

RECOMMENDATIONS

Book launching

April 28
Academic Press and Publishers Limited (APPL) launches its book entitled *The Tale of the First Private University of Bangladesh: North South University* by Muslehuddin Ahmed at the Conference Hall of Presidency University of Bangladesh (House-11/A, Road-92, Gulshan-2, Dhaka) at 5 pm. Wahiduddin Mahmood will chair the programme while Justice Mustafa Kamal and Dr M Asaduzzaman will be present as the chief guest and special guest respectively.

May 02-03
The launching ceremony of the book *Surviving Dreams: the Struggling Circuses of Bangladesh* by Pierre Clauquin will be held at the Alliance Francaise (26, Mirpur road, Dhanmondi R/A) at 6:30 pm on May 2. The book will be launched again at the Tribal Craft (House-56, Road-7/A, Block-H, Banani) at 5:30 pm on May 3.

Exhibition

April 26-May 08
A 12-day long painting exhibition of five renowned contemporary artists will be held at Haque Art Gallery, Gulshan from April 26. Thirty five paintings on oil, tempera, acrylic and mixed media by Mahmudul Haque, Abdus Sakur Shah, Rokeya Sultana, Kanak Champa Chakma and Khalid Mahmood Mithu will be displayed in the 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.

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.

Film Show

May 2
The Embassy of the Republic of Korea holds a Korean Film Show on May 2 at 5:00pm at the Korean Embassy. Film Title: Reversal of Fortune
Cast: Kim Sung Woo, Ha-Jee Won
Date and Time: May 2, 5:00pm
Venue: Korean Embassy
4 Madani Avenue
Baridhara, Dhaka 1212

Tête-à-tête

Momotaj: The singer of the masses

ERSHAD KAMOL

MOMOTAJ Begum is a well-known name for music lovers both in the cities and rural areas. She claims the distinction of having released a record 600 music albums since 1992. The popular albums are *Return Ticket*, *Ashol Boithoki*, *Bhaab Boithoki*, *Murshider Talim* and *Ronger Bazar*. Explaining the success of her music, she says, "These albums have rich lyrics and a distinctive melody." She also has her favourite singles. "In every show I sing some common songs which are close to my heart. The songs are--*Rasul Ashechhe*, *Khaja Baba*, *Mayer Kandon*, *Mala Kar Lagia Gathi*, *Doyal Baba* and *Pankchar Hoiya Gele*."

Momotaj's success was hard won. Recalling the early struggles to popularise her audio album, she says that she released two albums without any remuneration from the

production house. "When those albums got popularity, the producer (who I would not like to mention) paid me Taka 2,000 for my next album on the condition that if the

Her philanthropic leanings have led to the establishment of an eye hospital in the village

album did not do well, I would have to repay the money," says Momotaj.

To the readers, it might seem incredible that in the beginning of her singing career Momotaj used to record two albums a day without any rehearsal. "In those days, the composers only provided me the lyrics and the music tracks of the

songs. And I had to record the song at one attempt. In my early days I used to record duets with popular *Bauls* like Lal Mia Boyati, Porosh Ali, Abul Shorkar and Ashim Baul, ' she reminisces.

Momotaj was introduced to music by her father Modhu Boyati. He used to take her along for stage programmes. Then she learned music from Matal Razzaque Dewan whom she considers as her mentor. On the stage she usually performs different types of mystic songs like *Boithoki*, *Pallapalli*, *Murshidi* and *Marfoti* which she had learned from her *Ustad* and her quality songs as well. Talking about her singing, she says, she enjoys singing mystic songs, *Bichheder Gaan* and folk songs which has the flavour of Sufism to some extent.

She has already visited all parts of Bangladesh and many parts of India, particularly the North Eastern states. She has also gone to USA, UK, Australia, Italy and so on with



government and non-government teams.

Despite her formidable success as a singer, Momotaj has not forgotten her roots in Shingair village in the Manikgonj district. Her philanthropic leanings have led to the establishment of an eye hospital in the village because as she says, "The poor rural people do not have the resources to come to the city for treatment." She, along with her husband, Romjan Ali Chairman, also supports many schools, colleges, mosques and madrasas in Manikgonj district.

Momotaj has won many awards such as the Bangladesh Cine Reporters Association Award(BACHSAS) and Dhaliud award among others. The public recognition of her talent should be an inspiration for the new singers venturing out into the music world.

Cultural meet

Bangladesh Festival 2004 in Sydney

An enthralled audience

REZAUL KARIM LOTUS,
back from Sydney

BDANGLADESHI singers, dancers and musicians succeeded in winning the hearts of Australians with their enthralling cultural performance in the recently held Bangladesh Festival 2004 in Sydney. The public at the three day-show comprised the Australians and hundreds of nationals from other countries. These people recently converged at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Darling Harbour to listen to Bangladeshi songs, watch the traditional dances as well as the performance of the music instrumentalists, like flute, *tabla*, *dhol* and harmonium.

Though the Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra failed to run a publicity campaign about the festival, a jam-packed auditorium was testimony to its popularity. A high point of the gathering of culture aficionados was the staging of colourful musical soirees by a 20-member Bangladesh cultural delegation.

The function was organised to promote Bangladeshi products. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs under the direct supervision of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organised the show. The Export Promotion Bureau Bangladesh (EPB), Bangladesh High Commission in Australia and State Chamber of Commerce of New South Wales jointly organised the festival. Bangladesh Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Australia's Federal Trade Minister Mark Vaile inaugurated the festival.

The festival began with a dance, based on famous Tagore song *Rangiya Diye Jao* (spatter us with a paint), which was followed by a seminar titled 'Trade and Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh'. Leading Australian businesspeople and business leaders from FBCCI, MCCI, DCCI and other trade bodies participated in the festival.

Bangladesh's leading singers Farida Parveen, Abida Sultana and Rafiqul Alam and young singer Luna Khandakar presented popular Bangla songs. Dr Fowaz



A group of dancers depict the joy of harvesting paddy in the village

Hussain Shuvo anchored the programme and translated the songs and dances into English for the foreign audience.

The dancers of the delegation -- Shafiqur Rahman, Farhana Chowdhury, Irin Parvin, Shahrina Bari Shinty, Shahadat Hossain and Masudul Amin Rintu presented one of the oldest forms of dance performed by the Manipuri tribe. They also presented Kathak, a mainstream classical dance of the subcontinent. They also presented the Snake Charmer Dance, which is a famous folk composition.

The group dances *Amar Majija Bhai* depicted the joy of harvesting paddy in the villages. Other dances presented were *Ami Banglay gaan gai* (I sing in Bangla), which is dedicated to the language martyrs. *Chalka*, a typical rhythmic folk song of the North Western part of Bangladesh, expresses the feelings of happiness. *Dream*, was a classical dance with modern music and outfits. *Bangladesher Dhol*, a dance based on rhythmic folk songs which reminds one of the best of the common village drum, the *Bangla Dhol*. In addition, there were there were performances of the Tea Garden Dance. The dances highlighted the rural and modern Bangladesh as well as its rich cultural heritage.

A four-member group of famous international model Bibi Russel's Fashion for Development also staged a superb fashion show at the festival.

Bangladesh came alive at the recently concluded festival in Sydney. The expatriate community look forward to more such cultural feasts.

Event

Musical soiree of Srijon

TO capture the interest of the culture enthusiasts, Srijon organised a musical soiree of the yesteryear songs on April 25, says a press release. The venue was the Bishwa Shahittya Kendra Auditorium and this function is held on the last Sunday of every month. Both prominent and upcoming artistes take part in these performances of Srijon, a cultural organisation.

On their recent programme, renowned music personality and singer Begum Mahbuba Rahman was a chief guest while popular singers Ferdous Ara and Khurshid

Alam were special guests. Khondokar Moqubla Sayeed, Avi Mostafiz, Suman Bappi, Farzana Bobby, Tanveer Tamal and Rumana Islam performed several popular tunes of Rabindranath and Nazrul as well as some modern and folk songs. *More Robe Kina Robe*, *Shey Chole Geche Bole*, *Nithur Bondhure*, *Ki Ashay Bandhi Khelaghor*, *Ganga Sindhu Narmada*, *Bandi Pakhir Moto Monta* were some of the beautiful tunes of the evening, rendered by the artistes.

Clearly Srijon is an organisation to watch out for on the culture scene of Bangladesh.



Artistes from Srijon, a cultural organisation

Dancers presenting a folk composition

Fund raiser

Afzalur Rahman

Talent in the face of visual impairment

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

AFZALUR Rahman is one of the few *sarod*-players in Bangladesh. He is a direct student of the renowned musician Ustad Ayet Ali Khan, younger brother of Ustad Alauddin Khan. His family members--his wife and two daughters--have also taken lessons on *sarod* from him. He is visually impaired from his childhood. But his love and passion for music is so pure that he names his younger daughter Tungtang, the Bangla onomatopoeic representation of the sound of the piano. Music Vision, a group of young



The septuagenarian musician, his two daughters--Mahua Rahman Ruba and Antara Rahman Tungtang--will play at the function

enthusiasts, plan to honour Ustad Afzalur Rahman on April 28 at the National Museum auditorium. The group will confer its Ustad Barin Majumdar Honour on the *sarod*-

artiste at a programme titled *Gaaner Shangshar*.

Music Vision wishes to raise some funds for the financially strained family on the occasion.

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, 9:00am
News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Teletext of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATH 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, 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.
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

BTV

07:30 *Bangladesher Hridoy Hote*
09:00 Satellite Telecast
12:30 Health programme
01:05 Cartoon Show
01:30 *Shobar Jonno Shikhya*
02:05 *Computer Protidin*
03:05 *Shukhi Poribar*
03:30 Campus
04:05 Musical programme: *Sangeeta*
04:30 Open university
05:05 *Probash Mela*
05:30 *Mithoshkriya*
06:10 Nazrul song show: *Sandhya Maloty*
06:35 Telecast from Chittagong Quiz show
07:05 The Three Stooges
07:30 Drama Serial: *Sonar Horin*
08:30 Drama Serial
09:00 Drama Serial: *Jale tahaar chaya*
09:30 *Katha Mala*
10:30
CHANNEL-i
09:45 *Tritiyo Matra*
12:00 *Chithi Pelam*
12:25 Live Programme: *Cybell Medha Bikash*
01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 *Sangbadpatrey* and public reaction
02:00 Film show: *Ghat Protighat* (Shabana, Jashim)
05:00 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
05:45 i Sports
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 Special Programme
07:50 Close up Juke box
08:25 Drama Serial: *Sharey Tin Tala*
09:35 Drama Serial: *Anekey Eka*

ntv

Drama Serial: *Bhoy*
08:00 *Aajker Shokal*
08:30 *Gaaner Mala*
09:00 *Khoboror Shondhane*
09:30 *Ei Shomoy*
10:02 Hello Music
10:30 *Ekhaney Amaar Desh*
11:00 Drama Serial: *Kichu Chhoto Boro Dirghoshash Priyo Mukh Sangeeta*
11:30 Drama
12:02 *Tiffiner Faake*
03:05 *Mega Serial: Teen Purush*
03:40 Band Music
04:15 Drama Serial: *Obosheshe Propat*
05:10 Game Show: *Ke Korbe Bajimat*
05:40 *Apnar Jigyasha*
06:20 *Shubho Shondhyia*
06:50 *Frankly Speaking*
08:10 Drama Serial: *Chanpa Dangar Bou*
08:50 *Tara Tara*
09:40 Drama: *Shongshoy Dindarpan*
11:20
ATN BANGLA
10:15 Talk Show: *Annodristee*
10:50 The Adventure of Sinbad
11:25 Drama Serial: *Mohona*
12:40 Bangla Feature Film: *Biday*
03:45 *Uro Cola Saat Rang*
04:20 Talk Show: *Samosamoyik Amar Computer*
05:15 *Islami Sawal O Jawab*
06:25 *Annyodristi*
8:00 Drama Serial: *Nei Kono Thikana*
8:30 Drama Serial: *Chirokumar Shabha*

PICK OF THE DAY

Friends
On Star World at 7:30 pm
TV Series: Comedy
Jennifer Aniston, Courtney Cox, Lisa Kudro

Probash Mela
On BTV at 5:05 pm
Magazine programme on Bangladeshi expatriates
Hosted by Mamun Imtiaz

The Juror
On Star Movies at 7:00 pm
Genre: Drama / Thriller
Demi Moore, Alec Baldwin, Joseph Gordon-Levitt

9:00 Musical Programme 09:30 <i>Ek Dul Teen</i> 10:35 Special Programme 12:20 Bangla Feature Film: <i>Dangabaa</i>	12:00 Hoi Hulod 9:45 Save the Last Dance 12:00 Gossip 1:45 The Man Who Wasn't There 4:00 Point of Origin 5:45 Trojan War 7:30 Mortal Kombat 9:30 Pay It Forward 12:00 Ballistic: Ecks Vs. Sever 2:00 Frequency MGM 9:00 Everyone Says I Love You 11:30 Diabolique 2:00 Tuff Turf 4:30 The Cider House Rules 7:00 Tollbooth 9:30 Zee MGM Select	11:30 The Real Blonde (Mathew Modine, Catherine Keener) STAR MOVIES 10:15 Behind Enemy Lines 12:00 Commandments 1:30 What's Eating Gilbert Grape 3:30 Women Vs. Men 5:00 The Princess Dianas 7:00 The Juror 9:00 Sweet Home Alabama 10:45 Black Moon Rising 12:20 What's Eating Gilbert Grape STAR GOLD 9:00 Khilona 12:30 Ghar Ho To Aisa 4:30 Sanyasi Mera Naam 8:00 Without Ticket 8:30 Hum Hai Bemisaal	STAR PLUS 1:30 Kumkum- Pyara Sa Bandhan 2:00 Kabhi Aaye Na Judai 2:30 Karvaachauth - Ek Pati Rakhash 3:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 4:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii 4:30 Kahini To Hoga 5:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz 5:30 Mac Gyver 2:30 Oprah Winfrey 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 American Idol 9:00 The Drew Carey Show 9:30 Wild Card 10:30 Law & Order: SvU 11:30 Baywatch
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10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Kahini To Hoga 12:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz	3:30 Blooded Playpus : World's Strangest Animal 4:30 Ultimate Guide To The Awesome Extreme Weather 5:30 Globe Trekker Moscow, St. Petersburg and Мурманск 6:30 Speed Greatest Motorcycles 7:30 Crocodiles and Alligators : The Ultimate Predators 8:30 Science Frontiers 9:30 Breaking Nature's Rules 10:30 Space Universe Savage Sun 10:30 Junkyard Wars 11:00 Visionless Valet 11:30 Spy Fi	10:30 Sportsline (R) 11:00 Classic's Big Fights Boxing Hour Ross-McLarin: The Trilogy(T) Kiana's Flex Appeal (T) ESPN 7:00 Sportscenter Asia (R) 7:30 Espn School Quiz 2004 (R) 8:00 Samsung Cricket Show (R) 8:30 English Premier League Highlights (R) 9:30 Lpga Golf Championship Ca Usa First Round(T) 11:30 Espn School Quiz 2004 (R) 12:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Vs Sri Lanka 3rd ODI Highlights(R) 1:20 Sri Lanka Tour Of Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Vs Sri Lanka 4th ODI (L) 9:00 Sportscenter India (R) 9:30 Football Focus (S) 10:30 Harsha Online Merv Hughes(T) 11:30 Sportscenter India (R) 12:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Vs Sri Lanka 4th ODI Highlights(S) TEN SPORTS 11:00 WI v Eng : 3rd ODI H/Ls 11:30 ATP Tennis 12:00 Gamer TV 12:30 Gillette World Sports 2:30 WI v Eng : 2nd ODI H/Ls 3:00 MUTV 5:00 MUTV: The Match:Man United v Liverpool 5:30 MUTV 7:30 Smackdown 8:00 Gamer TV 8:00 ATP Tennis 11:00 WI v Eng : 2nd ODI H/Ls
STAR WORLD 1:30 Mac Gyver 2:30 Oprah Winfrey 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 American Idol 9:00 The Drew Carey Show 9:30 Wild Card 10:30 Law & Order: SvU 11:30 Baywatch	3:30 4:30 5:30 6:30 7:30 8:30 9:30 10:30 11:30 STAR SPORTS 12:00 The Golf Club 2004 (R) 12:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04 (R) 2:30 Rugby 7's Irb Sevens 2003/04 Singapore Highlights(T) 3:00 Asian Windsurfing Tour 2003/2004 Bintan Indonesia Highlights(T) 3:30 Cricket Gold (R) 6:00 Samsung Superskills 7:00 Uefa Champions League Magazine Show (T) 7:30 World Superbike Championships 2004 San Marino Highlights(R) 8:00 Sportsline (R) 8:30 English Premier League Highlights (T) 9:30 Tennis Masters Series Monte-Carlo Monaco Highlights (T)	1:20 Sri Lanka Tour Of Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Vs Sri Lanka 3rd ODI Highlights(R) 1:20 Sri Lanka Tour Of Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Vs Sri Lanka 4th ODI (L) 9:00 Sportscenter India (R) 9:30 Football Focus (S) 10:30 Harsha Online Merv Hughes(T) 11:30 Sportscenter India (R) 12:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Vs Sri Lanka 4th ODI Highlights(S) TEN SPORTS 11:00 WI v Eng : 3rd ODI H/Ls 11:30 ATP Tennis 12:00 Gamer TV 12:30 Gillette World Sports 2:30 WI v Eng : 2nd ODI H/Ls 3:00 MUTV 5:00 MUTV: The Match:Man United v Liverpool 5:30 MUTV 7:30 Smackdown 8:00 Gamer TV 8:00 ATP Tennis 11:00 WI v Eng : 2nd ODI H/Ls