RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition April 02-13

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged a photography exhibition by Japanese photographer Hiroko Kobayashi title 'I wish to go to Bangladesh once again', starting from today at 6:15 pm at the art gallery of the academy. The display will remain open for all from 11 am to 7 pm everyday and 3 pm to 7 pm on every

April 04-24

On the occasion of it's 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.

April 01-13

Aphotography exhibition on the fire in the Karail slum, is going on at the Goethe Institut (House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi R/A). The show will remain open for all from 2 pm to 8 pm everyday.

March 25-April 02

Shilpangan has arranged a 9-day joint exhibition of photographs by Architect Enamul Karim Nirihar 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.

Drama festival

March 30-April 05

A drama festival has been organised by the Jahangirnagar Theatre on the occasion of it's 24th University Muktamancha, The schedule is given below: April 02 07:00 pm Drama:

April 03 07:00 pm Reception of eminent personalities 07:30 pm Drama: Shikhondi Katha

April 04 07:30 pm Mime show: April 05 10:00 am Seminar 03:00 pm Cultural programme

April 02

Today, Nagorik Natyangon Ensemble, a theatrical group of the country, will stage their current production All My Sons at 7:00 p.m. at Mahila Samiti Auditorium

Star news



Oscar winning South African actress Charlize Theron arrives at the Warner Village Theatre in London on March 31 for the premiere of Monster, where she portrayes prostitute-serial killer Aileen Wuornos in the Oscar winning role.

Cine-review

Megher Pore Megh

A rich tribute to the Liberation War

FAIZUL A TANIM and SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

HE history of humanity teaches us at least two sad facts about war. One is that it brings tragedy. Another is it will be endlessly repeated.'--Anonymous.

These are among the disconcert-

ing truths that an individual is taught from the film Megher Pore Megh. This story depicts the post-war horrors of Bangladesh, a war-struck nation in1971. The movie, directed by Chashi Nazrul Islam, is based on Rabeya Khatun's book of the same title, and serves as a symbolic sequel to the other Liberation War movies. It creates an essential portrait of one Great War and the men who made the decision to fight for a Bangladeshi dream, but whose victories were mutated into a nightmare with the razakars (enemies of the state) of this nation still at large.

The title Megher Pore Megh, itself depicts the cloud of sadness remaining even after our Independence. The story begins with the tale of a young man, in modern times, desperately trying to find out the truth about his real father from his aged mother (Purnima). The father could have been anyone from a freedom fighter to a Pakistani captain or even a traitor. Against this background, the movie focuses primarily on the story of two freedom fighters (a double role by Riaz) Sezan Mahmood and Majid, and their love interest, Suraiya (Purnima). It shows the war stricken scenario of a Bangladeshi village, where the pak bahinis (Pakistani military) were welcomed by the razakars. The razakars would aid

News maker

NDIAN beauty queen Laxmi

Pandit, who at the weekend was

declared first runner-up in Miss

India 2004, returned her crown

Wednesday amid claims she is mar-

ried and did not meet the age require-

ments of the contest, an official said.

The organsiers of the event is not

taking any legal action against her as

she has decided to return the crown on

Pandit found herself fighting for her

crown after controversy erupted

Monday that she is not single as the

rules stipulate. Private television

channel Aaj Tak claimed Pandit was

married to aspiring model Siddharth

Mishra but had hidden her marital

status in order to gain entry to the

contest. On the same day, in an inter-

view with Aaj Tak, she denied she was

married declining to give details of her

However, subsequent investiga-

tions appear to have opened a can of

worms. Although the former Miss

India-World filed an affidavit claiming

she's a model by profession, officials

claimed this was found to be incorrect

upon scrutiny. This had been given as

the ostensible cause for her disqualifi-

According to rules of the Miss India

cation by the pageant organisers.

herown, says an official.

relation with Mishra

Miss India Laxmi Pandit returns crown

their Pakistani alliance to find the whereabouts of Bangladeshi villagers, burn their houses, kill the men, rape the women, thereby wreaking total havoc in the village.

In one such harrowing sequence. Maiid's house is under attack. His father is killed and although he could escape the ordeal with his wife Suraiva, the razakars found his younger sister and brutally raped and killed her.

This sparked a revolutionary flame in the otherwise 'mild' man and provoked him to join the Mukti Bahini. However, unfortunately, he is taken captive by the Pakistan force during a battle and spills the plans on the Mukti Bahini's next few missions. After escaping from captivity, and while on the run, Majid admits his betraval to Sezan, and eventually is killed for the act. During his last breath, he asks Sezan to look after his family. Sezan, similar in appearance to Majid, takes up the duty of looking after his family, with Majid's very identity. He also takes it upon himself to re-build the rural community. He faces obstacles set by the once-Pakistani alliance, pretending to be freedom fighters at every step. The movie clearly defines how the Bangladeshis are still suffering from the gluttony and viciousness of the sadistic razakars--who shamelessly term themselves

as sons of this very soil Chashi Nazrul has been brilliant at portraying the story of a battle, through Megher Pore Megh. The scope of the film is much broader and has a refreshing view towards religion. For instance, a moulvi wearing a white prayer cap is usually the villain in the movie,

contest, those above the age of 24 are

Laxmi's removal from the list of

winners has left the field open for

second runners-up Sayali Bhagat to

take over her crown and repre

Source: The Hindustan Times Tabloid, Mumbai

India at the Miss World contest

barred from participating.



CULTURE

Riaz and Purnima in a scene from the film Megher Pore Megh

sketching a picture of a razakar. However, Megher Pore Megh has broken this conventional idea and has portraved a positive image. where a God fearing man actually helps to build a better Bangladesh. The movie also contains the

character, Nishat, (played by Mahfuz Ahmed),a young village moulvi and best friend of both Majid and later Sezan. The movie stands out from all the other generic Independence-based movies, in the sense that it gives a realistic interpretation of the war. The challenges faced by Nishat, during his attempt to pay a lump-sum amount toward the improvement of the village infrastructure, shows the nobility of a religious man, which are otherwise absent from most other liberation war based movies. The character remains beside Sezan, whom he refers to as 'a true warrior'

in the movie, till the very end.

The character of Suraiya (Purnima) portrays the sacrifice and struggle of women during the war. In the film, she is allegedly raped by Pakistani forces--a wrong accusation made by the village chieftain. But later, her life lights up with the entrance of Sezan (identifying himself as Majid). Her marriage to Sezan later, is a testimony to how men and women can complement each other, unafraid of incurring the wrath of

The film opens the doors for introspection by all Bangladeshis. In particular it gives our people the opportunity to compare their values and ethics, with those left as a legacy by the Liberation War veterans. The movie is still running to packed houses

Lata Mangeshkar lends her voice to Vajpayee's verse

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New

IT was a new chapter in the life of 75year-old melody queen Lata Mangeshkar.

The nightingale of Indian music, whose voice has mesmerised generations for over half a century, has finally found an opportunity to sing the poems written by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vaipavee Lata flew down to the Indian

capital from Bombay to present the compact disc and cassette of the eight poems of Vajpayee to which she has lent her voice. The music album Anatarnaad is produced by a company owned by the singer's brother Adinath Mangeshkar. According to the singer,

Vaipavee's poems which she has rendered into song reflect several aspects of his personality. The Prime Minister returned the

HBO: 9:30 pm: Turbulence. Action /

Thriller Ray Liotta, Lauren Holly,

Brendan Gleeson. Ryan Weaver

compliment by telling Lata that 'You

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



sing and my songs become

Lata then delighted the audience by singing Vajpayee's verse Geet naya gata hoon (I sing a new song).

Lata's brother is hopeful that the combination of his sister's voice and the Prime Minister's poems will make the album a hit with the masses

Count of Monte Cristo.

against those who betraved him

Genre: Action / Drama / Adventure / Thriller.

James Caviezel, Guy Pearce, Richard Harris

On Star Movies at 7:00 pm

PICK OF THE DAY

Photography

Capturing nature's beauty from above

HARUN UR RASHID

VER wondered how our beloved motherland looks from a high attitude? What does its horizontal scenic beauty look like from above? The stretching landscape with vast fields chequered by demarcating ridges? Or, the winding river-ways slanting across that stretch of lands? Even the apparently harsh concrete cityscape? Those who have not travelled on an aeroplane do not know. But Sharif Sarker's recent exhibition titled Pakhir Chokhey Bangladesh (Bangladesh from Above) at the Drik gallery must have given them an opportunity to experience some such moments of marvellous beauty

An amateur photographer, Sharif displayed 50 photographs that he had taken from planes and helicopters since 1996. A pilot of Bangladesh Air Force, Sharif has often had to go on missions onboard these aircrafts. And, as he puts it, 'I have simply blended my opportunity, professional skill and passion for photography to portray my country from a different perspective.

In his enterprise, Sharif took pictures mostly of the country's natural beauty. Besides, he also captured moments of joy, surprise and business--all portraved through different activities of people. A photograph, for example, shows a rural youth greeting the passengers on a helicopter while it is taking off, the boy's hands are stretched sideways just as if in desire of flying. The boy's wonderment, his dream of flying like a bird are comprehensible in his posture. Two photos show people busy in

their work--some are drying red chillies, others laying dyed red clothes on the ground for drying. The large canvas of the pictures seems to reflect the enormous importance of these ordinary works

for these people. Nature has been portrayed in Sharif's photographs in its variety of phenomenal moods. The most striking photo in this regard is perhaps the Maheshkhali. The picture shows the estuary of the the boats create an image of a beautiful necklace.

Concrete structures also acquire wonderful effects in Sharif's photos. The Smritisoudho at Savar and the Lalbag Fort are projected with their entire area, which brings up another perspective of these urban structures' beauty. Often the photographs of the same place taken at different times show changes in its surroundings. And thus Sharif's photos become



The photograph shows a trawler plying exactly along the line where the two currents mingle in the estuary of the river Maheshkhali and the Bay of Bengal

river Maheshkhali and the Bay of Bengal. The colours of the two water bodies make a clear distinction when seen from above. The deep blue of the Bay contrasts the muddy blue water of the river. Interestingly, a trawler is seen in the picture plying exactly along the line where the two currents mingle The photo Sand Boats depict a

curious design created by the line of resting boats. The semi-oval line and the different bright colours of

geologically strong documents of our environment

Pakhir Chokhey Bangladesh was Sharif's first solo exhibition. Earlier. with two other photographers he participated in a group display in celebration of the centennial of manned flights. Sharif has already earned recognition from important sectors. His photographs have been used in Banglapaedia, the national encyclopaedia of our country.

Celebration

Kotha Academy celebrates spring

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

N almost every country of the world spring is celebrated with joy, song and music. Bangladesh, the land of six seasons, is no different. Kotha Lalitkala Academy (Kotha Institute of fine arts) organised a colourful cultural evening to celebrate the spring on March 31 at the Central Kochi Kachar Mela auditorium.

On the first of Phalgun, according to the Bangla calendar, the spring begins its official advent. After several waves of chilly spells, the sunshine in springtime is refreshingly warm with gentle breeze and colourful flowers. This season is heralded by the song of the Cuckoo. Flowers bloom, trees have new foliage and all living beings experience again the joy of living.

The students of the Academy started the programme with a chorus. A discussion session was held before the cultural ceremonial celebration Mohammad Sabur Khan, chairman of the Daffodil International University, was present as the chief quest while M A Halim Patowarv



Students of the Academy perform a dance at the event

Attack-In Pursuit Of

Scientific American

Africa

presided over the discussion.

The students of the academy then celebrated the spring with music, dance and performing arts. As the second part of the celebration, the students of the dramatics department staged Merudonder Lorai and Nattyachakra, a theatre group staged Baritev eka.

8:30

In his welcoming speech Alauddin Ahmed, founding Principal of the Academy said. 'This is our first such celebration since we started our journey in 1993. We want to hold the festival regularly so that we can bring Bangali culture to our new genera-

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for

News Bulletin

News Headlines(Bangla) at 9:40

11:30 pm

CHANNEL-i

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)

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.

News Headlines(Bangla) at 5:02 pm. 6:30 pm. 9:45 pm

News (Bangla) 7:30 pm.10:30 pm TARA BANGLA

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 07:35 Suprobhat Bangla Janma Bhum 08:35 Programme from Archive

10:05 Drama Serial: Swapner Deshe Hello Apnake Bolchhi 03:15 Shongbad Potrei Pata Theke 03:25 Bangla Feature Film: Cartoon

Desh Janopod 06:10 Asia in this week 07:00 Weather Forecast 07:30 Alif Lailar Documentary Film Dekha Adekha 09:00 Magazine Show

Annva Rokom Talk Show: Lal Golap CHANNEL-i

Tritivo Matra 10:30 Tele Shomoy (Live) Talk Show: Kora 01:00 Drama Serial: Shar-e Tin Tala Dekhar Gaan

Shonar Gaan 05:10 Sa Re Ma Ga Ma Music Plus 06:45 Talk Show: Kathai Drama Serial:

07:50 Dandvo Shanghat 08:25 Road Show: Traffic Mega Serial: Ekannoborti 10:00 Drama Serial: Kaa

Purush

ntv 09:30 Ei Shomoy 10:05 Alice in Wonderland Trans World Sports 10:30 02:30 Apnar Jiggasha Bangla Feature Film:

05:40 Tiffin-er Phake 06:20 Shubho Shondhya 06:50 Shoptaher Khabor 08:10 Mega Serial: Ronger Pepsi Music Express 09:40 Drama Serial Aranyer Shukh Dukhho

Hasnahena

Cartoon Show

05:10

8:30

9:30

10:35

12:30

11:20 Dindarpan **ATN BANGLA**

Health care prog Sustha Thakun Talk Show: Annodristee 10:30 Islamic Prog. 12:30 Islamic Prog. 3:40 5:10 Prog: Shes Akkhor

Entertainment Prog Benudon Jummabar **Musical Competition** Children Prog: Amra Karbo Joy Fashion Based Prog: Rup Madure Mega Serial: Bazpakhe

Mega Serial: Lal

Drama Serial: Sapno

Neel Bagune

Magazine Prog

Bengali feature film

Kichukhon

Copoth

Aawaz

TARA BANGLA Traditional Music 9:30 Sri Ramkrishna 10:00 11:30 Antakshari Bangladesh F 12:00 12:30 Serial Jug 1:00 Safar Taka Na Sona 2:00 2:30 Bangladesh Focus

Payer Talai Sorshe

State Govt. Lottery

Amar Bangladesh

3:00

4:00

romances beautiful women before he kills them. Ryan is arrested, convicted, and is part of a Christmas Eve transfer of prisoners on a transcontinental 747 commercial flight. Other airlines at JFK may have holiday passengers waiting on stand-by, but this jumbo jet takes off with

a lot of empty seats. Ryan and another prisoner overpower and kill their quards. The few civilian passengers are herded into a "pantry" on the plane. HBO: 11:30 pm: Night of the Creeps. Genre: Comedy / Horror / Sci-Fi. Jason Lively, Steve Marshall, Jill Whitlow. In 1959, an alien experiment crashes to earth and infects a fraternity member. They freeze the body, but in the modern day, two geeks pledging a

fraternity accidentally thaw the corpse. which proceeds to infect the campus with parasites that transform their hosts into killer zombies. 5:00 6:00 Nonte Fonte

Fashione Bhushone 6:30 Taka Na Sona 7:00 Sree Ramkrishna 7:30 Antakshari 8:00 Serial Jug 8:30 Fully Fatafati

Fashione Bhushone 10:30 Bastab 12:00 Fully Fatafati **HBO** 9:45 The Tailor of Panama The Blue Lagoon

Austin Powers: The 2:00 Spy Who Shagged Me 4:00 Troian War 5:45 Dragon Fighter 7:30 Doppel Ganger 9:30 Turbulence 11:30 Night of The Creeps 1:15 Interview With the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles

STAR MOVIES Beautiful Creatures Steven Spielberg Presents "Taken" -10:45 Episode 9

12:15 2:00 Strike Force 3:45 Pete's Meteor 5:30 Episode 10 7:00 9:15 Three Amigos! Black Moon Rising 11:00 12:45 Steven Spielberg

Episode 10 **STAR WORLD** Hollywood Squares 8.00 Whose Line Is It

A Business Affair Steven Spielberg Presents "Taken" Count Of Monte Cristo

Presents "Taken"

NATIONAL 'The Count of Monte Cristo' is a remake of the Alexander Dumas tale by the same name. The film stars Jim Caviezel **GEOGRAPHIC** as Dantes, a sailor who is falsely accused of treason by his 9:00 best friend Fernand, who wants Dantes' girlfriend 9:30 Mercedes for himself. Dantes is imprisoned on the island prison of Chateau D'If for 13 years, where he plots revenge

10:30 Cheating Death (Aka Dangerous Dogs With Jobs S3 11:30 Toyota World Of 12:30 Foxes Of The Kalahari 1:30 Scientific American Frontiers 2:30 Tomorrow's World

Anyway

Cheers

Oprah Winfrey Show

For Love Or Money

Oprah Winfrey Show

Bold And Beautiful

Hollywood Squares

Whose Line Is It

The Simpsons

Just Shoot Me

Tna Wrestling

Nash Bridges

On Assignment

National Geographic

Home Improvement

World's Wildest Police

American Idol

Mac Gyver

Miami Vice

Friends

Videos

Baywatch

9:00

9:30

10:30

12:30

1:30

2:30

3:30

4:30

5:00

6:30

7:00

7:30

8:00

8:30

9:30

10:30

11:30

3:00 Gene Hunters 3:30 Mosquito Hell 4:30 National Geographic's Taboo 5:30 Monkey Business 6:00 Mission Wild 6:30 Dogs With Jobs

7:00

Toyota World Of

Wildlife

Frontiers Explorations 9:30 The First Human 11:30 National Geographic's Taboo **STAR SPORTS** Nba Basketball Dallas Tx Usa Sacramento Kings Vs DallasMavericks (L) 9:30 Five / Six Nations Championships Rugby Hq Asia (R)

10:30 Five / Six Nations Championships Royal Bank Of Scotland Six Nations 2004 Saint-Denis, France, France Vs England (R) 12:30 **English Premier** Football League 2003/04 London, England Arsenal Vs Manchester United (T

2:30 Gymnastics Fig World Cup 2004/05 Lyon, France (T) Nba Basketball Dallas. Tx Usa Sacramento Kings Vs Dallas Mavericks (R) 8:00 Sportsline (L) 8:30 **Tennis Masters Series**

Nasdaq-100 Open, Miami Key Biscayne, FI Usa Quarterfinal(R) Nba Inside Stuff (T) 10:00 10:30 Sportsline (R) **English Premier**

11:30

League Preview (T)

Return To Athens (T)

Tennis Masters Series Nasdaq-100 Open, Miami Kev Biscavne. FI Usa Semifinal #1(L) **ESPN** Asian 9-Ball Tour San

Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Chao Fong Pang Vs Efren Reyes Final(R) **Champions Tour Golf** Toshiba Senior Classic Newport Beach, Ca Usa Final Round(R) Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2003 Las Vegas, Nv Usa (T) Pool/ Snooker World Pool League 2003 Warsaw, Poland Efren Reyes Vs Rodney Morris (T) Super 12 Super 12 Rugby 2004 Dunedin New Zealand Highlanders Vs

Waikato Chiefs Round Motorsport Asia (T) Harsha Online- David Boon(R) Champions League Extra Uefa Champions 8:30 10:00

League Extra Quarterfinals(R) Espn Presents Show (T) Goals! (R)

Here We Go (S) Samsung Cricket 10:30 11:00 Hitz (R) 11:30 Sportscenter India (R)

Sportscenter India (L)