

Metropolitan

● What's on today... ●

Lecture: A lecture by Surita Sandosham, Executive Director of Equality Now on women's rights as human rights, organised by the United States Information Service, will be delivered. Venue: American Club, Road No 69, Gulshan. Time: 10:30 am.

Seminar: A seminar on 'Public examination method in Bangladesh: Crisis and suggestions' will be held. Venue: Atomic Energy Commission auditorium. Time: 3 pm. A N Rasheda, editor of the Shikya Barta, will present the key-note paper.

Aranyak Nattyadal: As part of a 4-day programme on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of Aranyak two dramas 'Mother of Maxim Gorkey by Hemanga Sangskritik Sangstha, West Bengal, India and Moner Muktika by Aranyak will be staged. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 11 am.

● and tomorrow ●

Zahir Raihan Film Society: The society will screen 'Sonar Keila' by Satyajit Ray to mark his birth anniversary. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No. 25, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5 pm.

Muktobak: Muktobak will present a collection of stories based on Russian fairy tales titled 'Phirey Chaai Jiyonkathi'. Venue: Kendriya Kanchi Kanchi Mela auditorium. Time: 6:45 pm.

Aranyak Nattyadal: As part of a 4-day Silver Jubilee celebrations of Aranyak a discussion on 'Recent int'l cultural situation and May Day' will be held and two dramas 'Kenona Manush' by Hemanga Sangskritik Sangstha of West Bengal, India and Aranyak's 'Joyjoyanti' will be staged. Venue: Mahila Samity Manch, Baily Road. Time: 10 am and 7 pm.

Painting exhibition: A solo painting exhibition by Nasir Biswas titled 'Paintings '96' will open. Venue: Gallery Tone, House No. 47, Road No. 1, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5 pm.

Seminar: A seminar on "Development of Grameen Library System for Providing Information Support to the Rural People of Bangladesh", organised by the Library Association of Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: TTDC auditorium, Dhamrai. Time: 10 am.

Memorial meeting: The Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioner's Association (BPMPA) Dhaka Metropolitan Branch will hold a discussion in memory of its former general secretary late Dr Ashiqul Alam. Venue: BPMPA auditorium at 215/A, Bara Maghbazar. Time: 9 am.

FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE OF INDIA, PUNE

Two FTII scholarships will be offered to Bangladeshi nationals by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India, for Diploma in Film Direction, Diploma in Motion Picture Photography and Diploma in Audiography. Candidates with Bachelors degree from a recognised university can apply. Application forms are available with the ISI Wing of the High Commission of India at House No. 121, Road No. 3, Dhanmondi, Dhaka (Tel. No. 507743) till 8th May 1997. D-520

Monir's exhibition begins tomorrow



A fortnight-long special painting exhibition by internationally reputed artist Monir (Monirul Islam) will be inaugurated today at the Shilpangam, Road No 5, House 25, Dhanmondi, says a press release.

Eminent educationist Prof Kabir Chowdhury will inaugurate the exhibition at 5 pm at the art gallery of the Shilpangam. Prof Anisuzzaman will be present as chief guest. Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed will preside over the inaugural ceremony. The exhibition will continue till May 16. It will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm.

ROK donates ambulance to JS

Republic of Korea (ROK) yesterday donated a fully equipped modern ambulance to the Jatiya Sangsad.

Earlier Tae Kyu Han, ambassador of ROK called on the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury at his Sangsad Bhaban office.

The ambulance, gift from the Korean government, was donated to the Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Medical Centre.

Speaker Chowdhury thanked the Korean government for the donation.

Scholarship for medical students

Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has recently announced a scholarship scheme for the top three medical students of 8 government medical colleges of the country. To mark the inauguration of the scheme a simple ceremony was organised by Square's Medical Services Department (MSD) at Square Centre, says a press release.

At the beginning of the programme the Executive Director of Square Group, Dr AR Q Baksh delivered the opening address. Marketing Manager Mr. Arshad -ul-Alam discussed about Square's success in the country's corporate sector in a talk titled "Voyage through Time." Dr. Samir Kanti Saha, Manager, MSD, first spoke about the present and future plans of MSD and then he delivered a formal lecture on "Chronic stable heart failure."

BTV denies BNP's allegations

Bangladesh Television (BTV) Tuesday denied BNP's allegations regarding TV coverage of the news of leader of the opposition in parliament, reports BSS.

Referring to the BNP's comment on the proposal of live telecast of a joint programme of the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition, the BTV said "BNP has given misleading information in its statement published in a section of newspapers today by saying that BTV did not give television coverage of the news of opposition leader's meetings," an official handout said. "This is not correct," the handout added.

It said, actually BTV did not get any response from the BNP despite its earnest request since last year to let it know about important public meetings of the Leader of the Opposition, her press conference, party convention and calls on by important personalities from home and abroad.

Flood information centre in city

The flood information centre of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) starts functioning in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The centre at the 8th floor of WAPDA building in Motijheel will disseminate day-to-day information about rainfall and water level of the rivers.

It will remain open everyday including holidays from 8 am to 2:30 pm and up to 10 pm under any emergency situation.

The centre will operate till September 30 until further order, sources said.

Disappearance day of 2 martyred brothers tomorrow

The 26th anniversary of disappearance of two martyred brothers — Salim Ullah and Zahir Hossain — will be observed tomorrow, said a press release.

On this day in 1971, the Pak occupation forces abducted the two brothers from their Deobogh residence in Narayanganj and they could not be traced later.

On this occasion, a day-long Gurankhwan will be held and the destitutes will be fed at their 30 LNA Road in Deobogh.

Shahneen Salimullah is the father of Khwaja Rahmatullah, the former hockey player and the manager of Abahani hockey team.

Farewell reception

Chemical Engineering Alumni Association of Bangladesh held a farewell and prize distribution ceremony for the meritorious students of Level 4, Term 2 of Chemical Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, says a press release.



'Over 25 US cos offer sex tours to Asia'

By Govinda Shil

More than 25 US companies offer sex tours to Asia, "Real sex with real girls, all for real cheap," boasted one California sex tour company in its advertising brochure.

Surita Sandosham — Executive Director of "Equality Now" (EN), a New York based international human rights organisation — told The Daily Star in an interview on Monday: "The main destinations of these companies are the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos."

Surita is currently meeting with NGOs, government officials and international organisations in Bangladesh to build a network to fight discrimination and all forms of oppression and violence against women.

Surita said the production of pornographic pictures and films in the US was not illegal, and that this material sometimes indirectly encouraged people to indulge in sex tours.

There is a strong debate over producing those, because it is the right of any US citizen under the country's Constitution," she said. "But I feel this material degrades women."

Surita said although prostitution was illegal in every US state except Nevada, it secretly continued everywhere.

Surita wants to study the nature of oppression and violence against women in the South Asian sub-region.

She said the times had changed and women were now far more aware of their rights. She said she believed public pressure could force governments worldwide to protect women from rape, torture, trafficking and all forms of discrimination.

Obituary

Jalal Ahmad, 85, father of the director-general of Health Services Prof. A K M Nurul Anwar died of old-age complications at his Chittagong village home yesterday, reports BSS.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf condoled the death of late Jalal Ahmad.

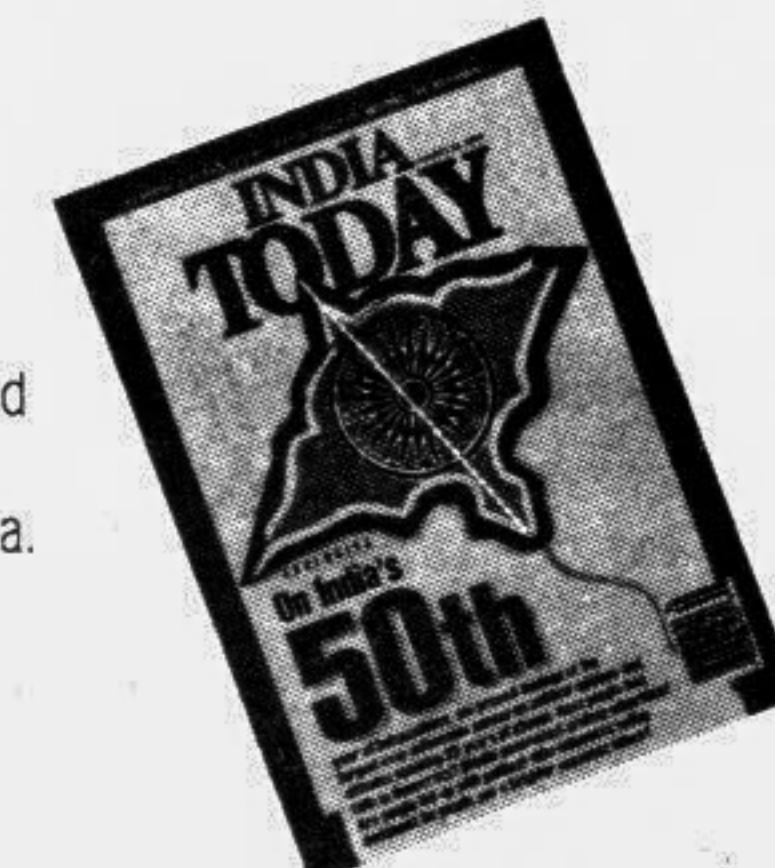
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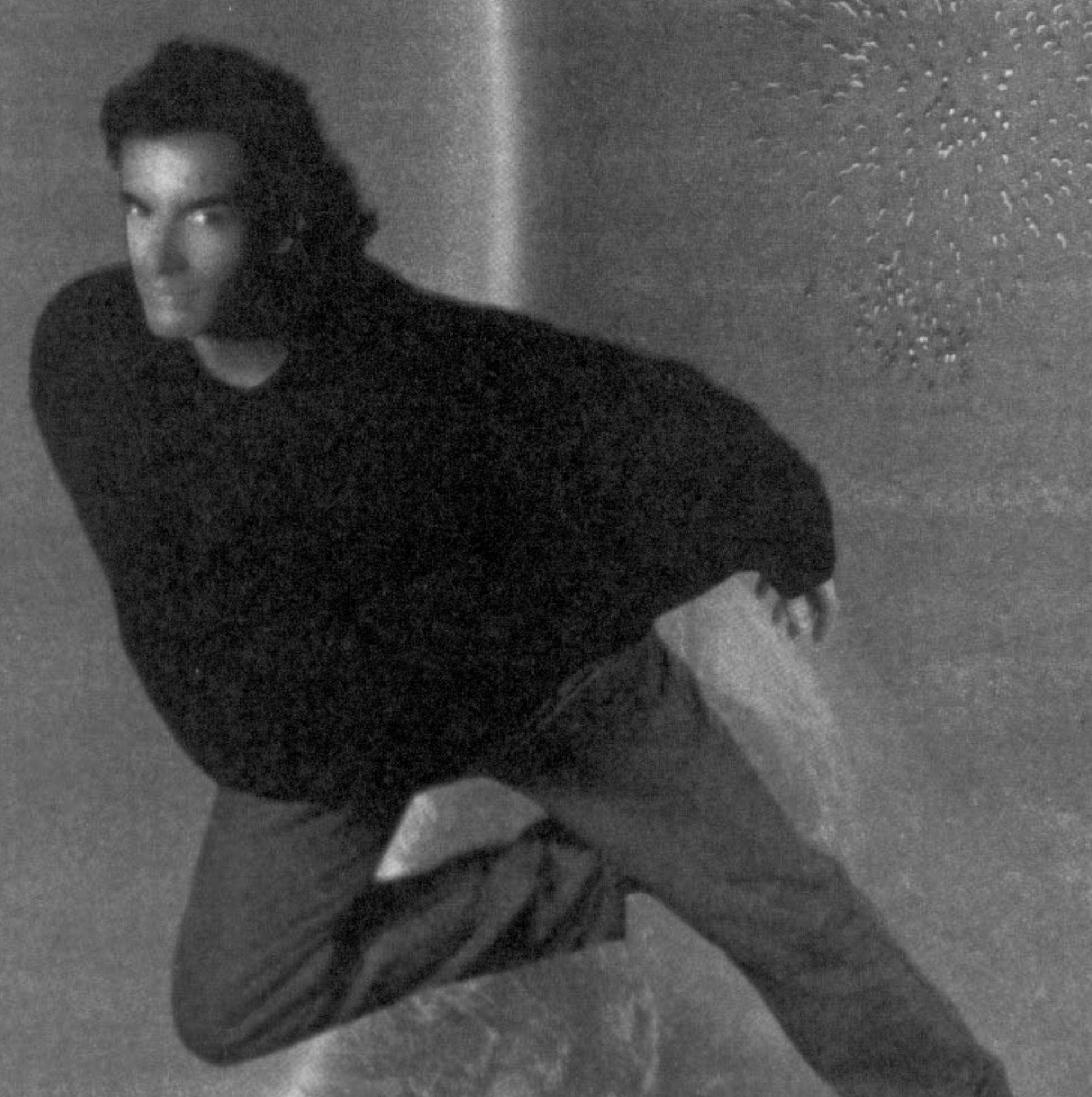
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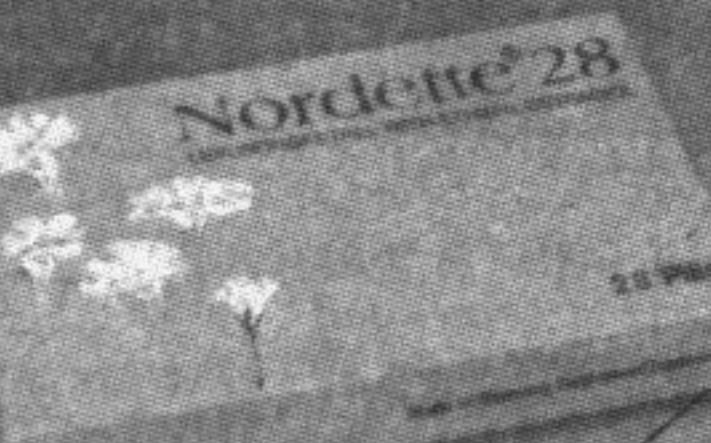
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