

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cinema

**July 28-30**  
Chalachitram Film Society observes its 20th founding anniversary and arranges eleventh program of its ongoing series of events titled, 'A tribute to the great filmmakers of the century: A selection of films' in cooperation with Goethe-Institut, Dhaka at the institute's auditorium at Dhanmondi in the city. Five famous films from across the world are to be screened.

Fine arts exhibition

**July 20-Aug 4**  
Renowned sculptor Rasa and his younger brother, Rajeeb Siddiky, a rising artist, hold a joint display of their creations of painting and sculpture at the 2nd floor gallery of National Museum in the city. The exhibition remains open to all everyday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Children's painting

**July 22-August 8**  
Entitled Wasserwelten (Water world), an exhibition of paintings done by children from the schools of 'Shilpi Sultan Pathshala' and 'Surovi' of Dhaka, takes place at Goethe Institut in the city from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday except on Fridays and general holidays.

Exhibition on French artist

**July 5-August 2**  
An exhibition of the works of French artist George de La Tour, observing his 350th death anniversary, continues at the Andre Malraux room of Alliance Francaise in the city. The exhibits include books on the artist and a majority of his famous works.

Art exhibition

**August 2-15**  
Artist Fakrul Islam holds a solo exhibition of his works at the gallery of Alliance Francaise, complete schedule of which will soon be announced. 'Art is the best way to express emotion, love and personal attitude of oneself' says Fakrul.

International

# South Asian paintings captivate Washington crowd

Artwork titled 'Adventures of Hamza' introduces Americans to Mughal book art

BENJAMIN GROSS, Washington File

WITH its vivid depictions of mighty heroes, evil magicians, and fantastic creatures, the new display of Indian manuscripts at the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery: *The National Museum for Asian Art for the United States* is sparking widespread interest in South Asian art among audiences of all ages.

'The Adventures of Hamza' presents over sixty illustrated episodes from the *Hamzanama*, a unique collection of dramatic stories loosely based on the accomplishments of Hamza who was Prophet Muhammad's (S.A.) uncle. Tales of Hamza's exploits emerged from the oral storytelling tradition of Iran and remain popular throughout the Middle East and South Asia.

The images on display are taken from a manuscript commissioned by

a teenage Emperor Akbar in 1556, shortly after becoming ruler of the Mughal Empire in northern India.

"This was a well-known story, and Akbar had actually heard it as a child, and also really enjoyed retelling it to his circle," in-house curator Massumeh Fahrad explained. "When he came to the throne, he decided he wanted to have an illustrated copy of this particular text."

Although he was illiterate, during his reign, Akbar established himself as a patron of the arts, employing fifty artists to paint 1,400 different episodes from the *Hamzanama* for use in his court, of which only 200 survive today. The entire project took nearly fifteen years to complete.

"In many ways it is considered not only one of the great masterpieces of Mughal painting, but really one of the most impressive manuscripts ever produced in the Islamic world",

The *Hamzanama* is a popular collection of dramatic stories based loosely on the exploits of Hamza, uncle of the Prophet Muhammad, who traveled the world spreading the teachings of Islam. Neither historical nor doctrinal in substance, the stories were born of the tradition of Persian oral literature that entertained audiences around nomadic campfires and in urban coffee houses with elaborate tales of fantastic derring-do.

This exhibition for the first time brings together some of the finest paintings of the *Hamzanama* drawn from more than 20 collections throughout the world. These include a core group of 28 paintings from the MAK-Austrian Museum of Applied Arts/Contemporary Art, Vienna that is the principal lender to the exhibition, whose superb holdings have never been exhibited in the United States.

Source: Internet

Fahrad said.

One's first impression upon entering the exhibit is the sheer scale of the project. Akbar intended his *Hamzanama* to serve as a performance piece to complement the work of royal storytellers.

Consequently, each of the *Hamzanama* pages is 70 cm high, far larger than earlier Persian-illustrated manuscripts that were merely intended for private use.

The *Hamzanama* also provided Akbar's artisans to demonstrate their skill in calligraphy, and the reverse of each painting is covered with lines of prose written in Persian, the official language of the Mughal court. These writings provided storytellers with knowledge of upcoming events in the story and allow them to improvise more effectively during their recitations.

Perhaps the most revolutionary aspect of Akbar's *Hamzanama* is the artwork itself. In many respects, the paintings represent a break from earlier artistic tradition and the synthesis of anew, unique style of Mughal painting, combining a wide range of cultural elements.

The artistic directors of the *Hamzanama* project were Persian, but many of the painters who worked for them came from all over South Asia and the Middle East. Throughout the manuscript, the fine draftsmanship and meticulous use

of color of earlier Persian miniature paintings are juxtaposed with traditionally vibrant and colorful Indian art. The use of perspective also hints at possible exposure to European art through the Jesuits, who

had recently arrived in the region. This blending of cultures reflected the cosmopolitan nature of Akbar's court, where the emperor invited people from different religions and cultures to meet and exchange views.

The actual episodes portrayed in the *Hamzanama* echo traditionally epic themes: the battle of good against evil, the importance of loyalty and bravery, and the enduring power of love. Hamza and his companions are shown traveling in search of adventure, fighting demons, and thwarting the treacherous sorcerer Zumurud Shah.

"This really is such a dynamic story. It's really quite different from any of the other exhibitions that we had", Fahrad said. "In a way this was wanted to bring that out: This is a sort of Robin Hood...this is Indiana Jones...this is action!"

The exhibit extends over two floors and marks the largest assembly of Hamzanama paintings since



the reign of Akbar. To further immerse visitors in the *Hamzanama* narrative, the exhibit contains a salon, lined with pillows, where visitors can sit and listen to storytellers present tales of adventure, as if they were visitors in the court of Emperor Akbar.

Meena Mould is one of the exhibit's storytellers. She recalled hearing stories of Hamza's adventures while growing up in Kashmir and feels that the oral aspect of the exhibit has helped audiences better appreciate the manuscripts.

"The oral component is really drawing the audience toward the paintings", she said. "Those who come and hear the story are connecting with the characters, are connecting with the legends and the adventures. Then they go back to the paintings".

Mould pointed out that public reaction to the manuscripts and her stories have both been overwhelmingly popular, regardless of whether visitors were familiar with the story before arriving. In her opinion, the exhibit has an equal appeal to audiences of all ages.

"I've been having in this room, the children and the adults, the adults may use more eloquent language, yet their message is the same", Mould said. "They are all listening very attentively...I have had all ages here, and they all love it".

The museum plans to host tours of the exhibit for school groups once classes begin in the fall. However, younger visitors during the summer may already participate in special programs teaching them about Indian art, music, and dance.

"The Adventures of Hamza" exhibit was conceived by John Seyller, a professor of art history at the University of Vermont. It will remain on display in Washington until September 29, after which it will travel to New York, London, and Zurich.

Source: The Public Affairs section of the Embassy of the United States of America in Bangladesh, Official website of the U.S. Department of State's Office of International Information Programs, Official website of the Arthur M. Sackler gallery.

Special Note: The Washington File is a product of the Office of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.



## TV GUIDE

BTV

12:10p.m. News headline  
12:15 Songs  
12:20 Selected program  
12:45 Azan  
1:00 News  
2:00 News headline  
2:20 Open University  
2:40 Nutrition based program  
3:00 News  
3:05 Education for all  
3:25 Cartoon  
4:00 News headline  
4:05 Children's program  
4:10 Drama series  
4:30 Ajker shongbadpotro  
4:35 Sangita  
5:00 News  
5:05 Sukhi parabair  
6:00 News  
6:35 Chittagong BTV  
7:00 News headline  
7:05 Drama serial  
7:30 Special program  
8:00 News  
8:30 Drama serial  
9:00 News headline  
9:05 Drama serial  
9:30 Drama serial  
10:00 News at ten  
10:30 Songs  
11:30 News  
11:45 Closing

ATN

5:30 Islamic Prog:  
7:00 Film songs prog:  
7:35 Surchobi  
8:00 ATN Bangla News  
8:25 Mage Serial:  
9:00 Mohine  
9:00 Reporting Prog:  
9:05 Ghotonar  
9:35 Napathee  
9:35 Band Musical Prog:  
10:10 Pop Dhamaka  
10:10 Musical prog:  
10:50 Music Time  
10:50 Bengali feature film: Mether Raja  
12:00 ATN Bangla News  
6:07 Musical prog: ATN Music  
6:45 Musical prog: ATN Music Time  
7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News Series:  
7:35 Mage Serial:  
8:10 Mohine  
8:10 computer based prog: ATN Computer Projekte  
8:45 Drama 'Bhoid  
10:00 Musical prog:  
10:00 ATN Bangla News  
10:35 Drama serial: Patal Purer Golpo  
11:15 Bengali film: Bhoui Bechar  
11:30 ATN Bangla News

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC News  
6:30 World Business  
7:00 Report  
7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report  
8:00 BBC News  
8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report  
9:00 BBC News  
9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report  
10:00 BBC News  
10:30 World Business  
11:00 Report  
11:30 World Business  
12:00 pm Report  
12:30 World Business Report/Sport Today  
1:00 BBC News  
1:30 Click Online  
2:00 BBC News  
2:30 Hardtalk  
3:00 BBC News  
3:30 Earth Report  
4:00 BBC News  
4:30 Asia Today/World Business Report  
5:00 BBC News

5:30 HBO

6:30am Birdy  
8:45 Cape Fear  
11:15 Coming To America  
1:30 The Fan  
3:45 Fools Rush In  
6:00 Contaminated Man  
8:00 Desperate Measures  
10:00 The Ten Commandments  
2:15 Howling V  
4:15 Fools Rush In  
6:15 Apex  
8:00 Funny Bones  
10:15 Species  
12:00 Honey I Shrunk The Kids  
1:45 Before and After  
3:30 Absolute Beginners  
5:15 Night Shadow  
7:00 Men of Honor  
9:15 Only You  
11:00 Funny bones

STAR PLUS

6:30 Star Geetmala  
7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain  
8:00 Aatma  
9:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet  
9:30 Fox Kids-Daily  
10:10 Hit Geet  
10:25 Kya Film Kya Geet  
10:30 Small Wonder  
11:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai  
11:30 Meri Saheli  
12:00pm Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet  
12:30 Kaahin Kissii Roz  
1:25 Film Toppers  
1:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki  
2:00 Bhabhi  
2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
3:00 Shagun  
3:30 Kasauti Zindagii  
4:00 Kumkum  
4:30 Kabhii Sautan  
5:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet  
6:00 Small Wonder  
6:30 Fox Kids Daily  
7:20 Aaj Ki Baat  
7:25 Kya Film Kay Geet  
7:30 Bhabhi  
7:55 Film Toppers  
8:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain

STAR GOLD

7:00am Geet Bahar  
8:00 Insaniiyat (Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand, Bina Rai)  
11:00 Bollywood Beats  
12:00 Baghavat (Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Amjad Khan)  
3:00pm Geet Bahar  
4:00 Sanshodhan (Manoj Bajpai, Vanya Joshi)  
7:00 Mangal Masti : Romance (Kumar Gaurav, Poonam Dhillon)  
11:30 Ram am Bharose (Randhi Kapoor, Rekha)  
8:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show  
8:00 MacGyver  
9:00 King of Queens  
9:00 Dharma & Greg  
10:00 Boston Public  
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey

STAR WORLD

7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show  
8:00 MacGyver  
9:00 King of Queens  
9:00 Dharma & Greg  
10:00 Boston Public  
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Hardtalk

6:30am Birdy  
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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

**EKUSHEY:** 4:00 p.m. *Dehotari*. The song-based program presents a wide variety of folk and spiritual songs, complete with mysticism and folk appeal. A special portion of the program shows spiritual gatherings and songs from Keraniganj of greater Dhaka.

**STAR MOVIES:** 7:00 p.m. *Men of Honor*. The story ultimately revolves around two "men of honor"; their relationship, their individual and joint failures and triumphs. Carl Brashear is determined to be the first African American Navy Diver in a time where racism is strife. Leslie Sunday is his embittered trainer, determined to see him fail. Fate, challenges and circumstances eventually draw these two men together.

**AXN:** 10:30 p.m. *The Man Who Knew Too Much*. Dr. Ben McKenna, his wife Jo and their son Hank are on a touring holiday of Africa when they meet the mysterious Louis Bernard on a bus. The next day Bernard is murdered in the local marketplace, but before he dies he manages to reveal details of an assassination about to take place in London. Fearing that their plot will be revealed, the assassins kidnap Hank in order to keep the McKenna's silent.

8:30 Kalash  
9:00 Kasauti Zindagii  
9:30 Kehta Hai Dil  
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki  
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
11:30 Kaahin Kissii Roz  
12:00 Film Toppers  
12:05 Aaj Ki Baat  
12:00am **STAR GOLD**  
7:00am Geet Bahar  
8:00 Insaniiyat (Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand, Bina Rai)  
11:00 Bollywood Beats  
12:00 Baghavat (Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Amjad Khan)  
3:00pm Geet Bahar  
4:00 Sanshodhan (Manoj Bajpai, Vanya Joshi)  
7:00 Mangal Masti : Romance (Kumar Gaurav, Poonam Dhillon)  
11:30 Ram am Bharose (Randhi Kapoor, Rekha)  
**STAR WORLD**  
7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show  
8:00 MacGyver  
9:00 King of Queens  
9:00 Dharma & Greg  
10:00 Boston Public  
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey

PICK OF THE DAY

**The Ten Commandments**  
On HBO at 10:00 p.m.  
Moses leads the slaves from the tyranny of the Egyptian pharaoh and into the desert where he is later given the law of God. Once the pharaoh's chief architect, Moses receives the attentions of the Queen until he rebels and is cast into exile.

6:30 Bollywood News  
7:00 Star Bazaar Hindi  
7:30 Saat Bajee Hindi  
8:00 Star Kheh  
8:30 Tonight At 8  
9:00 Star Samachar  
9:30 Star News English  
10:00 Star Business News  
10:30 Star Newshour  
11:30 Star News English  
12:00am Sports Tonight  
**CHANNEL [V]**  
8:00 [V] Back To Back  
8:30 [V] Jumpstart  
9:30 [V] Hit Machine  
10:00 [V] Back To Back  
10:30 [V] Hit Machine  
11:00 [V] Back To Back  
12:00pm [V] Zabarast Hits  
12:30 [V] JUNGJ Jukebox  
1:00 [V] FDFS  
1:30 [V] Hit Machine  
2:00 [V] Zabarast Hits  
2:30 [V] Back To Back  
3:00 [V] Zabarast Hits  
3:30 [V] Hit Machine  
4:00 [V] Hotline  
5:30 Very [V]  
6:30 Ctrl [V]  
7:00 [V] Back To Back  
7:30 [V] Hit Machine  
8:00 [V] Zabarast Hits  
8:30 [V] Back To Back  
9:00 [V] Zabarast Hits  
9:30 [V] JungJ Jukebox  
10:00 [V] FDFS  
10:30 [V] Hit Machine  
11:00 Late Night [V]  
11:30 [V] Rewind  
12:00am [V] Back To Back

ALPHA TV

7:00 Geet Gopal  
7:30 News  
7:40 Shraddha- Exposure  
7:45 Dewachiye Dwari  
8:00 Chitra Sangeet  
8:30 Surtaal  
9:00 News  
9:10 Dewachiye Dwari  
9:30 Filler  
9:35 Swartaal-Exposure  
10:00 De Dhamal  
10:30 News  
10:35 Duniyadari  
11:00 Housefull  
11:30 News  
11:35 Filler  
11:40 Geetanjali-Exposure  
11:45 Dewachiye Dwari  
12:00 Pimpalpaan  
12:30 News  
12:35 Chitra Sangeet  
1:00 Rhanunubandh  
1:30 News  
1:35 Manasi  
2:00 Ek Ha Asa Dhaga Sukhacha  
2:30 News  
2:35 Avantika  
3:00 Feature Film  
3:30 News  
3:35 Feature Film Contd.  
4:30 News  
4:35 Feature Film Contd.  
5:35 Feature Film Contd.  
6:05 Swartaal-Exposure  
6:30 News  
6:35 Sanjibhool  
7:00 Surtaal  
7:25 Swartaal-Exposure  
7:30 News  
7:55 Gaane Nave Tarane- Exposure  
8:00 Bhatkanti  
8:30 Kathakathi  
9:00 Avantika  
9:30 Shravansaree  
10:00 405 Anandwan  
10:30 Ek Ha Asa Dhaga Sukhacha  
11:00 Manasi  
11:25 Geetanjali-Exposure

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

6:30 Wild  
7:30am Nat Geo Max  
8:30 Dogs With Jobs  
9:00 Human Edge  
9:30 On the Edge  
10:30 Scientific American Frontiers  
11:30 People & Places  
12:30pm Dogs With Jobs  
1:00 Human Edge  
1:30 On the Edge  
2:30 Wild  
3:00 Nat Geo Max  
4:30 Sci-files  
5:30 People & Places  
6:30 Dogs With Jobs  
7:00 Human Edge  
7:30 On the Edge  
8:00 Wild  
9:30 Nat Geo Max  
10:30 Sci-Files  
12:00 People & Places  
**ZEE NEWS**  
6:30 Bulletin  
7:00 RPT  
7:30 Bulletin  
10:00 RPT  
10:30 Bulletin  
12:00 Dream Destination  
12:30 Bulletin  
12:57 Manoranjan  
1:00 RPT  
1:30 Beyond Headlines  
2:00 Bulletin  
2:57 Manoranjan  
3:00 Bulletin  
4:00 RPT  
4:30 Bulletin

ZEE ENGLISH

7:00 Family Pride  
7:30 Heartbreak High  
8:00 Benny Hill Show  
9:30 Three's Company  
9:30 Kate & Allie  
10:00 Gregory Hines Show  
10:30 The Sopranos  
11:30 Full House  
12:00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air  
12:30 Veronica's Closet  
1:00 Royal Canadian Air Force  
1:30 Benny Hill Show  
2:00 Three's Company  
2:30 Friends  
3:00 Seinfeld  
3:30 The Sopranos  
4:30 Suddenly Susan  
5:00 Mad About You  
5:30 Heartbreak High  
6:30 Full House  
7:00 For Your Love  
7:30 Seinfeld  
8:00 Three's Company  
8:30 Fresh Prince of Bel Air  
9:00 Suddenly Susan  
9:30 Veronica's Susan  
10:00 Mad About You  
10:30 Seinfeld  
11:00 Friends  
11:30 Homicide-Life on the Street

ZEE MGM

6:30 Doctor in Love  
9:00 The Woman In White  
11:30 Doctor in the House  
2:00 To Kill For  
4:30 Dream Lover  
7:00 Blood Oath  
9:30 Why Me?

ZEE CINEMA

7:30 Sant Gyaneshwar  
10:30 Kalyug Ke Avtaar (Jeetendra, Reena Roy)  
1:30 Kamyab (Jeetendra, Shabana Azmi)  
6:00 Qurban (Salman Khan, Ayesha Julka)  
10:00 Paap Ka Anth (Govinda, Madhuri Dixit)  
7:30 Sizzlers  
8:00 Zee Music Box  
8:30 Dil Se B  
9:00 Sizzlers  
9:30 Hit Pe Hit  
10:30 Hit Mix  
11:00 Zee Music Plus  
12:00 Compact Disc  
12:30 Hit Pe Hit  
1:30 Zee Music Box  
2:00 Jharokha

ZEE MUSIC

7:30 Sizzlers  
8:00 Zee Music Box  
8:30 Dil Se B  
9:00 Sizzlers  
9:30 Hit Pe Hit  
10:30 Hit Mix  
11:00 Zee Music Plus  
12:00 Compact Disc  
12:30 Hit Pe Hit  
1:30 Zee Music Box  
2:00 Jharokha

ANIMAL PLANET

7:00 Planet's Funniest Animals  
7:30 Wild Island  
8:00 The Aquanauts  
8:30 Animal Planet Safari  
9:30 Tuesday Trauma  
11:00 Crocodile Hunter  
12:00 Zoo  
12:30 Animal Doctor II  
1:00 Vets in Practice  
1:30 Wild Rescues I  
2:00 Savage Wilderness  
3:00 Animal Planet Safari  
4:00 Planet's Funniest Animals  
4:30 Tuesday Trauma  
6:00 Crocodile Hunter  
7:00 Zoo  
7:30 Wild Island  
8:00 Animal Planet Safari  
9:00 Nature World  
10:00 Planet's Funniest Animals  
10:30 Tuesday Trauma  
11:30 Crocodile Hunter

DISCOVERY

7:30 Monkey Business III  
8:00 K-9 to 5  
8:30 Sunrise: Wild  
9:30 Discovery  
9:30 Sunrise: Lonely Planet V  
10:30 Science Mysteries  
11:30 Science Frontiers  
12:30 Woman's Hour : Fitness Fantasy  
1:30 Wild Discovery  
2:30 Amazing Animals : Monkey Business  
3:00 K-9 to 5  
3:30 Discovery Kids : Going Wild With Jeff Corwin  
4:00 Discovery Kids : Naturequest  
4:30 Action Zone : Martial Arts  
5:30 Lonely Planet V  
6:30 Monkey Business III  
7:00 K-9 to 5  
7:30 Wild Discovery  
8:30 Science Mysteries  
9:30 Science Frontiers  
10:30 CIA Secrets  
11:30 Alien Encounters