

RECOMMENDATIONS

Solo Water Colour Exhibition

November 15-22
Artist S. Helaluddin holds a solo watercolour painting exhibition at Divine Art Gallery at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

Begum Selima Rahman, State Minister, Cultural Affairs, earlier inaugurated the exhibition with the presence of H.E. Hu Qian Wen, Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh and artist Mahmudul Haque who presided over the inaugural ceremony.

Leonid Meteor Shower Camp

November 19
A unique event that of meteor shower observation will be held after midnight, from 2:00 a.m. till before sunrise, upon the deck of M.V. Abashar, a cruise launch on river Shitalakha and Meghna.

The event is being organised by Bangladesh Astronomical Association and The Guide Tours Ltd. Interested persons are requested to contact at phone no: 0171-187555.

Photography

November 17 December 02
Dr. Pierre Clauquin holds a solo photography show titled, 'Surviving Dreams: The struggling circuses of Bangladesh', at the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in the city that remains open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. everyday.

Surya Utsav

December 29 January 02
Bangladesh Astronomical Association arranges one of its annual events, Surya Utsav (Sun Festival) as the organisation aims at showing the participants, several exciting matters including the first sunrise of the year 2003, cultural ceremony of the indigenous people of the area, Keokradang at Bandarban district, Pilha festival and observation of the night sky through telescope.

Theatre

A unification with Tagore's characters

"Nagorik Natya Shampradaya" stages "Raktakarabi" in the city



SAIFUL ISLAM

JAKHYAPURI is a cursed land. Its air is thick with a peculiar smell a mixture of blood and sweat. Here the sun doesn't show its face out of fear, here the birds do not sing. In a land like this Nandini worships beauty and love. The lonely king of the land does not understand these two things. He dissects and murders two people unknowingly. Nandini dances and sings and her moves are frightening to the raja. Through a fusion of melody and trumpet call, flashing lights to project the flame of thunder and mellow streaks of light to project the effect of the waning moon.

Spring is considered a cruel month there, as no flower blooms, the inhabitants of Jakhyapuri do not like flowers, as they sigh to inhale the fragrance the wind scarcely bear that with it. It ignites a competition among the insiders of caves and tunnels scattered over the land. Who is going to

breathe a flower first? Like the jackals they consider grapes sour. However, they consider Nandini harmful. They have had to live like underworld insects. They do not want to sing the joy of life. Exceptions are there, and Bisu is one of them. A professor understands the meaning of life but fears to announce it, lest the sardars or the imposed leaders of the miners should punish him. The burden of books has never driven him to fight. The Raja wants to listen to the joy of life. That is why Nandini has got a room in Jakhyapuri. The Raja waits for Ranjan, the lover of Nandini, carefree agent of life and love. However, at the end raja kills him mistakenly, if we accept his version of story, and this the point from where he changes, one of the reasons being his own menacing machine being used against him. He likes to live under the curtain of a queer net, and at last he is trapped in his own net.

In Jakhyapuri lumps and loads of gold have eaten up life. Greed reigns there. Charlatans use religion instead of morphine to pacify the brewing dissatisfaction. And a machine of oppression shuts the voice of the rebels. Though this seems impossible, in a barren land like this 'raktakarabi' blooms, as if it blooms over the graves. And Nandini's heart beats

over the beats of hammers. They dig for death while she digs for love. The two cannot go together. A storm is inevitable and they wait for this impending storm. It comes and smother everything. A conflict between potent and impotent, humane and material, magic and endeavour, life and death could be seen woven into the texture of Rabinranath Tagore's one act play Raktakarabi.

In Ataur Rahman's direction and adaptation all these conflicts are dealt with care. Opi Karim almost blended herself to the Nandini of Tagore's imagination. Tagore's timeless lines embedded with short epigrammatic lines and subtle shifts in mood are sometimes firmly articulated, sometimes thrown into air, and sometimes softly spoken by the actress. It is easily perceived as to how much effort is there behind such easy and free acting. The same could be said about each of the actors on stage. It appeared as if they have nursed the characters inside their hearts and dipped them in their spirit. A unification with Tagore's spirit; this is what could be safely said about the actors and actresses on stage.

Khaled Khan played Bisu. This character remarkably resembles Shakespeare's Jaques, the brooding loner of the comedy As You

Like It, in a way. The philosophy uttered by these two characters denies what we usually consider as law and order. Jaques sees from a distance and he is someone who prefers a life in exile, as society and order seems unbearable, the non-conformist abandons it. Bisu, on the other hand, goes against society of Jakhyapuri and that is why is executed. He announces that he does not want to be a part of the prevailing order, his non-conformity makes him an easy prey, but Bisu makes Nandini accept the challenge, and that divides the people of Jakhyapuri into two groups. And the raja, as he loses the last hope to be a normal agent of life, joins the fight to save the oppressed. Khaled Khan's mature way of getting very close to the audience has proved to be a very important tool for the play's success. It seemed to many that there are many Bisu's sitting by the next seat, every tinge of sarcasm that was made by him, every bit of gesticulation that was acted out by Khaled thrilled the spectators. The audience savored the moments of his presence on stage. The auditorium of Mohila Shomiti seemed exhausted as people flooded to see Raktakarabi, in many ways Nagorik's production of the play may be considered a success story.

Event

Fashion designers of this Eid

Magazine "Ananda Bhuban" holds award ceremony of its second Eid Fashion Design Contest

CULTURE DESK

THE winners of the 'Ananda Bhuban Eid Fashion Contest' were awarded crest and certificate at the Bell Tower in Dhanmondi on 15 November. Presided over by Iqbal Ahmed, publisher of Ananda Bhuban, the programme was also attended by the renowned poet Shamsur Rahman and fashion designer Bibi Russell. Besides, actress Bijori Barkatullah, model Shahed, sub-editor of the Daily Prothom Alo Anisul Haque, and editor of Ananda Bhuban Iqbal Khorshed were present.

Participated by both established and new fashion houses in the country, this was Ananda Bhuban's second Eid Fashion Design Contest. The contest was held in twenty categories. Famous poet Asad Chowdhury, artist Rafiqunnabi, designer of the fashion house Kay Craft Khalid Mahmud Khan, instructor of NIFD Jahangir Karim, child wear designer Selina Mamtaz, and Ananda Bhuban's Alamgir Hossain and editor Iqbal Khorshed were in the judges' panel. In the final round of the contest, the first five fashion houses from each category

were selected to participate. Among the various fashions houses participating in the competition were Caritas, Ilora, Shada-kalo, Doll's House, Anjan's, Perfect Textiles, Abartan, Reshom Polli, Shananda, Aftab Karupanya, Niloy Handicrafts, Royal Touch, Abirbhab, Karupolli, Dwairath, Doyel Silk, Nari Mela, Joni Textile, Eye Fashion Houses, Ganthon, Uddipona, Pallab, AB Fashion, Comilla Khadi, Charu Chattagram Fashion House, Shitol Babul Garments, Tantus, Ecstasy, Nandan, and Shirt Gallery.



Shamsur Rahman handing over the prize to one of the fashion contest winners

TV GUIDE

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Table for ZEE CINEMA and ZEE TV, listing movie titles and program schedules.

Table for HALLMARK and STAR MOVIES, listing movie titles and showtimes.

Table for STAR MOVIES and STAR SPORTS, listing movie and sports programs.

Table for STAR PLUS and STAR WORLD, listing various entertainment programs.

Table for STAR GOLD and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, listing programs and showtimes.