



**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**Discussion**  
Commemorating the death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Bangla Academy is holding a discussion in the seminar room on May 28 at 11 am.



**Film Festival**  
May 24-28  
Organised by Dhaka University Film Society a film festival titled 'Satyajit Er Chalachitra' has started at the TSC auditorium, University of Dhaka. Schedule for today is given below:  
10:00-Apur Sangser; 12:30 p.m.-Joy Baba Felunath; 03:30-Aroner Dinatri; 06:00- Kapurush Mahapunsh.



**Exhibition**  
May 29-June 12  
Bengal Shilpalya organises an exhibition of recent works by Kalidas Karmakar titled 'Alluvial Faces' at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts from May 29 to June 12.

**May 22-June 5**  
The inauguration of a painting exhibition by Kakoli and a sculpture exhibition by Reaz will take place at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka on May 22 at 6:00 p.m. The exhibition will continue till June 5.

## Awards

# Viewer's verdict

Prothom Alo gives away its Star Survey awards along with Square Toiletries.

HARUN UR RASHID

THROUGHOUT the year the TV channels air a number of dramas--weekly, serials and mega-serials. Hundreds of new commercials for consumer products introduce many new models. A few new magazine shows win places into the daily schedule of the viewers. Uncountable numbers of musical bands come into being. And the nearly dead film industry struggle hard for its survival with a lot of new productions.

But a very few of the dramas attract the viewers with good acting by the performers. Only a model or two show promising talent in the art. All magazine shows invariably fail to win the huge popularity of Hanif Shangket's *Ityadi*. Very few bands earn the fans' confidence. And no new films promise the slightest hope of the revival of the golden era of the film industry.

Yet the viewers keep sending votes for their favourites to the supplement *Ananda* of the *Daily Prothom Alo*. For that will culminate in a popular contest based on the viewers' poll: the Meril Prothom Alo Star Survey Awards. Also, there is the Critics' Awards of the same name that is given on the scrutinised decision made by a panel of intellectuals. And since its inception four years ago, the Meril Prothom Alo awards have achieved immense popularity both among the cultural performers and the audience.

On May 23 evening *Prothom Alo* organised the fourth event of this award for the year 2002 at the stately Planners' Hall of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at



Atiqul Huq Chowdhury, dramatist and Richie Solaiman, actress seen with anchor Anisul Huq.

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. A grand meeting of the stars from almost all the cultural fields, the ceremony was perhaps the most boisterously entertaining. Indeed, it always is so.

This year the Star Survey awards for the best model was given to Monalisa and Sabbir Ahmed for their performance in the commercial of Lily Cosmetics. Young and talented singer Asif Akbar and popular Kanak Champa won the poll for the best singers, while Prometheus was chosen the best musical band. *Desh Jurey*, a documentary magazine show aired by the now defunct Ekushey Television, is still on the audience's mind as the best for the category. On the other hand, immensely popular and ever entertaining *Ityadi* clinched the award for the best magazine show for the fourth time.

For the best actor and actress in film, Riyaz and Shabnur were given the verdict. And popular Zahid Hasan and Bipasha Hayat won the best actor and actress in TV

dramas.

TV drama *Chaturtho Matra* won three of this year's Critic's Awards--for the best script, the best direction and the best actor. The award for the best actress was given to Richie Solaiman for her role in the play *Tyag*.

This year's programme was marked by the award for the lifelong achievement. Eminent film actor-director Shubhash Datta received the award for his contribution to the film industry of the country.

The Meril-Prothom Alo award is praised by many as one of the 'awards that can be trusted'. Perhaps it is high time the authority increased the number of categories, at least for the Critic's Award. The prizes are given only for excellence in TV drama. The film industry should also be included for the contest. It would certainly help the neglected but strong enough industry improve its quality and increase its audience.

## Folklore

# Bangladesh's "puppet man" uses entertainment to educate

AFP, Dhaka

PUPPET shows are part of Bangladeshi folklore, but one man is trying to use the medium to spread social messages in a country that has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world.

Mustafa Monwar, known as the "puppet man", puts on shows using puppets made of wood, clay and cloth and also has a weekly children's television programme.

The literacy rate in Bangladesh is 65 percent and most people do not have access to television, books or newspapers, but Monwar said puppets can play a role in education, especially of children.

"I adapt the old village tradition of delivering social messages through puppet shows," like preventing AIDS, he said, adding that for generations puppets have been used as entertainment.

One of his puppet stories "Trapped Game" shows how people can live in harmony with nature, while others focus on tolerance and peace, health, development and child education.

"In live puppet shows the participation of children in the villages and in the cities are almost the same," he said.

Monwar, 65, credits his father the late Golam Mustafa, a poet, for his interest in puppetry as he often invited troops to perform at their home in the remote Monhurpur village in the western Jhenidah district.

But it was not until he was a student that he took it up seriously.

"In 1958 when I was studying art in Calcutta, a puppet show came to town from Rajasthan and the quality of their sculpture and simplicity drove me to

implement my childhood ideas."

During Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence from Pakistan, he travelled to refugee camps in India to boost the morale of people who had fled the conflict.

Despite difficult times the puppets gave them joy as well as messages of patience and eventual victory, war veterans said.

The soft-spoken artist said it takes him about a month to make a puppet, including conceptualizing the character, at his studio in Dhaka.

Monwar's fame has spread outside the country and he is the Bangladesh representative of the Denmark-based International Puppet Development Centre.

He has received national and international awards, including one for graphic design in an All India Fine Arts competition in 1957. He received the Joinal Abedin Gold Medal for "his outstanding contribution to painting".

His weekly slot on state-run Bangladesh Television has been running since 1965 and is among the channel's most popular programmes.

But he does not limit himself to puppetry, also making films and encouraging new talent.

"Bangladesh has a very rich literary heritage and when I like a story I think of turning it into a film," he said.

This is sharing a good story with many others as reading habits are falling away every day," he added.

His teleplays include the Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare and Raktokorobi by Rabindranath Tagore.

The noted Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray lauded Monwar for his crafty use of stage design and the atmospheric aspect of his television productions.



Renowned artist Mostafa Monwar, known as the "puppet man" works at his studio with a puppet in Dhaka. Puppet shows are part of Bangladeshi folklore, but Monwar is trying to use the medium to spread social messages in the country that has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world.

PHOTO: AFP

## TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

### BTW

12:00 Opening Announcement  
12:10 News Headline  
12:15 Shubhechha Nin  
12:30 Shabdang Patre Pata  
12:40 Shashtha Tathya  
1:00 News  
1:05 Cartoon Film  
1:30 Shobor Janna Shikha  
2:00 News Headlines  
2:05 Rang Dhanu  
2:30 Anandalok  
3:00 News  
3:05 Shukti Paribar  
3:30 Campas  
4:00 News Headlines  
4:05 Shangeeta  
4:30 Open University  
5:00 News  
5:05 Bhalo Thakun Shushtha Thakun  
5:30 Mithoshkria  
6:00 News: Desh Janapad  
6:10 Shandhya Maloti  
6:35 Programme of Chittagong Centre  
7:00 a) News Headlines  
b) Share Market  
c) Weather Forecast  
7:05 Series Drama  
7:30 Loukik Bangla  
8:00 News at Eight (Bangla)  
8:30 Series Drama Protikriti  
9:00 Series Drama: Lal Gurhi  
9:30 Katha o Chhobi  
10:00 News at Ten  
10:25 Weather Forecast  
10:30 News Reporting  
10:35 Rimjhim  
11:00 Apnader Chhithi Pelam  
11:30 Late Night News/News Headlines

### CHANNEL-i

07:15 Prothom Sur  
10:00 Music Plus  
10:30 Durer Akash  
11:00 Close Up Rock Bridget  
11:30 Drama: Jabanbondi  
12:00 Drama: Cactus  
12:35 Churulia Theke  
01:00 Kohla Chiloo  
02:00 Bangla Feature Film: Khamotabani  
05:35 Jonopoder Khabar  
05:45 i-sports  
06:10 Music Plus  
06:45 Drama Serial: Poster  
07:15 Channel-i News  
07:45 Ispahani Tel Quiz (Q)  
07:50 Sunder Sarbanash  
08:25 Gribhopyo  
09:00 Channel-i News  
09:30 Ispahani Tel Quiz (R)  
09:35 Drama Serial: Grahan  
10:00 Bhalo Mondo Manushera  
10:25 Channel-i Mobil Quiz  
11:30 Late Night News/News Headlines

### ATN BANGLA

6:00 Islamic Prog:  
8:00 ATN Bangla News  
8:25 Weekly Drama : Samporka  
9:35 Special Prog. Chancholokar Mmla  
10:50 Drama Serial : Chokhe Dekha  
12:00 ATN Bangla News  
12:20 The Daily Newspaper for Discussing Prog: Ajker Sangbadpotro  
12:40 Musical prog : ATN Music  
1:20 Bengali Feature film: Nespat Bradu  
4:20 Puppet Magazine The World of Jonathon Sing  
4:50 The Daily Newspaper for Discussing Prog: Ajker Sangbadpotro  
5:00 Gram Banglar Sangbad  
5:15 Musical Prog: Music Vision  
5:50 Musical Prog: Saat  
6:25 Islamic prog: Islamee Saw O Jawab  
7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News  
7:30 Computer Based prog. ATN Computer Projekte  
8:05 Drama : Ragene  
8:40 Musical prog.  
9:25 HBO 06:00 p.m. Python. Anaconda ripoff about a giant python heading out into the city and making lunch out of the town, almost unbeknownst to the citizens. Cheap, sony looking special effects, a recycled script, laughable performances, and a director who can't seem to make up his mind on weather this should be camp, horror, or action film totally destroy this.

### TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



**STAR MOVIES** 07:00 p.m. *City of Angels*. Inspired by the modern classic, *Wings of Desire*, the film involves an angel (Cage) who is spotted by a doctor in an operating room. Franz plays Cage's buddy who somehow knows a lot about angels. Seth, an angel watching over Los Angeles, begins finding his job difficult as he falls in love with Maggie, a beautiful heart surgeon. She becomes interested in Seth and soon his not-quite-mortal state seems a barrier rather than a gift. A choice must be made between celestial duty and earthly love.

**HBO** 06:00 p.m. *Python*. Anaconda ripoff about a giant python heading out into the city and making lunch out of the town, almost unbeknownst to the citizens. Cheap, sony looking special effects, a recycled script, laughable performances, and a director who can't seem to make up his mind on whether this should be camp, horror, or action film totally destroy this.

### PICK OF THE DAY



#### Joyride

On Star Movies at 11:15 p.m. To a dumpy motel in an out-of-the-way little town, a mysterious woman, calling herself only Ms. Smith, comes to stay. Not only is she stunningly lovely, but her big black convertible is a beaut. J.T., the just-out-of-high-school son of the motel's owner, is taken by the car, and in an attempt to liven up his dull life, and possibly to impress Tanya, a hotel guest who flirts with him and wants to be a model, he steals the car, and brings along Tanya and his pal James.

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

6:00 India Diaries Built for the Kill  
6:30 Croc Chronicles  
7:30 Kunku Saas Bhi  
8:00 Tara News  
9:30 Tara News Bangla-desh

### SONY

7:30 Amit Varsha  
8:00 Sant Asaram Vani  
8:30 Om Namath Shivay

### HBO

6:30 Ishtar  
8:45 The Bridge on the River Kwai  
12:00 Love And Treason

### ESPN

7:00 Fear  
8:00 Python  
8:30 Turbulence  
9:00 Deep Blue Sea  
12:15 The Corruptor

### DISCOVERY

10:30 Science Frontiers  
11:30 Mystery Night Haunted Hotels

### TEN SPORTS

6:30 Fitness Beach  
7:00 Raw  
9:00 Gillette World Sport  
10:00 Legends : McEnroe

### ESPN

7:30 Wild Discovery  
8:00 Animal Edens  
8:30 Return to the Wild  
9:00 Dogs with Jobs S3  
9:30 Paraya  
10:00 Earth Pulse

### ESPN

10:30 Wild on the Set  
11:00 Dogs With Jobs  
11:30 Achanak  
12:00 Shaka Laka Boom  
12:30 Kultumb  
13:00 Ghak Er Mandir

### DISCOVERY

1:00 Croc Chronicles  
1:30 Achanak  
2:00 Ahad Dehshat Ke 6  
2:30 Shaka Laka Boom  
3:00 Kultumb  
3:30 Ghak Er Mandir

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