

RECOMMENDATIONS

Theatre

January 28 Vision Theatre premieres its third production Chourasta on January 28 at the Central Shahid Minar premises at 6 pm. The drama is written by Moloy Bhowmik and directed by Rehana Yasmin. Likyakat Ali Lucky and Akteruzzaman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation will be present at the opening show of Chourasta.

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 Dhruwad 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 Mokhiesur Rahman's solo art exhibition is being held at Shilpangan Art Gallery (Road 5 House 25, Dhanmondi) from January 23. Titled Ruposhi Bangla, the exhibition is open for all from 10 am to 9 pm.

Folk Festival

January 20-26 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged a weeklong folk festival at the academy's National Natyashala at 6:00 pm everyday. The schedules are as below:

January 24 Bhikarir Chhele by Binodon Natyadal of Tangail
January 25 Chameli Bala by Janata Jatra Unit of Nataynganj
January 26 Shujan Beder Ghat by Bhodra Jatra Unit of Shatkhira

CD Launching

January 24 Mustafa Zaman Abbasi: Ureelo Shonar Payra
January 25 Sumita Naha: Tomar Surer Dhara
January 26 Shaheen Samad: Abhisaar
January 27 Meeta Haque: Chirobondhu Chirionbrhor
Venue: Bengal Foundation
Time: 6:00 pm

Painting

Going back to realism

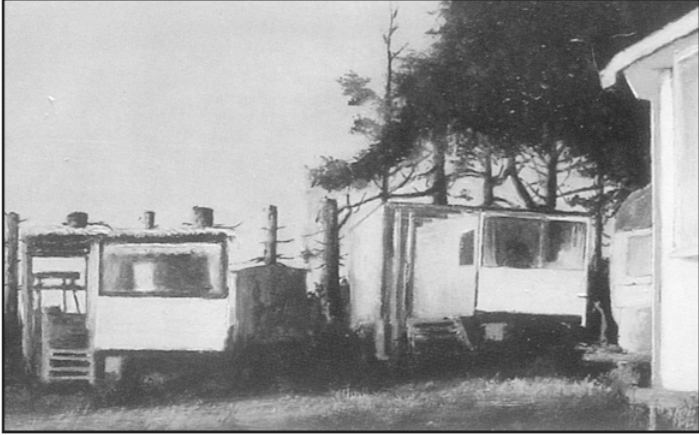
Hans Benda's exhibition at Goethe Institut



Artist Hans Benda

FAYZA HAQ

HANS Benda, explaining how he came to exhibit in Bangladesh, says that he met Shaheen Rashid from Bangladesh, who was the co-director of a New York gallery and made the contact with Dhaka's Goethe Institut. He then showed his works to Dr Markus Litz whom he met in Cologne. This was followed with the agreement to hold the exhibi-



Moving Home, oil on wood

News makers

Ben Affleck, J.Lo break off relationship

AP, New York

THE on-again, off-again relationship between Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez is off. Again. And this time, it looks like it's for good. Jennifer Lopez ended the engagement, one of her publicists told The Associated Press on Thursday. A spokesman for Lopez at Dan Klores Communications said in a statement: "I am confirming the reports that Jennifer Lopez has ended her engagement to Ben Affleck. At this difficult time, we ask that you respect her privacy."

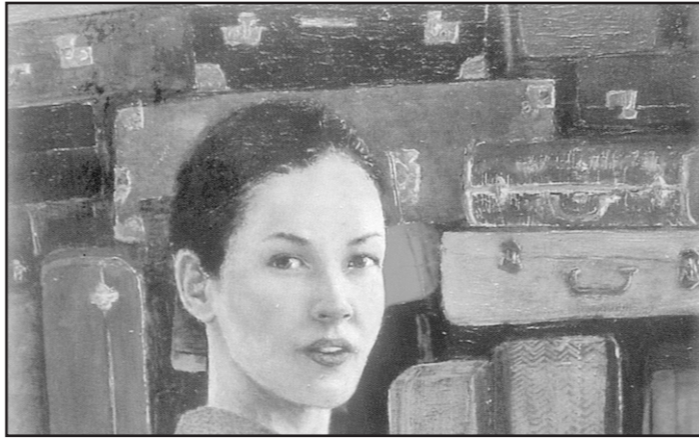
People and Us Weekly magazines first reported the breakup on their Web sites Thursday afternoon. Affleck's publicist, Ken Sunshine, would only say: "As usual, we never comment on the private lives of our clients."

Lopez, 34, and Affleck, 31, have been the subject of near-constant media scrutiny for the past year and a half. In the video for Lopez's 2002 hit Jenny From the Block, in which she makes fun of the paparazzi, Affleck rubs her legendary posterior while basking in the sunshine on a boat. In another song from her album This Is Me... Then, titled Dear Ben, she professes her affection for Affleck.

tion. As a child, Benda was more interested in music, and he used to play the guitar for hours everyday. At 20, he switched to painting and the Academy of Fine Arts at Karlsruhe accepted him. He used to be an abstract painter before and came back to figurative painting in 1998. "The situation in art then in West Europe was that all you could see was installation, video or photography. Painting almost disappeared and critics said that there was nothing more to do in painting. This to me seemed absurd as painting has a long history that goes back to the cave art. I felt that as the critics believed painting did not exist any more, I was free to do what I wanted."

With an ironic attitude Benda felt that he would use the oldest European painting technique, like oil on wood panel and the oldest cliches like the female portraits and landscape. "It is strange that today painting is coming back very strongly in London, Belgium or Germany. Painting will not end: it is like a pendulum that comes and goes."

Benda paints as the first thing to do in a day and he is very regular. When he works, he seldom allows



Departure, oil on wood

anyone to come in. When he does his portraits, he has no sitters as most of them are done from photos. There are many layers of colours and the photo is just to make the first sketch after which the painting may change dramatically and may have little resemblance to the original photo, for the tones, colours and textures become totally different. As regards the landscape, some of them too are from photos but some are invented and inspired by long walks in the reservation. As rents are cheap in the area of Belgium where he lives, survival as an artist is not difficult for him. Once in a while he manages to make trips to USA and Japan.

One of his portraits displays a lot of gray and rose colours, which are Benda's favourite shades. A landscape with trees and caravans presents a camping place close to where he lives.

Benda has always wanted to bring in some universal feelings in his exhibition and, coming to Bangladesh, realised that rivers form an important part of life here. Some of his paintings include rivers as the one portraying the docks in Cologne. Another painting brings in a house on a boat and is connected to the camping picture entitled Moving home. Con-

necting to departure is the painting of the wash being put out to dry and being seen from inside a closed room. With the same theme is the portrait of a woman standing in front of a pile of suitcases, thinking of moving.

Someone sent him a photograph of a river scene in Bangladesh and the next painting is developed on this. Another painting is based on the gathering of golden clouds as seen from above the sky, sitting in an airplane. Yet another is an imaginary island, washed in sweeps of gray, merging with pale blue and pink.

Contrary to the expressionist painters, he wants to disappear behind his paintings. They will last long, even when he is gone. The pictures are more than landscapes and portraits of women. They bring in feelings and emotions, seen in fragments.

Benda's paintings have an element of melancholia flowing through them as in the use of gray. Benda uses delicate brush strokes recovering the technique of the old Flemish masters.

Hans Benda has exhibited in Japan, Europe and USA. He has had ten solo exhibitions and has taken part in 11 joint displays.

CD launching

Shimul Yusuff brings out new album Shimuler Gaan

NOVERA DEEPITA

CHIEFLY known as a theatre activist, Shimul Yusuff is also quite famous as a singer. Recently she has brought out her latest music collection. Veteran poet Shamsur Rahman launched the album Shimuler Gaan at the Liberation War Museum on January 22.

Presented by World Music, the collection contains 17 songs including Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet, Laloni's songs and a few 'Modern' ones. With the music of distinguished musicians like Kamol Dasgupta, Abdul Latif, Altaf Mahmud, Sheikh Lutfar Rahman, Khan Ataur Rahman, Samar Das and Mohammad Shahnewaz in Modern songs, the album's songs have gained an impressive height. The lyrics of these songs are also written by noted personalities like Abdul Gaffar Choudhury, Fazle Lohani, Dr. Enamul Haque and Nuruzzaman Sheikh.

Shimul Yusuff, who started singing as a child artist long ago, is a versatile talent in the cultural field in our country. Starting with Jhor elo jhor in the earlier period of her singing career through the latest Joy shoyer joy, she has made a unique style of her own in music.

The album contains three



Poet Shamsur Rahman holds up the CD album Shimuler Gaan at the launching ceremony. (From right) Ezaz Khan Swapan of Music World, Shahnewaz, the music director of the album, Shimul Yusuff are also seen in the picture.

Rabindra Sangeet--Tumi nirmal karo, Aji jhorer ratey and Tuire Basanta shomiran. The Nazrul songs are Tepantor mathey and Srijano chhandey. Shimul, however, has not been able to do justice to these classic pieces of Bangla music.

The song that will surely win the audience's heart is Jhor elo jhor. The rendition is so spontaneous

that it reveals Shimul's true self as a singer.

The programme was attended by cultural personalities including artist Rafiqunnabi and music director of the album Shahnewaz. Among others, owner of World Music Ezaz Khan Swapan was also present on the occasion. Popular actor Pijush Bandyopadhyay anchored the whole programme.

Channel click

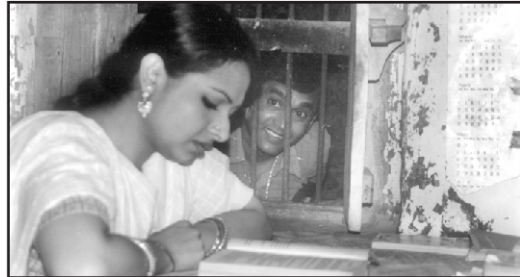
ATN Bangla to air a comic play

ERSHAD KAMOL

Uchha Bongshio Patro Chai, a comedy by Faruk Ahmed, will be telecast on ATN Bangla on January 26 at 8:50pm.

Directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim, the story of the play presents Moyna, the daughter of a chairman, in love with Mojnu of the same village. She adopts a clever approach to manage her father who is an ill-tempered man. She pretends that she is in love with someone else to confuse her father. When her father seeks the help of a matchmaker, Moyna offers bribe to

the matchmaker. Finally, she wins her beloved. And the play ends with a festive mood of a marriage cere-



Lucky twosome

Rani strikes a hit formula with Big B!



HINDUSTANTIMES

Amitabh Bachchan and Rani Mukerji have hit upon a formula for 'making' a film successful. The two stars have realised any film they see in the same preview show is a hit! Two recent examples are Ko... Mil Gaya and Kal Ho Naa Ho. What's more, as Bachchan told Rani: "You should always sit to my left because you were seated to my left in both shows."

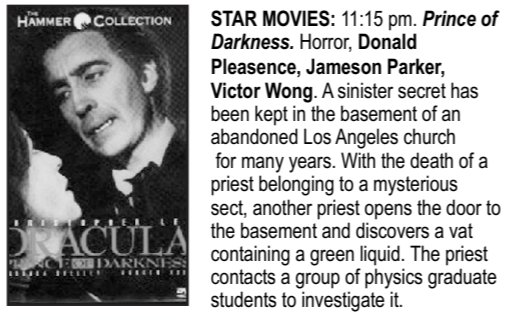
The Black co-stars recently saw Khakee together. Although Rani was seeing the film for the first time, it was Bachchan's third viewing. And yes, the two were seated together with Rani on Bachchan's left! If Khakee clicks, we'll have producers queuing up outside the homes of the two stars, to invite them for trial shows!



Reclusive former ABBA star Agnetha Faltskog has fueled rumours that the 70s supergroup is on the verge of reforming after signing up to record her first album in 17 years. The Swedish singer has signed a worldwide deal with Warner Music Scandinavia and has returned to the studio to record an album of cover songs.

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

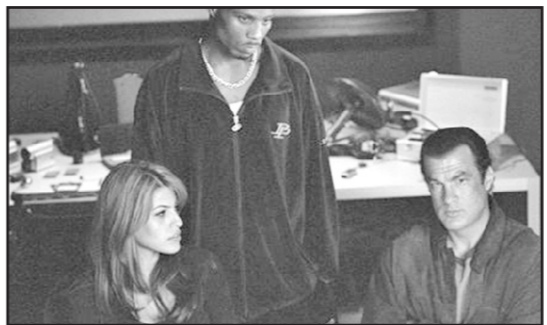


STAR MOVIES: 11:15 pm. Prince of Darkness. Horror, Donald Pleasence, Jameson Parker, Victor Wong. A sinister secret has been kept in the basement of an abandoned Los Angeles church for many years. With the death of a priest belonging to a mysterious sect, another priest opens the door to the basement and discovers a vat containing a green liquid. The priest contacts a group of physics graduate students to investigate it.



MGM: 9:30 pm. Birthday Girl. Comedy / Drama / Romance / Crime. Nicole Kidman, Ben Chaplin, Vincent Cassel. Internet love connections and mail-order brides rarely ever work out, and John should have known. Having never been lucky in the game of love and tired of waiting for the perfect woman to come along, John decides to take his chances and orders a mail-order bride from Russia online. At first, things seem perfect but...

PICK OF THE DAY



Exit Wounds On HBO at 9:30 pm. Thriller/Drama/Crime Steven Seagal, DMX Latrell Walker leads a life in the midst of Stolen Drugs and Crooked Cops. And when he realizes that cops too figure prominently in the scheme of things, it poses him the question - are all cops corrupt? His question is answered when he meets Orin Boyd, a tough urban detective who's in everyone's bad books because of his liberal interpretation of laws.

World's Wildest Police Vid Knight Rider The X Files Xena: Warrior Princess Tna Wrestling World Idol Malcolm In The Middle Baywatch Hawaii

Table with TV schedules for STAR GOLD, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, ESPN, and TEN SPORTS, listing programs and times.

Table with TV schedules for BTV, CHANNEL-i, and ntv, listing programs and times.

Table with TV schedules for ATN BANGLA, HBO, and STAR MOVIES, listing programs and times.