

CULTURAL FEAS

Film Festival
Freshgel Banglar Chhobi 2005
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University
Date: February 12-20
Schedule
Feb 16
10:00am Bashundhara
01:00pm Strir Potro
04:00pm Personal Assistant
07:00pm Gupi Bagha Phirey Elo
Feb 17
10:00am Emiker Goyenda Bahini
01:00pm Luchokuri
04:00pm Wheelchair
07:00pm Durata
Feb 18
10:00am Padma Nadir Majhi
01:00pm Shanjh Batir Rupkatha
04:00pm Paromitar Ekdin
07:00pm Alor Michhil
Feb 20
10:00am Dahan
01:00pm Matir Mayna
04:00pm Manda Meyer Upakhyan
07:00pm Lalon

Drama Festival
Udichi Natyashab 2005
Organiser: Udichi Central Drama Branch
Venue: Mahila Shamiti Auditorium
Date: February 11-16, at 6:30pm
Schedule
Feb 16
Chilekothar Sepai (Udichi)

Play
Title: The School for Wives
Group: Space and Acting Research
Venue: Alliance Francaise
Date: February 15-16, at 7:00pm

Musical Soiree
Title: She Ashibey Amar Mon Boley
Organiser: Nandan
Venue: Bangladesh YWCA Bhaban, 3/23, Iqbal Road, Muhammadpur
Time: February 20, at 6:30pm

Exhibition
Title: Third Solo Exhibition
Artist: Ronni Ahmed
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road
Time: 18-26 February, from 10am 12am and 5pm to 9pm

Title: Valentine's Photo Exhibit
Artist: Nabila Rahman
Venue: The Art & Soul Gallery, House 16, Road 36, Gulshan
Time: 14-20 February, from 11am to 8pm

Title: Nature and Life
Artist: Golam Faruque Bebul
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, House 21, Road 4, Dhanmondi
Date: February 14-24, from 10am to 8pm

Artist: Fahmida Akhtar Kakoli
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts
Date: February 16-22

Artist: Liudmila Yakovleva
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Date: February 17-23

Title: Chitrakabya
Artist: Abdullah-Al-Masum
Venue: BPS Gallery, House 63/2, Science Laboratory Road
Date: February 11-March 11, from 10am to 8pm

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, 9:00am, 7:15 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Teletext of BTV 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.
Teletext of BTV 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.
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

Ekushey Book Fair 2005

Book fair draws a huge crowd

AFSAR AHMED

"HARTALS are never an obstacle to the Ekushey Book Fair, rather we can enjoy the fair in a holiday mood," said a happy couple Archi and Rabab. As they continued, "We had an enjoyable rickshaw ride on the peaceful roads of Dhaka to the fair premises which is unimaginable on normal days." The whole premises turned into a "human sea", and there was an air of festivity-- until the bomb blast at the outskirts of the fair, where a cultural programme was held on the occasion of Valentine's Day at the TSC premises.

Earlier, a major grouse of people who attended the Ekushey Book Fair was the heavy security at the event. A serpentine queue of people jammed the Ekushey Book Fair on Fridays and special holidays or the lazy hartal days due to heavy security. The queue is so long that it starts from TSC, often circles around Dhaka Medical College and the Doel Chattar and then comes to the entry gate of the fair. "This is not what Ekushey Book



Enthusiastic visitors at the Book fair

Fair means to us. It is the place that broadens our intellect and rationality. And everyone has the right to visit the fair without facing any questions. I am here with my aged mother. How can she survive standing in a line for two to three hours?" questioned an irate Rumana, who came to visit the fair but couldn't

make it. Many people, including the publishers and writers shared this opinion. "It's not that we don't want security. But my point is that the authority should open many more gates with the same security measures to divert the rush," said a publisher, who is participating in the

fair. Writers and poets also have to wait in the long queue. As is customary, on holidays the writers come to the fair early. "It is a good sign to see a million people waiting in the queue. People are the lifeline of the fair and care should be taken to ensure that they don't drift away from their roots and their traditional Ekushey Book Fair," said an aspiring poet.

Despite the unfortunate incident on February 14, the fair continues to draw people. Many new books are arriving everyday to attract the crowd and the sales are satisfactory.

Books make great gifts. The young people dressed in trendy clothes were seen buying a good number of romantic novels, poems and other books on the occasion of Valentine's Day. Apart from Humayun Ahmed's Leelaboti, Chheleta, the other best sellers of the day were Shedin Chaitra Mash, Angul Kata Jaglu and Science Fiction Shamagra. Popular writer Zafar Iqbal's science fiction Nayira brought out by Shomy Prokashon was the people's first choice of the day.

Lalon invited to Cleveland International Film Festival

Lalon, directed by Tanvir Moqammel, has been invited to the 29th Cleveland Film Festival in Ohio, says a press release.

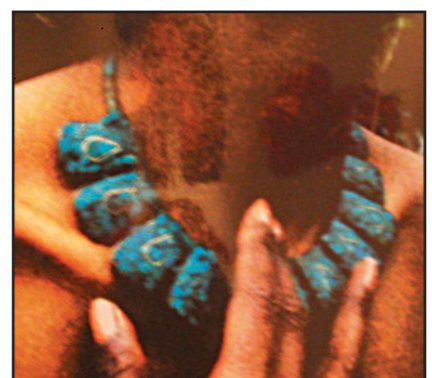
Lalon is based on the life of the legendary mystic poet Lalon Shah. Raisul Islam Asad plays as Lalon, while Shomi Kaiser, Azad Abul Kalam and others portray different roles in the film. Lalon has also been shown at London, Fufuoka (Japan) and Goa (India) film festivals.



Valentine's photo exhibit

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The festive season is on again. Once more it is time for the younger generation and the young at heart to indulge in some mushy sentimentality. Yes, this is a reference to Valentine's Day, which over the last few years has become a day to remember in Bangladesh.



A combination of photography and computer graphics show a girl wearing a necklace

The Art & Soul Gallery is holding a Valentine's Photo Exhibit. This exhibition (on till February 20) captures the spirit of this day through a series of photographs embellished with computer graphics. Explaining the motivation behind this eye-catching display, Nabila Rahman, managing director of the gallery, says: "The younger generation eagerly looks forward to Valentine's Day. The aim is to capture the romance and gaiety of this day."

The photographers behind this exhibition are Najmul Hoque and Julia Eggen (from Canada). Nabila has placed her distinctive mark on the works with the aid of Photoshop and Graphic imager. She put her own colours and made variations of her works.

Among the works that catch the eye is a photograph of a girl with red and yellow roses in her hair. Then there's another work of a girl with a bead necklace. Nabila maintains that the younger generation will go for her creations.

Along with her works for the young, she has a collection of Rajasthani, Balinese, Arabic calligraphy and Oriental art at the gallery.

Eisenstein's Battleship Potemkin restored

REUTERS

Battleship Potemkin, Sergei Eisenstein's 1925 silent classic, has been restored and seen in its uncensored form for the first time in nearly 80 years. Cut by the Germans who bought the film, altered by the Soviets and banned in Britain and France for its revolutionary zeal, it nonetheless became one of the most important movies in cinema history.

Restorers have worked for three years to insert scenes removed by German censors for their extreme violence and to correct translations of the Russian "inter-titles" which toned down the mutinous sailors' revolutionary rhetoric.

Based on a true story, Battleship Potemkin dramatises a mutiny on a Russian ship and how it inspired a failed 1905 uprising against the country's Czars.



A scene from Battleship Potemkin

Udichi Drama Festival 2005

(February 11-16)

Circus Circus

Play portraying the oppression of rural artistes

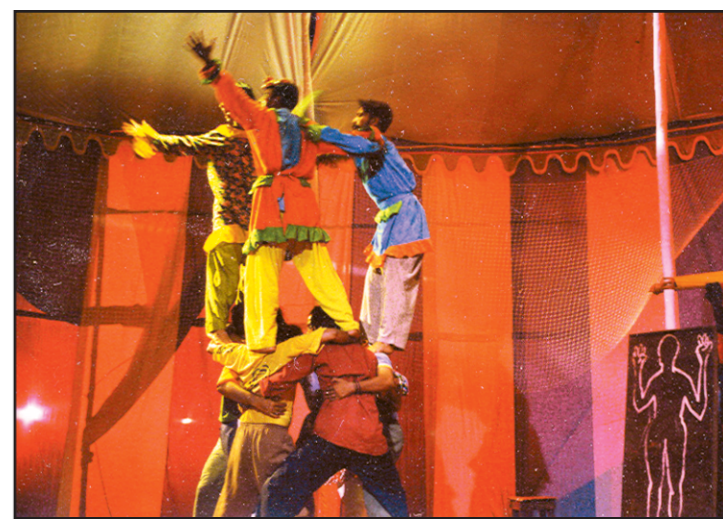
ERSHAD KAMOL

Prachyanat staged Circus Circus by Azad Abul Kalam as part of the drama festival arranged by Udichi on February 14, at the Mahila Samity Stage.

Circus Circus narrates the struggle of artistes of a rural circus troupe, which travels around the country and put up shows. Once the troupe comes to a remote area and faces many obstacles from the religious fanatics. They attack the circus troupe and destroy everything.

Azad's play not only presents the attack on the rural artistes by the religious fanatics but also narrates the different problems of the troupe. As the subplot of the play he has interestingly focused on the decaying indigenous art form which is turning to vulgarity from artistic presentation. Azad portrays the circus troupe realistically and adopts slang language as used by the rural artistes.

Azad Abul Kalam, as the director, has successfully used different choreography suitable for a circus theme. Moreover, his handling of the emotions of the artistes is appreciable. Throughout the play he has maintained the required pace in a



A realistic presentation of a circus act in the play

play like Circus Circus.

Saiful Islam's approach as a set designer is realistic. He has replicated a circus tent on the proscenium arch stage. However, as the light designer Saiful is not successful. His design lacks visibility, which is the basic requirement for light designing. Moreover, he has failed to present the inner emotion of the

characters through symbolic colour effect. At least in the sequence when Sultana narrates her pathos, Saiful should have presented her emotions more artistically.

Prachyanat's teamwork was praiseworthy. Sakhwat Hossain Rezvi, Jahangir Alam, Swatabdi Wadud and Shahnaz Rahman Sumi performed well.

"Genius" Ray Charles wins big at the 47th Grammys



Ray Charles

Ray Charles had a legendary career that defied categorisation and influenced generations of artistes - but never had one of those blockbuster albums that many lesser artistes have enjoyed. Eight months after his death, however, Charles' final album, Genius Loves Company won a leading eight Grammy awards on Sunday night, including album of the year, record of the year for Here We Go Again with Norah Jones, and pop vocal album.

U2 won three awards, including

best rock performance by a duo or group. Green Day, the most nominated rock act with six for their politically charged punk opera American Idiot, won best rock album. Alicia Keys and Usher shared an award Sunday night for best rock and blues performance by a duo or group with vocals for their chart-topping duet My Boo. Each was nominated for eight Grammys, Keys won four while Usher had three. John Mayer's mellow tribute Daughters won song of the year. The most nominated

artiste of the year was perhaps the most versatile- Kanye West, the songwriter-producer who made his rap debut in 2004 with the cutting-edge CD The College Dropout. He was nominated for 10 Grammys, including album of the year, but only took home three, including best rap album and best rap song for Jesus Walks. Perhaps the evening's most exhilarating performance was from Melissa Etheridge. The rocker, who is battling breast cancer, took to the stage for a Janis Joplin tribute with a shaved head but nevertheless a jubilant voice, and received a standing ovation.

Ultimately, the night belonged to Ray Charles. Besides the four awards for best album and song, Genius Loves Company won for best instrumental arrangement accompanying a vocalist, best gospel performance, best engineered album and best surround sound album. Charles was 73 when he died in June, with a total of 12 Grammys in his 50-plus year career. The most he ever won in one night was four in 1960, including two for the classic Georgia On My Mind. That was the song performed Sunday by Alicia Keys and actor Jamie Foxx, considered an Oscar sureshot for his portrayal of Charles in Ray. Foxx, more than just a decent musician, sat at a piano opposite Keys as Quincy Jones conducted the orchestra. "For an old friend," Foxx said as he began to play.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Manoshi
On ATN Bangla at 6:20pm
Talk Show
Host: Soumen Shankar Das and Trisha
Participants: Bijori Barkatullah and Shawkat Ali Imon



Philly
On Star World at 9:30pm
Genre: Drama
Cast: Kim Delaney, Tom Everett Scott, Kyle Secor
Created by Steven Bochco, Alison Cross

Table with TV program listings for various channels including ATN, BANGLA, and STAR WORLD.

Table with TV program listings for various channels including DISCOVERY, ANIMAL, PLANET, STAR PLUS, STAR WORLD, STAR GOLD, and GEOGRAPHIC.