

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibitions

16th National Art Exhibition
Artists: Eminent and promising artists of the country
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 12-April 11, from 1am to 7pm and 3pm to 8pm on weekends

Title: The Walls of Dhaka
Artist: Bruno Ruhf

Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dharmundi
Date: March 18-31

French New Wave Film Festival
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society

Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dharmundi
Time: March 06-16

SCHEDULE

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

Film Screening
Organiser: Indian Cultural Centre

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

Schedule

March 21 Goopy Gyne Bagha Byre
March 24 Footpath
March 28 Hirak Rajar Deshey
March 31 Fida

Title: New German Documentary
Organiser: Jahangirnagar Film Society

Venue: Goethe Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dharmundi
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 Koening's Sphere
05:10pm The Prestige
06:10pm The Crocodiles of the Wandaogo Family

Children's Drama Festival
Organiser: People's Theatre Association

Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial, National Public Library
Date: March 11-24

Lecture on Art

Title: Aspects of Contemporary Art in Germany
Speaker: Architect Kashef Mahboob Chowdhury

Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dharmundi
Date: March 17, at 6:30pm

Adiavasi Cultural Festival

Organiser: Society for Environment and Human Development

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 17-19
Schedule

March 17
3:30pm Inauguration ceremony
5:00pm Cultural programme (everyday)

March 17-19
2:00-8:00pm Display of photographs and Adiavasi artifacts

Drama Festival

Title: Dhaka Podatik Silver Jubilee Drama Festival
Organiser: Dhaka Padatik
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 13-20, at 5:30pm everyday

Schedule

March 16 Mayur Shinghoshon (Aronyak Natyadal)

March 18 Dompoti (Protikriti Natyadal, Kolkata): at 4pm and 7pm

March 19 Dorpony Sharatshashi (Protikriti Natyadal, Kolkata)

March 20 Binidini (Dhaka Theatre)

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

Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 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

04:15

Screen Venture

Ranikuthir Baki Itihash: A new cinematic treat

AFSAR AHMED

SAMIA ZAMAN is a familiar name as one of the most popular newscasters of now defunct TV channel, ETV. After a short absence on TV screen, she now returns, not in front of the camera but behind it. Recently, she has completed the first phase of the shooting of her debut feature film, *Ranikuthir Baki Itihash*.

Why the sudden change in tracks? She spontaneously responds, "It's not sudden. I developed a thirst for filmmaking a long way back in 1985. At that time I joined a film course of Chalachitram Film Society, conducted by eminent filmmaker Moshedul Islam. Famous film personalities like Alamgir Kabir, was one of the teachers." She says with a laugh, "Accidentally, I scored top in that course." Later she went through practical training at FDC and assisted in directing the film *Shuchona*. Later she joined the BBC World Service in London and came back in 1999 and joined Ekushey TV. But her love for films never waned. In her own words, "All these years, I had been preparing myself to make a movie, as it is not an easy task."

Now the shooting of her debut film *Ranikuthir Baki Itihash* is complete and will soon be at the editing table. So what's so unique about the movie? The movie revolves around a newly married couple's visit to an old nawab palace. The story unfolds with the couple discovering many uncanny incidents and in the process, revives some unknown events of the past, which would have made their lives happier if kept secret.

To capture the authentic essence of the *nawabi* environment, the shooting was held in an old Nawab Manzil at Tangail's Nawab Ali Hasan Chowdhury's estate. The main part of the shooting was completed in two weeks on location. "I had a very talented and efficient team in this film. The work done so far makes me positive about this venture," says Samia. Directed by Samia, the script is by Dewan Shamsur Rakib. "Maksudul Bar's expertise in camera work, Kaushik Sankar Das's

Ranikuthir Baki Itihash

— the unusual name suggests that it's not an ordinary, run of the mill feature film. As she says, "The story idea is mine. I can't say it's a thriller, but our filmmakers don't usually make this genre of film."

Inspired by a foreign story, this psychological mystery drama is a rarity in our film industry. According to Samia, though the country's literature is replete with many mystery and suspense stories, there is a lacuna of horror, suspense and thrillers in the film industry. This explains why she has chosen to work on this "gap". Asked about which stories inspired her, she says mischievously, "Actually I am not going to tell you any particular name; this is in fact an added mystery of my film. Let viewers find out the similarities, though the plot has been changed drastically."

Is this going to be an art film? "No way. First of all I have a strong reservation on the divisions between art and mainstream movies. My movie is an absolute commercial mainstream film. It has mainstream actors and actresses like Alamgir, Ferdous and Poppy. It has songs, drama, suspense and thrills. But the approach is totally different and everything is shown aesthetically," says Samia.

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innovative production design and Monidipa Dasgupta and Chandana Dewan's gorgeous costumes, music by SI Tutul and lyrics by Kabir Bakul give the film a smart look," she believes.

"I believe that the kind of story that I have chosen is in demand among a certain group of people. And as I've signed popular mainstream actors in the film, I hope that viewers from every walk of life will appreciate it. Frankly speaking, I can't afford to pick and choose my audience. And I do want to reach as many people as I can and, in the process, establish this new genre of film in the country," Samia concludes.

Tareq Masud, Tanvir Mokammel and Moshedul Islam, he said some well-crafted films are being produced now.

At the beginning of the function, viewers were enthralled by Moshedul Islam's *Agami* and Tauseef Ahmed's *Joyjatra*.

On the second day of the festival, three films—AKM Jakaria's *Iti Salma*, N Rashed Chowdhury's *Bismoroner Nodi* and Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nodi Parey* were screened.

Three films were screened the following day: Yasmin Kabir's *Swadhinata*, Abu Sayeed's *Abortan* and Saidul Anam Tutul's *Adhiar*. Tarek Shahriar's *Kalighar*, Manzare Hassan Murad's *Amader Chheler* and Abu Sayeed's *Kittonkhola* will be screened today. On the concluding day tomorrow, *Nari Kotha*—a documentary by Aminul Islam, Tareq Masud and Catherine Masud—will be screened, followed by the much talked about *Matir Moina* by Tareq Masud.

Bangladesh Short Film Forum extended assistance to the Chokh Film Society in organising the festival. Sylhet IT & Billiard Zone, a local firm came up with the sponsorship. AKM Imran, President of the Chokh Society said, "We are encouraged by the huge response from the viewers on the very first day of the five-day festival, the first of its kind here. It will inspire us to organise such functions in future."

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PICK OF THE DAY

Nana Ronger Din
On ATN Bangla at 3:15pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Shilpi, Hillol

Director: Fakhruddin Abedin

STAR MOVIES

9:00 Bull Durham

10:45 Drama Serial: Sheola

12:15 Intolerable Cruelty

2:15 Tumbleweeds

4:45 Star Plus

6:15 Star Gold

8:15 Tales From The Crypt

10:10 Sultaan

11:25 Refugees

1:30 Taray Taray

3:45 Parampara

5:00 Tales From The Crypt

7:00 Weekenders

9:00 Adventures Of Mickey

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