

CULTURAL FEAST

Korean Cultural Festival

Organiser: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea

Title: Korean Speech Contest
Venue: IML, Dhaka University
Date: October 19

Printmaking Exhibition

Title: Knock...
Artist: Tariq Jullifker
Venue: Alliance Française de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: October 13-26
Time: 9 am to 12 pm and 5 pm to 9 pm

Jean-Claude Carrière Retrospective

Screening of 22 films written/scripted by renowned French screenplay-writer Jean-Claude François Carrière, made by 13 filmmakers from 10 different countries of origin.

Organisers: Zahir Raihan Film Society & The Alliance Française of Dhaka

October 18
5:00pm The Milky Way
7:00pm The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie
October 19
5:00pm The Phantom Of Liberty
7:00pm That Obscure Object of Desire
October 22
6:30pm The Tin Drum
Venue: Alliance Française de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi

Art Fair

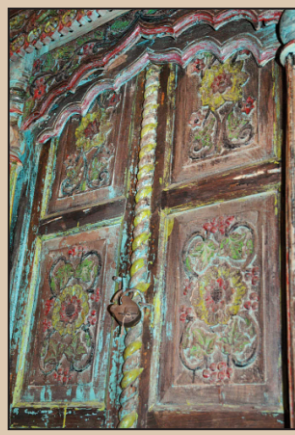
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Road 3, House 13/A, Dhanmondi
Date: October 13-22
Time: 10 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 8 pm

Crafts and Ceramics Exhibition

Title: Crafts and Ceramics Exhibition by Young Artists
Venue: Dots Contemporary Art Centre, 191/A, Haque Tower, Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road, Tejgaon
Date: October 15 to November 9
Time: 11:00 am to 8:00 pm

Exhibition

Title: Doors
Organiser: Alliance Française de Dacca
Venue: la Gallery, Alliance Française de Dacca
Date: October 12-25
Time: 9 am to 12 pm and 5 pm to 9 pm



New films on Eid

A mix of wholesome and mediocre productions

ERSHAD KAMOL

FOR over a decade the film industry of Bangladesh has struggled to cope with a slump in the market. Subsequently, films (particularly those from Dhaliwood), once the major source of entertainment of the masses during the Eid festival, are losing their lustre.

However, Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association (BFPDA), a grade A member of FBCCI, is expecting the film industry to do brisk business on Eid. Nasiruddin Dilu, the president of BFPDA, said, "With blockbusters such as Chachchu and Kabin this year, we hope that viewers will increasingly come to the theatres this upcoming Eid."

Mahbubul Islam, the office secretary of BFPDA, pointed out that 19 films have won approval from BFPDA for release in the festival season. But, as he pointed out, both 'vulgar' and 'quality' movies are included in the list. To quote Islam, "If the film goes to the theatres and the name of the actors in the approved movie list for the forthcoming Eid, she or he will have to be able to discriminate between vulgar and decent films."

Banglar Hero, Matha Noshito, Lengra Masud, Najar, Nishpaap Koyedi, Daku Phulan, Ora Nishpap, Babu Khuni, Encounter and others belong to the first group. On the other hand, Jomila Shundari, Bhalobasha Bhalobasha, Dhakaiya Pola Barisaliya Maiya, Orey Shampawanala, Tumi Kato Shundar, Dajjal Shashuri and others belong to the second group.

Mahbubul further maintained, "Of these films, eight or nine movies will be ultimately released in over 700 theatres all over the country. And the rest of the movies will be released later."



Moushumi and Ferdous in Orey Shampawanala



A scene from Rupkathar Galpo set to release on Eid

According to the grapevine, Impress Telefilm produced two movies-- Rupkathar Galpo directed by Tauqir Ahmed and O Amar Chhele directed by Shubhash Datta which will run in one theatre each. Sources confirmed that among the quality movies that will be released all over the country are Bhalobasha Bhalobasha directed by Mohammad Hannan and Dhakaiya Pola Barisaliya Maiya directed by Uttam Akash. Riaz, Shabnur, ATM Shamsuzzaman are the major cast members of Bhalobasha Bhalobasha while Shabnur and Shakib Khan performs the central characters in Dhakaiya Pola Barisaliya Maiya. At the same time, less tasteful movies such as Babu Khuni and Langra Masud will also be released. Babu Khuni is directed by Hanif Akand Dulal and stars Khalek, Shayla and Prince while Langra Masud is directed by Shafiqul Alam Khokon, in which Khalek, Mehedi, Polly, Dolly, Swapna are major cast members.

Ultimately, producers will have to wait for the results at the box office to determine the success of the films. And different types of 'equations' are going on at the moment. Industry sources also asserted that, as in previous years, the influential politically backed syndicate will play a role during the release of the cinema over Eid. If the producer of one of the movies creates pressure to release his movie in at least 60 theatres, the whole equation will change.

The producers of Ora Nishiddha, directed by Shahadat Hossain, and Biyer Lagan, directed by Shahadat Hossain Liton, have decided not to

release the movies during the Eid holidays. Interestingly the producer of the only folk-based family movie Jomila Shundari, directed by AK Sohel, in which Shabnur, Ferdous and ATM Shamsuzzaman are the major cast members, will not be released since the movie is regarded as a 'business loss' in the midst of so many poor quality movies.

Replying to a question as to why the folk based movie, like Jomila Shundari, with a star cast and mass appeal is doubtful about box office success during Eid this year, film industry representatives trace it to a change of taste of the viewers. Earlier the target viewers for the Eid market were women and directors used to make folk-based entertaining family movies.

However, the satellite channels have cast a spell on the viewers living at the remote areas and district towns. As a result filmmakers aiming to grab the market are making films imitating the vulgar movies. That is a primary reason behind releasing 'vulgar' movies, as they have a higher success rate. However, in the 30 movie theatres in Dhaka city, the sophisticated moviegoers avoid films labeled as standard and 'vulgar'. Moreover, the city dwellers avoid going to cinema halls because of their poor maintenance as they have easy access to alternative sources of home entertainment.

Whatever the underground 'equations' behind the release of the movies for the forthcoming Eid are, viewers hold against hope for better entertainment from Dhaliwood.

Movie Watch

'Marie Antoinette': Lost in revolution

In May this year, word came through of an unruly mob in France. "Marie Antoinette" got heckled. Absolutely slaughtered. This wasn't news considering she got heckled from the neck up more than 200 years ago. But the buzz referred to the Cannes Film Festival, where Sofia Coppola's film about the life of the late queen, starring Kirsten Dunst, had been met with a trumpet blast of boos.

The film starts with the teenaged Austrian princess arriving at the French border, in 1770, as the prospective bride of Louis, the Dauphin of France (Jason Schwartzman). She enters a tented pavilion, pitched in autumnal woods; it might as well be made from candy canes and gingerbread. It even has a resident witch, the Comtesse de Noailles (Judy Davis). After years at the French court, the Comtesse is about as welcoming as a frozen hedgehog.

Marie finds the existence of the rich and royal, in pre-Revolutionary France, to be starved beyond all tolerance; over time, she exerts a softening, not to say trivialising, influence, and that, in turn, is one of the factors that hasten the Revolution's rush.



Jason Schwartzman and Kirsten Dunst in Marie Antoinette

Marie's sole duty is to provide the Dauphin with male heir, a task made more urgent when he

ascends the throne. The Dauphin, however, is a tidy dullard whose only pleasure is the study of lullards and keys. One night in Paris, the Queen, as she now is, attends a masked ball. There, at last, she meets Count Fersen (Jamie Dornan), a leering Swede, and, if this film is to be believed, father to the sovereign bloodline of France.

But is this film to be believed? Coppola films Versailles with a flat acceptance, quickening at times into eager montage. The one, transfixing virtue of Marie Antoinette is its unembarrassed devotion to the superficial.

The movie somehow contends that the Queen was, with her gang of cronies and her witless overpends, the Paris Hilton of the late eighteenth century. The movie's approach to everything is like the look on Kirsten Dunst's face: a beautiful blankness, forever on the brink of drifting, with a smile, into sleep.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Lalon death anniversary observed

AMANUR AMAN, From Kushtia

The truncated Lalon Smaran Utsab (memorial) held by the government concluded at Chhyeuria, popularly known as Lalon akhra (the den), Monday last. Instead of the traditional three-day-long festival, which highlights the spirituality of Baul King Lalon, the programme lasted only for a day.

The festival is a regular phenomenon held every year, on the occasion of death anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shah. This year marks his 116th death anniversary. The day-long programme was organised by Lalon Academy.

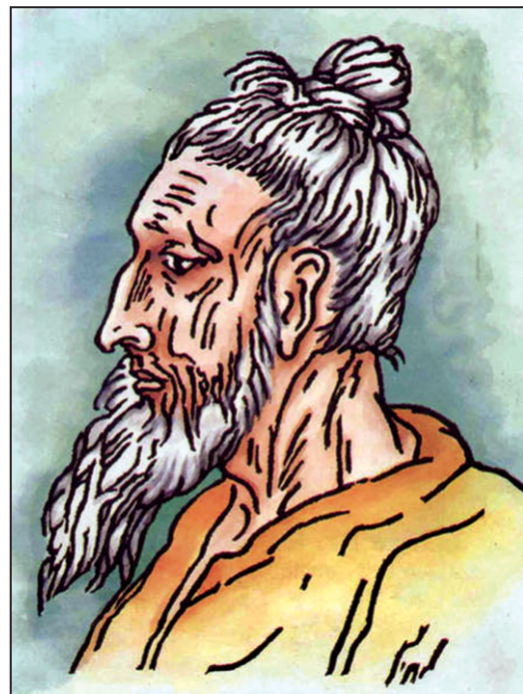
On the occasion, the akhra is usually decorated. But, this time with Ramadan on, the function was low key.

The programme included only a discussion at Lalon Academy complex. Kushtia Deputy Commissioner Jahangir Alam inaugurated the programme, while additional deputy commissioner MA Ahad was special guest. Oddly enough, no Lalon researcher or exponent was invited to the programme. The fakirs who are listed in Lalon Academy took part in the programme.

Though the function ended abruptly, the festive spirit lingered on as the Mazar Sharif and Seba Sadan Committee (MSSSC), a committee formed just after the death of Lalon, organised a separate programme to observe the death anniversary at 'Akhra Bari', near the Lalon shrine. This programme was held on October 17.

According to experts, the real torchbearers of Lalon's spiritual legacy are the fakirs who have held regular programmes to commemorate the bard's life.

The Lalon Academy has had a chequered history. The successive government formed a body and named it Lalon Academy. The academy's mandate was to oversee the akhra. In the course of time, all programmes have turned into government activities. Now Lalon Academy Complex launches an annual programme



through government funding. Several fakirs expressed their anger at the curtailment of the programme. As one said, "We follow the Ohey Daniyat religion. This does not go against the other spiritual schools of thought; we have the right to observe our religion in our way like the others."

EID SPECIALS

'Eider Chhuti' on BTV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As Eid draws closer, thousands of city dwellers leave for their village homes to celebrate the major religious festival of the Muslims with their kith and kin. Sometimes the travelers have to brave much suffering in the course of their journey. Based on this issue, BTV will air a special TV play titled Eider Chhuti on Eid day.

The plot: A village-bound family desperately tries to leave the capital by any mode of transport-- bus, launch and train--to celebrate Eid. Despite all efforts, the family doesn't manage any tickets. The only way out seems to be to buy the tickets in the black market. Though the journey is fraught with risk, the family is likely to forget their trials once they reach home.

Written and directed by Kazi



Rumana and Mir Sabbir in the play Asad, the play features Khayrul Alam Shobuj, Toru Mustafa, Dilara Zaman, Mir Sabbir, Rumana, Dr Ezazul Islam and others.

Telefilm 'Dating' on Rtv



Hilol and Tinni in a scene from Dating

Telefilm Dating, written by Moni Haider and directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim, will be aired on Rtv on the third day of Eid.

Dating is a tale of four friends who meet regularly at a restaurant. Nabil is an artist who has married recently and spends most of his time with his wife. Art critic Zahir has not married yet as he could not find a like-minded art enthusiast. Toha represents female envy. Rukku is afraid of women and feels nervous when talking to them. One day Rukku informs other friends that he is going on a date with a girl. As he is nervous around women, he requests his friends to proxy for him. The situation turns into a chaos with much hilarity of course.

Hilol, Mosharrif Karim, Shaju Khadem, AKM Hasan, Tinni and Tripti Chakraborty are the main cast members of the telefilm.

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.
CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.
Teletext 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
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
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
08:30 Open University
09:15 Satellite Broadcast
12:05 Shangbad Potrer
12:30 Maa O Shishur
01:00 Shukhi Poribar
01:30 Hijol Tomal
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 ICC Trophy 2006: Australia Vs
04:30 Mahe Ramjan
10:25 Teknaf Thekey
11:30 pm Tetulia
CHANNEL-i
09:30 Shangbad Potrey
10:30 Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Trityomatra
11:05 Sports Time (Live)
12:30 Aj Dupurey O Citycell
Tarokakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar
01:30 Shangbad Potrey
10:30 Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Selected Drama
03:15 Amader Gaan
03:35 Sa Re Ga Ma
04:05 Gaaner Opore
05:00 Ramjanul
05:45 Vim Monohar Iftar
06:00 Srostar Shakhhor
06:35 Music Club
07:50 Hallo Minister
09:35 Talk Show: Aloy
10:00 Mega Serial: Jog
Beog

12:00 Grameenphone Aker
Shangbadpotro
CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprovat
09:15 Bangladesh
12:05 Pata Thekey
10:00 Cartoon
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
02:00 Ramjaner Swad
03:30 Drama Serial: Daar
Kaak
04:00 Rupantror Golpo
04:30 Eid Bazar
05:10 Muktir Mash Romjan
06:10 Saaj Bela
06:30 Top News
06:45 Jonotar Ishthihar
07:00 Ramjaner Swad
08:15 Drama Serial: Ghughur Basha
09:00 Drama Serial: Kanone Kushum
Koli
09:30 Amar Nayokera
Rtv
09:30 Talk Show: Ei mon
10:30 Char Deyal
12:05 Amar Desh
02:30 Shoto Proshno
03:40 Tele Film: Kotota
Path
04:30 Oisarjomoy Mahe
05:50 Monohar Iftar
06:00 Aker Bangladesh
06:35 Drishwa Kalpo
08:00 Tele Film: Kotota
Path
08:50 Griho Shoil
09:20 Drama Serial: Kagojer
Manush
10:45 Rtv Exlusive

PICK OF THE DAY
ICC Champions Trophy 2006
On BTV at 2:40pm
Australia Vs West Indies
Live from Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai
10:50 Prithibir Pathey
Pathey
BANGLAVISIO
10:00 Bangla Feature Film
02:30 Rastro Bonam Eka
03:00 Amader Ranna Ghar
03:30 Music Rhythim
04:00 Dehser Pathay
04:30 Get Sit Fit
05:00 Iftar Programme
06:25 Diner Sheshhey
06:40 Amader Ranna Ghar
08:10 Media Bhuban
09:20 Gourochondrica
09:50 Drama Serial:
Hashuli Begumer
Upokotha
HBO
09:30 Mystery Men
12:00 Shakespeare in
02:30 Snakehead Terror
04:30 US Marshals
07:15 The Shadow
09:30 ENVY
11:30 Deadwood 13: A Lie
Agreed Upon, Part 1
12:30 The Rookie
03:00 Pet Semetary II
05:00 Dead Canaries
STAR MOVIES
08:45 Starsky & Hutch
10:30 The Perfect

Building the Ultimate Fighter Jet
On Discovery Channel at 11:00pm
The highly sophisticated airborne weapon system platforms
11:00 Shaka Laka Boom
11:30 Boom
11:55 Karm Apna Apna
12:00 V First Day First Show-
Starplu
12:25 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:30 Bhabhi
12:35 Saarrthi
12:40 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi
Bahu Thi
12:50 Kahiin To Hoga
Karm Apna Apna
11:00 Neighbor
11:30 Thin Red Line
11:55 Dust Factory
12:00 Opening Night
12:05 White Noise
12:10 Chasing Ghosts
12:15 Life Aquatic With Steve
Zissou
STAR PLUS
08:30 Kyun Hota Hai Pyarr
09:00 V First Day First Show-
Starplu
09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa
Bandhan
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
10:30 Shaka Laka Boom
11:00 Shaka Laka Boom
11:30 Boom
12:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:25 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:30 Resham Dankh
12:35 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
12:40 Karm Apna Apna
12:50 V First Day First Show-
Starplu
1:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa
Bandhan
1:05 Bhabhi
1:10 Saarrthi
1:15 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi
Bahu Thi
1:20 Kahiin To Hoga
Karm Apna Apna

05:00 Prithviraj Chauhan
05:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:55 V First Day First Show-
Starplu
06:00 Mum Tum Aur Hum
06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:30 Buzz On Maggie
07:00 Timon And Pumbaa
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
07:30 Hatim
08:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
08:30 Antarkish
09:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
09:30 Viraasat
10:00 Karm Apna Apna
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi
Bahu Thi
11:30 Kahiin To Hoga
12:00 Paraya Dhan
STAR WORLD
08:00 Hollywood Squares
08:30 Cheers
09:00 The Simpsons
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey
Show
10:30 Secrets Of Street
Magicians
11:30 One Tree Hill
12:30 Ghost Whisperer
01:30 Knight Rider
02:30 The Bold And The
Beautiful
04:30 General Hospital
05:30 Monk
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Cheers
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 Ed
09:30 J.A.G.
10:30 J.A.G.
11:30 Friends
12:00 Friends
SONY
08:30 Shree Ganesh Spiritual
09:00 Telebrands Tele
Shopping
09:30 Chartbusters Music
10:00 Music Mantra Music
10:30 Music Beats Music
11:00 Crime Patrol Others
12:00 Kaajjal - Sabbki
Ankhon Mein Basi
Drama
12:30 Ek Ladki Anjaani Si
Drama
01:00 Thodi Khushi Thode
Gham Drama
01:30 Kabhie To Nazar Milao
Drama
02:00 Risshton Ki Dor Drama
02:30 Aisa Des Hai Mera
Drama
03:00 Mithnee - Humse
Badkar Kaun Movie
06:30 Music Beats Music
07:00 Music Mantra Music
07:30 Chartbusters Music
08:00 Thodi Khushi Thode
Gham Drama
08:30 Kaajjal - Sabbki
Ankhon Mein Basi
Drama
09:00 Ek Ladki Anjaani Si
Drama
09:30 Aisa Des Hai Mera
Drama
10:00 Thodi Khushi Thode
Gham Drama
10:30 Jhalak Dikhlaa Jaa
Dance
11:00 Contd. Dance
11:30 CID Thriller/ Horror
DISCOVERY
08:30 Africa Week
09:30 Honey We're Killing
The Kids
10:30 Baby Story
11:00 Runway Moms
11:30 Deadliest Catch
12:30 Body Basics
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Detective Stories
03:30 Dinosaur Planet
04:30 Africa Week
05:30 Science Frontiers
06:30 Junkyard Wars
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Deadliest Catch
09:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive
10:30 One Step Beyond
11:00 Building The Ultimate
11:30 Perfect Disaster
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:00 WWS Sky Shop
08:30 Big Bang - S 7
09:00 Nat Geo Junior
10:00 Wildlife Diary
10:30 The Great
Thirstland
11:30 Is It Real?
12:30 Earthpulse
01:30 Truth Files
02:30 Totally Wild
03:00 Wild Safari
03:30 Out There
04:00 Unwind
04:30 Big Bang - S 7
05:00 Nat Geo Junior
06:00 Wildlife Diary
06:30 Out There
07:00 Unwind
07:30 Nature's War Zone
08:30 Lost Treasure of Tibet
09:30 Search For Kennedy's
PT109