RECOMMENDATIONS

Photography exhibition

March 13-19

North South University Photography Club (NSUPC) is holding its week-long International Inter University Photography Exhibition at the Shilpakala Academy with more than 300 photographs from 14 different universities of Bangladesh and other countries being displayed at the event. The display will remain open for all from 11 am to 7 pm daily.

Exhibition

March 06-26

To celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, an exhibition featuring the recent works of the eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury is going on. The show will be open for all till March 26 from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Events at Alliance Francaise

Exhibition

March 19-30

The inauguration of a painting exhibition of artist Awena Cozannet will take place at 6 pm at the gallery.

Musical evening

March 25

A musical programme will be held at the cafeteria at 9:30 pm. The members of the institute can enjoy the show free of cost.

Around the world

PHOTO: AFP

US actor Tobey Maguire poses for photographers during a press conference, in Tokyo March 17, to promote his movie "SPIDER-MAN 2" which will be shown from 10 July all over Japan.

Theatre profile

Aranyak: A big name on stage

A rich and varied history of thirty two years

ERSHAD KAMOL

DRAMA is not only a source of pleasure but also a sharp weapon against the class struggle'. This is the slogan of Aranyak, one of Dhaka's leading theatre groups. Since its inception on February 20, 1972, Aranyak has focused on burning social issues which bear a relevance to our daily lives.

Aranyak's philosophy is that a theatre artiste, whether a director, playwright, designer or a performer, occupies a distinct niche in society. It is impossible for the artiste to be insulated from society. For this reason Aranyak is the only theatre group in the country that educates its workers on social issues. And the organisation is not afraid to take a stand against the powers that be. For instance, when other political and cultural organisations of the country feared to celebrate May Day because of the then military rule, Aranyak was the only group that observed the occasion.

Many prominent drama personalities of the country like Aly Zaker, Raisul Islam Asad, Tariq Anam, Dr Inamul Haq, Al Mansoor and Azad Abul Kalam, who are now the key artistes of several other groups, began their careers on stage as regular members of Aranyak. In the 32 years of its existence, the group has produced a good number of other talented drama personalities such as Mamunur Rashid, Najma Anwar, Mannan Heera, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shanta Islam, Azizul Hakim, Abdullah Hel Mahmud, Thandu Ryhan and Fayez Zahir. However the group also encourages new talent in all its productions

The quality of Aranyak's plays has improved steadily since the staging of Muneir Chaudhury's *Kabar,* directed by Mamunur Rashid. *Pashchimer Shinri* is the first production of the group, written and directed by its president Mamunur Rashid. The theatre group stated its ideology clearly in its fifth production *Ora Kadam Ali* in 1976. In the sixth production, *Iblish* in 1981, written and directed by Mamunur Rashid, Aranyak proved its maturity not only from the national perspective but also from international standards. In the play, Mamunur Rashid portrays Bangladesh as a village and at the same time depicts the rise of fundamentalism.

Mamunur Rashid (2-R), Fazlur Rahman Babu (3-R), Tamalika Karmakar (4-R), and others in *Mayur Shinghashan.*

Other milestones of Aranyak's progress to high quality productions are *Pathar, Mayur Shinghashan* and the recent production *Shankranti.* In *Pathar,* by Mamunur Rashid, under the direction of Azizul Hakim, we get the story of the resurrection of fundamentalism in the sub-continent in the early 1990s. In *Mayur Shinghashsan,* by Mannan Heera, the playwright allegorically states that the true patriots of the country always keep their distance from the throne because of the unscrupulous acts of the evil politicians. Shah Alam Dulal is the director of the play.

In Aranyak's current production, *Shankranti,* written and directed by Mamunur Rashid, the playwright depicts the story of the oppression of the rural artistes (called *Shongs)* by the dishonest village leaders. *Coriolanus,* by William Shakespeare, is the only English play in the group's history. Mannan Heera is the translator and Mamunur Rashid the director of this successful play.

Shanta Islam and Azizul Hakim in *Agunmukha*

Regular members of the group have been prolific in their theatre productions: Mamunur Rashid has written 12 plays, whereas Mannan Heera and Abdullah Hel Mahmud has each written three plays of the 18 productions. Mamunur Rashid has directed 10 plays. Azizul Hakim, Azad Abul Kalam and Shah Alam Dulal have given direction to the rest of the plays. Thandu Rayhan is the regular light designer and Fayaz Zahir is the set designer of the group.

A five-member body runs Aranyak. The panel is elected for two years. The group, a member of the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), is steered by Mamunur Rashid. German drama legend Bertolt Brecht and Russian Lebedev influence his works.

The group is enthusiastic about charity work and student welfare. It also arranges workshops for upcoming groups at the zilla level. After completing a three-month appreciation course, the successful candidates become the regular members of Aranyak. The group meets its expenses through the monthly contribution of the regular members and call shows. Aranyak allows its members to work with other groups.

Along with the stage plays, the group regularly organises *Patha Natak, Mukto Natak* and workshops. Mannan Heera is one of the pioneers of *Patha Natak* in our country. The group has a huge collection of *Patha Nataks,* which they display to commemorate important historical events.

Mukto Natak is another innovative idea of Mamunur Rashid. The group arranges plays where all the artistes are common people of a certain area. These performances, guided by an Aranyak team, bring to the fore the community's day to day problems.

Aranyak's productions are a powerful statement on the social issues of our time, be it corruption, fundamentalism or the other problems of society. In over three decades, the group has matured and fine tuned its theatre performances. Aranyak is certainly a name to watch for in the future.

Creative learning

Sesame Street: the longest street in the world

Learning through entertainment

ELITA KARIM

IN 1968 a concept was developed in the USA for children's learning through a television show. This idea evolved over the years and today it is a major platform for building a better future in many countries. Sesame Street, a production of the Children's Television Workshop in the United States, is an integral part of a child's education. From a very early age, children learn to recognise letters of the alphabet, count, add, subtract and also learn about culture of other countries.

This show also develops the day to day skills of children, be it crossing the road, wearing the seat belt in a car, tying shoe laces and getting in and out of a school bus.

Today, Sesame Street, which is termed 'the longest street in the world', has been adapted in many countries around the world, such as in China, Egypt, Kuwait, South Africa, Israel and Palestine. The children are taught to develop an appreciation for other cultures and countries.

Sesame Street is about to build a niche for itself in Bangladesh. Nayantara Communications has joined hands with Sesame Workshop from New York to develop this educational programme. To mark the beginning of this journey and also the end of a three-day seminar, a press conference was held at the ballroom in Sheraton Hotel. Present at the conference were the US Ambassador to Bangladesh Harry K Thomas, the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, the Secretary of Information Najmul Alam Siddiqui , Gene George, Mission Director of USAID, Daniel Victor and Charlotte Cole from Sesame Street productions.

The participants agreed that Sesame Street will play a first hand role in the development of education in Bangladesh, especially health and safety measures for girls. It will also expose the young children to the outside world and develop their thinking methods and communication skills.

As all Sesame Street viewers know, not only do people of different races, colours and cultural background live on the street, a whole bunch of living and talking Muppets live there as well.

For more than 30 years, viewers have been truly fascinated by Big Bird, the gigantic yellow bird, Snuffle-up-a-Gus, the huge elephant and Big Bird's best friend, Oscar the Grouch who actually lives with his whole family in the garbage can, Bert and Ernie, the two room mates, Cookie Monster, who eats cookies all through the day and other popular characters like Grover, Telly Monster, little Elmo, the Count, Kermit the Frog and many others. In September 2002, the first HIV Virus Muppet was also introduced on Sesame Street, where it was said that touching, hugging or kissing the Muppet would not pass on the virus to the other Muppets around.

The Sesame Street family

In Sesame Street Bangladesh, Muppets will be more localised, where the Bangla language will be used and the Bangla culture along with foreign cultures will be portrayed. Mustafa Monowar, the pioneer in this field and who was also present at the conference, is also working in this project to bring puppets and Muppets to life in Bangladesh.

Children in this country need a reason and also a chance to dream. This show, which will begin in 2005, will undoubtedly create a positive image of Bangladesh around the world. It will fulfil the educational needs and also create cultural awareness amongst young minds in the country today. Charlotte Cole pointed out that in this project, a group of individuals will come together and merge education with creativity to actually develop this programme. The researchers and educators will build up a curriculum document which the creativity team will work on to mix fun and entertainment with learning .

Mustafa Monowar remarked that imagination is the power to all discoveries and inventions. If this show can enable the children of our country to imagine, think and contribute to the building of a better Bangladesh tomorrow, then Sesame Street is surely a street worth having in Dhaka City.

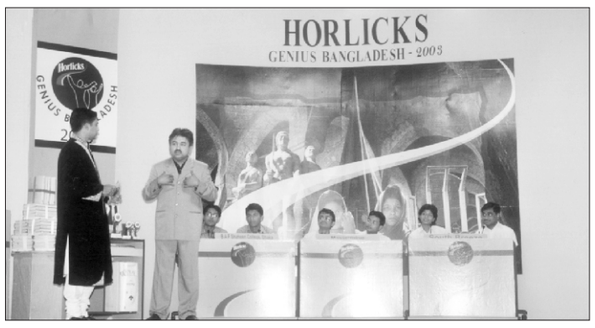
Quiz show

'Horlicks Genius Bangladesh 2004' to be aired today on ntv

BUOYED by the grand success of the quiz programme, Horlicks Genius Bangladesh 2003, GSK Consumer Healthcare has decided to make Horlicks Genius Bangladesh a regular feature on the extra-curricular calendar of all school-children in Bangladesh.

The programme will be aired on ntv from March 18 onwards, says a press release. This year, the programme will be hosted by the accomplished quizmaster Dr Abdun Nur Tushar.

Out of 80 schools shortlisted from all across the country, the 27 who have qualified for the final rounds will now sweat it out for the prestigious Horlicks Genius Bangladesh 2004 title in a series of 13 rounds including the finals at Shishu Academy, Dhaka. These 13 rounds will be aired on ntv for 13 consecutive Thursdays (at 6:50pm) and Fridays (at 9:00am) beginning March 18, 2004, and will culminate in the grand finale in the second week of June. Through this airing, Horlicks seeks to provide the opportunity for learning through entertainment to thousands of school children nationwide.



Mega serial

50th episode of *Ronger Manush*

COULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Ntv will air its 50th episode of popular mega serial *Ronger Manush* on March 19, at 8:10 p.m. ' The play has a rural theme and has proved its popularity,' says Masum Reza, the playwright. Though Reza and director Salauddin Lavlu had initially planned a 52-episode play, the popularity of the serial encouraged them to go for a 104-episode series.

Explaining the genesis of the serial, Reza says, 'Initially, I along with my mentor Selim Al Deen planned to write a play based on interesting events of rural Bangladesh.We jointly wrote the script . Now, I am doing that alone.'

'It is really difficult to continue a mega serial with a big team. However, we really enjoy our teamwork,' says Reza.

Ronger Manush stars ATM Shamsuzzaman, Wahida Mollick Joly, Salauddin Lavlu, Tania, Ahmed Reza Rubel, Bonna Mirza and others.

A still from the popular serial *Ronger Manush*

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

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 Bangladesh(Bangla) at **9:30 pm.**

BBC World
Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL-i

09:50 *Tritiyo Matra*
12:00 *Chithi Pelam*
01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
02:00 Drama: *Ei Amader Bari*
05:00 *Sa Re Ma Ga Ma*
05:45 *Shamoyiki*
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 *Amar Chhobi*
07:55 Thief of Baghdad
08:25 Drama Serial: *Sharey Tin Tala*
09:35 Drama Serial: *Rangdhanu Rang*
10:00 Close Up Hit Wave

ntv

09:30 *Ei Shomoy*
10:05 Hello Music
10:30 *Shur Ananda*
11:00 Tele Film: *Sukh Santee*
02:30 *Siddika Karim's Recipe*
03:05 Drama Serial: *Ebong Ami*
03:40 *Taray Taray*
04:15 Drama Serial: *BrintoBandi*
05:10 Game Show: *Ke Korbe Bajimat*
05:40 *Apnar Jigyasha*
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:50 Horlicks Genius Bangladesh
08:10 Megha Serial: *Ronger Manush*
09:40 Drama: *Ghor Dor Barandha*
11:20 *Dindarpan*

ATN BANGLA

10:15 Annodristee
10:50 Drama Serial : Shesh Chitthe
11:25 Film Magazine : Elite Cosmatika Aanondo Ayojon
12:40 Bengali Feature Film : Ashadaron
3:45 Musical Prog : Uro Cola Saat Rang
4:20 *Sundor Jeboner Jannya*
5:10 Film Magazine : A Sapteher Chobi
5:50 *Islamee Sawal O Jawab*
6:25 Annodristee
7:40 Drama Serial : Tana Puren
8:15 Drama Serial : Khushe
8:50 Reporting Prog : *Prekkhapot*
9:25 Mega serial: *Mohona*
10:35 Drama Serial : *Jora Bakul*
12:20 Bengali Feature Film : Uchit Sekkha

TARA BANGLA

01:00 Swapner Rang Nil
02:00 Taka Na Sona
02:30 Angana Live
04:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo
05:00 Serial Probaho
06:00 Nonte Fonte
06:30 Taka Na Sona
07:00 Sree Ramkrishna
07:30 Antakshari
08:00 Serial-Jug
08:30 Serial Tarpor Chand Uthlo
09:00 Serial Swapner Rang Nil
10:30 Election Spl. Live Doshtai
12:00 Hoi Hullor

HBO

10:15 Max Knight : Ultra Spy
12:00 The Specialist
2:15 Sea of Love
4:30 The Screaming Room : Spy Thrillers
5:00 The Quick and The Dead
7:15 Lucky Numbers
9:30 Witchblade
11:30 Dangerous Liaisons
2:00 The Specialist

STAR MOVIES

7:15 Enemies Of Laughter
8:45 Multiplicity
10:45 Super Troopers
12:30 Frogmen
2:00 Southern Cross
3:45 Me Without You
5:25 Mel
7:00 Baby's Day Out
8:40 Road To Perdition
10:45 The Annihilators
12:15 True Vinyl

MGM

9:00 Pretty Smart
11:30 Ace Ventura Pet Detective
2:00 Wild Cactus
4:30 ZMS 2
7:00 The Commissioner
9:30 Terror Sweet Jersey (Adnan Brody)
11:30 Bugsy (Warren Beatty)

STAR WORLD

1:30 Mac Gyver
2:30 Oprah Winfrey
3:30 Bold And Beautiful
4:30 Hollywood Squares
5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
5:30 Miami Vice
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
11:30 Baywatch

ZEE CINEMA

10:30 Safari (Sanjay Dutt, Juhi Chawla)
1:30 Pyar Kiya Hai Pyar Karenge (Anil Kapoor, Padmini Kolhapure)
5:30 Dhund The Fog (Amar Upadhya, Aditi Govitnkar, Apurva Agnihotri)
9:30 Bulandi (Anil Kapoor, Raveena Tandon, Rekha)

ZEE TV

12:30 Lipstick
1:00 Tum Bin Jaaon Kahan
1:30 Awaaz... Dil Se Dil Tak
2:00 Chausath Panne/Justojoo
2:30 Piya Ka Ghar
3:00 Astiva... Ek Prem Kahani
3:30 Bollywood Hits: Hum Hain Lajawab (Kumar Gaurav, Padmini Kolhapure)
6:30 Cartoon Network On Zee
7:30 Magic Makeup Box
8:00 Good Health Show
8:30 Kabhie Kabhie/Thursday Premiers
9:00 Thursday Premiers

ANIMAL PLANET

4:00 Wild Rescues Scarlett, Pet Derby, Puerto Rican Dogs
4:30 Emergency Vets A Wing and A Prayer
5:00 Breed All About It West Highland White Terrier
5:30 Amazing Animal Videos
6:30 Planet's Funniest Animals
7:30 Wildlife Specials Leopard Agent of Darkness
8:30 The Human Touch Two in The Bush
9:30 The Human Touch Stalking The Big Five
10:30 Wild Encounters
11:30 Blue Planet The Deep

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

3:30 Wild Discovery Time of Plenty
4:30 Zach's Ultimate Guide Elephants
5:00 Real Kids Real Adventures Lost on the Mountainside
5:30 Travelers Miami
6:30 Junkyard Wars Flying Boat
7:30 Wild Discovery Alligators with Nigel Marven
8:30 Secrets of the Ocean Realm/Triumph of Life The Four Billion Year War
9:30 Wild Asia/Wild India Last of the Hunters
10:30 City Cabs Miami, USA
11:00 Celebrity Slimming
11:30 Beach Hour Beach Party

STAR PLUS

3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
4:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
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
8:30 Kyun Hota Hai Pyarrr
9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
9:30 Saara Akaash
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kahiin To Hoga
12:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz

STAR GOLD

9:00 Jaan Ki Baazi
12:30 Pyar Ka Mandir
4:30 Khauff
8:00 Operation Gold
8:30 Arjun Pandit

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

2:30 Self-Portrait
3:30 Runaway Universe
4:30 Cheating Death
5:30 Monkey Business
6:00 Mission Wild
6:30 Dogs With Jobs
7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlif
7:30 Talon An Eagles Story
8:30 Wild Asses
9:30 Wildlife Detectivies
10:00 On Assignment
10:30 White Elephant
11:30 Cheating Death

STAR SPORTS

10:30 Asian 9-Ball Tour Final(R)
12:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04 Manchester City Vs Manchester United (R)
4:30 South Africa Tour Of New Zealand 2nd Test Day 1 Highlights(S)
6:00 Olympic Qualifiers 2004 Iran Vs Korea Republic (S)
8:00 Sportsline (L)
8:30 Futbol Mundial (T)
9:00 Classic's Big Fights Boxing (R)
10:00 Samsung Superskills (T)
10:30 Sportsline (R)
11:00 South Africa Tour Of New Zealand 2nd Test Day 1 High lights(R)

ESPN

8:00 English Premier Football League 2003/04 Wanderers Vs Chelsea (R)
10:30 Goals! (R)
1:00 Premier Snooker League 2004
4:00 English Premier Football League 2003/04 Manchester City Vs Manchester United (R)
6:00 Goals! (R)
8:30 Sportscenter (L)
9:00 Wrestling Apple Crush (R)
11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
12:00 Sportscenter Asia (S)

TEN SPORTS

10:00 SL v Aus :2nd Test, Day 3 (Live)
5:30 The Bottom Line
6:30 ATP Tennis
7:00 ICC Cricket World
7:30 Trans World Sports
8:30 Football Week
9:00 SL v Aus :2nd Test, Day 3 H/Ls
11:00 The Bottom Line
12:00 ICC Cricket World

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

STAR MOVIES: ***Road to Perdition.*** Genre: Crime / Drama. **Tom Hanks, Tyler Hoechlin, Paul Newman.** Mike Sullivan works as a hit man for crime boss John Rooney Sullivan views Rooney as a father figure. However after his son is witness to a killing he has done Mike Sullivan finds him self on the run trying to save the life of his son and at the same time looking for revenge on those who wronged him. Jude Law co stars as a hit man hired to kill Sullivan.

HBO: 9:30 pm. ***Witchblade.*** Genre: Fantasy / Action, **Yancy Butler, Anthony Cistaro.** Sara Pezzini is a woman scorned. Her mission in life is to bring to justice Tommy Gallo, a ruthless hitman who murdered her father, best friend and her partner. In a twist of fate, she procures the Witchblade, an enchanted glove once owned by Joan of Arc that is capable of deflecting bullets, extending into lethal bladed weapons and fits compactly into a bracelet. Then with the help of charismatic businessman Kenneth Irons, she takes sweet revenge on Gallo.

PICK OF THE DAY

Lucky Numbers

On HBO at 7:15 pm.
Genre: Comedy / Crime
John Travolta, Lisa Kudrow, Tim Roth

Russ Richards' seedy pal Gig, advises him to run an insurance scam; when it goes awry, Russ is out another $10,000 and in trouble with Dale, a bat-wielding thug. Gig convinces Russ to rig the state lottery with the help of Crystal, a gold-digging ditz with a heart of tin. They have to find a beard to buy the ticket, and then they have to cash it. Soon, murder and various double-crosses add to Russ's nightmare.