

RECOMMENDATIONS

Art Exhibition

A solo exhibition of artworks by artist Nazia Andaleeb Preema 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 Rashid Amin, a Charupith 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 art exhibition of artist Samiran Chowdhury is being held at Divine Art Gallery in Hotel Sonargaon. Samiran's 25 works in water colour, mixed media and acrylic are on display. The exhibition will remain open for the visitors from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. till February 16.

Drama Festival

Nattyo 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: All my Sons by Nagorik Nattyanon Ensemble. Tomorrow's Drama at the same venue: Mahua by Barishal Theater.

Satranji Exhibition

A Satranji exhibition by Shafiqul Alam Selim is being held at WVA auditorium in the city 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 Shahbagh 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 tribute to the Language Martyrs

Bangla Academy has arranged a series of discussions and cultural evenings in its auditorium to mark the auspicious occasion of the 50th anniversary of Language Movement

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A discussion program was held at the auditorium of Bangla Academy on the evening of February 7, 2002 marking the 50th anniversary of Language Movement.

Titled 'Amar Ekush-er Ponchash Bothshor: Adhunik Bangla Gaan-er Roop Roopantar', the discussion was attended by Dr. Karunamoy Goswami and was presided over by Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Mohammad Rafiquzzaman read out a paper where he mentioned about the intrusion of alien culture in our society. He further commented on the rough side of the heavy metallic band groups and about their live concerts that are being held all around the country in recent times. The sponsors are belonging to a particular class of neo-elites. Observing the behaviour of the boys and a copycat cultural projection of the Western world, it seemed to the elderly scholar that there had been no such thing as Language Movement or War of Independence in the history of this country.

A few poets and writers like Poet Ishwar Chandra Gupt and Nidhu Babu who possessed attitude of boldness, got segregated from the crowd and came forward to eradicate the dark episodes and events, decades from now. Rafiquzzaman hoped that once again some young and enlightened scholars would soon arrive among the common people to help them advance towards the right path in life.

As he added, there lay a few reasons to become hopeful and one is that in the present times several poets like Abid Anwar and Nasir Ahmed are showing keenness in composition of songs. We have already been presented with a number of songs by these multi-talented young personalities and new talents are receiving motivation and inspiration from these poets and composers. Besides, we



Burdwan House is a historical building in the city that houses the institution of Bangla Academy since December 3, 1955

need creative singers who would be able to match their experience with those of the knowledgeable songwriters and composers. Dr. Karunamoy Goswami in his role as a discussant highlighted on the recently introduced video formatting of scenes with background songs. The procedure has brought a new dimension in songs yet fanciful setting is often diminishing the quality of an

performance. A complete development of the classical Bangla song can be achieved only through a joint collaboration and effort from the artist, composer, writer and critic.

Mostafa Zaman Abbasi in his speech mentioned about some concerning issues related with the classical songs of Bangladesh. 'The overall condition of songs in this country is highly fragile and therefore all must give absolute attention to this medium of art. Number of well-trained song instructors have fallen since long and same has happened to the state of musical instruments', mentioned the bearded Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. As felt by the well-known singer-turned-administrator, song in this part of the world has gone down to the level of a commercial item. The rich tradition and sophistication of Bangla songs should have to be brought back, at any cost.

As Abbasi added, 'Satellite invasion will, in no way, be able to disrupt our traditional cultural ideology. The best songs should be aired on regular basis over television and radio, not only on some particular eventful day of the year. Ingredients from folk songs, which is one of our main basic traditional items, should be picked out and utilised to culminate in the richness and development of the modern songs of Bangladesh'.

Later on in the evening, a musical soiree was presented in honour of the guests.

Today's events are scheduled to start at 4:00 p.m. with an introductory song. A discussion program will be held at the auditorium on 'Amar Ekush-er Ponchash Bothshor: Bangladesh-er binvino jatishotta-r bhasha O shangskrit'. Professor Aftab Ahmed and Sanjeev Drong will be present as discussants to be presided over by Professor Abul Kalam Monzur Morshed. The evening will be rounded off through a special musical rendezvous.

A month of events and festivals

Different Ministries of the Government have chalked out elaborate programs to observe the month of February in a befitting manner

CULTURE DESK

THE Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh has drawn up schedules of several programs and events to observe the 50th anniversary of Language Movement and the International Mother Language Day 2002.

The Foreign Ministry has decided to bring out special supplement in important international newspapers and journals to observe the International Mother Language Day and to highlight the importance of the Language Movement of Bangladesh to the foreign world. The Ministry has also made preparations to hold seminars and cultural events in mission offices of the Bangladeshi Embassies and High Commissions abroad.

At home, the Government has arranged cultural programs at the premises of Shaheed Minar, book fair at Bangla Academy and publication of memoirs at Shilpakala Academy.

To mark the day of February 21, special seminars and cultural events will be held at the Bangla



Academy Botomul from February 16 to 19.

Contests of drama, recitation, painting and cultural events will be held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy from February 17 to 20.

A monthlong traditional rural fair of handicraft items will be held at Sonargaon in the outskirts of Dhaka.

The Ministry of Textiles will host a textile exposition and fashion show of traditional designs on February 25.

The Ministry of Information has started a countrywide exhibition of films and posters along with distribution of supplements on Language Movement that would continue till February 21.

Local administrations have chalked out elaborate programs to observe the month of Language

Movement in a befitting manner that would continue from February 1 till February 28. The local Shaheed Minars of all districts and Upazillas are being garlanded with floral wreaths accompanied by performance of cultural events.

Events and contests of essay writing, recitation, drama and painting will be arranged among children at district levels from February 15 till February 20.

Book fairs will be held in all districts headquarters from February 18 till February 21 to observe the 50th anniversary of Language Movement and the International Mother Language Day 2002.

The Ministry of Information has decided to organise mobile film shows from February 15 till February 21 in different parts of the country.

The students of the Institute of Fine Arts of the University of Dhaka have taken full preparation of their respective assignments of decoration, painting, wall inscription, alpina illustration and construction of stage, which are to be done within the next week, to observe the immortal Ekushey in a deserving manner.

Festival

Crossing the borders

Latin American wing of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, a cultural group of the expatriate Bangladeshis will arrange a Cultural Festival in the city soon

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Latin American wing of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, a cultural organisation of the expatriate Bangladeshis will arrange a weeklong Cultural Festival at Dhaka in the coming months of June and July. This was disclosed at a press conference, organised by the visiting members of the Latin American Cultural Wing of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote at the office of Dhaka Reporters' Unity at Tophkhana Road in the city on February 6. Speakers from the touring side included Ripa Ahmed, Mithun Ahmed, Nazra Chowdhury, Afazuddin Ahmed and Shahadat Hossain, the Dhaka-based member of the organisation.

The festival will include performance of stage theaters by different drama groups from Dhaka. The festival will also present recitation, songs and theatrical performance by Bangladeshis of the South American cultural wing.

A seminar will be held on February 9 at the Liberation War Museum in the city, to be hosted by the organisation. The title of the seminar will be based on the country's cultural trend and strategy.

A 20-minute video was exhibited in the meeting where various activities of the cultural organisation were highlighted. The members informed the attending journalists that though they stay far away from their motherland but a Bangladesh, with spirit of the Liberation War, always remain in their soul.

One of the main objectives of the

cultural organisation is to represent the traditional values of Bangladesh to the foreigners, no matter whatever are the obstacles of arranging programs in those countries.

The press was further informed that the year of 2002 has been declared by the cultural organisation of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote as one of progress, peace and liberation. A special reason to celebrate the weeklong festival at Dhaka is to highlight the importance of the declaration.

A sub-committee has been formed to coordinate the preparation of the festival with artist Kamal Pasha Chowdhury as the convener and dramatist Shahadat Hossain as the member secretary.

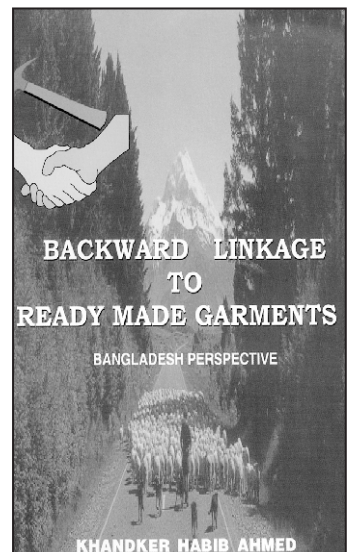
New Boo

Through local perspective

'Backward Linkage To Ready Made Garments: Bangladesh Perspective' by Khandaker Habib Ahmed is launched

MOSTAFA KAMAL

THE apparel items of Bangladesh, at present, have restricted and reserved access (quota) to the readymade garment markets of developed countries, particularly, the United States and the European Union. From January 1, 2005, as per the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), Bangladesh's garment and textile manufacturers would be required to cope with steep competition from countries like India, Pakistan, China, and Thailand. Bangladesh at present import raw materials from these countries to satisfy the demand of its textiles and clothing sector. All these countries will be able to inflate their RMG exports, now limited by quotas, when the WTO establishes its free market in 2005. As a consequence, these countries are likely to utilise more of their locally produced yarn and fabrics internally, resulting in the rise of prices for such raw materials. As Bangladesh imports such materials from these countries, the rise of prices may put pressure on the textiles and clothing industries of the country. Again, backward linkage industries have already thrived in these competitors, which would, presumably, let them to stay in competition in the impending free market with a better position than Bangladesh. Setting up backward linkage industries in Bangladesh with a supply chain to its major export earning RMG sector is, therefore, crucial. The book 'Backward Linkage to Ready Made Garments: Bangladesh Perspective' written by Khandaker Habib Ahmed is attributed to this core attention. Mr. Ahmed is employed in the diplomatic service of the Government of Bangladesh and presently working in South Asia Wing in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka. A commodity-wise export earning of Bangladesh for



BACKWARD LINKAGE TO READY-MADE GARMENTS: Bangladesh Perspective written by Khandaker Habib Ahmed. Distributed by Academic Press and Publishers Ltd. - House No. 55, Road No. 8A, Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka. Available at Aligarh Library 158, Govt. New Market, Dhaka. First Published: January 2002. ISBN: 984 31 1493 1 Price: BDT 300.00 / US\$ 25.00

the financial FY 1998-99 shows that export of clothing (readymade garments and knitwear) accounts for 75.67% of the total export earnings of the country making the sector the most important one for the economy of Bangladesh. The book focuses on the total textile and clothing sector of Bangladesh abroad the experiences of other countries of the world. Readymade garments (RMG) industries in Bangladesh, being labor intensive, has its comparative advantage over other manufacturing sectors. But it lacks value addition through backward linkage supply chain, as the country's fiber, yarn and fabric production base is vulnerable to numerous constraints. The book attempts to examine the possibility and potentiality of such backward linkages in the textiles and clothing sector of Bangladesh.

The book has three introductory

chapters i.e. overall macroeconomic situation of Bangladesh, its export scenario and import overview. Others chapters focus on the worldwide production of cotton and synthetic fibers and Bangladesh position, historical development of world textiles and clothing industries, gradual development of world trade in textiles and clothing, international regimes for textiles and clothing on a chronicle account including its impact on the exports of Bangladesh clothing sector, the experience of leading countries in textiles and clothing, an overall picture of Bangladesh textiles and clothing sector incorporating the existing problems and difficulties, backward linkage potential to clothing exports of Bangladesh as to how a total value-added chain could be established in the country and some policy implications for the Government of Bangladesh in view of such backward linkages. The book has 58 Tables, 8 Figures, 5 Appendices, a Bibliography, a list of Acronyms and an Index at the end. It would be immensely helpful for the students, researchers, professionals and all others associated with the vast domain of textile and clothing. Specially, this book could be a very good reference book for the MBA students both home and abroad. It could also be a helpful to BGMEA, BKMEA, BTMC, BTMA, Bangladesh Cotton Development Board, Bangladesh Handloom Board, different libraries, NGOs engaged in development efforts, foreign investors, different trade bodies, among others. The Publication is a revelation and documentation of facts and figures for those who want to know and contribute to the economy of the country. It is informative and would invoke and meet quest of the readers. Written in very simple English in a fluent manner, the book would stimulate the readers. Candidly speaking, it is a precious piece of work.

Cinem

A pastel coloured prism

Meghna Gulzar's talc-dusted debut, Filhaal, stumbles and falls, writes Charu Soni

MEGHNA Gulzar's much-awaited debut film, Filhaal, shows off its polished nails but does not draw blood. Talc powder dusted and immaculately dressed, it tells the tale of surrogate motherhood with the timidity and gasp of a teenager.

It wants to be middle-class cinema, socially meaningful and relevant. Unfortunately, it is anything but, partly because of the woolly emotionalism injected by its director and scriptwriter, and partly because of Meghna's inability to pace the film and deliver the requisite punches.

Tabu (Rewa) and Sushmita Sen (Sia) are two friends who would do anything for each other. So when one of them is unable to conceive,

the other steps in to lend her womb. "It is as if you were borrowing someone else's cooking pan," says the doctor while explaining the intricacies of the medical procedures to Rewa's husband, Dhruv (Sanjay Suri), in the film. An insensitive and tart message, if there was one. And that's not the only one.

It's not that the subject hasn't been dealt with earlier. Lekh Tandon's Doosri Dulhan (1983), with Shabana Azmi as prostitute and second wife of Victor Banerjee, was one of the first to tackle the subject of borrowed childbearing. More recently, Abbas-Mastan Burmawalla's Chori, Chori, Chupke, Chupke (2001)

-starring Rani Mukherjee, Preity Zinta and Salman Khan - explored



the subject in a more vibrant, if predictable mainstream manner. Need Meghna's debut have been so deadpan?

Since Filhaal's characters inhabit colourful sets, and matching clothes gains priority over people, there is little by way of acting. Tabu gives a competent performance as a woman, whose only desire is to have a child but is unable to due to certain complications. Sushmita

Sen, the smiling vixen of Biwi No 1, is the career-driven diva. Motherhood and marriage do not exist in her scheme of things. Palash Sen, who stars opposite her, is thus, realistically and figuratively speaking, left to twiddle his thumbs. The story takes a turn when Sush steps in to help her trauma-afflicted friend, and offers to carry Rewa's baby for her.

If you expect fireworks at this stage, the director doesn't provide it. Instead, the film lifelessly prods the effects of surrogate motherhood on its protagonists, as the actors go through the motions of despair, incredulity, and finally, joy in the backdrop of picturesque beaches and some uninspiring strains of

Annu Malik-composed and Palash-sung scores.

On the face of it, Filhaal has enough masala to dish up a palatable meal. However, in an attempt to make a woman-oriented film, the director, gives men the slip by, propping them up as mantle showpieces. This not only deprives the film of the depth the subject itself provides, but also lays waste any friction that confrontation between the sexes can provide. Sanjay Suri, for instance, can do little except stand in tear-brimming attendance to his on-screen wife, Tabu.

Palash, similarly, wafts in and out of scenes as if he were an extra, not one of the four main actors of the film.

Outlandish tale of the down-and-out at Berlin film festival

AFP, Berlin

US-ISRAELI director Amos Kollek showed the dark side of New York life in "Bridget" at the Berlin film festival Thursday, with his favorite actress Anna Thomson playing a woman down but definitely not out.

Bridget is a former gun moll who has gone straight and has a child with her policeman husband. And that is where the trouble begins.

Her former partners in crime come to her home looking for money they think she has stolen from her, and shoot her husband dead.

When Bridget runs out to a telephone to call for help, her baby son crawls into the street, and when she goes to pick him up, she gets hit by a car.

The film maintains this pace, with Bridget facing one tragedy after another, picking herself up only to be knocked down again, as she tries to save herself and regain her son, whom the authorities have taken and given to foster parents.

Kollek clearly relishes both the desperateness of Bridget's situation and the gallows humor present in such an avalanche of bad luck.

The mixture of drama and humor had one journalist at a post-film press conference at the festival, the Berlinale, calling Kollek "the dark side of Woody Allen."

ving for the prestigious Golden Bear award for best film at the Berlinale, which opened Wednesday and closes on February 17.

The films of Kollek, the son of former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek, have had been quite successful in Europe, particularly the romantic comedy "Fast Food, Fast Women."

"Bridget" completes a series, begun with "Sue Lost in Manhattan" and "Fiona", that is about losers, said Kollek.

"Bridget" is different since the heroine manages to put her life together, working several jobs, even if one is as an erotic model, getting married, even if her husband is retarded, and eventually recovering her son, after she has shot dead the three men hunting her.

Kollek said: "I believe in this movie as an odyssey."

That it is, but it is an odd one.

Bridget's effort to regain her son lasts 12 years, and takes her to one point to Lebanon and Israel as a drug runner. But when she goes to Lebanon, she walks into the camp of a drug dealer, who has lost both legs in years of guerrilla and other fighting, dressed in high heels, a black dress, and a huge hat.

She later crosses the border illegally into Israel, through barbed wire, dressed in the same incongruous garb more fit for a night club than a desert smuggling operation.

Kollek said that in the spirit of an odyssey he tried to put the multifaceted nature of life, especially one lived on the edge as Bridget does, into the film.

But he does not have an audience in America, he said, despite "Bridget" being "an obviously New York movie and characters."

"In America, we couldn't get

arrested if we tried," he said about his reception there.



The 7th Solo Painting Exhibition of Samiran started at the Divine Art Gallery at Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon yesterday evening. Visitors have a glimpse at the exhibits