

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

April 02-13 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged a photography exhibition by Japanese photographer Hiroko Kobayashi...

April 04-24 On the occasion of its fifth anniversary, the Bengal Foundation, is organising a solo exhibition artist Jean Dometti...

April 01-13 A photography exhibition on the fire in the Karail slum, is going on at the Goethe Institut...

March 25-April 02 Shilpangan has arranged a 9-day joint exhibition of photographs by Architect Enamul Karim Nirjar...

Drama festival

March 30-April 05 A drama festival has been organised by the Jahangirnagar Theatre on the occasion of its 24th anniversary...

Play

April 02 Today, Nagorik Natyangan Ensemble, a theatrical group of the country, will stage their current production All My Sons...

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...

Cine-review

Megher Pore Megh

A rich tribute to the Liberation War

FAIZUL A TANIM and SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

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

These are among the disconcerting 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 in 1971.

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).

News maker

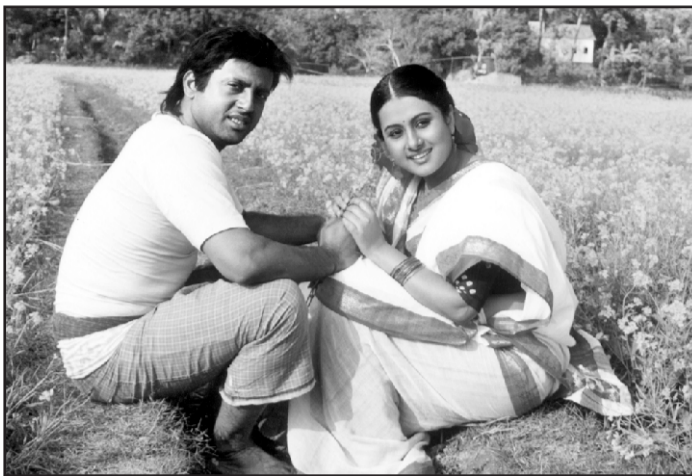
Miss India Laxmi Pandit returns crown

INDIAN 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 married and did not meet the age requirements of the contest...

contest, those above the age of 24 are barred from participating. 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 represent India at the Miss World contest.



Source: The Hindustan Times Tabloid, Mumbai



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 portrayed 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.

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 society.

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.

Music

Lata Mangeshkar lends her voice to Vajpayee's verse

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

IT was a new chapter in the life of 75-year-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 Vajpayee.

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 Anataamad is produced by a company owned by the singer's brother Adinath Mangeshkar.



sing and my songs become immortal.

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.

Photography

Capturing nature's beauty from above

HARUN UR RASHID

EVER wondered how our beloved motherland looks from a high altitude? 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 portrayed 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

IN 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 guest while M A Halim Patoway



Students of the Academy perform a dance at the event

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 Natyachakra, a theatre group staged Bariteyeka.

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 generation.'

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) at 11:30 pm. CHANNEL-i Breakfast News 07:15 am. 9:00 am. News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm. 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am. Teletext 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. Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. Latest News (Bangla) at 09 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1pm. 2:00 pm. 3:00 pm. 4:00pm. 6:00 pm. and 8:00 pm. Ptv 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 07:35 Suprohat Bangladesh 08:25 Janma Bhumii 08:35 Programme from Archive 10:05 Drama Serial: Swapner Deshe 10:30 Hello Apnake 03:15 Shongbad Potrer Pata Theke 03:25 Bangla Feature Film: Cartoon 05:40 Desh Janopod 06:00 Asia in this week 07:00 Weather Forecast 07:30 Alif Lailar 08:30 Documentary Film: Dekha Adekha 09:00 Magazine Show: Annya Rokom 10:30 Talk Show: Lal Golap CHANNEL-i 09:45 Tritiyi Matra 10:30 Tele Shomoy (Live) 12:00 Talk Show: Kora Alap 01:00 Drama Serial: Shar-e Tin Tala 04:30 Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan 05:10 Sa Re Ma Ga Ma 06:10 Music Fun 06:45 Talk Show: Kathai Kathai 07:50 Drama Serial: Dandyo Shanghat Road Show: Traffic Jam 09:35 Mega Serial: Ekannoborti 10:00 Drama Serial: Kaal Purush

ntv 09:30 Ei Shomoy 10:05 Alice in Wonderland 10:30 Trans World Sports 02:30 Apnar Jiggasha 03:40 Bangla Feature Film: Hasnahena 05:10 Cartoon Show 05:40 Tiffin-er Phake 06:20 Shubho Shondhya 06:50 Shoptaher Khabor 08:10 Mega Serial: Ronger Manush 08:50 Pepsi Music Express 09:40 Drama Serial: Aranyer Shukh Dukhito Dindarpan ATN BANGLA 9:05 Health care prog : Sustha Thakun 9:40 Talk Show : Annodistee Islamic Prog. 10:30 Islamic Prog. 12:30 Entertainment Prog : Benudon Jummabar Musical Competition Prog : Shes Akkhor Children Prog : Amra Karbo Joy 8:00 Fashion Based Prog: Rup Madure 8:30 Mega Serial: Bazpakhe 9:00 Mega Serial : Lal Neel Bagune 9:30 Drama Serial: Sapno Copoth 10:35 Magazine Prog : Kichukhon 12:30 Bengali feature film : Aawaz

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS HBO: 9:30 pm: Turbulence. Action / Thriller. Ray Liotta, Lauren Holly, Brendan Gleeson. Ryan Weaver 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 guards. 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. TARA BANGLA 8:00 Traditional Music 9:30 Sri Ramkrishna 10:00 Telefilm 11:30 Antakshari. 12:00 Bangladesh E Samay 12:30 Serial Jug 1:00 Safar 2:00 Taka Na Sona 2:30 Bangladesh Focus 3:00 Payer Talai Sorshe 4:00 State Govt. Lottery 4:30 Amar Bangladesh 5:00 Fashione Bhushone 6:00 Nonte Fonte 6:30 Taka Na Sona 7:00 Sree Ramkrishna 7:30 Antakshari 8:00 Serial Jug 8:30 Fully Fatafati 9:00 Fashione Bhushone 10:30 Bastab 12:00 Fully Fatafati HBO 9:15 Beautiful Creatures 10:45 Steven Spielberg Presents 'Taken' - Episode 9

PICK OF THE DAY Count of Monte Cristo. On Star Movies at 7:00 pm Genre: Action / Drama / Adventure / Thriller. James Caviezel, Guy Pearce, Richard Harris. 'The Count of Monte Cristo' is a remake of the Alexander Dumas tale by the same name. The film stars Jim Caviezel as Dantes, a sailor who is falsely accused of treason by his best friend Fernand, who wants Dantes' girlfriend Mercedes for himself. Dantes is imprisoned on the island prison of Chateau D'If for 13 years, where he plots revenge against those who betrayed him. 9:00 Anyway Cheers 9:30 Oprah Winfrey Show 10:30 American Idol 12:30 For Love Or Money 1:30 Mac Gyver 2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show 3:30 Bold And Beautiful 4:30 Hollywood Squares 5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway 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 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 9:00 On Assignment 9:30 National Geographic Special 10:30 Cheating Death (Aka Dangerous 11:30 Dogs With Jobs S3 12:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife 12:30 Foxes Of The Kalahari 1:30 Scientific American Frontiers 2:30 Tomorrow's World 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 7:30 Attack-In Pursuit Of Africa 8:30 Scientific American Frontiers 9:30 Explorations 10:30 The First Human 11:30 National Geographic's Taboo STAR SPORTS 7:00 Nba Basketball Dallas, Tx Usa Sacramento Kings Vs Dallas Mavericks (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) 5:30 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, Fl Usa Quarterfinal(R) 10:00 Nba Inside Stuff (T) 10:30 Sportsline (R) 11:00 English Premier League Preview (T) Return To Athens (T) 11:30 Tennis Masters Series Nasdaq-100 Open, Miami Key Biscayne, Fl Usa Final Round(R) 8:30 Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Chao Fong Pang Vs Efen Reyes Final(R) 10:30 Champions Tour Golf Toshiba Senior Classic Newport Beach, Ca Usa Final Round(R) 1:00 Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2003 Las Vegas, Nv Usa (T) 2:00 Pool/ Snooker World Pool League 2003 Warsaw, Poland Efen Reyes Vs Rodney Morris (T) 3:00 Super 12 Super 12 Rugby 2004 Dunedin, New Zealand Highlanders Vs Waikato Chiefs Round 7(S) 5:00 Motorsport Asia (T) 5:30 Harsha Online- David Boon(R) 6:30 Champions League Extra UEFA Champions League Extra Quarterfinals(R) 8:30 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)