

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

Time & Expression

Second solo photography exhibition titled Time & Expression by Iftakhar Wahid Ifta is being held at the Cultural Centre of Indian High Commission. The four-day show will run till February 22.

Calligraphy

A calligraphy exhibition by artist Arhamul Haque Chowdhury started at the DRIK gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition highlights calligraphic inscription of Bangla alphabets through artistic depiction. The exhibition is open from 3 p.m. till 8 p.m. everyday till February 21. A similar exhibition of Arham continues at a stall of Ekushey book fair at Bangla Academy from February 16 till February 21 from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. everyday. On February 21, both the displays will continue from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Boutique exhibition

An exhibition of boutique items titled Ghorowa Poshak Prodorshoni is being held at Ali's Knitwear Bangladesh at Hse-49, Rd-15/A, Dhanmondi. The display includes items of traditionally designed saree, punjabi, shalwar kameez, indigenous apparels and hand-made wax candle. The exhibition remains open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday till February 22.

Group art exhibition

Nine contemporary artists are displaying their works in a group exhibition that is being held at the Zainul Art Gallery of Fine Arts Institute in the city. The show will continue till February 21 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Drama Festival

Natyo 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.

Award

Recognition to ten best women of the country

'Anannya Best Ten 2001' awards presented

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

Anannya, a women's magazine has awarded ten women of Bangladesh for their outstanding performances in respective fields of profession. This award is titled 'Anannya Best Ten'. The award presentation ceremony was held on February 16 at the Begum Sofia Kamal auditorium in Bangladesh National Museum. For 13 years now Anannya has been presenting this award and by now eighty

guest. The ceremony was presided over by Tasmima Hossain, Editor of Anannya magazine.

Though selecting ten individuals for these awards was not an easy task but Anannya did in a smooth way. The ten persons selected for the 2001 awards included Begjadi Mahmuda Nasir (Education), Jharnadhara Chowdhury (Social welfare), Rokeya Sultana (Art), Rina Latif (Fashion design), Nargis Aktar (Documentary films), Shamima Sattar Shimu (Sports), Selina Akhter (Business), Dr. Parvin

respectful fields. Special guest Khushi Kabir said, "Today's event makes me more happy because I have a special bonding with most of those who are here to receive the awards. Two years back in 1999 I was also selected for the Anannya best ten award." Highlighting the development of women's activity in the last two decades, she said, "We have a long way to go and fight many odds". She congratulated all the award winners and praised Anannya for doing such a noble work every year.

the death of fine arts student, Simi, he said, "We are all responsible for the death of Simi." He also said that the women are doing better then men everywhere including public examinations. In this society we have to identify the creative people and provide them a platform for better creativity or creativity will result in frustration. "Actually the division of male and female is very wrong in this social system. We have to forget this difference and only then will justice

was recognized for her role in education recalled her memories of the language movement. Social worker Jharnadhara Chowdhury described how Mahatma Gandhi inspired her. Artist Rokeya Sultana said that people should stand unitedly against all odds while talking about the death of fine arts student Simi. Fashion designer Rina Latif said that the award is an inspiration for her creativity. Filmmaker Nargis Aktar stated that she has first hand seen the problems faced by different women of Bangladesh while making documentaries and she wants to do something about it. Shamima Sattar Shimu felt that the Anannya award has inspired many sportswomen. Selina Akhter invited all women to involve themselves in business and not to be intimidated by the unfamiliar world of commerce. Dr. Parvin Fatema said that this award will inspire many women doctors of the country. Journalist Munni Shaha said that it was her dream to receive the Anannya award when she used to report on the Anannya award ceremonies which had come true. Tabassum Ferdous Shaon who represented Bangladesh in the Miss World competition expressed how happy she was to receive the award.

In her speech, Tasmima Hossain Editor, Anannya said, "We want to provide the next generation with something positive. These awards will remain as an icon to them. This will inspire them to become a better person." With her speech the Anannya Best Ten 2001 award presenting ceremony came to an end. The award ceremony was followed by a musical performance by Shamima Parvin Shimu.



The 10 best award winners with the respective guests at the 'Anannya Best Ten 2001' award presenting ceremony

women have received this award.

Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, a noted writer and an university teacher, presented the Anannya Best Ten 2001 to the selected personalities while noted social worker Khushi Kabir was present as a special

Fatema (Medical), Munni Shaha (Journalism) and Tabassum Ferdous Shaon (Participant of the Miss World).

The ceremony started with a welcome speech by Jahanara Ahmed. She advised the next generation of women to be more strong and move forward in their

"It is very true and proven fact that talents will not born in a society that does not respect the talented. We feel proud for the 80 women who have been awarded by Anannya magazine," said Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury while speaking at the ceremony. Commenting on

against women end. Today we seek security, but a society will only be secured when it will be able to protect and secure it's women," he added.

After the speech of the chief guest various awarded individuals expressed their feelings. Begjadi Mahmuda Nasir who

Review

Haan...Maine Bhi Pyaar Kiya

Karishma and Abhishek create sensation in Ek Hi Bhool, writes Charu Soni

D HARMESH Darshan likes to deliver a gripping story that wrings emotions to its last teardrop. He also seems to be particularly fascinated with the post-marital confusions and convulsions that many relationships invariably run into. In Raja Hindustani (1996), he focused on the socio-economic chasm between the protagonists, in Dhadkan (2000) he attempted to explore the concept of an obsessive and brooding lover who finds it impossible to accept his ex-girlfriend's marriage to another. In his third and latest film, Haan...Maine Bhi Pyaar Kiya, he places extra-marital affair under the microscope.

The subject, of course, is not new. Neither is the film, whose substantial text is lifted from T Rama Rao's Ek Hi Bhool (1981). Karishma Kapoor and Abhishek Bachchan thus are what Rekha and Jeetendra were to the original - two competing souls instantly attracted to each other. In both the films, it is the hero who commits the unpardonable and it is the heroine who breaks the relationship. The difference, if any, between the two is in the coinage of the separation. Thus while in Rao's film, Rekha chooses solitary life over the dreaded "divorce", in Darshan's film the latter comes cheap. This in itself could have been a departure from the Bollywood formula had the director been bold and not succumbed to "nari-pativratra" (which incidentally is the same solution Rao provided 20 years ago!).

The success of the film, however, seems guaranteed with the unmistakable chemistry between Karishma and Abhishek, some very

moving performances by all the three main actors (including Akshay Kumar), and a film texture that harks back to the late-1970s, early-1980s Amitabh Bachchan-Vinod Khanna genre.

There is humour, but also pathos. The latter tends to weigh heavy as Karishma repeatedly turns her tear-filled eyes towards the camera in expression of her confusion and suffering. Abhishek handles his character of Shiv Kapoor - the guilty husband - with aplomb. He's particularly impressive in the scenes that demand him to be a guilt-ridden but proud man caught on a wrong foot. The story kicks off with the lead pair getting acquainted over a tussle for a job in a Delhi-based firm. Soon after they slip into "holy" matrimony, and are for a brief time happy. Hell breaks loose when Shiv and Pooja (Karisma) travel to Switzerland, and Shiv runs into an ex-college mate with whom he has a one-night stand. The couple divorce, and Pooja, moist-eyed and distraught, attempts to rebuild her life. Enter Akshay Kumar, swashbuckling happy-go-lucky film star, Raj Malhotra. As preordained, Raj falls for Pooja, but by a quirk of fate Shiv reappears, throwing everybody off-balance.

The biggest draw of the film is its confrontation between the protagonists, interspersed with light banter and humour. Had Darshan, however, extended his mandate and got over the "nari-pativratra" hangover, the film could have been a trendsetter.

Media

Ekushey on air

Bangladesh Betar to air Ekushey program live from Shaheed Minar

CULTURE DESK

B ANGLADESH Betar have taken preparations to transmit the ceremonies of the Ekushey rituals live from Central Shaheed Minar at zero hour of February 21, on the occasion of

Language Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language day.

Dhaka Station of Bangladesh Betar will broadcast the program live on its 1000-KW medium wave and all regional stations will relay it simultaneously. Source: bangladeshinfo.com

Movies

Berlin film festival ends

"Bloody Sunday", "Spirited Away" share top honors at Berlin film festival

AFP, Berlin

"B LOODY Sunday", a documentary-style account of the 1972 killing of civil rights activists in Northern Ireland by British soldiers, and the Japanese animated feature "Spirited Away" shared top honors at the Berlin film festival Sunday.

Oscar nominee Halle Berry took the Silver Bear prize for best actress for her role in the US interracial love story "Monster's Ball".

Jacques Gamblin won for best actor for his role in French director Bertrand Tavernier's "Laissez-Passer" (Safe Conduct) about the resistance to the Nazi occupation in the French film industry.

Georgian filmmaker Otar Iosseliani captured the Silver Bear prize for best director for "Lundi Matin" (Monday Morning), a French production about a factory worker who escapes the drudgery of his workday life with a trip to Venice.

The president of the 10-member international jury, Indian director Mira Nair, announced the winners at the end of the 52nd annual event, which ranks among the top European film festivals along with Cannes and Venice.

This year marked the first time in nearly a decade that two films went home with the top prize, following the 1993 tie between the Taiwanese production "The Wedding Banquet" by Ang Lee and "Women from the Lake of Scented Souls" by Chinese filmmaker Hsieh Fei.



British film director Paul Greengrass (L) and actor James Nesbitt (R) with Ivan Cooper, a contemporary witness of the 'Bloody Sunday', posing in Berlin.

The British-Irish production "Bloody Sunday", written and directed by Briton Paul Greengrass, recreates the deadly shooting of 17 civil rights activists in Londonderry, Northern Ireland by British soldiers on January 30, 1972, which marked a stark turn for the worse in the Irish "Troubles".

Greengrass said after the screening that he wanted audiences to see both sides of the conflict while exposing what he called the abuse of force that led to a bloodbath that day.

"The idea behind this film was that we would all come together to relive this terrible, traumatic day, tell the truth about it but in a spirit of

reconciliation," Greengrass said. Nair called the conflict "a struggle that must continue to be remembered".

"Spirited Away" (Sen To Chihiro No Kamikakushi), directed by Hayao Miyazaki, is the story of 10-year-old Chihiro, who suddenly finds herself in a world of fantasy where she has to save her parents.

Miyazaki, who did not attend the Berlinale, said in a video message to the festival that his film aimed to show "the hearts and souls of people" in the tradition of 1950s animation.

A Silver Bear runner's up prize for best film went to "Halbe Treppe" (Grill Point), a bittersweet drama by

German director Andreas Dresen about two crumbling marriages. The film, set on the German-Polish border, was largely improvised by its cast of four theater actors.

The all-star cast of French divas including Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert and Emmanuelle Beart in Francois Ozon's "Huit Femmes" (Eight Women) took a Silver Bear for individual artistic contribution.

"Huit Femmes" was considered a favorite among the 23 contenders for the top prize, along with "Monster's Ball" and "Halbe Treppe".

The 12-day festival also awarded honorary Golden Bear prizes for lifetime achievement for Italian actress Claudia Cardinale and US film director Robert Altman, whose latest feature "Gosford Park" was screened out of competition in Berlin.

This year's event was marked by a strong focus on German cinema and history under new festival director Dieter Kosslick.

Among the highlights were Austrian filmmaker Andre Heller's interview with a former secretary of Adolf Hitler, Traudl Junge. In "Im Toten Winkel. Hitlers Sekretarin" (Blind Spot. Hitler's Secretary), Junge gives an eyewitness account of the Nazi dictator's last days.

Junge died shortly after the film was screened on February 10. She was 81 years old.

Best actors of 2002

Russell Crowe and Will Smith in Oscars running, Hackman snubbed

AFP, Beverly Hills

L AST year's Academy Award winner actor Russell Crowe, Will Smith and surprise outsider Sean Penn on last Tuesday led the nominees for the 2002 best actor.

The trio were joined by Denzel Washington for his performance as a crooked cop in "Training Day" and Tom Wilkinson for his role as a harried husband in "In The Bedroom".

But pundits' expectations were

confounded when two-time Oscar winner Gene Hackman was snubbed by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, apparently in favour of surprise nominee Penn.

"The biggest surprise in the nominations announcement was the fact that Gene Hackman was left out and that his performance in 'The Royal Tenenbaums' was not recog-

nized," said expert Tom O'Neil. Crowe won his nod for his much acclaimed portrayal of schizophrenic maths genius John Forbes Nash Jr. in "A Beautiful Mind", while Penn was named for his role as a man with the mental development of a seven-year-old in "I Am Sam".

Penn, a former Hollywood bad boy and ex-husband of superstar "Madonna", has won critical acclaim for his role in "I Am Sam", but audiences have appeared lukewarm to the film.

Will Smith played former world champion boxer Mohammad Ali in



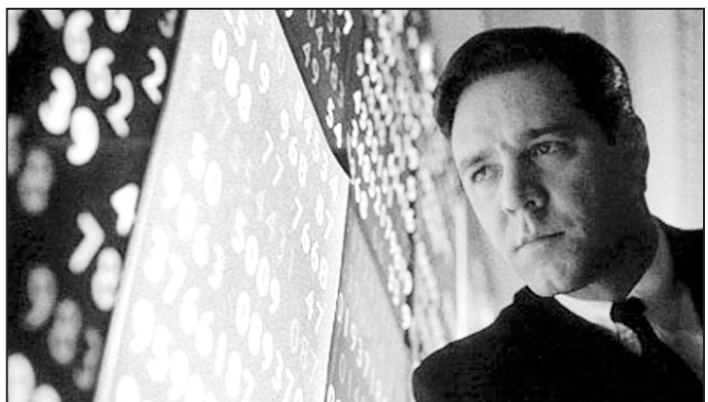
Will Smith portrays the character of Muhammad Ali in the movie 'Ali'

confounded when two-time Oscar winner Gene Hackman was snubbed by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, apparently in favour of surprise nominee Penn.

"Ali", which has received some critical acclaim but has packed much less of a punch at the box office.

Some 112 nomination were made here Tuesday in 24 categories for the 74th annual Academy Awards which will be presented in Hollywood on March 24.

Crowe picked up last year's best actor Oscar for "Gladiator" and his



Russel Crowe nominated for his excellent performance in 'The Beautiful Mind'

latest nomination -- his third consecutive nod from the Academy -- puts him in line for the rare honor of winning two back-to-back Oscars.

That would put him in the company of eternal stars Spencer Tracy,

Eight of this year's acting nominees -- in the four categories for best leading and supporting male and female actors -- are previous Oscar winners including Crowe, Ben Kingsley, Jon Voight, Judi Dench,



A scene from the movie 'In the Bedroom'

Katharine Hepburn, Jason Robards and -- more recently -- Tom Hanks who won for "Philadelphia" and "Forrest Gump" in 1993 and 1994.

Sissy Spacek, Maggie Smith and Mirra Tomei.

Japanese animated movie share top Berlin prize

AFP, Berlin

T HE film "Bloody Sunday" about violence in Northern Ireland and the Japanese animated film "Spirited Away" shared the honors for best picture at the Berlin film festival Sunday.

Here is a list of the prizes: Golden Bear: "Bloody Sunday", directed by Paul Greengrass (Britain/Ireland), and "Sen To Chihiro No Kamikakushi" ("Spirited Away"), Hayao Miyazaki (Japan).

Jury Grand Prix (Silver Bear): "Halbe Treppe" (Grill Point), Andreas Dresen (Germany). Best Actress (Silver Bear): Halle Berry ("Monster's Ball") (USA). Best Actor (Silver Bear): Jacques Gamblin ("Laissez-Passer") (France/Germany/Spain). Best Director (Silver Bear): Otar Iosseliani ("Lundi Matin") (France/Italy). Artistic Excellence (Silver Bear): Ensemble acting in "Huit Femmes" by Francois Ozon (France). Best Music (Silver Bear): Antoine Duhamel in "Laissez-Passer". Blue Angel Prize (in honor of Marlene Dietrich) for best European film: "Sma Ulykker" (Minor Mishaps) by Annette K. Olesen (Denmark). Alfred Bauer prize for innovation or a first film: "Baader", Christopher

Roth (Germany). Short films: Golden Bear: "At Dawning," by Martin Jones (Britain). Silver Bear: "Bror Min" (My Brother) by Jens Jonsson (Sweden). Prize for Best Young Actress:

Danielle Hall, "Beneath Clouds" by Ivan Sen (Australia). Prize for Best Young Actor: Hugh Bonneville, "Iris" by Richard Eyre (Britain/USA).



An undated picture shows a scene of Japanese animated cartoon 'Spirited Away' of director Hayao Miyazaki. 'Spirited away' won the Golden Bear at the Berlin film festival 17 February 2002.

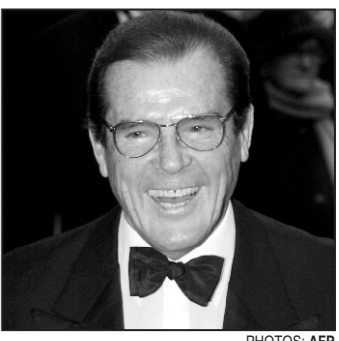
International



A model wears a design from Ronit Zilkha during fashion week in London, 17 February 2002



Peter Isacson displaying the oil painting 'View from Alost' by Flemish painter Jan Breughel the Elder, at an antique fair in Stockholm. The painting is worth about 25 million kronor (2.4 million USD)



PHOTOS: AFP British actor Roger Moore arriving at Claridges Hotel in London for the wedding of actress Joan Collins to Percy Gibson February, 17 2002

Schedule of National Drama Festival

Table with 3 columns: Date, Time, Location/Event. 19 Feb 6:30 p.m. Drishwapat, Dhaka Chop, Adalat Cholchey. 20 Feb 6:30 p.m. Monchomukut Natya Sham Shingkranti.