

CULTURAL FEAST

Poush Mela 2006

Inauguration of BanglaScot Foundation... Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka... Date: December 22... Time: 10am to 8pm

Asian Film Mela

Organiser: Dhaka Film Society... December 20... 2:30pm Harem Suare... 4:30pm Antarmahal... 6:30pm How's Moving Castle... December 21... 2:30pm Divine Intervention... 4:30pm The day I Became a Woman... 6:30pm Khelaghor... December 22... 2:30pm Good Men, Good Women... 4:30pm Chitra Nodir Pare... 6:30pm Raise the Red Lantern... December 23... 2:30pm Dekha... 5:00pm 2046/ In the Mood for Love... December 24... 2:30pm The Scent of Green... 4:30pm Cafe Transit... 6:30pm Palanka... December 25... 2:30pm House of Flying Daggers... 4:30pm Turn Left Turn Right... 6:30pm Omkara... December 26... 2:30pm Fireworks... 4:30pm West Beyrouth... 6:30pm Waiting for the Clouds... Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalachchitra Kendra Milonayaton, 62 Science Laboratory Road, Dhaka

Dhaka Art Circle 2006

Artists: Abu Taher, Samarjit Roy Choudhury, Mohammed Mohsin, Syed Enayet Hossain, Anwarul Huq, Rejaul Karim, Biren Shome, Matlub Ali, Swapan Chowdhury, Abdus Shakoor, Chandra Shekhar Dey and Rafi Haque... Venue: Shilpangan, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi... Date: December 18-31... Time: 9:00am-12:00pm and 5:00pm-8:00pm, except Saturdays (only 5:00pm-8:00pm)

6th art Exhibition of Euro-Asia [BD] CEDO

by 19 renowned painters... Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi... Date: December 14-28... Time: 9:00am-12:00pm and 5:00pm-8:00pm, except Saturdays (only 5:00pm-8:00pm)

Poetry Festival

Title: Muktiudhor o Swadhinotar Kobita Ushab2006... Organisers: Kabyomalanjoli and Bhashapokash... Venue: Bhashapokash, Concord Centre, Katabon and Kabyomalanjoli, Tropical Centre... Date: December 15-21... Time: 3:00pm

Theatre

500th staging of 'Kanjus'... Troupe: Loko Natyadal... Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy... Date: December 29

Street Play

Title: Narai... Troupe: Vision Theatre... Venue: Central Shaheed Minar... Date & Time: December 20, at 4:00 pm

Art extravaganza with panache

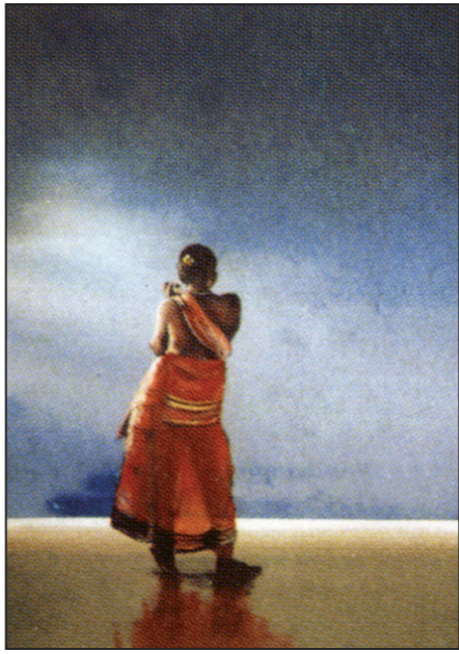
FAYZA HAQ

THE ongoing Euro-Asian art extravaganza, held at Alliance Francaise, and sponsored by the Norwegian Embassy is a pure pleasure. It brings in specimens of best works by the leading artists of the country, including young ones who won awards and accolades overseas. Considering style, theme, prowess and passion of the artists, it includes paintings of different mediums, sculpture and prints. Qamrul Islam Nadim -- known for his oil paintings and dance classes -- is the brain behind the superb exhibit. Showcased in two halls, it presents the works of experienced artists with panache.

Hamiduzzaman Khan's paintings dwell on nature in two pieces. The translucent and spontaneous watercolours give the effect of shining stainless steel pieces. They are called Nature 1 and Nature 2. "I've thrown in colours in a fun type way," Hamid says, adding, "The mingling of the gray colours forms the base of the vermilion, actual shindur (used for teep on the forehead). The scale is large but sophistication is maintained." The portrait presents two more overwhelming images (in watercolour). He says that



Splash of life in Shakhari Bazar by Alakesh Ghosh



Beauty in the river by Jamal Ahmed

he first sketches the drawing or paints in his better known sculpture, and thus painting comes naturally to him. Drawing, he says, is the basis of all art.

Abdus Shakoor Shah, who has six entries, has brought in folk art from the Mymensingh Ballads - "once more with feelings". However, three of the paintings do not contain any accompanying calligraphy, with poetry --elaborating on the themes. Some of them are different from his usual work as the use of colours are limited. "I elaborate on a theme, with my own interpretations and imagination. The portraits bear the thoughts of the subjects. I've used only black and white," he asserts. The Baroda University and Bengal School have left their influence on them.

Swapan Chowdhury's abstract works have their inspiration in nature. Done on handmade paper, the experimental paintings have used graphics along with water-colour. Collage too has been introduced in the works. "Nature is my subject," he insists. "I transform them into my thoughts and passion. I've arranged little, varied, forms in different places. Whatever one



From the nature by Abul Barq Alvi

sees in landscapes around, in hills, dales, rivers and skies are included as relief forms, in the mixed-media paintings."

Sculpture images are brought in four stirring pieces by Ivy Zaman. In Dream she has brought in images from her memory, with which she has put in her own perceptions. Three are bronze casting and the other is direct metal stainless steel composition of sheets. This stylised face too has its origin in dreams. "Just as I can't walk or run in my dreams, so the subject too is static," she says.

Shulekha Chowdhury has three paintings on canvas and paper. "One is a mixed media work, in which I've used pastel and charcoal and the rest are in acrylic. I want to present the emotions and feelings of my present existence, with the stifling environment -- both local and universal. However, I'm not entirely pessimistic. Thus my repeated themes are man and environment." Along with the impeccable paintings of Farida Zaman and Rokeya Sultana, she said a lot for the standard of women painters.

Clowns without borders back in Bangladesh

In March 2004 and March 2005, volunteer artists from the French organisation 'Clowns without borders', (Clowns sans frontieres) came to Bangladesh and staged shows for deprived children and families.

All in all, 30 performances were given in Chittagong, Dhaka and Jessore for more than 11,000 people.

This December 2006, the 'Clowns' are back in Bangladesh. The artists have been performing since the beginning of this month. The performances will continue till December 23, says a press release. Their aim is to bring moments of joy and festivity to the deprived children of Dhaka and Chittagong, but also in the char area around Sirajganj. This third visit of the Clowns is organised at the request of many organisations involved in children rehabilitation projects or in cultural projects such as Terre des Hommes Italy, Save the Children UK and Sweden, Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA) and Community Development Centre (CODEC).

In Dhaka, they will organise a workshop with children involved in theatre groups with Save the



Clowns regale the children

Children. Another workshop will be organised with Terre des Hommes Italy, Aparajevo and Arban with the teachers and educators working in the slums. Six children to be selected from these workshops will go along with the 'Clown Without Borders' to the char areas to perform with the French artistic team.

Around Sirajganj, they will perform in "Chow Hali" area, in favour of the chars populations. The child participants of the workshop in Dhaka will join the team and perform with the French artists. In Chittagong, the artists will perform in the villages around Shitakunda and Chandeneish, in collaboration with CODEC. They will also visit an orphanage for girls (Prabartak Samgha) in Chittagong.

Children's drama serial receives international award



A still from the serial

A selected episode of children's drama serial Friends of Sindabad was awarded The Dodic Spittal Award recently, says a press release. This award was given to the serial in the course of Picture this... Canada's First International Disability Film Festival this year.

The serial was a joint production of Handicap International and National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD). The filmmaker was Answer Bradsmith Limited. Bapparaj, Mou and other child artists play the lead roles in the serial.

The award was given in recognition of the role of the film in educating and changing attitudes about disability in Bangladesh, especially amongst children and youth.

A solo soiree by Promod Dutta

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Music Company Limited organised a Rabintra Sangeet soiree Hoimantik at the Biam Auditorium, recently. The evening saw a solo performance by Promod Dutta. Dr Korunamoyi Goswami and Jayanto Chattapadhyaya presided over the event.

In total, Promod sang 21 melodious songs, including Shudhu tomar baneer noy go, Choron dhoreity diyo go amare, Shraboner dharar moto poruk jhorey, Chaitro pobone moto chittiboney, Na na dakbo na dakbo na, Noho mata, noho konna noho bodhu and Deener sheshe ghumer deshe...

There was an interesting catch to the evening as Jayanto Chattapadhyaya recited four literary pieces in order to analyze the difference between Tagore songs and poetry.

Before each song Dr Korunamoy Goswami gave short introductions in order to familiarise the audience with the plot and background of the songs.

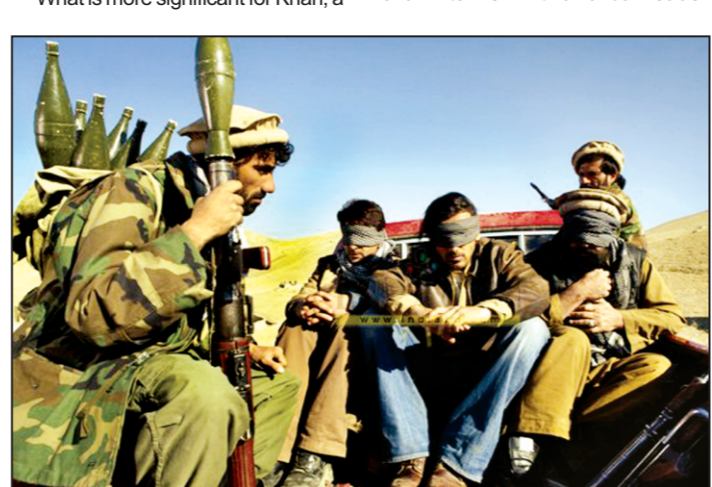
While Promod Dutta took the audience through the songs, Firoz Khan accompanied him on the sitar, Almas Ali on the behala, Shahidul Islam on the flute, Raju Chowdhury on the tabla, Mohammad Shukkur on the moudira, Nice Chowdhury on the guitar and Ruponti on the keyboard.

'Kabul Express': A departure from Bollywood formula films

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

From an award-winning documentary maker to feature film and that too under the most sought-after banner of Bollywood is no less a fairy-tale big-screen debut for young director Kabiir Khan. His much talked about feature film Kabul Express stars Arshad Warsi, John Abraham, Pakistani, Afghan and American actors.

What is more significant for Khan, a graduate from Jamia Milia University in Delhi, is that Yash Raj Films, the producer of Kabul Express, has deviated radically from its trademark Bollywood formula movies with a political film on post-Taliban Afghanistan, in allowing him to direct the film the way he wanted to.



A dramatic moment in the film

and deals with their journey from Kabul to Pakistan.

To capture a South Asian audience, he included besides Warsi and Abraham, Pakistani actor Salman Shahid, Afghan actor Hanif Hum Ghum and American actress Linda Arsenio who play the roles of characters who are forced to trust each other during an abduction ordeal spread over 36 hours.

Khan's first feature film was the result of his experiences of shooting his documentaries in Afghanistan, including The Taliban Years and Beyond shown on Discovery channel in 2003 and The Titanic Sinks in Afghanistan about environmental degradation in that country which won the International SASA award.

In shooting Kabul Express in Afghanistan, Khan and his team encountered security threats and landmines, which halted the shooting of the film temporarily.

But Yash Raj Films seems to have faith in Khan's abilities. He has already been given three more projects by the same producer.

Other award winning documentaries by Khan are: The Forgotten Army (winner of Grand Jury award at Film South Asia Festival) and Two Assassinations and an Accident (National Award).

'Tushar Rohoshyo': TV play with a supernatural overtone

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Ongoing TV serial Tushar Rohoshyo, aired on ATN Bangla, has a supernatural angle. The central character, Tushar moves back from US and aims to dedicate himself to social work. However, tragedy strikes and a launch capsizes ends his life. In every episode Tushar's restless soul wanders the earth. The series written by Qamrul Huda includes an impressive cast.

Directed by Kazi Jahangir, the serial has different stories based on relevant social problems, featuring over 100 artists. Every story explores fresh creative techniques.

Talking about the serial, Jahangir says, "Though the serial has different stories, there is room to involve many artists. I want to convey a strong social message to the audience through the drama serial." The play airs tonight at 9:20pm.



Litu Anam (R) and co-artist in the serial

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Aloe Bhuvan Bhora On Channel i at 9:35pm Talk show hosted by Aly Zaker Today's guest Dr. Sanjida Khatun



Joba Kushum On Banglavisation at 8:10pm Drama Serial Cast: Litu Anam, Diti

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, 12:15 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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.

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. 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) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

CHANNEL 1 News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am.

BANGLAVISATION News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm. News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm. News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm.

RTV News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm. News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am.

BTV 08:30 Open University 09:05 Shomapti 12:05 Dasher Gaan 12:30 Maa O Shishur Kotla 01:00 Shukhi Poribar 01:30 Hijol Tomal 02:15 Sisimpur 02:40 Alor Shotadol 03:05 Cartoon 03:30 Cricket Shekha 04:00 Esho Computer Shikhi 04:30 Oi Notuner Keton Urey 05:30 Cartoon 06:40 Shondha Maloti 07:00 Mati O Manush 07:30 Musical Programme 08:30 Protidin Bangladesh 08:40 Musical Programme 09:00 Drama Serial: Megh Roddur 09:25 Dance Programme 10:30 Shotorupa

ATN BANGLA 10:30 Anyodrishti 11:05 Talk Show: Meet the Press 12:15 Cinema Cinema 01:30 Gaane Surey Tarunne 02:30 Musical Programme 03:10 Drama Serial: Bhalo Bashar Rang 04:20 Islamic Programme 05:10 Job Vacancy

05:45 Islamic Programme 06:20 Aktel Protidin 08:00 Drama Serial: Jollad 08:40 Drama Serial: Bohemiyon 09:20 Drama Serial: Tushar Rohoshyo CHANNEL-i 09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh 09:45 Cartoon 09:50 Tritiyomatra 11:05 Sports Time (Live) 12:30 Citycell Tarokakathon 01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 01:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh 01:45 Public Reaction 02:40 Selected Drama 04:05 Amader Gaan 04:25 Sa Re Ga Ma Gaaner Oporey 05:30 Hallo Minister 09:35 Talk Show: Aloe Bhuvan Bhora Mega Serial: Jog Biog 10:00 Gramerphone Aiker Shangbadpotro

08:00 Griho Shoily 08:50 Drama Serial: Kagojer Manush 10:45 Rtv Exclusive 10:50 Prithibir Pothey Pothey

BANGLAVISATION 08:35 Shubho Shokal 09:05 Ki Jadu Bangla Gaaney 09:30 Bangla Feature Film 02:30 Drama Serial: Shonar Phool 03:00 Raat Biratey 03:45 Agamir Kantyo 05:00 Get Sit Fit 05:30 Diner Sheshey

06:30 Shurer Bhuvan 08:10 Drama Serial: Joba Kushum 09:15 Media Bhuvan 09:50 Drama Serial: Rupantor 04:30 The Shadow 06:45 Tales from the crypt 42: The Pit 07:30 The Adventures of Shahr boy and Lava Girl 09:30 XXX: The Next Level 11:30 "Deadwood 22: Advances, None Miraculous" 12:30 The4 American President 02:15 Kicking and Screaming (2005) 04:15 The Making of Anacondas: The Hunt For the Blood Orchid

06:30 Big Bang - S 7 06:00 Nat Geo Junior 06:30 Inside 07:30 Wild 08:30 ShowReal Asia 09:30 Nat Geo Utsav 10:30 Inside 11:30 Hunter Hunted

08:00 Griho Shoily 08:50 Drama Serial: Kagojer Manush 10:45 Rtv Exclusive 10:50 Prithibir Pothey Pothey

04:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 04:30 General Hospital 05:30 Desire: Table For Three 06:30 The Simpsons 07:00 Cheers 07:30 Friends 08:00 Seinfeld 08:30 Ed 09:30 Ed 10:30 Grey's Anatomy 11:30 Desire: Table For Three

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