

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cinema

Meghla Aakash, a full length feature film on awareness against HIV/AIDS has been released in different cinema halls of the city. With casts of two renowned Bollywood superstars Shabana Azmi and Ayub Khan, the film also features local stars like Moushumi, Purnima, Shakil Khan, Amit Hasan, Ferdousi Majumdar, Shahidul Alam Sachchu and many other well known faces. It is an experimental production done by the organisation of FemCom, a N.G.O. The film is recommended for adults only.

Group Art Show

A weeklong painting exhibition entitled 'From Across the Border' by three Indian painters Deba Prasad Roy, Ugene Dutt and Habibur Rahman is being held at the city's Drik gallery. The show runs every day from 3 to 8 pm till March 29.

Musical Concert

The British Council and British Airways co-sponsor a concert by Tamil-British singer Susheela Raman at Chittagong Engineers' Institution Auditorium on March 24 and at Osmani Memorial Hall in Dhaka on March 27.

Solo exhibition

A solo art exhibition of Abdus Shakoor is being held at Bengal Art Gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition features 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 8 p.m. till March 29, 2002.

Sculpture exhibition

A weeklong sculpture and art exhibition by artist Nisar Hossain starts at Gallery 21 in the city from March 25. Sculptor Ferdousi Priyobhashini and painter Abul Barq Alvi will inaugurate the exhibition at 6 p.m. on March 25.

Solo art

A solo exhibition of Ronni Ahmed started at the Alliance Francaise de dhaka art gallery in the city. The exhibition remains open for all till April 5.

Tagore song evening

Geetasudha holds a Tagore song evening at Indian Cultural Centre, 754, Stamasjid Road, Dhanmondi on March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Beauty Pageant

Beauty pageantry comes of age

Pantene and Head & Shoulders "You Got the Look 2002" climaxes March 21 in the city

ZIAUL KARIM

THE city witnessed a rare blend of beauty and intellect in the four young men and women who won the coveted "You Got the Look 2002" at a grand beauty pageant at Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton on last Thursday.

This year 18 men and women competed for Best Look and Best Hair awards. Perky Azra and handsome Asif walked away with the Best Look awards while Sadia and Ratan pulled off the Best Hair awards.

Jubilant Azra said after winning the Best Look for female award, "This is simply unbelievable. At first I had no confidence in me and I was extremely nervous too. But it was in the last round that gave me the confidence I required to come on top." Five feet three inches Azra is aged 19.

Expressing his future plans, the Best Look for male winner Asif said, "After winning the title I'm seriously thinking a career in modeling." Twenty-four-year old Asif would also like to continue with his career in flying.

With dark and curly hair Sadia



Gracefully on the ramp

won the Best Hair, female award. In her immediate reaction to winning the award she said, "I'm overjoyed. I always treasured my hair." Sadia turned 18 this year.

Ratan snatched the Best Hair

for male award with his shiny silky hair. The award was quite a morale booster for him. "I want to pursue a career in IT. This award came to me as a windfall. Now I'm keen about a modeling career and



The contestants in a foot-tapping dance number

if I get a chance I will try my luck in acting too."

The contestants went through five routines on the evening to display their look and the presence of mind. The 18 men and women lighted the ramp with the

exquisite fashion collection by the young and innovative designers of the country such as Farah Anjum Bari, Shumi, Rahat Ullah Khan, Shupal, Mahmud and Arman.

What stood out for the audience was these designers' creativity in blending east and west in their collection. The evening came to life with the brilliant choreography of Sharok Amin. Eclectic Sharok created refreshing fusion work.

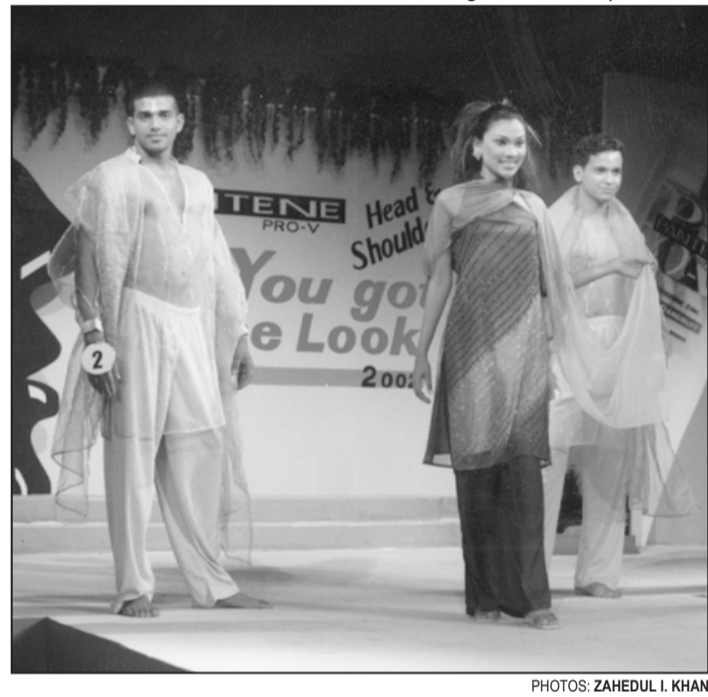
The complete duo Tupa and Urfi was impeccable providing relief and occasional comic to enliven the show.

The panel of judges comprised of Motiur Rahman, Editor of the daily Pratham Alo, Shaikh Sheraj, Director of Impress Telefilm, Anis Ahmed, entrepreneur, actress Subarna Mustafa, Shampa Reza, singer and actress and Bharat Patel, Chairman Procter and Gamble, South Asia.

Beauty pageantry has come of age with Pantene and Head & Shoulders "You Got the Look" in Bangladesh. Since last year this pageantry has been playing a fantastic platform to plant confidence in young men and women and inspires them to achieve their targets in life.



Winner takes it all: (from L to R) Best Hair female Sadia, Best Look female Azra, Best Look male Asif, and Best Hair male Ratan



PHOTOS: ZAHEDULL KHAN

Pantene and Head & Shoulders "You Got the Look" proved to be confidence booster for the participants

Music



Savouring an enthralling Ghazal evening: Ustad Harun-Ar-Rashid presented a solo Ghazal evening arranged by Suratuli Sangeet Bidyaniketan at the National Museum auditorium on March 22. He opened with "Mujhe Tum Najar Se..." His other captivating numbers included pieces based on ragas Miah Malha, Darbari, Bhopali and Emon ragas. Instrumental aids in his performance included Sultan Ahmed, Aitaf Hossain and at Tabla; Masum at drum; Munir Hossain at guitar; Almas at Behala; Anwar Hossain at percussion and Nazrul Islam at Jhips.

Book Fair



Independence Day Book Fair in Chittagong witnesses a big crowd on the third day, yesterday, of the five-day book fair commemorating the Independence Day. Organised by Chittagong Academy, the book fair concludes tomorrow.

Theatre Festival

Prachyanatya, to mark its fifth founding anniversary, organises five-day long theatre festival featuring theatrical shows and seminar at the city's Shawkat Osman auditorium of the Public Library. Detailed schedule of the shows is given below:

- March 26: Circus Circus at 7:00 p.m.
- March 27: A Man for All Season at 7:00 p.m.
- March 28: Kainya at 7:00 p.m.
- March 29: Kainya at 7:00 p.m.

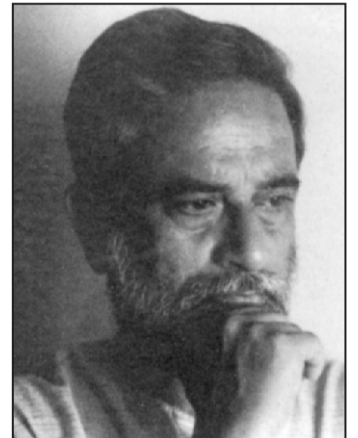
Dhaka Theatre Utsav

A cultural gala ends

A mesmerizing weeklong festivity of theatres, seminars, organized by Dhaka Theatre, ended last Friday

SAIFUL ISLAM

MRITYU Na Hatya (Death or Murder), adapted and directed by theatre genius Bibhas Chakraborty, closed the weeklong festivity of theatres and thought-provoking seminars organized by Dhaka Theatre last Friday at Mahila Shamitya, in Baily Road. Nandipat's Mrityu Na Hatya was the last bit of a series of captivating theatre productions presented by Dhaka Theatre, one among the many spells cast, a striking performance at the end of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the

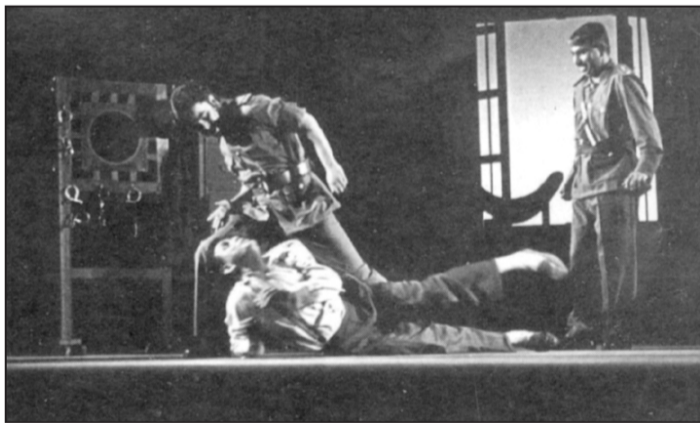


The director: Bibhas Chakraborty language movement. Friday—the closing day was also busy holding two important seminars on poetry and painting and music. Reception was also given to media-figure Ramendu Majumdar and an honorary medal to Ishrat Nishat. Dario Fo's captivating comedy

Accidental Death of an Anarchist is a political satire on the then prevailing traumatic situationa harsh criticism of the post war Italian milieu. Bibhas Chakraborty's adaptation keeps the bitter tone of the original Dario Fo drama making it more pungent and comical. An apt theatrical making for the Bangladeshi viewers liquidating the serious rude world of fascist Italy.

The problematic world of post world war Italy was a place of anarchy and corruption. Sixteen people died of a bomb explosion in Milan in 1969. Again the extremist leftist group was chosen as the whipping boy, several of them thrown behind the bars for crime, and one among the so-called hooligans died in prison. The blamed party sued a case which dragged on for ten long years consequently tearing the mask of the big-wigs of Italian political and executive arena. The high-ranking criminals received little, the cost was already paid full by little dedicated leftists.

Dario Fo's drama was a protest to this tragedy. Featuring the tragic incident this immortal play targets its gun towards the conspirators. He sketched his characters taking colour from that real life ridicule of humanity. Incorporating powerful lines into ludicrously light situations and fixing the bad characters against the hatred of the audience, Dario Fo created a piece which is enthralling even today. Moreover, the brilliant adaptation and direction made the piece superbly life-



Still from the play Mrityu Na Hatya

like. One of the altars for the devotees of theatre lovers in Bangladesh, Mahila Shamity auditorium, was heaving with peeling laughter and cracking applause last Friday. Trina, an avid theatre goer said "it was hilarious, I had a belly-full of laughter. The performance was lovely, we all liked it."

The cast were talented actors and actresses like Bimal Chakraborty, Biplab Naha Biswas, Sanjib Chowdhury, Debud Ghosh, Saumitra Poddar and Sarbani Bhattacharya. While the light was taken care of by Jayanta Mukhopadhyay the set was in charge of Sandip Suman Bhattacharya. Bimal Chakraborty was assistant director of this two-hour ten-minute long drama.

Dhaka Theatre gave Maqsudush Salehin- Bazlul Karim reception to theatre personality

Ramendu Majumdar. In the year 1956 Maqsudush Salehin and Bazlul Karim established Drama Circle paving the path of excellent theatre production in the then Bengal. Dhaka Theatre has decided to give out Maqsudush Salehin and Bazlul Karim reception to people of excellent contribution to theatre in Bangladesh honouring the two monumental figures of theatre in Bangladesh.

Fauzia Yasmeen Shibli medal was given to Ishrat Nishat for her innovative ways of theatre production. Bodh, Parthokko and Loha are a few captivating pieces directed by Ishrat. Fauzia Yasmeen Shibli is a well-known name in the world of our stage-drama. To honour her huge contribution in the field of theatre Dhaka Theatre has decided to honour the new faces of merit of Bangladesh theatre with Fauzia Yasmeen Shibli medal.

Theatre

Tale of a mythical family feud

Natyadhara staged its 7th production Augnijal at the city's Guide House Auditorium on last Thursday evening

TAWFIQUE ALI

ORIGINALLY based on Mahabharata's Parbasha-Aurabashu episode, the mythical plot of the play 'Augnijal' by Girish Karnad has proved its contemporary at its March 21 evening show in the city. Translated by Bibhas Chakraborty, the play has been directed by Ashish Khondakar who labelled the piece as a "conventional classic" when he was talking to The Daily Star representative. "In its story telling from, the play is linear quite simple and familiar to today's audience. There are universal men-women relationship, love, emotion, marriage, revenge, racial arrogance and family feud in it." The play's plot evolves through interactions and conflicts among these elements.

carelessly passes away his time. On the other hand Purbashu to serve his own interest, expels Aurabashu from the Kingdom on the charge of patricide. Meanwhile, Nittila gets married off to another man but flees away to unite with Aurabashu. His theatre group stages a show at the King's Court praying for rainfall in the kingdom. This play within play portrays how deceitfully Indra kills his own brother Biswarup. Having seen this drama Parbasha commits suicide in fire. Eventually Nittila's husband murders her. At length from, the play is linear quite simple and familiar to today's audience. There are universal men-women relationship, love, emotion, marriage, revenge, racial arrogance and family feud in it." The play's plot evolves through interactions and conflicts among these elements.

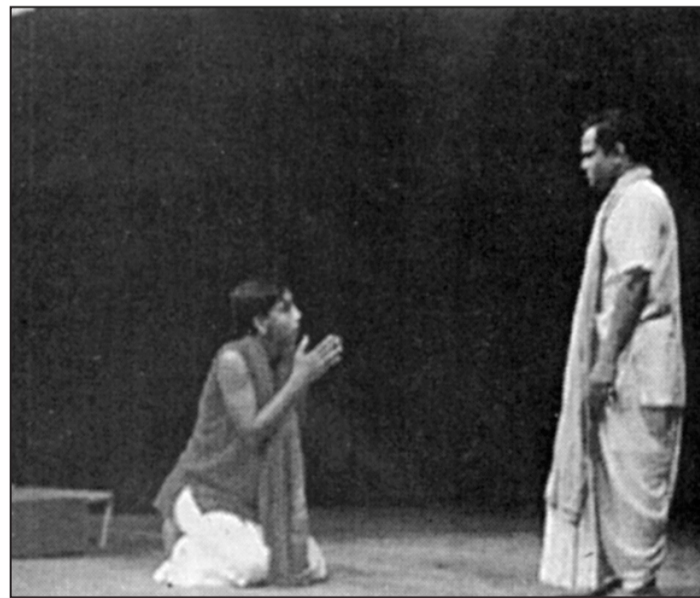


Parbasha is being entreated seeking permission to stage a theatrical show enlightenment in Bishakha. Bishakha's pre and extra marital affair with Jabakri indicates intricacy of human relationship.

Aurabashu and Nittila episode represents conflict of feudal values with theatre art. When asked to reflect on how he evaluates this play, director Ashish Khondakar says, "Ample simplicity is there in the story form of this play. But there is also an intricacy in its inner message. It's always the man's mental malady, which makes the things intricate, and inevitably men suffer its consequence. A classical tone is omnipresent in this play. Though it fairly contains its contemporary time, its relevance to the present day context is unquestionable. The play conveys a significant message within its simple arrangement."

Regarding his stage direction and design, Ashish further says. "I have faithfully tried to retain the play's contemporaneity and the colour of the text. In it I have tried to capture and display a classical image of oriental art manifested in everyday lifestyle. I have applied a minimisation form which is a basic character of oriental art."

The audience encountered a universal human drama in this play in a mythical perspective.



At a critical juncture of life aurabashu submits to Parbasha

There is a devastating draught in the kingdom. To set rid of it a fire extinguishing ritual is going on. Parbasha is the chief conducting priest of the ritual. His priesthood ends in a feud between father and son. Jabakri, cousin of Parbasha, has a fiery role in this conflict. Jabakri makes Aurabashu to commit patricide. Aurabashu is a youngman who is regardless to age old feudal arrogance and discriminatory caste system. He works with a theatre group and loves Nittila whom with he



Scenes from the play Mrityu Na Hatya

Liberation War Museum turns six

Liberation war museum has drawn up weeklong elaborate programmes to mark its 6th founding anniversary and 31st Independence Day beginning on March 21. Below is the programme schedule.

- March 25: at 6:30 p.m. Monday at Museum's Cafe Theater
Lightning of Candles in remembrance of the martyrs of the dark night of 1971 when Pakistan Army began the massacre of Banglaees. Poetry recitation by leading Poetry Recitation Groups.
- March 26: at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Museum's Cafe Theater
People's song by Protul Mukhopaddya, original singer and lyricist of the well known song 'Ami Banglar Gan Gai. Ami Banglar Gan Gai..'