

RECOMMENDATIONS



Discussion

March 19
A discussion on the book Bangladesh Sharkar 1971 by HT Imam will be held at the Liberation War Museum auditorium at 4:00 pm. The discussants are Prof Rafiqul Islam, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, Prof Muntasir Mamun and Prof Anisuzzaman.

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.

Film Show

March 21
Alliance Francaise has arranged the screening of African short films starting at 5:00 pm at the centre's auditorium. The following films will be screened: La Falaie (Morocco), Le Festin (Tunisia), Les Ecuelles (Burkina Faso), L'Enfant Terrible (Mali) and Bon Voyage Sim (Niger).

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.

Oscar



PHOTO: AFP
The 22 Oscars won by the *Lord of the Rings* sit on a table in front of the 300 assembled fans that turned out to see director Peter Jackson and the *Return of the King* winners during Wellington city's Oscar celebration at the Queens Wharf Event Centre, Wellington 18 March. Seventeen of the Oscar winners were present with their 22 Oscars.

Celebrity couple

Khaled and Mita: a couple that complement each other

'The cultural personalities of our country are politicised while the politicians are culturally insensitive'

NOVERA DEEPTA

IT was a pleasant spring morning when I went to the Banani residence of singer Mita Haq and theatre personality Khaled Khan. As I stepped inside, I heard the melodious voice of Mita at her daily *rewaz*. After a short while, Khaled Khan came to the sitting room. Mita joined in the conversation later.

Khaled was brought up in a culture-oriented family where music and theatre were a way of life. He thought of going into acting seriously in 1978 when litterateur Rashid Haider encouraged him to appear on television. Though Khaled was ready to do a role, he could not do so because he was not enlisted in BTV at that time. But Rashid Haider kept on prodding him to act and asked Khaled to join the theatre. However, he also told Khaled that he would not get any role in the near future and would have to be content with a trivial job backstage. 'But I was fortunate enough that I did not have to wait too long and got a role within three months,' says Khaled. His first performance on stage was in the drama *Dewan Gazir Kissa* by the group Nagorik in which he played a replacement role for an absentee artiste.

He also has a fascination for direction. As he says, 'My first direction was a workshop-based job but fortunately it became a regular production of Nagorik later.' Among his directorial ventures are the highly successful *Shuapnobaj* and the mythical play *Kaalshondhya*, adapted from Buddhadev Basu's novel. Khaled explained, 'I know many plays adapted from Basu's write-ups have been staged so far but this particular one was never staged before.'



Khaled Khan and Mita Haq absorbed in the world of art

'It is not that all those plays were successful. But the format, story and the characters of *Kaalshondhya* attracted me and I felt it could be a total theatre. So, I decided to stage the play.' According to Khaled, both acting and directing are very challenging. Keen on playing multi dimensional characters, he goes for diversity all the time.

The conversation veers in a different direction. Talking about his relationship with Mita, who has by now come into the room, Khaled says: 'Our achievement is that we have never stood in the way

of each other's success. Theatre combines art forms such as music, dance and recitation. So we share the common ground of music.'

Mita and Khaled always have a critical look at each other's performance. As she says, 'I usually watch the rehearsals with great interest. While I might find fault with the pronunciation, projection, appropriate music or even the set, I do appreciate the positive features.' And Khaled? 'I think it is good for the artistes to be criticised because that way they can improve their performances,' he says.

Mita feels that she is making a contribution to our culture, no matter how minuscule. Her guru Wahidul Haq, she says, encouraged her to teach music from the beginning of her career. Shurotirtho, Mita's 12-year-old music school, arranges many programmes countrywide to promote music. She is also involved with the Rabindra Sangeet Parishad, which has about 50 branches countrywide and will hold its 23rd conference this year. This organisation works to promote the performing arts among the children of the remote areas as well as all over the country. Mita says, 'We are trying to make Tagore songs more popular and widespread in rural and suburban areas.'

Talking about the future, Khaled bemoans the politicisation of culture. As he says 'The cultural personalities of our country are politicised while the politicians are culturally insensitive. The state should change this scenario.' Another feature of the present day theatre scenario, he says, is that there is at the most a 15,000-strong audience for a play out of a population of one and a half crore in the city. In his words, 'I know I work in a medium for the select few. Millions of people lack the interest even to go to art exhibitions.'

Mita has a different view. As she points out, 'You are working for the people and the message is reaching them. For instance, nobody even in Kolkata dared to stage the play *Kaalshondhya* by Buddhadev Basu because they thought it was a complex play. But you staged that play and they have accepted it.'

Khaled Khan and Mita Haq may disagree on many issues, but as a couple they complement one another perfectly.

Endeavour

To help the destitute

ORCA Ladies Club holds concert to raise funds

HARUN UR RASHID

THEY call themselves 'old friends'. And their motto is 'Let all of us prosper together'. They have an organisation to keep the bond alive. They are the ex-cadets of Rajshahi Cadet College. And the name of their organisation is Old Rajshahi Cadets Association--in short ORCA.

Since its foundation in 1972, ORCA has always been aware of its responsibilities to the nation. Besides strengthening the umbilical bond among its members it has also stood by the needy and the afflicted. After almost all the severe natural calamities in the country, ORCA members have participated in relief activities. On the occasion of Amar Ekushey (February 21) this year, ORCA made history in voluntary blood donation in the country. The organisation collected 301 bags of blood--the largest collection ever made in a single



ORCA Palli for 30 homeless families

programme with Shandhani Dhaka Medical College unit. Under its rehabilitation programme, ORCA established 'ORCA Palli' in Mokhtarpur village adjacent to the Cadet College premises. It has also established 'ORCA Homes' in Chittagong for orphans.

Now the ORCA ladies also step beside their life partners in this

great endeavour. ORCA Ladies Club holds a musical concert today at the auditorium of the National Museum at 6:30pm. Featuring four popular performers--Tapan Chowdhury, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya, Kanakchampa and Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, the concert aims at raising funds for the ORCA humanitarian activities.

The Ladies Club was formed in September 2003. And in less than six months, the club has organised several successful events. During the holy month of Ramadan, ORCA Ladies Club collected a large amount of *zakat*. At a friendly cricket match, the club installed a mini shop from which it earned a big amount of cash. The entire income was later donated to the fund for ORCA humanitarian activities.

Entertainment is not always just for the sake of entertainment. It often extends beyond that as an endeavour for good causes. The concert arranged by the ORCA Ladies Club is such an event.



ORCA delivering relief goods among flood-stricken people

Upcoming talent

A path less taken

Tete-a-tete with Shumona Bordhan

SHAKAL AHMED

THERE should be proper practice of music otherwise we would find ourselves moving away from the main stream. These days there is so much of chaos everywhere and life in general has become very hazardous, and singers cannot be detached from this whole scenario. It is seen that people who want to perform music in a proper way face lot of obstacles. To me singers fall into two categories--those who want to practice music in the right way and the others who want to earn quick popularity and money,' says Shumona Bordhan unhesitatingly.

The debut album of Shumona Bordhan *Kete Gelo Baroti Bochhor*, comprising melodious classical tracks, has been released under the banner of World Music, a company that shows interest in releasing albums of young and new performers.

Brought up in a culture oriented family, Shumona was inspired by her mother, an enlisted singer of Rajshahi Radio. Her first lessons in music were from Ustad Robiul Hossain at the age of six. She learned Tagore song under Ustad Abdul Khalid Dewan. A member of Hindol Cultural Group, Shumona also learned Nazrul songs.

Shumona won the Natun Kuri Award and National Children Competition Award for three consecutive years in Tagore, Nazrul and classical music. In 1997 when she first came to Dhaka, though very young then, she felt a deep urge and commitment towards music within herself.

A great admirer of Lata Mangeshkar, Haimanti Shukla and Ajay Chakravarty, she tries to follow their trend of music. She performs their songs in different programmes and competitions. It took four years for



Shumona Bordhan

her to establish a style of her own. Videos of one or two of her songs have been released and broadcast in the musical programme Music Plus. Soon other songs will be released with new videos.

Shumona says, 'There is no end to learning. I am learning something new every day and I really want to make a positive contribution in the field of music.'

Channel click

Chanmpadangar Bou on ntv

ERSHAD KAMOL

Ntv will air a new serial *Chanmpadangar Bou*, based on the Bangla classic novel *Chanmpadangar Bou* by Tarashonkar Bandyopadhyay. The serial will be screened every week on Mondays and Tuesdays at 8:10 p.m. from March 22. Popular film star Aruna Biswas, who appeared frequently on TV screen, makes a comes back through the play. She plays the central role as Kadombini in the play *Chanmpadangar Bou* adapted and directed by Mannan Heera.

Story line: Shetap Mondol and

his younger brother Mahatap Mondol live in a joint family in a village named Debogram. Chanmpadanga, the wife to the elder brother, treats the brother in law as her own son as the couple has no children.

However, a few conspirators who were hostile to the Mondol family create problems to tear the family apart.

Through the 13-episode serial, viewers can enjoy the cameo of rural life of Bangladesh.

Starring: Raisul Islam Asad, Aruna Biswas, Litu Anam and others.



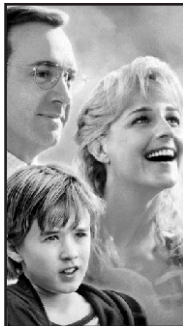
Aruna Biswas (L) with co-actress in Chanmpadangar Bou

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO: 9:30 pm: The Scorpion King. Action/Fantasy/Adventure. The Rock, Steven Brand, Michael Clarke Duncan. In an ancient time, predating the pyramids, the evil king Memnon is using the psychic powers of his sorceress Cassandra to tell his great victories. In a last ditch effort to stop Memnon from taking over the world, the leaders of the remaining free tribes hire the assassin Mathayus to kill the sorceress. But Mathayus ends up getting much more than he bargained for.



HBO: 7:00 pm: Pay It Forward. Drama/Comedy/Romance. Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt, Haley Joel Osment. Young Trevor McKinney, troubled by his mother's alcoholism and fears of his abusive but absent father, is caught up by an intriguing assignment from his new social studies teacher, Mr. Simonet. The assignment: think of something to change the world and put it into action. Trevor conjures the notion of paying a favor not back, but forward--repaying good deeds not with payback, but with new good deeds done to three new people.

9:30 Daag-The Fire (Sanjay Dutt, Mahima Chaudhary, Chandrachud Singh)

ZEE TV

12:00 Khana Khazana
12:30 The Magic Make-up Box/Kaun
2:00 Jhalak/Kaun

2:25 Jhoot Bole Kawa/Kaun
3:00 3 Ka Show : Bollywood Hits
6:30 Cartoon Network On Zee

7:25 XYZ
7:30 Ek Nazar
7:55 Khana Khazana
8:00 Kabhie Kabhie
8:30 Sansui Antakshari
9:30 Jeena Isi Ka Naam Hai.

STAR MOVIES

10:30 O Brother Where Art Thou?
12:15 Rupert's Land
2:00 Fly II: The Insect Awakens
3:45 Forest Warrior

PICK OF THE DAY



The Deep End

On Star Movies at 7:00 pm

Genre: Thriller / Drama.

Tilda Swinton, Goran Visnjic, Jonathan Tucker.

With her husband perpetually away at work, a mother raises her children virtually alone. Her teenage son is testing the waters of the adult world, and early one morning she wakes to find the dead body of his gay lover on the beach of their rural lakeside home. What would you do? What is rational and what do you do to protect your child? How far do you go and when do you stop?

5:25 Long Life Happiness & Prosperity
7:00 Deep End
8:40 Hush
10:15 Dead Heat

STAR GOLD

9:00 Prem Shakti
12:30 Bade Dilwala - Suniel Shetty
4:30 Himmat
8:00 Without Ticket
8:30 Deewana Mujhsa Nahin

STAR PLUS

2:30 Gharwali Uparwali

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 Tna Wrestling
9:30 World's Wildest Police Videos
10:30 Nash Bridges
11:30 Baywatch

DISCOVERY

2:30 New Detectives Grave Secrets
3:30 Wild Discovery The Haunted Moor
4:30 Truth or Scare
5:00 Splat!
5:30 Travelers Barcelona
6:30 Challenge Shishapangma : A Celebration of Life
7:30 Wild Discovery Killer Crocs of Costa Rica
8:30 Friday Spotlight Traffic
9:30 Friday Spotlight Tunnels
10:30 Future Perfect Extreme Machines : 21st Century Flight
11:30 Great Crimes and Trials Roberts : Witney & Duddy

12:00 Thirsty Traveler Canada : Niagara Ice Wine

ANIMAL PLANET

2:00 The Protectors Abandoned Animals
2:30 Wild Encounters
3:30 Animal Hospital
4:00 Wild Rescues Flood, Poudre, Bangkok Elephant
4:30 Emergency Vets Life Sentence
5:00 Breed All About It

5:30 Pomeranian
6:30 Amazing Animal Videos
6:30 Planet's Funniest Animals
7:30 Life of Birds To Fly or Not to Fly
8:30 The Protectors
9:00 The Protectors Bosca's Story
9:30 The Protectors
10:00 The Protectors Four Story Fall
10:30 Wild Encounters
11:30 Wild Encounters Hippo Beach

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

2:30 Tomorrow's World
3:00 Gene Hunters
3:30 Science Of Seduction
4:30 National Geographic's Taboo
5:30 Monkey Business
6:00 Mission Wild
6:30 Dogs With Jobs S3
7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlif
7:30 Beauty And The Beasts: A Leopard
8:30 Scientific American Frontiers
9:30 Tomorrow's World
10:00 Gene Hunters
10:30 Dam Busters

STAR SPORTS

10:30 Biathlon World Cu 2003/04 Antholz Italy Event Highlight(R)
11:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04 Gland Southampton (T)
1:30 Nba Basketball Detroit Pistons Vs New Jersey Nets (S)
4:00 Nba Basketball Minnesota Timberwolves Vs San Antonio Spurs (S)

6:30 South Africa Tour Of New Zealand
8:00 Sportsline (L)
8:30 English Premier League Preview (T)
9:00 Return To Athens (T)
9:30 Nba Inside Stuff (T)
10:00 English Premier League Archive Programming
10:30 Sportsline (R)
11:00 South Africa Tour Of New Zealand
11:00 New Zealand Vs South Africa 2nd Test Day 2 Highlights(R)

ESPN

1:00 Cricket Gold (R)
4:00 Asa World Tour Asa World Tour Best Tricks (R)
4:30 Goals! (R)
5:00 Motorsport Asia (T)
5:30 Harsha Harsha Online Health Streak(R)
6:30 Tennis Masters Series Pacific Life Open Indian Wells Sportscenter India (L)
9:00 Here We Go (S)
10:00 Espn Presents Samsung Cricket Show (T)
10:30 Goals! (R)
11:00 Hitz (R)
11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
12:00 Sportscenter Asia (S)

TEN SPORTS

10:30 Indias Tour of Pak: 3rd ODI
2:00 Straight Drive
2:45 Indias Tour of Pak: 3rd ODI
6:30 Straight Drive
7:30 WI v Eng 2nd Test , Day 1
11:00 Indias Tour of Pak: 3rd ODI H/Ls
11:30 WI v Eng 2nd Test , Day 1

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 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
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