

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

April 01-29 Russian Cultural Centre has arranged a photo and stamp exhibition on aviation and cosmonautics to celebrate the International Day of Cosmonautics and Aviation at the center's library.

April 02-13 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged a photography exhibition by Japanese photographer Hiroko Kobayashi titled 'I wish to go to Bangladesh once again' 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 Fridays.

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.

Theatre

April 08 to April 11 Shilpakala Academy has organised a weeklong experimental theatre programme starting from April 08 at the National Theatre Complex. Eight theatre groups will participate in the event from all over the country. The schedule is as follows:

- April 5 Dadon Chakra by Hussain Faruk, Kathak Natyadal, Thakur gaon
April 6 Izzat by Mustafizur Rahman Palash, Lakshmi Narayanpur Theatre, Noakhali
April 7 Bibaho Caricature by Md. Aminul Islam, Graam Chitra, Chapainabganj
April 8 Surjaseen by Shobhanmay Bhattacharya, Kathak Theatre, Chittagong
April 9 Modhuchandrima by Taslima Shobha Lipi, Bongoi Natyam, Gazipur
April 10 Kajal Lata Pata by M Nurul Islam, Sundaram Natyamoncho, Potuakhali
April 11 Shesh Prohor by Ferari Amit, Natya Bangla, Lakshimpur

Art competition

April 09 An art competition for children will be organised by the Serov Academy of Fine Arts on the occasion of the International Day of Cosmonautics and Aviation at Russian Cultural Centre at 10:00 am.

Film show

- April 11 Son of the World-Yuri Gagarin and Tragic Death of Yuri Gagarin will be screened at the library of the Russian Cultural Centre at 12:00 pm.
April 05-26 The Indian High Commission will screen 7 films as part of its regular bi-weekly film show programme. The schedules are given below:
April 5 Mr. & Mrs. Iyer
April 8 Baghban
April 12 Khoobsurat
April 15 Bhoor
April 19 Bobby
April 22 Hungama
April 26 Aankhen

Folk music

Connected to his roots In conversation with Kiron Chandra Ray

SHILPI MAHALANABISH

Well known folk singer Kiron Chandra Ray wants to make this performing art more popular in the country. As he says, 'I want to portray the richness of our folk songs and also to bring out the essence of our culture from within.'

DS: How did you enter the music world?

Kiron Chandra Ray: I grew up watching my Thakurda (grandfather) sing and practise folk music. That's what greatly encouraged me. I received formal training in music from my paternal Uncle Prabhath Kumar Ray. I also participated and won several singing competitions in school and college.

I never stopped learning. While I studied in Manikganj College, I got a chance to meet several music personalities, both established and up-coming. Among them are Kalipad Bhoumik, Maka Mia, Bulu, Ramesh Ghosh, Pijash, Debu, Faruk and Mithun. They used to sing different kinds of music, while I practiced more of folk songs and tried to establish myself in this field.

DS: How and when did you come to the capital?

KCR: Back in those days it was a difficult task to come to Dhaka, since one would have to ferry through two water passages and journey almost the whole day just to reach Dhaka from Manikganj. Nevertheless, I used to come once in a while and audition for the radio. On one such occasion, I chanced upon meeting the dotara player Chhan Mia, through whom I met the poet Jasimuddin. It was Jasimuddin who heard me sing and gave me a recommendation for the radio. That's when I passed the audition and started off being a radio artist.

DS: Do you find any differences between the music presentation skills of the days gone by and today?

KCR: Definitely. In those days, we were all a cultural family establishing a platform under one roof. We would learn from our contemporaries and share our knowledge with others as well. One would readily compliment his fellow musician on a performance, which you don't see much of today. You see more of the ego conflicts in today's music world.

Besides, the Radio Station, now situated in Argagaon, has lost its previous glamour and has turned into a small city now. I think that being a television artist is more rewarding nowadays.

DS: When was your first album released?



Kiron Chandra Ray: a musical talent

KCR: It was in the year 1978 when four of my records were released. As I mentioned, initially it was like fighting a battle to pass a simple audition for the radio. However, as soon as I got selected for the radio, everything just seemed to work out on its own. Soon, I established a platform for myself.

I also began to sing playback for the cinema around 1968 with Aajmal Huda Mithu's Niyomito Khela. All along, I continued with my studies and completed my Master's degree. However, music was always my priority.

DS: Did you continue with your musical training?

KCR: Yes I did. In fact, when I was recording with the popular Sabina Yasmeen in the film Muktar Mala, I noticed many flaws in my performance. That's when I realised that merely studying music would not help me in becoming a good singer. I began to train under Khandakar Nurul Alam and continued learning for 14 years.

Eventually I got married to Chandana Majumder, also a singer in 1979. In 1983 I began to teach at the Armanitola Government High School and am continuing with the job.

DS: What do you think about the audio music media in our country today?

KCR: I think that this particular media has destroyed the music industry in our country. Everything happens to revolve around the business itself, and not the artist or the type of compositions the artist will sing. No body seems to be committed or passionate towards the art itself.

Unfortunately, the number of such artists seems to outnumber the industry today. Real talent is nowhere to be seen now. In fact, Ustad Alauddin Khan had remarked that in a country where real talent is not appreciated, newer talents would be discouraged to come up. That way, one of these days, we will end up losing all the worthwhile artists. I think the country is going through this exact phase at the moment.

I also think that the government has a role to play here as well. If the leaders encourage and honour the true artists properly, the people will do the same.

DS: Nowadays, bands and solo performers releasing albums always seem to have a mixture of folk in their numbers. Why is this?

KCR: That is obviously because we are all still connected to our roots. The Dhaka City is a massive village where everyone is still bound together which reflects in our music creations as well.

DS: So many talented musicians come out of the different music schools in Bangladesh. However, we never seem to see their ability or their talents. Why is this?

KCR: You never see the true artists related to these so-called music institutions. It's a wonder as to how the teachers here actually vow to build up new talents in music. It's so surprising to think that in a country where we have very high quality artists and a department for music alone, we also generate low quality musicians.

Craft

From deep in the heart of Rangamati

Another accolade for Shorat Mala Chakma

FAYZA HAQ

SHORAT Mala Chakma, 63, who has won many prizes since her Pakistan days, has bagged one more accolade. This prize is for weaving and the exhibition has been arranged by SAARC Women Entrepreneur's Council. Shorat Mala has been getting awards wherever there have been crafts exhibitions; and she has had such prizes every year whenever there has been an occasion for her to display her handloom fabrics.

Shorat Mala has been making pinore (skirts), khandi (blouses), shawls and other apparels at Rangamati every year since the outset of these area-wise competitions. Elaborating, she says: 'During these fairs, other crafts persons, came from Rangamati and the nearby villages. These were something parallel to present export fairs (held in Bangladesh), but were known simply as 'exhibition'.

Dwelling on the overseas prize Shorat Mala says, 'I got the 'Karu Shilpi Exhibition' award in 1988. The Bangladesh Small Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) and the Bangladeshi High Commission had arranged this.' Continuing to give an account of her achievements she says, 'When I went to London, an exhibition had been arranged by the Crafts Council and the Commonwealth Institute at a large auditorium. I took my back-strap loom (komor taat) and wove sitting at London; I made my clothes before the viewers, and sold my items there.'



Shorat Mala displaying the craft of weaving to foreigners

there for a month at the exhibitions, which were held at London, Birmingham and Bradford.

Talking about her overseas experience, Shorat Mala says she went to Rome, Venice and Milan (Italy). There were then repeat performances of her craft display. The Bangladeshi Ambassador at Italy had been so impressed by Shorat Mala's work, that she was invited to Italy from London. In addition, BSCIC had a hand in arranging the exhibitions in Italy. She has also won the National Award for a crafts exhibition in 1985. The award had been arranged by

BSCIC. How did Shorat Mala get interested in weaving? Asked to dwell on the beginning of her interest in weaving, Shorat Mala says, 'Since the age of seven I've been making back-strap looms, which were not on the large scale as what I have been doing as a teenager and adult.' Shorat Mala Chakma is better known in Dhaka as the mother of well-known painter Konok Champa Chakma. Having had the pleasure of meeting her for the second time -- once in Rangamati and again in Dhaka -- one can only wish more power to her loom.

Channel click

ATN Bangla launches two programmes today

Health care programme Sustha Thakun Phone In and drama serial Mugabali

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

ATN Bangla, the first satellite channel in Bangladesh, starts a live health care programme from today. The new programme, named Sustha Thakun Phone In, will try to solve the problems of the audience immediately after they phone into the show. 'The audience will benefit from the specialists' suggestions on their physical and mental ailments,' says an ATN insider.

Each episode of this weekly programme will deal with a selected topic. The programme is slated to be telecast every Monday at 9pm. The maiden episode will be on gastric problems where Professor A K Azad Khan, gastro-enterologist of Birdem will answer the viewers' questions.

Dr Soheli Ahmed Sweety will anchor the show.

The viewers can ask for help through four phones. The numbers are 011-809444, 011-809555, 011-809666 and 011-809777.

New Serial

A new horror serial Mugabali, is starting on ATN Bangla from today. The story of the serial has been adapted from the novel of Muhammad Zafar Iqbal. Ringo has written the script and directed the serial as well. The story of the first episode features a group of friends who become interested in planchette after reading a book on reincarnation and invite dead spirits through planchette one dark night. Though they meet with success, the next events throw them off gear.

The cast of the drama includes Tony Dayes, Mizan, Hasan, Shamapti and many more.



Dr Soheli Ahmed Sweety: the anchor of the show

Cultural delegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 20-member cultural delegation left for Sydney on Sunday to perform in the five-day Bangladesh Festival 2004 beginning April 6.

The Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) will organise the festival to promote Bangladeshi products in Australia while the cultural delegation will perform Bangladeshi songs and dances. The aim is to familiarise the Australians about Bangladesh's arts, culture and heritage.

The Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Cultural Affairs M Rashiduzzaman Millat MP leads the delegation, which is comprised of noted and promising singers, dancers and instrumentalists, said a press release.

Among the delegation are the country's leading singers Farida Parveen, Rafiqul Islam, Abida Sultana, and others.



State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman is flanked by the members of the cultural team. Secretary of the Ministry Moddabir Hossain Chowdhury and Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy are seen in the photo.

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, 9:00 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 am, 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 Suprobbat Bangladesh, 08:25 Shurer Akash, 09:15 Wrestling/ Believe It Or Not, 12:30 Shastha Tathyo, 01:05 Pnyo Shilpi Pnyo Gaan, 01:30 Abohomaan Bangla, 02:05 Cartoon Show: Captain Planet, 02:30 Onu Paromanu, 03:05 Drama Serial: Shukhi Panbar, 03:35 Lekhapora, 04:05 Open University, 04:30 National Television Debate Competition, 05:05 Shamokalin Aurthontee, 05:55 Desh Janopad, 06:10 Dolon Champa, 06:35 Nritter Taley Taley, 07:00 Weather Forecast, 07:05 Programme on Liberation War, 07:30 Drama Serial: Alo Chhaya, 08:30 Shamokalin Natok, 09:30 Drama Serial: Hoyto Tomar Jonnyo, 10:35 Magazine Show: Chawwa Paawa, CHANNEL-i 09:45 Triliyo Matra, 12:00 Chitthi Pelam, 01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan, 02:00 Feature Film: Chhalona (Wasim/ Anju Ghosh), 05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma, 05:45 Chitrarela, 06:10 Music Plus, 06:45 Drama Serial: Johu Dewan, 07:50 Drama Serial, 08:25 Drama Serial: Shumnyo Theke Shamudra

- 09:35 Drama Serial: Bumerang, 10:00 Drama Serial: Juborraj, ATN BANGLA 10:15 Talk Show: Annodristee, 10:50 Mega Serial: Lal Neel Bagune, 11:25 Drama Serial: Sapno Copoth, 12:40 Bengali Feature Film: Bedhan, 3:45 Musical Prog: Uro Cola Saat Rang, 4:20 Children Prog: Meena, 6:20 Film Magazine: Elite Cosmatika Anondo Ayojon, 8:00 Drama Serial: Tobu-O-Bhalobashi Tomakay, 8:30 Drama Serial: Mogabali, 9:00 Drama Serial: Shukhi Thakun Phone In, 10:35 Talk Show: Katha Mala, 12:20 Bengali Feature Film: Nirdoy, HBO 9:15 Finding Forrester, 12:00 The Forsaken, 1:45 Dancing In September, 4:00 Mortal Combat, 6:00 The Russian Job, 7:45 Infested, 9:30 Sleepstalker: The Sandman's Last Rites, 1:15 Bare Witness, 2:45 Mortal Combat, STAR MOVIES 9:15 The Others, 11:00 Focus, 12:45 Surviving Gilligan's Island: the Incredibly True Story of the Longest Three-Hour

- TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS MGM: 7:00 pm Alligator, Horror/Sci-Fi; Robert Forster, Robin Riker, Michael V. Gazzo. Ramon the alligator is flushed down the toilet as a baby, and grows into a gargantuan monster by eating the corpses of laboratory animals who have undergone dubious hormone experiments, thus providing all the ecological and social subtext that one could possibly wish for, even if one doesn't normally go for films about giant alligators eating people left, right and centre - which is the inevitable and tragic result of Ramon's decision that the outside world looks rather more interesting than the sewers... STAR MOVIES: 10:15 pm Death Ring. Action; Kelly Bennett, Mike Norris, George Cheung. Ex-Green Beret Matt Collins is kidnapped along with his fiancée, Lauren Sadler, by crazed hunter extraordinaire Danton Vachs. Every year he holds a contest where people can purchase the right to hunt down and kill a human being. This time, Collins is to be the hunted. Vachs uses Lauren as a motive for Collins to really fight to survive and thus provide the buyers with a truly exceptional hunt. 2:15 Tour in History, 3:45 Women Vs. Men, 3:45 Twenty Bucks, 5:25 Lost Battalion, 7:00 Infested, 8:30 Albino Alligator, 10:15 Death Ring, 11:45 Against All Odds, 1:45 Our Lips Are Sealed, 7:00 Alligator, 9:30 Mondays Movie, 11:30 Mania: Pinnocchio, 11:30 Familia, DISCOVERY 1:30 Baby Pesante, 2:00 Food for Thought, 2:30 A Taste of Poison, 3:30 25 Years of Survival, 4:30 Schlessinger: Physical Science in Action, 5:00 I Love My Music, 5:30 Malaysia & Southern Thailand, 6:30 Martial Arts: The Art of Muay Thai, 7:00 Fish among the Tree Tops, 8:30 Globe Trekker: Great Historic Sites, 9:30 Colour of War: Total War, 10:30 World's best places to get Wet & Wild, 11:30 FBI Files: Cop Killer, TARA BANGLA 2:00 Taka Na Sona Rpt., 2:30 Angana Live, 3:30 Tara News-Aaj Dupure, 4:00 State Govt. Lottery, 4:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo Rpt., 5:00 Serial Probaho, 6:00 Star News-Aaj Bikele, 6:30 Nonte Fonte, 7:00 Taka Na Sona, 7:30 Sree Ramkrishna Antakshari, 7:00 The Protectors: Cell Dogs, 11:30 From Cradle to Grave: Kingdom of the Lion, STAR MOVIES 2:00 Bhabhi, 2:30 Kabhi Aaye Na Judai, 3:00 Shagun, 3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, 4:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii, 4:30 Kahaani To Hoga, 5:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz, 6:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain, 6:30 Fox Kids, 7:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan, 8:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom, 8:30 Krishna Arjun, 9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay, 9:30 Des Mein Nikkila Hoga Chand, 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii, 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, 11:30 Kahaani To Hoga, 12:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz, STAR MOVIES 1:30 Mac Gwyer, 2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show, 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 The King Of Queens, 9:00 Everybody Loves Raymond, 9:30 Grounded For Life, 10:00 Frasier, 10:30 Third Watch, 11:30 Baywatch, STAR SPORTS 10:30 Tennis Masters Series, 12:30 Nasdaq-100 Open, 1:00 Miami Key Biscayne FI Usa Final(R), 12:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04 London England Tottenham Hotspur Vs Chelsea (R), 5:30 ESPN School Quiz 2004 Documentary(T), 6:00 Harsha Online David Boon(R), 7:00 Nba Anthology 1964 (T), 7:30 English Premier League Highlights (T), 8:30 Sportscenter India (L), 9:00 English Premier Football League 2003/04 London England Tottenham Hotspur Vs Chelsea (R), 11:00 Uefa Champions League Magazine Shows, 11:30 Sportscenter India (R), 12:00 ESPN School Quiz 2004 Documentary(T), TEN SPORTS 10:00 Winning Post, 10:30 Trans World Sports, 11:30 ICC Cricket World, 12:00 Winning Post, 12:30 Gillette World Sport, 1:00 WI v Eng 3rd Test, Day 3 H/L, 3:00 Trans World Sports, 4:00 FA Cup 2004: Semi Finals (Arsenal v Man United), 6:00 WI v Eng 3rd Test, Day 3 H/L, 8:00 WI v Eng 3rd Test, Day 4

- PICK OF THE DAY Albino Alligator On Star Movies at 8:30 pm Genre: Crime/Drama/Thriller Matt Dillon, Faye Dunaway, Gary Sinise Three petty thieves are chased by the police who believe that the three are really major criminals into a basement bar and take five hostages including all of the bar's employees. The rest of the movie deals with the cops lurking outside of the bar and the trio trying to get hold of the situation inside. 8:00 Serial-Jug, 8:30 Serial Tarpor Chand Uthlo, 9:00 Serial Swapner Rang Nil, 9:30 Tara News-Aaj Rate, 10:30 Election Spl. Live, 11:30 Tara News, 12:00 Hoi Hullo, STAR GOLD 9:00 Maha-Shaktishali, 12:30 Fiza, 4:30 Yamraaj, 8:00 Startoons Countdown, 8:30 Hello Brother, STAR PLUS 2:00 Bhabhi, 2:30 Kabhi Aaye Na Judai, 3:00 Shagun, 3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, 4:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii, 4:30 Kahaani To Hoga, 5:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz, 6:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain, 6:30 Fox Kids, 7:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan, 8:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom, 8:30 Krishna Arjun, 9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay, 9:30 Des Mein Nikkila Hoga Chand, 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii, 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, 11:30 Kahaani To Hoga, 12:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz, STAR MOVIES 1:30 Mac Gwyer, 2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show, 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 The King Of Queens, 9:00 Everybody Loves Raymond, 9:30 Grounded For Life, 10:00 Frasier, 10:30 Third Watch, 11:30 Baywatch, STAR SPORTS 10:30 Tennis Masters Series, 12:30 Nasdaq-100 Open, 1:00 Miami Key Biscayne FI Usa Final(R), 12:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04 London England Tottenham Hotspur Vs Chelsea (R), 5:30 ESPN School Quiz 2004 Documentary(T), 6:00 Harsha Online David Boon(R), 7:00 Nba Anthology 1964 (T), 7:30 English Premier League Highlights (T), 8:30 Sportscenter India (L), 9:00 English Premier Football League 2003/04 London England Tottenham Hotspur Vs Chelsea (R), 11:00 Uefa Champions League Magazine Shows, 11:30 Sportscenter India (R), 12:00 ESPN School Quiz 2004 Documentary(T), TEN SPORTS 10:00 Winning Post, 10:30 Trans World Sports, 11:30 ICC Cricket World, 12:00 Winning Post, 12:30 Gillette World Sport, 1:00 WI v Eng 3rd Test, Day 3 H/L, 3:00 Trans World Sports, 4:00 FA Cup 2004: Semi Finals (Arsenal v Man United), 6:00 WI v Eng 3rd Test, Day 3 H/L, 8:00 WI v Eng 3rd Test, Day 4