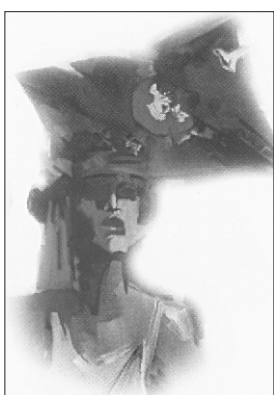


RECOMMENDATIONS



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 Quayyum 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 19-29

A painting exhibition of artist Avena Cozannet is being held at the gallery. The show will be open for all from 5 pm to 8 pm everyday.

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.

Craft Show

March 23

The Turkish Embassy will hold a 'One day exposition of Bangladesh Craft' starting from 10 am to 5 pm, open for all. Venue: House-13, Road-98, Gulshan-2.

Around the world

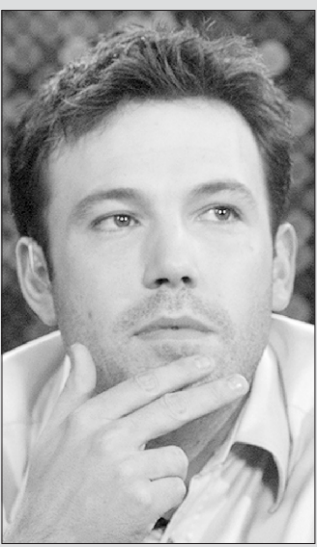


PHOTO: AFP

Actor Ben Affleck during an interview with talk show host Larry King on the CNN program "Larry King Live" in Los Angeles at the CNN studios 16 March 2004. Affleck also discussed his new comedy film "Jersey Girl."

Mini screen

Building bridges

Discussion on Mega Serials

CULTURE DESK

HERE have been several changes in the television industry of the country during the last couple of decades. The changes have taken place in various ways, namely, through technological advancement, influence of foreign culture as well as through artistic innovations.

To get a first hand view of the mindset of the cultural personalities, the Culture Desk of **The Daily Star** recently arranged an informal discussion session with some of the trendsetters. For the first session, we invited the writers, directors and performers of two very popular mega serials, *Ronger Manush* and *Sharey Teen Tola*.

The participants were ATM

pointed out, 'We wanted to call *Ronger Manush* a *Dirghachal Dharabahik* (prolonged drama serial), but the ntv authority preferred to call it a mega serial'

Several participants felt that the trend of the mega serial is akin to the daily soaps of the western television.

Due to the shortage of time-

by the concerned TV channel. And, as can be imagined, the decision is greatly influenced by the sponsors. One important aspect was emphasised in this regard: a large part of the peak hours, when viewers would rather prefer entertainment, is spent for a good number of news bulletins, news headlines and other news-based programmes on all the channels.

All the participants agreed on another point: that the popularity of our mega serials is much less than that of the neighbouring India. According to Khaled Khan, who came up with some statistics, the viewership of our mega serials is in the range of 3 percent to 14 percent, compared to 16 percent to 25 percent for most of the Indian serials.

Selim considers this to be an effect of the subjective and presentational difference between the serials of the two countries. 'Indian serials project much more glamour and unreality which are almost entirely absent in the serials of our country', he said. Moreover, many Indian mega serials have been made on religious, political and historical subjects. On the other hand, makers in our country generally prefer subjects of socio-economic importance.

The popularity of a mega serial also depends on the sponsors. Factors as to how many ads are telecast during the half-an-hour slot of a serial or which companies are sponsoring the serial are very important in this regard. Azad Abul Kalam says that the production houses have to compromise with the demands of the sponsors. While the ads irritate the viewers to the highest extent, the artists seem to take it as an indicator of the popularity of their drama.

The budget for a drama series has an important role to play in its making. Even some 10 years ago the budget often would be over Taka 3 lakh, while at present it has come down to a meagre amount of around Taka 1.5 lakh.

The discussion gave us a glimpse of the current scenario of the mega serial.



Discussants strive for a definition

And the indicator of these changes is not only the emergence of a few private TV channels and, consequently an increased number of TV programmes, but also the gradual spread of television jargon.

Among the new jargon, are phrases such as 'drama series', 'package drama/programmes' 'television' and the most contemporary 'mega serial'. While viewers easily get used to these new trends and terms, they might nevertheless wonder what these are all about. What do the people involved in these trends, for example, think about them?

Shamsuzzaman, Sharmilee Ahmed, Masum Reza, Wahida Malik Joly, Khaled Khan, Afsana Mimi, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Azad Abul Kalam, Pantho Shahriar, Debashish, Nazrul and Monirul. Sadya Afsan Mallick, Incharge Culture Desk presided over the discussion.

On the emergence of the term mega serial, all of the guests unanimously agreed that it is the media, especially the television, which has established the term. They also agreed upon the fact that the TV channels of the neighbouring country have influenced the adoption of the term. Masum Reza, the writer of *Ronger Manush*,

slots, however, very few of the productions have been telecast on daily basis. Only the serial *Jowar Bhata* could attain some perfection in this regard as it was aired five days a week.

'At present, the idea of mega serial largely depends on the number of episodes,' said Afsana Mimi, and most others seemed to second this opinion. However, they could not settle on any requisite number for mega serials. But it seemed that the number has to be more than 25.

Regarding the duration of the airtime for an episode, the artists said that this is decided absolutely

Event

Ntv airs another concert

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

With Independence Day on the horizon, the media is getting set with programmes to mark the occasion. Ntv- the trendsetter in organising open air concerts and telecasting them live- is busy organising a concert once again. The venue, in front of the National Parliament, remains the same as last year.

'Ntv wants to share the enthusiasm of celebrating the 33 years of our independence with the people' said an ntv official at a press conference. Mainly ntv wants to present the patriotic and folk songs, featuring Asif, Momtaz and two bands Renaissance and Prometheus. In reply to a question

why they did not call on any artist of the *Suadhin Bangla Betar Kendra*, Shihab Sumon, one of the producers of the event, said 'We are still trying to enlist at least one of them to perform in the concert and one of them will certainly inaugurate the show.'

The organiser said that the concert will be telecast one hour later due to technical problems. Thus, while the concert will start at 2 pm, ntv will start telecasting at 3pm.

Among others, Hasnain Khurshid Executive Director Programme, and Shehab Sumon attended the conference. The ntv authority affirmed they would arrange such events regularly to celebrate national festivals.



The inaugural screening of two music video CDs, organised by Panchoshor was held at the German Cultural Centre on March 19. The albums are *Pathik Eshcho Naki* by Nasima Shaheen and Sumon Majumdar and *Ke Tumi aamare dako* by Nasima Shaheen. Eminent music personality and the chief guest of the programme Syed Abdul Hadi formally unwrapped the cover of the video CD.

Celebration

Independence Day programme at Liberation War Museum

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The Liberation War Museum celebrates its eighth anniversary today. On this occasion and also to observe the Independence Day, the museum holds a weeklong celebration starting from today.

March 22

Through a Book Fair on the Liberation War the anniversary programme will be inaugurated at 5:00pm. Professor Anisuzzaman will speak on *Our Freedom Fight and the Principle of the Constitution* at the event. After the discussion session, two documentary films titled *International Coalition of Historical Site Museums of Conscience* (12 minutes) and *Suadhinota* (Independence, 38 minutes) by Yasmin Kabir will be screened.

March 23

A recitation programme will feature three solo and two group performances. The solo reciters are Hasan Arif, Akhannullah and Laila Afroz, and the groups are Jionkathi and Kotha. The programme will start at 6:30pm at the museum premises.

Upcoming talent

Creating passion through the Sitar

We were overwhelmed by the mass of e-mails we received from the readers, informing us about the various talents hidden in different parts of the country. One such e-mail was about **Reenat Fauzia**, currently the only female sitar player in the country.

ELITA KARIM

REENAT Fauzia hails from a family who is directly connected to the traditional music of our country. She is the daughter of the distinguished musicologist and litterateur Mobarak Hossain Khan and famous vocalist Fauzia Yasmeen and the niece of veteran singers Farida Yasmeen, Nilufer Yasmeen and Sabina Yasmeen. Following in the footsteps of her grandfather Ustad Ayet Ali Khan, the maestro of music and his brother, the legendary Ustad Alauddin Khan, she believes that her love for music had developed at a very early age.

'I began training in music lessons from my cousin Shahadat Hossain Khan, a reputed Sarod player in the country.' She remarked. 'However, I received my 'Guru-Shishya-Parampara' music training from my cousin Ustad Khurshid Khan, a distinguished sitar preceptor. I am still taking sitar lessons and have also done a few classical based programmes with him.'

Talking about her well-loved instrument she says, 'Playing the sitar is not as easy as it might seem to many. Playing this instrument is like an outburst of my inner emotions and painting my thoughts and feelings through the sitar strings.'

Reenat has had a brilliant academic career. She obtained her MSc in Home Economics from Dhaka University and a postgraduate Diploma from Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands. She had joined the Bangladesh Civil Service in 1993 and presently is an Assistant Professor in the College of Home Economics. She had also completed a five-year certificate course on sitar from Chhayanaut, where she has joined as a faculty member.

Views

'Thought provoking'

THIS e-mail is to let you know how thought provoking and moving the recent articles were on the Culture page. It was a refreshing rarity to come across a piece as well written as *Timeless Tears*, on the language movement by Sadya Afsan Mallick. The article has circumspection and

depth. It speaks of a reality that is so often pushed to the background in the frenzy of our every day life.

As much as I enjoyed reading the article on the language movement, what sparked my interest more was the article, *From Bricks to Walls* on International women's day. Little did I know of the idio-

syncrasies that defined women's movement in Bangladesh and hats off to all the ladies who promulgated women's cause through creative art. It is wonderful to read about something straight from the horse's mouth so to speak.

Nausheen Ashraf Ali on email from USA



perform a dance show and Shishu Theatre will stage a drama.

March 27

Somoy Shangskritik Goshthi and Prachyanaat will perform two street plays titled *Kabor* by martyred intellectual Munier Chowdhury and *Dorir Khela* by Brindaban Das. The show starts at 6:30 pm.

March 28

The closing ceremony of the Book Fair will feature reading from the books on the Liberation War. Eminent writers will participate in the reading. The book fair is open daily from 10 am to 8 pm.



'Playing the sitar is an expression of my inner emotions'

Reenat Fauzia regularly plays sitar on both Bangladesh Television and Radio. She also performs live for the classical music lovers. Her debut instrumental album, titled *A touch of Love*, has been composed and directed by her uncle Sheikh Sadi Khan, a reputed musician of the country. The compositions on *Misra Piloo*, *Kirvani* and *Kafi* are *Greetings*, *A touch of love*, *Feelings of Joy*, *Affection* and *Country music*. This kind of a theme-based album will be produced for the very first time, and will be out shortly.

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 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 7:15 am, 9:00 am
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 Headlines (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.
NTV
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
08:25 Programme From BTv Archive
09:15 Anya Bhuvan
01:30 Shiplo O Shashitya
02:05 Cartoon show: Captain Planet
02:30 Grontho Bhuvan
05:05 School Debate
05:45 Chhotoder Khabor
05:55 Shomokalin Othoniti
06:10 Dolon Champa
06:35 Nrityer Tale Tale
07:00 Share Market, Weather Forecast
07:05 Children's Drama
07:30 Drama Serial: Alo Chhaya
07:50 Hey More Swadhinota
08:30 Contemporary Drama
09:30 Drama Serial
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
01:30 Anondalok
CHANNEL-i
09:50 Tritiyo Matra
12:00 Chitthi Pelam
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:45 Chitramela
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 Drama Serial: Jahu Dewan
07:55 Drama Serial: Bijli Boarding
08:25 Drama Serial: Shunya Theke Shamudra
09:35 Drama Serial: Boomerang
10:00 Drama Serial: Jubaraj
ATN BANGLA
10:15 Annodristee
10:50 Mega Serial: Lal Neel Bagune

11:25 Drama Serial: Sapno Coptho
12:40 Bengali Feature Film: Mohot
03:45 Uro Cola Saat Rang
04:20 Amar Kicho Gan
08:00 Drama Serial: Tobu-O-Bhalobashi Tomakay
08:30 Drama Serial: Aina
09:00 Drama: Paraner Gahenay
10:35 Katha Mala
HBO
10:15 Return to Cabin by the Lake
12:00 Zeus and Roxamme
2:00 Sherlock
4:00 Solo
6:00 Max Knight: Ultra Spy
7:45 Big Fat Liar
9:30 Pitch Black
11:45 Thirteen Ghosts
STAR MOVIES
10:15 Multiplicity
12:15 Waking Life
2:00 Splash
3:50 Legally Blonde
5:30 Steven Spielberg Presents "Taken"-Episode 1
7:00 Josie And The Pussycats
8:45 Colors
10:45 The Jewel Of The Nile
MGM
9:00 Nice Girls Don't Explode
11:30 Hellraiser Inferno
2:00 Eden
4:30 Robinhood Prince of Thieves
7:00 Belphegor
9:30 Sleepless In Seattle

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS
HBO: 9:30 pm: *Pitch Black*. Genre: Horror / Sci-Fi / Thriller. Vin Diesel, Radha Mitchell, Cole Hauser. A transport ship containing 40 passengers heading to other worlds for, among other reasons, settling, New Mecca, and for one passenger, Riddick, another cell. The ship encounters a tiny meteor storm and crash lands on a barren planet with only 1/4 of its complement surviving. Survival is tough with Riddick on the loose and no water in sight. However, come nightfall, they have even more to fear.
Star Movies: 10:45 pm: *The Jewel of The Nile*. Genre: Action / Adventure / Comedy / Romance. Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner, Danny DeVito. This is the sequel to "Romancing the Stone" where Jack and Joan have their yacht and easy life, but are gradually getting bored with each other and this way of life. Joan accepts an invitation to go to some middle eastern country as a guest of the sheik, but there she is abducted and finds her- self involved with the "jewel". Jack decides to rescue her with his new partner Ralph. They all go from one adventure to another... What is the story of this "jewel"?

11:30 Run Lola Run
TARA BANGLA
2:00 Taka Na Sona
2:30 Angana Live
4:00 State Govt. Lottery
4:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo Rpt.
5:00 Serial Probaho
6:00 Nonte Fonte
6:30 Taka Na Sona
7:00 Sree Ramkrishna
7:30 Antakshari
8:00 Serial-Jug
8:30 Serial Tarpor Chand

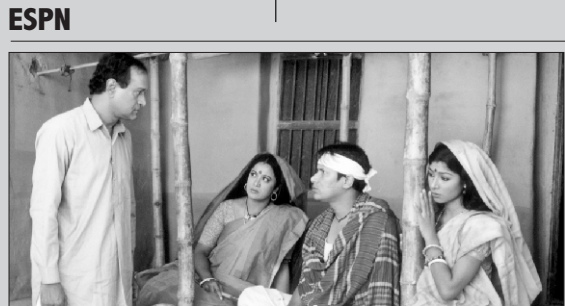
PICK OF THE DAY
Big Fat Liar
On HBO at 7:45 pm
Genre: Comedy.
Frankie Muniz, Paul Giamatti, Amanda Bynes.
A take on the classic tale 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf', 'Big Fat Liar' is about a 14-year-old boy named Jason Shephard who lies for the fun of it. Jason loses an important story assignment entitled 'Big Fat Liar' in movie producer Marty Wolf's limo, which Wolf then turns into a film. When Jason sees a movie preview of his story, he and best friend Kaylee go to Los Angeles.

12:30 Shradhanjali
Sher Khan
8:00 Startoons Countdown
8:30 Biwi Ho To Aisi
Star Plus
2:00 Bhabhi
6:30 Fox Kids
7:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
8:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
8:30 Krishna Arjun
9:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
9:30 Des Mein Nikkila Hoga Chand

10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kili
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kaahin Kisiss Roz
Star World
1:30 Mac Gyver
4:30 Hollywood Squares
5:30 Miami Vice
6:30 The Simpsons
7:30 Friends
8:00 Just Shoot Me
8:30 The King Of Queens
9:00 Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30 Grounded For Life
10:00 Frasier
10:30 Third Watch
11:30 Baywatch
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
3:30 The Leopard Seal: Lord Of The Ice
4:30 On Assignment
5:30 Monkey Business
6:00 Mission Wild
6:30 Dogs With Jobs
7:00 Toyota World Of Wildif
7:30 National Geographic Special
8:30 Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures
9:00 Toyota World Of Wildif
9:30 Built For The Kill
10:30 Fairy Penguin
11:00 Young Global Hot Shots
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
3:30 Wild Discovery
4:30 Let's Dance and Eat
5:30 Travellers
7:00 Treks in a Wild World
7:30 Wild Discovery

9:30 Battlefield Detectives
10:30 World's Best
11:30 FBI Files
ANIMAL PLANET
3:30 Animal Hospital
4:00 Wild Rescues
4:30 Emergency Vets
5:00 Breed all about it
6:30 Planet's Finest Animals
7:30 Predators: Natural Born Killers
8:00 Weird Nature
8:30 Urban Show
10:30 Animal Planet Showcase
11:30 Predators
12:00 Weird Nature
Star Sports
7:00 South Africa Tour Of New Zealand Day 5 2nd & 3rd Session(L)
4:30 Malaysian Grand Prix(R)
8:00 Sportsline (L)
8:30 Spanish Football League (S)
10:30 Sportsline (R)
11:00 South Africa Tour Of New Zealand Day 5 Highlights(S)

2:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04 Arsenal Vs Bolton Wanderers (R)
4:30 Harsha Online Heath Streak(R)
5:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04 Arsenal Vs Bolton Wanderers (R)
7:30 English Premier League Highlights (T)
8:30 Sportscenter India (L)
9:00 Tennis Masters Series Pacific Life Open/Indian Wells Ca Usa Final(R)
11:00 Uefa Champions League Magazine Show (R)
11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
12:00 Sportscenter Asia
TEN SPORT
12:00 Indias Tour of Pak: 4th ODI H/Ls
2:00 WI v Eng 2nd Test ,Day 3 H/Ls
4:00 Indias Tour of Pak: 4th ODI H/Ls
6:00 Raw
8:00 WI v Eng 2nd Test ,Day 4



ntv: 8:00 pm: Champa Rangar Bou: Drama serial. Raisul Islam Asad, Aruna Biswash, Litu Anam, Josna Biswas