggle against feudal lords and the British rulers. Under Moni Singh's leadership, Beo (weaving), the only means of their livelihood, becomes the most important instrument of their resistance.

Even in these dire straits, the Hajong continue their struggle. Shamim Sagor, Selim Haider, Iktarul Islam, Mukul, Ajoy Das, Shahnaz Parvin and Pankaj Waddader are the major cast members of the play.



A dramatic moment in Mangula

Johnny Cash's brilliant finale

The last four discs that brought Johnny Cash back to artistic life were -- with the exception of 1996's often rollicking Unchained -- one long, slow, sometimes sullen, always gorgeous march to the grave. You could hear age creep ever more into his voice on each record.

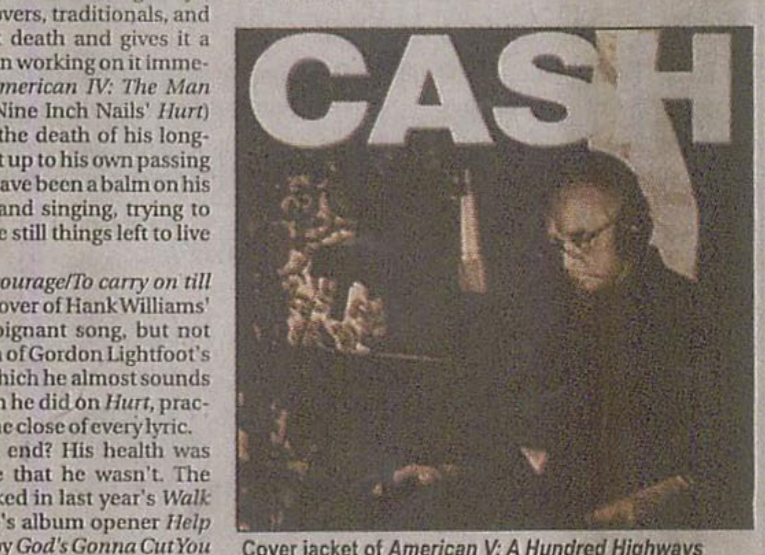
The posthumous American V: A Hundred Highways, an equally melancholy mix of covers, traditionals, and original compositions, looks at death and gives it a weary shrug and nod. Cash began working on it immediately after finishing 2002's American IV: The Man Comes Around (which starred Nine Inch Nails' Hurt) and continued recording after the death of his long-time love, June Carter Cash, right up to his own passing on September 12, 2003. It must have been a balm on his broken heart to keep working and singing, trying to convince himself that there were still things left to live for.

I pray that God will give me courage/To carry on till we meet again...he croons on a cover of Hank Williams' On the Evening Train. It's a poignant song, but not nearly as much as Cash's version of Gordon Lightfoot's If You Could Read My Mind, in which he almost sounds more vulnerable and fragile than he did on Hurt, practically running out of breath at the close of every lyric.

Was he thinking of his own end? His health was fading, so it's hard to imagine that he wasn't. The man's spirituality -- so overlooked in last year's Walk the Line -- is everywhere. There's album opener Help Me, a plaintive prayer, followed by God's Gonna Cut You

Down, an old spiritual about the Lord's wrath, which manages to pull off a We Will Rock You-ish stomp/clap refrain that is simultaneously holy and head-banging material.

Source: Internet



Cover jacket of American V: A Hundred Highways

ALL TIME GREATS

Rukmini Devi: The legend lives on

Illustrious dancer Rukmini Devi (February 29, 1904-February 24, 1986) lives on in the public memory for her dedication to this performing art form and particularly Bharatanatyam. To her goes the credit for making dance acceptable to society.

Rukmini's encounter with Indian classical dance developed through her close contact with famous ballerina Anna Pavlova. The duo met up in a ship while Rukmini was on a tour to Australia. While the dancers became friends, Rukmini took further lessons in ballet from Pavlova's soloist, Cleo Nordi. It was Pavlova who persuaded her to study Indian classical dance. Until then Rukmini had never seen a Bharatanatyam or Sadir (as it was then known) performance, as it was a dance form practiced by women of the devdasi class, who were looked askance as prostitutes as they had fallen in the rungs of society and were often exploited by the priests and landlords.

The turning point in Rukmini's life was in 1933 when F Krishna Iyer, a lawyer and freedom fighter, sponsored a performance of two talented devdasi dancers at the Madras Music Academy. He invited her to watch it. A mesmerised Rukmini expressed a wish to study the dance. The result was a storm of protest from conservative sections of society.



An undeterred Rukmini began to take private lessons from Myslapore Gowri Amma, a well-known devdasi of the time. Not only did she

learn from the latter and the great master Pandanallur Meeanakshi Sundaram Pillai, but she gave a public presentation at the Diamond Jubilee Convention of the Theosophical Society, with which she and her English husband George Sydney Arundale were closely associated.

Rukmini subsequently went on to revolutionise Bharatanatyam. She made the musicians sit on one side of the stage. With the help of an Italian seamstress, Madame Cazan, she designed new and artistic costumes. Changes were also made in the lighting and the backdrops. Even today most Bharatanatyam dancers follow her lead in costumes and other presentation.

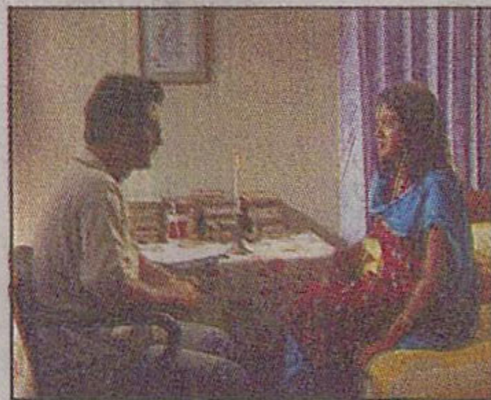
And Rukmini didn't rest content with these innovations. In pursuance of her ambition to popularise Bharatanatyam, she established a dance academy called Kalakshetra, formerly known as the International Academy of Arts. Here she invited famous musicians and gurus to teach.

After her demise, Kalakshetra was declared as an institution of national importance by an Act of Parliament -- the Kalakshetra Foundation Act 1993. Kalakshetra at Tiruvannamur in Chennai is today hailed as one of the best academies of Indian dance and music and gives student a chance to learn in proximity to nature.

Source: Revolutionising Sadir by Dr Sunil Kothari.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Hortoner Bibi On ATN Bangla at 9:00pm Drama Serial Cast: Shahed, Mim



Perfect Disaster: Super tornado On Discovery Channel at 09:00pm Documentary The Tornado Which Destroyed Downtown Dallas

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.

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.

ntv 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 Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm. 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

BTV 09:05 Open Ur... 10:00 Satellite Broadcast 12:15 Sangbad Potrer Pata... 12:30 Shewstho Tathiya... 01:30 Selected programme 02:15 Selected Programme 04:00 Children's Programme 04:30 Selected Programme 05:05 Prottyasha Alo... 05:30 Drupodi... 06:10 Selected Programme 06:35 Jiboner Alo... 07:05 Programme On Poet Michael Modhusudan Dutt... 07:30 Agiye Cholar Pothey... 08:35 Profidin Bangladesh... 08:45 Weekly Drama... 10:25 Teknaf Thekey Telukia... 10:30 Agrar Shawsthya (Live)...

ATN BANGLA 08:45 Mukto Shonglap... 09:25 Drama Serial: Andharer Jatri... 10:30 Anyoddishi... 11:05 Musical Programme 12:20 Bangla Feature Film 03:45 ATN Rannaghar... 04:20 Shundor Jiboner Jonyo... 04:45 Daily World Cup... 05:10 Amader Jolo... 05:45 Islami Sawaal O Jobab (Live)... 06:20 Prepok... 08:00 Rock Link... 08:30 Drama Serial: Ferari Siren... 09:00 Drama Serial: Hortoner Bibi... 09:30 Drama Serial: Mon Tui Badhahin... 10:35 Char Doyaler Kabyo... CHANNEL i 09:45 Public Reaction...

09:50 Grameen Phone... 12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citell... 01:05 Ebang Cinemar Gaan... 01:30 Shongbadpotrey... 01:45 Public Reaction... 02:40 Special Programme... 03:05 Hindoye Mati O Manusher Dak... 05:30 RC tones and tunes... 06:00 Music Plus... 06:20 Amar Chhobi... 06:40 World Cup... 07:50 Drama Serial: Akashi... 08:20 Drama Serial: Shutoy... 09:35 Drama Serial: Shorpanno Ronggin... 10:00 Drama Serial: Bishakhha Restor... ntv 08:35 Ajker Shokaf... 09:00 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe... 09:30 Ki Kolha Tihar... 10:05 Ghachochhira Kolha... 10:30 Dhakar Cinema... 01:05 Mukhtangan... 02:35 Drama Serial: Lebonoyrobha... 03:15 Mega Serial: Ronger Manush... 03:50 Ambarer Anondo Bari... 04:25 Shapla Kuri... 05:15 Dindarpan... 05:20 Mohilangan... 06:20 Shubho Shondhya... 06:50 Right Click... 08:25 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush... 09:10 FIFA Fever... 10:00 Drama Serial: Groho Konyo...

Rtv 09:00 Ontoroggo Alap... 09:30 Swapno Diner Gaan... 10:00 A J Potrikay... 10:30 Pritibibir Pathay... 11:00 Groho Shobhi... 12:05 Drama Serial: Shimul Toir Ghai... 01:00 Air Combat... 02:30 Shoto Proshno... 03:30 Technology Today... 04:00 Cine Dhoom... 05:05 Human Nature... 05:30 Football Carnival... 06:00 Akher Bangladesh... 06:30 Rtv Exclusive... 06:35 Anlorango Alap... 08:00 Drama Serial: Biyor... 08:50 Golpo... 09:20 Drama Serial: Shurey... 10:45 Rtv Exclusive... 10:50 Health Show: Heartbeat... CHANNEL 1 08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh... 10:00 Cartoon... 10:30 Bangla Feature Film... 01:30 Kaal Kolha... 03:00 Goalmele Germany... 04:00 Drama Serial: Kanone... 04:30 Chokh Malay Dekhi... 05:15 Small Ville... 06:00 Saaj Bela... 06:30 Top News... 06:45 Jnotar Jethitar... 07:00 Shombhabonar Bangladesh... 08:15 Amar Nayokera... 09:00 Drama Serial: Kanoney... 09:30 Kushum Koli... 09:30 The One... 11:00 Goalmele Germany... HBO 09:45 The Specialist... 12:00 Tales From the Darkside: The Movie... 02:00 Outside The Law... 03:45 Adam Sandlers Eight Crazy Nights... 05:15 Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason... 07:30 Beauty And The Geek... 09:30 Sleepy Hollow... 11:45 13 Gong On 30... STAR MOVIES 09:40 Chupacabra: Dark Seas... 11:25 Last Shot, The... 01:30 Dracula Jii Legacy... 03:25 Happy Texas... 05:30 George Of The Jungle... 07:25 Masala... 09:30 Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee... STAR WORLD 08:00 Hollywood Squares... 08:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway?... 09:00 The Drew Carey Show... 09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show... 10:30 Beauty And The Geek... 11:30 Boston Legal... 12:00 Women's Open Golf... 12:00 Football Asia(R)... 03:25 Sports Update... 03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful... 04:30 General Hospital... 05:30 Ed... 06:25 Sports Update... 06:30 The Simpsons... 07:00 King Of Queens... 07:50 Friends... 08:00 Seinfeld... 08:30 The Simple Life... 09:30 Scrubs... 10:00 Arrested Development... 10:30 Less Than Perfect... 11:30 The Drew Carey Show... 11:30 Seinfeld... NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 08:00 WWS... 10:00 Nat Geo Junior... 10:30 Vampire From The Abyss... 11:30 Violent Earth... 12:30 Megacities... 01:30 Rolex Awards... 02:00 Eclstasy... 02:30 Taboo... 04:00 Extinct... 04:30 Nat Geo Junior... 06:30 The White Elephant... 08:00 Storm Stories... 08:30 Megastructures... 10:30 Nat Geo Investigates... 11:30 Secret World of Bats... ESPN 8:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of England Natwest Series Manchester, England... 9:30 FIFA World Cup 2006... 11:30 FIFA World Cup 2006... 11:30 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships London, UK Day #3 Highlights(R)... 11:30 U.S. Women's Open Golf Championships(Jip)... 11:30 Newport: RUSA First Round(L)... TEN SPORTS 08:30 WWE: After Burn... 10:00 Manila World Circuit... 10:30 Giletha World of Sports... 11:00 World of Athletics... 12:00 Trans World Sports... 01:00 Beach Volleyball... 02:00 French Tennis Review... 02:30 Chevrolet Cricket Show... 03:30 Legends... 04:30 NFL Cheerleaders... 05:00 Total Rugby... 05:00 WWE: The Bottom Line... 07:00 Trans World Sports... 09:00 Molo GP :TT ASSEN H/Ls... 10:00 French Tennis Review... 10:30 World of Athletics... 11:30 WWE: The Bottom Line... 12:30 Golf Highlights...