

RECOMMENDATIONS

Glimpses of Life: Japan & Bangladesh

A 7-day group exhibition titled Glimpses of Life: Japan & Bangladesh by two young Japanese photographers Machiko Honma & Kaori Yoshihara is being held at the Drik gallery. The show, which displays 60 colour and black and white photographs, has been designed to complement on going Japan Week in the city.

Kite Exhibition

A Japanese Spinning top and Kite exhibition will be held today at the premises of Bangladesh Shishu Academy at 4:00 p.m.

Art Exhibition

Japan and Bangladesh will hold a joint art exhibition at the National Museum art gallery in the city from March 7 till March 20. The exhibition will feature works of renowned Bangladeshi artist Mohammad Kibria, those of Noriko Yanagisawa, a Japanese contemporary artist and works of Kazi Ghayasuddin, a Bangladeshi artist who is presently based in Japan.

Ikebana

A Japanese Ikebana workshop and demonstration will be held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy on March 7. The workshop will begin at 10:15 a.m. and will remain open for the invited guests only. Theevent will allow free admission that will be held at 3:15 p.m.

Festival

A 3-day long prize-giving festival of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra will take place at Shawkat Osman auditorium of Central Public Library in the city from March 8 to March 10. Meritorious students in book reading campaign of the organisation will be awarded by reputed personalities of the country. Programs of the first day will start from 10:00 a.m. while those of the other two days will begin from 3:00 p.m.

Solo exhibition

A solo art exhibition of Abdus Shakoor will be inaugurated at Bengal Art Gallery at Dhanmondi in the city on March 9 at 6:30 p.m. The exhibition will feature recent works of the artist who is inclined to pause and look back, to lift the fraying mantle and enquire a willing legacy. The exhibition will remain open for all from 12 p.m. to 8p.m. till March 29, 2002.

Film Festival

A Japanese film festival will begin at the Institute of Modern Languages in the city on March 8 and will continue till March 11. Four films will be screened during the period with two shows, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., every day. The films are Tsuru, Faraway Sunset, Wild Daisy, Hearts and flowers for Tora.

Event

Fostering Lalon's mystic message

Shubha Shadhu Sangha pays tributes to six accomplished personalities on its first founding anniversary

TAWFIQUE ALI

SHUBHA Shadhu Sangha, a Lalon fan club, observed its 1st founding anniversary through awarding reception to six persons for their contribution in society. It is a new born platform which not only entertains Lalon devotees and Bauls but also any good people who practise honesty and austerity. On March 1 evening its celebration at the Press Club auditorium also included an enchanting Lalon song recital.

Six accomplished men are mystic poet Sabir Ahmed Chowdhury, noted playwright and actor Prof. Momtaj Uddin Ahmed, popular TV programme director Hanif Sanket, eminent photographer better known as portrait man Nasir Ali Mamun, dexterous national footballer Paniruzzaman Panir and eminent baul song exponent (Mentor Fellowship in Music at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy) Baul Pagla Babul.

Chaired by eminent folklore expert Shamsuzzaman Khan, the function was attended by Poet Shamsur Rahman as the chief guest while artist Mustafa Monwar and Prof. Moniruzzaman were present as special guest.

Shamsur Rahman distributed the crests and put wrappers on the recipients.

Mustafa Monwar, while speaking on the occasion, said, "I applaud efforts to honour accomplished men of the country. I believe that through comprehensive and heartfelt practice of art, literature and music a great service can be done to humanity."

Prof. Moniruzzaman termed the event as a noble arrangement and expressed his pleasure that in recent time there are efforts to show respect to accomplished sons of the soil.

All who received honour from Lalon lovers expressed their deep pleasure with the recognition to their achievements. Sabir Ahmed is a noted folk scholar who has composed over one thousand and



Honourable guests with award recipients

five hundred mystic songs so far. A folk expert, Reazul Huq, has done his research work on Sabir Ahmed at Rabindra Bharati



Poet Shamsur Rahman honours Nasir Ali Mamun with crest and wrapper

Exhibition

Inculcating idea of fine arts

Mobile art gallery opens at Jamalpur

CULTURE DESK

BANGLADESH Shilpakala Academy, as part of its countrywide expansion of fine arts activities, held a five-day art show that opened at Jamalpur public library from March 1. Arranged under the management of Jamalpur Shilpakala Academy, eminent cultural personality Prof Pradip Kanti Majumdar addressed the inaugural programme chaired by Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur Abul Hashem who is the ex-officio chairperson of the district unit of Academy.

A total of 58 art works of the country's illustrious painters has found room in the exhibition. Front order painters, whom the exhibition presents among others, are Zainul Abedin, Qumrul Hasan, S.M. Sultan, Safiuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Kibria, Aminul Islam, Qaium Chowdhury, Murtaja Bashir, Abdur Razzak, Nitun Kunda, Samarjit Roy, Hashem Khan, Rafiqunnabi, Abdus Shakur and Shahabuddin.

When asked to highlight on objectives of conducting such programme, Saimon Preira and Subir Chowdhury, organiser and director respectively of Academy's Fine Arts Deptt. told The Daily Star over phone, "Usually art and culture related activities centre around the capital city. This virtually keeps the people of mufassil towns culturally

unaware. When they avail any chance to encounter, these people show earnest enthusiasm for art and culture. Our objective is to provide them with such events and occasion."

Subir Chowdhury said, "our on going mobile exhibition programme started base in 2000 on 5th January from Mymensingh and so far we have held such art shows in 39

present outstanding and world acclaimed artists of the country to them. As such we may benefit ourselves."

About art show Saimon Preira said, "Congregation of enthusiasts on such occasions, is unique and quite encouraging. An orientation of art takes place among the visitors who generally remain far away from creative unique art works."



Artist Abu Taher, Biren Shome and Deputy Commissioner Abul Hashem have a look at paintings on display on the inaugural day

districts. Country's young people, especially school and college going youngsters are not aware of our achievement in the field of art. Through such initiative we intend to

During the exhibition screening of documentary on fine arts took place. The event, after Jamalpur, will be held in Barisal from March 9.

International



A Thai man leaves a boutique shop at a shopping area in Bangkok on March 4, 2002. Boutique shop in Thailand start to promote summer wears to welcome the hot season.

International

French PM criticises President's "Dolce Vita"

AFP, Paris

FRENCH President Jacques Chirac might be used to strutting the world stage as a statesman but for Prime Minister Lionel Jospin -- the man seeking to unseat him in upcoming elections -- he's better suited to the movie classic "La Dolce Vita."

That's the film Jospin said he associated Chirac with, according to this week's French edition of Premiere magazine.

The publication asked the leading candidates in the April-May presidential elections to note which movie came to mind when they thought of their poll rivals.

Jospin's response was not a compliment, as film buffs would know.

"La Dolce Vita", shot by Federico Fellini in 1959, tells the tale of a dissolute, handsome gos-

sip columnist who fills an empty life of parties and sex with the aimless pursuit of fading celebrities.

Its choice by Jospin is a clear insult to Chirac, whom he sees as a cynical vote-chaser largely devoid of principle.

But Chirac did not take his revenge. Editors said that, while the head of state revealed what films he liked the most, he refused to take any shots at those competing for his job.

The candidate who is currently placed third behind Jospin and Chirac, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, showed no such restraint.

He said the two front-runners made him think of French comedy "Would I Lie to You?" and its sequel "Would I Lie to You? 2" -- about a man trying to break into France's Jewish elite and his subsequent adventure in taking revenge on an exploitative businessman.

Cinema pics at graphics

AFP, Los Angeles

BRITISH actors Jason Isaacs, who played the villain in American civil war film "The Patriot," and Kenneth Branagh will star in the next in the series of "Harry Potter" movies, producers said Monday.

The new film, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," is scheduled for release in November, a year after the release for the first smash hit picture about the English boy wizard.

Isaacs, who also stars in combat drama "Black Hawk Down" and "The End of the Affair," will play the malevolent Lucius Malfoy, the father of Harry's nemesis Draco Malfoy in the Warner Bros. film.

Shakespearean actor, director and writer Branagh will take the role of Professor Gilderoy Lockhart, an egotistical new teacher of defense against the dark arts at Harry's magical Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Branagh has starred in films such as "Hamlet," which he also directed, "Wild Wild West" and "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein."

The celluloid version of the second book in Scots author J.K. Rowling's best-selling series,

"Chamber of Secrets" tracks the adventures of young magical apprentice Harry in their second year at Hogwarts.

British child actors Daniel Radcliffe will reprise his role as Harry in the new film, as will Rupert Grint and Emma Watson, as Harry's pals Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, to fight a new dark force at the school.

Other actors joining the cast include Miriam Margolyes, Mark Williams, Shirley Henderson and Gemma Jones.

Reprising their "Harry Potter" roles are John Cleese as Nearly Headless Nick, Robbie Coltrane as the gentle giant Hagrid, Warwick Davis as Master of Levitation Professor Filtrick and Richard Griffiths as Harry's Uncle Vernon.

The film, like the first in the series, will be directed by Chris Columbus and produced by David Heyman and is expected to generate as many dollars and as much of a social phenomenon as the "Sorcerer's Stone."



Pics at graphics

US producers union taps "Moulin Rouge" for top award

AFP, Los Angeles

HOLLYWOOD producers have named "Moulin Rouge," a revival of the old-style Hollywood musical extravaganzas, as their best film of 2001 in an award that could be a precursor to the best picture Oscar.

The Producers' Guild of America, an influential industry labour union, late Sunday announced the result of its annual awards with a result that surprised many pundits.

The honour is seen as an accurate bellwether of the top Academy Award, with 10 of the last 13 PGA winners going on to take the best picture statuette at the Oscars, including last year's "Gladiator" and 2000's "American Beauty."

But "Moulin Rouge," produced by Baz Luhrmann, Martin Brown and Fred Baron, had been considered a longshot for the Oscars this year because Luhrmann failed to pick up an Academy Award nomination for best director last month.

The picture however beat out Oscars favourites "A Beautiful Mind" and fantasy flick "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," animated feature "Shrek" and "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" at the PGA awards.

"Lord of the Rings" snared 13 Oscar nominations, "A Beautiful Mind," won eight as did "Moulin Rouge," but its miss in the best director category was seen as severely weakening its chances at the Oscars ceremony on March 24.

"Moulin Rouge," which has grossed 57.2 million doollars in the United States, had previously won a best picture award a best musical or comedy film Golden Globe in January.

The Writers Guild of America on Saturday however honoured "A Beautiful Mind" and 1930s murder mystery satire "Gosford Park" in its annual honours which are seen as a barometer of the best screenplay Oscars.

Milan celebrates neo-classical heritage

AFP, Milan

A NEW exhibition in the northern Italian city of Milan brings together some of the most outstanding examples of neo-classical art under one roof for the first time.

The cultural movement during the 18th Century which accompanied the winds of political change that culminated in the French Revolution was born in Italy but quickly spread through Europe and that diversity is reflected in the collaboration of many top museums.

The Louvre in Paris, the Vatican, Florence's Uffizzi Gallery and the Hermitage in St Petersburg have all contributed items to the exhibition which runs until July 28.

But while the exhibition contains works from artists and craftsmen of many nationalities it concentrates on the development of the movement from painter Giambattista Tiepolo to the works of sculptor Antonio Canova, the men exhibition organiser Fernando Mazzocca considers the two 'giants' of the movement.

The rediscovery of the cultural heritage of Ancient Greece and Rome provided an impetus for artists - and political thinkers - to question long-held certainties and to eventually challenge the old order.

Tiepolo's 1745 painting of Meccenate and the Emperor Augustus is one fine example from the Hermitage Museum while Canova's statue of Prince Heinrich Lubomirski dressed as Eros is another coup for the organisers.

The penchant of aristocrats and patrons to have themselves painted in the guise of mythical or real figures from Ancient Greece and Rome is one noticeable feature.

Neo-classicism emerged from the cinders of the baroque movement and expired with the rise of Romanticism.

"It was our country that was the leader in this renewal which, basing itself on recovering ancient ways of doing things, could make only Italy the ideal place of inspiration for artists all over Europe who came to aborb the ideal of perfect classicism," said Mazzocca.

"It is not for nothing that people think of Italy as Europe's biggest museum."

Many exhibits have been borrowed from the various former residences of Italy's former royal family with the Palazzo Pitti, Turin's Palazzo Reale and the Reggia di Caserta all making contributions.

The exhibition, entitled 'Neo-classicism in Italy from Tiepolo to Canova' is housed in Milan's Palazzo Reale and coincides with the reopening of some of the Palazzo's rooms which were damaged by Allied bombing in 1943.

The rooms themselves are masterpieces of neo-classicism designed by Giuseppe Piermarini, also responsible for the city's La Scala Opera House.

At present there is much debate in Milan as to whether La Scala - closed for three years in December for renovation - should remain faithful to Piermarini's vision or more radically revamped.

Italy's under-secretary at the Ministry of Culture Vittorio Sgarbi, visiting the exhibition, said he favoured a traditional approach.

Sgarbi is an outspoken critic of the modernist Teatro degli Arcimboldi, a purpose-built theatre in the Milan suburbs which is replacing La Scala during its three years of rebuilding.



Rock group U2 and their manager Paul McGuinness (3rd L) pose with their awards for Best Irish Rock band at The Meteor Ireland Music Awards in Dublin on March 4, 2002.

Video

Films on contemporary theatre

4 Stage Productions on Video (In collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Dhaka)

March 11 at 5:30 p.m. Samuel Beckett's "Endspiel"

March 12 at 5:30 p.m. Botho Strauss' "Der Kuss Des Vergessens"

March 13 at 5:30 p.m. Christoph Marthaler and Stephanie Carp's "Die Stunde Null Oder Die Kunst Des Servierens" March 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Carl Zuchmayer's "Des Teufels General"

Venue: Goethe-Institut Dhaka, Road No. 9, Dhanmondi.

