

RECOMMENDATIONS

Première Show

Alliance Française, Dhaka holds the première show of drama *Moncholi*, written by Abu Sifian and directed by Zahidul Islam Biplob, at its auditorium at 6 pm today. Philippe Nicaise, Director of Alliance Française, Nawajish Ali Khan, TV personality and Director (Programme) of ATN Bangla, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University, and writer Anisul Haque will attend the show. The drama has been produced by Viking.

Art competition

April 18-20
Gandaria Kisholaya Kachi-Kanchar Mela, a national children-juvenile organisation, displays the works of Grameen Phone Zainul-Kamrul International Children Drawing Competition 2003 at the NaliniKanti Bhattacharyya Gallery of the National Museum. On April 20 the First Secretary of the Norwegian Embassy will distribute prizes among the winners.

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 04-24

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

Film show

April 05-26
The Indian High Commission will screen films *Bobby*, *Hungama* and *Aarkhen* on April 19, 20 and 21 as part of its regular bi-monthly film show programme. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Gulshan-2. Time: 6 pm.

Sculpture

April 13-30
British Council Bangladesh holds a bamboo sculpture exhibition at its compound at 5 Fuller Road. The display presents works of 9 sculptors and two traditional bamboo artisans. The display remains open from 10 am to 7 pm daily.

Tête-à-tête

A multi-faceted theatre personality

'I just want to be recognised as a playwright'--Mannan Heera

ERSHAD KAMOL

Mannan Heera, the current president of Bangladesh Patha Natok Parishod (BNP) is unafraid of speaking his mind. Recalling his 25 year-career in theatre, Heera says, 'In 1979, I started my theatrical work as a regular member of Aranyak. In the early 1980s, I began to write *patha natok* on the popular issues of the time. For instance, I staged plays in protest against the then military regime or against the Abdul Majid Shikha Nitee (a controversial education plan inaugurated by educationist Abdul Majid).'

Subsequently, Heera translated a few Shakespearean plays, such as *Cornelius*, which inspired him to write plays for theatre. Among his *patha natoks* is *Khudi Ramer Deshey* in 1983 and this marks his career as a playwright. Currently, Heera is one of those few contemporary playwrights to write TV plays regularly.

Heera is now trying to build a bridge between the rural narrative drama form and that of European theatre. He regards this as experimental work to bridge the East and the West. He says: 'This type of experiment is not easy. First of all, a large number of my colleagues and teachers as well as urban people are greatly influenced by the European theatre concept. Moreover I have not yet mastered the scattered rural art form, which is very important for a successful blend.'

After the successful introduction of package drama in the electronic medium, like a few other young playwrights he has also earned popularity. His mega-serial *Bajpakkhi* is now being aired on the ATN Bangla channel.

So far, Mannan Heera has written 10 stage plays. Of these, his own theatrical group Aranyak has produced four and several other groups have produced the rest. His stage plays, *Mayur Shinghashon*, a political satire, produced by Aranyak and *Bhager Manush*, a historical play, produced by Sonoy Shankarik Dal have won acclaim and popularity.

The 40-*patha natok* that Heera has written are basically against class struggle. His stage plays also have the same theme. In his words: 'I believe that drama is not for mere entertainment. It can be used as a sharp weapon against the class struggle.'

Comparing his work with that of Mamunur Rashid, the well-known theater personality, he maintains, 'I have the same concept and I have learned many things on drama from him. However, our style is totally different. In the case of stage plays, I am more narrative. And my plays have more of a political underpinning.'

As a playwright Mannan Heera has won awards like BACHSAS Award, Sadot Ali Award of the Bangla Academy and Zakaria Smriti Padak of the group Theatre.

Heera's favourite stage playwrights are William



Mannan Heera, a contemporary playwright

Shakespeare, Rabindranath Tagore, George Bernard Shaw, Bertolt Brecht, Utpal Dutt, Mamunur Rashid and Selim Al Deen.

Outlining his major concerns, Heera says, 'The introduction of the package drama on television is a landmark. However, the commercial mindset of the producers is largely responsible for the poor quality of the TV plays. I consider this phenomenon a crisis.' Another of Heera's worries is the lack of autonomy of directors and playwrights. In his view: 'The producers force us to cast models and winners of beauty pageants in the plays. I know that some of the models are doing well. But I think the voice of the theatre activists needs to be heard and greater freedom given to them.'

Mannan Heera is very optimistic about the new talent in theatre. He says: 'To some extent the younger generation favours the short cuts to success. However, the talented and dedicated theatre activists are doing better. I think that if they continue to keep in touch with theatre they will take our drama a long way ahead.'

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Indian artist MF Hussain with actress Tabu during a press conference in Kolkata at the launch of *Meenaxi: a Tale of Three Cities* a Hindi film. Hussain recently said that he was withdrawing his film from theatres despite a successful opening after Muslim clerics complained it hurt Islamic sentiments.

An archer in ancient samurai warrior uniform and riding on horseback, shoots an arrow to a target during a Yabusame - archery on horseback at a demonstration of the samurai martial arts in the 13th century at the Sumida Park in Tokyo on 17 April.



Around the world



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

News Bulletin

BTW

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am; 12:10 pm; 2:00 pm; 3:00 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 7:15 am; 9:00 am.
News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm; 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTW 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 BTW news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am; 10:00 am; 11:00 am; 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm; 3:00 pm; 4:00 pm; 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

tv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am; 12:00 am; 5:00 pm; 6:15 pm; 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am; 2:00 pm; 7:30 pm; 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTW news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

NewsHeadlines(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

CHANNEL-i

09:45 Tritiyo Matra
12:00 Chithi Pelam
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Sangbadpatri
Bangladesh and public reaction
02:00 Bangla Film: Amar

08:10 Deshey
08:10 Mega Serial: Teen Purush
08:50 Right Click
09:40 Medhabi
11:20 Dindarpur
12:00 Ey shomoy

ATN BANGLA

02:00 Anto Tumi (Shabnur, Bapparaj)
04:30 Toyota Wild Life
05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:45 FCT Business Talk
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 Banijyo O Orthoniti

07:55 Jibon Jekhane Jemon
08:25 Drama Serial: Sharey
09:35 Mega Serial: Ekannoborti
10:00 Drama Serial: Ranu

08:00 Aajker Shakal
08:30 Chenashur
09:00 Shonshorit Eli
09:30 Shoptaho
10:00 Ei Shomoy

10:20 Hello Music
10:30 Arshinagar
11:00 Drama Serial: Andhakarer Phul

11:30 Magazine Sequence
12:02 Millennium
02:30 Ke Korbe Bajimat
03:05 Drama Serial: Ronger
03:40 Dhalwood Award

05:10 Horlicks Genius
05:40 Aparn Jigysa
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Khabor Deshey

TARA BANGLA

TARA BANGLA