

CULTURAL FEAS



**Art Exhibition**  
**Title:** Cosmic Journey  
**Artist:** Ali Imam  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
**Time:** February 09-22, from 12pm to 8pm

**Ceramics Exhibition**  
**Title:** Twelve Hundred Degree Celsius Plus  
**Organiser:** Clay Image  
**Venue:** Gallery Kaya  
**Time:** February 11-24, from 11am to 8pm

**Solo Concert**  
**Artists:** Meeta Pandit and Allie Delfau  
**Organiser:** Alliance Francaise  
**Venue:** Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi  
**Time:** February 19, at 7pm

**Play**  
**Title:** Strir Potro  
**Group:** Jionkathi  
**Performer:** Ferdousi Abedin Lina  
**Direction:** Kamaluddin Kabir  
**Venue:** Nat.Mandal, Dhaka University  
**Date:** February 11, at 6:30pm

Shammilito Sangskritik Jote Programme

A call for unity

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With the modern pursuit for a greater meaning of life, several questions crop up: How deeply do we care about our common future? How do we actually make a positive difference? These were the few questions that rose in the minds of the organisers, performers and the audience at the Shaheed Minar premises on the second day of the 11-day long programme organised by Shammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) to commemorate the martyrs of the 1952 Language Movement. The programme was, as usual, interspersed with songs, dances, recitations, street plays and other cultural shows. However, the highlight of the programme was a call to lend support to aspiring singer Purabi Ray, who is suffering



A dance presentation by Bhorer Pakhi

Ekushey Book Fair

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

THE annual Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2005 (Ekushey Boimela) is on at the Bangla Academy premises.

Easel Prokashon has published a unique poster featuring the Martyrs of Ekushey. Usually, posters of Amar Ekushey feature Shaheed Shafiur Rahman, Shaheed Rafiq Uddin Ahmed, Shaheed Abdul Jabbar and Shaheed Abul Barkat. However, for the first time Shaheed Abdus Salam's portrait has also been included. Murad at Easel Prokashon's stall is proud that it could pay rich tributes to the Martyrs by printing the poster.

Some of the books that have been published for the fair are *Despots in Short* by Alamgir Mohiuddin, *Onnodaan* by Pabitra Biswas, *Ajeebon Boshonto* by Nashid Kamal and *Kishore Golpo Shomogro* by Sarwar Ul Islam. Anyaprokash has so far brought out 17 out of the 50 books targeted for this year's fair.

Most of the publishers agree that the sales are not satisfactory yet, because most people at the fair are just browsing at this moment. The



Agami Prokashoni pays tribute to the late Dr Humayun Azad



A poster featuring the language Martyrs

actual sales would begin after February 15, they said.

However, some changes have been made in the setting of the book fair. One conspicuous feature is the enforcement of stringent security precautions. At the entrance itself, members of Rapid Action Battalion and police frisk visitors and see them through metal detectors.

Ruma, a student of Eden College, fumed at her purse being searched. "I feel like a criminal"-she grumbled. However, not everyone detested this change in the tradition of the Ekushey book fair. Chondon Khan, working at the Nowroz Publication stall, felt that after the last year's incident, the tightened safety measures is a welcome change. Faisal Khan, a father of two toddlers, expressed his content-

ment at the current setting of the fair. "No unpleasant incident has taken place yet and I feel safe to bring my family to the fair," he said.

Jalal Ahmed, deputy director of Bangla Academy, explained that Ekushey Book Fair is a public affair, it has been such ever since he can remember. "The fair has always been the cradle of political activities, civil protests and campaigns against any disagreeable actions and discourse on public issues. So, it is assumable that the public would not be exultant about the current arrangements," he said. What really triggered this change in tradition? Most agreed that last year's unfortunate event of Dr Humayun Azad's being heinously attacked at the book fair has made it necessary for the authorities to intensify the safety measures.

Shobha's legacy continues...

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Padma Bhushan Shobha Gurtu, the undisputed queen of *thumri* captivated millions of fans worldwide. After having mastered the domain of *thumri* and *dadra* for five decades, this legendary artiste passed away on September 27, 2004.

Samina De (Urmii) is one of Shobha Gurtu's dedicated disciples. She bestowed upon Samina the rich wealth of her knowledge and experience.

As a mark of her devotion to the memory of her deceased guru and to commemorate her first birth anniversary after death, Samina performed a memorial concert for Shobha Gurtu at the German Cultural Center, Dhaka, recently. This special *thumri* evening was brought to the *thumri* aficionados courtesy Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. Samina's technique was appreciated by the audience.

Samina launched into her performance with a rendition of Rabindra Sangeet—*Amar matha noto korey dao hey*. Samina believes that Tagore's verses are applicable to all moods. Madan Lal Sisodia from Delhi was on the tabla and Suneel Das complemented the performance on the violin. Samina has a unique way of captivating an audience. In between her songs, she shared glimpses of history and some very personal stories regarding the songs she rendered and her 'Guru' or 'Guru Ma', Shobha Gurtu as Samina addressed her.

Before she progressed to *thumris*, she did a *bandish* on raga *Eman*. According to her Guru Ma, "If *thumri* is the cream, then classical music or raga is the milk and one has to sim-



Samina De (L) with late Shobha Gurtu

mer the milk well to obtain pure cream." *Thumri* is meant to entertain. Samina elaborated that *thumri* is mainly of two kinds *Bol Banao* which has a slow tempo and *Bol Baat*, compositions with faster rhythm. The latter form was the norm amongst the exponents of classical dancers who used to perform *mujras*, and they kept this culture of *thumri* alive. A brilliant *dadra Mora saiyyan khabariyana* followed.

Samina continued with a very eminent Begum Akhter composition *Chha rahi kaali ghata*. Samina also did renditions of *Jhula* which celebrates the festival of Teej in Rajasthan, *Saawan ke ritu aayo re*, a *bhajan* composed by Shobha Gurtu *Maaro pranaam and Koyeliya mat karo pukaar*. Samina ended with

raga *Bhairavi* where she gave a moving rendition of *Turnhaare yaad aansu ban kay aayi* as a tribute to her Guru Ma.

Samina De, a regular classical singer of All India Radio and Doordarshan, is a former student of Chhayanaud. Seeking to upgrade her musical skills, she moved to India in 1982. Her passion for *thumri* was insatiated till she acquired the Indian classical legend, Shobha Gurtu, as her *thumri* guru. From 1997 onwards till Shobha's demise, Samina remained as one of her true devotees.



Nagorik Natyangan Drama Festival 2005



Preview

Tagore's work comes to the stage

ERSHAD KAMOL

There are numerous stage adaptations of Tagore's literary works. Recently Shekhor Samaddar has dramatised Rabindranath Tagore's novel *Chaar Adhyay*. Through the love story of a young duo Mili and Atin, *Chaar Adhyay* presents the anti-British movement of the freedom fighters. The play dwells on the theme of freedom whether it should be attained through violence or through *Ahingshabad* (non-violence movement). Tagore was a votary of the latter course.

The central characters of the play believe that the independence of the subcontinent should come through non-violent approach, however, they face strong opposition from the other freedom fighters who believe in the armed movement.

Badal Das is the light designer while Ajit Roy is the set designer of



A scene from the play Chaar Adhyay

the play, which is directed by Shekhor Samaddar. Ahash stages *Chaar Adhyay* at National Theatre Stage today as part of the ongoing drama festival arranged by Nagorik Natyangan.



Udichi drama festival begins today

February is a busy time in the city's cultural calendar. Every year cultural organisations arrange events commemorating the month of our Language Movement. Udichi Central Drama Section offers a feast to theatre-goers.

The theatre troupe has arranged a six-day long drama festival at Mahila Samity Stage, which begins today. Other participants in the festival are Aranyak Natyadal, Prachyanat and Padatik Natyashongshod.

Veteran theatre personality Mamtajuuddin Ahmed inaugurates the drama festival. Liaquat Ali Lucky, the general Secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTFF) is the chief guest while Jatun Sarkar will chair the opening programme. In addition, Probir Sardar will deliver the welcome speech, while Mahmud Selim will deliver a speech.

After the Dhaka Drama Festival-2004, arranged by BGTFF in June last, drama festivals have centred at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. All the drama festivals from June 2004 onwards have taken place either at the Experimental Theatre Stage or the newly opened National Theatre Stage at Shilpakala. However, theatre groups are simultaneously staging their regular shows at Mahila Samity Stage, the most popular theatre venue of Bangladesh. After a long gap, Udichi has arranged a drama festival at the well-reputed theatre venue.

Probir Sardar, Assistant General Secretary of Udichi Central Commit-

tee as well as the Publicity Secretary of BGTFF, said, "In this festival we will stage *Bou Boshonti*, *The Freedom of the City* and *ChileKothar Sipai*. Moreover, Aranyak, Prachyanat and Padatik will stage *Shonkranti*, *Circus Circus* and *Jobalika* respectively. We invited many popular plays for the festival and included those which suit our schedule."

Established in 1968, Udichi staged its first stage-play in 1978. From then onwards it has emerged as a popular name in Bangladeshi theatre. Earlier, another festival was arranged four years back. This festival runs from February 11 to 16.

Keanu Reeves battles evil again in Constantine

REUTERS

Keanu Reeves just wants to do good. For the 40-year-old actor, who plays a demon-fighting supernatural detective in his latest movie *Constantine*, a film must end with a positive transformation or redemption to grip his interest.

And, frankly that is something you might expect from an actor best known as humanity's saviour in "The Matrix" series to say.

"I don't want to go to a movie and not have something that I can come away with to think about or that adds up to something," says Reeves, best known as humanity's saviour in *The Matrix*.

Helped by the use of ground-breaking special effects, the futuristic *Matrix* trilogy grossed over US \$1.6 billion in world-wide ticket sales, making it one of the most successful franchises in cinematic history.

The trilogy, whose last film was released in 2003, sapped Reeves' time and energy and might have convinced audiences that he was only a Messiah-like action hero.

He insisted that *Constantine*, which opens on February 18, had nothing to do with The Matrix. Its superhero fights demons from hell, instead of machines as in *The Matrix*.



TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTB

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

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
Telecast of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 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.  
Telecast of BTB 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 Bangladeshi (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL-i

09:45 Tiritiyo Matra  
10:30 Grameen Phone Tele Shomoy  
12:00 Kora Aalap  
12:30 Islamic Programme  
01:00 Banglar Gaan  
01:30 Public Reaction  
02:30 Tiritiyo Matrai Apni  
04:20 Boimela Protidin (Live)  
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma  
05:15 Janopader Khabor  
05:30 Shamoyiki  
06:00 Music Plus  
06:30 Music Net  
07:50 Drama of the Week: Shanghar

09:35 Drama Serial: 69  
10:00 Close Up Juke Box  
11:05 ATN BANGLA

10:30 Annodrishtee  
11:05 Friday's Islamic Programme  
03:30 Binodon Jummabbar  
05:10 Shesh Akkhar  
06:20 Aamra Korbo Joy  
08:00 Rup Madhuri  
08:30 Drama Serial: Khowab  
09:00 Drama Serial: Lal

09:30 Neel Beguni  
10:00 Drama Serial: Ek Janome  
10:35 Cine Aha  
12:20 Shusthya Thakun  
01:30 Television Audience Forum's Programme

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08:00 Aajker Shakal  
08:30 Drama Serial: Urey Jay Bak Pakkhi  
09:30 AIDS Programme  
10:30 Appar Jigyasha  
11:30 Trans World Sports  
01:05 Mahilagan

02:35 Drama: Gontobyasthal  
03:45 Millenium  
05:15 Ithasher Ei Diney  
05:20 Tiffner Phakey  
06:20 Shubho Shondhya  
06:50 Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri  
08:30 Drama Serial: Urey Jay Bak Pakkhi  
08:50 Pepsi Music Express  
09:40 Drama: Tinti Shondhya Ekti Shokal Dindarpan  
11:25 HBO

6:30 Breast Men  
8:15 Blood Crime  
10:00 Exquisite Tenderness  
12:00 The Master of Disguise  
1:45 Genuine Risk  
3:30 Tomcats  
5:30 Juwanna Mann  
7:30 Eight Legged Freaks  
9:30 Rollerball  
11:30 Showdown in Little Tokyo  
1:00 The Witches of Eastwick  
3:15 The Master of Disguise  
Tomcats

5:00 STAR MOVIES  
8:15 Hildegarde  
9:40 Af's 100 Years...100 Movies  
10:30 Johnny English  
12:00 Hollywood Wives  
1:30 Hackers  
3:15 She's The One  
5:50 Starship Troopers  
7:00 X2: X-Men United

STAR GOLD  
9:45 Joshilaay  
1:30 Tum Bin  
4:30 Hum

PICK OF THE DAY



The Ku Klux Klan Killings

On Discovery Channel at midnight  
Documentary Programme  
Great Crime & Trials of the 20th Century  
At the end of the American Civil War, radical members of Congress attempted to destroy the white power structure of the Rebel states. The first branch of the Ku Klux Klan was established in Pulaski, Tennessee, in May 1866. A year later a general organisation of local Klans was established in Nashville in April 1867. Most of the leaders of the Ku Klux Klan were former members of the Confederate Army. During the next two years Klansmen wearing masks, white cardboard hats and draped in white sheets, tortured and killed black Americans and sympathetic whites. For all its main objective of maintaining white supremacy and stopped the march to racial equality. Despite the Klan's murderous savagery, its major effect on the civil rights movement was to hasten the triumph of that cause.

8:20 Asoka	7:30 Weekenders	5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway?	2:30 Hot Science
12:20 Shivraam	8:00 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhoom	3:30 National Geographic Special	3:30 Backyard Science
10:30 Simran Show	8:30 Sonpari	4:45 Doc Eureka	4:30 Doc Eureka
11:00 Rajdhani	9:30 Karma	5:00 Serious: Desert	5:30 Ng
11:30 Patang	9:30 Shararat - Thoda Jadu	6:30 Dogs With Jobs	6:30 Storm Stories
12:00 Kora Kagaz	10:00 Todi Naz	7:00 Newsradio	7:30 Reflections On Elephants
1:00 Hasna Mat	10:00 Khulja Sim Sim	8:30 Scientific American Frontiers	8:30 World's Best Kept Secrets of...Internet
1:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshiri	11:00 Kalcchakra	9:30 Real Kids Real Adventures	10:30 Abn Amro Tennis Challenge India (R)
2:30 Meri Mrs Chanchala	12:00 Kahani Jurm Ki	6:00 Diet Busters	11:30 Highlights(R)
3:00 Piya Bina	1:30 STAR WORLD	6:30 Desmond Morris' The Human Sexes Different But Equal	7:30 ESPN
4:00 Aur Phir Ek Din	11:30 The Chronicle: News From The E	7:30 Wild Discovery Last Reindeer	
4:30 Rajdhani	12:30 Adventure Inc		
5:00 Pardey Ke Peechey	1:30 Magnum P.I.		
6:00 Patang	2:28 Star Asia Travel		
6:30 Adventures Of Mickey	2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show		
7:00 Andonaid	3:30 Bold And Beautiful		
7:00 Disney's The	4:30 Hollywood Squares		

8:30 Wings Thunderbirds	8:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Crystal Lac Vs Bolton Wanderers (R)
9:30 Extreme Engineering Holland's Barriers To The Sea	10:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Newcastle United Vs Charlton Athletic (R)
10:30 Countdown Zero Hour Last Hour Of Flight 11 Master Of The Spirits The Mnon Child, A Great Crimes And Trials Of the 20th Century	12:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Southampton Vs Everton (R)
12:00 English Premier Hockey League Hyderabad Sultans Vs Sher E Jalandhar Tier II(R)	2:30 English Premier League Preview (T)
9:30 Asian Formula 3 Sentul Indonesia Round 8(T)	4:30 England Tour Of South Africa Standard Bank One Day International Series 5th Odi Highlights(R)
11:30 Golf Focus(R)	6:27 England Tour Of South Africa Standard Bank One Day International Series 6th Odi 1st Session(L)
12:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Chelsea Vs Manchester City (T)	8:00 English Premier League Preview (T)
2:30 Fifa World Cup Qualifiers 2006: Uzbekistan Vs Saudi Arabia Group A(T)	5:00 England Tour Of South Africa Standard Bank One Day International Series 6th Odi 1st Session(L)
4:30 Nba Basketball Los Angeles Lakers Vs Detroit Pistons (R)	7:00 English Premier League Preview (T)
7:00 Indian Premier Hockey League India Maratha Warriors Vs Bangalore Hi Fliers Tier I(L)	8:00 English Premier League Preview (T)
10:30 Sportsline (R)	1:00 European PGA Golf: New Zealand Open
11:00 Icc Cricket World(T)	2:00 French League Highlights
11:30 Abn Amro Tennis Challenge India (R)	3:00 Bajaj Cricket Ratings Tournament
	4:30 Portuguese League H/Ls
	5:30 WWE Velocity
	6:30 Legends
	7:30 ATP Tennis
	8:00 German League Bayern Munich v Bayer Leverkusen