

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibitions

Title: Paint and Pixel
Artist: Nazia Andaleeb Preema
Venue: La Gallerie, Alliance Francaise
Date: March 03-14, From 9am to 12pm and 5pm to 8pm

Title: Faces
Artist: Arhamul Huq Chowdhury
Venue: Essentials, House 20, road 24, Block K, Bonani
Date: March 03-11, from 10am to 6pm

Title: Craft & Art of Clay Exhibit
Artist: Tayabuzzaman Topu
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, House 16, Road 36, Gulshan
Time: March 04-13, from 11pm to 8pm

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

Folk Festival
Title: Lokokarshilpa Mela O Lokojo Utshab 2005
Organiser: Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Venue: Sonargaon at Narayanganj
Date: February 25-March 17

French New Wave Film Festival

Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhamondi
Time: March 06-16

Schedule

March 13
05:00pm The Incorrigible
07:00pm Confidentially Yours

March 14
05:00pm And Now, Ladies and Gentlemen
07:00pm Death in a French Garden

March 15
05:00pm The Beautiful Troublemaker!

March 16
05:00pm Heart Beat
07:00pm First Name: Carmen

Musical Soiree

Title: Tomari Tulona Tumi
Organiser: Panchashwar
Artist: Shumon Chowdhury, Nasima Shahin, Farhana Akhtar, Shumon Majumdar, Jannat-E-Ferdous, Mamun Zahid Khan
Venue: Goethe Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhamondi
Date: March 11, at 7pm

Film Screening

Organiser: Indian Cultural Centre
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-2
Time: 6:00pm everyday

Schedule

March 10 Swades
March 14 Raaz
March 17 Veer Zaara
March 21 Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne
March 24 Footpath
March 28 Iirok Raja Deshey
March 31 Fida

Title: New German Documentary
Organiser: Jahangirnagar Film Society

Venue: Goethe Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhamondi
Date: March 23-24

Schedule

March 23
04:30pm Adam: A Test-Tube Baby as a Life-Saver
05:30pm August Sander
March 24
04:00pm Koenig's Sphere
05:10pm The Prestige
06:10pm The Crocodiles of the Wandaogo Family

International Women's Day

Empowerment of women

KARIM WAHEED

OVER the years, International Women's Day has taken to the streets, sparked off a revolution, met cozily at luncheons and concerts, rubbed shoulders with Prime Ministers and Mayors, demonstrated at the doors of newspapers and welfare institutions, occupied empty houses intent on gaining shelter for homeless women and has ushered in reform legislation. The socialist women in the United States organised the first national Women's Day in 1908 and helped to inspire the international event. The day has been seen as a time for asserting women's political and social rights, for reviewing the progress that women have made, or as a day for celebration. In keeping with its early radical traditions, some prominent feminists declared that it was not a time for celebration, but rather a day for anticipating all the struggles ahead when the women may eventually and forever stamp out the last vestige of male egotism and their desire to dominate over women.

This axiom was the theme of the Indhon organised programme *Joley Utthi Shahoshi Nari* (Spirited valiant women) on March 8, 2005 to celebrate the International Women's Day. The celebrations included a photography exhibition, presentation of an award of honour and a book-launch. Poetry recitation and songs were also rendered throughout the programme.

The photography exhibition included the works of 19 professional and emerging photographers. The themes of the photos were diverse, such as Nahar Ahmed on anti-fatwa and anti-Iraq war rallies in Bangladesh, Sayeeda Khanum on Poet Sufia Kamal. Snigdha Zaman's unusual treatment of a model in her photographs and Sanjida Shaheed's *Meyra Manush* enticed the viewers in particular.

The Award of Honour was presented to Begum Ayesha Zafar for her lifelong endeavour to keep



A thought provoking photograph by Snigdha Zaman

Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain's ideals and memory alive. Ayesha began her work nearly 40 years ago and her efforts paid off: a college and a memorial in Rokeya's name and renewed publication of Rokeya's literary work. Tasmina Hossain, editor of women's magazine *Anannya*, awarded the crest to Ayesha on behalf of *Anannya*.

Debjani Sengupta's book, *Mapmaking: Partition Stories from Two Bengals* was launched at the program. The book was discussed by Debjani herself and her peers.

Other writers included in *Mapmaking* are Ritwik Ghatak, Manik Bandyopadhyay, Pratibha Basu, Dibendu Palit and Atin Bandyopadhyay.

Pragna Labori charmed the audience with her poetry recitation, Sharmin Shati Islam and others rendered inspirational songs.

Prominent members of Indhon were also present.

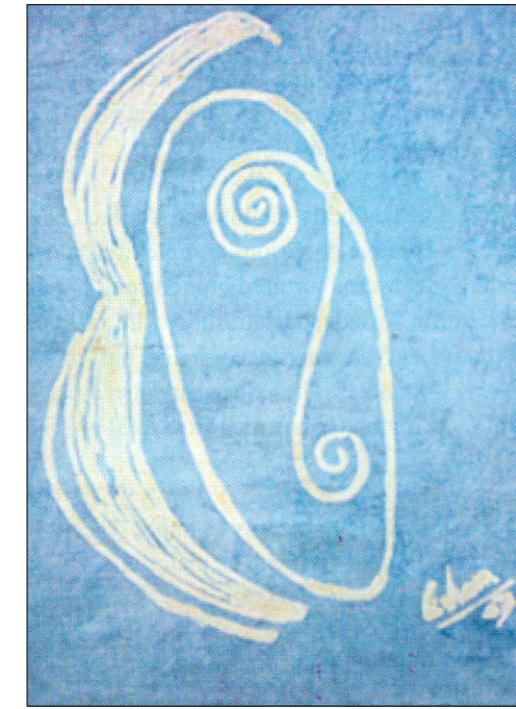
Indhon hopes to encourage the empowerment of women at all levels of our society through cultural events and activities.

Exhibition

Faces that stir up the mind

FAYZA HAQ

The works of Arham ul Haq Chowdhury, a PhD student in anthropology, have been visible for the last 10 years. We have seen his art furniture, hand painted pottery, Bangla calligraphy and Bonsai. Recently we were exposed to his batik works, entitled *Faces*, at the



gallery Essentials.

Arham says, "Our faces are the outer shell of our inner selves. Beneath the faces are our real selves. No matter how beautiful the outer face, it sometimes reflects unendurable inner burning and anguish. In this compilation of portraits I have used natural processes and materials. The surface is cotton fabric and I've brought in natural dyes."

One of the faces is done on a sky blue background. This contains sweeps of shoulder length hair and the right side of a woman's face.

A face reflecting surprise and awe is seen on a gray background. This face, done with two curling sweeps on a triangle form, reminds one of African masks and cave drawings. This is simple but haunting and in keeping with modern trends, like the rest of the batik images. Thus we see Arham progressing from his earlier pieces of detailed decorative work on clay and wood to something avant-garde and thought provoking.

A woman's features, complete with curling hair, rosebud mouth and large, gazing eyes are to be seen on an olive green backdrop. The face itself is a very pale shade of green, while the tresses too are a light shade of jade. A village woman, covering her mouth with the edge of her *anchal*, is seen in variations of gray, black and chalky white. Dominating another royal blue batik creation is the face of a woman, with her hair and body covered with a veil. Curls and sweeps of intermingling sweeps of gray and reddish brown, seen on a pale mauve backdrop, also suggest aspects of a face.

Arham is an artist as well as an interior decorator and landscape designer. He has written weekly columns on art and gardening.

Keanu setting sail for "Sinbad"



REUTERS, Los Angeles

Keanu Reeves is in talks to feature in *Columbia Pictures'* long-gestating *Sinbad* picture, *The 8th Voyage of Sinbad*. Rob Cohen, who directed *The Fast and the Furious*, is in negotiations to direct the film.

The story follows the continuing adventures of Sinbad and his crew, who are marooned off the coast of China in the 8th century. Once ashore, they embark on a quest for the Lamp of Aladdin, teaming up with an empress to battle fantastical creatures and a rebellious Chinese general.

Writers on the project have included Tedi Sarafian, who received story credit on *Terminator 3*, and Cormac and Marianne Wibberley (*Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*). Charlie Mitchell is expected to come on board as a writer.

The studio has produced and released a number of *Sinbad* adventures over the years, including 1958's *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*, with visual effects by Ray Harryhausen.

Theatre

Prachyanat stages *Koinna*

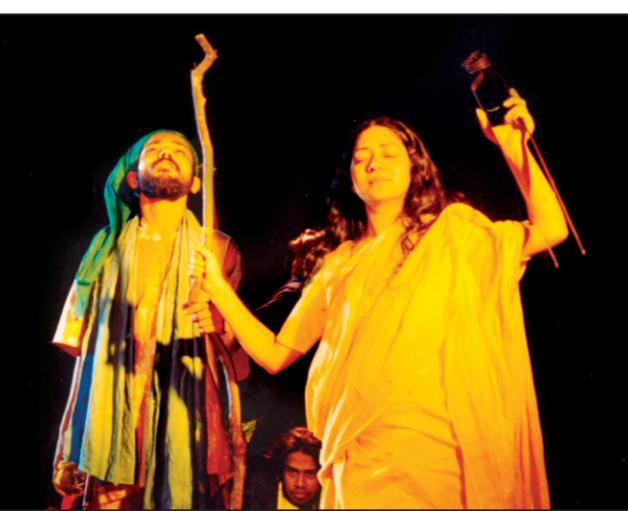
ERSHAD KAMOL

With the rhythm of *chimta* (typical tongs used by pirs) and *dhol*, legendary Koinna Pir transforms his soul to his companion Bahurupi, who lives in a pond as a fish. This is how Prachyanat's popular production *Koinna* starts. Prachyanat staged *Koinna* by Murad Khan at Mahila Samity Stage on March 8.

Murad Khan's script deals with the debate between Shariah and Marefat the faith in the existence of God in love. Murad's play is not against the traditional faith. However, by showing the generosity and transparency of the followers of Marefat, Murad halls Marefat—the concept of love between man and nature, nature's elements and above all God. Murad's quest in the play is to find the existence of God in the daily activities. The playwright thinks this type of spontaneous belief poses less chance of hypocrisy and jealousy than the traditional one. The local dialect of greater Sylhet region has been used in *Koinna*.

Director Azad Abul Kalam has created some spectacular visuals of transformation of souls, intimate relations between a woman and a fish and others on stage. The most interesting part of his direction was the smooth transition between

COURTESY: TANZILUR RAHMAN



A scene from the play *Koinna*

scenes. But, it was not clear what the director suggested by showing a believer of Koinna Pir taking drugs. Does he want to portray that we may find God in love and daily activities or does he want to visualise a true picture of the dens of Pirs? His approach is unclear.

Rahul Anand's music composition deserves plaudits.

Set designer M Shaiful Islam has created the atmosphere of a pond and its bank in his unique style—by using some painted vertical

elements on the stage. Changing some stagecraft and using symbolic light effects, Shaiful has created an ambience like the den of Koinna Pir, nature and others. However, his lighting cues failed to follow the acting cues.

The sequences when Shahana Rahman Sumi talks with the elements of nature and Bahurupi, were both spontaneous and spectacular. Other performers also played well.



Life as a "Fat Actress"

Kirstie Alley: Liberated by new show

Kirstie Ally, the star of popular TV shows such as *North and South* and *Cheers* is the star of a new reality-comedy series—*Fat Actress*. The very title of the reality-comedy series is a rebuke to the notion that "F" is the modern scarlet letter and that anyone wearing it, especially in Hollywood, should get thin or get lost.

Alley does intend to get thin, or at least thinner. But she refuses to let unflattering tabloid accounts or general slant-



Source: CNN

Tv GUIDE

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

CHANNEL i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction
09:45 Tritiyo Matra
11:00 Ago Shopping Guide
11:30 TVC Sky Shop
12:00 Chithi Pelam
12:30 Aaj Dupurey
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
02:15 Tritiyo Matra Apni
02:40 Rutiner Bairey
03:10 Hridoy Mat O
03:50 Banglar Gaan
04:20 Apnar Banking
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 RC Tones And Tunes
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Amar Chhobi
07:50 Drama: Keboli Raat Hobe Jai
08:25 Beast Master
09:35 Drama: Shomporo Rongin
10:00 Drama: Araai Tola Bari

ATN

10:30 Anodroishi

11:05 Ek Dui Tin

11:35 Mile Phalok Ray

12:15 TRAB Award 2004

03:50 ATN Rannagar

04:25 Shundar Jiboner Jonno

05:10 Bangla Namer Desh

05:45 Islami Sawal O Jawab

06:20 Shustha Thakun Live

08:00 Drama Serial: Tari Poren

08:30 Drama Serial: Mati

09:00 Drama Serial: Roter

Kanna Bhorer Shishir

5:20 Lost Junction

3:15 Burned Alive 2

2:28 Star Asia Travel

2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show

3:30 Bold And Beautiful

7:00 Blind Horizon

10:30 Char Deyaler Kabbo

ntv

08:30 Aajker Shakal
09:00 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe
09:45 Tritiyo Matra
10:05 Priyomukh
11:30 Bangla Feature Film: Kajer Bell Rohima

02:35 Sposher Bairey

03:15 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan

04:25 Drama Serial: Sheola

05:20 Gombhira

06:20 Mahilangan

07:20 Shubho Shondhya

08:20 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush

09:50 Drama: Pechhoney Tokhon

11:25 Dindarpan

08:30 Men in Black 11

10:15 The Secret Life of Zoey