

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 Ruf

Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road Dhanmondi

Date: March 18-31

French New Wave Film Festival

Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society

Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi

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 21Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne

March 24Footpath

March 28Hirok Rajar Deshey March 31Fida

Title:New German Documentary

Organiser: Jahangirnagar Film Society

Venue: Goethe Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi

Date: March 23-24

Schedule

March 23

04:30pmAdam: A Test-Tube Baby as a Life-Saver

05:30pmAugust Sander

March 24

04:00pmKoenig's Sphere

05:10pmThe Prestige

06:10pmThe 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, Dhanmondi

Date: March 17, at 6:30pm

Adivasi 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 (every-day)

March 17-19

2:00-8:00pm Display of photographs and Adivasi artifacts

Drama Festival

Title:Dhaka Padatik Silver Jubilee Drama Festival

Organiser:Dhaka Padatik

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Date:March 13-20, at 5:30pm everyday

Schedule

March 16 Mayur Shinghashon (Aronyak Natyadal)

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

March 19 Dorponney Sharatshashi (Protikriti Natyadal, Kolkata)

March 20 Bindini (Dhaka Theatre)

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 Chalachhitram Film Society, conducted by eminent filmmaker Morshedul 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.

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 is 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.

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



Ferdous and Poppy in a scene from *Ranikuthir Baki Itihash*

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 Bari's expertise in camera work, Kaushik Sankar Das's

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.

Jasim Uddin's 29th death anniversary
Back to the roots

ERSHAD KAMOL

March 14 is the death anniversary of poet Jasim Uddin, known as *Pallikabi* for his wonderful lyrical ballads such as *Nakshikanthar Math* and *Sojanbadiar Ghat*.

To observe the 29th death anniversary of the poet, a seminar was arranged at the Bangla Academy.

After the opening speech, delivered by the Director General of Bangla Academy Dr. Abul Kalam Manzur Murshed, Azharul Islam presented the seminar paper on "Humanism in Jasim Uddin's poem". Professor Ashfar Siddiqui was in chair.

Azhar in his paper said that there are very few poets in Bangla literature of the stature of Satindira Mohan Bagchi, Kumud Ranjan Mallick and Kalidas Roy who have portrayed the rural life. However, none of them have the humanist expression. Jasim Uddin's poems are narratives of the lifestyle and culture of rural Bangla. And his approach is not subjective (reflecting one's own emotion) but objective (reflecting universal emotion).

In *Sojanbadiar Gath*, through the love story of a rural couple, he has presented the social structure of rural Bangla, which has a universal appeal.

Through each of his poems, such as *Kabar*, *Pallijanani* and others, he has masterfully presented the emotion of the common characters giving it a unique touch in our literature.

Azhar also mentioned that the form of Jasim Uddin's ballads is different from its European counterpart. In his seminar paper, Azhar has used many references from his popular poems.

After the presentation of the seminar paper, poet Asad



Jasim Uddin

Chowdhury and Professor Shahin Akhtar discussed the topic.

Chowdhury said, "Jasim Uddin has neither any mentor nor any follower in Bangla literature. He is the only poet in our literature who could overcome the influence of Rabindranath Tagore."

Professor Shahin Akhtar said, "Each and every poet is a humanist, but Jasim Uddin's presentation of rural characters in his poems has a

unique tone. His literary style is immensely moving, even in our materialistic urban life."

The chairperson of the discussion programme, Professor Ashfar Siddiqui said, "The government and all the concerned authorities should take up cudgels to popularise Jasim Uddin's poems among the new generation, as his poems are rooted in our indigenous culture."

Book launch

Sabuj Diper Itikotha: A treat for children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

"The publication of a book is as important as discovering a continent. And to enrich oneself, one must read as many books as one can," said eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque, at the publication ceremony of *Sabuj Diper Etikotha*, a children's book.

This book's author is Monoranjan Nandi, a storywriter and columnist in Rajshahi for 30 years. He has presented 15 stories in the book – his first publication. *Sabuj Diper Itikotha* was launched at the *February* book fair in Dhaka.

The ceremony, held recently at the Rajshahi Bholanath Bisheshwar Hindu Academy, drew a huge audience. Organised by Rajshahi Sahitto Parishad, the ceremony was addressed also by poet Professor Anik Mahmud and litterateur Prof Zulfikar Matin. Local cultural magazine *Loko Patra* editor Fazul Haque chaired the ceremony.

Poet Anik Mahmud, a Rajshahi University teacher, discussed the book. In his view, through the stories in his book, Nandi depicted the political scenario of the country and illustrated some basic moral lessons in a language understandable enough to suit children.



Literary personality Hasan Azizul Haque speaking at the ceremony

In the title story, *Sabuj Diper* is a democratic country for animals in a forest where tiger and lions are engaged in a political power struggle. Readers are likely to see a picture of Bangladesh politics in the story.

Tia, a story bears a message that was elaborated in Shawkat Osman's *Kritodasher Hasi*. The theme: happiness has no worth in the absence of a beloved.

Anik rightly said that Nandi avoided writing children stories with traditional elements of ghosts and demons. "He sought to generate awareness among children."

Through the characters of *Parir*

Deshe, Nandi clearly conveyed that children should not grow up on a diet of ghost and demon stories. In his view, such horror stories bred a certain aloofness from reality. As he said in *Bhut*, only fools believe in ghosts.

In *Bandhutto*, Nandi depicted a political message: even enmity-driven animals can unite in danger, so why can't men?

Nandi, in his address at the ceremony, said that speaking the truth is a very difficult task. And he opted for writing, pressed between two elements - the anxiety-ridden environment and his eagerness to do something from inside his home.

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.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 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, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 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) at 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

BTV

07:30 *Shubhechha Nin*

08:15 Programme From BTV Archive

08:40 *Bishwa Protidin*

09:00 Satellite Programme

12:15 *Shangbadpotrer Pata Thekey*

12:30 *Shashthya Tathya*

01:05 *Rimjim*

02:05 *Khetley Khetley Computer*

02:30 *Hijol Tomal*

03:05 *Shukhi Ponbar*

03:35 *Geeto Bilan*

04:05 *Open University*

04:30 *Desh O Bigyan*

05:05 *Mati O Manush*

05:30 *Prescription*

06:00 *Desh Janapad*

06:10 *Maloncha*

06:35 Programmes of Chittagong Centre

07:00 News Headlines, Weather forecast, Share Market

07:05 *Bhalo Thakun*

07:30 *Shusthya Thakun*

07:30 The World's Greatest Show

08:25 *Protidin Bangladesh*

08:30 *Shwadinota Mohan Swadinota*

10:25 *Teknaf Theke Tatulia*

10:35 *Kemon Achhen*

12:05 *Satellite Programme*

12:20 *Channel i*

09:30 *Shongbad Potrey*

09:45 *Trityo Matra*

10:45 *Sports Time*

12:00 *Chitthi Pelam*

12:30 *Aj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon*

01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*

01:25 *Public Reaction*

01:35 *Bangla Feature Film*

03:45 *Banglar Gaan*

04:15 *Special Programme*

ATN

BANGLA

04:45 *Sa Re Ga Ma*

05:30 *Gaaner Oparey*

06:00 *Music Plus*

06:30 *Gillette Sports Programme*

07:55 *RC Travel On*

08:25 *Drama Serial: Kichhu Megh Kichhu Roudur*

09:35 *Drama Serial: Din Choley Jay*

10:00 *Drama Serial: Arai Tola Bari*

10:30 *Onnodrishti*

11:05 *Drama Serial: Shukhnagar Apartment*

12:15 *Drama Serial: Shimahin Shimany*

12:50 *Gaaney Shurey Taruney*

01:25 *Motamol*

02:30 *Drama Serial: Nil Akasher Nichey*

03:15 *Drama Serial: Nana Ronger Din*

03:50 *Cinema Cinema*

06:20 *Manoshi*

08:00 *The Sword of Tipu Sultan*

08:30 *Drama Serial: Khowab*

09:00 *Bayoscope*

09:30 *Drama Serial: Mati*

10:30 *Talk Show*

12:20 *Drama/Bangla Feature Film*

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08:30 *Aajker Shakal*

09:05 *Drama Serial: Sporsher*

09:30 *Bailey*

10:05 *Science Workshop*

10:30 *Arshinagar*

11:00 *Transworld Sports*

12:05 *Millenium*

02:35 *Drama Serial: Sporsher*

03:15 *Bailey*

03:15 *Taray Taray*

PICK OF THE DAY

Nana Ronger Din
On ATN Bangla at 3:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Shilpi, Hillol
Director: Fakhru Abedin

Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan
On Channel i at 8:50pm
Musical Programme
Hosted by Syed Abdul Hadi
Today's artistes: Rafiqul Alam, Moutushi

03:50	Drama Serial: Sheola	8:25	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit	7:30	Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
04:25	Cartoon: Fardi	8:30	Najayaz	8:00	Hello Dollie
05:20	Apnar Jigyasha	12:00	Lahu Ke Do Rang	8:30	Dekho Magar Pyaar Se
06:20	Shubho Shondhya	1:00	Kasautii Zindagii Kay	9:00	Kasautii Zindagii Kay
06:50	Nari Gharey Bairey	1:30	Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan	9:30	Sanjivani - A Medical Boon
08:15	Siddika Kabir's Recipe	2:00	Bhabhi	10:00	Kkavyanjali