

RECOMMENDATIONS

Film Shows & Seminar

Rainbow Film Society organises a four-day international film shows on the theme of genocide at Liberation War Museum (LWM) auditorium from January 22 to 25 at 5:00 p.m. every day. The LWM holds a seminar on the topic "Genocide: Woman War and Justice" today at 4:00 p.m.

Classical Music Concert

As a part of their South Asia Tour 2002, 'Ensemble Resonanz' a classical orchestra will perform at the Osmani Memorial Hall today at 7:00 p.m. The programme is organised by Goethe Institut (German Cultural Centre).

Exhibition by Russian artists

Organised by the Russian Cultural Centre, Dhaka a show of contemporary art by Russian artists Poliakov Vasily and Persidskiy Konstantin is being held at the Exhibition Hall of the Russian Cultural Centre, House # 510, Road # 7, Dhanmondi R/A. The show ends on February 8, 2002.

Art show of three Bengali pioneers

An exhibition showcasing works of pioneer artists Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hassan and S.M. Sultan--of Bangladeshi art movement is being held at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts at Dhanmondi. This show is the second of a series presented from the collection of Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation. The exhibition will be open from January 12 to February 7, 2002 from 12 p.m. till 8 p.m. everyday

Group Art Show

The 45th Grand Group Art Exhibition of leading Bangladeshi artists organised by Saju Art Gallery is now being held at its gallery space at Gulshan, North Super Market 2nd circle. The month-long show, open to all, will run until February 7 from 10 am to 8:30 pm barring Fridays.

2nd solo exhibition

The 2nd solo art exhibition by artist Rezaul Hoque Lito is being held at the High Commission of India Cultural Centre (754 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi). The exhibition will remain open for all from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. that ends today.

Exhibition

United for a cause

Photography clubs from eight universities of the country are participating in an exhibition in the city to raise fund for acid victims

AZIZ AMIRUL

PHOTOGRAPHY could be one of the best spokesmen for depicting a wide range of themes including those of nature, landscape and social norm as well as a mode of aid for the needy ones. This perspective proved its relevance through 'Lipton Inter University Photography Exhibition 2002' that started in aid of acid victims at DRIK gallery in the city on January 20.

The exhibition, participated by members of eight different public and private university photography clubs, is being held for the second consecutive year organised by the

photography club of North South University (NSU). Clubs form participating institutions are North South University, Independent University, Asia Pacific University, BRAC University, Dhaka University, BUET, Jahangirnagar University and Shahjalal University. The first four are private institutions while the rest belong to Government administration. The exhibition's previous congregation was an affair solely within private academies. A total of 114 frames of colour prints under a range of categorical subject and composition obtained place on the walls of the compact gallery. The weeklong event is especially significant in the way that all sales' proceedings will reach the Acid Victims'

Fund, set up by the Management of Daily Prothom-Alo. The exhibits have been put under categories of Lifestyle, Still-life, Portrait, Nature and Landscape.

Mixed portfolio of the exhibits provides an immense opportunity to the viewer to inspect and explore the diverse behavioral attitude and objectives of human life in conditions of dilemma and also that of pleasure.

'Ami Pangu ami pitrihara ...' (I am a crippled orphan) stated by a subject within a photo, stirs a sense of pathetic emotion of the human mind, a similar depiction alongside shows an old female vagabond lying in distress in the middle of a busy thoroughfare.

Some of the more prominent subjects in the form of portrait try to focus the sentimental issues of the inner psychic mind of a person. In 'Shewla Konna' the modest facial appearance of a girl child against the moss-covered background symbolises an uncertain future of the juvenile female who is completely unaware of the possible crude consequences of life.

'Untitled' is another portrait that contains a female face, symbolic of exquisite beauty. A probable reason behind the ambiguous title may remain in the fact that the photographer actually wanted viewers to accept the concept of beauty in their respective status of preference. A significant analytical objective of the portrait and lifestyle photos is the contrasting presentation of character subjects whose ages ranged between teens and up to octogenarian. The facial expressions of the immature children act as strong contrasts against that of experienced and aged male or female faces in many of the photographs.

Elegance of Mother Nature and landscape can be found in a number of exhibits that ranges between a wide choice of subjects ranging from close-up shots of floral matters up to wide panoramic view of river banks and forest clearings. The role of light and shadow along with detailed depiction of colour and texture find place in many of the framed pieces. Some of the elaborate



details appear in the photos like that of a brightly illustrated tiny spider against the milieu of shiny sparkles of dewdrop, hanging from cobwebs and fresh sprouting twigs. Contrasting colour combinations with intricate compositions have given astonishing outlook to some photos yet some seem to be more of an arranged type due to the use of filtered lens.

Exhibits of the still life category bear certain exaggerated look due

to excessive use of arranged ideas though a few are superbly composed like the one with condition of sprinkling water from a leaked water tap that has remained unattended by the indifferent passers-by. I took this particular snap after realising the issue of water wastage that is a common scene in urban areas', mentioned Naima Sultana, a student of NSU participating in the exhibition.

Few of the aims of holding such



an exhibition among university students are to develop quality photographers from among the participants and moreover to provide them opportunity to reveal their hidden potentials. And now it seems that all these goals have so far been accomplished through the hosting of the ongoing exhibition with eight major universities of the country in the affair and credit should certainly be given to the hosts, the photography club of NSU.

It is of immense pleasure to note that a tendency of positive awareness has developed among the young generation in matters related with rehabilitation of the distressed community.

The exhibition remains open from 11 a.m. till 9 p.m. everyday before ending on January 26 with a prize-distribution ceremony to the winners, two from each category.

Music

The fiesta of Bauls and Boyatis

Bauls and Boyatis from all over the country makes the third day of 'Folk Music Festival 2002' a success

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

ON the third day of the 'Folk Music Festival 2002', the auditorium seemed fully packed much ahead of the commencement of program. The folk music fanatics of the city attended the rare opportunity to experience the mystic music of Bauls and Boyatis who came to participate from across the country.

Like in previous meets, this year's festival proved its success right from the inaugural day. The second day of the festival featuring different types of folk music all over the country was also very entertaining. But the evening of Bauls and Boyatis was something completely different. The first three performers of the evening were Khurshid Alam Sharkar, Shahid Dewan and Abdul Hai Dewan with their respective groups. The charismatic rhythm of the Dholok generated movements and the crowd was able to feel the music in their body. 'Nayan Pagol Koirare' was the song with which Babul Sharkar and his team started their performance. The long hair head banging and body shaking of the performers was able to make the audience move. Female per-

former Jahanara Bikrampur and her team took the stage next. She performed 'Tui Amake Bolle Bondhu' and the famous number 'Ami to More Jabo'.

Next came Motaleb Dewan, a Baul who plays the violin and sings. 'O Bhai Baul Beshe Ghuri Firi...' was the number with which Motaleb's performance started. His next number was 'Bondhu Ailana'. The crowd loved his performance. Alam Sharkar and his team started their performance with the song 'Doyalre Tomar Oi Bicharer Dine'. This religious number described the judgment day. The mystic sound of the flute and the rhythmic flow of the Dholok created a unique atmosphere. 'Ami Ek Dagi Ashami' was the number with which Tarab Ali and his team started their performance. The celebrated folk number 'Amar Jabar Shomoy Holo' were their following number.

Another female performer Shahanaz Talukder and her team took the stage next. She sang, 'Ami Gai Gai Go'. The audience enjoyed her powerful voice. The other performers of the evening were Suruj Dewan, Jamal Dewan, Akbar Ali Shai and Dewan Abul Kalam.

Famous singer Abdur Rahman Boyati was the main attraction of the show and her performed last. The crowd greeted him and cheered as he walked on stage. He started his performance with the most famous folk number 'Mon Amar Deho Kori'. The audience loved his performance and started to dance with his music. The song with which this remarkable evening came to an end was 'Manushe Manush Biraje'. While talking to the Daily Star, Abdur Rahman Boyati said, "Festivals like this should be arranged more than once a year. Festivals like this unite us and we Bauls and Boyatis find mental peace when we meet." He also said that after BTB's show 'Shamol Chaya' stopped the folk singers of the country specially the Bauls and Boyatis are not getting any chance to reach the audience. He and other performers of the evening urged the necessity of the programme.

There was a special appeal of mysticism in the entire program that made the audience feel highly elated. 'This type of events should be hosted throughout the year and in different district venues', observed a member of the audience.



Bauls performing at the Folk Festival

Fashion



Belgian action star Jan-Claude Van Damme listens to queries during a press preview at Tokyo, of his film 'Replicant'



French Premier Lionel Jospin (C), Palais de Tokyo director Jerome Sans (2nd R), Culture Minister Catherine Tasca (R) views an artwork at Palais de Tokyo in Paris

YSL to continue love affair

Fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent reveals his present intention on romantic issues

AFP, Paris

HOURS before unveiling his last ever fashion collection on Tuesday, innovative designer Yves Saint Laurent said his love affair with women was not over and hinted he had other cards up his sleeve.

"My life has been a love affair with women," Saint Laurent told French daily Le Monde in an interview. "That dialogue is not over yet ... I would like to think that affair won't stop here."

He said his farewell collection, due to be presented at the Centre Georges Pompidou art gallery in central Paris at 7 p.m. (1800 GMT), would be "the quintessence of haute couture ... lightness, purity and line ... like a

breath of air".

"It's a very sensual collection, not one based on sex," he explained, attacking the "pomo-chic ... horrors produced by a small clique ... in the fashion industry that makes a lot of noise but is cut off from real life".

"I finish the catwalk with silk chiffon dresses because no-one knows how to make silk chiffon dresses," he explained of his swansong. "It's the hardest thing to do. It's all about the liquid fall of the material."

The interview was part of an eight-page tribute to the revered 65-year-old designers, who announced on January 7 that he was retiring after four decades at the pinnacle of fashion.

In those 40 years, Saint

Laurent revolutionised women's clothes with mould breaking garments like trouser suits that matched the wearers' increasingly active lifestyles. He also earned praise for his versatility, wit, opulence and incredible cuts from an industry known for its bitchiness and petty jealousy.

Saint Laurent told Le Monde his couture house -- a business "based on love" and modelled on the house of his former employer Christian Dior -- would continue functioning "until July" and would "not close abruptly".

"That would be impossible," he added.

The melancholy Saint Laurent, speaking from his gold and red office off the Champs-

Elysees, said he was bowing out because haute couture had died.

"None of today's fashion houses can reach that level of elegance... We live in a world of decadence and disorder. The struggle for elegance and beauty made me deeply sad... I felt sidelined and alone," he said.

Asked what his last message to women as a designer was, he said: "Above all, rely on your seductiveness."

And he hinted he already had other cards up his sleeve.

"I'm looking for something more that what I'm doing today. If I knew what, I'd tell you. It's a feeling I've had for several seasons, every time I create a collection."

"When I think of all the people I'll be leaving behind, it'll be very painful. They're all my children. I'd like to keep this address," he said.

"We'll continue to surprise you," he continued. "Who knows? After all, Mademoiselle (Coco) Chanel went back into business when she was 71."

In the immediate future Saint Laurent said he wanted to go back to writing blank verse, a "genuine passion" that had absorbed him for five or six years before the enthusiasm waned in the early 1990s.

French novelist and literary critic Natalie Sarraute had told him to take up writing, he confided.