

RECOMMENDATIONS

**Première Show**  
**April 18**  
Alliance Française, Dhaka holds the première show of drama *Moncholi*, written by Abu Sifian and directed by Zahidul Islam Biplab, 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 Nalinikanta Bhattashali 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 it's 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 *Aankhen* on April 19, 20 and 21 as part of its regular bi-weekly 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 Natak Parishod (BPNP) 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 natak* 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 natak*s 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 blending.'

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 Somoy Shankskritik Dal have won acclaim and popularity.

The 40-*patha natak* 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 theatre 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 Manna 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 Datt, 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.'

Celebration

Kutir e Anki art competition

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

**K**UTIR e Anki, a drawing school for children, welcomed the Bangla New Year in a new way. The school held a daylong drawing competition and cultural function on the occasion. Veteran artist Murtaza Bashir attended the event and distributed prizes among the winners of the competition. Drawings were later displayed at the venue.

The cultural function featured songs of Lalon by Baul Pagla Bablu and Moushumi Jebin Laloni. Another very amusing item was a

drama staged by underprivileged children.

Kutire Anki also teaches drawing to the street children besides its regular students. Alamgir Jamal, the teacher of the school, says, 'I believe that if the mind of a child can be moulded for artistic creativity, he/she will never go astray in life. A child whose mind is pure enough to appreciate art and culture, can never pick up drugs or arms.' And it is this personal faith that has led Jamal to venture into such creative activities. He has been giving painting lessons to under-privileged children since his college days.



Aforum for the budding talents

Event

German Embassy and Kranti present a cultural soiree

Let there be light with Mujtoba A. Murshed's poems

AFSAR AHMED

**T**HE Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and Kranti Shilpi Gosthi jointly organised a cultural evening named *Aloye Bharuk Pran* (Let there be Light). The recent function was based on poet, writer and cultural activist Mujtoba Ahmed Murshed's poems, rhymes and songs at the Public Library Shawakat Osman Memorial Auditorium. Renowned Professor Anisuzzaman was the chief guest while German ambassador Dietrich Andreas attended the cultural soiree. Sayed Moazzam Hossain, President of Kranti, presided over the programme. Guido Genrich, Head of the

Cultural Section of German Embassy gave the welcoming speech.

Murshed was born in a famous political family from Dinajpur district. He witnessed the Bangla movement for independence in his childhood, which gave a different dimension to his thinking. 'Mujtoba Ahmed Murshed is a successful poet, short story, rhyme, lyrics and script writer and also a talented presenter and organiser,' said the speakers while introducing him to the audience.

At present Murshed is the vice-president of Kranti, the 38-year-old cultural organisation. The poetry books *Nona Joler Palonko*, *Ferari Nodir Chhaya*,

rhyme books *Bindu Mamar Khayesh* and *Bhuter Rajar Telephone* are some of his well-appreciated works.

Dance items based on *Raja Ranir Golpo Katha*, *Achinpurer Brishti*, *Amilo Jiboner Gan Gai* and others were performed by the artistes of Kranti. *Ekta Notun golpo Bolo*, *Swadhinota Tumi*, *Kalo Megh*, *Khub Priyo Tumi Shilpi* were some of the songs rendered by the artistes. *Chintar Gittu* by Shishu Tirthy and a group performance of *Shanito Shurjer Rudra Bina*, were noteworthy recitations. The recitation by Murshed was also well appreciated.



Mujtoba A. Murshed

Evaluation

New ratings for Channel-i

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

**I**N a public poll among the Bangladeshi viewers, made by the Sirius Marketing and Social Research Ltd., Channel-i tops the list of the satellite channels in Bangladesh.

Sirius Marketing made the survey among the viewers within the period of March 27 to April 2. According to the survey, Channel-i is watched by highest 56% of the Bangladeshi TV viewers, where as BTV, the only territorial channel clinched the second position having 51.4% viewers. Among other Bangladeshi channels ATN Bangla and ntv is in the third and fourth position having 46% and 39% viewers respectively.

Channel-i is also leading the race of News section transmitted on the Bangladeshi channels. Channel-i news at 9 pm and 10:30 is more popular than that of the other channels though its news at 7:15 is least popular when ntv news is in the lead. Ntv news on average is in the second position while ATN Bangla is in the third position beating BTV easily.

Shykh Seraj, Director and Head of News of Channel-i, believes this rating will help the channels to improve and upgrade their schedule in accordance to public demand.

Among other channels Sony TV, Cable Operator's Channel, ETV Bangla, Zee Cinema, TEN Sports and B4U Music is in the best ten position respectively.

Cinema

Silent movies in this era of talkies?

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Goethe Institut, in cooperation with the Zahir Raihan Film Society (ZRFS), is bringing to the city six silent movies of the post-First World War period from 1918 to 1925. The



Ascene from the film Faust

session will be inaugurated today at 5:30 pm at the auditorium of the Institut.

Featuring German Expressionism, these films project extreme stylisation of sets and décor as well as in the acting, lighting and camera angles. The grossly distorted, largely abstract sets were as expressive as the actors. To ensure complete control and the free manipulation of these aspects, the expressionist films were always shot in the studio.

The schedule of the films:  
**April 18** 05:30 pm *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* by Robert Wiene (1919)  
**April 19** 05:00 pm *The Golem* by Paul Wegener (1920)  
06:45 pm *Nosferatu* by Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau (1922)  
**April 20** 06:00 pm *Metropolis* by Fritz Lang (1927)  
**April 21** 05:00 pm *Faust* by Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau (1926)  
07:00 pm *Asphalt* by Joe May (1929)

Around the world



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.



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 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) 11:30 pm.

**CHANNEL-1**  
Breakfast News 7:15 am. 9:00 am  
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 9 a.m. 10:00 am. 11:00 am. 1pm. 2:00 pm. 3:00 pm. 4:00pm. 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

**ntv**  
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 BTV 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 *Chitthi Pelam*  
01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*  
01:30 *Sangbadpatrey Bangladesh and public reaction*  
02:00 *Bangla Film: Amar Antore Tumi (Shabnur, Bappara)*  
04:30 *Toyota Wild Life*  
05:00 *Sa Re Ga Ma*  
05:45 *FCT Business Talk*  
06:10 *Music Po*  
06:45 *Janib O Orhoniti*  
07:55 *Jibon Jekhane Jemon*  
08:25 *Drama Serial: Sharey Teen Tala*  
09:35 *Mega Serial: Ekanoborti*  
10:00 *Drama Serial: Ranu*

ntv

08:00 *Aajker Shakal*  
08:30 *Chenashur*  
09:00 *Shonshkriti Ei Shoptaho*  
09:30 *Ei Shomoy*  
10:02 *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 Manush*  
03:40 *Dhalywood Award (Part 1)*  
05:10 *Horicks Genius*  
05:40 *Apnar Jigyasha*  
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*  
06:50 *Khabor Deshey*

Deshey

08:10 *Mega Serial: Teen Purush*  
08:50 *Right Click*  
09:40 *Medhabi*  
10:20 *Dindarpan*  
12:00 *Ey shomoy*

ATN BANGLA

10:15 *Annodristee*  
10:50 *Mega Serial: Lal Neel Beguni*  
11:25 *Drama Serial: Swapno Kapoth*  
12:40 *Bangla Feature Film: Dangabaa( Soheli Chowdhury, Kavita)*  
04:20 *Drama: Swapno Mahora*  
05:50 *Jibon Jigyasha*  
08:00 *Indo-Bangla Kala Music Award 2003*  
10:35 *Adibashi Janapad*  
12:20 *Bangla Feature Film: Awaraa (Razzak, Shabana, Shucharita)*

TARA BANGLA

12:30 *Post Mortem*  
4:30 *Bangladesh E Samay Rpt.*  
5:00 *Chokher Aloy*  
5:30 *Dekhechileam*  
6:00 *Tara News Aaj Bikele*  
6:30 *Safar*  
7:00 *Spl Event Rpt*  
8:00 *Telefilm*  
9:30 *Spl Event Rpt*  
10:30 *Jalsaghar*  
12:00 *Tulkalam*

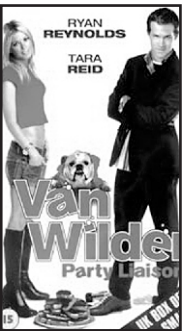
HBO

11:00 *Black Mask 2*

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



**HBO: 8:30 pm Assassins.** Action/Thriller/ Crime; **Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Banderas, Julianne Moore.** Robert Rath is a seasoned hitman who just wants out of the business with no back talk. But, as things go, it ain't so easy. A younger, peppier assassin named Bain is having a field day trying to kill said older assassin. Rath teams up with a computer hacker named Electra to defeat the obsessed Bain.



**STAR MOVIES: 7:00 pm Van Wilder: Party Liaison.** Comedy; **Ryan Reynolds, Tara Reid, Tim Matheson.** Van Wilder is a guy who has been at his college for seven years. He spends most of his time throwing parties and "fund raisers". When his father decides that it's time for tough love, he doesn't pay his tuition. So Van becomes a professional party thrower. At the same time, Gwen who writes for the college paper, is tasked with doing a story on him, but Van is too busy partying to do that.

1:00 Andre  
3:00 Miss Congeniality  
5:15 Tales from the Crypt  
14 : None But the  
Lonely Heart  
6:00 Sezen  
8:30 Assassins  
11:15 Turbulence  
1:15 Borderline

4:30 is Beautiful  
7:00 Mascarra  
9:30 Birthday Girl  
What Wedding  
Planner (Jennifer  
Lopez, Mathew  
McConaughey  
11:30 The Shrink is in  
(Courtrey Cox Arquette  
David Arquette)

MGM

9:00 Only You  
11:30 Appetite  
2:00 Family Sundays: Life

STAR MOVIES

10:00 Colors  
11:00 Commandments

PICK OF THE DAY



**Sharey Tin Tola**  
**On Channel-i at 8:25 pm**  
**Drama Serial**  
**ATM Shamsuzzaman, Sharmilee Ahmed, Khairul Alam Shabuj, Afroza Banu, Trapa Majumdar**  
**Zeba's marriage finalises despite the sudden sickness of the elder brother of the family. But the groom denies to marry her and she feels offended. Meanwhile, the appearance of Antara brings turmoil in Barsha and Siam's family. Barsha becomes pregnant while Antara gets a chance to go abroad. The interference of outsider Sharif Kamal puts the family in trouble.**

1:30 Mercury Rising  
3:30 Buried Alive2  
5:10 Behind Enemy Lines  
7:00 Van Wilder: Party  
Liaison  
8:30 Hudson Hawk  
10:15 Transylvania 6-5000  
12:00 Death Ring

STAR GOLD

9:00 Hello Brother  
12:30 Hero No 1  
4:00 Operation Gold  
4:30 Jhooti Bole Kawwa

8:00 Kaate  
8:30 Maya  
23rd March 1931  
Shaheed

STAR SHED

2:30 Sundaymatinee  
6:30 Fox Kids Sunday - 500  
Series  
7:00 Bachcha Party  
7:30 Vikraal Aur Gabraal  
8:30 Gharwali Uparwali  
9:30 Koile Jane Na  
10:30 Aatish

11:00 Ek Mulaqat  
11:30 Mamla Gaadbad Hai

STAR WORLD

1:30 Mutant X  
2:30 Enterprise  
3:30 Dark Angel  
5:00 The Review 2003  
5:30 Journeys In Asian Cuisine  
6:00 Asia  
6:30 Baywatch Hawaii  
7:30 Malcolm In TheMiddle  
8:00 The Kumars At No. 42  
8:30 Style  
9:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal

9:30 Logcertainrai  
10:00 Top Drive Getaway  
10:30 Cover Story  
11:00 Focus Asia  
11:30 The X Files

STAR SPORTS

9:30 Atp Tennis U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships Semifinal #1(R)  
11:00 Irb World Of Rugby (T)  
11:30 Super 12 Rugby 2004  
Nsw Waratahs Vs Hurricanes Round 9(S)  
Atp Tennis U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships Semifinal #2(R)  
1:30 Uefa Champions League Magazine Show (T)  
3:00 Samsung Superskills  
West Indies Vs Pakistan Semifinal #1(R)  
4:30 Fim World Motorcycle Championship Motogp World Championship 2004

7:00 Cricket Gold (T)  
9:30 Fim World Motorcycle Championship Motogp World Championship 2004

ESPN

12:00 Hitz (T)  
10:30 Espn Presents Samsung Cricket Show (R)  
11:00 Cricket Gold (T)  
1:30 Wrestling Apple Crush (R)  
2:00 Premiership Extra  
2:30 Uefa Champions League Magazine Show  
3:00 Premiership Extra  
3:30 Spanish Football League 2003/04 (R)  
5:30 Sportscenter Weekend (T)  
5:35 Super Sunday Preview(L)  
6:55 English Premier Football League 2003/04 (L)  
9:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2003/04 (L)  
11:00 Premiership Postgame (L)  
11:30 Espn School Quiz 2004 Review Show (R)

DISCOVERY

2:30 Triumph and Despair  
3:30 Great Sphinx: Lord of the Pyramids  
4:30 Nubia: The Forgotten Kingdom  
5:30 Eat like a King: king Henry VIII  
6:30 Ultimate Guide:

Volcanoes

7:30 The world's deadliest Volcanoes  
8:30 Speed GlidingLarissa, Greece  
9:30 Wings Great Siberian Grizzly  
10:30 Night Safari  
11:30 Mummies Forever : Frozen in Time

ANIMAL PLANET

1:30 Dangerous Australians  
2:30 Cell Gogs  
3:30 Croc Films: Dingo Fence  
4:00 The Zoo  
4:30 Amazon Anaconda  
5:00 Back to the Jungle  
5:30 Champions of the wild  
6:30 Wild Island  
7:00 Crocodile Hunter  
Wildest Home Videos  
8:00 Crocodile Hunter Diaries  
8:30 Seals Invaders of the Sea  
9:30 Man Eaters of Tsavo  
10:30 Animal Planet Showcase: First Primates  
11:30 Predators: Special Agents  
12:00 Secret World of Gardens: Wasps

TEN SPORTS

10:00 IndiasTour of Pak: 3rd Test,Day 5 H/Ls  
3:00 WWE Specials : WrestleMania XX  
7:00 MOTO GP: South Africa GP (Welkom)  
7:30 ICC Cricket World  
11:00 WI v Eng : 1st ODI