

RECOMMENDATIONS

Art Exhibition

A solo exhibition of artworks by artist Nazia Andaleeb Preem is being held at the DRIK gallery, at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition continues till February 12, 2002. The exhibition is open for all everyday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday & Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Book Fair

Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, a three-week long book fair at the premises of Bangla Academy is in progress. The fair is open everyday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Etching Print Exhibition

A solo etching prints exhibition by Rashed Amin, a Charpith Fellow is continuing at Gallery 21. The exhibition will remain open till February 10 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Seventh Solo

The 7th solo exhibition of artist Samiran Chowdhury will be inaugurated at Divine Art Gallery in Hotel Sonargaon today by Professor Abubas Sattar, Director of the Institute of Fine Arts. Samiran's 25 works in water colour, mixed media and acrylic will be on display. The exhibition will remain open for the visitors from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. till February 16.

Drama Festival

Natty Utsav 2002, the national festival of drama is going on at the Mahila Samity auditorium in the city. A drama of a particular group is staged everyday at 6:30 p.m. The festival will continue till February 20 organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation.

Today's drama at Mahila Samity: *Puppet Show* by Puppet Theater at 10:30 a.m.

Gunai Bibi by Shobdaboli Group Theater, Barishal at 6:30 p.m.

Tomorrow's Drama at the same venue: *All my Sons* by Nagorik Nattyangon Ensemble

Satrangi Exhibition

A Satrangi exhibition by Shafiqul Alam Selim is being held at WVA auditorium from February 8 till February 15. The exhibition will remain open for all from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Solo Painting

The first solo painting exhibition of Zakia Khan Chandana is being held at the Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Art at Shaheed Bagh in the city. The show will remain open for all till February 14 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Art Exhibition

A 12-day painting exhibition by renowned artist Maruf Ahmed started at the Shilpangan Art Gallery in the city from February 7, 2002. The show will remain open for all till February 18, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Event

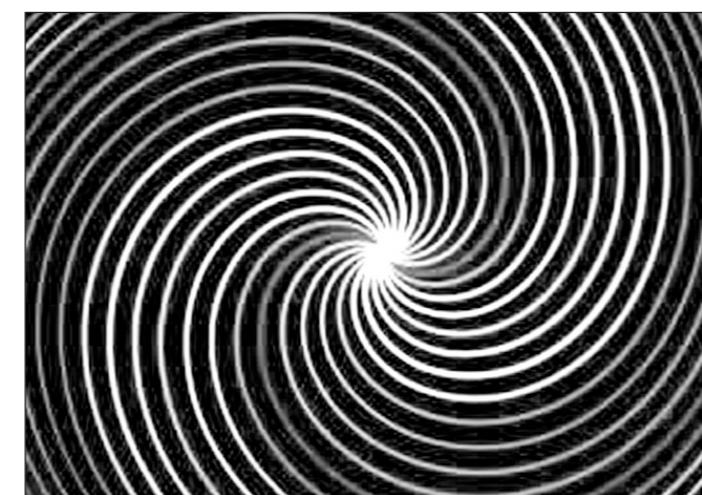
A first in Bangladesh

Dhaka experiences laser light dazzle on February 13-14

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time Dhaka will enjoy splendor of LASER Light shows to be hosted by Microcell on the evenings of February 13 & 14 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the city.

The forthcoming laser light extravaganza will feature a custom music sound track; laser generated abstract designs, customized logos and wonderfully illustrated animations. Several high-speed LASER projectors those will be used for creating big, colourful images on a massive 100-feet screen, to be specially installed for the events. The show will start at around 8 o'clock and it has been decided to switch off all street and building

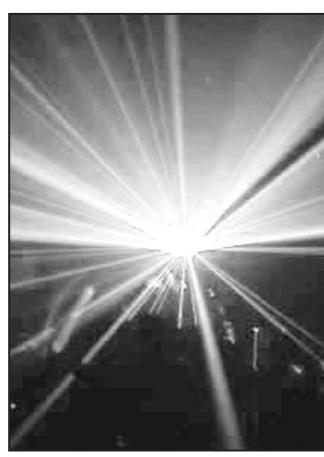


The giant screen will be installed on one side of the big bowl with an illuminated concert stage in front for music, songs and for accommodation of the Microcell officials.

The shows will integrate full-color LASER drawn images, atmospheric LASER effect and choreographed beam effect. Beam effects are creation by the laser beam itself traveling through the air towards or over the viewers.

Beam from LASER guns will create brilliant light patterns and volumetric effects in the sky. These are termed as atmospheric effects because they rely upon beams sculpting the surrounding atmosphere of the venue without the aid of any screen.

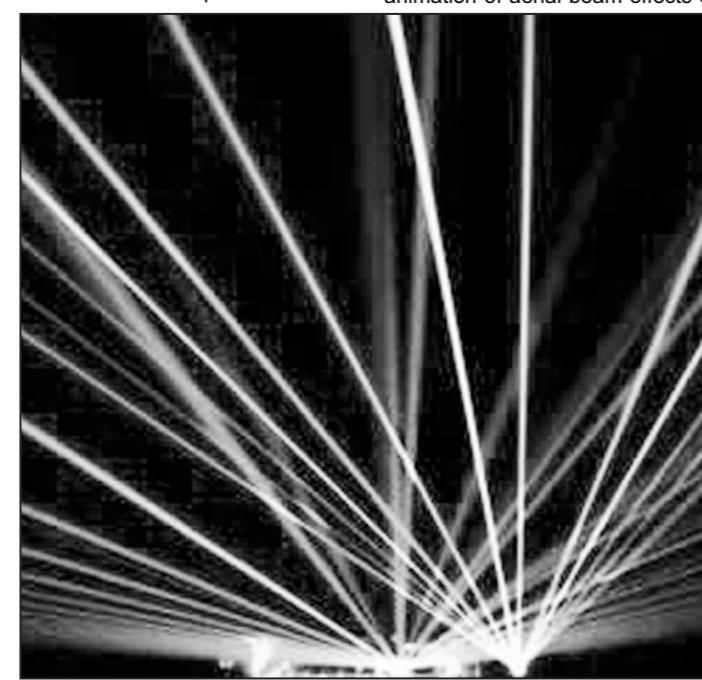
The main tower of the sound system will be placed on both the



lights around the venue in order to allow best possible light effects in the night sky.



sides of the stage and the smaller towers will be set up all around the



galleries.

The presentation of beam and atmospheric effects will be a truly mesmerizing experience of 3-D technology to the local viewers. A moment will possibly arrive when the audience, due to unexpected excitement, would have a brief stoppage of breath.

Microcell is to arrange the show with the utilisation of the latest technology of Pangolin LASER control software. The show will be

displayed with the help of the most modern state of the art hardware and technology all of which will shortly arrive from the United States. List of equipment will contain LASER guns, LASER projectors, LASER scanners, LASER mirrors, LASER screen and other related accessories.

Organisers of Microcell have taken utmost security measures for the big event. Police and BDR personnel will be deployed along with hundreds of private security guards.

Display of Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation or in short, LASER light here in the city will simply be imitable in its genuine quality and intensity. The whimsical and awe-inspiring full colour animation of aerial beam effects of

the LASER shows will certainly be a symphony of sight and sound for the Dhaka crowd.

The happenings of the evenings will remain as milestones in the history of the country's new millennium cultural manifestation. Most Bangladeshis will not only watch LASER shows for the first time in life but will too, feel the depth of a true entertainment to be created by one of the most sophisticated and best technologies in the world.

Publication

Stories of sacrifice

The University Press Limited hosts a literary evening at the Liberation War Museum on February 9

CULTURE DESK

A literary evening titled *Bangladesh Liberation War: Fact and Fiction* will be held at the Liberation War Museum in the city on February 9 at 4 p.m. The event will be hosted by The University Press Limited on the occasion of the publication of a book *1971 and After: Selected Stories* edited by Dr. Niaz Zaman.

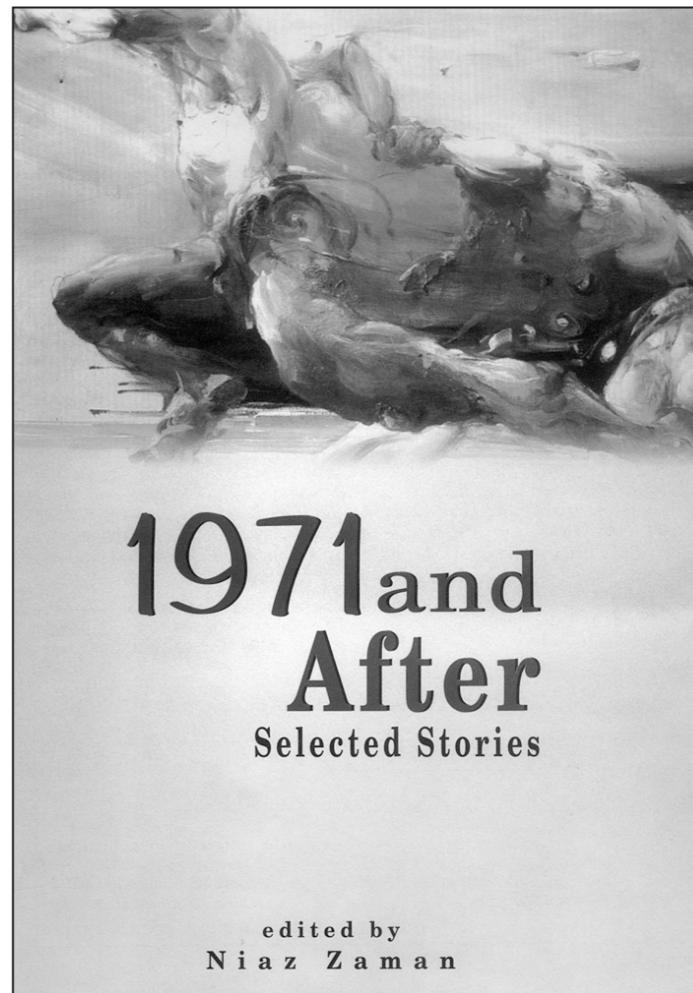
The book contains 24 stories, based on incidents of the liberation war and its aftermath, written by renowned authors like Humayun Ahmed, Alauddin Al Azad, Akhtaruddin Elias, Hasan Azizul Haq, Makbul Manzoor and Nasreen Jahan as well as by a number of young writers.

Settings of the stories include periodical events of 1971 as well as those of recent times and depict horrifying aftermath of the strugling bloodshed of nine months. Some of the stories were written immediately after the end of the war while others were written much later.

Compiled together, the stories provide a mixed perspective on the events and happenings of the year '71 and after. The editor of the book, during her assignment, has arranged the stories in a sequential order so that the readers are able to see the beginning of the war in 1971 and end up with the present.

Some stories reveal incredible heroism of the ordinary Bengali who were caught up in the deadly web of the war and under the heinous blueprint of the pro-alien collaborators. There are, as well, stories of cowardice and selfishness.

A large number of females were forced to lose chastity who became 'Birangana' or heroines only to receive disgrace and insult in the later parts of their lives. Most of the male freedom fighters were expecting heroes' welcome, instead



edited by Niaz Zaman

had to face cruel ordeals of the society and many into villains, overnight.

The stories of *1971 and After* in fact, create thought-provoking reading about the last thirty years of Bangladesh.

In professional life, Dr. Niaz Zaman is a professor of English in the University of Dhaka. Her published works include *The Art of Kantha Embroidery*, *A Divided Legacy: The Partition in Selected Novels of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh*, and *The Dance and Other*

Stories. Several articles and stories of Dr. Niaz Zaman have been published in books and journals at home and abroad. Lt. Col. (Retd.) Quazi Nuruzzaman, a former Sector Commander, will inaugurate the literary evening at the Liberation War Museum. Shamsheer Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, Foreign Secretary, Government of Bangladesh, and Dr. Kaiser Haq, Professor, Department of English, University of Dhaka, will be present at the ceremony as special guests.

Book Fair

Ekushey Book Fair yet to gain momentum

Thin turnout of readers continue on the fourth day of the ongoing Ekushey Grantha Mela at the Bangla Academy premises

TAWFIQUE ALI

EKUSHEY Grantha Mela, the most important book fair of the country is in progress at the spacious premises of Bangla Academy. This year the fair has a special importance as it marks the Golden Jubilee of Language Movement of 1952.

"During the first few days, we have passed rather dull business hours with a very thin turnout of visitors and buyers and volume of sales being disappointing as compared to previous years", told a number of stall keepers and publishing men at the fair venue. The reasons behind it, they thought, might be the ongoing International Trade Fair, which draws a huge crowd and also due to the reason of the ensuing Eid-ul-Azha which keeps people preoccupied with shopping and other preparations.

The amount of newly published books by different publishing houses reached up to 63 till February 4, those include novels, anthologies of poetry, biography, juvenile literature, collections of essays and volumes on various socio-political issues. Most of this year's new publications are still in the pipeline to reach the stalls. Publishers, apprehending a dull sale, are keeping a watch on the demand of their books among the readers.

The Samiana that has been erected for cultural programs and seminars was found to be full with audience but usual rush of visitors at the stalls was absent. Small groups were seen hanging around and were having casual look at the display.

Lekhak Kendra, a pavilion that has been set up for writers to meet their fans, was found almost empty.

Publisher A.N. Rasheda of Shikhyabarta Prokashana said that absence of enthusiasm and low turnout of visitors was due to lack of adequate publicity and installation of decorative and colorful arches.

Biswa Shahityakendra has

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on Nawab Sirajuddoula and Pala of Bengal while Mokbul Manzoor has written a novel, 'Chayapaday Deka' that has been published by Otitijo.

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) has brought out three volumes on the issues concerning natural environment and bio-diversity, all of which have been edited by Quamrul Islam Chowdhury. One of the three volumes, titled 'Chittagong Hill Tracts: State of Environment' contains essays featuring current environmental trend in the perspective of indigenous lifestyle and cultural tradition of hilly people.

'State of Sundarbans' focuses on deteriorating ecology and bio-diversity of this largest mangrove forest as a consequence of man-made hazards and corruption. The third volume, 'Bangladesh State of Arsenic', features the concerning issue of present day arsenic contamination in Bangladesh.

Collections of novels by Syed Shamsul Huq and Imdadul Huq Milon, a book on cultural movement by Syed-ur-Rahman, Biography of late pilot Lara by Al Musabir Saadi and a number of volumes on juvenile literature by Mohammad Zafar Iqbal and Amirul Islam are some of new books published by Ananya.

Ekushey Bangla Prokashon has so far brought out two novels 'Bolo Tarey' written by Imdadul Huq Milon and 'Jiboner Jalochabi' written by Jajabor Pial. The house has published another book on Imdadul Huq Milon and his work written by Qurnuzzaman Liton.

Shikhyabarta Prokashana mainly promotes works on education. This year it has published a volume of essays dealing with different aspects of organisation and system of education in Bangladesh seen from angles of history.

Contents of the book include topics on Bangladesh's modern education, autonomy, education in educational institutions, eliminating of discriminatory

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education system and role of teachers in developing the students' moral values.

কামরজ্জামান লিটন
ইমদাদুল হক মিলনের
লেখালোখ



Cinema

Mediocrity of *Koi Mere Dil Se Pooche*

Rehashed script and under-worked dialogues mar Esha Deol's debut in Vinay Shukla's *Koi Mere Dil Se Pooche*, writes Charu Soni

Koi Mere Dil Se Pooche's highlight is its mediocrity. Rehashed script, under-worked dialogues and disinterested direction all contribute to the film's inability to sustain interest. This surely was not the kind of debut Hema Malini wanted for her daughter.

It doesn't thus help matters that Esha Deol gives a tacky performance in *Koi Mere Dil Se Pooche*. Of course, director Vinay Shukla is to blame for this but Esha equally has to acknowledge her shortcomings.

Shukla it would appear was in two minds. The script offered an opportunity to make a thriller but the director for some reason choose to focus on romance, underplaying in the process the tension that the script, at least in patches, provided. This, in large part, is the reason why Sanjay Kapoor's maniacal histrionics fall flat, even though he gives it his all.

Koi Mere Dil Se Pooche is also about half-baked dialogues. The comic scenes for instance attempt to satirise Amitabh Bachchan-Shahrukh Khan standoff in Aditya Chopra's *Mohabbatein*. Jaspal Bhatti tries to do justice to this torturous sense of fun but comes a



cropper - eliciting at most forced amusement from the audience. The rest of the film has little to offer. Anupam Kher, for the umpteenth time, acts as his son's best friend.

Jaya Bachchan plays the quintessential mother - all goodness and

honey, and Aftab Shivdasani continues to struggle as a hero who's still to make his mark.

The film's tale starts off with Aftab as Aman Puri falling head over heels with Esha at the National Institute of Fashion Design's annual function. Aman tries his best to win Esha's attention but to no avail. The hero then decides to approach Esha's mother, Mansi Devi (Jaya Bachchan) to figure out the reason for Esha's rejection. Mansi Devi's impulsive reaction makes him even more determined to win over Esha.

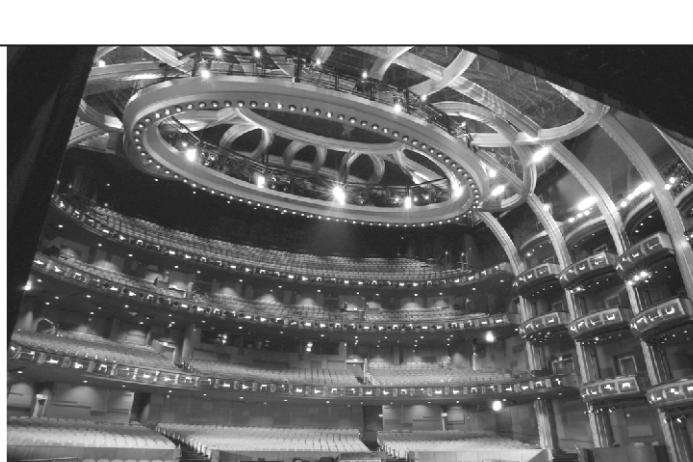
Just before interval Esha's dark secret gets revealed. Mansi Devi is not her mother but her saas! At Post interval, we learn of Esha's marriage to Dushant (Sanjay Kapoor), and its unfortunate fall out. The rest of the film is about Esha's marriage with Aman despite the presence of Dushant.

For those who expected something novel from the director of *Godmother*, the film *Koi Mere Dil Se Pooche* disappoints (except maybe for Rajesh Roshan's musical score that offers some foot-tapping respite). There is not an ounce of originality the film can boast about. Not even in the final denouement, which incidentally has its roots in Mehbوب Khan's *Mother India* that was made some 45 years back.

Internation:



Gerhard Schroeder, the German Chancellor (R) and Mira Nair, International Jury Chairperson, attend the opening ceremony of the 52nd International Berlin Film Festival on February 6, 2002.



The Kodak Theatre is shown from the stage where the Academy Awards will be held in Los Angeles, CA on February 6, 2002. The 180,000 square-foot, 3300-seat theater will host the Oscars on March 24, 2002.