

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

February 18-24

An art exhibition is on display at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. The display will be open for all till February 24, 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

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. Venue: 275/F Rd. 27, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

February 18-28

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy holds a solo painting exhibition by Ryu, Kwang-il from the Republic of Korea 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 Talu of the Institute of Fine Arts, DU. Starting from 10 am, the programme will be inaugurated by artist Imdad Hossain.

February 19

A discussion will be held on bangladeshi culture and language at the Muktijudho museum today. The programme will be hosted by Sanjida Khatun, followed by recitation by Jayanta Chattayapathyay and songs by Ajit Ray and Shimul Yusuf.

Ekushey programme

February 19-20

Anarkali, a jatra show is being co-organised by the Press Club and Shilpakala Academy at 6:30 pm. The show will begin at 4:30 pm the next day. Venue: Press Club.

Interview

An evening with Arun Chowdhury

A man with multifaceted talent

SHILPI MAHALANOBISH

WHEN I first came to Dhaka, I never really had the desire to become a playwright or a writer. In fact, I wanted to be a scientist and join the NASA. This was the only dream I bore in my heart when I came to Dhaka for further studies. When I was in Comilla, I used to write rhymes for *Ganokantha*. I used to read a lot but never planned to be a writer. In 1975, I sent a story to the DUCSU competition and got the first prize. The Editor of the literature page of *Bichitra*, Sheikh Abdur Rahman and also one of the judges of that competition, at his own initiative published the story in *Bichitra*. I was so inspired that I went to *Bichitra* with another story the following week. Gradually, I was introduced to the famous journalists of that time like Mahmud Shafiq, Kazi Zawad and Mainul Ahsan Saber.

With time the readers of *Bichitra* started expressing their satisfaction and I felt that not only the editors or journalists read my write-ups but readers found them interesting as well. This instilled a feeling of responsibility inside me. However, my education was being hampered as I began to frequent the newspaper offices. I organised film clubs and watched good movies in cine clubs. I wanted to study filmmaking but there was no good institute here and I was not in a position to go to Pune. So when one of my friends introduced me to Montaz Ali, I did not miss the opportunity to work with him. I worked with him for two and half years and worked in many films like *Kudrat*, *Nalish* and a half-done film *Naseeb*.

After some time, I began suffering from a sense of insecurity in the film world, the numbers of good releases were very few. There was work



as long as I was working under the director in a film otherwise there was nothing to do. I joined *Bichitra* in 1986. I also wrote articles in the fortnightly *Tarokalok* and worked as a journalist in the *Ananda Bichitra* for eight long years from 1986 to 1994.

My first book was a collection of stories titled

Shakal Belar Phool in 1989. And I wrote a novel on the football players titled *Shat Number*.

Eventually in 1990, television producer Atiqul Haque Chowdhury asked me to write plays for the television. I wrote a drama titled *Abeg* in 1991 and wrote one drama a year as it was hard for me to give more time to writing. I started to write more for freelance productions, popularly known as package dramas, as the remuneration was quite good. Though demand for my dramas declined to the BTV producers, the freelancers were eager for my write-ups. *Shudhu Tomar Jonno* was my first package drama, starring Suborna Mustafa and Afzal Hossain who worked together after a gap of eight long years. *Aral*, the first tele-film of our country was also written by me.

Gradually in 1997, I moved into directing. My first directed drama was a serial. So far, I have written and directed 20 dramas, 10 serials and 2 tele-films, and have directed 10 dramas and one serial written by other authors.

It is my dream to make films by applying all my talents, hard work and potentials and of course with a good team. A director cannot make a film without team effort.

The things I really care for are fulfilment of my wishes, proper entertainment for the audience. These things are easy to narrate in stories but hard to depict in drama and get producers for them. But at the end of the day I think my real evaluators are my audience.

Being a journalist has helped me a lot. Freelance work has been possible due to my profession only but even if I were not a journalist, I would have written stories and novels.

Events

Queen Sophia accorded reception



Queen Sophia enjoying a colourful folk music presentation by Bibi's musical group, organised jointly by Bibi's productions and Pan Pacific Sonargaon.

QUEEN Sophia of Spain was accorded a colourful reception jointly organised by Pan Pacific Sonargaon and Bibi's Production at the Nirala Room of Pan Pacific Sonargaon on 16 February 2004, says a press release.

Famous Fashion Designer and Fashion Artist of the country Bibi Russell and Resident Manager of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Mr Manabu Komatsu received the Queen when

she arrived at Nirala with countryside fanfare of Dhol and sprinkling of flower petals.

A colourful folk music presentation by Bibi's musical group was the main attraction of the event. Four models were Bibi's design wears -- were praised by the Queen and the members of her entourage. The cotton made Gancha Dress and the Rural Check Printed dresses were displayed by the models.

Screening of 'Matir Moina' for foreigners at Spectra

'Matir Moina', being the first ever Bangladeshi film to take part in the Oscar competition, had a spectacular screening recently, at Spectra Convention Centre at Gulshan-1. Among the spectators, enjoying the hospitality of Spectra Group, there were the foreigners residing in Bangladesh, says a press release.

This complementary show enchanted all attending expatriates from USA, UK, France, Russia, Switzerland, Korea, Pakistan, Turkey, admirers of Bangladeshi culture heritage. The CEO of

spectra Group, Major M H Khan (Retd), organiser of the event said, "Matir Maina is a bright reflection of the rich culture of this country. We are very happy to be able to present the history, people and culture of Bangladesh in front of the foreigners residing in this country." In the question answer session, at the end of the show, the director Tarek Masud said, "Those who are living in the country for different reasons, build up a relation. The screening of Matir Maina shall certainly enhance this relationship."



The visitors enjoying the screening of *Matir Moina*

Celebratio

Rabindra Sarovar and Bangla Academy steal the show

AFSAR AHMED

AFTER the sudden ending of Shammilito Shangskritik Jote's 12-day long programmes at Sheheed Minar premises on February 16, the crowd now is attracted to the programmes being held at Rabindra Sarovar Unmukta Mancha, Dhanmondi, which was inaugurated on February 15.

'Muktiro mandiro shopano tale', 'Jodi tor daak shune keo na ashe' marked the beginning of the show by Hamidur Rahman. Other singers who also performed were Rasheda Boshri, Bijon Kumar Mistri, Milon Deb, Shubarna Ray and Nabin Kishore Gautam. Agnibina and Udichi Shilpi Goshthi presented some noteworthy tunes of *Ekushey* songs, *gana sangeet* (people's songs) and patriotic numbers as well.

Shabda from Dhaka presented *Mritu o Moruddan*, a charming group recitation, followed by poetry recitations by Ashrafur Alam and Faizul Alam.

Fagun elei ekti pakhi dak-e' was a magnificent presentation of *Sharakaipan*, composed and directed by Mostafiz Reepoon where lines were adapted from the famous poems by eminent poets Shamsur Rahman, Nirmalendu Gun and Mahadeb Saha. *Muktabak* another *Abritti Shingathra* (recitation forum) had performed later in the evening as well.

"We should stand together against the 'Fatwabaal' (fundamentalists) was the theme of the play, 'Bou', a *patha natak* (street Drama) by *Nongor Theatre*. The play was written by Mannan Heera and directed by Pranesh Choudhury. The story continued further with a newly wed bride who travelled a long way to meet her husband accompanied by a mullah and



One of the many productions held at Rabindra Sarovar Unmukta Mancha

servants. As she couldn't take anything from a 'parpurush' (men other than her husband) as declared by the mullah, she starved to death. Thus, the play uncovered the crude reality that women are still deprived of their rights in every step of life in our country. Saidul Islam Khan, Mehedy Hasan, Abdul Malek and SM Ilias acted in the play.

'Mora' was another lively presentation by *Uttara Theatres*. The group members marked this *patha natak* as their 14th production. 'Religious conflict is not desirable', said the director of the play, Md. Shahjahan Shovon. The play was written by Shuvankar Chakaravarty. Junayet Hossain, Monirul Islam, Nuruzzaman Sheikh, Md. Mujibur Rahman acted in different characters. The 'Nattiyamela' and the 'Prachyanat' renowned theatre groups of the

country also presented their plays at the programme premises later on in the evening.

Besides the Amar Ekushey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy premises, the regular cultural programmes have been going on in full swing. The programme began with a song, followed by a discussion on the topic 'Heritage and conscience in Farrukh Ahmed's poems'. Titash Chowdhury presented the keynote on the topic while Mohammed Mahfuzullah presided over the programme. Dr. Mahbub Hasan, Prof. Ishraf Hossain and poet Al Mujahidi also participated in the discussion. 'Farrukh Ahmed was a humanist poet who dreamt of freedom and humanism through Islam', said the speakers. *The Pagla Gaan* ushered in the end.

Joyous depicti

Spring Festival at Comilla

THE first day of Phalgun falls on the 13th of February. The day heralds the beginning of the best of seasons of Bengali calendar and culture, *Basanta*. On that day, people of all ages with yellow and festive dress gathered at the compound of Farida Biddayatan, to welcome the season. The festival was organised by the Comilla branch of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad and was inaugurated by the president Professor Shantanu Kaiser, says a press release.

As the programme began, petals were showered on the audience. The festival presented music, dance sequences and recitation from Bengali poems. Kiswar Kamal, Ripa Datta, Moitree Paul, Pianka Roy and others presented music, conducted by Mita Paul, Manashi Shadhu and Ruma Bhowmik. The dance sequences were conducted by Tapan Dasgupta and Aditi Sengupta and were participated by a group of child artists. Kazi



Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad, Comilla, celebrating the first day of spring

Mahtab Shumon and Mousomi Roy Choudhury recited two wonderful poems of Rabindranath and Nazrul. Abhijeet Sinha Mithu, Shubankar Chakrabarty, Rajib Shaha and

Munir Ahmed Khan played musical instruments.

Abdul Malek and Mallika Biswas hosted the programme that continued for two hours.

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
News Headlines (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

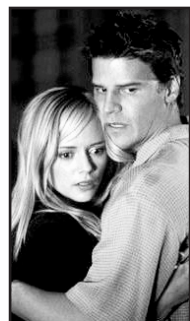
BTV
07:35 *Suprobhat Bangladesh*
08:25 Selected Modern Songs
09:15 Anya Bhuvan: Sea Is Green Uphar
10:05 Bangla Feature Film
04:15 Live Telecast from Jatio Shongshod
05:30 *Probash Mela*
06:10 *Shaptashur*
06:35 *Jiboner Alo*
07:00 Share Market, Weather Forecast
07:05 *Boipatra*
07:30 Film Show: Superman
08:30 Drama : Shudhu Tomar Jonnyo
10:30 *Ei Shomoy*
CHANNEL-i
09:45 *Tritiyo Matra*
12:00 *Chitthi Pelam*
01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
02:00 *Priyo Notoke*
05:10 *Sa Re Ma Ga Ma*
05:45 *Jato Pad Tato Mat*
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 *Amar Chhobi*



Special Drama: Mumukha. commemorating eminent actor Gulam Moostafa on ntv at 9:10 pm.

07:50 Thief Of Baghdad
08:25 Drama Serial: *Sharey Tin Tala*
09:35 Drama Serial: *Rangdhanu Rang*
10:00 Close Up Hit Wave
ntv
08:00 *Ajker Sakal Jhankar*
08:30 *Ei Shomoy*
09:30 *Dhakar Cinema: Paye Chola Poth*
10:02 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe
03:00 Drama Serial: *Ebong Ami*
03:30 *Shurer Jalsha*
04:30 Drama Serial: *Britto Bandi*
05:25 *Ke Korbe Bajimat*
06:00 *Anpar Jigyasha*
06:35 *Shubho Shondhya*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Ronger Manush*
08:35 *Shanshkriti Ei Shoptaho*
09:10 Special Drama on Golam Mustafa: *Mumukha*
11:20 *Din Darpan*
ATN BANGLA

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO: 7:30 pm: *Valentine:* Horror/Thriller. **Denise Richards, David Boreanaz, Marley Shelton.** Valentine's Day 1988: At the school dance, geeky Jeremy Melton bravely faces one rejection after the other when asking four popular girls to dance with him. A fifth girl, plump and insecure, agrees, but they end up making out under the bleachers. When a group of school bullies catches them, the girl claims that Jeremy attacked her. This causes them to strip off his clothes and beat him up in front of the entire school.



Star Movies: 7:00 pm: *Cocoon.* Adventure/Comedy/Sci-Fi/Drama. **Don Ameche, Wilford Brimley, Hume Cronyn.** A group of aliens return to earth to take back some cocoons of their people they left behind from an earlier trip. The cocoons are

PICK OF THE DAY



True Crime
On Star Movies at 9:00 pm
Genre: Crime/Thriller/Drama
Clint Eastwood, Isaiah Washington, Lisa Gay Hamilton
Steve Everett, Oakland Tribune journalist with a passion for women and alcohol, is given the coverage of the upcoming execution of murderer Frank Bechum. His attractive colleague Michelle died in a car accident the night before.

4:20 Sundor Jeboner Janne
5:10 A Sapteher Chobi
5:50 Islamee Sawal O Jawab
6:25 Annodristee
7:40 Drama Serial: Tana Puren
8:15 Drama Serial: Khushie
8:50 Prekhhapot
9:25 Mega Serial: Bazpakhe
10:35 Drama Serial: Jara Bakul
12:20 Bengali feature film: Jadrel Bou

HBO
12:00 Cruel Intentions 2
1:45 The Devil's Own
4:00 Strange Frequency 2
5:45 Jawbreaker
7:30 Valentine
9:30 Training Day
12:00 The Mummy
MGM
2:00 Robinhood Prince of Thieves
3:00 Peter Gun
4:30 Org: ZMS 3

7:00 Tuff Turf
9:30 Thursday : Terror
11:30 Prophecy II
11:30 Serendipity
STAR MOVIES
11:45 Hollywood Ending
1:40 The Indian Runner
3:45 Mad Dog And Glory
5:25 My Big Fat Greek Wedding
7:00 Cocoon
9:00 True Crime
11:05 Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace

STAR WORLD
3:30 Bold And Beautiful
4:30 Hollywood Squares
5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
5:30 Knight Rider
6:30 The Simpsons
7:00 Home Improvement
7:30 Friends
8:00 Just Shoot Me
8:30 American Idol
9:30 Dark Angel
10:30 For Love Or Money
11:28 Star Asia Travel
11:30 Baywatch

STAR GOLD

9:00 Baghavat
12:30 Dil Aashna Hai
4:30 Paap Ki Aandhi
8:00 Operation Gold

STAR PLUS

2:00 Bhabhi
2:30 Shagun
3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
4:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
4:30 Kahaani To Hoga
5:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz
6:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
7:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
8:30 Kyun Hota Hai Pyarr
9:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
0:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kahaani To Hoga
12:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz

ANIMAL PLANET

4:30 Emergency Vets : The Initiation
5:00 Breed all about it : Papillon
5:30 Amazing Animal Videos
6:00 Amazing Animal Videos
6:30 Planet's Funniest Animals
7:00 Planet's Funniest Animals
7:30 Wildlife Specials : Tiger -- Hunted
8:30 Majesty
8:30 The Human Touch
10:30 Animal Tracks: Malaysian Sunbears
9:30 The Human Touch :

Lynn Rogers: Man who walks with Bears
10:30 Wild Encounters : Elephants

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

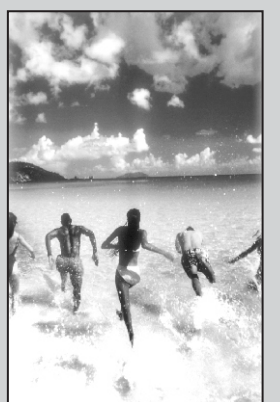
3:30 Wild Discovery Air
4:30 Zach's Ultimate Guide Extreme Weather
5:00 Real Kids Real Adventures Bear Attack!
5:30 Travellers El Dia De La Tradicion, Argentina
6:30 Junkyard Wars
7:30 Mechanical Mole
7:30 Lizards: A Sense of Scale
8:30 Secrets of the Ocean Realm
9:30 Wild Asias
10:30 City Cabs Tokyo
11:00 Celebrity Slimming
11:30 Hidden: Europe's Hottest Beaches

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

3:30 Shetland Oil Disaster
4:30 Cheating Death (Aka Dangerous Return To The Wild
6:00 Animal Edens
6:30 Dogs With Jobs S3
7:00 On Wildlife
7:30 Tarsier-The Little Alien
8:30 Super Croc
10:30 National Geo-graphic Special Cheating Death (Aka Dangerous

STAR SPORTS

1:00 Five / Six Nations Championships
Italy Vs Engl And (R)
3:00 Telekom Malaysia Tour De Langkawi 2004 Stage #8(T)
4:30 PGA Tour Golf Accenture Matchplay Championship Preview Show (Wgc) (T)
5:00 The Nelson Mandela Invitational Golf 2003 Cape Town South Africa Event
6:00 Watersports Programming Hot Water (R)
7:00 Entertainment Sports Mania (T)
8:00 Sportsline (L)
ESPN
1:50 Bangladesh Tour Of Zimbabwe



Discovery Channel: 11:30 pm. Beach Hour: Europe's Hottest