

RECOMMENDATIONS

Play

February 16
A special show of the play *Circus* written and directed by Azad Abul Kalam to raise funds for the treatment of children will be held at the Public Library Auditorium at 7 pm.

Exhibitions

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 is going on at the Russian Cultural Centre. The display 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 Quayyum Chowdhury will be the special guest. Venue: 275/F Rd. 27, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

February 18-28

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold a solo painting exhibition by Ryu, Kwang-il from the Republic of Korea, starting from February 18 at 3:30 pm at the National Art Gallery of the academy. The display will remain open for all from 11 am to 7 pm on weekdays and 3 pm to 7 pm on Friday.

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.

Cultural Programme

February 21

Podatik Natya Shangshad has arranged a day long cultural programme on the occasion of the International Mother Language Day at the Bakul Tala of the Institute of Fine Arts, DU. Starting from 10 am, the programme will be inaugurated by artist Imdad Hossain. Artists from west Bengal and Tripura will also participate.

Tagore Songs

February 19

Cultural organisation *Baitalik* has arranged a musical evening with Tagore songs at the National Museum auditorium at 6 pm.

Retrospective

February 16-18

Dhaka University Film Society has organised a 3-day Roman Polanski Retrospective at the Goethe Institut Dhaka starting from February 16.

Heritage

The lure of "alpana"

A tradition in memory of martyrs

FAYZA HAQ

MUNIRUZZAMAN, director of "Chitrak" gallery says that "alpana" is something that comes from our everyday lives in Bangladesh and originates from ancient times. He says that from the 7th century it has come with the "puthi" decoration. He insists that even going to Islamic designs of the Moghul miniature we find such "naksha". "Even in the villages rice flower is used for decoration of the Lakshmi puja. Moving on to weddings we find this in both Muslim and Hindu weddings. This custom of using decoration has moved on to the Shaheed Minar during February 21st.

"At first it was used in festoons of cloth which was hung on walls. In this the famous artists like Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan and Sarwar Hossain participated. So did artists of today like Hashim Khan, Rafiqun Nabi and Abul Barq Alvi. As a student in the late seventies I have joined in this occasion myself under their guidance.

"From 1980 to 1990 we used to do 'alpana' from the Shaheed Minar to the National Museum and other parts of Shahbagh, carried away by the festival mood. We used plastic paints which had various oxides mixed in it along with water. After about two months this is washed away with the wind, rain and rubbing of footsteps. The responsibility for this was given to the Fine Arts Institute who collected the students for this purpose. We also put lines from famous poets, like Nazrul, Tagore and Shukanto, who have celebrated the Bangla language, on

the wall opposite the Shaheed Minar. Lines from Shamsur Rahman and Abul Hasnat were also used. Along with the lettering was 'alpana' which were based on folk motifs of 'pitha', and shapes of leaves, flowers and birds. Simple lines were used. We used to mix the paints in large earthen containers or drums and then distribute them among ourselves. With brushes of different sizes the students would fill the Shaheed Minar premises and this tradition is carried on till today.

"Decades back some people, in some quarters did frown upon the 'alpana' as something non-Muslim but this is not so today. The fascination for designs can be seen among the aboriginal people of Australia and Africa. We find motifs even in our common boats and among the steel supports of the thatched houses."

Saidul Haque Juise says, "The roads play an important part in the Language Movement and that is why we decorate them to give them importance. This is an integral part of our old Hindu tradition of 'puja' which the artists were aware of. We now treat it as a part of our own culture. The artists in the 70s did a much better work than what we find today, going by photographs of that time. The importance behind conceiving and making of the designs have diminished. The painting from the heart and mind is somehow not there now. The work now is stereotyped and stultified. Twenty-first February is a new day but we do not feel any freshness with the oncoming of this day in the 'alpana'. The designs are made in the simplest and quickest manner and colours are filled in but not as in a labour of



"Alpana" as seen at the Shaheed Minar

love. There is a specific fund for this and someone is appointed to take the students under their wings and do the work.

"I had told the authorities involved in the organisation of the 'alpana' to have a competition where the people could participate with enthusiasm and this art will flourish with so many more people taking interest in it. As a result people would come to see the 'alpana' for days together to marvel at who won the prizes and why. The entire Shaheed Minar environment could be brightened up with the help of artists and architects. Yes, there is an element of celebration, but the means of brightening up tends to be unvaried and repetitive. This work should be art work and should not be done just for the sake of doing.

"Alpana" was once done with

ground rice. Now this is done with paint brushes and the original beauty of the 'alpana' strokes are somehow not wholly preserved. Not enough importance is given towards this end. To do good 'alpana' work requires certain merit and skill which are not found in every artist. We must preserve the tradition as far as possible."

Hashem Khan, who once helped organise the "alpana" that went into decorating Shaheed Minar says, "Decorating the Shaheed Minar during February 21st has added a new dimension to Bangladeshi culture. Since Hindus live side by side with Muslims, 'alpana' has become a part of their tradition during occasions such as harvesting to bring in celebration and joy. To respect and remember the martyrs of 21st February this 'alpana' tradition is being revived. With time this tradition has been established. This is a symbol of our respect for the Bangla language and the people who have died for it.

"Today the use of paint instead of ground rice brings in a variation and an element in experimentation. I think white should be maintained. Using a bit of colour is fine but overdoing this element of colour should not be overdone. Today it is the students of Fine Arts who play the most important role in this 'alpana' tradition, with teachers in charge. Posters, festoons and writing of patriotic verses of well-known poets from a part of this decoration process."

Exquisite



A pair of black swans are seen at a zoo in Wuhan, Hubei province, the day before Valentine's Day.

Screen ventu

'Architect' builds buzz as Oscar race counts down

Film ends with Louis Kahn's son journeying to Dhaka

REUTERS, Los Angeles

AS the Oscar race counts down, the best picture competition is looking more and more like a lock, with Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" steadily moving toward its coronation.

But if Jackson's best director victory at DGA Awards only underscored the growing momentum of "King," the DGA's choice for best documentary -- Nathaniel Kahn's "My Architect" -- suddenly made the Academy's own documentary race even more suspenseful.

On Oscar night, Feb. 29, "My Architect" will again compete against three of the DGA nominees -- Andrew Jarecki's "Capturing the Friedmans," Errol Morris' "The Fog of War" and Sam Green and Bill Siegel's "The Weather Underground" -- as well as Carlos Bosch's "Balseros." It's a formidable group of contenders with no definite frontrunner.

"Architect" has had a smaller rollout than "Friedmans" or "Fog." Since its Nov. 14 debut, New Yorker Films has slowly moved into 15 theatres and has collected \$784,830, so its DGA win had to be considered something of an underdog victory. And it eventually will air on Cinemax.

"Of course, I was surprised,"

admits Kahn, speaking from his home base in Philadelphia. "But it is truly a tremendous honour, and I just felt grateful because, obviously, this is a very good field of documentaries."

Five years in the making, "My Architect" follows Kahn's quest to learn more about his father, architect Louis Kahn, who died in 1974 when Nathaniel was just 11. Such buildings as the Salk Institute in La Jolla, Calif., and the Kimbell Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, which give modern form to the vernacular of ancient Egypt and Greece, earned Louis Kahn his reputation. But the film, while surveying the architect's work, is more an investigation into the soul of an elusive man who maintained three separate families.

"Ultimately, this is not an architecture film," the director says. "It's a story about a son's search for his father. While the architecture is very important -- visually, it adds a whole dimension and spirituality to the film -- several of my father's buildings went by the wayside."

In the course of the film, Kahn interviews his two half-sisters, his mother and one of his half-sister's mothers.

"They were certainly cautious," he says of their agreeing to take part. "But I'm very grateful that each of them shared their own memories since each person kind of knew a

different man. This becomes a portrait of a guy who was kaleidoscopic."

Although the film was always a personal quest on the filmmaker's part, Kahn only gradually accepted that he would play an on-camera role as well. "I think finding the right balance was the most difficult job I had," he says. "Obviously, I had to be in there because it is a story about a son's search for his father, but obviously, when you are so personally connected, you need the team around you -- my editor Sabine Krayenbuhl and my producer Susan Behr -- to keep you on track."

The film also offers a geographic journey -- born in Estonia, Louis Kahn died of a heart attack in New York's Penn Station -- but the film ends with his son journeying to Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, where his father built a massive government complex that helped define the young country, which was founded in 1971.

"The last man I meet tells me that my father was a Moses leading that country toward democracy," marvels Kahn, who as a child could never have imagined his father's impact on the world. "Certainly, it was very moving for me -- that a Jewish architect could build the capital of a Muslim country. It certainly gives you pause to think that there are very many ways to create peace in the world."

Mini scree

Michael J. Fox scrubs up for TV return

Actor to play physician on Scrubs

AP, Los Angeles

MICHAEL J. Fox couldn't resist the lure of television comedy or an executive producer's pleas. The actor, who left *Spin City* in 2000 after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, guest stars as an inspiring physician in two episodes of the NBC sitcom "Scrubs" beginning this week.

He's reunited with *Spin City* executive producer Bill Lawrence, who admitted to shameless begging to get Fox. "I told him if he came back to TV and it wasn't *Scrubs*, I'd kill myself," said Lawrence, executive producer of the NBC series.

When Fox told Lawrence he was feeling good and thinking about series work, he asked if *Scrubs* would be interested in having him. He didn't presume there would be a job for him, Lawrence said. "That's the kind of guy he is," he said.

Fox, 42, has devoted much of the last few years to raising money and lobbying for research into his disease, which was diagnosed in 1991 and resulted in symptoms including tremors, stiffness and loss of balance.

The symptoms were not apparent during filming and no accom-



Zach Braff, Michael J. Fox and John C. McGinley in Scrubs.

modation was required for him during production, according to Lawrence and NBC.

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research has provided \$35 million for studies and expects to raise \$10 million to \$15

million more by spring.

"It's looking good," Fox, interviewed by NBC, said of research efforts. The work done on Parkinson's overlap with other diseases including Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis, he said.

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.

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 Bangla-desh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC World

Every hour on the hour

BTV

07:35 *Suprobhat*

08:25 *Bangladesh*

09:15 *Anya Bhuvan:*

12:15 *Sensitive Samrai*

01:05 *Quiz Quiz*

01:30 *Cartoon: Totally*

02:05 *Khela Dhula*

02:35 *Amader Ranna*

03:05 *Protdiner*

04:10 *Live Telecast*

06:00 *Desh Janapad*

06:10 *Geetanjali*

06:35 *Programme from*

07:00 *Share Market,*

07:05 *Mati O Manush*

07:30 *Film Show: Lost*

08:30 *Drama Serial:*

09:00 *Jochonar Phul*

09:10 *Drama: Thain*

10:30 *Ahishashi*

CHANNEL-i

09:30 *Shangbad Potre*

09:45 *Tritiyo Matra*

12:00 *Chithi Pelam*

12:30 *Chhera Pata*

01:00 *Ebong Cinemar*

02:00 *Bangla Feature*

05:10 *Film: Dakat*

05:35 *Sa Re Ga Ma*

05:45 *Janapad Er*

05:55 *Khabar*

05:45 *FTC Business*

06:10 *Talk*

06:10 *Music Plus*

06:45 *Banijya O*

07:55 *Orthoniti*

08:25 *Valentine Mela*

09:35 *Sharey Tin Tala*

10:00 *Drama Serial:*

08:00 *Ekanoborti*

08:30 *Sunlight Your*

09:00 *Choice*

ntv

08:00 *Ajker Sakal*

08:30 *Chena Shur*

09:00 *Frankly Speaking*

09:30 *Ei Shomoy*

10:02 *Hello Music*

10:30 *Arshinagar*

11:00 *Drama Serial:*

11:30 *Andhakarer Phul*

01:00 *Sequence*

02:30 *Patrikar Khabor*

03:00 *Ke korbey*

03:30 *Bajimaath*

03:00 *Drama Serial:*

03:30 *Ronger manush*

03:00 *Valentine's Day*

05:10 *Special*

05:40 *Programme*

06:20 *Cartoon: Fardy*

08:00 *Apnar Jigyasha*

08:35 *Shubho*

08:00 *Shondhya*

08:35 *Drama Serial:*

09:10 *Teen Purush*

09:47 *Fashion Talks*

09:10 *Right Click*

09:47 *Drama Serial:*

08:00 *Eshomoy*

08:35 *Ashomoy*

11:20 *Dindarpan*

12:30 *Ek Nazorey*

ATN BANGLA

10:15 *Annodristee*

10:50 *Drama Serial:*

12:20 *Baba*

12:40 *Ajker*

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO: 5:30 pm: *Mortal Kombat*. Fantasy/Action/Adventure. Christopher Lambert, Robin Shou, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa.

The Lightning God Rayden guides warrior Liu Kang, police detective Sonja Blade, and martial arts movie star Johnny Cage to a remote island to compete in the Shaolin Tournament known as Mortal Kombat. If the Outworld wins the Shaolin Tournament ten times in a row, they can enter the Realm of Earth and take over.

Star Movies: 10:45 pm: *My big Fat Greek Wedding*. Comedy/Romance. Nia Vardalos, John Corbett, Lainie Kazan.

Toula Portokalos is 30, Greek, and works in her family's restaurant, Dancing Zorba's, in Chicago. All her father Gus wants is for her to get married to



1:20 *Rang*

4:20 *Bengali Feature*

5:50 *Film: Jibon Maney*

6:25 *Judhho*

7:40 *Grihachandal*

8:15 *Islamee Sawal O*

8:50 *Jawab*

9:25 *Annodristee*

12:20 *Pathey*

12:00 *Musical*

12:00 *Programme*

12:00 *The Adventure of*

12:00 *Sinbad*