

RECOMMENDATIONS

'Essence of Life'

May 24-30
Four artists from Bangladesh, India and America holds a joint painting exhibition titled 'Jibon Rasa' or 'Essence of life' using natural colours as ingredients of paint. The exhibition is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Essentials, House 30, Road 42, Gulshan #2.

Quamrul-er Ramonira

May 17-31
Entitled 'Quamrul-er Ramonira', a 15-day long painting exhibition by artist Quamrul Hassan is being held at the Shilpgraman gallery in the city. The exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Calligraphy

May 17-June 4
A calligraphy exhibition with the works of 24 renowned artists goes on at the lobby of National Museum in the city. The exhibition is open to all daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Group art show

May 15-29
The High Commission of India Cultural Centre presents a group art show featuring fifteen prominent artists from Chittagong at 754, Satmasjid Road, Dhaka. The show will run daily from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

Photography on ship breaking

May 18-29
R. Laarsen, a photographer from Sweden and a teacher at Pathshala Photography School, holds a solo exhibition in the city on issues of ship-breaking in Bangladesh. Through his works, Laarsen raise questions those focus on various hazardous and harmful sides of the business including matters of environmental pollution caused by the breaking process.

The exhibition is going on at the DRK gallery in the city and is open daily from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Twelve young artists' show

May 26-June 4
A contemporary painting exhibition of 12 young artists of Bangladesh is on at the gallery of Russian Cultural center in the city. The display is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Bangla songs of 21st century

May 31
Various cultural events and discussions will take place at the main auditorium of National Museum in the city from 3 p.m. onwards, in commemoration of the completion of the first decade of Nibedita, an organisation of traditional Bangla music.

Book launching

From a neutral perspective

The book, 'Challenge to Apollo: The Soviet Union and the Space Race, 1945-1974,' uncovers true stories hitherto unexplored

SAIFUL ISLAM

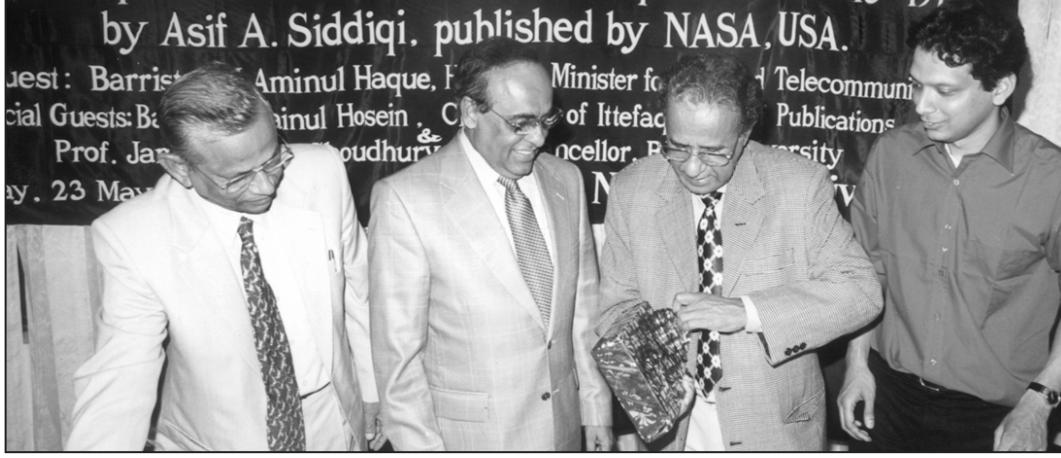
"THE book weighs about two and a half kilo," this seems to be a light hearted joke by Professor M. Harunur Rashid, but this comment points to an important fact, the volume and worth of the work. 'Challenge to Apollo: The Soviet Union and the Space Race, 1945-1974,' by Asif A. Siddiqi, a Bangladeshi, now working in NASA, travels over the history behind the failure of the Soviets to send the first man on moon. Barrister M. Aminul Haque, Minister for Post and Telecommunication, Barrister Mainul Hossain, and Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury were present on the book launching ceremony, chaired by Professor M. Harunur Rashid, held at the auditorium of STR 300, North South University.

Space has always been my interest," confesses the writer, a good-looking fellow of thirty-five who "glorified the name of Bangladesh" (as Barrister Mainul Hossain said) offering a monumental work that received praise and prestige abroad. "His book launching in Bangladesh will surely inspire the youth to work in the fields of space exploration where Bangladesh is lagging behind," remarks the chief guest, Barrister M. Aminul Haque.

The book contains large chapters

that straddle over facts and events that took place in the years 1945 to 1974, not only jotting them down or putting together the info, the book does more, it reflects on the happenings like a philosopher who is actively observing the events. The speaker who narrates the facts remarks on the peculiar way the world celebrates the US victory. After the stepping down of the Americans on the moon the Soviets seem to lose their zeal. The generals, the policy makers concentrate more on piling up lethal weapons. Although the Soviets were the first to launch Sputnik, and to send Yuri Gagarin, to orbit earth, the Americans were the first to step on the moon. The book analyses the reasons behind it.

Asif A. Siddiqi was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh and educated in Bangladesh, the United Kingdom and the United States. He obtained his BS in electrical engineering and MS in economics from Texas A&M University in College station, Texas, and his MBA from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. The writer published in such esteemed journals as *Spaceflight* and *Quest: The Journal of Spaceflight History*. He is currently a PhD candidate in the department of history at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Barrister M. Aminul Haque, Minister of Post and telecommunications, unveils the cover of the book 'Challenge to Apollo: The Soviet Union and the Space Race, 1945-1974' at the auditorium of North South University. Professor M. Harunur Rashid, Chairman, book launching committee (extreme left), Barrister Mainul Hossain, Chairman of Ittefaq Group of Publication and the book's author (extreme right) are also seen at the book launching ceremony

Cinema

Copyright on style

In a first of its kind, Tamil screen icon Rajnikant patents his style and looks for his forthcoming film Baba, writes Sudha G Tilak, from Mumbai

THE Tamils christened him Style King nearly 30 years ago. When Rajnikant appeared on screen twirling a cigarette before lighting it, flicking his uncombed mane, the cine crazy crowd had found a new god. His rakish looks and jeering dialogue deliveries have endeared him to the 12 lakh fans of his.

The 50 something Rajnikant is setting new trends with his forthcoming film Baba, his 150th flick which will be released for diwali this year. Through a public notice he has patented the film's posters, drawings, costumes and interestingly, even his looks, and the film's title.

Baba will then be the first Indian film to be copyrighted right from the leading man's mannerisms to dialogues.

Rajnikant's 150th film is awaited eagerly by his fans, as the star makes a screen appearance after a prolonged absence from films for three years. So even as the local media in Chennai speculates that Rajnikant has decided to opt for cinema over politics, he surprised them, in his characteristic manner of keeping everyone guessing, by bowing before the mahurat shot.

The very next day, after the launch, Rajnikant surprised the state by placing prominent public notices in leading Tamil and English dailies. The legal notice prohibits persons from imitating his screen persona for the film or using the character of Baba for commercial gain that includes models imitating his look for the film to push their product in advertisements or imitate his gag for TV programmes.

The notice also declared that no person or firm could use Rajnikant's photos, or sketches, head-scarves, pendants for selling or branding products. Tamil film historian Anandan told *tehelka.com*, "Rajnikant makes only well thought and calculated moves. He is the first Indian actor to do this."

Rajnikant's style dossier includes tossing a cigarette into the air and deftly catching it with his teeth; wicked pelvic thrusts in song



Rajnikant

sequences, a speedy gait and a tossing hair.

Since 1992 when things turned political for the star, he began to introduce a new dress code and a dialogue refrain in each film that made it easier for audiences to identify the film. Also, for the past 12 years, there has been a cold war between Rajnikant and All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) supremo J Jayalalithaa.

In many of his films in the past decade, Rajnikant's "villain" has been a powerful and rich female protagonist, who subjugates at the end. The female figure could be a thwarted lover, a mother-in-law, a mean aunt, a female boss at work or just a wealthy and arrogant woman.

The films all had dialogues that meant more than what they said. They hinted about his political decisions and his own views on female supremacy. Of course feminists ranted that he was anti-woman, but considering that the thambi (younger brother, as a young fan is called) forms the majority of

his fan club, it didn't create any flutter in Rajnikant's camp.

Baba's director Suresh Krishna adds, "Baba will have trademark punch lines for Rajnikant that have been so popular in the past. His fans will not be displeased".

Posters of Baba, released by Lotus International, a company that will handle the publicity, shows Rajnikant in blue shirt and black jeans with a short beard, his hair pushed back from his forehead by a black and white scarf and an iron pendant hanging from a black thread on his chest.

The trademark poster of the film has Rajni in a profile, clenching a budi with his teeth and holding his right hand up, his fingers imitating a classical Indian classical dance mudra of the deer.

It is not unusual for fans across Tamil Nadu to imitate Rajnikant's look for his forthcoming film by painting hoardings, be it barber shops or the ubiquitous wine shops, tea shops and petty shops. The notice puts a halt to this. Says K

Thangasamy, a wine shop owner in Chennai: "I haven't heard of this notice. I had made plans to have my shop hoarding painted with Rajni looking like Baba".

But knowing Rajnikant's constituency comes from this very strata, the star has taken care to state in the notice that autorickshaw drivers, who are Rajni fan club members, are permitted to paint his face from Baba on their vehicles that could double as promotion for the film.

However the Chennai grapevine is abuzz with the murmur that Rajnikant could enter politics after this film and hence is cautious that rival political parties like the AIADMK does not caricature him in their TV shows or through films or in their public meetings.

In fact, a fortnight before news broke of the star emerging from his hibernation to films, his friend and guide, MP and actor-journalist Cho Ramaswamy told at a public rally that Rajnikant should float a third front as an alternative to the two Dravidian parties. "It's not just my wish alone, but the wish of many others that he enter politics", said Ramaswamy.

Now Satyanarayana, president of Rajnikant's Fan Club, only says that the "fans want him to enter politics, but what he thinks is unknown to us".

With Manisha Koirala as Rajnikant's consort in the movie, it could well prove to a hit, which the Tamil industry has not yet had apart from the moderate success of Gemini. Meanwhile Kodambakkam insiders insist that the film could just spring another characteristic Rajni-style surprise. "The star could say in the film that he wants to follow spiritualism. Note the title, after Shiridi Baba", says one producer director friend of Rajnikant. One can never tell what style Rajnikant will spring next.

Source: Internet

TV GUIDE

CHANNEL-i

Morning

08:45 Babek

09:20 Musical Prog

Simana

10:00 ATN Bangla News

10:50 Bengali Film:

Sukher Songser

11:30 ATN Bangla News

bhata

9:10 Drama serial:

Simanay tumi

9:40 Documentary

6:00am BBC News

10:10 Gogt saatdin

Report

10:45 Music Plus

7:00 BBC New

11:30 Special program

Asia Today/Asia

Business Report

12:00 Pre-world cup

program

8:00 BBC News

12:15 Drama serial:

Simana

Business Report

9:00 BBC News

12:55 Drama serial: Joar

bhata

9:30 Asia Today/Asia

Business Report

1:25 Drama serial:

Simanay tumi

10:00 BBC News

10:30 World Business

Report

10:30 BBC News

12:00pmBBC News

12:30 World Business

Report / Sports

Today

1:45 Molly

3:30 Space Marines

5:15 Circuitry Man

7:00 Memory Run

8:30 Prototype

10:30 Dangerous Minds

12:30 Chasers

12:30pmShanti

12:30 Hit Filmein Hit

8:00 Sangeet

9:30 Fox Kids Daily

10:30 Small Wonder

11:00 Maal Hai To Taal

11:30 Meri Saahil

11:30 Hit Filmein Hit

7:30 Sangeet

9:00 JAG

10:00 The Pretender

11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show

11:00 Kasautii Zindagi Kay

9:00 Sanjivani

10:00 Atma

10:30 Hit Filmein Hit

11:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar

11:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz

11:00 Maal Hai To Taal

11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi

11:00 Kabhi Bahu Thi

11:00 Maal Hai To Taal

11:00 Aaj Ki Baat

11:00 Meri Saheli

11:00 Shagun

11:00 Kasautii Zindagi Kay

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