RECOMMENDATIONS

Theatre

December 31

Mohakal Natya Shampraday stages its new production Shikhondi Katha (Tale of the Hermaphrodites) at Mohila Shomiti. Written by Anan Jaman and directed by Rashid Harun, the play is a research theatre focusing for the first time in Bangladesh the general woes and happiness of the hermaphrodite society. The drama propounds a sympathetic viewpoint for these naturally deprived human beings so as to treat them equally as the rest are. The drama starts at

6.30 p.m. **Dance**

January 1 Akrity--a 'Dance Institute & Troupe'--arranges a dance show at the auditorium of Shishu Academy at 6

Art Exhibition

A solo exhibition of paintings by Abdus Satter is going on at the Saju Art Gallery. It is the artist's 19th solo exhibition. The exhibition is open from 10 a.m. up to 8.30 p.m. till January 5, 2003 everyday except

15th National Fine Arts **Exhibition 2002**

The 15th National Fine Arts Exhibition 2002 starts on December 28 at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. At the exhibition several awards including Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award 2002 for the Best Work, Bengal Foundation Award, Arab Bangladesh Bank Award, Deepa Haque Award, Bashundhara Group Award and Pacific Group Gold Medal will be declared. Honourable President Professor Dr. lajuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the exhibition. The exhibition will run through January 27 everyday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays.

Exhibition December 27- January 8

A solo exhibition of paintings by A H M Bashirullah will start at the Alliance Française de Dacca on December 27 at 5 p.m. The exhibition will remain open for visitors up to January 8 everyday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Exhibition

Behind book-cover illustrations

Robin Ahsan holds his first exhibition of cover designs at the "Biswa Shahitya Kendra"

HARUN UR RASHID

HEN it comes to buying books, there is hardly anyone who does not take a long scrutinising look at the cover illustration of the book. Indeed, the cover design of a book inspires up in the reader-buyer the very preliminary elements of liking, apart from one's fondness for particular writers in some cases; and that initial impression might ultimately make the reader buy the book. Most of all, it is the cover of a book--the picture on it, the use of colours in the illustration, the calligraphy--that helps most readers get an idea about a book. With a collection of such cover illustrations by Robin Ahsan, an exceptional exhibition was recently held at the "Biswa Shahitya Kendra".

The exhibition was quite unusual in nature, as there has not been any

honestly confesses that he wanted to

be recognised, he wanted his works

to be evaluated by people. Robin

believes that cover designing is also

an art. Not only does it speak out a

composite thought of the book; it also

ing has had its roots long back in his

childhood. At that time he was

immensely fascinated by the cover

illustrations of his own schoolbooks

He was also attracted by the street-

side billboards. These childhood

fascinations grew in him the desire to

become an artist. But rather unfortu-

Robin's interest in cover design-

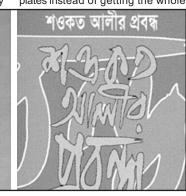
expresses an artist's view.

nate for him, he could not attend any art institution due to some personal difficulties. Nevertheless, he kept up this passion

In 1993 Robin got an opportunity to create the logo and cover illustration for a little-magazine called Trinomool. As the editor of the magazine was the eminent novelist Akhteruzzaman Elias and he had approved the design, Robin found considerable confidence to carry on with his art. Incidentally, that issue was the last under Elias' editorship before his death. Soon after that work Robin has become one of those lucky young illustrators, who have act opportunities of working on books by highly acclaimed authors. The exhibition gathered a few of such works: Shawkat Ali-r Probondha, Shikkha O Shikkha Andolon by Badruddin Umar, Ekaaley Amader Kaal by Sufia Kamal, Prachya by Selim Al Din, Shei Shey Kaal by

of the past, in which an artist's creative sensibility also touched the reader of the book. But now, especially since the mid-1990s computer technology has drastically overpowered the human ability of creative ideas. The 'cut-copy-paste' technology no longer lets an artist improvise his own creativity into his work. It mostly gives colourful embellishment to the cover in which art could be hardly found. Illustrators no more draw pictures themselves; they mostly gather figures with the help of the computer. Robin defies this collage style of cover illustration.

Robin also often works on the computer, but he does not entirely rely on the machine. Very often he works in the old method of skin-print, n which he creates the cover himself through different media like watercolour, pastel, oil-painting etc. Even he himself makes the skin-print plates instead of getting the whole



such event in recent years. Only an Sarder Fazlul Karim, Bangladesh-er exhibition of cover illustrations by Urdu Kobita edited by poet Asad Quayyum Chowdhury before 1971 Chowdhury and many others. and another posthumous display of What is mostly noticeable in the Kazi Ahsan Habib's works can be works of Robin is abundant use of traced down till now. Apropos the reason behind the exhibition. Robin

calligraphy in different experimental ways. Robin says that after Quayyum Chowdhury, no one has any major contribution to calligraphy of the cover design of books. What is seen around apart from Quayyum's works are rather some experiments on his established styles. Robin wishes to do something different in this field. Regarding present culture of

cover illustration Robin has a rather frustrated opinion. He supposes that glorious era of artistic cover illustration ended with the advent of computer technology into the field at the closing of the 1980s. He recalls the illustrious cover designs of the books

output on transparent sheets. Again, sometimes he loves to work on hand-made paper. One such work is the cover of a book of poems dedicated to Vladimir E

It seems, after seeing Robin's exhibition, that there should be more exhibitions of cover designs, for this would firstly create a competitive atmosphere for the designers which will ultimately contribute to the improvement of the art. Then, the readers will also get the chance to see a lot of works together, which is not otherwise possible. After all, it is not possible for people to buy all those books bearing good illustrations, nor is it that people buy books for cover illustrations onlv.

Musings

CULTURE

Drive away your blues with something positive

I RESOLVE TO BE MORE OPEN MINDED.

New Year Resolutions

FAYZA HAQ

HE new year begins from day after tomorrow; today, on the eve of 2003 there will be fireworks, dancing, dining and exchange of gifts by the upper echelons of society. The bourgeoisie in general, in Dhaka and other Bangladeshi cities , concentrate on "Pahela Baishakh" as the beginning of new year, with their red edged sari, "pantha bhat", hilsa fish and singing at different cultural venues, along with painting the walls and streets with fanciful "alpana" patterns. Those Dhakiites of Iranian origin will celebrate "Nauroze" with richly flavoured food with lots of raisins and almonds, as and when the time comes. Yet, what of the rest of those in our country, who have neither the time nor money to splurge on new clothes or fancy food? Can they not do something special for the new year, in their offices, schoolrooms, kitchen corners and gardens? Yes, they can have new year resolutions if nothing

One can begin by telling oneself that one will be more fit physically,by going on a steady diet and cutting down on carbohydrates; visiting the aerobic classes and shaking the neck when rich food is offered at houses which one visits. One can go for half-hour walks or do on-the spot jogging if long walks in the evening or morning is out of question, for those who can barely open their eyes in the morning, or feel fagged out flat after the day's efforts. Slimming down to the right weight has not only to do with aestheticism of the figure but is also important for the health for both the genders.

Again, both men and women tend to be somewhat absent minded while travelling and tend to get mugged .I know of many men and women who have been mugged more then five times, losing their watches, wallets, purses, jewellery keys, important papers and what not. One should decide for 2003 that one will avoid travelling in dangerous areas in the evening or be more alert and even carry as little money as possible. This applies to items like mobiles and rare photographs of sentimental value too. The resolution should be that all important work should be finished before dusk, that one will be on high alert during traffic jams, in places like New Elephant Road or the



or even during shopping ,at places like Eastern Plaza. Even taking out the change on the Mirpur Road can be dangerous, as drug-taking youngsters in speeding baby-taxis are there to snatch bags if one is not totally alert.

Again, when one goes in for a job there is often the tendency to become a workaholic or vice versa, a lazy slow coach -- who is never in time and so seldom pleases the boss by getting the job done during the given period. One must resolve, with the coming of the new year, that one will take days off to break the monotony of work and to keep in touch with relatives and friends who need one's love and affection by actual presence, to guide them through life, with its ups and downs, its slings and arrows. It's not enough to be nonpareil at one's work. Man cannot live by work alone. One must have time for the "milads" the wedding of the favourite cousins . the sick visits to the dear ones, the time listen to one's favourite "Rabindrasangeet" or "Nazrulgeeti" or even "Palligeeti" or band music. There are the CDs of Mozart, Beethoven and Chopin that one must catch up with, along with the reading that one has put aside for years. As for being in time, one car put double alarms, ask one's parents or siblings or even the domestic

23:30 Danger Diaries

HALLMARK

Power & Beauty

Sesame Street

Episode #90

Chance Of A Lifetime

Walter And Henry

Young Riders, The

Gathering Clouds I

Touched By An Angel

Episode # 2 (9) The

Vii (25 X 1hr) -

Sesame Street -

Scholastic Clifford

Clifford's Carnival

Clifford's Doggy R

Caillou - Episode # 18

Flipper - Episode #21

(Episodes 24-46x1hr)

Seaso - Show Me The

Star Trek: Voyager

Falling From Grace

Episode #73

Revulsion

Early Edition

Early Edition

Monet

Episode # 90

Grudge

Night Owl

1:00

3:00

5:00

8:00

10:00

1:00

2:00

3:00

3:30

4:00

6:00

7:00

9:00

The resolutions should cut down the late night "addas" and channel watching so that even the cold mornings or humid beginning of the day will not prove a monster to struggle with. Cutting on chatting on the phone or the long lunch breaks will help one come up to the employer's high esteem.

There are then the resolutions of catching up with correspondence with friends and relatives overseas. which one often complains that one cannot, due to shortage of item. Today, there is the internet and greeting cards with acompanying brief notes saying so much, with only a few personal lines to include, apart from the signature. With the mechanization and modernization of our lives, the business of letter writing is swiftly diminishing and even when e-mails are written, they often go unanswered for some reason or another. The new year should surely egg one to try to catch up with one's replying of polite inquiries of health and spirits from overseas, be it from friends, relatives or even well-meaning acquain-

One must also try to see the rest of Bangladesh, on the new year, if not travel extensively overseas, as that tends to broaden our horizons and lend a fillip to our everyday

existence. Why not go to the Chittagong Hill Tracts or Srimangal or take a trip to see the architectural beauties that hark back to the Buddhist, Hindu , Muslim heydays as well as the British Rai?. One can travel to Mainamati(Comilla), Paharpur (Naogaon), Mahastangarh (Bogra), or even Cox's Bazar. Surely everybody has some relatives in places like Potuakhali or Dinajpur, or even near St Martin's Island, where one can go and have a break from the humdrum of everyday existence. Similarly, the village people could make an effort and visit their relatives in the cities, and with eastern hospitality to come to their rescue, they will surely be given a cordial welcome. One is not asking one to see the Sydney Bridge or the Niagara Falls or even the Stature of Liberty. If one can afford it the new year could bring in the resolution to save a bit, and have a brief spell at Bhutan or Nepal or even Kolkata, which will add flavour to everyday Bangladeshi city existence. One does not expect one to travel through deserts of Arabia or live in expensive pensions at Paris or Switzerland. For the new year. resolve to go at least to your friends and family members (the pleasant ones i.e.) at Uttara or Old Dhaka more often, if not get tangled with train or launch tickets. New year resolutions could also

include making adequate clothes for the daily existence, which one often puts aside due to the pressure of looking after children, tending to the household chores, being a spendthrift out of sheer impulse. etc.One can go for the facial one needs, visit the doctor as scheduled and one can do so much more. Cutting down on long phone bills should be another must in the new year's list of decisions. Taking time off to attend social functions such as soirees, stage plays, art exhibitions could be added to the list to lend flavour to the often blasé existence of travelling only to the workplace, a few select friends and family members-- on the way and back. Also, take time off for hobbies like playing the "sitar" or guitar, sketch or fish besides the lake, play chess etc. Don't procrastinate, go for it, and make the new year more full of fizz and fun.

TV GUIDE

BTV News Headlines Desher Gan Drama Of The Week 1.00 Aiker Shangbadootro News Headlines Open University Shabar Jonno Shikkha Children's News Cartoon Selected Program 4.00 News Headlines 4.10 Shanqita Shukhi Poriba Khabar 5.05 Jadumala Khobor Shandha Malot **Programs From** 7.00 News Headlines (English)

8 o'clock Bengali news Kolmir Shukh Duskho 9.00 Drama Serial: Hothat

10.00 10 o'clock English News Shangabd Protibedon Ganer Tela 11.30 **ATN** Islamic prog.

ATN Bangla News 8:25 Children prog : ATN Sapla Saluk Gold Medel A Special Reporting 10:10 Musical prog : Pop ATN Bangla News 2:05 Musical prog : ATN ATN Bangla News **Headlines** Bengali feature film Islamic prog : Islame Sawal O Jabab

Musical prog: Music 7:00 ATN Bangla Evening Fashion Magazine 8:00 Computer Based proc ATN Computer Projukte Film magazine Henolux Benudon ATN Bangla News

Musical prog : Beborton ATN Bangladesh News 10:35 Musical prog : Saet ATN Bangla News Bengali feature film : Sajanu Bagan

HBO

6:30 Last Run Hellraiser: Bloodline 10:15 Hercules and Xena-The Animated Movie : The Battle for Mount Olympus 12:00 Hellraiser III: Hell on 2:00 Commandments 3:45 The Golden Child

5:45 Cobra 7:30 The Mummy 10:00 12:30 Dungeons & Dragons 2:45 The Expendables The Golden Child STAR MOVIES

6:00am Say It Isn't So The David Cassidy Story 9:30 Desert Blue

Freddy Got Fingered Disnev's The Kid 1:00 2:45 Monkeybone 6:30 Mr TV Special 7:00 AXN ovie: The Prince of 6:30

Egypt

Rescue

Larson

Alies Masquerade

Cold Squad Marilyr

Martial Law Wild Life

Alias Masquerade

Movie: The Prince

The Green Hornet

Martial Law Breakout

of Egypt

Fear Factor

Exploring the

VIP Miss Con

-Jeannie-Ality

Not!

Road

Ripley's Believe It Or

Tue Movie: Arlington

Queen of Swords

16:00

16:30

Unknown

8:30

9:30

10:30

11:30

12:30

1:30

2:30

4:30

5:30

7:30

8:30

9:30

1:30

(Thirty minutes puls)

Oprah Winfrey Show Star Asia Travel Bugs 08:30 That 70s Show 09:00 Grounded For Life 09:30 **Boston Public Oprah Winfrey Show** 11:28 Star Asia Travel 11:30 Everybody Loves Raymond 12:00 Suddenly Susan 13:00 Bold & Beautifu 13:30 Hollywood Squares

Honour Thy Father

Dil Ka Dwar Khol 7:30 Amrit Varsha 8:00 Chartbusters 9:00 Good Morning Disnev 10:00 Music Mantra

SONY

10:30 Hum Pardesi Ho Gaye 11:00 Chamatkaar 11:30 Family No. 1 Hum Sab Ek Hain 12:00

12:30 1:00 1:30 Papa Ban Gaye Hero 2:00 Kutumb 2:30 Kuchh Jhuki Palkan Om Namay Shivay

4:00

4:30 Chhoti Si Asha Dil Hai Ke Manta 5:00 Nahin Star Year Kalakaai 6:30 Disney Hour 7:30 Chartbusters Music Mantra 8:00 Come to the Party

Kabhi Khushi Kabhie

Just Mohabbat

STAR WORLD 14:00 The Brady Bunch The Simpsons

Cheers

Starnews Asia

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



STAR MOVIES:11.15 p.m. Freddy Got Fingered. Gordon, 28, an aspiring animator, leaves his home in Oregon to sell his ideas to Hollywood. After being told, correctly, that they are quite possibly the most stupid ideas ever and that he needs to spend time rethinking them, he moves back home. But his father, never a kind man, escalates his mean treatment of his rather unconventional son.



Frasier

Show

Show

STAR GOLD

(Thirty minutes puls)

The Drew Carev

Divas Las Veg

American Band

The Drew Carey

Divas Las Veg

American Band

Geet Bahar

Jheel Ka Us Paa

Hit Filmein Hit

Sangeet

Satyakam

Geet Bahar

Sangeet

Hit Geet

Sangeet

Hit Filmein Hit

Pyar Kiya Jaa

Hit Filmein Hit

Mere Sapno Ki Ran

Geet Gata Chal

Hit Filmein Hit

Sangeet

Hukumat

CHANNEL[V]

6:30 [V] Best Of 2002

(Thirty minutes plus)

17:00

17:30

18:00

21:30

22:00

7:00

10:30

11:00

14:00

14:30

15:00

18:15

18:30

22:30

23:30

AXN: 10.30 p.m. Arlington Road. Widowed when his FBI agent wife is killed in an FBI anti-terrorist operation gone wrong, a college professor (Bridges) becomes increasingly obsessed with the culture and sub-society of these dangerous groups. The arrival of new neighbors (Robbins, Cusack), gives him friendly, with two children (Gamble, Green) that his son (Clark) can be friends with. He is even beginning to see another up to be a vampire hunter for revenge

[V] Best Of 2002

7:30

8:30

12:30

13:30

14:30

15:30

17:30

18:30

21:30

Blade On HBO at 10 p.m. When Blade's mother was bitten by a vampire during new spirit, as they are gregarious and pregnancy, she did not know that she gave her son a special gift while dying: All the good vampire attributes in combination with the best human skills. Blade grew

PICK OF THE DAY

10:00 10:30 11:00

11:30 **Pussycats** 12:00 1:00 White 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 Flintstones 3:30 The Mask 4:00 Swat Kats

[V] Best Of 2002 CARTOON NETWORK (Thirty minutes plus)

Josie and the **Pussycats** Dexter's Laboratory The Scooby Doo 8:00 The Ku Koo Du Koo Show Jackie Chan Adventures

The New Adventures

on his mother's death. of Captain Planet Mike Lu & Oo Jetsons The Perils of Penelope

The Looney Tunes The Legend of Show The Powerpuff Girls The Scooby Doo Show Addams Family

4:30 The New Adventures of Captain Planet Dexter's Laboratory 5:30 Jackie Chan Adven-6:00 All New Popeye 6:30 The Legend of Snow

7:00 The Powerpuff Girls 7:30 The Scooby Doo Show 8:00 The Looney Tunes Show 9:00 The Cartoon Cartoon Show 10:00 Johnny Bravo

Superfriends

10:30

11:00 Lippy The Lion 12:00 Swat Kats The New Adventures of Captain Planet

ONE (Thirty minutes plus)

Across The Line - S2 Treasure Seekers Surfer's Journal Explorer's Journal 09:30 Ng Explorer 10:30 Fresh Air Crew Bird Nesters of Thailand Danger Diaries Across The Line S2 Treasure Seekers Surfer's Journal Explorer's Journal 15:30 Treasure Seekers Surfer's Journal 16:30 17:00 Explorer's Journal 18:00 Ng Explorer 19:00 Fresh Air Crew

Sahara Sprinter

Danger Diaries

Ng Explorer

Fresh Air Crew

Sahara Sprinter

Across The Line - S2

20:00

21:00

21:30

22:30

23:00

ADVENTURE

(Episodes 24-46x1hr) Seaso - Hot Time In Old Town 10:00 Star Trek: Voyager Episode #74 The 11:00 Sublet **ESPN** (Thirty minutes plus) 06:30 X-Games The Asian

Toyota Singapore, SINGAPORE Event Highlights(R) 07:00 Nfl Blast (T) 07:30 Nfl Football (I) St Louis, MO USA San Francisco 49ers Vs St Louis Rams (L) 11:00 New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series

Xtour Presented By

02/03 Napier, NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Vs India 2nd Odi, Highlights(R) X-Games The Asian Toyota Singapore,

SINGAPORE Event Highlights(R) Motoworld (R) 14:00 Asian Bowling Tour Aviva Asian Bowling Tour, Hong Kong Women'S Highlights(T) 15:00 English Premier Football League **English Premier** Football League

2002/03 Manchester **ENGLAND Manches**ter United Vs Birmingham City (R) Atp Tour World Series Tournament Tata Indian Open Tennis 2002/03 Chennai INDIA Round Of 32(L)

Sportscenter Hindi (L) Western Union World Football (R) Sachin Tendulkar Programming India Vs... Presented By Sachin Tendulkar (T) Sportscenter Hindi (T)

Boxing Series Espn2 Friday Night Fights (R) STAR SPORTS

(Thirty minutes plus) Futbol Mundial (R)

07:00 South Africa Cricket Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series Durban. SOUTH AFRICA South Africa Vs Pakistan 1st Test, Day 5, Highlights(R) Cricket Talk Show Harsha Online On Tour In New Zealand (R) Trans World Sport (T)

International

Motorsports News

10:00

International Motorsports News 2002 (T) Triathlon Noosa Triathlon Multi Sport Festival Sunshine Coast, AUSTRALIA (T) English Premier Football League **English Premier** Football League 2002/03 Newcastle **ENGLAND Newcastle** United Vs Tottenham Hotspur (T) Cricket Talk Show Harsha Online On Tour

In New Zealand (R) Go Kart Mrf Formule Mondiale C'Ship 2002 Pune, MA INDIA Event Highlights(T) Rally Racing Mrf 15:30 **National Motocross** C'Ship 2002 Pune, MA INDIA Event Highlights(T)

Watersports World (T) Sports Unlimited (T) On The Limit On The Limit 2002 - Asia Pacific Rally C'Ship Thailand Circuit. THAILAND Round Max Power Max Power 2002 (T)

Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (L) English Premier League Highlights **English Premier** League Highlights 2002/03 (T) Sachin Tendulkar Programming India

Vs... Presented By Sachin Tendulkar (T) Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (T) Zimbabwe Cricket The Coca-Cola Cup Harare, ZIMBABWE

West Indies Vs India