

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 Iftekhar Wahid Ite 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 All'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

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 end today.

Exhibition

Careful Calligraphy

Celebrating the language Movement at Drik and at Bangla Academy

FAYZA HAQ

ARHAMUL HAQ Chowdhury who is having his exhibition of Bangla calligraphy at Drik gallery and the Bangla Academy says, "The occasion for this is the golden jubilee of the Language Movement. The movement of the mother language has now stepped into half a century. This movement has brought our mother tongue a respectful place among other languages and today 21st February is the international Mother Tongue day. Bangla is an ancient language with almost 300 million people considering it their mother tongue. Its wealth and progress is no less compared to any other language.

"Like language, painting is also a medium of expression, the reach of it can be understood from the discovery of cave paintings. Painting and writing unite in a way of stylized writing, which is called calligraphy. Though Bangla has no shortage of beautiful hand writing, yet in the case of organized calligraphy, Bangal lags behind Arabic, Urdu, Chinese or Japanese. There are specific reasons behind the invention of calligraphy in various languages, and that is why they are distinctive. " Seeing and wanting art in



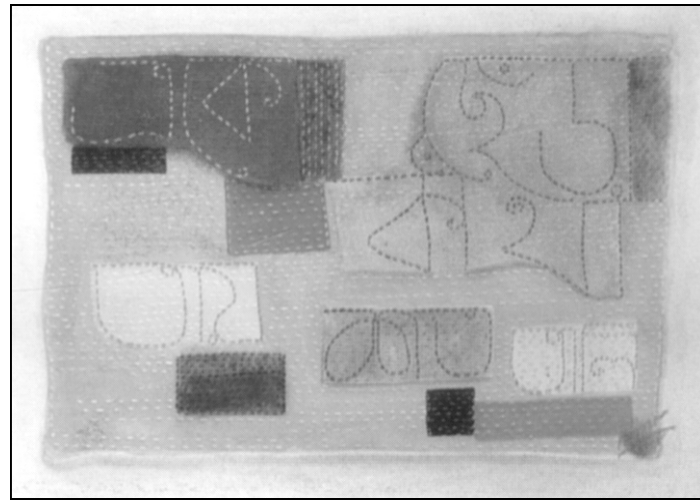
everything has inspired me towards calligraphy. I have been influenced by the Persian 'Tughra' style, where writing has become a motif keeping consistency with the verse. Calligraphy demands more than usual wiring and here aesthetics and art combine with writing, giving expansion to one's imagination. I think that every part of an alphabet has its own energy and often it is difficult to put it to form.

" This is my second exhibition of Bangla calligraphy, the first one being held at the Goethe Institut with the help of Dr Markus Litz."

Arham has taken traditional age old Bangla proverbs and put them into lettering forming motifs that delineate the proverb in lines and colours. In one he writes about how having mustache beard, and combining it

with hash smoking and donning red garbs makes one a "shadhu". The lettering form the face, the flowing snowy beard and moustache, and he is clad in holy colours ,while

of red. "Amar nam taler para grisho kaley diney dekha" brings in a leaf embroidered in red with frills in yellow along with a delicately presented cane handle. There is more red in the



behind him is a banyan tree. There is a pale gray wash at the back and forefront. "Bhojoney tushto, akhorey pondit tushto" presents the idea that an educated person is satisfied with letters. Here is an open book, a plate full of sweetmeats. At the bottom is a "dao" while there is a bee and flowers in the background. The lettering is in gray and black while the flowers and bees are in black, orange and red.

"Ghorey bairey ek mon, tobu hoi Krishno bhajon" bring in lettering like flowers with yellow centres. There are washes of gray and white on a background

background. "Shena korey lorai shenapati korey gorai" tells of how the soldiers fight while the leader takes the credit. A fluttering flag on the ground depicts this. The background is red while the lettering is in orange. "Ek daley dui pakhi gae gae makha makhi" shows two birds sitting close together with the accompanying adornment of flowers and leaves. This is set in a beige background while the words are written on the body of the bird in red on a base of pink. The beaks and head of the birds are also tinged with pink.

"Ek jagaey thakley haritey haritey thoka thoki" brings in two

vessels of different shapes and sizes with the lettering in red in a pale pink background. At the back are frames of geometrical shapes to balance the composition. This proverb conveys the meaning that too much of closeness in friendship can be harmful. "Shukhodor dokhin bayu tatey briddhi paromayu" brings in the words in the fluttering curtains that ushers in the southern breeze that is said to be so good for health. The curtains are in orange and red with green shutters and a gray wall.

"Chatok roilo meher ashey megh johorlo onno deshey" brings in a bird in pink and gray sitting on a tree stem while the clouds gather to the side and the rain falls in a different direction. The entire background is black with the lettering done in dramatic gray and pink. "Namey tal pukur ghoti dubeyna" which brings in the notion of a big reputation with little action depicts a vessel floating freely on the top of the pond whose waves fail to sink it. The container is done in bronze shades with brown on it while the water



is blue and green with swirls of writing on it. "Moshha martey kaman daga" which ridicules strong action against something minor brings in an actual canon aimed at some gathering mosquitoes. "Dekney la hoi shaper chhana dongshaley jey pran bacheyna" brings in the poisonous elements of even tiny snakes. The venomous reptile is done in careful black and red with little dots. There is container in white with black lettering at the side.

"Dada thakley rajbari Dada na thakley shudu bari" brings in a palatial building with a dome, pillars, high walls and huge trees. This is done in black, gray and white and it drives the message of the proverb home as do the rest of the calligraphy creations. "Dui naey dui pao ekta shul chirao bhau" presents two

boats containing the warning of having two many objectives. Its backdrop is in gray and green.

Arham has not only played with the lettering but has made complete compositions bringing in forms and figures on to the paper that elaborate the proverbs that he has delineated. In this second venture his colours have been more muted.

Apart from calligraphy, Arham, who is a student of Anthropology, designs gardens, dresses and interiors of houses. He has had solo exhibitions of his furniture, clothes and bric a brac. He often picks his subjects of designs from his academic background.

Movies

Japanese film director Miyazaki torn over his business success

AFP, Tokyo

JAPANESE animated film director Hayao Miyazaki, whose latest film won the top prize at the Berlin film festival, said Tuesday he was in a "serious dilemma" because his very success was undermining normal childhood. The 61-year-old director was handed the Golden Bear trophy by his staff, who brought it back from Berlin where "Spirited Away" (Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi) on Sunday shared the prize with "Bloody Sunday," a feature about the "troubles" in Northern Ireland during the 1970s.

"I did not even dream of a bear or a lion or anything like that waiting for me along the path we have walked on while making films," a smiling Miyazaki quipped as he grasped the golden, bear-shaped trophy.

But turning serious, the gray-bearded director explained he found himself torn as the popularity of his animated creations meant they occupied more and more of the time of children, whom he said should learn more from nature and everyday life.

"Now children don't know how to tend a fire or how to use a knife properly, but they know how to hit computer keyboards," he said.

"Can children get anything out of sitting and watching videos for



Japanese animated film director Hayao Miyazaki with the Golden Bear trophy - the top prize of the Berlin Film Festival

four or five hours? Nothing. Kids can never grow up (into well-balanced individuals) like that.

"The more popular my film becomes, the longer kids watch my videos. I am in a serious dilemma," Miyazaki said. "Who is going to put the brake on this trend? If we fail, children will lose touch with reality more and more.

"It does not matter if share prices rise or fall, but we have to have a solid intention to help children have a sense of balance. This is the most important issue facing this country."

Miyazaki said he was happy with the award, but was waiting to see the reaction of European chil-

dren themselves.

"I am not making a film for an award," Miyazaki said. "We never forget that we are making films for children. Film festival judges valued this film, but it does not mean European children liked it."

Miyazaki was vague about future projects, saying only: "I have had various ideas. But the future course will depend on various conditions."

The 61-year-old director, is famed for producing beautifully drawn, thought-provoking animated films, including the 1997 box-office hit "Mononoke Hime" (Princess Mononoke).

"Spirited Away" is the story of a 10-year-old girl named Chihiro who, after traveling through a tunnel, suddenly finds herself in a world of fantasy where she has to save her parents.

It was the first time an animated film has won the top prize in Berlin, one of Europe's three top film festivals along with Venice and Cannes.

Since it opened to theaters in July last year, the film set box-office records in Japan with 29.34 billion yen (220 million dollars) on sales of some 22.67 million tickets.

The film was released in Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan in December and in France in January. It is expected to be screened elsewhere in Europe and the United States shortly.

Photography

Faces of the society

A portrait photography exhibition of Iftekhar Wahid continues in the city that highlights facial expressions

AZIZ AMIRUL

A photography exhibition, titled 'Time and Expressions', started at the Cultural center of the High Commission of India in the city from February 18, 2002.

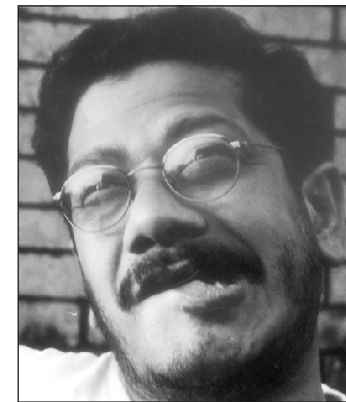
Amateur photographer Iftekhar Wahid Ite has displayed a total of 34 works, of which 27 are on the subject of portrait and the rest 4 have been based on general topics.

Protibondhi, Kaak, Chaka O Shomoy, Destination are the four photographs, those have represented different aspects of the community.

Through depiction of a group of differently-abled youth in

sleeping. 'I think it has been a good thing that I could not ask her anything. Otherwise, she could have become confused while replying to my query. Hence, there remains a success in the caption of this photo of mine', mentioned Iftekhar Wahid.

"The matter of time is a strange and at the same time, the most natural aspect of the cosmic system. I have found special interest in the theme of time and hence, tried to freeze the scene of moving wheels of a number of transports plus a pair of human legs, in my photograph Chaka O Shomoy", he said. In this particular work, the photographer has portrayed a sequential order of time in history, with the depiction of the human legs, wheel of a bullock



Cartoonist Shishir Bhattacharya makes face like many of his creations

of television performers have their facial expressions frozen in the photographs of the exhibition.

Hridi Haq, Shahed, Tanima Hamid, Ria, Tazin Ahmed, Shirin Bakul are some of the subjects of Ite. Two teenage drama actresses Meem and Agnila have also featured among the subjects of the portraits.

Iftekhar has taken portrait photographs of a number of poets and journalists including Al Mahmud, Golam Mortaza, Kamrul Hassan, Nasir Ahmed, Amirul Islam and Moin Chowdhury. Actress Ferdousi Mazumdar and Tagore singer Lily Islam have also been included as portrait subjects.

Iftekhar Wahid felt very much satisfied as a freelance photographer, but again had a lot of complaints towards the society, against various social restraints and controls.

"I am very much of a Bohemian type. I have performed many activities in my life those may be regarded as illegal or act of irresponsibility by the ordinary members of the society. I have slept under the open sky to feel and acquaint with the lifestyle of the urban floating community, who have no roof under them. The best thing in life is probably, to give appropriate honour and respect to each and every member of the human society, irrespective of class or creed. To serve a human being is to serve the almighty", the photographer said.

The exhibition continues from 10:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. till February 22.



Agnila, a teenage media performer gives a make-believe matured expression through the lens of Ite

Protibondhi, life wanted to express his personal attitude towards the bunch. He felt that the specially-abled children and adults should be aided with cooperation and not with sympathy.

A crow, wet and disheveled in rain, was captured in the frames of the photographer and has become one of the exhibits, titled Kaak. Ite discovered a sort of similarity between the lonely bird and himself, a wandering photographer of Bangladesh.

Bolo kone pothey tomar gontobbo, a photograph has shown a floating girl of the streets taking rest on a chair of some park and here life wanted to know about her intended destination. But failed to ask her any question as she was

cart and lastly, the wheels of an automobile. During pre-historic periods, man used to move on foot. With the advancement of time, one had to use the services of the mechanised wheels and the present period of time has provided man the opportunity of riding on the wheels of the car.

A large number of well-known personalities of the print media, showbiz, culture and art have become subjects of Iftekhar's portrait. The list included a portrait of a foreign filmmaker Goutam Ghose from India besides cartoonists Shishir Bhattacharya and Abdul Kuddus, singer Kafil Ahmed, dramatists Mamunur Rashid and Ejaz Munna, photographers Enam Ul Haq and Imtiaz Alam Beg. A number

MUSIC

Passionate expressions

Mehreen, a new singer appears in a musical album to be aired on Channel I, on Eid day

CULTURE DESK

DEKHA Hobe is a musical programme to be aired on Channel-I at 5 p.m. on February 23, the day of Eid. The program has 5 selected songs from Mehreen's second solo album Dekha Hobe.

This will add, once again after her debut ANARI, new dimension to the world of Bangladeshi music on television. This time the artist has made supporting videos of the selected songs.

It is an IMM Production and is the first ever scripted music video in Bangladesh under direction of Shuvro Khan.

As music videos are visual and aims at entertainment, this experimental work consists of dramatization as well as realistic situational presentations. Here the main performer is the artist herself. Mehreen has been presented here as she has never appeared before. Glamour and style, act and fun it is all in one.

Roxana Salam, an internationally acclaimed costume designer of Bangladesh, has prepared the white gown that the shadow wears in a song titled Mone pore jai. The gown itself costs around taka 50,000. Costumes used, were suitable with the situations presented in the song. Wherever the artist was to look delightful she was given such outfits, and at serious places she was seen mostly in sarees.

Juthi has done the make-up. Executive Producer Sraboni did the job of the choreographer.

It is a video, completely made by local logistics support and in locations inside Bangladesh. Even the male lead character in the song titled Bolechille chaille akash theke has not been seen to go far, rather he stayed in a place inside the country.

Locations were chosen as per the demand of the scene and mood of the song.

For Mone pore jai, an old dilapidated house was used to show the return of the lady who appeared in her physical state, and the search of the bygone spirit. Sonargaon has been selected as the location for this song. Here the artist had visited the place after a long break and she

recollected her past. At the same time the video shows that her spirit has always haunted the place and depicted the continued search for her beloved.

Moneri shajano deyal was shot having the city as the background. Here the man, who haunted her has been shown in a portrait form. Emphasis has been given on the appearance and the melancholy mood of the protagonist.

Ekaki khone is a song that showed puppy love of a girl for a boy she encountered everyday while practicing music with a band. The view of Dhanmondi Lake has been used as the background of this video.

Dekha hobe is the title track. We have viewed this song a number of times in all the channels but now it has come with a different look. Mehreen acted as the facilitator as a group of friends is having a jolly good time, this is when the girl comes in with flowers. It is very obvious that the girl was waiting to see someone the group tried to welcome her but she had other things in mind. Eventually the boy came and she had to miss him. Mehreen, as a guide showed the boy the way where the girl had gone. Its been shot having the background of a sea shore.

Bolechille chaille akash is a song of a jolly girl who had just lost her beloved occasional sadness and reminiscences signify the departure of a very handsome lover boy. But the song ended in expectation of reconciliation. Very commonplace costume had been used in this video. Here Mehreen had performed as a cute girl at home. The choreography here was very child-like. Though Mehreen's acting here was highly entertaining. The girl, namely the artist herself, seemed to be in pain and at the same time hoped for something nice to happen. She remembered past unhappy moments specially when her beloved left her and flew off to an unknown destination of a country. Yet, she hoped for a better future.

Ultimately, it happened when the girl had received a gift written I love you.

US cinematographers name best film professionals

AFP, Los Angeles

US film photographer Roger Deakins has been tapped for the top award handed out by the American Society Cinematographers weeks ahead of the greatest cinema rewards of all, the Oscars.

Deakins was given the ASC's Outstanding Achievement Award late Sunday for his work on the black and white film "The Man Who Wasn't There," for which he also received an Academy Award nomi-

nation last week.

The Oscar nomination was the first for a black-and-white film since Steven Spielberg's blockbuster "Schindler's List" in 1993.

Deakins, who also filmed the hit 1994 "The Shawshank Redemption," was cited for his artful rendering of black-and-white images in the film starring Billy Bob Thornton as a 1940s barber.

He beat out a wide range of nominees including France's Bruno Delbonnel for "Amelie," Andrew Lesnie for fantasy hit "The Lord of

the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," Donald McAlpine for musical "Moulin Rouge" and John Schwartzman for epic war adventure "Pearl Harbor."

The ASC outstanding achievement awards are seen by many as a bellwether of Oscar winners in the cinematography category as four of the last six ASC award winners have gone on to win Academy Awards.

In its longstanding achievement in a small-screen series.

Stanley Donen, director of such hit classic movies as "Singin' in the Rain," "Pajama Game, and "Funny Face" received the ASC Board of Governors Award, presented by star Warren Beatty at the ceremony on Sunday.

Schedule of National Drama Festival

Table with 4 columns: Date, Time, Venue, and Name. Row 1: 20 Feb, 6:30 p.m., Monchomukut Natya Sham, Shingkranti.