

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibitions
January 15-31
The 11th Asian Art Biennale is being held at Osmani Memorial Hall, Shilpa Kala Academy and National Museum. The show will remain open for all from 11 am to 7 pm everyday.

January 13-February 12
Saju Art Gallery is holding the 50th Grand Group Art Exhibition of reputed Bangladeshi artists with 128 art works by 87 artists at the gallery premises (F/40-41, DCC, North Super Market 2nd Circle, Gulshan). The display will remain open for all from 10 am to 8:30 pm everyday except Fridays.

January 07-29
DRIK Gallery is holding prestigious photojournalistic exhibition titled *World Press Photo* from January 4. The display remains open for all from 3 to 8 pm everyday.

January 18-27
Dhrupad Gallery holds an exhibition titled *Solo Oriental Painting Exhibition* by Cacoly at the gallery premises (House- 36, Road- 5, Block- G, Banani). The display will remain open for all from 10 am to 8 pm everyday.

January 19-29
Goethe-Institut will hold an exhibition titled *Along the Rivers* by German artist Hans Benda, starting from Sunday at the exhibition hall. The display will remain open from 2pm to 8pm everyday except Fridays and Saturdays.

January 23-30
Mokhesur Rahman's solo art exhibition will be held at Shipangan Art Gallery (Road 5 House 25, Dhanmondi) beginning from January 23. The inauguration ceremony will be held at 4:30 pm on January 23. Titled 'Ruposhi Bangla', this exhibition will be open for all from 10 am to 9 pm.

Celebration
January 18-21
Drama group Theatre holds a 4-day long celebration of the 70th birthday of one of the most celebrated dramatists Mamtazuddin Ahmed at the Mohila Samity at 7 pm. Theatre will stage two plays--*Shatghater Kanakori* and *Dulbon* on January 19 and 20, and a seminar on January 21 at the same venue and time.

Folk Festival
January 20-26
Bangladesh Shipakala Academy has arranged a weekend folk festival at the academy's National Natyashala at 6:00 pm everyday.
January 20
Bedkoniya by Protyasha Opera of Meherpur.
January 21
Meher Nigar by Kushtia Lokonaty Dal
January 22
Chashar Chhele by Ekota Opera of Mymensing
January 23
Dala Hatem Tai by Desh Opera of Dhaka
January 24
Bhikanr Chhele by Binodon Natyadal of Tangail
January 25
Chameli Bala by Janata Jatra Unit of Narayanganj
January 26
Shujan Beder Ghat by Bhodra Jatra Unit of Shatkhira.

Art gallery

Extravaganza of colours and textures

Saju's grand group exhibition

FAYZA HAQ

THE grand group show, in celebration of its 30th anniversary, at Saju Art Gallery had a wonderful collection of the masters. This included Zainul Abedin's "Tribal family", which has brought in the simplicity and beauty of a way of life. With soft washes and lines the artist has brought in the details of the white blue and brown clothes along with nature, seen along their living tents. Quamrul Hasan's "Figure" has the form of a dusky, portly middle aged woman, who appears amicable despite her simple sari and her frizzy, falling hair. Numerous seamen and their boats are seen in SM Sultan's "Fisher ghat" against the backdrop of the vast river shore. Safiuddin Ahmed's "On the way" depicts two women carrying water on their way home, walking under some trees and this is in stark black and white.

Rafiqun Nabi's "Teknaf's side" has a pristine landscape with hills, houses, boats, clouds and the water done in simple strokes of beige, white and blue. Shahabuddin's "Advance" has the wonderful effect of soldiers in motion, striking out their hands to shoot as they go forward. This has beige, brown, blue and black strokes to bring in the moving figures. "Women in the garden" by Monirul Islam has fine strokes of blue seen against yellow and white. One felt that one was seeing through panels of duck-egg-blue walls. "Ballad and faces" by Abdul Shakoor Shah brought in some striking figurative entries in the exhibit with the portrait of two village women with an old man in the middle. Dotted and flecked birds stand out against the vermilion background that form the dark faces of the subjects. Calligraphy is included at the top and bottom of the painting.

An ethereal landscape is seen in Biren Shome's "Early morning in Bandarban" where floating jade and emerald strokes form hills and trees. Soft shades of blue and mauve along with white bring in the enveloping pale clouds. Another depiction of the same place is seen in Hamiduzzaman Khan's painting only this is done in dark contrasting shades of brown,



Quamrul Hasan



Zainul Abedin

blue and black. Both the paintings speak of peace and harmony. Sporting bobbed hair and "dupattas" are "Two friends" by Abdus Sattar. The strokes and colours have an Oriental touch, with the turquoise and brown hues maintaining a transparency. In sharp contrast, poverty, hunger and deprivation are seen in Kalidas Karmakar's "Eternal cry"



S M Sultan

where one is confronted with a bearded beggar bearing a child at his breast.

A river scene along with struggling humans are seen in Jamal Ahmed's "Riverside". Vertical strokes of blue, yellow, green and mauve bring in the sky and the water, while women and children are seen walking across. Another subject taken from nature is Mokhesur Rahman's "Ashuiner

green" where one is confronted with giant water lilies, smiling from their beds of green and black. Showkatuzzaman's "Sunset" is a superb depiction of ferns, briars, thorns and twigs seen against an orange disc of the setting sun.

Rokeya Sultana's "Relation" has two kneeling female forms seen against a backdrop of blues and gold. "Prani in the garden" by

Alvi's "Composition" bears lines, texture work and doodles in brown against gold and white. Geometrical forms of circles, triangles, squares and rectangles are seen against gray and beige in Swapan Chowdhury's "Nature and time". Stirring and imaginative is Goutam Chakraborty's "Horse" which has human legs and streaking mane of green, as it is seen striding across an expanse of green.

Qayyum Chowdhury's "Green village" brings in houses, trees and green meadows along with a female face. A simple sketch bringing in human forms are seen in Debdas Chokroborty's "Two women and a bird". A gold disc with outlines of faces is seen in Syed Jehangir's "Face to face" so that the image looks like some old, much-used gold coin. Bringing in more abstraction were Samarjit Roy Chowdhury's "Past memory", Abu Taher's "Image of the day" and Shamsul Islam Nizami's "Composition". In contrast is Mustafa Manuar's "Bandarvan" with hills and trees brought in sweeps of greens and grays which conveys an impressionistic effect. Also, moving to realism, is Murtaja Baseer's "Blossom" which depicts a young woman in red, seen standing near some flowers suspended from the wall.

The 127 art works by 87 artists present a wide variety of accomplished art works by established artists which should draw gallery-goers.

Snippets

Singing boosts immune system

AFP, Frankfurt

Singing strengthens the immune system, according to research by scientists at University of Frankfurt in Germany, published in the latest edition of the US Journal of Behavioral Medicine.

The scientists tested the blood of people who sang in a professional choir in the city, before and after a 60-minute rehearsal of Mozart's Requiem.

They found that concentrations

of immunoglobulin A -- proteins in the immune system which function as antibodies -- and hydrocortisone, an anti-stress hormone, increased significantly during the rehearsal.

A week later, when they asked members of the choir to listen to a recording of the Requiem without singing, they found the composition of their blood did not change significantly.

The researchers, concluded that singing not only strengthened the immune system but also notably improved the performer's mood.

Celebration

Theatre honours its helmsman Mamtazuddin Ahmad

HARUN UR RASHID

BIRTHDAY celebration of eminent theatre personality Mamtazuddin Ahmad has given drama group Theatre an opportunity to hold a four-day festival comprising three plays of the veteran actor-director, publication of a memorial book and a seminar on Theatre: Bangladesh. On January 18, Mamtazuddin Ahmad turned 70, and in the evening the celebration kicked off at the Mahila Samity auditorium amidst a colourful environment.

Senior journalist and dramatist Obayedul Haque inaugurated the celebration while litterateur Rabeya Khatun launched the 500-page memorial book containing research-based works on theatre in Bangladesh and Mamtazuddin Ahmad. A host of fans, eminent cultural and theatre activists attended the programme to greet their favourite actor-dramatist. They came in queue with floral bouquets to greet the septuagenarian. Amongst the guests on stage were Mamunur Rashid, President of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, educationist Mustafa Nurul Islam and Nasiruddin Yusuf, President of Shammilito Shanskritik Jote.

Mamunur Rashid said that it is unfortunate in our country that such celebrations are always organised by the concerned groups alone. 'But Mamtazuddin Ahmad does not belong to Theatre only, he is a pride for the whole nation and his birthday should have been celebrated by all the theatre groups,' he said.

Muntassir Mamun, who is also a direct student of Mamtazuddin, reminisced how Mamtazuddin Ahmad brought him into the cultural arena when he was his student. 'Sir introduced us in the radio at that time and we performed in several plays,' Muntassir said.

Among those who greeted Mamtazuddin were Rabindra Sangeet artiste Kalim Sharafi, film director Chashi Nazrul Islam, Mahila Samity's Laila Anjumam, Bangla Academy DG Mansur Musa, artist Rafiqunnabi, poets Rabiul Hussain, Belal Chowdhury, Nurul Huda and Kazi Rozi. Flower bouquets were given to Mamtazuddin on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Sheikh Hasina, and a group from the Daily Janakantha. The family members of language martyr Rafique also greeted him.

Theatre is one of the pioneer theatre groups of the country formed in the independent Bangladesh on February 7, 1972. Eminent educationist Kabir Chowdhury was the founding President of the newly formed group, with Abdullah Al Mamun, Bahar Chowdhury, Ramendu Majumdar, Tabibul Islam Babu, Nitun Kundu, Ferdousi Majumdar, Ariful Haque and a few others as the founding members. In the beginning, the group had two chief targets: to practice dramas regularly and honestly, and to publish a magazine on theatre.

Theatre staged its first production *Kobor*, a play by martyred intellectual Munier Chowdhury, on Febru-



Mamtazuddin Ahmad a versatile actor seen in a fit of rage in one of the TV plays

ary 21, and brought out its publication in November the same year. The first ticket-show, however, took place yet later--in April '74 with the play *Subachan Nirbhashoney*. In the following successful legacy, Theatre has staged about a thousand shows of more than twenty plays of which there are adaptations, translations as well as original ones.

Theatre's contribution to the theatrical culture in Bangladesh is immense. Theatre has presented works by Kazi Nazrul Islam on stage for the first time in Bangladesh. Another milestone in Theatre's history was 200th staging of an original play--*Shatghater Kanakori*, written and directed by Mamtazuddin Ahmad. The play had its 250th staging in the ongoing celebration yesterday.

The opening ceremony of the festival ended with a play--*Shajaler Ma*--written and directed by Mamtazuddin Ahmad. The festival will also hold another play of the veteran playwright named *Dui Bon* today.

Theatre up-date

Certificate giving ceremony of Prachchanut

ERSHAD KAMOL

P RACHCHANUT School of Acting and Design, a branch of a theatrical group, Prachchanut, arranged the certificate giving ceremony of the fifth batch of students on January 18 at 5:30 p.m. at Nat Mondol, Dhaka University. The duration of the course is six months. Mamunur Rashid, President of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, was the chief guest while Azad Abul Kalam was in the chair.

Shahidul Mamun, Mamunur Rashid and Azad Abul Kalam delivered speeches. Shahidul Mamun introduced the goals and objectives of the acting school. Chief guest Mamunur Rahid said, 'It's really a positive sign for the theatre workers that drama workshops have been introduced in different parts of the country. Last year Bangladesh Group Theatre Feder-

ation (BGTF) had arranged 10 workshops on Drama. Many Theatrical groups in the country like Aranyak, Theatre, Prachcha Nat and others are also arranging courses on theatre on a regular basis. Moreover students can study theatre in Public Universities. That does not mean that each and every participant will become famous within a short span of time. To become a star in theatre is more difficult than in other media. But, in this way there will many skilled theatre workers.' Azad Abul Kalam delivered the final speech. The successful students were then handed over their certificates by the chief guest.

Following the certificate giving ceremony, students of the school presented selected scenes from the play *Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare.

Padatik celebrates 26th anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Padatik Natya Sangsad, a theatrical group, inaugurated a *path natak* festival yesterday as part of its 26th birth anniversary celebrations. On the occasion, the group will stage street dramas at the Shoparjito Shadhinota Chottar, Dhaka University, at 4 pm and at the Central Shaheed Minar at 5 pm daily till January 21 in memory of its founder member Abu Mohammed Murtaish Kochi. Renowned Tagore singer Rezwana Chawdhury Bonya inaugurated the ceremony. General Secretary of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote Golam Kuddus, playwright Manna Hira and others were also present.

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO: *Along Came A Spider* : 9:30 pm: Genre: Thriller / Crime / Mystery. **Morgan Freeman, Monica Potter, Michael Wincott.** A girl is kidnapped from a school by one of the teachers. She turns out to be the daughter of a senator, and the kidnapper soon makes a call to a police officer whose partner died eight months ago, involving him in the kidnapping. One of the secret service people that failed to protect the girl at the school decides to help him. But not everything is what is seems, and many surprising twists follows as the two attempt to catch the spider.



HBO: 11:45 pm: *Braddock: Missing in Action III*. Genre: Action. Genre: Action. **Chuck Norris, Aki Aleong, Roland Harrah III.** When Colonel James Braddock is told that his Asian wife and 12-year-old son are still alive in Communist Vietnam, he mounts a one-man assault to free them. Armed with the latest high-tech firepower, Braddock fights his way into the heart of the country.

PICK OF THE DAY



What's Eating Gilbert Grape
On STAR MOVIES at 10:15 pm.
Genre: Comedy / Drama
Johnny Depp, Leonardo DiCaprio, Juliette Lewis
Gilbert Grape lives in Endora, a place where nothing much happens. The only times the police got something to do is when Gilbert's retarded brother Arnie tries to climb up on the watertower nearby. Taking care of Arnie is mostly Gilbert's task which can be pretty demanding.

ATN BANGLA

10:15 Talk Show *Annoordistee*
10:50 Talk Show *Katha Mala*
12:40 Uro Cola Saat Rang
01:20 Benga Feature Film *:Mohot*
04:20 Talk show *Samosamoyek*
05:15 Computer Based prog: *Amar Computer Islamee Sawal O Jawab*
06:25 Talk show *Annoordistee*
07:40 Drama Serial *Shes Kalha*
08:15 Drama Serial *Beporno Basona*
08:50 Drama Serial *Nolok*
09:25 CHANNEL-i
Magazine Prog: *Ek Day Teen*
10:35 Musical prog: *Surer Madure*
12:20 Bengali Feature Film *Kalmilota*
CHANNEL-i
09:45 *Tritia Matra*
12:00 *Chithi Pelam*
12:30 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
02:00 Feature Film: *Ashar Prodip* (Shabnaz, Amit Hassan)
05:45 I Sports
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 *Anonda Bochitra*
08:25 Drama Serial: *Sharey Teen Tala*
09:35 Drama Serial: *Shada Megher Bristhi*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Shadharon Loker Kahini*
ntv
08:00 *Ajker Sakal*
11:30 *Gombhira*
09:00 *Ei Shomoy*
10:02 *Hello Music*
10:30 *Ekanhey Amar Desh*
11:00 *Chile Kotha*

11:30 *Priyo Mukh*
12:02 *Damer Shamadar*
02:30 *Cine Gaan*
03:00 *Teen Purush*
03:30 *Labh Khoti Jhuki*
04:00 *Natoker Gaan*
04:30 Drama Serial: *Amader Golpo*
06:00 *Apnar Jigyasha*
06:35 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:55 CNN Documentary
08:00 *Ebong Ami*
08:35 *Taray Taray*
09:10 *Shongshoy*
09:50 Drama Serial: *Amader Golpo*
11:20 *Dindarpan*
HBO
9:00 The screaming room: Books into Horror
11:30 Blackheart
12:00 Best In show
1:45 Snow Day
5:15 Alaska
7:30 Baby Geniuses
9:30 Along Came a spider
11:30 Braddock: Missing in Action III
1:30 61*
4:00 The screaming room: Books into Horror
MGM
11:30 Decadence (RPT)
2:00 Mississippi Masala (Org)
4:30 Heartbreakers (RPT)
7:00 Hellraiser Heliseeker (org)
9:30 Tuesday Zee MGM Select
11:30 The Great train Robbery, (Sean Connery)
STAR MOVIES
9:00 *Luminarias*
10:45 What's Eating Gilbert Grape
12:45 Yesterday's Target

2:15 Just A Walk In The Park
3:45 Wolves Of Wall Street
5:15 Spider
7:00 Commandments
8:35 Vw 3
10:15 What's Eating Gilbert Grape
12:15 STAR WORLD
1:30 Macgyver
2:30 Oprah Winfrey
3:30 Bold And Beautiful
4:30 Hollywood Squares
5:00 Two Guys And A Girl
5:30 Knight Rider
6:30 The Simpsons
7:00 Home Improvement
7:30 Friends
8:00 Just Shoot Me
8:30 The Drew Carey Show
9:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway?
9:30 Monk
10:00 Law & Order: S.V.U
11:30 Baywatch
ZEE CINEMA
10:30 Taaqat (Dharmendara, Vinod Khanna Tabu,
Kajol
1:30 Main Tulsi Tere Aagan
5:30 Aaj Ka Arjun (Amitabh Bachchan Jaya Prada
9:30 Screen Goddesses
"TABU" Maa Tuihe Salaam (Sunny Deol Tabu)
STAR PLUS
2:30 Shagun
3:00 Kabhi Aaye Na Judai
3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi B
4:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
4:30 Kahiin To Hoga
Kaahin Kissii Roz
5:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
6:00 Fox Kids
6:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Ban
8:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
8:30 Khichdi
9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
9:30 Kehta Hai Dil
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi B
Kahiin To Hoga
6:00 Amazing Animal Videos
Planet's funniest Animals
Planet's Funniest Animals
Killing for a Living
Dressing for Dinner
Fame
Fame
Body Basics
New Detectives
Wild Discovery
I love my Music
Buck Slaghom's Animal Bites
Travellers
Speed
Wild Discovery
Science Frontiers
Science Mysteries
Junkyard Wars
Mystery Night
STAR GOLD
9:00 Swati
12:30 Ram Bharose
4:00 Maya
8:30 Pyar Ka Devta
8:30 Diljale
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
12:30 Africa From The Ground
1:00 On Assignment
1:30 Operation Hot Pursuit
2:00 Love Market In The Clou
2:30 Different Ball Game A
3:00 Rite Stuff
3:30 Guardians Of Eden
4:30 Chasing Time
5:00 \$100 Taxi Ride
5:30 Return To The Wild
6:00 Animal Edens
6:30 Dogs With Jobs S3
7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife
7:30 Africa From The Ground
8:00 On Assignment
8:30 Hong Kong's Big Bet
9:30 Different Ball Game A
10:00 Rite Stuff
10:30 Rwanda's Forgotten Tribe
11:30 Chasing Time
12:00 \$100 Taxi Ride
ANIMAL PLANET
12:30 Animal Planet
Showcase Killer Bees -- Taming the Swarm
1:30 Animal Planet's Year of the Monkey, They call him Chantek
2:30 Fame
4:30 Animal Planet
Showcase Killer Bees- Taming the Swarm
5:30 Vets in Practice
6:00 Wild Rescues Gorilla
Grandma, Reona
7:00 Emergency Vets
8:30 Amazing Animal Videos
8:00 Clumber Spaniel
Amazing Animal Videos
Planet's funniest Animals
Planet's Funniest Animals
Killing for a Living
Dressing for Dinner
Fame
Fame
Body Basics
New Detectives
Wild Discovery
I love my Music
Buck Slaghom's Animal Bites
Travellers
Speed
Wild Discovery
Science Frontiers
Science Mysteries
Junkyard Wars
Mystery Night
STAR SPORTS
6:00 Australian Open
Australian Open
Presented By Kia
Melbourne Australia
Men's/Women's First Round(L)
2:27 West Indies Tour Of South Africa Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series
Centurion South Africa
South Africa Vs West Indies 4th Test Day 51st Session(L)
4:30 Best Of Harsha Online (R)
5:00 West Indies Tour Of South Africa Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series
Centurion South Africa
South Africa Vs West Indies 4th Test Day 5 2nd & 3rd Session(L)
9:30 Sportsline (L)
10:00 Dakar Rally Telefonica
Dakar 2004 Weekly Highlights(T)
Sportsline (R)
Australian Open Highlights
ESP
9:15 Australia Cricket Vb Series Brisbane Australia
India Vs Zimbabwe 6th Odi (L)
5:00 India Vs Zimbabwe 6th Odi Review(L)
5:30 Celebrity Golf Tournament 2003
6:30 Football Focus (L)
7:30 English Premier League Highlights(T)
11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
12:00 Sunny Programming
Sunny By Night
11:00 English Premier League Archive Programming
Ten Seasons - A Decade Of Great Matches Highlights(T)
11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
TEN SPORTS
11:00 Gamer TV
11:30 Indian Football Show
12:00 ICC Cricket World
12:30 ATP Tennis
1:00 MUTV: Red Hot News
1:00 Indian Football Show
4:30 Fitness Beach
5:30 Extreme Sports : Ep 15
6:30 After Burn
7:00 Chill Factor
7:30 ATP Tennis
8:00 Gillette World Sports
8:30 Gamer TV
9:30 Cricket Classics
10:00 Indian Football Show
10:30 India Pakistan Unforgettable
11:00 After Burn