

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

March 25-April 02

Shilpangan has arranged a 9-day joint exhibition of photographs by Architect Enamul Karim Nirjhar and wood carving by 64-year-old artisan Sri Roy Chand Shadhu. Titled Two, the exhibition will remain open daily from 10 am to 9 pm till April 2.

April 04-24

On the occasion of its fifth anniversary, the Bengal Foundation is organising a solo exhibition artist Jean Dometti, starting from April 4. The show will remain open for all from 12 pm to 8 pm everyday.

Drama Festival

March 30-April 05

A drama festival has been organised by the Jahangirnagar Theatre on the occasion of its 24th anniversary at the Jahangirnagar University Muktamancha, starting from March 30. The schedule is given below:

March 30

10:00 am Inauguration at the Cafeteria premises
10:30 am Rally
07:00 pm Drama: Circus Circus

March 31

07:00 pm Drama: Nakshikantha Math

April 01

07:00 pm Reception of eminent personalities
07:30 pm Drama: Manush

April 02

07:30 pm Drama: Kaalshondhya

April 03

07:00 pm Reception of eminent personalities
07:30 pm Drama: Shikhoni Katha

April 04

07:30 pm Mime show: Jadur Pradip
April 05
10:00 am Seminar
03:00 pm Cultural programme

Sweet success



PHOTO: AFP
Professional stage actress Tanushree Dutta from north Bombay smiles after winning the Miss India 2004 in Bombay, on March 27. Tanushree has performed in various plays in India and abroad and loves cooking, dancing and adventurous sports, she will represent India for the International Miss Universe pageant.

Theatre

Kopeniker Captain

A social satire on dictatorship

ERSHAD KAMOL

NA G O R I K Natyasaampradaya staged the remake production of *Kopeniker Captain* at the Mahila Samiti auditorium.

Nagrik Natyasaampradaya produced the play in the early 1980s. It was a time when there was military rule in the country. This could possibly explain why the play got popularity, as a social satire..

The play has been translated and directed by Aly Zaker from the original German play by Carl Zuckmayer. The latter in his play, written in the early 20th century, proved that military power can drive a nation towards destruction. It is not the man, rather the army uniform which has got the power to practice dictatorship. Anybody in an army uniform becomes an autocrat.

The play depicts a middle-aged poor Prussian named Wilhem Voyognot buying an old army uniform from a tailor's shop resulting in an extraordinary array of incidents. He claims himself as an army captain and occupies the town hall of Kopenike. Wilhem Voyognot, in an army uniform plays the same role as an army officer in a state where martial law is in force.

As a director, Aly Zaker is realistic and has followed the European Theatre concept. He has successfully handled three sequences simultaneously. He has created 49

A scene from the play *Kopeniker Captain*

characters using only 21 players. Through a narrator he has unfolded each of the sequence of the play.

Not using the proscenium set, Fazey Zahir has used a round set containing three steps at the middle of the theatre hall and the audience was placed in a semi-circle covering three parts of the set. His three-step set helps the

director to create different sequences in a scene and in the case of characterisation as well. However, the symbolic colour of the set does not match with the theme of the play.

Eminent light designer Nasirul Haq Khokon's design in the play is very flat. Most of the time the use of the general light and also the sym-

bolic light effect is not much effective.

It is really appreciable that a big group like Nagrik Natyasaampradaya has given scope to the young artists in the play. The teamwork deserves praise. Pantha Shahriar and Auni played their roles well.

FAYZA HAQ

Afascinating film, called *The lost love story*, a 10-minute film, made by eight-year-old Arjo Shrestho, has recently won an honorary diploma. This was at the Tempora Film Festival in Finland. It is remarkable how such a young film maker has made such a fascinating film, one that has been seen at Kanak Champa Chakma's house. The film took one away from the hustle and bustle and humdrum of life into a soft and gentle world of dreams. It had been combined with reality too in such a subtle way that 'all's well that ends well' was one's impression, having departed the venue of the film viewing, late into the night.

Talking about the film Arjo said, that this was his first venture. He said, 'When I was younger I had gone for film shooting with my father, K M Mithu, and when he rested I played with his Beta camera.' Giving the story-line of his film, *The lost love story* Arjo said that the heroine, Shiropa and her father were going home from school, when they came across a poor street vendor, Chandu, selling



Arjo Shrestho behind the camera

Dwelling on the scene of the birthday, he explained, that the heroine wanted some of the savings to be eventually taken and given to Chandu and given in the form of lots of chocolates.

This was not easy, he added as Chandu (played by Utsho) is naturally poor and lives far away, in the heart of an imaginary village, Kusumpur, in Bangladesh. Shiropa

asked about the selection of the actors and actresses, Arjo said that he had seen Shahidul Alam Sachhu (the father) and Shireen Bokul (who played the mother) and the Utsho, when he had been exposed to the TV, films and other films, during the process of growing up. Arjo's father had made a film *7-Xer Shondhaney* on three children and that is where he had come across Utsho. As for Shiropa (the heroine), who is six and studies at Sunydale School, that's his sister and who paints, studies and sings -- gently and collectively -- like the rest of his family. The parents of Utsho were his own, Arjo added.

The music in the background had been played by Arjo himself on a toy piano (electrical and battery operated) and a harmonium. This includes *Ek din chhuti hobei*, a song which accompanies the credits. The countries participating in the film festival were USA, Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa. The children's section included 534 film makers.

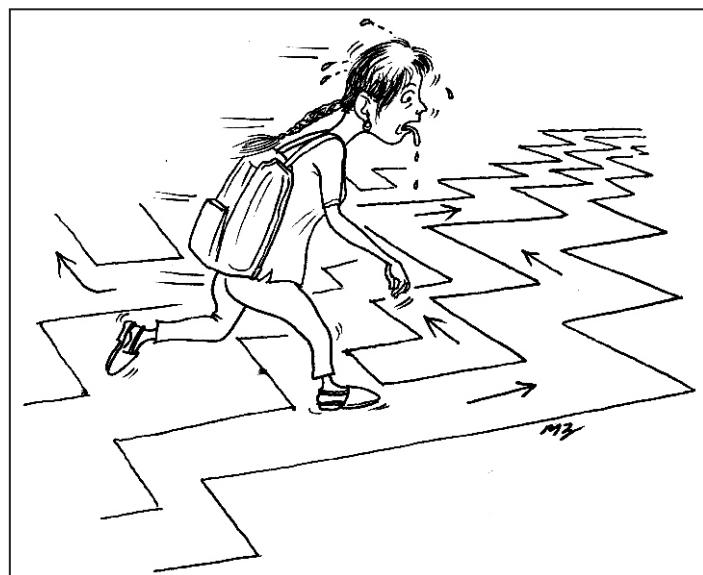
Arjo Shrestho has won an award for painting from the Shishu Academy when he was six years old and his paintings, which are impressionistic, have been seen in the recent past at Gallery Tone. His other hobbies include cricket, boxing and most other games that boys of his age go in for.

Shahidul Alam Sachhu, Shireen Bokul and Shiropa in the film

Small thoughts

The little things that matter

A search for 'Sonar Bangla' in Dhaka



Surprisingly enough, many of the stores didn't seem to have the songs I had listed in my mind. For instance, the song *Shikai porar chot*, which I, along with many other Bangali people of my generation had grown up with, was completely unavailable. I was even more shocked when the sales people simply gaped at me, obviously never having heard of the song ever before.

Next stop, Eastern Plaza, where I knew I would not be turned away with an empty soul and mind. This time however, I took a hold of my swaying emotions and got a grip of

my patience, when the music stores declared that they had not even heard of the song. Some of the music stores didn't even have patriotic numbers to offer, other than of course the usual English/Hindi hip-hop and *It's the time to disco*, not to forget a lot of Bangla hogwash screaming about one's heart bursting out in petty love. I

simply turned and walked away when one sales person asked, *Appa, gaanta kon bander?* (Which band does the song belong to?)

As the new age takes over and generations roll on forward, at this rate, there will be a time when all of us will listen to the tecno versions of the age-old patriotic numbers like *Mora ekti phul ke baachabo*

bole juddho kori, Jagao pothike and *Oamaa at koti phul*. The fact that the youth has introduced a new dimension in music, particularly band music, in the country is a welcome development. Fortunately, we have shown and proved the capability of learning and enjoying western forms of music, like jazz, soft rock, reggae and not to mention heavy metal. It's a wonder to see how well today's generation actually mix the Bangla spirit into these foreign forms of music and create a terrific blend.

But does that mean that we forget the compositions and songs made out of sheer desperation, frustration, sorrow, agony and also happiness by finally gaining victory? Do we ignore the fact that millions of souls are still lingering above us, trying to figure out if we are really enjoying this freedom and of course, putting it to the right use?

Let us, the youth, voice out our inner core, scream out the pride we feel in being ourselves and never be ashamed to stand up, hand in hand, remembering the past to build a real future: *Emon deshi kothao khue pabe nako tumi..shokol desher rani sheje amar Jonno bhumii..sheje amar Jonno bhumii*.

spicy chips. Asked why the father (played by Shahidul Alam Sachhu) appeared flustered at this, Arjo explained that the father was saving up for his daughter's future.

rebels, threatens and intimidates by not cutting her birthday cake. The finale of the film contains dancing in the form of a ballet and scattering of gentle images.

Tribute

Actor Peter Ustinov dies



Sir Peter Ustinov, one of Britain's most respected actors, has died aged 82. Sir Peter's agent confirmed the actor had died in Switzerland on Sunday night, but could give no further details.

Sir Peter starred in films such as *Spartacus*, *Death on the Nile* and *Logan's Run*, as well as many TV shows.

The son of Russian parents, Sir Peter also worked as an ambassador for the charity Unicef.

Sir Peter's agent Steve Kenis told Sky News: "He would always see the bright side of something, even something that would be very annoying to him or to all of us around him.

Sir Peter was born in London in 1921, after his father, an officer in

instant success on the London stage. His first play was staged when he was only 19. His acting career lasted more than 60 years, and included Academy Awards for two supporting roles - in 1961 for *Spartacus*, and in 1965 for *Topkapi*.

He was also nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar for *Quo Vadis* in 1951, and best screenplay for 1968's *Hot Millions*. As well as his acting roles Sir Peter was also a novelist and noted public speaker.

Famous for his rich, musical speaking voice, he was also fluent in French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish, and could also speak Greek and Turkish. Sir Peter was knighted in 1990.

Source: BBC Online

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTV
07:35 *Suprohat Bangla-desh*
08:25 *Selected Nazrul songs*
09:15 *Anya Bhutan: Ocean Girl*
12:15 *Shangbadpoter Pata Theke*
12:30 *Health programme*
01:05 *Cartoon show: Shabar Jonno shikhiya*
02:05 *Anandaloy*
03:05 *Shukhi Poribatra*
04:05 *Campus*
04:30 *Musical programme: Sangeeta*
05:05 *Open University*
05:30 *Information Technol-*

10:00 Drama: *Bhoy*
08:00 *Aajker shokal*
08:30 *Nazrul songs*
09:00 *Crime watch*
09:30 *El Shomoy*
10:02 *Kichu choto boro*
10:30 *Khane amar desh*
11:00 *Kichu choto boro*
11:30 *Priyo mukh*
12:02 *Drama: Cheraag*
12:30 *Tiffiner Fakey*
03:05 *Drama serial: Teen purush*
03:40 *Labbh, khoti, jhuki*
04:15 *Oboshobro propath*
05:10 *Information Kejai*
05:30 *Talk show*
06:10 *Sandhya Maloty*
07:05 *Quiz show*
07:30 *The Three Stooges*
08:30 *Drama: Sonar horin*
09:00 *Drama: Jaal*
09:30 *Drama: Jale tahar*
10:30 *Katha mala*

11:20 *ATN BANGLA*
10:15 *Talk Show : Annodritee*
10:50 *Information Technol-*

09:45 *Tirthy Matra*
10:45 *Cricket Online*
12:00 *Chithi Pelami*
01:30 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
02:00 *Film show: Chakrani*
03:00 *Re Ma Ga Ma*
04:15 *Sports show*
06:10 *Music Plus*
06:45 *Magazine Show: Annadha Bichitra*
07:50 *Close up Juke box*
08:25 *Drama Serial: Sharey*
09:35 *Drama*

10:00 *Drama: Bhoy*
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