

CULTURAL FEAS

Ekushey Special Exhibition

Title: Reprinted illustration exhibition
Artists: 43 painters including Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hasan, Murtaza Bashir
Organiser: The Liberation War Museum
Venue: Auditorium, the Liberation War Museum
Date: February 17-23

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 22
Programme: Bangla Academy Literature Award 2004 giving ceremony
Participants: Mansur Musa and the awardees
Time: 4pm
February 23
Programme: Cultural programme
Time: 6pm
February 24
Programme: Cultural programme
Time: 6pm
February 25
Programme: Children's poetry recitation and art competition, Prize distribution followed by cultural programme
Time: 9am
February 26
Programme: Cultural programme
Time: 6pm
February 27
Programme: Cultural programme
Time: 6pm
February 28
Programme: Closing ceremony of the of Ekushey book fair and announcement of the best book-stalls followed by cultural programme
Time: 4pm

Musical programme
Title: Phela Asha Diner Gaan
Organiser: Srijan
Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Shahbag
Date: February 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Award Giving Ceremony
Title: Srijanshil Natyotaru 2005 Tanustri Padak
Artists: Ramendu Majumdar, Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Kabirul Islam Ratan
Organiser: Natyadhara
Venue: Mahila Shamiti Auditorium
Date: February 22, at 6pm

Exhibition
Title: Children's Painting Exhibition
Artists: Child artists ranging 4 to 16 years of age
Organiser: Artist Muhammad Abu Selim
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi
Date: February 25-March 01, from 3pm to 8pm

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

Alpana: A medley of exquisite colours and designs

KAVITA CHARANJI

FLOWERS, animals, birds, folk art -- these are the recurrent motifs of Alpana. This art form adds to the ambience of occasions such as marriages and special days in our tradition. Yesterday on Ekushey, Alpana was visible once more at Shaheed Minar, roads and other venues. To gauge the popularity of this art and changes over the past, The Daily Star spoke to Mahmudul Haque, Director General, Bangladesh National Museum and Rafi Haque, artist and general secretary of Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art.



Mahmudul Haque
In Haque's words, "Alpana, a very popular form of art, has a long history. Though the motifs are mostly flowers, there are also folk motifs, horses, birds and elephants. The techniques of Alpana differ. In the villages it is made out of rice powder. Now in the cities, it is mostly made in acrylic.

There have been changes in the form and design over the years. For instance, people are experimenting with geometrical forms. Just as life is changing, so are designs. People want to introduce an element of innovation.

"I used to do Alpana as a student and later teacher at the Institute of Fine Arts. This was in front of the Shaheed Minar. Though I no longer do Alpana because of my various commitments, as in previous years, the roads around Shaheed Minar are decorated with Alpana."



Rafi Haque
"I primarily do etchings and lithographs. I first did Alpana in Shaheed Minar for Ekushey February 18 years ago along with my students and teacher, Professor of Arts College,



FILE PHOTO

Geometrical designs adorn the Shaheed Minar

Institute of Fine Arts Hashem Khan. He has made immense contributions to Alpana and has his own design books for this art form. Each and every student from first or second year continues to do Alpana for Ekushey.

"Alpana has a long tradition in our country. Alpana is used on many festive occasions like Ekushey, marriages and Bengali festivals like Pahela Baisakh. It is popular because it is related to every movement in the country. Udichi was the first cultural organisation to start Alpana here (from the 1950s). They are still doing Alpana at Pahela Baisakh every year.

"The motifs are usually designs such as flowers and leaves. Human figures, birds and

animals are other motifs, which I saw in India. Basically Alpana is done from rice flour in the villages.

"Every artist has done Alpana at some point of time or other it is part of the course. Other eminent people doing Alpana are Hashem Khan, Chandrashekar Dey, Habibur Rahman, Quayum Chowdhury, Kamrul Hasan, Shishir Bhattacharjee and Samarjit Roychowdhury.

"Shaheed Minar is a popular venue for Alpana at Ekushey. I participated in the art work of Alpana with other artists this year as well." In a poetic vein, he adds, "The inspiration comes from the soul; it cannot be forced."

Tonatuni's album released



(L-R) Flutist Maniruzzaman, Mujibur Rahman Dilu and Mahbubur Rahman Joyinal, seen with Language Movement veteran Gazil Haque (C) unveiling the CD.

Tonatuni Productions, recently released a VCD and CD at a local hotel.

Language Movement veteran Gazil Haque unveiled the CD cover *Egaro* of flutist Maniruzzaman, dedicated to the language martyrs and freedom-fighters.

Under the banner of Tonatuni Productions, Tagore singer Kaderi Kibria's solo album *Madhur Amar Mayer Hashi* was formally unveiled by Ayesha Kibria, mother of the artiste.

Eminent writer Rabeya Khatun unveiled the cover of the rhyme-book *Tonatunir Chhora Shuni* by

journalist Hasan Hafiz. Dhruva Esh does the illustration and cover of the book.

Finally, Shakila Zafar unveiled the 2-D cartoon animation VCD *Tonatunir Jhuri*. The audio and video CDs and the rhyme-book are available at the Ekushey Book Fair 2005.

The programme was followed by two dance compositions directed by Kabirul Islam Ratan and Deepa Khondokar. Among others Mahbubur Rahman Joyinal and Mujibur Rahman Dilu of Tonatuni Productions were also present on the occasion.

Binodini
A play on a pioneer theatre artiste

ERSHAD KAMOL

Some theatregoers have a scant knowledge of the era when urban theatre in a European form was introduced in the subcontinent during British rule. In those days, harlots performed the female characters since women from a conservative background were not allowed to act in theatre. Binodini Dasi, an actress with a dark past, made tremendous contribution to our theatre in the 19th century.

Dhaka Theatre presented the premiere show of Binodini Dasi's autobiography-based narrative *Binodini*, recently at the Mahila Samity Stage. It was a solo performance by Shimul Yousuff. Before the show, Nasiruddin Yousuff, the chief of Dhaka Theatre, said that through the premiere show of *Binodini*, the troupe commemorates the martyrs of the Language movement.

Simon Zakaria, with guidance from Selim Al Deen, Nasiruddin Yousuff and Shimul Yousuff, has dramatised *Binodini*. During the dramatisation, Simon has used two



Shimul Yousuff performs a solo act in *Binodini*

autobiographies by Binodini Dasi-- *Aamar Kotha* and *Aamar Abhinoy Jibon*, several poems written by Binodini and a few reference books on this pioneering female theatre artiste of the subcontinent.

Simon Zakaria has adapted these elements well. He has successfully conveyed the feelings and emotions of Binodini Dasi, in course of her performance in different characters. He has narrated some concealed facts like the struggle of the artiste throughout her life, the deception that she faced, and an overall view of the commercial theatre of that time.

Shadhu Bhasha (Formal Language) has been used as the language of the play.

Through the narrative of the artiste, director Nasiruddin Yousuff has unfolded the autobiography of Binodini. He has used a combination of narration, dialogue, dance, songs and physical movements. As it was a solo performance, for the transformation of a single artiste from one character to another, Yousuff followed the indigenous *palagan* form. In some flashbacks, that reveal some remarkable performances by Binodini Dasi in the 19th century theatre, Nasiruddin has used a curtain in the shape of proscenium arch opening.

Kamaluddin Kabir has created an artistic metal-made stagecraft. A huge circle at the backstage and few figures symbolically present the inner world of the pioneer artiste Binodini Dasi.

However, the light design by Ishrat Nishat needs to be developed. It was often difficult to capture the expressions and gestures of solo performer Shimul Yousuff. Lighting cues failed to follow the acting cues. More symbolic light effects could have been used.

Shimul, clad in eye-catching attire, excelled herself in the songs, dance and choreography. She effectively expressed Binodini's emotion. However, she could not maintain equal skill while playing the male character.

Dhaka Theatre's production *Binodini* is dedicated to three prominent late female theatre artistes of the subcontinent-- Tripti Mitra, Keya Chakravarty and Najma Anwar.



'I was destined to be an actress' -- Shanta

Shanta Islam is a talented theatre and television actress. Among her popular plays are *Judha Ebong Judha*, *Agun Mukha*, *Jayjayanti*, *Mayur Shinghashon*, *Jhumka* and *Iti Amar Bon*. She has also performed in a few feature films, among which *Anyajibon* won acclaim. After a long pause *Shanta Islam* is back with her new stage play *Rajkonjar Golpokatha*. Recently, she talked to The Daily Star about her life and work. Excerpts:

What is your motto?
Like the song by Ajay Chakrovarty, O Mon Majhi Hal Chhero Na, I don't want to give up. I just want to keep going.

How about your dream role?
I have played many exceptional roles. However, if I could play the role of a dual personality, it would be rather interesting.

What do you think is the most important quality of an actor?
The first and foremost quality of an actor is commitment.

Do you recall any interesting experiences?
In the television play *Mahuar Mon*, written by Atiqul Haque Chowdhury, I played the role of a Santal girl. It was sometime in the 1990s and my co-actor was Humayun Fareedi. During the shooting, I had to wear heavy make-up to make me look dark, which would resemble that of a Santal girl. After our shooting ended we all boarded the bus. But for some reason the bus was not moving ahead. When everybody got impatient, director Atiqul Haque Chowdhury shouted aloud, "How can we start without Shanta, she is

still not here!" I started to laugh at the top of my lungs and everybody looked at me. Then a surprised Atiqul Haque Chowdhury came closer and was extremely impressed with my make up.

If you were told to make three wishes, what would they be?
I don't believe in making wishes, I believe in action. However, I wish to stay physically fit. Secondly, to be in touch with fair-minded people and, finally, I want to bring up my only child with proper values.

If you were not an actress what would you be?
I can't even imagine myself in any other role. However, in my childhood I used to look at myself in the mirror wearing a handloom saree, spectacles and a Shantiniketon bag hanging from the shoulder. I used to dream of being a university teacher. But I think I had a hidden desire to be an actress. If not, why would I be looking at the mirror and act like a teacher? I guess I was destined to be an actress.

Do you have any secrets to share?
My original name is Najma Haque. While in university, I joined the theatre against the will of my family members. However, I was determined to act in stage plays. And again I didn't want to make my parents unhappy. So with the pseudonym Shanta Islam, I started acting. And now few people know me by my original name.

Who is the most influential person in your life?
My mother.



PHOTO AFP

Visitors admire the lanterns at a park to celebrate the 15th day of the Chinese Lunar New Year in Shenyang, northeastern China's Liaoning province on February 20. The day is known as the Chinese version of Valentine's Day.



Priththviraj, an upcoming talent in classical music, rendered a solo performance on pure classical music at the Alliance Francaise recently. The programme was organised by Gayakee.

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.
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 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

07:30 Shubhechha Nin
09:00 Satellite Programmes
12:15 Shangbadpotrer Pata Thekey
12:30 Shasthya Tatthya
01:05 Cartoon Film
01:30 Shobar Jonnyo Shikha
02:05 Hater Kachhey Computer
02:30 Shikhanghan
03:05 Shukhi Poribar
03:30 Campus
04:05 Shangeeta
04:30 Open University
05:05 Probash Mela
05:30 Mitoshkriya
06:10 Shondhyamaloti
07:00 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast
07:05 Quiz Quiz
07:30 Gaan Shudhu Gaan
08:30 Ekush Amar Ekush
08:35 Drama Serial: Monalisa
09:00 Drama Serial: Aparupa
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
10:30 Shonali Shokal
11:00 Ujjabhon
12:05 Satellite Programmes

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk Show: Anondrishti
11:05 Drama Serial: Mohona
11:35 Business This Week
02:15 Drama Serial: Hanif Khan
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai
03:50 Drama Serial: Bhawal Raja Shannyashi
04:25 Shomoshamoyik
05:10 Amar Computer
06:20 Aynar Shamney
08:00 Drama Serial: Shukhinagar Apartment
08:30 Drama Serial: Mati
09:00 Drama Serial: Bajimaat
09:30 Ek Dui Teen
10:35 Mile Pholik Ray

12:20

Bangla Feature Film: Jibon Thekey Neya

CHANNEL i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction
10:45 Tritio Matra
11:30 Aamar Chhobi
12:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
12:30 Aaj Dupurey
01:00 Bangla Feature Film: Ka Kha Ga Gha Unga
01:25 Public Reaction
03:20 Banglar Gaan
03:50 Special Programme
04:20 Live From Ekushey Book Fair
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 i sports
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Special Programme
07:50 Drama Serial: Poribar O Ekti Company
08:25 Drama Serial: Ek Akasher Tara
09:35 Drama Serial: Chalchhe Chalbe
10:00 Drama Serial: Ekti Timir Tara

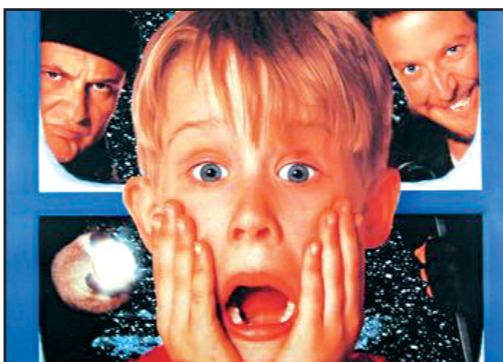
HBO

9:15 Sunshine State
12:00 Jerry Maguire
2:45 Lansky
5:00 Kingpin
7:15 The Flightleners
9:30 Executive Decision
12:15 The Godfather Part II
STAR MOVIES
9:30 Alien
11:30 Deep End
1:15 Abandon
3:00 Rocky II
5:05 I Dreamed Of Africa
7:00 Home Alone
8:45 About A Boy
10:30 Deep End

PICK OF THE DAY



Poribar O Ekti Company
On Channel i at 7:50pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Auppe Karim, Sharmin Shila, Mir Shabbir
Direction: Gazi Rakayet



Home Alone
On Star Movies at 7:00pm
Genre: Family / Comedy
Cast: Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern
Directed by Chris Columbus

12:15 Insomnia
STAR GOLD
9:30 Jaan
1:30 Deedar
4:30 K.Street Pali Hill
5:00 Maya
5:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet- 20 M
8:30 Dushmani
12:05 Geetaa Mera Naam
6:00 Adventures Of Mickey Anddonald
7:00 Disney's The Weekenders
7:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
8:00 Hello Dollie
8:30 Dekho Magar Pyaar Se
9:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
1:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa
2:00 Bhabhi
2:30 Kesar
3:00 Saanthi

Bhu Thi
Kahlin To Hoga
K.Street Pali Hill
STAR WORLD
10:30 That 70s Show
11:00 Grounded For Life
11:30 The Casino
12:30 Everybody Loves Raymond
1:00 Frasier
1:30 Magnum P.I.
2:30 Oprah Winfrey
3:30 Bold And Beautiful
4:30 Hollywood Squares
5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway?
5:30 Ally Mcbeal
6:30 The Simpsons
7:00 That 70s Show
7:30 Friends
8:00 Newsradio

8:30 American Idol
9:30 Wild Card
10:30 Manhunt
11:30 Newsradio
12:00 Cover Story
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
9:30 National Geographic Special
10:30 National Geographic Special
11:30 Riddles Of The Dead S2
12:30 Creative Vision
1:00 Storm Stories
1:30 Backyard Science
1:35 Doc Eureka
2:00 Serious: Jungle
2:30 National Geographic Special
3:30 National Geographic

Country
Nightmares of Nature
Wild Encounters Living With Dinosaurs
DISCOVERY
10:30 Classic Discovery
Pyramids, Munnies and Tombs They're Everywhere!
11:30 FBI Files, The Dangerous Takedown
12:30 Wild Discovery : Antarctica Planet of Ice
Emperors of Antarctica
Future Perfect Fantastic Voyage : Medical Microbots
2:30 Junkyard Wars Climbing Car
3:30 Classic Discovery
Pyramids, Mummies And Tombs Pyramid Builders
4:30 FBI Files, The Dangerous Gamble
5:30 Operation Junkyard Ice Drag Racer
6:00 Healthy Living Mind Over Matter
6:30 Battlefield Detectives
Without A Memory
7:30 Wild Discovery Land of Fire
8:30 Science Frontiers Living Without A Memory
9:30 Life On The Edge
Xtremists
10:30 Terra X Lawrence of Arabia
11:30 Mystery Night Haunted London
STAR SPORTS
10:30 Skins Game Champions (Fa Cup
12:30 Beach Soccer Euro
2:30 Beachsoccer League
3:30 Max Power
4:30 World's Strongest Man
5:00 Hitz
5:30 Extreme Programming
6:00 The Rugby Show
6:30 Super Centuries

7:00 Max Power
8:00 Sportsline (L)
8:30 Fa Cup
10:30 Sportsline (R)
11:00 Super Centuries (R)
11:30 Pool/ Snooker
ESPN
6:57 New Zealand Vs Australia
2nd Odi
3:00 Toyota Football
3:30 Fa Cup
5:30 Fa Cup Highlights (R)
6:30 Football Focus (L)
7:30 Toyota Football Up Close (R)
8:00 Uefa Champions League
8:30 Sportscenter India (L)
9:00 New Zealand Vs Australia 2nd Odi Highlights(S)
10:30 Classic Boxing Johnny Bratton Vs Kid Gavilan II (T)
11:30 Sportscenter Sportscenter India (R)
12:00 Football Focus (R)
TEN SPORTS
10:00 WWE Raw
10:30 Top Ten Batsmen
11:00 Gillette World Sport
11:30 ATP Tennis
12:30 Italian Serie A - Highlights
2:30 German League
3:30 Stuttgart v hertha Berlin
Legends
4:00 IRB Rugby 7s Highlights : LA, USA
4:30 Polo Gold League
Tournaments
5:00 Gamer TV
5:30 Gillette World Sport
7:30 WWE Smackdown
8:00 Gamer TV
9:00 Italian Serie A - Highlights
10:00 War Of A Million
Tournament
11:00 German League
Highlights