

## RECOMMENDATIONS



## Exhibitions

February 13

Asma Sultana's solo art exhibition titled 'Trapik' will start on February 13 at 6:00pm at the Zainul Art Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU. The exhibition will be inaugurated by Andrey A Starkov, counselor, Russian Embassy and renowned artists Rafiqunnabi, Mahmudul Haq and Shishir Bhattacharya will be present as respected guests.

February 8-20

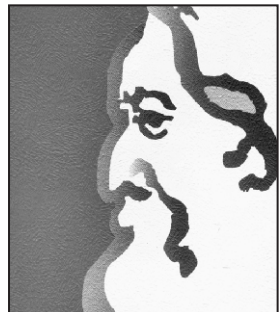
A solo photography exhibition by renowned portrait photographer Nasir Ali Mamun is going on at the Goethe-Institut. The exhibition will remain open till February 20, from 2pm to 8pm. Venue: House 10, Road 9(new) Dhanmondi R/A

February 11-24

A painting exhibition by Russian artist Natalia Brazhnikova, will be held at the Russian Cultural Centre. The display will be inaugurated at 5:30 pm on February 11 and will be open for all till February 24, 11:00 am to 7:30 pm.

February 16-March 1

The Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts holds a solo exhibition of Monsur ul Karim on February 16, at 6.30pm. Dietrich Andreas Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany will inaugurate the exhibition. Artist Qayyum Chowdhury will be the special guest. Venue: 275/F Rd.



27, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

## Musical soiree

February 14

Rabiraag presents 'Bhalobashar Gaan' at the VVA auditorium on February 14, at 6.30pm. Venue: Rd 27(old) House 20 Dhanmondi R/A.

## Painting and recitation competition

February 21

A painting and recitation competition for children dedicated to the International Mother Language Day will be held at the Russian Cultural Centre at 10 am.

## Interview

## Voice of the inner conscience

*Bhaswar Banerjee, a leading figure in poetry recitation and dramatics, speaks on his specialised subject and issues regarding the mediums in Bangladesh*

AZIZ AMIRUL

A sense of distinctly unperturbed harmony spices the tone, as the refined accomplishment of poetry recitation goes on; an atypical vocal art, one that guides both the performer as well as the listener to delve deep into the intricacies of the human soul to sieve out and reveal the purest of psychic joys and emotional values. Such is felt by Bhaswar Banerjee, a leading cultural figure of the country, a celebrity in the field of poetry recitation and theatrical movement in Bangladesh.

Born in an educated family of Khulna in the early 50's, Bhaswar Banerjee, from his childhood, has been a spirited personality with strong endowment and challenging attitude. Bhaswar fondly recollects his early years and close attachment with his elder sister, Dipa Banerjee and father, Late Lohit Kanti Banerjee, a dedicated drama personality.

Ever since his student years, Bhaswar has had experiences of performing in both Khulna and Dhaka stations of Betar Bangladesh as well as in Bangladesh Television, also as a renowned news caster, announcer and commentator in different programmes and workshops.

Bhaswar Banerjee, a devoted cultural activist since university days, proudly remembers intimate associations with organisations like 'Natyak Chakra' founded by reputed cultural personality, M. Hamid, 'Dhaka University Sangskriti Sangsad' that had a truly combined activity in various spheres of culture including poetry recitation, drama, music and classical dance had also been a soul-searching refuge for Bhaswar. 'Organisation like DUCSU had never been accustomed with the idea of professionalism in theatrical works and this very attitude was injected into the mindset of the then-cultural wings by activists of our circle'.

After getting a Diploma in Dramatics from the National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi, during the late 70's, Bhaswar Banerjee is currently the Deputy Director at the National Insti-



Bhaswar Banerjee

tute of Mass Communication (NIMCO) besides being a regular teacher and trainer at 'Theatre School'.

'It is a matter of great elation to teach in the academy alongside famed personalities like Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Ramendu Majumdar, Abdullah Al Mamun, Ferdousi Majumdar, Ataur Rahman, Mustafa Monwar, Professor Syed Manzurul Islam, besides a host of other noted cultural and literary gurus of the country', says the humble orator. Bhaswar has recently been awarded Ph.D in drama from Rabintra Bharati University of India with thesis subject, 'The impact and influence of folk theatre tradition in modern Bengali theatre'.

While reminiscing about his student days at NSD, Bhaswar said, 'The three-year course that I completed comprised of a variety of theatrical

disciplines and branches to deal with.' He further adds, 'Apart from methods of physical acting and building up of a better psychological stance, we learnt designing of sets, lights, stage direction, make-up, costume, script writing, thus the overall basics of theatrical production'.

While replying on a query about the progress of poetry recitation in our country, Bhaswar Banerjee seems quite delighted and expresses high hopes about the younger generation that is into it.

'I feel that the youth who are now putting their efforts into poetry recitation should continue to do so rather with a stronger devotion and vigour'. One negative practice, which he believes is quite rampant here, is that young enthusiasts often join a socio-cultural group and begin to recite poetry but leave the scene after a short period to join another group. 'Poetry recitation to many is like a pastime, the notion of which should permanently be ousted for the betterment of the art form in bringing a degree of professionalism'.

Bhaswar Banerjee currently runs his own poetry recitation organisation, 'Kotha', besides being the founding President of 'Abritti Somonnoy Parishad', a leading organisation of the country.

'A quite alarming information is that neither any television channel nor the radio has any provision of grade system for the artistes of poetry recitation, though, the art form is widely presented in the electronic media', laments a bit dejected Bhaswar. 'Besides, the media has lately been filled up with lots of new programmes including band music etc, yet it is a pity that there is not the same appreciation for poetry recitation'.

Bhaswar Banerjee likes to extend his gratitude to organisations like Bengal Foundation for its support and sponsoring works of art and music but, he feels, it should also help flourish mediums like poetry recitation.

'The inner strength of poetry and its recitation is immense, provided it is implemented in the right place at the right time', feels Bhaswar.

## Screen ventu

## Black going Off Beat?

ELITA KARIM

THE popular young band Black has taken yet another step towards fame. From the harmonic world of music, they have moved on to the glamorous world of acting. On this Valentine's day, Black fans will undoubtedly be overwhelmed by the Valentine's Special drama 'Off Beat', featuring the five young musicians of Black.

Written by Azad Abul Kalam, the story revolves around five boisterous friends who do the 'fun-stuff' in life. These five friends get together at a nearby tea stall and play music together. The story takes a turn when all five of them fall for a beautiful young girl, who is sometimes seen standing on the balcony, which is played by the talented Joya Masud. The story moves on, till Tahsan finds out the truth about the girl right in the end.

While talking to Afsana Mimi, the



Joya Masud

director of the play, she said that she was initially looking for a group of boys who would have to play music and have some experience in being involved directly with a band in the



Afsana Mimi

drama. 'So why not just use a popular band and get the youngsters to enjoy?' said Mimi.

While talking to the band itself, they said that they were just trying out yet another field in the media. 'We are just having some fun that's all,' said Tahsan, the keyboard player and the vocal of Black. 'It is not like we are going to get a lot of offers for acting and will have to spend time thinking about which role to play. It's just plain fun,' emphasises Jon the main vocal of the band. The other characters in this drama are Intekhab Dinar and Shamim Hossain.

This might be a break through for Black, or maybe it is plain and simple fun as the band asserted.

'Off Beat' will be telecast on Channel i at 7:50 pm on February 14.



Black trying to make a breakthrough in their latest venture

## Awards

## Yasmin Kabir's 'A Certain Liberation' adjudged the best documentary film

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

BANGLADESHI film-maker Yasmin Kabir's 'A Certain Liberation' was adjudged the best documentary film/video in the international category of the eighth Mumbai (Bombay) International Film Festival on Monday night.

Besides the award-winning film, 'My Migrant Soul', another documentary by Yasmin, was also screened at the festival.

Indian entry 'Way Back Home', portraying the physical and emotional journey of an Indian

couple to their homeland in erstwhile East Bengal, bagged awards in three categories.

The best documentary/video in the national category went to Arun Chadha's 'Swayam' and Gayatri Rao's work 'Raju and I' got the best animation film/video in the same section.

Yasmin, whose films had come in critical appreciation at the festival, said documentary film-makers are struggling to arrange money for their projects in Bangladesh.

While there is no dearth of subjects, sponsorship for documentary film-making is very hard to come by, she said adding

another big hurdle is the lack of exhibition outlets for such films.

Yasmin said while there are attempts to ensure that the secular voice is not heard in Bangladesh, there are also film-makers who are trying to foil these attempts. Not only film-makers but people in other media are also trying to resist the fundamentalists in Bangladesh, she added.

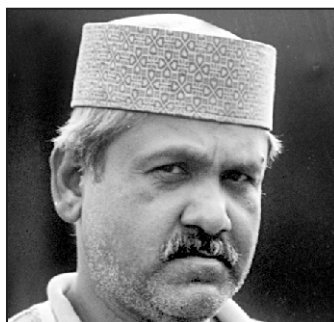
In fact, Yasmin, and Pakistani director Sharmeen Obaid, whose 'Terror's Children' was screened at the Mumbai festival, got the attention of the media covering the event which concluded on Monday night.

## Exhibition

## Mohammad Fokhrul Islam's 9th solo painting exhibition

ACCLAIMED artist Mohammad Fokhrul Islam's 9th Solo Painting Exhibition, sponsored by the Mercury Limited, is being held from 13 to 28 February at the Habiart Gallery in New Delhi, says a press release.

An exquisite collection of twenty-five oil paintings will be displayed during the fifteen-day long exhibition.



'For me, painting, or creating an art work is the simplest way to express my feelings, emotions and love. If my art-works touch your heart even in the slightest way, that would make me happy', says the artist.

The artist did his BFA (Ceramic) from Institute of Fine Arts, DU in 1990 and also studied two years in Beijing, China with the Government of China Scholarship.

## Celebratio

## Book Fair and other cultural events on Ekushey

ERSHAD KAMOL

AS part of the month-long Ekushey celebration, people from all walks of life, thronged the venues from the Bangla Academy premises to the Shaheed Minar to enjoy the ongoing book fair, cultural events and seminars.

Bangla Academy inaugurated a month-long book fair, the most significant event of our national and cultural life. Like other days on Wednesday evening, the Academy held a seminar followed by the 'Inauguration Song'. The topic of the seminar was 'Kabya Shomalochok Sayed Ali Ahsan' Rabeya Moyn read out the essay while Abdur Rahim, Mahmud Shafique and Abdul Hai Shikdar took part in the discussion. Al Mahmood, a renowned poet, presided over the seminar.

Book fair is now going on in full swing. Each day, a good numbers of

books are being launched. On Wednesday last, the number reached to 56. *Living in Tears*, by the leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina, was introduced on the same day. The publishers seemed happy over the sale of books, at the same time a good number of visitors went just to have a glimpse of the exhibition.

More over, as part of the cultural programme arranged by Shommitito Shangskritik Jote (SSJ) - a leading cultural organisation, the audience enjoyed songs, recitations and street dramas( *patha-nataka*).

Chhayanaut and Agnibina presented group songs at the Shahid Minar premises in the SSJ's programme. Jhuma Khan and Rubel Ahmed presented solo's and Swarokalpon took part in the recitation session. The programme was rounded up by two street dramas.

## Exquisit



PHOTO: AFP

Japanese patissiers decorate a chocolate covered Volkswagen's New Beetle vehicle with colourful chocolate, cookies and bread at a shopping mall in Tokyo, before the St. Valentine's Day. Two vehicles covered with a total of 300-liters of chocolate will be displayed through 14 March to attract shoppers.

## TV GUIDE

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

## News Bulletin

BTV

News Headlines(Bangla) at 9:40 am.12:10 pm. 2:00 p.m. 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 a.m.10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.1pm. 2:00 pm.3:00 pm. 4:00pm.6:00 pm.and 8:00 pm.

n tv

News Headlines(Bangla) at 5:02 pm. 6:30 pm. 9:45 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 pm.10:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

NewsHeadlines(Bangla) at 5:30 pm. 7:30 pm. Tara News(Bangla) at 8:30 pm. 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangla-desh(Bangla) at 9:30 pm. BBC World

Every hour on the hour

## BTV

08:25 Pramanya Anushthan  
08:35 Prog. from BTV Archive  
09:35 Selected programme  
10:05 Drama serial for Children : Swapner Deshey  
10:30 Talk Show: Hello Aspnake Bolchhi Aalor Dishari  
11:35 Shongbad Potrer Pata Theke  
03:15 Bangla Feature Film: Dorodi Shontan  
03:05 Tele Film: Nil Sumudrer Gaan  
05:40 Cartoon Show  
06:00 Desh Jonopad  
06:35 Prog. of Chittagong Centre  
07:00 Weather Forecast  
07:05 Malancha  
07:30 Alif Laila  
08:30 Apnar Charpush  
09:00 Cine Magazine  
09:30 Prio Manush  
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tentulia  
10:30 Talk Show: Laal Golap  
11:00 Believe It or Not

ATN BANGLA

10:15 Talk Show : Annodristee  
12:20 Ajker Sangbadpotro  
12:30 Islamic prog : Amra Karto joi  
6:20 Drama serial: Rup Madhuri  
7:40 Drama serial: Khusub  
8:15 Mega Serial: Lal Neel Bagune  
8:50 Mega serial: Baba Film Magazine: Smritir Monikothai  
9:25 Bengali feature film : Jogajogh  
12:20

MGM

9:00 Matilda  
9:00 Fever  
11:30 Wanderrers  
2:00 House on Haunted Hill  
4:30 Shadow Run  
7:00 Nice Girls Don't Explode (Barbara Harris, Michelle Meyrink)  
9:30 The Boys Next Door (Charlie Sheen)

STAR MOVIES

11:30

## CHANNEL-i

08:00 Musical Show  
08:30 Horics Genius  
08:30 Bangladesh Shongbadpotre  
09:30 Bangladesh Tritiyo Matra  
10:30 Tele Somoy  
11:30 Islam Ki Boley  
12:30 Islamic Programme  
02:00 Miss World  
03:30 Prio Natok  
05:35 Janopoder  
05:45 Shongbad  
05:45 Musical Show  
06:10 Music Plus  
06:45 Ekguchha Rhidoy Gantha  
07:50 Valentines Day  
08:25 Road Show: Traffic Jam  
09:35 Lux Annandhara  
10:00 Drama Serial: Kaalpurush

HBO

7:00 Twilight Man  
9:00 The Patriot  
12:00 Dragonworld  
2:00 Hitched  
3:00 How To Make A Monster  
5:30 Blade Squad  
7:00 Training Day  
9:30 Terminator 2 : Judgement Day  
12:30 Bliss  
2:30 Sugar & Spice

MGM

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STAR MOVIES

11:30

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



**HBO: 9:30 pm. Terminator 2: Judgment Day.** Genre: Sci-Fi / Action / Thriller / Drama. **Linda Hamilton,Arnold Schwarzenegger Edward Furlong.** Nearly 10 years have passed since Sarah Connor was targeted for termination by a cyborg from the future. Now her son, John, the future leader of the resistance, is the target for a newer, more deadly terminator. Once again, the resistance has managed to send a protector back to attempt to save John and his mother Sarah.

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL:4:30 pm. Truth or Scare.** Genre: Adventure Series. Its Friday, the 13th ... are you ready to venture into the paranormal world of ghosts, mysterious creatures, spirits of the dead and aliens and UFOs? By combining science, folklore and pop culture, Truth Or Scare explores

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## PICK OF THE DAY



## Hellbound: Hellraiser II

On STAR MOVIES at 8:50 pm.

Genre: Horror / Thriller  
**Clare Higgins, Ashley Laurence, Kenneth Doctor Channard** is sent a new patient, a girl warning of the terrible creatures that have destroyed her family. Cenobites who offer the most intense sensations of pleasure and pain. But Channard has been searching for the doorway to Hell for years, and Kirsty must follow him

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Anatomy of the Collapse  
Friday Spotlight : Rebuilding Ground Zero  
10:30 Future Perfect High Tech Metropolis  
11:30 Great Crimes and Trials Stalin and the Massacre  
12:00 Thrifty Traveller Mexico : Tequila

## ANIMAL PLANET

8:30 The Human Touch A Herd of Their Own  
9:30 The Human Touch Jungle Orphans  
10:30 Wild Encounters Beastly Babes  
11:30 Blue Planet Tidal Seas  
12:30 The Protectors Pup Release  
1:00 The Protectors The Protectors Tick Trauma  
2:30 Wild Encounters Beastly Babes  
3:30 Vets in Practice Blood, Sweat & Tears  
4:00 Wild Rescues Emergency Vets  
4:30 Running on Empty Breed all about it  
5:00 Portuguese Waterdog Amazing Animal Videos  
5:30 Planet's Funniest Animals  
6:30 Life of Birds Signals and Songs  
7:30 The Protectors The Protectors Shark Attack  
8:30 The Protectors The Protectors Fighting Dogs  
9:30 Wild Encounters Ape Hunters  
10:30 Wild Encounters Vietnam : The Country not the War.

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06:57 South Africa Tour Of New Zealand National Bank Series Auckland  
10:30 New Zealand Vs South A  
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12:00 Best Of Harsha Online (R)  
3:00 Tour Of Langkawi Telekom Malaysia Tour De Langkawi 2004 Stage #5(T)  
4:30 Entertainment Endzone - Venue Of Legends Sports Superstars(T)  
5:00 Entertainment Endzone - Endzone And Beyond Past Present And Future(T)  
5:30 Nba Basketball Chicago II Usa Boston Celtics Vs Chicago Bulls (S)  
8:00 Sportsline (R)  
8:30 Best Of Harsha Goals! (R)  
9:00 Return To Athens (T)  
9:30 Nba Inside