

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Exhibition

## Arts and crafts from Switzerland

**Organiser:** Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh  
**Venue:** Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh  
**Time:** July 30-August 10, from 10 am to 5 pm

## 5th Solo Painting Exhibition

**Artist:** Ifat Ara Dewan  
**Venue:** Shilpangan, Road 5, House 25, Dhanmondi  
**Time:** July 23-August 01, From 10 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 9 pm

## Abhijit 6th Solo Exhibition

**Venue:** Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
**Time:** July 30- August 15, From 9 am-4 pm, 5 pm-8 pm

## Books and Albums

## Exhibition

**Title:** Day of National Flag of the Russian Federation  
**Venue:** Library of the Russian Cultural Centre  
**Time:** August 01-22

## Solo Exhibition

**Artist:** Babul Ahmed  
**Venue:** Exhibition Hall of the Russian Cultural Centre  
**Time:** August 02-08

## Commemorating

## Lectures on Hiralal Sen

**Participants:** Mustafiz Monwar  
**Organiser:** Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies  
**Venue:** Biswa Shahitiya Kendra auditorium, 14, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
**Time:** July 31, at 6:00 pm

## Musical Soiree

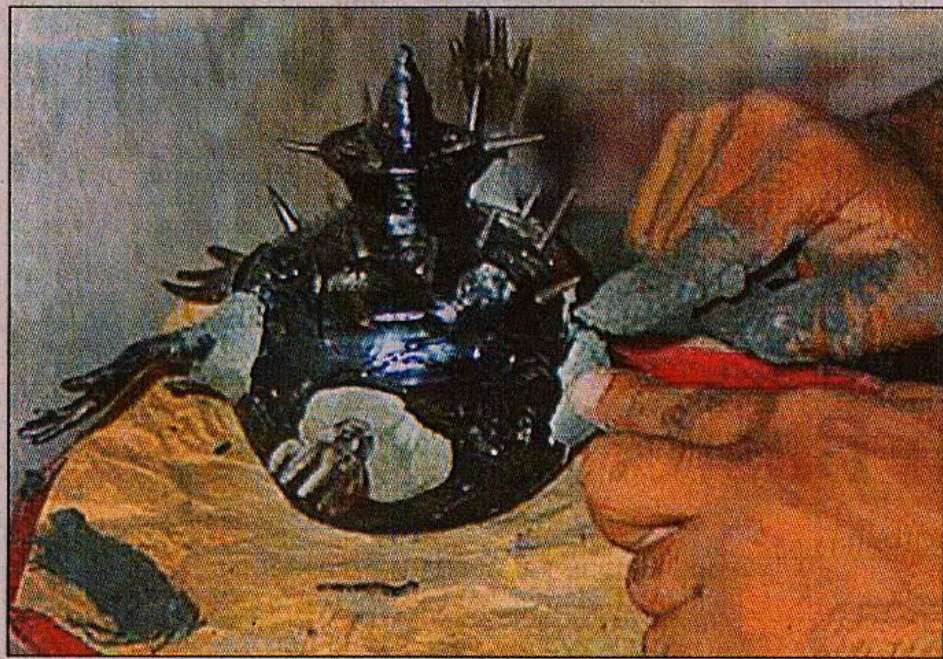
**Title:** Achin Pakhi  
**Performer:** Farida Parvin  
**Organiser:** Orchestra  
**Venue:** All Community Club, Gulshan 2, Dhaka  
**Time:** July 30, at 6:00 pm

## Bristi Nesha Bhora

## Shondhyabala

**Organiser:** Nandan, a cultural group  
**Venue:** Bangladesh YWCA Bhaban, 3/23, Iqbal Road, Muhammadpur  
**Time:** July 30, at 6:00 pm

## Dokra: Revival of a lost wax metal craft



A craftsman gives a final touch to a Dokra piece

AFSAR AHMED

NOMADIC tribes who roam the earth restlessly—what permanence do they leave us with, as a mark of their passage? The Dokra or Dhokra group of tribal craftsmen who range through the landscapes of West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh give us a timeless heritage of beautifully shaped and ornamented products of cast metals.

And that is what we called Dokra today. What makes Dokra unique is that no two pieces are alike. Deftly created by hand, the objects have an individualistic touch. Primarily made from brass scrap, the objects also have a core of clay preserved within the metal casting, unlike other metal work.

In Dokra life revolves around creating beautiful shapes out of alloys. The shapes range from the charmingly traditional to the elegantly modern. Usually made of brass, the objects have patterns that are geometric, with straight lines and curves forming simple and striking presentations such as through various kinds of images and figures of gods and goddesses, like Lakshmi, Lakshmi-Narayan, Siva-Parvati flanked by Ganesh and Kartik, and birds and animals like elephants, horses, owls and peacocks. Originally, these craftsmen were nomads, and the intrinsic beauty of Dokra also match the nomadic biography.

Britto Arts Trust— an artist-led organisation recently organised a workshop on heritage craft to promote its making process amongst the younger artists of the country. And for that they have brought a Dokra artisan Ramu Karmakar from Dariapur in Burdwan district. A total of 21 participants took part in the workshop. A similar workshop was organised in Chittagong as well.

Dokra reached its pinnacle of glory in the mid-

nineteenth century due to royal patronage. Starting from temple carving to religious idols to exquisite animal figures, the art form became very popular, recalls Ramu. The industry ebbed at the outset of the Second World War. After the war there arose a tremendous scarcity of raw materials as well as the patrons of this form of art. This led to the virtual extinction of the art, he added.

The making of Dokra is very interesting. Dokra system of metal casting is said to be oldest form of metal casting and is technically known as 'cire perdue' or lost wax process. The making is a very long process. After going through 8 to 9 steps the Dokra reveals with its own intrinsic character, says Ramu. Brass, wax, mustard oil, resin or dhuna or dhooop, clay and small furnace are needed to create Dokra.



The process of making a Dokra art from

The craftsman first shapes the item of production with clay mixed with sand and usually use the red clay. The model after it is fully dried is covered with a thin layer wax, over which thin resin strands are applied in definite patterns to create the ornamentation and to delineate the various features of the item.

The making of resin strands are very significant. The resin is first kneaded, beaten and then rolled into thin strands with mustard oil.

The wax covered object is then again covered thoroughly with a thick layer of clay, with a cup shaped opening on top. Into this cup shaped opening, pieces of brass are put and the whole thing is covered in clay to seal the metal in. Brass is usually bought second hand and cut into small pieces.

The next stage is to make an oven out of clay and put the whole covered object inside. When it is baked, the clay hardens, the wax melts and flows out of a hole conveniently placed in the bottom, the metal also melts and flows from the top to fill the empty space left by the wax. The casting is complete. The whole process is done under 1400-1500 degree centigrade and takes 6 to 7 days for cooling down properly. After the whole thing has cooled, the clay covering is broken open and the rough edges of the object are filed down.

It is unbreakable and may be polished with tamarind, a coir fibre or a soft cotton cloth dipped in Brasso, said Ramu.

During the workshop Ramu was quite tense as it was difficult to dry the products because of rain. 'Bangladeshi artists are really talented and they can pick up the craft very easily,' said Ramu.

In the past, before making bronze idols, the craftsman had to carefully study the verses from the *Shilpashastra*. The verses were called *dhyana* and instructed the craftsman on the physical measurements, proportions, description of the deity, characteristics, symbolism and above all, aesthetics. But those days are gone. Now these craftsmen are struggling to survive. That's why we hear a melancholy appeal from Ramu, 'This craft is now almost extinct as the artisans are not getting any patronage from the government.'

## Joyjatra: Tauquir behind the lens



Bipasha Hayat in Joyjatra

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Come December and Tauquir Ahmed's film titled *Joyjatra* (Journey to victory) will hit the silver screen. Though well known as an actor and playwright, this is his first directorial venture. After shooting in Bangladesh, the film crew is to shortly head for Chennai, India for editing and putting the final touches on the film.

Recalling his shooting experiences, Tauquir's says, 'I have a few keywords to describe the shooting of *Joyjatra*: hectic, nerve racking, and thrilling. The boat shooting is one of the toughest shooting experiences in the world.'

The story revolves around a happy village. The villagers' idyllic existence changes forever when the

military troops launch an attack, forcing them to flee their ancestral homes. The struggle begins from this point. The setting is April 1971 and the film is based on Amjad Hossain's novel *Obelay Osomay*.

With a plethora of Liberation War films already, is there a room for yet another cinematic venture on the theme? Tauquir gives an answer in the affirmative. 'The movie is different from other movies because it is authentic. The army costumes, vehicles and arms are original and appropriate. We have used the FT6 jet fighter planes and pictured some bombing sequences with explosives minus the splinters.'

Tauquir also terms the film as 'entertaining', since it has the elements of humour, tension, suspense and thrills. In his words, 'It is a different kind of entertainment movie but not the conventional type with songs and dances.'

The film also differs from the run-of-the-mill works in its use of state-of-the-art technology. The format is cinemascope and this is coupled with the superior Dolby sound system which make for a better film experience. There may also be other such films, according to Tauquir, as the Bangladesh Government is thinking of acquiring a cinemascope facility for the Film Development Corporation (FDC).

There was good teamwork in the course of shooting, says Tauquir. As examples he points to the rapport that developed between artists such as Abul Hayat, Humayun Faridee, Tarik Anam, Bipasha and Shams Suman. 'The crew comprises of some outstanding actors, many of them like my mentors. Often the stars, who were in one boat, needed delicate handling,' maintains Tauquir.



Tauquir in action behind the camera.

## Popular gono

## sangeet performer

## Fakir Alamgir holds

## the National Flag

## while rendering a

## number during the

## Bangladesh fair in

## New York. The fair

## was organised

## recently by Jackson

## Heights Bangladesh

## Business

## Association. Apart

## from Alamgir, SD

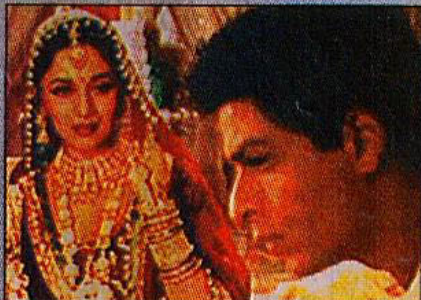
## Rubel and Rizia

## Parvin also attended

## the event.



## Shah to release English version of Devdaas



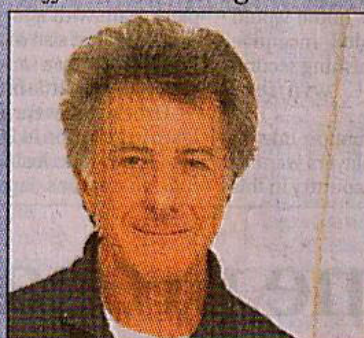
Producer and film financier Bharat Shah is planning to release the English version of Sanjay Leela Bhansali-directed *Devdaas*.

There is a strong buzz that Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai and Madhuri Dixit starrer *Devdaas* might be released at Indian metros in the dubbed English version.

Bharat Shah claims that he has already made two English versions of the film—of 2 hours and 3 hours' duration—and in the coming days he plans to release the English version.

Shah says the idea to release the English version is to target the film at the multiplexes in Mumbai and other metros.

## Hoffman aids sting victim



Although he once played the reluctant 'Hero' in a movie of the same name, Dustin Hoffman wasted no time rushing to the aid of an allergic bee sting victim.

The Oscar-winning actor's real-life heroics occurred two weeks ago when a woman walking on the beach with friends was stung by a bee near Hoffman's home in Malibu.

Lydia Graham began having an allergic reaction and a friend rushed to get help from the beach patrol and people nearby. 'I could feel my eyes starting to sting and swell and my lips starting to swell up as

well,' Graham said Tuesday on CBS *The Early Show*.

Hoffman and his wife, Lisa, were on deck chairs outside their home when they heard what happened. Hoffman's wife, who is also allergic to bee stings, retrieved an emergency injection kit from their home and the two rushed to the woozy Graham's aid.

After she began to recover, they invited her to their deck to rest.

Graham, 36, said that as her throat was closing up, she recognized a familiar face or, the sand with her.

'I did recognize that it was Dustin Hoffman but I was sure that... I could possibly die' Graham said.

## Rani to play a Pak activist!



Guess what Rani Mukherjee is playing in Yash Chopra's next untitled film—a Pakistani human rights activist.

If the buzz is to be believed, Rani's role in Chopra's movie is based on Pakistani human rights activist and well-known lawyer Asma Jahangir.

The movie will be a multi-starrer with Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta and Manoj Bajpai in lead roles apart from Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini in guest appearances.

The movie explores the trauma of Indo-Pak partition through a touching love story.

Source: Internet

## 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) at 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.

## 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.

## TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 7:30 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 Trityo Matra  
 10:30 Live Show: Tele Shomoy  
 11:30 Islam Ki Boley  
 12:00 Talk Show: Kore Alaap  
 12:30 Drama Serial: Sharey Teen Tale  
 01:00 Banglar Gaan  
 01:30 Shagbapdiprey Bangladesh and Public opinion  
 02:00 Trityo Matray Apni  
 02:30 Drama Serial: Chhoto Chhoto Asha  
 03:30 Shottor Shandharney Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan  
 04:30 Sa Re Ga Ma Shamoyiki  
 05:10 Music Plus  
 05:45 Shurer Chhanda  
 06:45 Weekly Drama: Jibon Kahini  
 09:35 Drama Serial: Din Choley Jay  
 10:00 Drama: Ahanish Bhalobashe Ekjon  
 08:00 Aajker Shakal Jhanaker  
 08:30 Ain O Jibon  
 09:30 Museum Around the World  
 10:05 Siddika Kabir's Recipe  
 10:30 Apnar Jigyasha  
 11:30 Trans World Sports  
 01:00 Smriti Jantalya  
 02:30 Drama  
 03:45 Circus  
 05:20 Tiffinier Fankey  
 06:20 Shubho Shondhya  
 08:10 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush  
 08:50 Pepsi Music Express  
 09:40 Drama Serial: Galpokathal Nalok

## 11:25 Dinderpan

## HBO

9:45 The Assassination File  
 12:00 Undercover Brother  
 1:45 Tempted  
 3:30 Darkman  
 5:30 True Blue  
 7:30 Hard Target  
 9:30 The Forsaken  
 11:15 Tales From The Crypt  
 12:00 Valentine  
 2:00 The Incredible Hulk  
 8:30 Great Balls Of Fire  
 11:15 Hart's War  
 12:30 Hitlers  
 2:00 Newsies  
 4:00 Baby's Day Out  
 5:35 Running Free  
 7:00 Banger Sisters The  
 8:40 Babe: Pig In The City

## STAR MOVIES

8:30 Great Balls Of Fire  
 11:15 Hart's War  
 12:30 Hitlers  
 2:00 Newsies  
 4:00 Baby's Day Out  
 5:35 Running Free  
 7:00 Banger Sisters The  
 8:40 Babe: Pig In The City

## HALLMARK

8:30 Sesame Street  
 9:30 Crown Heights  
 11:30 Sue Thomas : F B Eye  
 12:30 Bewitched  
 1:00 Mad About You  
 1:30 Shattered City  
 3:30 Play With Me Sesame  
 4:00 Sesame Street  
 5:00 Bewitched  
 5:30 The Guardian-Season II  
 6:30 Sue Thomas : F B Eye  
 7:30 Rebus : Mortal Causes  
 9:15 The District  
 9:55 The Guardian Season II  
 10:45 Rebus : Mortal Causes  
 12:30 Bewitched  
 1:00 The Great Outdoors

## STAR GOLD

8:30 Starloons Countdown  
 9:00 Hit Filmeln Hit  
 9:30 Sangeet  
 10:30 Hogi Pyar Ki Jeet  
 1:00 Dil Aashna Hai  
 1:30 Hit Filmeln Hit  
 5:00 Sangeet  
 5:30 Life Nahin Hai Ladoo  
 6:30 Fox Kids  
 7:30 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi  
 8:00 Sonpari  
 8:30 Hatim  
 9:00 Shararat - Thoda  
 10:00 Jaadu Todi Na  
 10:30 Sssshhh...Koi Hai...  
 11:00 Darr  
 11:30 Aatish

## STAR PLUS

11:00 Smriti  
 11:30 Life Nahin Hai Ladoo  
 12:00 Tanha  
 12:30 Hit Filmeln Hit  
 1:00 Sangeet- 20 M  
 1:30 Kabhiekbhiebheme-ghameinbhucha  
 1:30 Chalti Ka Naam Anilashini

## 2:30

Ghanwali Upawali Aur Sunny  
 Hit Filmeln Hit  
 Sangeet  
 Ek Mullaqat  
 Smriti  
 Pardey Ke Peechey  
 Hit Filmeln Hit  
 Sangeet  
 Life Nahin Hai Ladoo  
 Fox Kids  
 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi  
 Sonpari  
 Hatim  
 Shararat - Thoda  
 Jaadu Todi Na  
 Sssshhh...Koi Hai...  
 Darr  
 Aatish

## 3:30

Slayer  
 Angel  
 Mac Gyver  
 Star Asia Travel  
 Oprah Winfrey  
 Bold And Beautiful  
 Hollywood Squares  
 Whose Line Is It Anyway  
 Miami Vice  
 The Simpsons  
 Home Improvement  
 Friends  
 Just Shoot Me  
 Tna Wrestling  
 I Dare You  
 Nash Bridges  
 Star Asia Travel  
 Baywatch

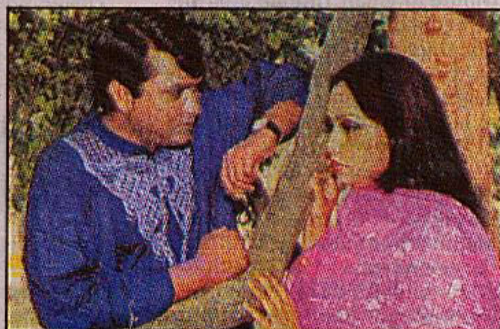
## DISCOVERY

For Women Only  
 Bertram & Bertram  
 Fidelity

## STAR WORLD

Race To The Altar  
 Buffy The Vampire

## PICK OF THE DAY



**Chhoto Chhoto Asha**  
 On Channel i at 2:30 pm  
 Drama Serial  
 Azizul Hakim, Chumki, Litu Anam



**The Banger Sisters**  
 On Star Movies at 7:00 pm  
 Genre: Comedy / Drama  
 Goldie Hawn, Susan Sarandon, Geoffrey Rush

## the World The

## Forbidden Zone

## Wild Discovery Predator

## Bay

## Friday Spotlight Past

## Lives...Stories of

## Reincarnation

## Friday Spotlight

## Understanding

## Paranormal

## Prosecutors Every

## Parent's Nightmare

## World's Best Kept

## Secrets of ... Money

## ANIMAL PLANET

## The Protectors Freeway

## Gator

## Nightmares of nature

## Animal X New England

## Sea Serpent

## Wild Encounters The

## Magic of Dolphins

## Pet Nation The Quick

## and The Dead

## Pet Nation The Bon

## Appetite Episode

## Pet Nation Labradors

## Highlights(T)

## Pet Nation Greyhounds

## Chimpanzee Diary

## Around the world with

## Tippi

## The Protectors K9

## Active Duty

## The Protectors Three

## not so little pigs

## Wild Encounters Talking

## with Animals Open

## Worlds

## Chimpanzee Diary

## Around the World with

## Tippi

## NATIONAL

## Geographic

## ESPAN

## Indian Oil Asia Cup

## 2004 12th Odi 2nd

## 1:30

## Built For Destruction

## Frontlines Of

## Construction

## Secret Life Of The

## Crash Test Dummy The

## Shape Of Life

## Africa From The Ground

## Up

## Sea Stories

## Dogs With Jobs

## Toyota World Of Wildlife

## Guardians Of Eden

## Built For Destruction

## Frontlines Of

## Construction

## Raising The Hunley

## Evolution

## STAR SPORTS

## Asian Cup 2004 Oman

## Vs Thailand (R)

## Motogp World