

RECOMMENDATIONS

Play

February 16
A special show of the play *Circus Circus* written and directed by Azad Abdul 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) Dhamondi R/A.

February 11-24

A painting exhibition by Russian artist Natalia Brzhezhnikova 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 Monsurul 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: 273/F Rd. 27, Dhamondi, 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 National 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 Baitulik has arranged a musical evening with Tagore songs at the National Museum auditorium at 6pm.

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 Lakkhi 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, Rafiqul Nabi and Abu 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



"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."

Dream Production, which had quite a nightmarish experience in its last film, *Samay*, has recharged its batteries. The corporate is gung-ho about an English-Hindi film, *The King of Bollywood* has completed with Bollywood's Om Puri and Hollywood's Sophie Dahl. Om Puri plays a fading Bollywood actor who tries to stage a comeback.

Dream, which lost ground in damp squibs like *Samay*, *Agni Varsa* and *Jajantaram Mamantram* is also looking forward to *The King of Bollywood* to stage a dramatic comeback. Shot in India and the UK, the film will release in India in June.

Source: Hindustan Times

Muniruzzaman

Hashem Khan

Saidul Haque Juise

Film

Om Puri's date with Sophie Dahl



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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

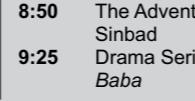


HBO: 5:30 pm: *Mortal Kombat*. Fantasy/Action/Adventure. Christopher Lambert, Robin Shou, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa. The Lightning God Rayden guides warrior Liu Kang, police detective Sonja Blade, and martial arts movie star Johnny Cage to a remote island to compete in the Shaolin Tournament known as Mortal 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



ATN BANGLA
10:15 Annodistree
10:50 Drama Serial: Baba
12:20 Ajker
12:40 Sangbadpotro
12:40 Uro Cola Saat



BBC World
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 Banjya O



Every hour on the hour

PICK OF THE DAY



Exquisit

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

PHOTO: REUTERS

PICK OF THE DAY

A pair of black swans are seen at a

zoo in Wuhan, Hubei province,

the day before Valentine's Day.

Changing Lanes

On HBO at 11:45 pm

Genre: Drama/Thriller.

Ben Affleck, Samuel L. Jackson, Kim Staunton.

An attorney in a rush to make a court appointment to file legal papers involving a multi-million dollar trust accidentally collides with an alcoholic insurance salesman, who also is a rush for a court appointment involving the custody of his children. The attorney leaves the scene of the accident and strands the

DISCOVERY

2:00 Ben-Hur

MGM

9:00 Inside Out

11:30 Tollbooth

2:00 An Ideal Husband

3:00 Nice Girls Don't

Explode

5:00 The Screaming

Room : Gift of the

Supernatural

7:00 Million Dollar Hotel

9:30 A Street Car Named

Desire (Marlon

Brando, Vivien

Leigh)

11:30 ZMS2

12:00 The Devil's Own

Baba

12:00 Changing Lanes

DISCOVERY

3:30 History Weekends

9:30

11:00 Focus Asia

11:30 The X Files

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