

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.

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.

Certificate awarding ceremony

The certificate giving ceremony of Prachyanat School of Acting & Design will take place today at 4 in the evening at Mahila Samity Auditorium. Najma Anwar will be chief guest while Suborna Mustafa will be special guest. He ceremony will be followed by a performance of Anton Chekhov's one act play The Proposal translated and adopted by Shahed Iqbal.

Cinema

Imagining East Germany today Zooming in on Dhaka

Film show titled East Germany Today showcases four films focusing the turbulent events of 1989/90

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A film session titled 'Ostdeutschland heute' (East Germany Today), featuring four feature films, begins at the auditorium of Goethe Institut on February 11 will be showed till January 14.

Abschied von Agnes (1994, colour, 97 min.), **Der Kontrollleur** (1994, colour, 63 min.), **Die Vergebung** (1994, colour, 95 min.) and **Not a Love Song** (1997, b/w, 88 min.) would appear as feature films along with two other documentaries **Da habt ihr mein Leben...** (1997, colour & b/w, 141 min.), **Wittstock-Wittstock**, (1997, b/w, 110 min.).

It should be noted that none of these films, however, depict the present condition of the eastern part of Germany.

The productions of four films as a

whole are simply approximation of the atmosphere and fragmented pictures of the eastern regions of the nation. A summation of review from all the films will give us a clearer picture about eastern Germany and their style and trend of living.

The films come from a place that can be regarded as a center stage of events. The films are from makers and unit members who come from the eastern part of the country, with possession of vast real-life experience those of the characters seen in the films.

The films have been produced between 1994 and 1997 and vividly reflect the overall condition and experience during the period of late 80's and early 90's when the actual amalgamation had taken place.

The filmmakers, on one hand, attempt to grasp a complex process of merging of the two German



nations while on the other hand try to evaluate the social order and psychic state of the citizens living in the united Germany today. One should realise that even in the present time there is plenty of shakiness-from-core, in the Eastern German society, unable to erase the influence of the past.

The eastern German feature films differ considerably from each other in terms of synopsis, in the particular type of genre they represent and in the way the stories are presented to the audience. The films were made in the early and mid 90's when there was some intense inner pressure among filmmakers to come to terms with the past and present history of eastern part of Germany.

If one looks at the contemporary

German cinema, the topic of eastern Germany is rarely found among the more popular ones. A similar notion can be drawn from these films, all of which have a deviation of the course from the usual norm.

Of course, these socially important films have lost nothing significant as the creators have continually been in search of truth and idealism, also imbued with a deep yearning for exploring the possibilities as well as dangers of the adult world. The creators have chosen their productions not as some throwaway product, rather as a strong medium of cultural ideology.

In all their variations, the films to be exhibited remain as a true reflection of eastern Germany and of the world.

Photography

An eight-day photography show titled The Changing Faces of Dhaka opens at DRIK on Sunday

CULTURE DESK

A photo exhibition entitled 'The Changing Faces of Dhaka' starts at DRIK gallery in the city on January 27, 2002.

The exhibition will display works done by 10 students of Pathshala, the South Asian Institute of Photography, at the Modern Aspects of Photography workshop. Two German photographers Christoph Mukherjee and David Steets conducted the 8-day long workshop in Dhaka last November.

Pathshala, the educational wing of DRIK Picture Library, organiser of an earlier workshop, is the co-host of the forthcoming exhibition along with Goethe-Institut Dhaka.

The workshop, specifically, dealt on the style and approach of contemporary German photography that can be utilised in making journalistic documentary photographs. As mentioned by Steets, 'German contemporary photography speaks through a special language that has influenced the rest of Europe for the last four years'. Steets, on highlighting the thrust of the workshop, explained and elaborated on their strategy that seemed to be a fine attempt of tutelage for the photogra-

phers of Bangladesh. 'We are trying to introduce a special style among the enthusiastic photographers and photojournalists in this country so that they acquire an additional access to certain topics concerning journalistic documentary photography'.

Christoph Mukherjee, the other German instructor of the workshop also revealed some highly interesting aspects of contemporary photography during the inauguration of the workshop in November. 'There are two different areas, one being the classical form of doing reportage and the other being the modern contemporary approach which uses certain photographic techniques that try to present not only specific subjects but also their background at different levels, something which are not always visible in clear mind'.

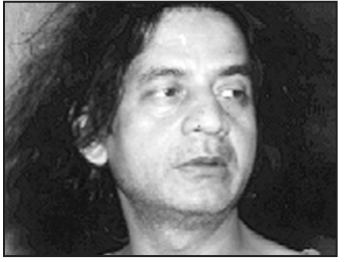
The approaching exhibition would certainly be a superb visual record for the present generation. The viewers would find the event to be a fascinating medium in observing and exploring the gradual change that has taken place over years in the lives and in social customs of Dhaka, a city that treasured many tales and happenings over the last several centuries.



Exhibition

Blending colours with rhythm

Shahabuddin, internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi painter, amazes an audience at a Fund Raising joint performance in Kolkata on January 21 evening



TOWFIQUE ALI

PARIS based renowned Bangladeshi painter Shahabuddin and US based Kathak maestro Chitresh Das jointly performed on an evening which experienced a fusion of two art forms dance and painting, at Hotel Taj Bengal, Kolkata. Their joint efforts were dedicated to contribute to the fund for construction of an Art Theatre Complex named 'Blind Opera' at Sham Bazar, Kolkata. Being invited by Taj Bengal Hotel, Shahabuddin captured the footsteps of Chitresh in his colour giving shape to his imagination. Both the artists exchanged their creative energy for a noble cause. Creation out of a good move, the painting would be sold off to help Blind Opera.

An exceptional joint programme, Chitresh Das narrated a poetic tale of soul in his rhythm while Shahabuddin matched his strokes on canvas. Bangladeshi artist demonstrated his agility and presence of mind before an Indian audience. It is noteworthy that, as a part of the country's Liberation war, Shahabuddin asserts his valour in his art works which shows artist's intimacy with memories of that great event. During his stay in India he is also due to take part in a week-long Art Workshop to be to be participated by India's noted artists that has begun on January 21 in Mumbai.

A dazzling star in Bangladeshi fine arts, Shahabuddin has so far bagged a good number of prestigious awards in both national and international arena. One of the world's fifty Master Painters, Shahabuddin has been staying in Paris as a professional painter since 1974.



Chairman of the French Communist Party (PCF) Robert Hue watches a moustachioed Mona Lisa by dadaist painter Marcel Duchamp, lent out by his party for the first time for an exhibition 23 January 2002, during the opening of the Paris Capital of Arts 1900-1968 exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.



A handout photo shows director Stefan Anton Reck as he conducts a general rehearsal of an opera-fantastique by Offenbach on January 22 in Palermo.



Prince Rainier (C) of Monaco poses late 22 January 2002 with two unidentified members of the Guangzhou acrobatic company after it won the Golden Circus award of the 26th International Circus Festival in Monaco.

Fashion

Saving the butterflies

Butterfly & Black, the winter collection by Henry's Heritage

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

'I am an acid victim, but I did not lose hope. I will live like a human being. A day will come when the acid victims will not break down because everyone will stand beside them and make an end to this curse.' these are the verses of Nupur, an unlucky acid victim who was treated and rehabilitated with the help of fashion house Henry's Heritage last November. Almost a year ago Henry's Heritage took the initiative of rehabilitating the acid victims and within a year they have successfully rehabilitated two acid survivors. As a part of their aid work titled 'Stand by the Acid Survivors' Henry's Heritage inaugurated an exhibition titled 'Butterfly & Black' on January 23 at their Dhanmondi outlet. Actors and actresses of the recently famous television drama serial 'Bandhan' inaugurated the exhibition.

'I realised that not only isolated training, if someone stands by these poor victims and gives them hope, it is possible to rehabilitate them' said designer Sharukh Shahid while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition. 'But this will take a long time', he continued, 'the lengthy legal procedures and the availability of acid is delaying the process. We have to stop this.' Sharukh also said that if people stand against this menace together then it would be possible to stop it in the near future. Last year when Henry's Heritage first took this initiative they started donating 1% of their profit in every dress. 'Their lives should be colourful like butterflies, but darkness is there' he said.

After the inaugural ceremony everyone and the 'Bandhan family' went to the Acid Survivors Association. Over there they met the poor victims and spend some time with them.

'Once I did a reporting on an acid victim named Ferdosi', said Shirin Ferdous a representative of the Acid Survivors foundation while talking at the ceremony. 'She was so badly burnt that she was treated like an animal and people came to see her like they come to the zoo. She was burnt because she was doing well in her studies then her stepbrothers.' She also said that last year there were 221 burns reported and this year the number has increased to 338. 'When we ask the victims about the punishment they want their enemies to receive, they say that death is just a relief, we want to burn them the same way they burnt us, so that they will realise how worse this is then death.' Shirin said.

Renowned actress Shampa



Dark prints in red, a new trend in Henry's items

Reja, Afsana Mimi, Bijori Barkatullah and Chitrakha Guha all starring in the popular television drama serial Bandhan inaugurated the exhibition. Shampa Reja said, 'Last year Sharukh asked me to attend his programme 'Stand by the Acid Survivors' and there I saw the acid victims in real for the first time. It was terrible. It's very sad to know that Bangladesh is the only country

in the world that has this terrible curse of acid burn.' All actresses present at the ceremony promised to stand by these poor victims and join forces together to put an end to this terrifying act.

All the dresses displayed at the exhibition have colourful butterflies in them. According to Sharukh these butterflies in the anchal will be able to reflect into the minds of the one



Butterfly print is an innovative design by Henry's Heritage



Large bird print is a speciality of Henry's Heritage

who is wearing the dress. He has also played with light in his colourful designs. Sharukh used Black willfully and drew birds and butterflies in bright colours. He thinks that these beautiful little creatures of nature bring love into our lives. He used spray and blocks as media. The initiative that Henry's Heritage took is simply generous. They have already rehabilitated two victims

and this proves that if we try we can make this possible. United force will be more effective. We hope that people from different fields will join forces to stop this horrifying curse and ensure a safe place for the butterflies to fly.

This exhibition will continue for one month.



Henry's Heritage cater for both males and females