

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 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 every day.

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.

Music

April 30
The Indian High Commission in Dhaka, in conjunction with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, will present a light classical music programme by Penaz Masani at 7 pm at the Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka.

Documentary

Splendours of the Mughals

A lost heritage

HARUN UR RASHID

THE Mughal dynasty has long been absent in this subcontinent. 146 years have passed since the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar was exiled to Rangoon in former Burma in 1858. And during this long time the subcontinent has witnessed its transition from monarchy into the colonial rule, which ultimately gave way to the division of the region and rise of three independent nations. Now, what happened to the descendants of the Mughals? Do they still exist? If they do, in what condition are they living?

From such inquisitiveness, Arijet Gupta of Doordarshan, the national television of India, has made a documentary film recently. 'It's sad such a famous family should disappear so unnoticeably,' Arijet said at the screening of the film *The Living Mughals* at the Ball Room of the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on April 21. 'The Mughal dynasty couldn't have come to an end with just one king,' he said referring to the fall of Bahadur Shah Zafar and his death in Rangoon.

Produced by Doordarshan, *The Living Mughals* focuses on the 4th generation direct descendants of the last Mughal king Bahadur Shah Zafar and his first wife Begum Ashraf Mahal. An 80-year old woman named Begum Laila Umahani, the great-granddaughter of Zafar and Ashraf, at present is the only survivor of this 4th generation. She has two sons—Ziauddin Tacy and Masihuddin Tacy, their wives and children.

Laila and her sons reminisce on the past glory of the family. After Bahadur Shah Zafar had died in 1862 in Rangoon, his family came to Hyderabad via Nepal. Since then Hyderabad has remained their abode. The film shows the palace where Laila Umahani now lives with her entire family.

The film focuses on contemporary issues. It deals with the daily lives of the members of the family and how they have adapted to the process



Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last emperor of the Mughal dynasty

of change, which has transformed their lifestyle beyond recognition. Ziauddin Tacy, the elder son of Laila Umahani, says that once during the rule of Indira Gandhi they had asked the government to provide them with 'befitting jobs.' Unfortunately things didn't quite work out.

Masihuddin Tacy at present practises the Mughal cuisine, giving training to chefs on the famous dishes of the Great Mughals. While the younger brother carries out the Mughal

gastronomical taste, the elder Ziauddin bears the same deep passion for poetry and chess. Zia and Masihuddin stimulate their genetic passion for warfare by playing chess. And most often Zia wins the battles!

As can be assumed, the film has been made from a sympathetic standpoint, which often seems to lack in justification and even effectiveness. The film presents, for example, a lot of reminiscence by the three principal figures—Laila, Zia and Masih. Comments and feelings of the younger members—maybe those of Laila's grandchildren—perhaps could be added too.

The film shows that whenever the Tacy brothers go to Delhi, they always visit the historic Red Fort and they do it by purchasing tickets like any other visitors. The saddening wonder as to why the descendants of once-upon-a-time owners of the Fort will also have to buy tickets to visit the place is very clear in the narrator's tone. Arijet Gupta, however, explains one aspect of the fact, that nobody around the family is aware of their identity. The family is also silent on their heritage; they fear few would believe that they are the descendants of the Great Mughals.

After the show, filmmaker Arijet Gupta answered the questions from the audience. Bahadur Shah Zafar had four wives—Ashraf Mahal, Akhter Mahal, Taj Mahal and Zeenat Mahal. Regarding the descendants from three other wives, he said that he had traced the descendants of Zeenat Mahal. They are at present living in Kolkata in 'a very pitiable condition'. The family of Laila Umahani is very curious about their half-brothers and sisters, says Arijet.

The Living Mughals is surely a tribute to a glory that was once omnipresent. Of which, now only the memory remains.

Interview

Azad Abul Kalam: a commanding presence in theatre

'We are going through a transitional period'

ERSHAD KAMOL

AZAD Abul Kalam is a well-known name in the theatre arena of the country. As a director and actor on stage, the young theatre activist has created a stir. For 12 years he worked with the theatre group Aranyak. He parted ways with the group and along with his friends established Prachonut in February 1997 through a series of workshops.

About the move to Prachonut, he says, 'I thought that I would not be able to express my ideas on theatre unless I established my own group. In Aranyak the group leaders welcomed new ideas. However, I wanted more freedom. And I do not like the authoritative attitude of the traditional theatre groups in the country. In Prachonut, we practice theatre with camaraderie.'

As he recalls, he was very fond of literature. However his introduction to Aranyak was through a friend in October 1985. 'I was not like the traditional theatre activists. At first view, the regular workers of Aranyak thought that I would not be able to continue theatre. In those days, my get up was like a 'rock n roller' and I liked to watch *patha natak* staged by the big groups of the country,' Azad adds.

He first appeared on stage as a choir member in the play *Nanoker Pala* by Abdullah Hel Mahmud, which was



Azad Abul Kalam

After taking part in the Asia-Pacific performance exchange programme at the University of California in New York with a Miami troupe he has not yet directed any new play in the mainstream theatre. Azad says, 'Our theatre is less diversified. In our country, it is the common problem of most artists where they try to confine themselves to a single art form. They consider it safe for their craftsmanship. But, I think it is harmful for the creativity of an artist.'

'In Japan, I saw the rich technology-based contemporary theatre. And I am a bit confused right now to find my own approach—what should be the medium of the play verbal or nonverbal? Is any antagonist or protagonist compulsory for a play? Moreover, I cannot fix up anything clearly in the composition of a scene. But, I am hopeful that I will do it fairly soon.'

As a playwright, Azad likes Bertolt Brecht very much. Moreover, he likes William Shakespeare, Sophocles, Jean Paul Sartre, Rabindranath Tagore and Taufiq Al Haqim. In Bangladesh, his favourite playwrights are Mamunur Rashid, Selim Al Deen, Sayed Shamsul Haq, Badruzzaman Alamgir and Abdullah Hel Mahmud.

Azad likes some directorial works of Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Tariq Anam Khan and Jamil Ahmed. Moreover, he is interested in directors like Peter Brook, Euzona Barbara, Rudraprosad Sengupta, Binapali Chawla and Bibhash Mukhopadhyay.

Azad does not want to appear on TV screen. He does sometimes act in TV plays if the offer is attractive. However, he enjoys acting in cinema. He says, 'It is really a tough medium. I have learnt a lot about the medium from Raisul Islam Asad while working with him in the film *Lalon*. I like my work in the film *Phulkumar* rather than the other two *Lalon* and *Kittanokhola*.'

In theatre, he has won the best director's award for the play *A Man for all Seasons*. Moreover, BFJA (Bangladesh Film Journalist's Association) has honoured him as a TV actor.

Azad Abul Kalam is now busy writing three scripts for the stage. Moreover, he is working with the children of Scholastica School. He thinks that theatre should be introduced at the school level so that children discover an affinity with this art form.



Azad Abul Kalam (R) with co-actor Fazlur Rahman Babu in a sequence from the stage play *Adab*

produced by Aranyak. Later he played a major character in the same drama. 'I consider *jatra pala* practiced by the rural artists as more traditional. I believe that the rural artists who have been practicing *pala* or the other art forms in Bangladesh for thousands of years have potential. However, they lack ideas to express it vividly,' Azad says.

'The elite class and the higher middle class as well have found the European proscenium stage more convenient. There may be two main reasons behind its successful cultural diffusion by the British rulers and the lack of knowledge of the urban people of their original art forms. As a result, western theatre has become a part of our culture like many other countries of the world. Our theatre neither expresses the western theatre properly nor represents our rural art form. We are in fact going through a transitional period. I consider the theatre that we practice here as 'Theatre of Testimony,' Azad adds.

Usha Ganguli, Mukhopadhyay.

Azad does not want to appear on TV screen. He does sometimes act in TV plays if the offer is attractive. However, he enjoys acting in cinema. He says, 'It is really a tough medium. I have learnt a lot about the medium from Raisul Islam Asad while working with him in the film *Lalon*. I like my work in the film *Phulkumar* rather than the other two *Lalon* and *Kittanokhola*.'

In theatre, he has won the best director's award for the play *A Man for all Seasons*. Moreover, BFJA (Bangladesh Film Journalist's Association) has honoured him as a TV actor.

Azad Abul Kalam is now busy writing three scripts for the stage. Moreover, he is working with the children of Scholastica School. He thinks that theatre should be introduced at the school level so that children discover an affinity with this art form.

News-maker

Maradona film shoot still planned

BBC ONLINE

A £4m movie about Argentine football star Diego Maradona is going ahead despite his illness. A 'high-profile' Spanish or Latino actor will be named in the lead role next week, *Screen Daily* reports.

The film will start with the heart problems Maradona suffered in 2000, an event which inspires him to reflect on his childhood and adolescence. Maradona, who has fought cocaine addiction, was taken to



Maradona was interviewed by the film's writers before he became ill

hospital on April 18 with heart and lung problems.

The biopic has been planned since 2000, when Spanish-Argentine group OMBU acquired the rights to the footballer's life story. Italy's Sorpasso group is also co-producing the film.

Maradona has been involved in the project, sitting for more than 10 hours of interviews with the film's writers. Director Marco Risi plans to begin shooting the biopic before the end of 2004.

New flick

Sure-shot winner

Lakshya is on target

HINDUSTAN TIMES

The big budget, strong script and a dream cast make *Lakshya* one of the most eagerly awaited movies in recent times.

What makes *Lakshya* so eagerly awaited? Is it just its formidable cast of Amitabh Bachchan, Hrithik Roshan, Preity Zinta, Om Puri, Sharad Kapoor and Boman Irani? There's much more! For one, it is *Dil Chahta Hai* maker Farhan Akhtar's second film.

Also, with this Rs 32-crore film,

Farhan's writer-dad Javed Akhtar returns to his passion of script-writing after 15 years. Designed as a Rs 25-crore project, director and co-producer Farhan Akhtar and producer Ritesh Sidhwani's *Lakshya* overshoot its budget despite meticulous planning. The main reason for this, according to Sidhwani, was the weather of Ladakh where 80 per cent of the film was shot. 'We could shoot only 8 hours, instead of the scheduled 10, in Ladakh,' he says.

Around the world



AB Bank Recreation Club celebrated Pahela Baishakh 1411 at its Kakrail branch premises recently. The programme included musical soirees, folk songs, Nazrul's songs, Tagore's songs, Bhatiali compositions, skits and poetry recitation. Members and their families participated in the function.

Combo shows eight jury members of the 57th Cannes Film Festival to be held May 12-23. Headed by US director Quentin Tarantino (C), the panel has 1st row L-R: US actress Kathleen Turner, Scottish actress Tilda Swinton, French actress Emmanuelle Beart, Finnish critic Peter Von Bagh. 2nd row L-R: Belgian actor Benoit Poelvoorde, US director Jerry Schatzberg, Chinese director Tsui Hark, and Haitian born US writer Edwige Danticat.



Picture shows a perfectly preserved head of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius unearthed by Jordanian French archeologists in the ancient Nabatean city of Petra south of Jordan, the head of the French mission Christian Auge told AFP. The head of the 2nd century AD Roman leader who was also known as the 'good emperor' or the 'philosopher-king' was found in the Qasr al-Bint area of Petra, a Nabatean city famous for its rose-red temples dug in the rock.

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-i
Breakfast News 7:15 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 9 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 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.
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 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

07:30 Bangladesh Hridoy Theke
09:00 Satellite Telecast
12:15 Shongbad Potrer Pata Theke
12:30 Health Buletin
01:05 Drama of the week
02:05 Computer Protidin
02:30 Ta Ta Thai Thai
03:05 Regional Programme: Nilbedon
03:30 Shukhi Poribar
04:05 Alor Shatadol
04:30 Swadesh Shanshkriti
05:05 English Debate
06:00 Desh Janopod
06:10 Kothopokothon
07:00 Weather Forecast, Share Market
07:05 Shata Phul Phutte Dao
07:30 Furtune Hunter
08:30 Drama Serial
09:00 Drama: Kidnap
10:30 Amar Ganer Bhuban
11:00 Shur Lohori
09:45 Tritiyo Matra
10:45 Na Bola Kotha
12:00 Chithi Pelam
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shonbadpotre
02:00 Bangla Film: Gunda (Kaboni/Alamgir)
04:30 Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan
05:10 Sa Re Ga Ma
06:10 Music Plus
06:40 Priyo Tarakar Shera Gaan
07:50 Drama Serial: Aamar Kotha Likhun
08:25 Drama Serial: Halo Bangladesh

09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Drama Serial: Moho
ntv
09:30 Ei Shomoy
10:05 Guitarer Tale Tale
10:30 Dhakar Cinema
02:30 Ke Korbe Bajimaat
03:05 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush
03:40 Pepsi Music Express
04:15 Drama Serial: Aj Robibar
05:10 Gallery
05:40 Aalokpat
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Shangsikriti Ei Sheptah
08:10 Mega Serial: Tin Purush
08:50 Dhallywood Film and music Award (Part-2)
11:25 Dindarpan
TARA BANGLA
10:00 Bangladesh Focus Rpt.
11:30 Amar Bangladesh Rpt
10:00 Swapner Deshe/Putul Nach
11:30 Antakshari
12:00 Chalti Hawa
12:30 Bangladesh E Samay
1:00 Hanir Khabar
2:00 BFF
4:00 Slate Govt. Lottery
4:30 Achena Uttam
6:00 Safar
6:30 Syllebusey Nei
7:00 Tara Sundari
8:00 Telefilm Rpt.
9:30 E To Noi Sudhu Gaan
10:30 Post Mortem
11:00 Spl Event
12:00 Bastab
HBO
9:00 Fat Man and Little Boy
11:45 Undercover Brother

1:30 The Forsaken
3:15 Young Sherlock Holmes
5:30 Doppel Ganger
7:30 The Bachelor
9:30 Evolution
11:30 Deep Blue Sea
MGM
9:00 200 Cigarettes
11:30 Lush Life
2:00 Serendipity
4:30 The Real Blonde
7:00 Night Train
9:30 The Cider House Rules
11:30 The Wedding Planner
STAR MOVIES
7:15 The Others
9:00 12 Monkeys
11:15 The Pianist
1:45 The Badge
3:30 Derailed
5:10 Signs
7:00 One Hour Photo
8:35 Insomnia
10:30 Strike Force
12:15 12 Monkeys
STAR GOLD
9:00 Muthu Maharaja
12:30 Raja Hindustani
4:30 Kurukshetra
6:00 Startons Countdown
8:30 Shangai Noon - Hindi Dubbed
11:00 Haseena Maan Jayegi
STAR PLUS
2:30 Mirch Masala
3:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron
3:25 Series
3:30 Tea Time Cine
6:30 Kya Baat Hail
7:00 Bachcha Party
7:25 Series
7:30 Khichdi

PICK OF THE DAY
8:00 Jaaduu
8:30 Starsuperhit
12:00 Yatra
ANIMAL PLANET
10:30 Wild Encounters Frogs: Leaping Wizards
11:30 Predators Special
12:00 Agents
12:00 Secret World of Gardens Wasps
12:30 Wild Encounters Venom
1:30 Wild Encounters Wildboar King of the Wildwood
2:00 Wild Encounters Wolves in White
2:30 Wild Encounters Swimming Elephants
3:30 Croc Files Making Crocodiles
4:00 The Zoo
4:30 O'Shea's Big Adventure River Giant
5:00 O'Shea's Big Adventure On the Edge
5:30 Champions of the Wild Elephant Seals
6:00 Champion of the Wild Rattlesnakes
6:30 Wild Island Night Safari
7:30 Crocodile Hunter Reptiles of the Deep: Turtles
8:00 Crocodile Hunter Diaries Road to Recovery
8:30 Wild Encounters Disguise
9:30 Wild Encounters Hyrax: Little Brother of the Elephant
10:00 Wild Encounters Where Lemmings Dare
10:30 Wild Encounters Big Cats
11:30 Dawn to Dusk
12:00 Lords of the Animals The Father of Camels

DISCOVERY
10:30 I Love My Music
11:00 Let's Dance & Eat Liou in Thailand/Mik in Thailand
11:30 Mystery Hunters
12:00 Truth or Scare Wolfman: The Myth and the Science
12:30 Great Hotels Primitime America's Great Family Friendly Hotels
1:30 Friday Spotlight The End of the USSR
2:30 Friday Spotlight Moscow Stage
3:30 History Weekend Hitler of the Andes
4:30 History Weekend Qin Shihuangdi: China's First Emperor
5:30 History Weekend Mallorca Conspiracy
6:30 History Weekend Death at Midnight
7:30 Discovery Showcase
8:30 Understanding Caves
9:30 Discover India Visions of Paradise: The Taj Mahal
10:00 Discover India A World Apart: Princely Mewar
10:30 Drama on Discovery Secrets of the Kentucky Derby
11:30 Food, Glorious Food Pizza Paradise
12:30 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
1:00 Asia
1:30 Goosebumps
2:00 Action Man
2:30 Monster Farm
3:00 X Men
3:30 The Kumars At No. 42

STAR SPORTS
8:00 Tennis Masters Series Monte-Carlo Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo Monaco Quarterfin Al(S) Entertainment Sports Mania (T)
10:30 World Of Rugby (T) Samsung SuperSkills Australia Vs Rest Of The World Semifinal #2(R)
12:00 Nba Inside Stuff (R)
12:30 Tennis Masters Series Monte-Carlo Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo Monaco Quarterfin Al(S) UEFA Champions League Extra (T)
2:30 Football Asia (T)
4:25 Formula One Qualifying
4:55 Grand Pr Ix Quali.(L) Foster's San Marino
7:00 Return To Athens (R)
7:30 Gillette World Sport 2004 (T)
7:54 English Premier Football League 2003/04 (L)
10:00 English Premier Football League 2003/04 (S)
12:00 Tennis Masters Series Monte-Carlo Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo Monaco Semifinal #1(S)
ESP
9:00 Goals! (R)

9:30 Here We Go (R)
10:30 Hitz (R)
11:00 Epl Big Red Replay (T)
1:00 English Premier League Preview (R)
1:30 School Quiz Show Espn
2:00 School Quiz Show Espn
2:30 School Quiz Show Espn
3:00 School Quiz Show Espn
3:30 School Quiz Show Espn
4:00 Nba Action (R)
4:30 Nba Playoffs First Round(R)
7:00 Sportscenter Sportscenter Weekend (T)
7:10 Epl Saturday Premiership Saturday Preview(L)
7:55 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League
10:00 Epl Postshow Premiership Postgame (L)
10:30 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League
TEN SPORTS
9:00 Olympic Century: Part 1
9:30 Gillette World Sport
10:00 Football week UK
11:00 Trans World Sports
1:00 FA Cup 2004:Semi Finals (Arsenal v Man United)
3:00 India Tour of Pak: 5th ODI H/Ls
5:30 WI v Eng : 1st ODI H/Ls
6:30 Heat
7:30 Trans World Sports
11:00 WI v Eng : 2nd ODI