

RECOMMENDATIONS



Syed Jahangir's solo

Featuring recent artworks, the 10th solo art exhibition by Syed Jahangir will start at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts on April 18 at 6 in the evening.

Drum concert

Yamato, a drummers' troupe from Japan will perform two concerts at 7 p.m. on April 12 and 13 at the auditorium of Osmany Memorial Hall in the city.

Photography Exhibition

To commemorate September 11 tragedy and to pay tribute to the innocent victims, a photography show sponsored by The American Centre of the U.S Embassy, opened on April 7 at the city's Dink Gallery, House # 58, Road # 15/A, Dhanmondi.

Art show

An exhibition of recent paintings by Murtaza Baseer is now being held at the city's Gallery Shilparag, House # 15, Road # 16(new) at Dhanmondi. The show is open to all from 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. everyday till April 19.

Photography

Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association holds a three-day exhibition from today entitled 'Rupashi Bangla' to celebrate the Bangla new year at its premises at Purana Pallan in the city.

Seminar

Splendours of mother nature

Bangladesh Bird Club holds a seminar and video show at the National Press Club in the city on the bio-diversity and bird population of Tangua haor and Shatchari forest

AZIZ AMIRUL

A feeling of serenity filled the minds of the audience who were present at video shows those were part of a seminar held at the VIP lounge of National Press Club on April 9.

The seminar began at 10:30 in the morning through the screening of 'Tangua haor', a video created by Ronald Halder, a dentist and bird lover. The show provided a good opportunity to the audience to know about the marshy wetland in Sunamganj district, a veritable home to a total of 176 species of ducks and wading birds of both resident and migratory origin.

The final scenes came as a shock to the viewers as a couple of amateur hunters were shown shooting down flying ducks from a boat.



Illegal logging in Shatchari is a serious threat to the forest's ecosystem

The audience seemed to be saddened also watching the scene that showed capture of live birds and ducks by professional bird traders through a special type of fine net called 'Kuasha jaal'.

Drama performer Shirin Bakul and wildlife journalist Shajahan Sardar presented a fine background narration to the video of Tangua haor.

After the screening of the video film, Enam Ul Haq, National coordinator of bird census activity in

Bangladesh, presented a keynote paper on the haor of Tangua and the Shatchari forest and in the process, revealed before the audience, some vital information of facts and figures on the bird life of the two natural habitats, many of which seemed unknown to the audience who were present at the event.

Pallas' Fish Eagle or Kura, a decreasing species of bird of prey received special highlight while speech was delivered on the inhabitants of Tangua haor.

In his speech, Enam urged all to come forward with helping hands in regards to protection of the natural habitats of wild ducks and birds from the increasing pressure of human encroachment and illegal poaching.

Some of the other important facts and figures of birds included that of the presence of 164 species at Shatchari forest and of the fact that 6 species of water birds found at Tangua haor was facing extreme threat throughout the world.

A second video film of Ronald Halder entitled 'Shatchari forest' was soon presented on the screens this time also enjoyed by the chief and special guests of the meet including M. Shamsul Islam, Minister in charge of the Ministry of Land, Nazir Hossain, M.P. of the area that includes Tangua haor and Anwar Faruque, chief conservator of forests in Bangladesh.

The video presented Shatchari forest that is located at Teliapara region in Habiganj district bordering the Indian state of Tripura. Special emphasis was given upon primates like Hoolock gibbon (the only ape species found in Bangladesh), Asamese Macaque, Rhesus Macaque and Black headed langur. Birds like Jerdon's Baza, a bird of prey, Blue-naped Pitta, Blue-fronted Robin and Hooded Pitta, all of these being birds of the deep forest, too received special focus in the film.

The film on Shatchari forest also showed illegal clearing of trees leading to rapid destruction of the rainforest's priceless eco-system. At present, the natural forest of Shatchari is being cut in phases to plant rattan, bamboo and teak. Because of its small size, the future revenue from the plantation will never be high although the loss of bio-diversity caused in the process is immeasurable. More harmful than the re-plantation is the mining of



Intermediate egrets are in high demand to poachers

sand from the forest floor.

The film included scenes that showed how truckloads of sand are taken from the dry streams of the forest in the winter causing serious damage to the physical properties of this forest.

in the background narration of the film on the forest.

Superb collection of intensely colourful flowers, insects and orchids of Shatchari forest was also highlighted with various scenes on birds like Woodpecker, Black headed and Golden Oriole, the highly colourful Coppersmith barbet, the majestic Great pied Hornbill,



Wildlife of Shatchari forest

Imperial pigeon, Green billed malkoha, the deep blue Fairy queen, the red, blue and green Bee-eater and others. Blythe's Baza was too, on the list, which is a rare bird of the forest possessing its last refuge in Bangladesh here in this forest.

Rare reptiles of the forest appeared on the film including copperhead snake and various types of colourful toads and frogs.

After the completion of the film, M. Shamsul Islam, Minister of Lands and the Chief guest of the event, delivered a speech of thanks where he mentioned about the importance of the maintenance of our ecosystem and urged all to come forward with cooperation and sincerity to protect mother nature. The Minister along with the Chief conservator of forest felt the need of declaring Shatchari forest as a protected zone of wildlife and nature.

After a short tea break at 11:30 a.m., a session of discussion took place that was participated by Professor Sohrabuddin Sarker and Dr. Aminul Haq, two senior teacher of zoology of the University of Dhaka.

The seminar came to an end with an open discussion participated among others by Professor Nurjahan Sarker of Dhaka University zoology department and Wahab Akhand of the Ministry of Forest and Environment.

In his concluding speech, Enam Ul Haq thanked all for participating in the seminar and once again mentioned of the importance of protecting and saving local species of birds, animals and specially trees of local origin. He requested the audience to raise awareness against illegal activities of poachers and tree cutters. He along with several other speakers including Professor Sohrabuddin Sarker and Dr. Aminul Haq urged all to resist the plantation of foreign species of trees and plants those are harmful for the ecosystem.

A.B.M. Salahuddin, a member of Bangladesh Bird Club, who is also a Deputy Director of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, managed the seminar.

Cinema

A chemistry of success

ALTHOUGH Ashley Judd could thrive in more challenging roles, and offer "Normal Life" (1996) as an example, her career seems to tilt toward thrillers, with the occasional comedy. She often plays a strong, smart woman who is in more danger than she realizes.

"High Crimes" is a movie like that. Judd plays Claire Kubik, a high-profile defense attorney for a big firm. When her ex-Army husband (Jim Caviezel) is arrested by the FBI, charged with murder and arraigned before a military tribunal, she defiantly says she will defend him herself.

This is the second movie Judd and Freeman have made together (after "Kiss the Girls" in 1997). They're both good at projecting a kind of Southern intelligence that knows its way around the frailties of human nature. Although Freeman refers to himself as the "wild card" in the movie, actually that role belongs to Caviezel, whose very identity is called into question by the military charges. "Is your name Tom Chapman?" Claire asks her



James Caviezel and Ashley Judd in 20th Century Fox's High Crimes - 2002

husband at one point. She no longer knows the answer.

The plot involves a massacre in a Latin American village and a subsequent cover-up. Did Claire's husband gun down innocent civilians, or was he framed by a scary Army vet and his straight-arrow superior? Does the military want justice or a cover-up? We are not given much reason to trust military tribunals—evidence the screenplay was written before 9/11—and the Freeman character intones the familiar refrain, "Military justice is to justice as military music is to music."

And yet... well, maybe there's more to the story. I wouldn't dream of revealing crucial details. I do like the way director Carl Franklin and writers Yuri Zeltser



Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman in 20th Century Fox's High Crimes - 2002

manipulations, well, that's what the movie promises and that's what the movie delivers.

As for Ms. Judd, from the first time I saw her, in "Ruby in Para-

Released April 5, 2002  
Claire Kubik: Ashley Judd  
Charlie Grimes: Morgan Freeman  
Tom: James Caviezel  
Lt. Embry: Adam Scott  
Jackie: Amanda Peet  
Major Waldron: Michael Gaston  
Brig. Gen. Marks: Bruce Davison  
Agent Mullins: Tom Bower

Twentieth Century Fox presents a film directed by Carl Franklin. Written by Yuri Zeltser and Cary Bickley. Based on the novel by Joseph Finder. Running time: 115 minutes. Rated PG-13 (for violence, sexual content and language).

conflicting theories of what actually happened. In the very season of the DVD release of "Rashomon," which is the template for stories with more than one convincing explanation, here's another example of how Kurosawa's masterpiece continues to inspire movie plots.

"High Crimes" works to keep us involved and make us care. Although Freeman's character may indeed start drinking again, it won't be for reasons we can anticipate (of course, like all heroic movie drunks, he retains the exquisite timing to sober up on demand). The unfolding of various versions of the long-ago massacre is handled by Franklin in flashbacks that show how one camera angle can refute what another angle seems to prove. And if we feel, toward the end, a little whiplashed by the plot

dise" (1993), I thought she had a unique sympathy with the cam-



Morgan Freeman and Adam Scott in 20th Century Fox's High Crimes - 2002

Painting competition

A trial for future artists

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts holds children's painting competition at Bengal Shilpalaya in the city today in observance of its second founding anniversary

CULTURE DESK

A painting contest of children entitled 'Borshoboron Shishu Chitrangan Protijogita 1409' will be held at 10 a.m. today at the Bengal Shilpalaya at Dhanmondi in the city. The event is being organised by Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts to observe the completion of its second year since founding in 2000.

Bengal Foundation that is about to cross its 15th year has done and still doing a lot for the cause of the country's art, drama and literature. The foundation is trying its best to bring a smart composure in various cultural disciplines of the country and in a similar attempt is arranging the painting contest for children.

Some selected works of painting from the contest will be put on display at an exhibition that will span over a period of two days, on April 13 and 14. The display will start at 12:00 p.m. and will continue till 8 p.m. The time schedule will be applicable for both the days.

Artist Rokeya Sultana will do a judging of the exhibits. Holders of the first ten positions will be awarded with prizes while certificate will be given to the rest of the participants. The award distribution ceremony will take place at 4:00 p.m. on April 14 and eminent artist Mustafa Monwar and world-renowned magician Jewel Aich will garland the chairs of the special guests at the event.

Anniversary

Tribute to a great founder

Central Kachi Kanchar Mela observes birth anniversary of its founder, Rukanuzzaman Khan Dada Bhai

CULTURE DESK

THE central Kachi-kanchar Mela paid tribute to the memory of Rukanuzzaman Khan (Dada Bhai), the founder-Director of the national Childrens' organisation, on the occasion of his 78th birth anniversary on April 9.

A colourful cultural soiree was held at the auditorium of the central Kachi-kanchar Mela in the city. First session of the two-part program included discussions on the life and activities of Rukanuzzaman Khan. Presided over by Khandaker Ibrahim Khaleel, Director of central Kachi-kanchar Mela, a discussion meeting was addressed among others by Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam who was the chief guest of the evening, Nurjahan Begum, wife of Rukanuzzaman and Mohammad Amjad Hossain, a joint Director of central Kachi-kanchar Mela. The speakers recalled the sacrifices made by the late personality to establish Kachi kanchar Mela with a view to imbuing in the childrens' self-respect, discipline, patriotism

a group dance performed by Chandni, Sejuti, Anna, Sharna, Tia, Nishitha, Nishi, Nilima and Himika, all of who are child artists of Kachi kancha. In an earlier development, the young members placed floral wreaths at the grave of Rukanuzzaman.

A large assemblage at the ceremony proved the possession of sincere love for Dada Bhai among

Poet Syed Al-Farooq turns 44

Celebration of birth anniversary of a poet takes place in the city today



Syed Al-Farooq

CULTURE DESK

A friendly gathering of litterateurs, journalists and cultural activists takes place at Muldhara auditorium, 41, Gazi Bhaban, Naya Pallan this evening to celebrate the 44th birth anniversary of poet and writer Syed Al Farooq.

Farooq is esteemed as one of the front ranking poets of the 70s. Travelling a long passage of poetic journey, Farooq has reached a remarkable distinction in contemporary Bengali poetry. Through his devout poetic practice, Farooq emerged as a promising poet in the mid-70s. His first volume of poetry, titled Urokhuro Mon was published in 1982. Literary awards, that have gone to his name so far, include Zia Smiti Puraskar (1982), Generation Puraskar (1990), Shishu Unyayan Puraskar (1997), Agrani Bank Shishu Shahitya Puraskar and others in recognition to his contribution in juvenile literature and poems.



Adam Scott, Ashley Judd, James Caviezel and Morgan Freeman in 20th Century Fox's High Crimes - 2002