

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. Liyakat Ali Lucky and Akeruzzaman 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 (F40-41, 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
DRK 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 holds an exhibition titled *Along the Rivers* by German artist Hans Benda at the exhibition hall. The display will remain open from 2pm to 8pm everyday except Fridays and Saturdays.

January 23-30
Mokhlesur 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.

CD Launching
January 27
Meeta Haque: *Chirobondhu Chironbirbo*
Venue: Bengal Foundation
Time: 6:00 pm

Music

US singer Madonna performs after receiving an award during the NRJ awards ceremony 24 January, in Cannes.

Art

Waves of woodcut

Mokhlesur Rahman's exhibition at "Shilpangan"

FAYZA HAQ

In his recent exhibition at "Shilpangan" Mokhlesur Rahman had brought in water colour, oil and oil pastel apart from his usual woodcut print. He enjoys every medium specially in which he works but enjoys the print medium as he has his academic training in that in particular. His training under Karen Kunc from Nebraska guided him in particular. He had worked in a workshop that she had conducted in 1995, learning new techniques in the process. Mokhlesur explains that the woodcut is a surface print while etching involves ink going into lines which you then print in order to get the print. In woodcut, on the other hand, he explains, the ink is on the surface. "As you cut away the wood in woodcut the designs are

formed, following the image in mind. You have to decide what tools you have to use and from which angle you are going to cut to bring in the colours, one after another. Sometimes you camouflage the colours below and sometimes you play them up in the game of arranging colours. After cutting you take a print and then you work on it and take print again. You may have more than one colour in each plate." All the works in this exhibition deal with nature. "It is through loving nature that you love the world around you," says Mokhlesur, "as well as yourselves. Instead of wasting time in destroying nature and life around you can take pleasure in it."

In an oil pastel you find a delicate bird, the black "finge", set in a background of gray, green and black. The paper on which it is painted is itself a dark mossy green. The same bird is repeated in a water colour and it has been done with mauve, blue, green and a touch of red. In another painting we see an eagle with its feathers being done in details in certain portions. The orange of the sunlight in the sky matches with the hues used on the wings and in the grass. A heron is shown in the next work with the surrounding shimmering water being included in the work. The many mustard fields that we see outside Dhaka is shown in yet another painting with its expanse of yellow which runs in parallel with blue and mauve waves.

"Shandy shore" brings in the land and water around the Padma. The

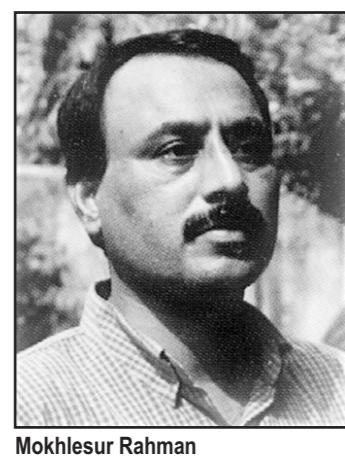


Bird- 3, wood cut print on paper

prints have been done on bits of paper and then put together carefully. It has beige, brown, blue, gray, silver and black waves in it one enveloping the other. Through the wood textures you see the different colours. In the delineation of birds in another painting, we see that the colours have been poured at will, so that they swirl with one another while depicting three birds. The paper used is local hand-made one. Mokhlesur says that he would love to experiment with lithography too if he had access to the particular stone that is required for it. He says that he is not concerned whether there is a demand for his type of work or not; he enjoys it and so he keeps himself busy with it. He says that painting is like a song: it could be classical, folk or pop as long as it pleases you

carry on with it.

Asked how he had felt about winning the Grand Prize in the 10th Asian Biennale for his print work, Mokhlesur says, "I was pleased to get it at the outset but with it went the responsibility that I would always have to maintain the standard." Apart from painting Mokhlesur does computer designing. He has taken part in more than 20 joint exhibits in Japan, Europe and Bangladesh and has had two solos of his own. The teachers who have moved him the most are Karen Kunc, Rafiqun Nabi, Abdus Sattar, Sufiuddin Ahmed and Mohammad Kibria, who taught him how to combine colours, when he was a student. Among the young print makers he likes Rafi Haque and Anisuzzaman.



Mokhlesur Rahman

Awards



Peter Jackson holds his Golden Globe award for best director of a motion picture for 'The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,' at the 61st Golden Globe awards in Beverly Hills, California.



Actor Jack Nicholson poses with actress Charlize Theron as she holds her Golden Globe award for best actress in a motion picture - drama for her role in 'Monster,' at the 61st Golden Globe awards in Beverly Hills, California.

Art competition

Faber Castell National Art Competition

THE two day long programme of Faber Castell National Art Competition 2003 and Children Festival 2004, ended on 25 January with a colourful cultural programme and prize giving ceremony. The programme had been inaugurated by the Deputy Chief of High Commission of Germany Herman Nichola, says a press release. The programme was attended by students, teacher, and guardians along with Hariz Ahmed Managing Director and Burhan Ullah, Director Operations of Fast Corporation (Pvt) Ltd.

The second day of the Faber Castell Children Festival '2004, was inaugurated by Abdul Bark Alvi, professor of Charukala Department, Dhaka University. There were other entertainments like magic show.

In the afternoon there was a colourful cultural programme preformed by the students of different leading schools of Dhaka City followed by the prize distribution ceremony. There were altogether 30 winners, 10 from each group. Sayed Ali Imam Director, Bangladesh Television and Abdul Bark Alvi, professor of Charukala Department, Dhaka University, distributed the prizes among the winners.

Drama

Jatra Pala

A decaying art form

ERSHAD KAMOL

MANY art forms of the rural areas of Bangladesh are on the verge of extinction. We often talk about the rural artistes in seminars or symposiums, but do we really care for those who put in efforts to popularise the major folk cultural forms of Bangladesh? Undoubtedly one such form, *Jatra Pala*, has now become one of the neglected and decaying art forms of the country.

It is admirable on the part of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to have arranged a weeklong Folk Drama (*Jatra*) festival at the Academy's stage. In the festival, Prottyasha Opera from Meherpur, Kushtia Lokonaty Dal from Kushtia, Ekota Opera from Mymensingh, Desh Opera from Dhaka, Binodan Lokonaty Dal from Tangail, Janata Yatra Unit from Narayanganj and Bhodra Jatra Unit from Satkhira are taking part.

The plays are directed towards growing awareness among the people through their typical rhythmic voice modulation. However these modest shows, which are common now, do not belong to the traditional forms. The conventional forms are rather getting extinct. A few decades ago, *Jatra* was a popular art form amongst the commoners for its power to strengthen rationality through a character known as *Bikab*.

There is controversy about the beginning of the art form in the Indian sub-continent. The common people claim that it was introduced in the early 19th century. While others believe that it was in practice before the advent of European Imperialists in the sub-continent. Dr. Afsar Ahmed, a professor in the department of Drama and Dramatics at Jahangirnagar University says, '*Jatra* was first introduced in our country probably in the early 14th century. In *Chaitanya Bhogabota*



Prottyasha Opera of Meherpur performing *Bedkonya*

there is an indication of performing *jatra*. In those days it was practiced as rituals like other performing arts -- *Pala Gaan*, *Bangla Drama*, *Kabi Gaan*, *Kirtan* and others. And there was a thin

British rulers for the social messages they delivered through the theme of a *Pala*. To restrict them, the Imperialists introduced Dramatic Performances Act in 1876.

Jatra artistes practiced such art forms as a family tradition. But now, they are reluctant to continue this as a source of earning. Out of many problems that the *Jatra* artistes face, logistic support is a major obstacle. As they fail to get sponsors, it is difficult for them to continue with the art form. As a result, some corrupt people are misusing these artistes to earn money in an illegal and indecent way. Moreover, the number of the call shows, which is their main source of income, have decreased to a great extent. Once the owners of a *jatra* troupe or the *Pala* writers were affluent but times have changed now. Some of the promising performers have now entered the film industry or have gone into other professions. As a result this rural art form is facing a threat and may not make its way to the future.

Music

An evening with expatriate singer Moureen Rahman

NOVERA DEEPIKA

MOUREEN Rahman, an expatriate singer, came up with a very different kind of performance for the packed audience at the National Museum Auditorium recently. Draped elegantly in a saree, long black hair falling over her shoulders, giving a traditional Bangali look, it seemed that she was there to offer only Bangla songs as mentioned in the invitation cards. For the first

ten minutes she rendered Bangla songs, but soon she started to render old Hindi film songs.

Deputy Minister for Land Ministry Ruhul Kuddus Dulu inaugurated the programme. After her first two Bangla numbers - Hemanta Mukherjee's *Nijhumo shondhay pantho pakhira* and Chitra Singh's *Amar chokher joler majhe* - she started to perform Hindi numbers. One must agree that the Hindi numbers suited her nasal voice much more than the Bangla ones.

Settled in Australia with her parents for the last fourteen years, Moureen bore the Bangali culture at heart. She learned Bangla songs from many prominent artistes including Manna Dey. She was nominated as the best singer of the sub-continent at the Multicultural Music Competition in Australia. She also performed with many reputed artistes of the sub continent and now she aspires to become a successful singer.

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTW
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.

STAR BANGLA

News-Headline(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

CHANNEL-i

09:45 Tritia Matra

10:45 Grameen Phone

Cricket Online

12:00 Chithi Pelam

01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

02:00 Feature Film: Jaderl Bou (Rozina, Josim)

05:45 I Sports

06:10 Music Plus

06:45 Nijuktur Projukti

08:25 Drama Serial: Sharey Teen Tala

09:35 Drama Serial: Shada Shegher Brishti

10:00 Drama Serial: Shadharon Loker Kahini

ntv

08:00 Ajker Sakal

08:30 Gombhira

09:30 Ei Shomy

10:02 Hello Music

10:30 Ekhane Amar Desh

11:00 Drama Serial: Chilekotha

11:30 Priyo Mukh

12:02 Drama: Jodi

Bhalobasho

02:30 Cine Gaan

03:00 Drama Serial: Teen Purush

03:30 Labh Khoti Jhuki

04:00 Natoker Gaan

04:30 Drama Serial: Amader Golpo

05:25 Ke Korbe Bajimat

06:00 Apnar Jigyasha

06:35 Shubho Shondhya

06:55 CNN Documentary

08:00 Drama Serial: Ebong Ami

08:35 Taray Taray

09:10 Drama Serial: Shongshoy

09:50 Drama Serial: Amader Golpo

11:20 Dindarpan