

CULTURAL FEAS

Ekushey Special Programmes
Title: Amar Ekushey 2005
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 01-28
Schedule
February 01-28
Ekushey Book Fair
Time: Weekdays: From 3pm to 9pm; Weekends: From 11am to 12 noon and 2pm to 9pm; On Feb 21: from 8am to 9pm
February 19
Programme: Discussion followed by musical soiree
Topic: Practice of Bangla literature abroad
Discussants: Babul Siraji, Mojmamel Hossain Mintu, Salimullah Khan, Fakhruzzaman Chowdhury
Time: 4pm
February 20
Programme: Discussion followed by musical soiree and the announcement of Bangla Academy Literature Award 2004
Topic: The conscience of Ekush in the essays of Bangladesh
Discussants: AH Ahmed Kamal, Chowdhury Zahurul Haque, Muhammad Abul Kashem, Shirajul Islam Chowdhury
Time: 4pm
February 21
Programme: Poetry recitation and discussion followed by musical soiree
Topic: Special speech on language movement
Participants: Faruq Alamgir, Mansur Musa, Abdul Karim, Waki Ahmed
Time: 7:30am and 4pm
Film Festival
Freshgel Banglar Chhobi 2005
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University
Date: February 12-20
Schedule
Feb 20
10:00am Dahan
01:00pm Matir Mayna
04:00pm Manda Meyer Upakhyan
07:00pm Lalon
February 21
10:00am Dahan
01:00pm Matir Mayna
04:00pm Manda Meyer Upakhyan
07:00pm Lalon
Music 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 Chittrak, 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

Ekushey on artists' canvas

Display of paintings on Language Movement

NOVERA DEEPTA

"A MONG the people in the world of art and culture, Bangladeshi artists took a leading role in the die-hard struggle of establishing Bangla as the state language of the then East Pakistan," art critic Abul Hasnat remarked in his keynote paper at a discussion programme titled "Paintings of Ekush" at the Liberation War Museum on February 17. In the brief but informative paper Abul Hasnat presented the chronological history of how the artists contributed in the Language Movement like all other Bangladeshis at that time.

Quoting from the memoir of master artist Quamrul Hasan, Hasnat said that from the very beginning artists such as Aminul Islam, Murtaza Bashir, Imdad Hossain, Rashid Chowdhury and Quamrul Hassan got involved with the movement as they used to paint posters with spirited slogans. "On February 21, 1952, Murtaza Bashir, Imdad Hossain and many other artists participated in the historic event by taking the injured activists to hospital. To observe the Martyrs' Day our painters have always participated with their artistic weapons sharpened with the true spirit of Ekush," he added.

Besides organising *Probnat Feri* and publishing collections on Ekushey, the artists started organising painting exhibitions in the Shaheed Minar premises from 1965 onwards. In 1969 they also painted the events of 1952 in chronological order on canvas.

The spirit of Ekush captured the minds of the pioneer artists,



Artist Imdad Hossain speaking at the event; (L-R) Abul Hasnat, Aminul Islam and Robiul Hossain are also seen

as was evident in their creations from their creations during 1950s-1970s. Despite limitations, newspapers like the *Daily Ittefaq*, the *Bangladesh Observer* and the *Daily Shangbad* published supplements on Ekush during the pre-Liberation period. Quamrul Hassan, Qayyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Zainul Abedin and other prominent artists lent their brushes to illustrate these newspaper supplements.

Some of these reprinted illustrations by 46 artists during the 1953 to 1971 are now on display at the auditorium of the Liberation War Museum. Looking at the illustration such as Murtaza Barhi's portrayal of a procession in which both men and women participated, or Amirul Islam's presentation of chains in black that symbolised the agony caused

by the imprisoned state, one would vividly feel the spirit of that time.

Language activist artists Imdad Hossain and Aminul Islam reminisced on their experiences of 1952. Poet Rabiul Hossain also spoke at the occasion.

The discussion programme was followed by a cultural session. Recitation group Shawnan presented a compilation of poems titled *Ekushey February* directed by Ananya Laboni. The presentation was compiled from writings of Zahir Rayhan, Sikandar Abu Zafar, Shamsur Rahman, Syed Shamsul Haque, Al Mahmud, Alauddin Al Azad, Nirmalendu Goon and Mahbub Ul Alam Chowdhury. Members of Udichi also performed songs of Ekushey at the programme.

Dialogues sans words

Partha Pratim talks about mime

HARUN UR RASHID

MIME is undoubtedly one of the most neglected sectors in the cultural arena of our country. "But the interesting point is that one has to learn mime for a career in theatre, dance or even modelling!" says Partha Pratim Majumder, the internationally acclaimed mime artiste of the country. Presently residing in Paris, Partha visited Dhaka recently. According to him, "This root medium of almost all performing arts deserves more attention and care."

Born in 1954, Partha was drawn to mime by his childhood affinity for the traditional *lathikhela*. "I can recall watching young men performing *lathikhela* at Muharram celebrations. What amused me is that the performance involved more body-movements than *lathikhela* itself!" Attracted by this feature of speaking out through body language and gestures, Partha soon went to Jogesh Dutta's mime academy in Kolkata. There he trained in mime from 1966 to 1972.

On his return to Bangladesh, Partha used to practise mime all by himself since there was no such institute or group of pantomime in the country at that time. At the same time, he organised some performances of pantomime during 1975-1981. His early shows used to be in the form of five or six short sketches. The costume was usually black tights and the face was painted white.

Partha's subjects were mainly entertaining in nature. Some of his famous mime pieces were *Janma Thekey Mityu* (From Birth to Death), *Balok O Pakhi* (The Boy and the Bird), *Projapoti* (Butterfly), *Photographer*, *Oushodh Bikreta* (The Medicine Seller), *Bokhatay Chhele*, *Parinoti* (The End of a Young Scoundrel), *Rickshawala* (The Rickshaw Puller) and *Machh Dhora* (Fishing). Though generally entertaining, some of these pantomimes touched upon serious subjects.

In Paris, Partha attended the school of Etienne Decroux, the founder of corporal mime and later he worked with world's greatest mime Marcel Marceau.



A sequence from the mimodrama Nightmare

Partha has written and choreographed a mimodrama named *Nightmare*, which was staged in Bangladesh in 1994. The performance was achieved with the collaboration of different group theatres and professional dancers of Dhaka. The mimodrama, concerning child abuse, was the first of its kind to be shown on South East Asian stages.

"I have incorporated expressions and gestures from the traditional art forms of Bangladesh just as Marceau has incorporated *mudras* from Indian Bharat Natyam and Japanese musical theatre genre known as Noh and Kabuki," says Partha about his deeply rooted interest in the country's traditional cultural activities.

Besides giving lectures and lessons at several European and American universities and institutions, Partha has worked in films and plays produced in Paris. Recently he has been

featured on ads of four IBM products.

Regarding the present cultural activities Partha is a little frustrated. "In our youth we used to learn and perform in one medium with full devotion. However, I now notice the young generation, in particular, getting involved with several mediums without much commitment to them. This is very painful to me. This way we cannot develop our culture and make it known at the international level."

The practice of mime in the country is also negligible, according to Partha. "There is no institution where mime can be practised throughout the year. When I come to Bangladesh, a lot of children and young boys and girls come to me to learn some mime. But unfortunately, after I leave the practice does not continue anymore—their interest in mime withers completely," he says.

They are "differently abled"



Jewel Aich performing a magic trick on a girl from the audience

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

It was back in 1977 when a few anxious parents with the help of professionals founded the Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled, Bangladesh (SWID, Bangladesh) on humanitarian grounds. Since then SWID's journey continues with the slogan "We are not disabled, we are differently abled. The aim is to alleviate the trauma of the intellectually disabled (ID) children through social

acceptance and equal opportunities of education in the institute's 42 different branches across the country. To create social awareness about ID children, SWID Ramna Branch organised a fundraiser magic show by the famous illusionist Jewel Aich on February 17 at the Shishu Academy auditorium.

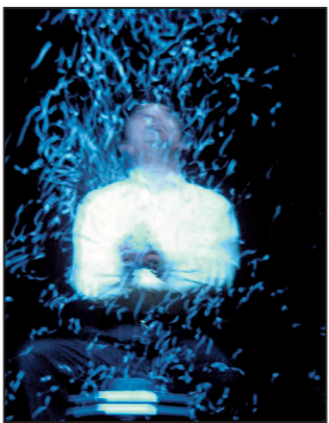
"ID, also known as mental retardation, is not a disease. The trauma and agony such afflicted people suffer is incomparable, as

they are unable to express themselves. With proper education and training the persons suffering from ID can be rehabilitated in the society. But for that social acceptance is necessary," said Sajida Humayun Kabir, acting president of SWID, Bangladesh. As she continued, "Ramna Branch, the largest branch of SWID, despite its limitations, endeavours to achieve the objective of integration, normalisation and rehabilitation through pragmatic measures for these innocent and helpless people. For this the sincere efforts of the family, community and volunteers are needed. And today's show seeks to generate public awareness as well as to mobilise financial support of the government, public bodies, trust and national and international societies."

Famous magician Jewel Aich also expressed his support to SWID, Bangladesh and displayed his brilliant magic in a jam-packed auditorium. The audience was mesmerised with his spells and showmanship. With his recreation of the scene of his first snowfall experience in Toronto with cotton buds, his stand against racism by making a white feather into black and then into red, his cleaning of a little girl's throat with a sharpened sword,

cutting a lady into three pieces, balancing a ball on a piece of cloth or making people or objects vanish the audience watched with bated breath.

A child with ID is like any other child who needs security, love, care and moral support from the society. And taking a cue from a famous song we should sing in unison: "We shall overcome...Deep in my heart/I do believe/That we are/Not alone today".



Jewel Aich recreating illusion of snow-fall on stage

Pancakes with an altruistic cause

KARIM WAHEED

February is celebrated as the pancake-month in Europe and North America. Pancakes which are pretty effortless to make can be scrumptious and although people of all ages seem to be keen on pancakes, children devour them because of its syrupiness. Globally acclaimed chef Tommy Miah's restaurant Heritage along with the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) and Shishu Polli had arranged a pancake treat for the children on February 17 at CRP's Savar location.

Rubina Farouq, in charge of Tommy Miah's Institute of Hospitality Management, states, "This pancake treat is part of an annual fundraising event.

The children seemed elated to get a chance to savour Tommy's pancakes. Earlier Tommy had demonstrated how to make pancakes and the kids were amazed to learn that it only takes simple ingredients like flour, eggs, sugar, milk, oil, chocolate syrup, bay leaves, salt and water to make these mouth-watering pancakes. Some of the children compared these pancakes to *chapatis* or *pati shapta* cakes since they are similarly shaped. The pancakes were rolled with the syrup in it and some of the children were coming back for more



Tommy Miah (in blue shirt) offering an array of delectable pancakes

for obvious reasons.

When asked the reason for this pancake treat, Tommy said "There is no serious agenda. February is the pancake-month and I figured pancakes would be a good way to share the bliss of good food with these children."

The enthusiastic response of the physically challenged children at Savar demonstrated that there is no dividing line between them and their

able bodied counterparts. Even if it takes pancakes, the recent occasion served to rekindle the joy within these young citizens of the country. All thanks go to Tommy Miah's culinary skills.

A cultural event featuring performance by children from CRP was also arranged at the fundraising dinner at the Heritage restaurant yesterday.

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
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 7:15 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Telecast 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
08:15 Quiz Quiz
08:40 Bishwa Protidin
09:00 Satellite Programme
12:15 Shangkbadprater Pata Thekey
12:30 Health Bulletin
01:05 Nibedon
02:30 Shukhi Poribar
03:05 Selected Drama
04:05 Moner Katha
04:30 Ei Dhaka Shei Dhaka
05:05 Naba Anandey Jago
05:55 Shamakalin Arthonity
06:00 Dosh Janopad
06:10 Wrestling
07:00 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast
07:05 Loukik Bangla
07:30 Shurey Shurey
08:25 Protidin Bangladesh
08:30 Bangla Bhashay Tattva Projukti
08:35 Drama Serial: Ashaptrapar Tumi Drama: Hothat Bashontlo
09:05 Tektar Thekey Tetulia
10:30 Ananda Jhama Rangdhanu
11:00 Satellite programmes
12:05
CHANNEL-i
09:45 Trilijo Matra
10:35 Naa Bola Kotha
12:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
12:20 Dhaka Guide
12:30 Aaj Dupure O Citycell Tarokakothon
01:00 Bangla Film: Etotoku Asha
01:25 Public Reaction
03:20 Banglar Gaan
04:20 Bol Mela Protidin
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:15 Janopader Khabor
05:30 Cine Music
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Drama Serial:

07:50 Dalchhut Drama Serial: Hashyo Lashyo
08:25 Drama Serial: Swapno Bunon
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Drama Serial: Ekhaney Megher Ghanaghata
ntv
08:30 Aajker Shakal
09:30 Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri
10:30 Bangla Feature Film: Amor Prem
02:30 Drama Serial: Ure Jay Bakpokkhi
03:15 Pepsi Music Express
03:50 Drama: Hawa Nei Gallery
04:25 Ithasher Ei Diney
05:15 Alokpat
05:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:20 Shonkskriti Ei Shoptahe
08:15 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamela
08:50 Telefilm: Mamla Ek Kuti Taka Dindarpan
11:25
ATN BANGLA
10:30 Annodishtee
11:35 Drama Serial Mohona
12:15 Bangla Film: Obichar
03:45 Musical Programme: Surer Madhuri
04:20 Chalo Gaan Gai
05:10 Amader Joto Kotha
06:20 Auto Man
08:20 Drama Serial: Lodiya
08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shabuj Opera
09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni
09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Janome
10:25 Bishwa Toroney
12:10 Bangla-dubbed Irani Feature Film: Duti

HBO
9:00 HBO Sneak Peek: Men In Black II
11:05 Big Daddy
1:00 Mortal Thoughts
1:30 Beetlejuice
3:30 Star Trek Nemesis
5:45 Richie Rich
7:45 Thir13EN Ghosts
9:30 Tears of the Sun
12:00 Tales from the Crypt 41: The Bribe
12:45
STAR GOLD
9:30 Hogi Pyar Ki Jeet
1:00 Criminal
4:30 Bandhan
8:30 The Prodigal Son
11:00 Angoor
STAR PLUS
12:30 Hit Film:in Hit Sangeet- 20 M
2:00 Star Bestsellers
2:30 Hit Film:in Hageeqat
5:30 Mirch Masala
6:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron
6:30 Disney's Mickey Mouse Works
9:00 Phenomenon
11:05 Insomnia
1:00 Afli's 100 Years...100 Movies
STAR WORLD
12:30 Rendezvous With Simi
2:00 Garawal
4:30 Travel Asia
1:30 The Kids From Room 402
2:00 Roboroach
2:30 Monster Farm
3:30 The Kumars At No. 42
4:00 Cops
4:30 Coffee With K
5:30 Britannia India's Child Genius
6:30 The X Files
7:30 Totally Outrageous
8:00 Behavior Ca
9:30 Weird Tv
9:30 Tna Wrestling
10:30 World's Worst Drivers li
10:30 Wbafta
ANIMAL PLANET
11:30 Pet Powers And The Human Mind
12:00 Weird Nature Bizarre Breeding
12:30 Growing Up Wild ... Clouded Leopard
1:30 The Crocodile Hunter (Season 4), The Reptiles Of The Lost Continent (Madagascar)
2:00 Baby Story (Season 2)
2:30 Baby Herren
3:30 Ushuaia Nature Lords Of The Oceans
3:00 Wild Discovery

DISCOVERY
11:30 Master of the Spirits
12:00 TMong Child, A
12:00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (ii)
12:30 Ku Klux Klan Killings, The
12:30 Top ten Amazon Animals
1:30 Wings Concorde: The Final Flight
2:30 Extreme Engineering
3:30 Building Hong Kong's Airport
3:30 Countdown Unsolved History-Season III Death Of Princess Diana
4:30 Master of the Spirits the Ta Peshala
5:00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (ii)
5:30 Escapes From Alcatraz
6:00 Energy in Action
6:30 Baby Story (Season 2)
6:30 Baby Herren
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7:00 Marsupilami
7:30 Piya Bina
8:00 Pardey Ke Peechey
8:30 Dil Hai Tumhaara
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3:30 Wild Encounters Wolves At Our Door
4:30 The Jeff Conwin Experience, (Season 3), The Uganda: It's Croc Story
5:30 Animal Miracles I-III
6:30 Coffie And Wolfie
7:30 The Protectors Cell
8:30 Dogs Mansfield
9:30 The Crocodile Hunter (Season 4), The Reptiles Of The Lost Continent (Madagascar)
10:30 Animals A-Z Small Sensitive Sharks
11:30 Wild Encounters Profiles Of Nature 10 Wasps
12:30 In the Wild Orangutans (Julia Roberts)
1:30 Wild Encounters Lynn Rogers: Man Who Walks With Bears
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7:30 Wild Discovery

Wolverine: Devil Of The North
8:30 Discover India
9:30 World's Deepest Goldmine
10:30 History in Colour, he British Story Beginning Of The End
11:30 Terrorism Revealed Age Of Terror In The Name of Liberation
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
10:45 Doc Eureka
11:00 Serious: Jungle
11:30 Backyard Science
11:45 Doc Eureka
12:00 Serious: Jungle
12:30 Dogs With Jobs
1:00 Storm Stories
1:30 Truth Files
2:30 Scientific American Frontiers
3:30 Science Times
4:30 National Geographic Special
5:30 Dogs With Jobs
6:00 Storm Stories
6:30 The Egypt Detectives
7:00 Mystery Of The Crop Circles
8:30 Frontlines Of Construction
9:30 National Geographic Special
10:30 Truth Files
11:30 Demolition Squad
12:00 Demolition Squad
STAR SPORTS
8:30 Football Crazy (R)
9:30 Extreme Programming
10:30 Sports Mania (R)
11:00 Locker Room Football
11:30 Malaysian Open Day
12:00 Tennis Tournament
2:00 Nba Inside Stuff (R)
3:30 Uefa Champions League Magazine
4:00

Shows (T)
4:30 Locker Room Football
5:00 Asian Tour Magazine
5:30 Show
6:00 Super Centuries (T)
6:40 The Fa Cup - "Road To Glory" (L)
8:45 Fa Cup Fa Cup
11:00 The Fa Cup - "Road To Glory" (L)
Fa Cup Fa Cup 2004/05 Round 5(L)
ESPN
10:30 Hitz (R)
11:00 Zealand New Zealand
5:00 Vs Australia 1st Odi (L)
6:00 Here We Go (R)
6:40 Nba Special (T)
8:30 Icc Cricket World (R)
8:45 Nba Action (R)
11:00 Born To Play: Masters Of Football
6:00 Week In Review (T)
6:30 Sports center Weekend
8:00 Icc Cricket World (R)
8:30 Motorsport Asia (R)
8:55 Fa Cup Round 5(L)
11:00 Zealand Vs Australia 1st Odi Highlights(R)
TEN SPORTS
10:00 Winning Post
11:00 Trans World Sports
2:00 European PGA Golf
3:00 War Of A Million Tournament
4:00 French League
4:30 Top Ten Batsmen
5:00 Winning Post
5:30 Gamer TV
6:30 WWE Experience
7:00 Speed
9:00 NZ v World XI: 2nd ODI (Highlights)
10:00 Legends