

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

Ekushey programme

February 20

Anarkali, a Jatra show is being co-organised by the Press Club and Shilpakala Academy will begin at 4:30 pm today.
Venue: Press Club

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.

Dance

February 23

The High Commission of India, Dhaka will present an evening of Manipuri Dance Drama by Padmashree Ratan Thiyam and his troupe, based on Mahakavi Kalidas's *Ritusamharam* on February 23, at 7:00pm at Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka.

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 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 3pm to 7 pm on Friday.

February 23-March 2

Goethe Institut will hold a photographic exhibition titled *A Mro Folk-belief: Utopia of a Pilgrim* by Shameem Hasan at the institut's premises, beginning from February 23. The display will remain open from Sunday through Thursday, 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

Display

Bold sweeps and economic colours

Mansur Ul Karim's exhibit at the Bengal Gallery

FAYZA HAQ

MANSUR UL Karim, who has his on-going exhibition of over 51 works at the Bengal Gallery, called "Vision of the Past", says that he grew up in Faridpur, and went into painting to overcome a feeling of emptiness, which he felt on losing his mother as a child. Questions about humanity built up in him and he felt that he could best express his feelings and individuality in paintings. Graduating in 1972 from the Fine Arts Institute he went on to do his Masters in painting from Chittagong. He stayed on there to teach.



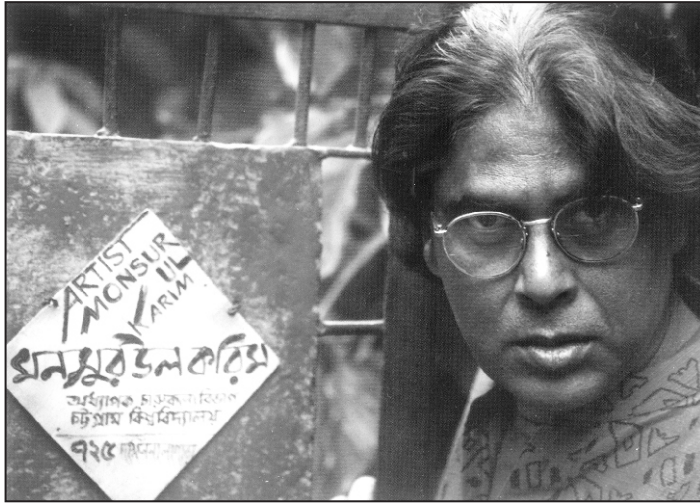
Virgin in black lines - Acrylic

Mansur's works are not straightforward representation of figures. He has simplified them and broken them, adding and subtracting in places. Very often there is a

smudge where there should have been a face. Even the limbs are suggested in lines, sweeps and squiggles. He stresses on the figures, bringing in some of the background. Earlier his exhibitions had brought in more elements of nature, showing a relationship between man and nature. The moving on to figures alone is based on a feeling of emptiness in his life since his wife, the main source of inspiration, died in 2000. Mansur uses the figures as support to drive away his feelings of emptiness and loneliness. The reason why his figures have no clear faces and bear no details of eyes or nose is that he wants every viewer to feel that the pain that he has portrayed is that of anyone who is seeing his paintings. The element of anguish found in all his work and that is why he uses so much of blue, black and brown. While he uses different colours in different places, he makes sure that there is a harmony in the choice of colour in the composition. His figures are marked by simplicity, using oils and acrylic, depicting a deep involvement with human feelings and emotions.

Mansur says that he does face problems in this attempt to maintain the originality of his work so that the viewer can see his paintings and realise straight away as to the origin of his work. He feels that the viewer should understand the social and economical environment of his characters on the canvas or paper. He says that we stress on the originality of Indian, Chinese or African art and so we should stress on the setting of our Bangladeshi settings scenes. People looking at his paintings should be able to learn about social environment of the characters that he has presented, he feels. This is despite the fact that he wishes to maintain a universal quality in his paintings so that his farmers and fishermen could also have been from anywhere in the world.

In "To earn one's livelihood" we see a vendor of vegetables and fruit



Mansur Ul Karim

in brown and green sweeps of strokes. The objects are done in red and they contrast with the bronze that has been used to delineate the figure. The background has been left white so that the effect is bold and dramatic. In "Three virgins" we see a woman in beige, done in sweeps, curls and lines; another figure is in blue, touched with white and red, while the third one is black and blue, outlined with red and white. The last figure is clearer than the other two huddled semi-abstract images. The women appear to be sitting and talking. At the back we see splashes of brown and beige, with checkered patterns to the left and right. The fluidity of the lines is admirable indeed. "Goddesses" bring in two female figures in black and brown and they are reflections of his romantic concept of his wife.

"Coming back" brings in two fishermen and this recalls the artist's idyllic youth. The figures are in blue and green with the bodies and faces being simply suggested; forms of fish surround the two men. In the background are masses of blue and yellow in the shape of clouds. "Tension" brings in a couple surrounded by two cows.

Mansur does a few study

sketches with pencil or pen before he embarks on the painting itself. He works in his studio in Chittagong in morning and evening, as the mood takes him. He treasures his creative work, and at the same time, he takes his teaching seriously. Over the years, apart from Mohammed Kibria, it is Rashid Chowdhury who influenced him most in his work. As a student, it was the works of Paul Cezanne that he admired most. Asked if our Bangladeshi viewers can appreciate semi abstract work, Mansur says every painting is a reflection of feeling that has reality: every abstraction has some realism behind it. He himself uses abstraction to reflect his dejection and angst.

Mansur Ul Karim has taken part in 12 solo exhibitions in Kolkata, Dhaka and Chittagong. He has also participated in over 15 group exhibitions in Europe, Japan and Bangladesh. He has won several awards including the Grand Award at the 8th Triennial International, New Delhi in 1994 and the Grand Award at the 6th Asian Art Biennale organised by the Shilpakala Academy.

Venture

Johora Hasin Manju now in city



A poet as well as singer Johora Hasin Manju has recently come to Dhaka from the USA, says a press release. The press release also adds that she will soon launch two books on poetry—*Ei Shohore Tumi Nei* and *Aarshinagor* and her new album.

Celebratio

Ekushey programmes at Rabindra Sarovar

Emotion still runs high

FAIZUL A TANIM

RABINDRA Sarovar *Unmukta Mancha* commonly known to the Dhaka residents as amphitheatre by the Dhanmondi Lake once again gleamed to its proportion as the Ekushey programmes continue. The presentations were a delight on the February 18 evening. The lighting effects and hundreds of people applauding to songs and theatre were remarkable. All this recalled the martyrs who sacrificed their lives on February 21, 1952 and created the groundwork for a greater movement for independ-

ence of Bangladesh in the following years.

Patriotic recitations, songs and dramas were items for the evening. Solo recitals were presented by Rafiqul Islam, Azharul Huq Azad, Mashkur A Sattar Kallol, Azizul Bashar, Mahfuz Masum, Fakrul Islam Tara and many more. The heartfelt emotions were an outburst in their recitations leading to a build-up of nationalism. Group recitations included participation by Shanan and Muktaadara Shangskriti Charcha Kendra.

The songs were all nostalgic, drifting to the memories of pre-liberation war times. A B Ripon and

Jannatul Ferdous presented solo performances while Shurotirtho carried on group presentations.

The plays were one of the biggest attractions for the night. Dressed in costumes with painted faces along with the lighted stage was part of the organisers' alluring presentation. Ekusher Chetona (memories of 21st February) was said to have originated from the reminiscences of Language Movement. The drama produced by Barnamala Group Theatre, Dhaka Theatre Mancha and Jahangir Nagar Theatre were presented. Golam Sarwar hosted the show.

Starting afres

The splendour of Mati o Manush is back

Channel-i re-launching the programme in the name of Ridhoey Mati o Manush

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

AGRICULTURE, the mainstay of our national economy, plays a vital role in providing the maximum GDP. But tragically enough our farmers are the most neglected people of the society and due to absence of a proper guideline they are losing interest in the work that they are doing.

Mati-o-Manush, a popular television programme, was hosted initially by Shykh Seraj on Bangladesh Television (BTV) between 1982-96. This had tremendous impact on farming for its focus on agro-based activities. Though the subject matter lacks glamour, Shykh Seraj the lively host of the programme succeeded in making the programme popular not only to the farmers but attracted the city dwellers as well.

The programme also had a great impact on the young generation, inspiring them to set up various projects like poultry farm, beef fattening, horticulture, rooftop gardening, bio-gas, etc. in rural, suburban and urban areas throughout the country.

Shykh Seraj, the director and head of Channel-i news section, is going to re-launch the programme of BTV after a long break of seven years in a new format with the same mission on Channel-i. The programme has been renamed



Shykh Seraj goes back to rural Bangladesh

Ridhoey Mati o Manush, which will be aired weekly from 21st of this month at 9:35 pm.

Talking about the main aspects of re-launch of the programme, Shykh Seraj says when *Mati o Manush* was being telecast many people became interested in producing agricultural goods. So to enliven the same spirit there will be discussion about marketing, policy-making and even the possibilities of export in *Ridhoey Mati o Manush*. To encourage the younger generation, we will try to project the activities and also the drawbacks of the

primary and secondary industries and the industries that support production. The programme will encourage self-employment.

Living in an age of information technology, our agriculture is yet to come under its influence so we will try our best to build-up a relation between agriculture and technology. The format of the programme will be changed to match current trends.

The satellite channels have different audience than that of BTV but we are optimistic about a change in this scenario.

Scoop

Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen arrives under heavy security to launch the Hindi translation of her book "Andhakari" (Those Dark Days), the fourth part of her autobiography, prior to a presentation in New Delhi, on 18 February. In November 2003, the Indian state of West Bengal banned the Bengali-language of the third part of her autobiography, "Dwihkandita" (Split in Two), saying its circulation could trigger religious unrest.



PHOTO: AFP

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 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

9:00am

Breakfast News 07:15 am.

ATN BANGLA

10:00

Talk Show : Annodristee

10:30

Islamic Prog Entertainment prog: Benudon

3:40

Jummabab

12:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

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

BBC World

Every hour on the hour

BTV

07:35

Suprobhat

Bangladesh

08:25

Jannabdhumi

09:00

Live Telecast of the cricket match between Bangladesh and India from Dhaka Stadium

05:30

Cartoon Show

06:10

E Shoptaher Asia

06:35

Programme from Chittagong Centre

07:00

Share Market, Weather Forecast

07:05

Maloncha

07:30

Ekush Amar

08:30

Adekha

09:00

Shaptodina

10:30

Lal Golap

ATN BANGLA

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BBC World

Every hour on the hour

05:10

Sa Re Ma Ga Ma

05:45

RC Kidly Kids

06:10

Music Plus

06:45

Amader Gaan

07:50

Danda Shangghat

08:25

Traffic Jam

09:35

Drama Serial: Ekanoboroti

10:00

Drama Serial: Kaalpurush

08:00

Aiker Sakal

08:30

Gaanan Mala

09:30

Ei Shomoy

10:02

Hello Music

10:30

Tele Film: Preyoshi

02:30

Apar Jigyasha

03:00

Bangla Film: Aradhana

05:40

Tiffnir Phakey

06:20

Shubho Shondhya

08:00

Drama Serial: Ronger Manush

08:35

Pepsi Music Express

09:10

Kichhu Katha

09:47

Kichhu Gaan

11:20

Drama Serial: Aronyer Shukh

11:30

Dukh

12:00

Din Darpan

12:00

The Firm

3:00

Mortal Kombad

5:00

Sheena

7:15

The Associate

9:30

Solo

11:30

Black Cadillac

1:30

The Firm

9:00

The Telephone

11:30

Million Dollar Hotel

2:00

The Most Dangerous

4:30

Woman Alive

7:00

Org: Only You

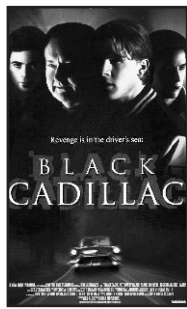
9:30

King Cobra

Friday: Fun

Lee

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



STAR MOVIES 7:00 pm: *Gosford Park*. Comedy / Crime / Mystery / Drama. **Maggie Smith, Michael Gambon, Kristin Scott Thomas.** In an old fashioned English country house where a family has invited many of their friends up for a weekend shooting party. Getting on in years William the man of the house, has become benefactor to many of his relatives and friends, finally the secrets are revealed, it seems everyone, above stairs and below, wants a piece of William and his money, but how far will they go to get it...?

HBO: 11:30 pm: *Black Cadillac*. Thriller. **Randy Quaid, Shane Johnson, Josh Hammond.** The reason why this film is so different from the rest of Murlowski's outings is because it is a true and more than it was based on events that happened to the director himself back in 1983. This film is suspense driven and

11:30 Evans Kathy Burke A Street Car Named Desire Marlon Brando Vivien Leigh

8:30 Big Spender

10:15 Corky Roman

11:45 Grand Canyo

2:00 The Rich

3:45 Airheads

5:20 Strictly Sinatra

7:00 Gosford Park

9:15 Hellraiser Ili:Hell

10:45 White Gold

1:30 Mac Gyver

2:28 Star Asia Travel

2:30 Oprah Winfrey