

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

February 20-March 2
A sculpture exhibition by Ferdousy Priabhashini titled *Aronner Dinratri* is going on at the Shilpangan gallery. The display will remain open for all from 10 am to 9 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.

February 23-March 2
Goethe Institut is holding 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.

Photography exhibition

February 24-29
Aalok Group of Photographers is holding its annual photo exhibition for 2001 & 2002 at Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi. The exhibits feature a selection from the annual photo contest of the said years. The display remains open for all from 3 pm to 8 pm daily.

The best films of 2002-2003

February 22-26
Zahir Raihan Film Society is screening 17 critically acclaimed films of 2002-2003 from around the world at the Goethe Institut Dhaka at Road no. 9, Dhanmondi:

Thursday, 26th February 2004:

3:00PM: *Nowhere in Africa* by Caroline Link (Germany)
5:30PM: *Nothing More* by Juan Carlos Cremata (Cuba)
7:15PM: *Bowling for Columbine* by Michael Moore (USA)

Carniva



PHOTO AFP

Revelers dressed as traditional carnival puppets march during a "Rosenmontag" parade in Cologne February 23. In outlandish costumes and festive mood, hundreds of thousands of revelers joined Rose Monday celebrations in western Germany, a traditional highlight of the annual carnival season. Motto on float reads: "Laughter keeps you healthy"

Dance

All the way from Manipur

Kalidasa's 'Ritusamharam' on stage

ELITA KARIM

THE High Commission of India brought about yet another colourful presentation to Bangladesh, all the way from Manipur. Known for their rich cultural heritage, dancers from Manipur displayed a play titled *Ritusamharam* written by the legendary Kalidasa. The musical play was staged at the Osmani Memorial Hall on February 23. Even though the play was staged in the Manipuri language, the hall was filled with people dwelling from different walks of life. Eminent cultural personalities of the country were seen thoroughly enjoying this imaginative display.

The audience was awe-struck by the creative force shown by the dancers, when a group of them were mistaken for wax dolls covered with shining material, imaged like statues on stage. The play successfully portrayed the age-old culture of the country, through its colourful costumes, music, and compositions, not to mention the poetic ambiguity created by the lights and set.

The play portrayed the cycle of seasons, creating an intimacy between life and nature. The six seasons of the country were displayed graphically through the play. These yearly cycles made an



Intimacy created between man and nature, as depicted by the dancers

impact not only on the human psyche, animals and the birds, but also the other elements building up the nature like insects, flora and fauna. The poetic images created by the director, Ratan Thiyam, were insightful, graphic and extremely powerful.

According to the director himself, this is not a conventional play as

such, where Kalidasa defines each season as descriptively as possible. The visual interpretation made to meet each episode was definitely a challenge, since each episode was so poetically complete. The performances underlined the fact that all human energy is actually derived from nature. Man is seen losing all his power, energy, beauty,

love and the inner talents once he moves away from the bountiful nature and begins to isolate himself. However, no matter how hard he tries, in simple expression, he does end up living in a contemporary world and once again reunites with the substances of nature surrounding him.

Music

The much-awaited event

Open air concert at Old DOHS

FAIZUL A TANIM

THE most popular Old DOHS Underground Open Air concert held recently, at the Basketball ground was quite a show. The opening bands, The Crayons, STS, Bivishika and Delude, playing mostly cover songs were promising, doing some interesting things playing a good number of Nirvana and other tracks. Their stage presence was good and they had some notable songs that contained a fair amount of diversity that displayed their talents (although Bivishika's own two numbers sounded less-than-ordinary compositions but the *Otherside* cover was fine and Delude--one of the upcoming groups, experienced quite a few mess-ups).

After the initial warm-up acts, the evening slammed with the next, Nemesis. They have earned a strong CD quality-like and a compact performance reputation and for a bunch of people who do not have the 'metal look', they certainly put out their fair share of pure rock (which surely was appealing to many). Their covers of *Love thing* by Satriani, *Without you* by Silver Chair, *Evenflow* by Pearl Jam and more, were nicely done.



Underground band Birodh in action

Own compositions *New Day* and *Obocheton* were hugely applauded. Nobody had doubts that the bands Birodh and dNA have what it takes to rock and were quickly stealing the show as fans were treated to seventy minutes of greatest hits. Throughout their sets, the vocalists proved their diversity, while the bassists and drummers laid down a roaring rhythm, and the guitarists--of both the bands the demonstrated awesome live performance of songs from the '80s

by tearing through their guitar parts in classic approach. They were the best of the evening performing *Fear of the dark* (Iron Maiden), *Rainmaker*, *Dread and the fugitive mind* (Megadeth) and their own guitar solo *Inora*--Birodh. Inora was splendid! dNA set list comprised of the vocalists proved their diversity, while the bassists and drummers laid down a roaring rhythm, and the guitarists--of both the bands the demonstrated awesome live performance of songs from the '80s

terrific rendition. It was obvious that the boys were having a great time being onstage together once again.

Fulbanu's Revenge (FBR) was second last with a much-appreciated array of songs. Their covers of *Megalomaniac* (Incubus), *Back to school* by Deftones, one of their own track--the song was as lovely and appreciated as one could imagine and finally a track from Mojo which got the other band members sing-along to a chorus onstage was indeed a wonderful display.

Black was the last act of the evening. They sounded tight, and pulled things off fairly well. Watching them was like watching a very professional band performing the most popular compositions allowing the crowd to jump to their heels. *Opolap*, *Amra*, '?' were excellent tracks. The newly bought small DJ machine was a little delight. With little improvisations it can create a great vibe in their songs. Watching Black working the stage was like watching an exceptionally super group.

Fire spinning was the last attraction of the event. Slashing arm movements across their bodies and the acrobatic twists with fire-spinners with the beating music concluded an original affair for the Underground band community.

Theatre festi



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Hat Hodai

ERSHAD KAMOL

TODAY the audience may enjoy *Hat Hodai* by Dhaka Theatre at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Library Auditorium.

Review

Selim Al Deen's play *Hat Hodai* depicts the lifestyle of the people who live in remote areas of greater Noakhali district. In this sense it belongs to the Ethnic Theatre criteria. Through the character of an aged sailor the playwright has portrayed the culture of that particular social structure. Nasirudin Yousuff is the director of the play. Afzal Hossain is in set designing while Rafiq Mahmud is in light design.



A still from the play Hat Hodai

Birsa Kabya-- a historical play

REVIEW

Desh Natok staged their production *Birsa Kabya* by Masum Reza as part of the drama festival arranged by the group on February 23, at the Public Library Auditorium.

The ethnic play *Birsa Kabya*, is based on the historical revolution of the *Munda* tribe against the British colonial lords, which took place in the late 19th century India.

Masum Reza in the play is very much influenced by Selim Al Deen's *Bonopangshul*, which also belongs to the same genre.

Birsa, a tribal leader, organises his community against the British rulers and as a result he has to sacrifice his life. The playwright also shows how the missionaries try to convert the Indians to Christianity and the tragic end of the movement as a result of the betrayal by the traitors.

However, in the play, Masum has used several dialects to represent different communities but he has not been much of a success at handling it accurately. The artificially created dialect which has been used to represent the *Munda* is not their own. As the original dialect of the tribal people is not possible for the spectators to understand, the playwright could have used standard Bangla for all the tribes. Moreover, in portraying the sufferings of the tribal people, at times he has been quite exaggerative.

As a director Shamsul Alam Bakul has successfully



A scene from the play Birsa Kabya

handled the play. His compositions in displaying the action scenes and the rituals of the *Munda* people were entertaining. He has handled 29 artists to portray 69 characters quite efficiently as most of his performers have acted in more than two roles.

Nasirul Haque Khokon's light design is simple but effective. Kazi Mizan Koyel's set can symbolically represent the theme of the play.

Although there was nothing exceptional about the performance the teamwork was well coordinated.

Film

Tareque's latest venture

A press conference announcing the launch of Tareque and Catherine Masud's new film 'Ontorjatra' was held at the Dhaka Reporter's Unity recently. The main cast and crew members were present on the occasion.

The story of the film follows the return to Bangladesh after many years of a London-based mother and son. Through the course of their return visit, the son learns to appreciate his cultural heritage and family roots.

In his introductory speech, Tareque Masud mentioned that, for the first time in Bangladesh, the film would be shot in high-end digital video, a new format that is rapidly gaining popularity in many countries as a cost effective and convenient alternative to 35mm film.

Many leading young filmmakers and technicians have joined the production team for their interest to get exposure to this new technology. In addition to Tareque Masud, co-director Catherine Masud and main cast members Sara Zaker and Abdul Momen Chowdhury spoke.

Sara said she was very excited about taking on the challenge of portraying a London-based Sylheti woman, and that she had been learning the Sylheti dialect in preparation. Chowdhury, a former Ambassador and first-time actor, said that he was happy that the character he was playing in the film was very close to his own character and experience.

Tareque said that although they were shooting in the relatively less expensive format of digital video, in terms of the preparations and planning they were approaching the production as they would any 35mm feature film project.

Other cast members present included Harold Rashid, Tiash Rashid, Rokeya Prachy, and Jayanto Chattopadhyay, among others. Tareque Masud also introduced the main crewmembers, including Chief Assistant Nurul Alam Atik, Art Director Tarun Ghosh, cameramen Kamrul Hasan Khosru and Nehal Khoreshi, sound recordist Abdus Sattar Ripon and sound mixer Ratan Kumar Paul.

The best films of 2002-2003

A total of seventeen of the best films released during the years 2002-2003 are being screened at the Goethe Institut Dhaka, says a press release. Organised by Zahir Raihan Film Society, these films were shown and most of them won awards in different film festivals around the world. These films stand against the strong stream of commercial films coming out specially from the Hollywood.

The films that were shown so far are: *Warm Water Under a Red Bridge* by Shohei Imamura (Japan), *21 Grams* by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (Mexico), *Ararat* by Atom Egoyan (Canada), *Amen* by Konstantin Costa-Gavras (Greece/France), *Sylvia* by Christine Jeffs (New Zealand/UK), *Lost in Translation* by Sofia Coppola (USA), *The Hidden Half* by Tahmineh Milani (Iran), *Till Human Voices Wake Us* by Michael Petroni (Australia), *Russian Ark* by Aleksandr Sokurov (Russia), *Lilya 4-Ever* by Lukas Moodysson (Sweden), *Finding Nemo* by A. Stanton and L. Unkrich (USA), *Respiro* by Emanuele Crialese (Italy), *Whale Rider* by Niki Caro (New Zealand), and *Dogville* by Lars Von Trier (Denmark).

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 am.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

07:35 *Suprobhat Bangladesh*
08:25 *Selected Modern Songs*
09:15 *Anya Bhuban:* Sea Is Green
12:15 *Sangbad Potrikar Pata Theke*
01:05 *Selected Programme*
1:30 *Live telecast of under 19 World Cup Super League*
07:00 *Share Market, Weather Forecast*
10:30 *Tele Film*
CHANNEL-i
09:45 *Tritityo Matra*
12:00 *Chithi Pelam*
01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
02:00 *Priyo Natak*
05:10 *Sa Re Ma Ga Ma*
05:45 *Jato Path Tato Mat*
06:10 *Music Plus*
06:45 *Amar Chhobi*
07:50 *Thief of Baghdad*
08:25 *Drama Serial: Sharey Teen Tala*
09:35 *Drama Serial: Rangdhanu Rang*
10:00 *Close Up Hit Wave*

ntv

08:00 *Ajker Sakal*
08:30 *Jhankar*
09:30 *Ei Shomoy*
10:02 *Dhakar Cinema: Dosti*
02:30 *Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe*
03:00 *Drama Serial: Ebong Ami*
03:30 *Shurer Jaisha*
04:30 *Drama Serial:*

05:25 *Britto Bandi*
06:00 *Ke Korbajajimat*
06:35 *Apnar Jigyasha Shubho*
08:00 *Shondhya*
Drama Serial: *Ranger Manush*
08:35 *Shangshkriti Ei Shoptaho*
09:10 *Drama: Bari Phera*
11:20 *Dindarpan*
ATN BANGLA
10:15 *Annodristee*
Drama serial : *Danob*
10:50 *Uro Cola Saat Rang*
12:40 *Bengali feature film : Marjhadar Loray*
1:20 *Sunder Jeboner Janne*
4:20 *A Saptether Chobi*
5:50 *Islamee Sawal O Jawab*
6:25 *Annodristee*
Drama serial : *Tana Puren*
7:40 *Drama serial : Khushhe Prekhhaport*
8:50 *Mega serial: Bazpakhe*
9:25 *Drama serial : Jara Bakul*
10:35 *Bengali feature film : Ashar Alo*
12:20
HBO
7:30 *The In Crowd*
9:30 *Pollock*
12:00 *Sugar & Spice*
2:00 *Mannequin On The Move*
4:00 *Diamond of Jeru*
5:30 *Blast From The Past*
7:30 *The Laramie Project*

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO: 9:30 pm: *The Grinch.* Family/Fantasy/Comedy. **Jim Carrey, Taylor Momsen, Jeffrey Tambor.** Based on the book by the famous Dr. Seuss. Inside a snowflake exists the magical land of Whoville. In Whoville, live the Who's, an almost mutated sort of munchkinlike people. All the Who's love Christmas, yet just outside of their beloved Whoville lives the Grinch. The Grinch is a nasty creature that hates Christmas, and plots to steal it away from the Whos which he equally abhors.

Star Movies: 5:00 pm: *Unfaithful.* Drama/Thriller. **Diane Lane, Richard Gere, Olivier Martinez.** Connie Sumner has a loving husband, a beautiful home, and a wonderful son, but she wants more. When she's approached one day by a handsome stranger



PICK OF THE DAY



The Laramie Project
On HBO at 7:30 pm
Genre: Drama
Christina Ricci, Steve Buscemi, Laura Linney
Moisés Kaufman and members of New York's Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie, Wyoming after the murder of **Matthew Shepard.** This is a film version of the play they wrote based on more than 200 interviews they conducted in Laramie. It follows and in some cases re-enacts the chronology of Shepherd's visit to a local bar,

9:30 *The Grinch*
12:00 *The Firm*
STAR MOVIES
7:45 *Wall Street*
9:45 *Predator 2*
11:30 *Leprechaun 4*
1:15 *Twister*
3:15 *The Curse Of The Jade Scorpion*
5:00 *Unfaithful*
7:00 *Out Of Africa*
9:40 *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*
11:45 *Teen Wolf*

STAR WORLD
7:00 *Friends*
7:30 *Just Shoot Me*
8:00 *Hollywood Squares*
8:30 *Whose Line Is It Anyway*
9:00 *Cheers*
9:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*
10:30 *Charmed*
11:30 *Karen Sisco*
12:30 *Two Guys And A Girl*
1:00 *Tritus*

1:30 *Mac Gyver*
2:28 *Star Asia Travel*
2:30 *Oprah Winfrey*
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 *Kurukshetra*
12:30 *Betaabi*
4:30 *Azaad Desh Ke Ghulam*
8:00 *Operation Gold*
8:30 *Kartoots*
STAR PLUS
2:00 *Bhabhi*
2:30 *Shagun*
3:00 *Kabhi Aaye Na*
Judai
3:30 *Kyunki Saas Bhi*

4:00 *Kabhi Bahu Thi Kahaani Ghar GharKii*
4:30 *Kahiin To Hoga*
5:00 *Kaahin Kissii Roz*
6:00 *Hum Saath Aath Hain*
6:30 *Fox Kids*
7:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
8:00 *Shaka Laka Boom Boom*
8:30 *Kyun Hota Hai Pyarr*
9:00 *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*
9:30 *Saara Akaash*
10:30 *Kahaani Ghar GharKii*
11:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi*
11:30 *Kahiin To Hoga*
12:00 *Kaahin Kissii Roz*
ANIMAL PLANET
12:30 *The Human Touch*
1:30 *The Human Touch*
2:30 *Wild Encounters*
3:30 *Vets in Practice*
4:00 *Wild Rescues*
4:30 *Emergency Vets*
5:00 *Breed all about it*
5:30 *Amazing Animal Videos*
6:30 *Planet's Funniest Animals*
7:30 *Wildlife Specials*

8:30 *Crocodile*
9:30 *The Human Touch*
10:30 *Wild Encounters*
11:30 *Blue Planet Making Waves*
DISCOVERY
11:30 *Wild Asia/Wild India*
12:30 *Discover India*
1:30 *Julie Haley/Surfing*
2:00 *Rian Gonzales/Triathlon*
2:30 *New Detectives*
3:30 *Wild Discovery*
4:30 *Zach's Ultimate*
5:00 *Real Kids Real*
5:30 *Travellers Los Angeles*
6:30 *Junkyard Wars*
7:30 *Wild Discovery*
8:30 *Secrets of the Ocean*
9:30 *Wild Asia/Wild India*
10:30 *City Cabs Sydney, Australia*
11:00 *Celebrity Slimming*
11:30 *Beach Hour Top*

Ten Hawaiian Beaches
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
11:00 *Body Snatchers Of Bangkok*
11:30 *Dogs With Jobs S3*
12:00 *Toyota World Of Wildlife*
12:30 *Tarsier-The Little Alien*
1:30 *Super Croc*
3:30 *National Geographic Special*
4:30 *Cheating Death*
5:30 *Aka Dangerous*
6:00 *Return To The Wild*
6:30 *Animal Edens*
7:00 *Dogs With Jobs*
7:30 *Great Adventures*
8:00 *With Hayden Turner*
8:30 *Out There*
9:00 *On Assignment*
9:30 *One Day One World: The Weather*
10:30 *Hell On High Water*
11:30 *Cheating Death*
ESPN
10:00 *Uefa Champions League*
12:30 *Bangladesh Tour Of Zimbabwe*
1:50 *Bangladesh 1st Test*
2:50 *Bangladesh Tour Of Zimbabwe*