

CULTURAL FEAST

Birth Anniversary
Celebration of Abdul Aleem
 Organiser: Bangladesh Loko Sangeet Parishad
 Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendro
 Time: July 22 at 5pm

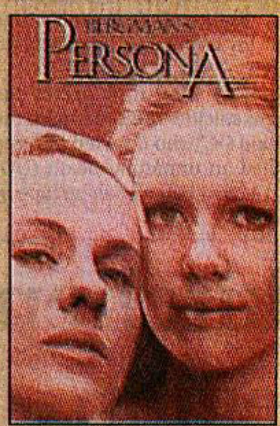
Exhibition
47th Solo Exhibition
 Artist: Jamal Ahmed
 Venue: Jama's Gallery, Husain Plaza, Dhanmondi 15 (New)
 Time: July 09-30, 11am to 08pm

Emono Ghanoghor Borishay
 Artist: Ferdousi Priyobhashini
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House-275/F, Road-27, Dhanmondi
 Time: July 10-24

5th Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Iflat Ara Dewan
 Venue: Shipangan, Road 5, House 25, Dhanmondi
 Time: July 23-August 01, From 10 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 9 pm.

Ingmar Bergman Retrospective
 Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society
 Event: Film show
 Venue: Alliance Francaise, Road 3, Dhanmondi
 July 21
 5pm: Hour of the Wolf (1968)
 7pm: Persona (1966)

Persona
 Film show



THEATRE FESTIVAL SCHEDULES (JULY 21-JULY 23)

July 21
 Play: Daybeddhyia
 Playwright: Chandan Sen
 Director: Aarham Alo
 Group: Bahubachan

July 22
 Play: Gandar
 Playwright: Eugine Ionesco
 Director: Shafigul Islam Emon
 Group: Prachyanut

July 23
 Play: Bhager Manush
 Playwright: Mannan Heera
 Director: Aly Zaker
 Group: Samay Shankskritik Goshhi

Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage at Shilpakala Academy; Time: 7 pm

Tickets are available at Sagar Publishers, Baily Road and at the venue before shows. Prices: Tk. 30, Tk. 50 and Tk. 100. Schedules, provided by BGTF, are subject to change without any prior notice.

Powerful portraits of women and children

Sheikh Afzal's solo at Saju Art Gallery

FAYZA HAQ

SHEIKH Afzal, in his recent exhibition at Saju Art Gallery, has used oil, acrylic and water colour. In the large works he has first applied an acrylic texture and then oil, while the water colours followed the traditional technique of the Japanese school, where he had studied. In the latter, Sheikh Afzal had taken themes from around him, as in the Sunderbans and Bandarban, but the style of presentation was Japanese. Here importance had been given to the focal point, which had been surrounded by empty space or simple masses of colours, standing for mountains or clouds in the distance. Even the lettering was done in the traditional Japanese way. As for figures, for Sheikh Afzal, children stand for innocence and hope, while women stand for beauty and joy. There are few Bangladeshi artists who have presented human figures with so much of care, sympathy and understanding.

Sheikh Afzal, in his recent works, has adhered to realism. Earlier he used to do abstraction and semi-abstraction, but returning from Japan in 1993, he combined abstraction with realism, bringing in a contemporary style to the delineation of figures and faces. There are currently only a few artists who adhere to realism, such as Rafiqun Nabi, Jamal Ahmed and Ranjit Das. His patrons remain foreigners and intellectual local art enthusiasts.



Intimacy, Mixed media

Sheikh Afzal has used a lot of brown and beige as well as blue in particular. 'The blue came into my work on its own. I didn't purposely put it there with some particular thought behind it.' In one of the large paintings is a woman surrounded by girls and children. Nature is also intertwined in a subtle way with the human figures. When he prepares the base, he gets forms, which he later

develops. 'You can find abstractions in the realism just as you come across abstract shapes in a painting such as Kibria's *Kakarua*. If you enlarge an object you're bound to find some abstraction in it, such as a fragment of a wall or trunks of trees. Thus in another painting are many studies of limbs of children, seen in movement. This lends an element of modernity.'

He first draws his figures with charcoal or pencil on a piece of paper from memory, keeping in mind that he will transfer it on to the canvas. When doing the actual work, he takes the help of live models, who are more often than not women from the slum areas.

When studying at the Art Institute in the 1970s, he had been guided by Rafiqun Nabi, Mahbulul Amin, Shahid Kabir and Abdur Basset. His teacher in Japan had been Professor Fumihiko Yamamoto. His contemporaries included Nisar Hussain, Wakiur Rahman (who now resides in Germany), and Saiful Haque Juisse, who still form a group of their own, and often sit together exchanging ideas.

Along with painting Sheikh Afzal does a lot of illustration for supplements of various Bangla newspapers.

He has taken part in over 15 solo exhibits in Japan, Italy, Bahrain and Dhaka. He has won various awards, including the UNI Group Award, 14th National Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, 2000.

Intellectual meet

NSU Debating Club launches its publication Dwitarka

ELITA KARIM

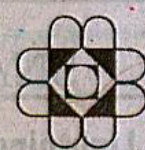
MARKING the end of the Inter University Debate Festival organised by North South University Debating Club (NSUDC), *Dwitarka*, a club publication was launched at the Biswa Shahitya Kendra on July 18. The chief guest, poet Rafiq Azad, inaugurated the ceremony. Proctor of North South University Professor Gulam Muhammad Quasem made the observation that even though NSU happens to be a private English medium institution, the Bangla culture will always prevail on campus. This will be reflected in the lifestyle of the students.

Dwitarka (which means bringing out the truth from within) is a magazine replete with write ups and articles on the Bangladesh culture by eminent writers, poets, artists and intellectuals of the country. The theme of the magazine, being *Bangla o Bangali*, captures the feelings and ideas of personalities such as Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Selina Hossain, Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Muhammed Jahangir, Maleka Begum, Dr. Deepak Kumar Biswas, Anisul Haque, Emdad Haque, Sohrab Hossain, Sanjeeb Chowdhury and many more. Various illustrations and cartoons gave the magazine a different shade all together, namely by Mustafa Monowar, Rafiqun Nabi, Ahsan Habib, Niaz Chowdhury Tuli and many more.



Dhaka Drama Festival 2004

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
 (June 17-July 23)



REVIEW

Bhuboner Ghat

Looking at stark reality

NATYAJAN staged *Bhuboner Ghat* on July 19 at the Experimental Theatre Stage as part of the drama festival arranged by BGTF. Dr Syed Manzurul Islam's play is about the daily life of the down trodden people of Dhaka city. The protagonist of the play is an underprivileged adult victim, a house-wife tortured by her husband.

Kalpna, the protagonist of the play, has migrated alone from a village. She struggles to re-establish herself in the cruel social structure of Dhaka. In this city, she faces new problems and has to routinely tell lies for her self-preservation.

The interesting part of the play *Bhuboner Ghat* is that it brings us face to face with an eternal question— who is a friend and who is not? Sometimes we come across many evil doers in the society who are unknown to us but they come forward to help us in times of need even at a time when relatives refuse to do so.

Some typical characters of Sadarghat area—like gangsters, pimps and prostitutes—are portrayed in Dr Islam's play. However, plot construction and dialogue are below par. Like his contemporaries, he has used the dialects of Noakhali and Barisal region to generate humour.

Director Munira Yousuf Memi has done her job successfully with a realistic approach. However, sometimes the pace of the play flags. Set designer Uttam Guho has used a replica of the front part of a ship at one



The play depicts the down trodden people

corner of the back stage to create a real picture of a busy Sadarghat area. Changing some stage crafts he has tried to create new sequences. However, a realistic set designing of a busy port is tough to recreate on the stage. He could have used suggestive settings.

The only negative part of the play is the poor light designing of Uttam Guho.

Chitralekha Guho did not suit the role of Kalpana. It is time she gracefully shifted to roles that match her age. Munni as Samana and Khaer as Taher performed well. Other performers need to improve their drama skills.

Munira Yousuf Memi

Actress turned director

After attaining vast experience in theatre, Munira Yousuf Memi is one of the few female theatre artists who has ventured into directorial work. A regular member of Natyajan, Memi said, 'My group members forced me to direct the play *Bhuboner Ghat*. It is an easy drama and that is why I have completed my task. But, I do not think that I am an expert in directing classics.'

'Because of the theatre hall crisis, we do not get slots to stage our plays regularly. As a result, we cannot give our plays a polished shape.' Memi added.

'As four major actors have left the group, we had to change the cast. That is why, we consider the show that has been staged at Dhaka



Drama Festival 2004 as the remaking of the play *Bhuboner Ghat*. In the upcoming shows we will try to give the play a more polished shape,' Memi added.

Talking about the drama festival, Memi appreciated Khaled Khan's direction in the play *Kalshondhyay*.

ERSHAD KAMOL

'I am not an entertainer' --Amjad Ali Khan

Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan has been chosen for the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize given by the northern Japanese city to honour the work done to preserve diverse cultures of Asia.

The sarod maestro is delighted at this recognition. 'It was like some cosmic power was urging me on... an award always comes as an encouragement, but if such an appreciation comes from a foreign country like Japan you feel satisfied,' he said.

The Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize is given every year in three different citations--the Grand Prize, the Academic Prize and the Art and Culture Prize.

This is the second time an Indian has been chosen for the Grand Prize. Sarod maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar was the first recipient in 1992.



Khan, who has also received the UNESCO Award, the Padma Vibhushan, UNICEF's National Ambassadorship, and Crystal Award, said that 'this was the highest award of his life'. Khan maintained that the future of Indian classical music, despite facing stiff competition from fusion music and remixes,

was hopeful. 'The entertainment world is different. Classical musicians and composers are not entertainers. Neither am I. I am just a humble representative of a long tradition. We have to surrender to God and show our belief in him through dedication and commitment. People who are not dedicated do not succeed,' he said.

The sarod maestro was chosen for the 15th edition of the prize for his efforts to broaden the appeal of Indian classical music across the globe. The award will be presented at a ceremony in Fukuoka City in September, where Khan will also give a sarod recital along with sons Ayaan and Amaan Ali Bangaash.

Source: Internet

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Zoolander
 On HBO at 9:30 pm
 Genre: Comedy
 Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Christine Taylor



Jog Biyoger Khela
 On ATN Bangla at 9:00pm
 Drama Serial
 Jitu Ahsan, Tazeen Ahmed, Srabonti

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

ATN BANGLA
 News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
 Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
 News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 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

CHANNEL-i

09:30	Shongbad Potrey	09:30	Drama Serial: New Files
09:45	Tribhoy Maatra	10:30	Face to Face Live
10:45	Sports Time	12:00	HBO
11:30	Close Up Juke Box	8:15	Big Fat Liar
12:00	Chhiti Pelam	10:00	28 Days
12:30	Aaj Dipurey	12:00	Curse of the Forty Niner
01:00	Ebong Cinemar Gaan	1:45	Miracle of The Cards
01:30	Sangbadpatrey Bangladesh	3:30	Patriot Games
02:00	Bangla feature film: Noro Pichash (Shaljana, Alamgir)	5:45	The Incredible Hulk
04:00	Banglar Gaan	7:45	The Big One Spy
04:30	Alakito Bangladesh	9:30	Kids-3 D: Game Over
05:00	Sa Ra Ga Ma	Zoosander	
05:35	Jonopoder Khobor	11:30	Tales From the Crypt: Undertaking Palor
05:45	Gaaneroparey	12:15	Batman Returns
06:10	Music Plus	2:45	Patriot Games
06:45	Gillette World Sports	8:00	Babe: Pig In The City
07:55	RC Travel On	9:45	Bull Durham
08:25	Drama Serial: Kichhu	11:30	Lambada
09:35	Drama: Din Choley Jay	1:15	Joy Luck Club The
10:00	Gumai Biti	3:30	The Wisdom Of Crocodiles
10:30	Talk Show: Anindrishhi	5:10	The Touch
11:15	Drama Serial: Pishachini	7:00	Dante's Peak
11:50	Drama Serial: Uro Cola Saat Rang	8:50	Air Strike
03:45	Shapla Shaluk	10:30	Bull Durham
05:10	Molamol	12:15	Hemoglobin
05:45	Islamee Sawal	12:30	HALLMARK
08:00	Gandhoraj Samsung Cine Aha	12:30	Bewitched
08:30	Drama Serial: Khowab	1:00	Mad About You
09:00	Drama Serial: Jog Biyoger Khela	1:30	Breaking Through
		3:00	Play With Me
		4:00	Sesame Street
		5:00	Bewitched
		5:30	The Guardian-Season II
		6:30	Mysterious Ways
		7:30	Defending Our Kids

9:05	Adoption Series Season 2	5:30	Anywy?
9:55	The Guardian-Season II	6:30	Miami Vice
10:45	Defending Our Kids	6:30	The Simpsons
12:30	Bewitched	7:00	Home Improvement
1:00	Zoosander	7:30	Friends
2:45	Mary & Tim	8:00	Just Shoot Me
9:30	Khauff	8:30	Chan-ed
1:00	Shera	9:30	The Practice
5:00	Yodha	10:30	N.Y.P.D. Blue
8:30	Major Saab	11:28	Star Asia Travel
11:30	The Bachelor	11:30	Baywatch
12:30	India's Child Genius	10:30	STAR PLUS
2:28	Star Asia Travel	1:00	Kasauti Zindagi Kay
2:30	Oprah Winfrey	1:30	Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
3:30	Bold And Beautiful	2:00	Bhabhi
4:30	Hollywood Squares	2:30	Keser
5:00	Whose Line Is It	3:00	Kabhi Aaye Na Judai
		3:30	Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
		4:00	Kahin To Hoga
		4:30	Kaashin Kissi Roz

5:00	Tedde Medhe Sapney	2:30	Case Studies In Forensic Science
6:00	Life Nahin Hai Ladoo	3:00	Bodies of Evidence
6:30	Fox Kids	3:30	Turtles: Life in a Shell
7:30	Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan	4:30	Operation Junkyard Cannon
8:00	Shaka Laka Boom Boom	5:00	Popular mechanics for Kids Greatest Hits
8:30	Dekho Mager Pyaar Se	5:30	Trail Blazers Tracking The Kalahari
9:00	Kasauti Zindagi Kay	6:30	Extreme Machines Supercars
9:30	Sanjivani - A Medical Boon	7:30	Strongest Today As Seen on TV
10:30	Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki	8:30	The Fastest, Tallest, Biggest Superstructures Boeing 747-400
11:00	Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	9:30	Cars Extreme Machines: Race Cars
11:30	Kahin To Hoga	10:30	Casino Diaries: The big Poker Game
12:00	Kaashin Kissi Roz	11:00	For Women only

11:30	Berman & Berman Sexual Fitness	10:00	Young Global Hot Shots	
11:30	Future Perfect Robosapiens	10:30	Spies That Fly	
		11:30	Seven Deadly Arts	
		2:00	2004 Chongqing China Iran Vs Thailand (S)	
			Asia Cup Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka 8th Odi Preview(L)	
			2:45	Asia Cup Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka 8th Odi 1st Session(L)
			6:15	Asia Cup Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka 8th Odi Lunchtime Show(L)
			7:00	Asia Cup Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka 8th Odi 2nd Session(L)
			8:30	Asia Cup Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka 8th Odi Highlights(S)
			9:00	Copa America: Semi Final 1
			1:30	Tour De France
			2:30	European Tour Weekly
			3:30	ATP Tennis
			5:30	Golf Highlights: The Barclays Scottish Open
			4:00	Road to Athens: Ep 5
			5:30	Copa America Hls Semi Finals 1
			6:30	Alter Burn
			9:30	Tour De France
			11:00	Copa America Hls Semi Finals 1
			12:00	Alter Burn

12:30	Reveals Mamba	9:30	Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka 7th ODI Preview(L)
1:30	In the wild Dolphins (Robin Williams)	10:00	Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka 7th ODI (L) Session(L)
2:30	Wild Encounters Great Hunts	5:30	Super Chevy Show Memphis TN Usa (R)
3:30	Pet Nation	6:30	Classic Boxing Max Schmeling: The Championship Years (R)
5:00	German Shorthaired Pointer	7:30	Football Focus Football Focus Extra Roy Evans Special Part 2(R)
6:00	Bouvier Des Flandres	8:00	Hitz (T)
6:30	Pet Nation	8:30	Sportscenter
7:30	Whale: Giant of the ocean	9:00	Sportscenter India (L)
8:30	Animal Planet Reveals Snakes	11:30	English Premier Football League Premiership
9:30	Animal Planet Reveals Sharks The Truth	12:00	Encore London England Tottenham Hotspur Vs Arsenal Fc
10:30	Fly or die	11:00	Motorsport Asia (R)
11:30	Leopard Agent of Darkness	11:30	Sportscenter
		12:30	National Geographic Special
		1:30	Cheating Death
		2:30	Extreme Latitude
		3:00	Young Global Hot Shots
		3:30	Sailing's Everest
		4:30	Seven Deadly Arts
		5:30	Africa From The Ground Up
		6:00	Sea Stories
		6:30	Dogs With Jobs
		7:00	Toyota World Of Wildlife
		7:30	Fairy Penguin
		8:30	Cheating Death
		9:30	Extreme Latitude