

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibitions

December 22-January 04
A solo exhibition of oil paintings by artist Mohammad Fakhrul Islam is going on at the Bengal Gallery (Bengal Shilpalay, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi). The display will remain open for all from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

December 26-January 04
Artist Shamsul Alam Azad holds a solo painting exhibition at Gallery Chittrak (Road 4, House 21, Dhanmondi R/A). The exhibition will remain open for all from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm everyday.

January 8-22
The Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts will hold a solo exhibition, titled Evidence of artist Mohammad Eunos, featuring his works on oil, acrylic paints and acrylic sheets, starting from January 8 at the gallery premises. The show will remain open for all from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm everyday.

January 4-15
A joint exhibition titled Buthan an Act offering by Kama Wangdi, Deepa Islam, Jashim Uddin Xeon and Yannick Jooris will be inaugurated on January 4 at the gallery of Alliance Francaise at 6:00 pm. The show will remain open for all from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Recitation festival

January 2-3
Recitation group Swanam has organised a recitation festival O Alor Pathojatri Ekhaney Themo Na, at the Natmandal auditorium of Dhaka University. Swanam will award celebrated reciter Jayanto Chattapadhaya with 'Golam Mustafa Honourary Medal' and recitation group Kanthashilon with 'Nazim Mahmud Honourary Medal'.

January 3
Swanam will perform two recitation production titled O Alor Pathojatri Ekhaney Themo Na and Kon Puraton Praner Taney.

Entertainment



PHOTO:REUTERS
The tallest float in Rose parade history, the 100-foot-high Twilight Zone Tower of Terror, which advertises a Disney Resorts thrill ride, rolls down Colorado Blvd in Pasadena, California on January 1, as one of the forty-nine floats participated in the 115th Tournament of Roses Parade.

Performing art

Kaash

The Uprising of expression by Akram Khan

FAIZUL A TANIM

THE word 'if' refers to a condition, a state of action resulting in an effect, critically becomes the title for Akram Khan's dance project in Hindi--Kaash.

He happens to be the latest sensation in the dance world. An alluring dancer-choreographer, blending classical Kathak and modern dance rhythms, mastering his efforts of speed and stillness in an epic of agile movements with lights and shades of silence and uproar....This sequence of alteration is branded as 'contemporary dance' by Akram.

The show was organised by the British Council at the Osmani Memorial Hall on January 1.

The 55-minute Kaash, is a cyclical loop of consequences with a vision of pre- and post-war effects. Khan says, the concept of Kaash is 'a triplet condition depicting preparation of destruction or war; the war itself and its reflection in the sequence; and, rebuilding of life after war and recreation'.



Dressed in black costume, Akram and his dancers generate an array of breathtaking motions.

He and his four dancers seem swift movers; dressed in black costume generated an array of breathtaking motions and gasps of wild energy. The dense black environment along with the greish ash mat-platform made a reflection of a shadowy appearance of the set design to a frame where the spot light effects were prominent. The light effects apparently focused a completely new dimension of gestures--slashing arm movements across their bodies and the acrobatic twists articulated a mist of illusion emerging from every sequence.

The musical score set a variation of silence and rhythm of roaring drumbeats making a reception to fatality and casualty mingled with the sinister tune. It became clearer that Kaash is a performance comprised of multitude of patterns.

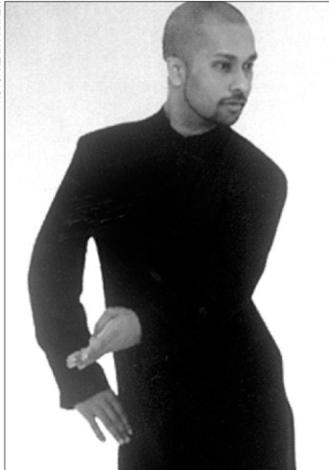
It was more of a passion that got him into the arts of dance profession, as he mentioned earlier at a press conference. In reply to a question on how he took dance as career, Akram mentioned his mother as the main driving force. The dance of Michael Jackson greatly inspired him in his childhood for the uprising of expressions through physicality and movement.

Akram also uses a lot of film concepts with the likes of Satyajit Roy's influence with inspirations from Pulp Fiction and Kill Bill--it is the musical diversity used in the different segment of the picture, which amuses him, the most.

Replying to another question about willingness to work with local artists of the town, it was a delightful yes. He expressed willingness to work with Bangladeshi artists and broaden his knowledge.

He plans to include more subject-based concepts in his next piece--Ma, to a degree inspired by Arundhati Roy's The Algebra of Infinite Justice.

Although Akram has visited Bangladesh several times, it is the inaugural official tour with his dance group.



Akram Khan in one of his captivating moving gestures.

The dance composition was rather unfamiliar to the local people, especially to one not accustomed with the classical and modern aspects of it. But the black attire and the Matrix-like movements were artistically expressive. As he says 'movement is inspired by music', while defining dance, Akram's bridging of the classical Kathak and the contemporary dance may become a new genre of experience.

Exhibition

Content with nature

Md. Shamsul Alam Azad's solo at Chittrak

FAYZA HAQ

ONE saw Shamsul Alam Azad's inherent love for nature in all his paintings recently exhibited at Chittrak. He says that he does not base his works on the forms found in nature. "I feel that there are limitations in forms," Azad says. "Everyone sees grass, leaves, trees, sky and the earth. To



Artist M Shamsul Alam Azad

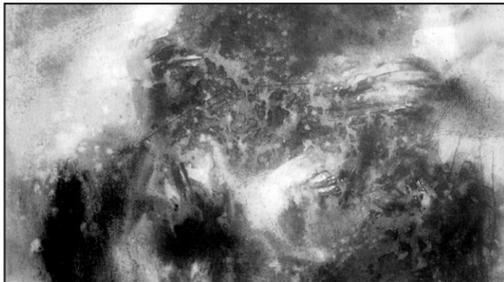
depict them as they are in a photographic way would be outdated. I try to find new feelings in nature: the feelings that nature around stirs up in me." Consequently, without doing any basic drawings, he scatters colours on his paper. These include green, yellow, brown, gray and black. But the blue is not necessarily the sky or green

the leaves. He wants to establish something new in his fresh vision of nature. The brush is not used to paint leaves or stems or flowers; it has been used to create atmosphere and feelings.

Water colour, acrylic and oil have been used to give the impressions. Asked why he liked water colour, Azad says that most artists begin with water colour and that it is a medium that can be easily handled. He has tried to capture the play of light and shade in the depths of the forests. He does not use any photographic images or memories but plays with the colours until they satisfy him.

Azad was born and brought up in Barisal, where he had the experience of being surrounded with masses of green, as he roamed around as a child in fields and forests, coming across lakes and groves. As a student too, in the Institute of Fine Arts, he found the pleasant Ramna Park nearby, the greenery in the institute itself, and was specially intrigued by a green pond. As he sees the city growing around him, nature is being destroyed. He says he cannot plant or grow trees to replace the ones that are being removed in the name of progress, but he can create the ambience of peace and harmony that nature creates in his green, blue and yellow strokes of his paintings.

Talking about the influences on him Azad says that he likes the artists who deal with nature, such



Mind of Nature-3, water colour

as Mohammed Kibria, Rafiqun Nabi, Mahmudul Haque, and Kazi Ghiyas. Azad says, "When Mohammed Kibria paints, everything is taken from life around him; Rafiqun Nabi paints beautiful landscapes even today. Mahmudul Haque's works too were once very closely related to nature. Recently there was an exhibition of Mokhesur Rahman's prints where sandy banks, river waves and ripe paddly fields dominated the woodcuts."

Azad has no fixed time for working; it rather depends upon his mood. Sometimes, he says, he has spent hours in his studio accomplishing nothing, while there have been times when he has worked ceaselessly into the night.

Asked whether or not he felt a sense of boredom in dealing with

the same subject of nature, Azad says, "When all my 45 paintings had been hung, I still felt that I have a lot to achieve, keeping to the same theme. I feel a painter should deal with the subject that he knows best. He should not try to bring in subjects that does not attract him just to bring in variation."

In Mind of Nature-2 we find a splash of green that is merged with a darker shades of green and black and touched with brown, mauve and orange. At the back are shades of gray with texture work. Mind of Nature-1 brings in the image of the round pond in the Institute quite unconsciously.

Azad has taken part in over 15 joint exhibitions, including the 8th, 9th and 11th Asian Art Biennale, and has participated in four workshops.

Drama festival



Preview-- Gupi Gain Bagha Bain

ERSHAD KAMOL

Famous filmmaker Satyajit Ray presented the movie version of Upendra Roy Chawdhury's popular short story Gupi Gain Bagha Bain. Now the Dhakaites are going to enjoy the theatrical presentation of it. Today Bhabishwat will stage Gupi Gain Bagha Bain at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Library Auditorium.

Adapted and directed by Tonmoy Karmokar, the play however gets an anti-war flavour. Shudrasha Mukhopadhyay is the set-designer while Gautam Dey is the light designer.



Gupi Gain and Bagha Bain with the King of Shundi

Nagorik Natyangan honours 7 backstage workers

Theatre in our country is not yet popular enough and the approach to theatre by the groups is still amateur. In the present scenario, people are only aware of actors who appear frequently on the TV screen. They seldom come to know about the dedicated and talented backstage workers without whose contribution theatre could not run at all. Even the theatrical groups have not yet focused on these artistes so much what they were supposed to. This is for the first time that 7 backstage workers have been honoured together in a drama festival.

Nagorik Natyangan honoured Neelotpal Kar, Kamaluddin Kabir, Nasirul Haq Khokon, Saidus Saqlain, Aminul Islam Liton, Rahul Anand and Md. Saidur Rahman Lipon in the evening of the first day of 2004. Lucky Inam hosted the event.

Neelotpal Kar received the honour for his outstanding contribution as a light designer from the beginning of the country's theatre practice. Professionally a

diploma engineer, Neelotpal Kar is the author of a book on light designing titled Manchhalok, which is a text in the drama departments of some Universities.

Kamaluddin Kabir is a renowned set designer, who is also a part-time teacher in the Department of Drama and Music at Dhaka University and Assistant Editor of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj. Another light designer Nasirul Haq Khokon received the award for his artistic supremacy in the field at present. His latest work to decorate the historical Lalbagh Fort has been praised by everybody.

Saidus Saqlain was given the honour for his translations of many famous foreign plays. Rahul Anand was honoured for his contribution in music composition as well as set-and-costume designing. The other two awardees were Aminul Islam Liton, another backstage worker, and M Saidur Rahman Lipon, a designer-cum-actor.

Silver screen

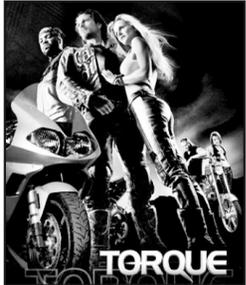
Movies to come

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

THE year of 2004, may still be the year that most producers and directors are looking forward to. As the line-up of sequels could not put up much of a fight at the box-office last year, new and promising titles with strong scripts and cast are going to be 'the backbones' of most movies, this year.

The Butterfly Effect would be released in January, which would be a sci-fi/ thriller starring Ashton Kutcher (That 70's Show) and Amy Smart. For those people who love movies with high-speed chase, fast cars, and a gripping story-line, the producers of XXX, Fast and the Furious and S.W.A.T. would be releasing Torque starring Martin Henderson, Ice T, and Monet Mazur.

For those Craven lovers, his new flick Cursed releases in February starring Skeet Ulrich, Shannon Elizabeth, Christina Ricci and Omar Epps. Also in the same month, are due movies like Exorcist: The beginning, Kill Bill Vol.2, Dirty Dancing 2, Passion of Christ, Twisted. One special movie to look out for in February is Mindhunters--an action/thriller starring Val Kilmer, LL Cool J and Christian Slater.



The official poster of Torque

The Alamo, which depicts the historical 1836 war in Texas starring Dennis Quaid, Billy Bob Thornton, Jason Patric, Patrick Wilson and Emilio Echevarria, would be released in April. MI: 3, Hellboy and Shrek 2 are coming in May, 2004.

For comic-book lovers, summer is going to be sizzling with all the popular comic book characters springing into the movie-screen from their comic-book panels. The sequel to the 2002 Spiderman comes out in July along with Catwoman from DC Comics starring Halle Berry. Man-thing starring Imogen Bailey and Steve

Bastoni, and Blade: Trinity starring Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson, Jessica Biel and Ryan Reynolds are due in August. Two others like The Punisher starring Thomas Jane, John Travolta, Laura Harring, and Rebecca Romijn-Stamos and The Ghost Rider starring Nicholas Cage are still awaiting the announcement of their release dates.

Keanu Reeves and Rachel Weisz star in Constantine, the hit comic-book title where Reeves plays the lead role, fighting demons and rogue angels. Resident Evil: Apocalypse is the sequel to the 2002 original title and both these movies would be released in September.

The Ring 2 would be released in November and the producers are filled in high hopes owing to the success of the original. December would mark the release of movies like King Arthur, Ocean's Twelve and some others.

The release dates of some other movies like Rocky VI, xXx 2, The A-team, Seriously Dude: Where's my car?, The Last Road Trip, Deuce Bigalow: Electric Gigolo, Boogeyman and a lot others are yet to be announced.

The line-up sounds promising but as is known promises are hard to keep and abide by. Whether these movies finally make it to the top are yet to be seen in the upcoming year.

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:40 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:10 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL-i
Breakfast News 07:15 am, 9:00am News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 09 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm, and 8:00 pm.
ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:02 pm, 6:30 pm, 9:45 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
BBC World
Every hour on the hour

BTV
07:35 Suprohat Bangladesh
08:30 Programme From BTV archive
12:15 Sangbad Potrer Pata Theke
01:05 E Shoptaher Natok
03:05 Nibedon
04:05 Moner Kotah
06:10 Wrestling
07:00 Share Market, Weather Forecast
07:05 Prescription
07:30 Film Show: Fortune Hunter
08:30 Documentary Prog. Dekha Adekha
09:00 Drama: Dinosaur
11:00 Shur Lohori
ATN BANGLA
10:15 Anndristee
10:50 Drama serial: Baba
12:40 Uro Cola Sastrang
3:45 Shapla Shaluk
5:10 Sustha Thakun
5:50 Islamee Sawal O Jawab
6:20 Anndristee
7:40 English serial dubbed in Bangla: Thunder Stone
8:15 A special prog.: Mega serial: Lal Neel Bagune
8:50
9:25 Mega serial: Baba
12:20 Musical competition prog.: Shes Akkhor
CHANNEL-i
09:45 Tritia Matra
12:00 Chithi Polam
12:40 Live Talk Show: Na Bola Kotah
11:30 pm.
Ebong Cinema Gaan
02:00 Feature Film: Bish Bachhar Por (Sabana/Alamgir)
06:10 Music Plus

06:45 Gillette World Sports
07:50 Drama Serial: Chhera Pata
08:25 Vim Jhatpat Ranna Chatpat Parishkar
09:35 Drama Serial: Bashabash
10:00 Drama Serial: Bandhubareshu
HBO
7:00 My Bloody Valentine
8:45 Pleasantville
11:15 Dead Sexy
12:45 Strange Frequency 3
2:30 Enemy at the Gates
5:00 High Desert Kill
7:00 Parenthood
9:30 Miss Congeniality
11:45 Loser
1:45 Enemy at the Gates
STAR MOVIES
7:10 Revenge Of The Nerds
8:30 Anaconda
10:00 Beverly Hills Ninja
11:30 Planet Of The Apes
1:30 Antitrust
3:15 Albino Alligator
4:50 Cape Fear
7:00 Men In Black
8:45 Double Team
10:30 Human Bomb
12:15 Ruthless People
AXN
8:30 Movie: The Peacemaker
11:00 Movie: ANZ
1:30 Movie: Silver
3:30 Movie: Godzilla
6:30 Movie: Bats
8:30 Movie: U-571
11:00 Movie: Crocodile
01:00 Movie: Jaws
STAR WORLD
2:30 Robocop
3:00 X - Men
3:30 The Kumars At No. 42

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO: 7:00 pm. Parenthood. Genre: Comedy / Drama. **Steve Martin, Mary Steenburgen, Dianne Wiest.** The story of the Buckman family and friends, attempting to bring up their children. They suffer/enjoy all the events that occur: estranged relatives, the "black sheep" of the family, the eccentrics, the skeletons in the closet, and the rebellious teenagers. Gil Buckman (Martin? Bowfinger?) will do anything to ensure that his three kids have all the advantages. But he soon discovers that no matter what he does, much of his kid's development is out of his hands.



STAR MOVIES: 7:00 pm. Men in Black. Action / Comedy / Sci-Fi. **Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith, Linda Fiorentino.** Men in Black follows the exploits of agents Kay and Jay, members of a top-secret organization established to monitor and police alien activity on Earth. The two Men in Black find themselves in the middle of the deadly plot by an intergalactic terrorist who has arrived on Earth to assassinate two ambassadors from opposing galaxies. In order to prevent worlds from colliding, the MIB must track down the terrorist.

PICK OF THE DAY



Miss Congeniality
On HBO at 9:30 pm.
Genre: Action / Comedy
Sandra Bullock, Michael Caine, Benjamin Bratt
When a serial killer indicates that his next target is the Miss United States beauty pageant, the F.B.I. decides that they must get an undercover agent as a participant in the contest. A search uncovers no suitable candidate other than a bumbling female agent. Reluctantly, her captain agrees to let her join the team working the case.

4:00 Cops
4:30 World's Wildest Police Videos
5:30 Knight Rider
6:30 The X Files
7:30 Xena: Warrior Princess
8:30 Tna Wrestling
9:30 Mutant X
10:30 Adventure Inc
11:30 Baywatch Hawaii
4:00 Aaghas Jeet
4:30 Kek Ka Teen Platinum (Silsila Hai Pyara Ka Chandrachur Singh Karisma Kapoor)
5:30 Ghatak (Sunny Deol Meenakshi Sheshadri)
STAR PLUS
9:30 Fox Kids
10:30 The Best Of Gurukul
11:25 Film Topper - 301 Series
11:30 Jai Mata Ki
12:30 Kashmirakash
1:00 Star Bestsellers
2:00 Taaza Hits
2:05 Hit Filmem Hit Sangeet
2:30 Mirch Masala
3:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron
3:25 Film Topper - 301 Series
3:30 Kati Patang
7:00 Yatra
7:30 Khichdi
8:00 Jaadu
8:30 Vikraal Aur Gabraal
9:30 Gharwali Uparwali
10:30 Khullja Sim Sim
11:30 Mamma Gadbadi
12:00 Kahani Jurrm Ki
1 2:30 Kartavya
4:30 Jigar
8:00 Startoons Countdown
8:30 City Hunter - Hindi Dubbed
11:00 Maya
11:30 Without Ticket
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
7:30 Scientific American Frontiers
8:30 Tomorrow's World
9:00 Human Edge
9:30 E-Planet: A Cyberday

10:30 Mission Wild
11:00 Return To The Wild
11:30 Earth Report
12:00 Earthpulse
12:30 National Geographic Special
1:30 National Geographic Special
2:30 On Assignment
3:00 On Assignment
3:30 Mission Wild
4:00 Return To The Wild
4:30 National Geographic Special
5:30 On Assignment
6:00 Tomorrow's World
6:30 Dogs With Jobs
7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife
7:30 Earth Report
8:00 Earthpulse
8:30 National Geographic Special
9:30 National Geographic Special
10:30 Vietnam's Unseen War: Pictu
11:30 Mission Everest
STAR SPORTS
8:00 Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Sydney Australia Australia Vs India 4th Test 3 Day 2 Luncheon Sh Owl(L)
08:40 Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Sydney Australia Australia Vs India 4th Test Day 2 2nd & 3rd Ssion(L)
1:00 Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Sydney Australia Australia Vs India 4th Test Day 2 Review(L) Highlights(R)
2:00 Australian Masters Golf Mastercard Masters Golf 2003 Melbourne Victoria Australia Day Four(T)
6:00 Sunny Programming Sunny By Night

Sydney Australia Australia Vs India 4th Test Day 2 Highlights(S)
8:00 Dakar Rally Telefonica Dakar 2004 Day 2 Highlights(S) Star Sports
8:30 Sunny Programming Sunny By Night Sydney Australia Australia Vs India 4th Test Day 2 Highlights
10:30 Cricket Talk Show Best Of Harsha Online (R)
4:30 Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Sydney Australia Australia Vs India 4th Test Day 2 1st Session(L)
11:00 Pakistan Tour Of New Zealand National Bank Series Auckland New Zealand New Zealand Vs Pakistan 1s T Odi Highlights(S)
2:27 West Indies Tour Of South Africa Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series Cape Town South Africa South Africa Vs West Indies 3rd Test Day 1 Highlights(R)
2:27 West Indies Tour Of South Africa Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series Cape Town South Africa South Africa Vs West Indies 3rd Test Day 2 1st Session(L)
4:30 Hitz (R)
9:30 Pakistan Tour Of New Zealand National Bank Series Auckland New Zealand New Zealand Vs Pakistan 1s T Odi Highlights(S)
11:00 Sunny Programming Sunny By Night Sydney Australia Australia Vs India 4th Test Day 2 Highlights (S)
ESPN
8:30 Cricket Programming Samsung Ratings Year In Review (T)
9:00 Pakistan Tour Of New Zealand National Bank Series Auckland New Zealand New Zealand Vs Pakistan 1s T Odi 2nd Session(L)
1:00 West Indies Tour Of South Africa Castle
STAR WORLD: 11:30 pm. Baywatch. It's more than just sea, surf and sexy bodies! Live a sun-drenched dream life on the beach with the lifeguards every week night