

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. The show remains open everyday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and is open to all.

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.

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, Pitha festival and observation of the night sky through telescope. Interested persons are requested to register names within November 30 at the office of Bangladesh Astronomical Association 1/3, Block-E, Lalmatia, Dhaka Ph: 0171-187555.

Theatre

Staging the famine of 1943

Universal Theatre stages Dhushor Teertha an adaptation of poet Khan Muhammad Moinuddin's poem Artanaad

HARUN UR RASHID

ADAPTATION of plays from poems is rather a rare phenomenon in the theatre of Bangladesh. Such a production, however, gave Universal Theatre a unique opportunity to celebrate the hundredth birth anniversary of the poet Khan Muhammad Moinuddin on 30 October 2001, when it staged a drama, *Dhushor Teertha* (Gray Pilgrimage) based on the poet's long poem *Artanaad*. In continuation of that commemoration, and also to enhance their activities in stage theatre, Universal Theatre held the sixth show of the drama at Nat-Mondol of Dhaka University on November 15.

Adapted and directed by Majharul Haque Pintu, the story of *Dhushor Teertha* takes place in 1943 against the background of a famine-afflicted Bengal. But it is not just the famine that prevails the plot; rather a vivid presentation of the socio-political situation of the period is created to convey the reality of the time truly. 'Although the time of the story is confined to a particular period of history, in adapting the drama we have tried to become universal', says Pintu. And in that pursuit of universalising the play, *Dhushor Teertha* makes recurring use of 'chorus' and a few symbolic characters. The 'chorus' appears on the stage from time to time to enact some choreographic presentation of the suffering caused by those evil forces.

As the play begins, the stage presents a few trees in winter without leaves and the bare ground strewn with dry leaves. The action begins with the appearance of an old man, Amar Bikash Ray, who unfolds the story of the play through recollection of the events of 1943. In his flashback, a young Amar is seen with his businessman friend Elahi Bakhsh discussing the ongoing famine. A well-established businessman in the city of Calcutta, Elahi does not believe that there is any scarcity of food; '...only the prices have risen', thinks Elahi. From the very beginning of the drama, there is created an oblique reference to the class of people doing the business of storing up food items, which leads to an artificial crisis of food. Elahi tries to



The choric representation of the famine of 1943 in a sequence from Universal Theatre's drama *Dhushor Teertha*

soothe Amar, recently arrived after his studies in England and presently working for an international company, saying that it is not a big problem that only a few people are starving.

But Amar has a past connection to this poor class, which he never forgets out of his conscience as well as for reasons near to the heart. Amar was raised and educated by a Brahmin named Gourab after his own parents had died. Now after returning from abroad and settling down in Calcutta, he received a letter from Gourab's daughter, Mala, whom he passionately loves. In the letter Amar comes to learn about the distressing condition the family has been going through. He then decides to go to the village, and Elahi also accompanies him.

On the other side of the story, it is seen in the village that a government official along with a village *majutdaar* (wholesaler) named Monilal, illegally stores up food grains, which actually came to be distributed among the starving villagers. Monilal has evil designs on Mala and uses his power to meet that lust by sending a message telling that Monilal will give her family food only if Mala accepts

Monilal's proposal. And as the fate would have the situation, Mala's younger brother Bhola becomes hysterical with hunger creating an intolerable psychological pressure on Mala. The girl, however, does not succumb to Monilal's evil scheme.

Amar and Elahi meet Brahmin Gourab, who left home in agonising shame as he had failed to collect food for his children. Gourab brings the two friends into the village. Finally, they find that both Bhola and Mala are dead from starvation. Amar's revelation of the responsibility to the family, and, most of all, his tragic realisation of inability to do anything for the family in time of need—'for people whom he loved so much, make him stay on in the village.'

The story line of the play is no doubt a simple one. But the drama draws attention by means of theatrical improvisations. The choric *leit-motif* is the first element in the play that produces the core of its beauty. Along the progress of the play, actors come onto the stage in procession presenting the famine-stricken humanity. Their tuned humming represents the groans of the starved people in search of food. At the same time, the humming also

seemed the weakest in the show of November 15. Monsur's modulation of voice, transition from one mood to another, even his movements on the stage at times appeared clumsy and improvised. In one sequence, he had to yawn to show his sleepiness, which was quite unnatural.

The acting of the other characters especially those of Elahi, Monilal, Bhola, and the Government official, enacted by Zakir Hossain, Mahmud Alam, Rajeeb Barua and Saikat Siddiqui, earned much commendation from the audience. The only female character, Mala, played by Rupa Akter was also quite good except for a few minor flaws. One common problem with many of the players was, however, that of their looking either upwards or in the void while acting.

As an adaptation from a poem, the play *Dhushor Teertha* is no doubt a remarkable achievement for Majharul Haque Pintu. But he should have been a little more cautious particularly in writing the dialogues. Among the three or four sentences in English put in Amar's mouth, most were flawed with grammatical errors. Now whoever was responsible, the scriptwriter or the actor, it marred the tempo of the play at least to a keen ear.

Chiefly involved with the street-theatre, Universal Theatre also has so far produced four plays for the stage, along with some fifteen street-plays. Established on 28 February 1994, the group has adopted some strict measures in order to run its activities smoothly and effectively. Holding shows regularly 'by any means', keeping the number of members limited, avoiding use of excess materials for characterisation, plot construction and stage-props are a few of these resolutions that the group follows.

Universal Theatre generally performs at the 'Shatayu Angan' inside the Ramna Park, which the group however calls 'Park Theatre Mancha'. And it may be expected that through hard self-correcting practice someday Universal Theatre also will tread on the professional stages, towards which is set its target.

Event

Biggest Media Event in Asia, Chobi Mela II Opens in Dhaka

CULTURE DESK

THE Festival of Photography, Chobi Mela II, opens in Dhaka on the 20th November. The biannual festival featuring exhibitions, workshops, lectures by visiting artists and multimedia screenings by over 50 photographers from over 30 nationalities will be shown simultaneously in the major galleries in Dhaka from the 20th November 2002 till the 10th December. The evening screenings will take place at the Goethe Institut.

The festival will be launched through the opening of the acclaimed international touring exhibition 'Positive Lies', which has already arrived from Sydney. It will be opened by the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr M. Morshed Khan, and the Honourable State Minister for Cultural Affairs Mrs Selima Rahman, at 10.30 AM at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The show has been shown in prestigious galleries all over the world including the UN Building where it was opened by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan.

The show, which documents community responses to HIV/AIDS, has so far been shown in Adelaide, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Canberra, Cape Town, Chaing Mai, Durban, Geneva, Johannesburg, Kuala Lumpur, London, Melbourne, New York, Paris, Perpignan, San

Francisco and Sydney, and is scheduled to go to Hong Kong and Tokyo after its showing in Dhaka.

The exhibition features work by the following outstanding photographers, Mike Abrahams, Shahidul Alam, Gigi Cohen, Mike Goldwater, C Moore Hardy, Fritz Hoffman, Harriet Logan, Peter Jordan, Barry Lewis, Osamu Kikuchi, Paul Reas, Denis Doran, Steve Pyke, Paul Lowe, Barry Lewis, Jenny Matthews, Gideon Mendel, Jack Picone, Christopher Pillitz, Mark Powner, Eugene Richards, Judah Passow, Dayanita Singh, John Sturrock, Roger Hutchings and Stuart Freedman.

Other major exhibitions featured in the festival, include World Press Photo 2002, 'India' by Sebastiao Salgado, and 'Photographs' by Morten Krovgold. The festival had a 'soft launch' on Sunday the 17th November through an exhibition on Bangladesh circus by French photographer Pierre Clauquin, at the Alliance Francaise. On the 20th, there will also be exhibitions opening at the BPS Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpa Academy, Shilparag, Goethe Institut, Gallery Chittrak, Bangal and Shilpanagan.

Evening screenings will take place from 6.30 PM at the Goethe Institut from the 22nd November till the 2nd December.

Further details are available from Drik Picture Library or Pathshala, or the website www.chobimela.org



Photo courtesy: Drik

TV GUIDE

BTV

12:00p.m. Opening

12:10 News headline

12:15 Patriotic songs

1:00 News

2:00 News headline

3:00 News (English)

4:00 News headline

4:50 Mahe Ramzan

5:00 News

6:00 News

7:00 News headline (English)

7:05 Weather

8:00 News (Bangla)

9:00 News headline

10:00 News at ten

10:25 News feature

11:15 Khabar / The News

11:45 Closing

BBC

00:00 BBC News

00:30 World Business Report

00:45 Sport Today

01:00 BBC News

01:30 HARDtalk (r)

02:00 BBC News

02:30 Back To The Floor

03:00 BBC News

03:30 World Business Report

04:00 BBC News

04:30 Correspondent

05:00 BBC News

05:30 World Business Report (r)

05:45 Asia Today

06:00 BBC News

06:30 World Business Report (r)

07:00 BBC News

07:30 Asia Today (r)

07:45 World Business Report (r)

08:00 BBC News

08:30 Asia Today (r)

08:45 World Business Report (r)

09:00 BBC News

09:30 Asia Today (r)

09:45 World Business Report (r)

HALLMARK

01:00a.m. The Magical Legend Of The Leprechauns - Part 1

03:00 Steve Martin's Undue Influence - Part # 2

05:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 49

06:00 My Brother's Keeper

08:00 A Good Thief

10:00 The Young Riders: Season 1

11:00 Lily Dale

01:00p.m. Touched By An Angel V

02:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 49

03:00 Scholastic Clifford And Birdy Makes Three

03:30 Caillou - Episode # 17

04:00 Flipper (66 Episodes X 1hr) The Challenger

05:00 Early Edition - Mob Wife

06:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 33 Meld

07:00 Hot Money

09:00 Early Edition - The Wall (Pt. I)

10:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 34 Dreadnought

11:00 King Of Texas

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

HBO: 2:00 p.m. *Contagion*. This thriller serves as a timely reminder on the night-marish consequences of bio terrorism. Bruce Boxleitner heads the cast as the President of the United States who becomes the target of terrorists while on the campaign trail. Within minutes, the fanatics had successfully infected the President with a deadly Level Four Ebola virus.

NAT. GEOG.: 8:00 p.m. *Wild Asses*. There is a corner of India so hot and so barren that people can barely survive. But for thousands of years all have admired a creature that makes this desolate place its home - the Indian wild ass. Almost hunted to extinction, less than 3,000 eke out a living in what is arguably one of the most unforgoing landscapes on earth.

HALLMARK: 11:00 p.m. *King of Texas*. The Old West is the raw, provocative setting for this epic updating of William Shakespeare's 'King Lear'. Patrick Stewart art stars as John Lear, a powerful Texas land baron who tears his family apart when he demands that his three daughters prove their love in order to inherit his land.

PICK OF THE DAY

"The best Van Damme movie ever!"

On HBO at 8:00 p.m.

Sam Gillen is an escaped prisoner hiding from the authorities. And Clydie is the widow who has given him shelter and protection against the cops. But Clydie has a problem herself, a bunch of corrupt developers who are trying to frighten her off and usurp her property. In a strange quirk of fate, both come to each other's rescue, helping the other with their problems.

STAR WORLD

(+ 30 mins)

00:00 The Drew Carey Show

00:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway

01:00 J.A.G.

02:00 Cheers

02:30 Creflo Dollar Daily

03:00 Kenneth Copeland Ministries

03:30 The Simpsons

04:00 World News

04:30 Suddenly Susan

05:00 Hollywood Squares

05:30 The Brady Bunch

06:00 Cheers

06:30 Oprah Winfrey Show

07:30 Bugs

08:30 The Drew Carey Show

09:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway

09:30 J.A.G.

10:30 Oprah Winfrey Show

11:28 Star Asia Travel

11:30 Law And Order - S.V.U

12:30 Suddenly Susan

13:00 The Bold & The Beautiful

13:30 Hollywood Squares

14:00 The Brady Bunch

14:30 Baywatch

15:30 The Simpsons

16:00 Cheers

16:30 Starnews Asia

17:00 Frasier

17:30 Charmed

18:25 Starnews Upd

18:30 Ally Mc Beal

19:30 Titus

20:00 Two Guys And A Girl

20:28 Star Asia Travel

20:30 Frasier

21:00 Charmed

22:00 Ally Mc Beal

23:00 Titus

23:30 Two Guys And A Girl

11:00 Meri Saheli

11:25 Film Toppers

11:30 Shanti

12:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet

12:30 Kasautii Zindagii Kay

13:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

13:30 Bhabhi

14:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi

14:30 Shaun

15:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

15:30 Smitli

16:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz

16:30 Kora Kagaz

17:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet

17:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom

18:00 Fox Kids

18:40 Aaj Ki Baat

18:55 Kya Film Kya Geet

19:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

19:25 Film Toppers

19:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom

20:00 Sonpari

20:30 Kasautii Zindagii Kay

21:00 Sanjivani - A Medical Boon

22:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

22:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi

23:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz

23:30 Aaj Ki Baat

00:30 Star News

01:00 Star News

01:30 Star News

02:00 Business News

02:30 Star News Hour

03:30 Sports Tonight

04:00 Star News

04:30 Star News

05:00 Star News

05:30 Star News

06:00 Star News Hour

07:00 Breakfast News

08:00 Breakfast News

08:30 Star News

09:30 Star News

10:00 Star News

10:30 Hotline

11:00 Star News

11:30 Star News

12:00 Star News

12:30 Star News

13:00 Star News

14:00 Star News

14:30 Star News

15:00 Star News

15:30 Star News

16:00 Star News

16:30 Star News

17:00 Star News

17:30 Star News

18:00 Hotline

18:30 Star Bazaar

CHANNEL [V]

(+ 30 mins)

00:00 [V] Hit Machine

01:00 [V] Hit Machine

03:30 [V] Hit Machine

07:00 [V] Hit Machine

07:30 [V] Back To Back

08:00 [V] Jumpstart

09:00 [V] Hit Machine

09:30 [V] Back To Back

10:00 [V] Hit Machine

10:30 [V] Back To Back

11:00 [V] Hit Machine

11:30 [V] Zabarast Hits

12:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox

12:30 [V] Fdfs

13:00 [V] Hit Machine

13:30 [V] Zabarast Hits

14:00 [V] Back To Back

14:30 [V] Zabarast Hits

15:00 [V] Back To Back

15:30 [V] Hit Machine

16:00 [V] Hotline

17:00 Vtop5@5

17:30 [V] Hit Machine

17:45 [V] Hit Machine

18:00 Vary [V]

19:00 Ctrl [V]

19:30 [V] Zabarast Hits

20:00 [V] Back To Back

20:30 [V] Zabarast Hits

21:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox

21:30 [V] Fdfs

22:00 [V] Hit Machine

22:30 [V] Zabarast Hits

23:00 [V] Zabarast Hits

23:30 [V] Back To Back

CHANNEL-i

7:00a.m. Prothom Sur

9:30 Music Plus

10:35 I Sports

10:50 Drama serial

11:25 Drama serial

12:00p.m. Drama serial

1:00 Surer Kobita

2:00 Bangla feature film

5:00 Hamd O' Naat

5:30 Islamic discussion

5:45 Teer Monohar Iftar

6:10 Music Plus

6:50 Drama serial

7:15 Channel I News

7:45 Telequiz

7:55 Drama serial

8:25 Drama serial

9:00 Channel I News

9:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh

9:40 Telequiz

10:00 Drama serial

10:25 Mobile quiz

10:30 Channel I News

11:15 Nazrul songs

12:00a.m. Channel I News

STAR MOVIES

12:30a.m. Full Ride

02:30 Ticker

04:30 After Dark, My Sweet

06:30 Great Railway Journeys

08:30 Boiling Point

10:15 A Glimpse Of Hell

12:00p.m. The Liars Club

1:45 Street Knight

3:30 Highway To Hell

5:15 Red Heat

7:00 Substitute Iv

8:45 When Danger Follows You Home

10:45 Trouble At The Top

12:30a.m. Highway To Hell

ESPN

(+ 30 mins)

00:30 Uefa Champions League 2002/03

02:30 Uefa Champions League Rome, ITALY

04:00 Roma Vs Aek Athens Group Phase 1, Matchday 6(T)

06:30 Sportscenter Hindi (R)

08:30 Friday the 13th Part VI: Jason Lives

10:15 Time Lapse

12:00p.m. The Kiss

02:00 Contagion

04:00 Night of the Creeps

05:45 The Education Of Little Tree

08:00 Nowhere To Run

STAR SPORTS

(+ 30 mins)

00:00 South Africa Cricket Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series Centurion, SOUTH AFRICA

01:00 Tennis Masters Cup, Shanghai, CHINA Highlights(T)

02:00 Soccer AfC U-20 Championship 2002 Doha, QATAR Korea Vs India Quarterfinal Match #2(T)

04:00 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (R)

06:00 Sportscenter Hindi (R)

06:30 Wrestling Apple Crush (T)

07:30 Motorsport Asia (R)

08:00 Pool World Pool Masters 2002 (T)

09:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 London, ENGLAND West Ham United Vs Manchester United (R)

11:00 Football Focus (R)

12:00 Western Union World Football (R)

12:30 Pakistan Tour Of Zimbabwe Zim Sun Test Series Bulawayo, ZIMBABWE Zimbabwe Vs Pakistan 2nd Test, Day 4, Highlights(S)

13:20 Pakistan Tour Of Zimbabwe Zim Sun Test Series Bulawayo, ZIMBABWE Zimbabwe Vs Pakistan 2nd Test, Day 5, 1st Session(L)

15:30 Asa World Tour Asa Pro Tour - Sickest Tricks '02 (R)

16:00 Pakistan Tour Of Zimbabwe Zim Sun Test Series Bulawayo, ZIMBABWE Zimbabwe Vs Pakistan 2nd Test, Day 5, 2nd Session(L)

20:30 Sportscenter Hindi (L)

21:00 Sachin Tendulkar Programming India Vs... Presented By Sachin Tendulkar (T)

22:00 Wrestling Apple Crush (R)

23:00 Sportscenter Hindi (T)

23:30 Pakistan Tour Of Zimbabwe Zim Sun Test Series Bulawayo, ZIMBABWE Zimbabwe Vs Pakistan 2nd Test, Day 5, Highlights(S)

04:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (R)

05:00 International Motorsports News International Motorsports News 2002 (R)

06:00 Tennis Masters Series By Mercedes-Benz Tennis Masters Cup, Shanghai, CHINA Highlights(R)

07:00 South Africa Cricket Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series Centurion, SOUTH AFRICA South Africa Vs Sri Lanka 2nd Test, Day 5, Highlights(R)

08:00 English Premier League Highlights English Premier League Highlights 2002/03 (T)

09:00 Windsurfing Pwa World Tour 2002 Sylt, GERMANY Grand Slam Wave & Race(T)

09:30 Formula One Boat Racing Uim F1 Powerboat Championships 2002 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA Highlights #7(T)

10:00 Spanish Football League 2002/03 Spanish Football League Madrid, SPAIN Real Madrid Vs Real Sociedad (T)

12:00 Formula Nippon Formula Nippon 2002 Suzuka Circuit, JAPAN Highlights(T)

13:00 Warburg Cup Ubs Warburg Cup 2002 Georgia, USA Day One(T)

16:00 Class 1 Uim World Powerboat C'Ships 2002 Dubai, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Dubai Grand Prix(T)

16:30 Asia Sport Show (R)

17:00 Max Power Max Power 2002 (T)

18:00 On The Limit On The Limit 2002 - Asia Pacific Rally C'Ship Mix Of Motorsport (Compile)(T)

18:30 Rally Racing World Rally Championships 2002 Great Britain, GREAT BRITAIN Highlights(T)

19:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (L)

20:00 America'S Cup Challenge Rounds Louis Vuitton Cup 2002/03 Quarterfinals Highlights(T)

21:00 South Africa Cricket Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series Centurion, SOUTH AFRICA South Africa Vs Sri Lanka 2nd Test, Day 5, Highlights(R)

22:00 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (T)

22:30 Wrestling Apple Crush (T)

13:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (R)

STAR WORLD

(+ 30 mins)

00:00 The Drew Carey Show

00:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway

01:00 J.A.G.

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18:25 Starnews Upd

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19:30 Titus

20:00 Two Guys And A Girl

20:28 Star Asia Travel

20:30 Frasier

21:00 Charmed

22:00 Ally Mc Beal

23:00 Titus

23:30 Two Guys And A Girl

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

(+ 30 mins)

00:00 Poles Apart

01:00 Hippios Of The Zambesi

02:00 Aghanishtan Revealed

03:00 Plagues

04:00 Mending Ways

05:00 Poles Apart

06:00 Hippios Of The Zambesi

07:00 Aghanishtan Revealed

08:00 Plagues

09:00 Mending Ways

10:00 Dogs With Jobs

10:30 Tomorrow World

11:00 Oz Trek 2000

12:00 The Tracker

13:00 Dogs With Jobs S3

13:30 African Wildlife

14:00 Going To Extreme

15:00 TBA

16:00 Warriors Of The French Foreign Legion

17:00 Snakebite!

17:30 Mission Wild

18:00 Dogs With Jobs

18:30 Tomorrow's World

19:00 Above All Else

20:00 Wild Ases

21:00 Nat Geo Frontline

22:00 Diaries

22:00 Hit Science

23:00 Inside The Vatican

STAR NEWS

(+ 30 mins)

00:00 Star News English