

CULTURAL FEAST

- Cultural Programme**
- Organisation: Autism Welfare Foundation
- Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
- Time: April 28, at 3:55pm
- Film Screening**
- Title: Russian War Films
- Organiser: Jahangirnagar University
- End the Russian Centre of Science and Culture
- Venue: TSC auditorium, Jahangirnagar University
- Time: April 27-28
- Schedule**
- April 28
- 7:00pm Wartime Romance
- 9:00pm Come and See
- Exhibition**
- Title: Boichiti
- Artists: Ferdousy Priyobhashini, Rajal, Tayabuzzaman Topu
- Venue: British Council, 5, Fuller Road
- Time: April 13-30, 10am to 7pm
- Artist: Babul Mahmood**
- Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
- Time: April 24-30
- Title: Rejection**
- Artist: Abdus Salam
- Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
- Time: April 22-30, from 9am to 12pm, 5pm to 9pm
- Artist: Biren Shome**
- Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi
- Time: April 28-May 12, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm
- Title: Eiffel Tower**
- Photographer: Proshanto Karmakar
- Buddha
- Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
- Time: April 15-30, from 9am to 12pm and 5pm to 8pm
- Artists: Mazharul Islam Khan, Sudipta Malik and Subir Obayed of Charon**
- Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15/A, Dhanmondi
- Time: April 26-May 05, from 10am to 5pm
- Play**
- Title: Kamola Shundari
- Group: Natya Tirsha
- Venue: Niima Ibrahim Auditorium, Bangladesh Mahila Shamiti, Bally Road
- Time: April 29, at 7pm
- Title: Metamorphosis**
- Group: Centre for Asian Theatre
- Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
- Time: April 28, June 9, 16, 23, 30, at 7pm
- Title: Projapoti**
- Group: Natyakendra
- Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
- Time: April 29, at 7pm
- Handicrafts Fair**
- Organiser: Autism Welfare Foundation
- Venue: House 428, Road 02, Baytul Amin Housing Society, Shyamoli
- Time: April 29, from 10am onwards
- Annual Dance Evening**
- Group: Nityanchal
- Venue: Bangladesh Shilpa Academy
- Time: April 30, at 7pm
- Musical Soiree**
- Organiser: Parapara
- Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road
- Time: May 2-3, at 7pm

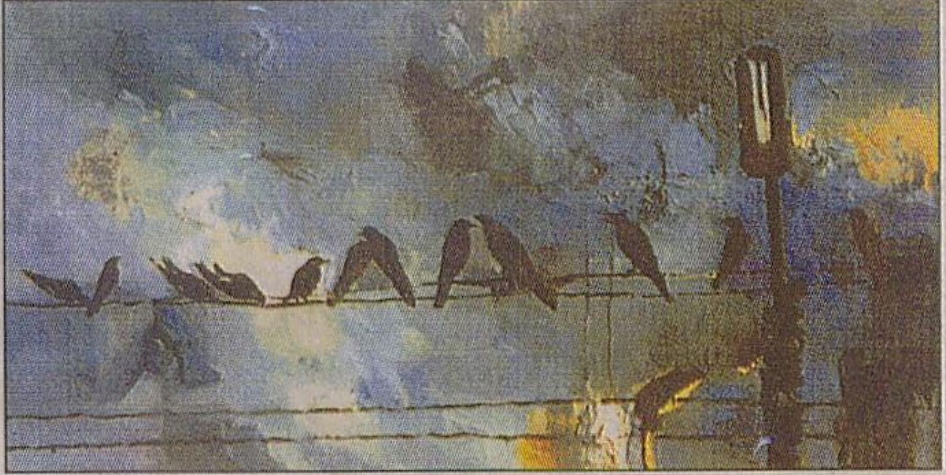
Painting Exhibition

Biren's splendid swirls on mixed-media

FAYZA HAQ

BIREN Shome, whose large paintings have been admired by connoisseurs since 1979, at the Zainul Gallery, presents his confident strokes at Shilpangan. His latest feat includes his work on the Liberation War. On his canvas he has brought in themes such as beautiful Bengal before the atrocities of the Pakistan army. He had fled to Mujibnagar in 1971, where he made posters and paintings under the direction of Quamrul Islam and Waheedul Haque.

His work is inspired and daring, as he works at night at the National Herbarium, after office hours. He puts in a layer of oil and then fills in the details with delicate watercolour brushes, broad brushes and spatula, as the mood takes him. He has finished his present display of 60 mixed-media works in two months, Biren looks forward to his retirement, when he can create at will,



Two of Biren's compositions (top and bottom-left)

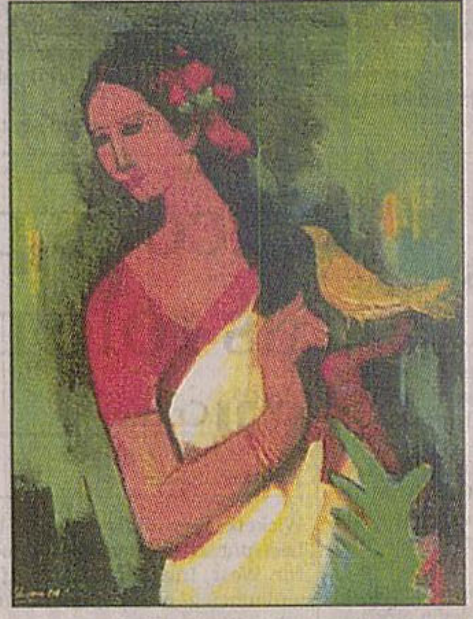
putting in as many hours as he can. Biren has included the national flag, upward facing canons and tortured innocent women who have been ravished during 1971 by the Pakistan army. He has also included the pulsating sky and the optimistic sun on the top of the compositions to usher in the new generation. He has moved on to compositions of under water creatures in which he has included the ripple of waves and underwater slimes to create gorgeous images in turquoise, cobalt blue, jade green, with intermittent flecks of ruby red and yellow ochre. Cascading, rippling and pulsating waves, curls, dots and dashes thus bring in the submarine world. 'I work in the Herbarium and so am well acquainted with the underwater flora and fauna. I've included but a fraction of the rivers of Bangladesh in my compositions,' says Biren.

The artist's consummate passion has leapt on to the canvas to bring in unusual landscapes in which we find repeated images of crows, talking to each other, as they perch on pylon poles and electrical wiring. On one occasion, the birds are

seen chattering with one another, with Old Dhaka's multi-storied buildings framing the subjects. The scintillating sky in the backdrop -- which include twirling blues and bold splashes of egret white -- bring in the impending dusk with the inclusion of gray. Sure, such scenes have been done by more established artists, like Hashim Khan or Showkuzzaman, as seen in the recent past in Shilparag. Biren's treatment, however, is more flamboyant vis-à-vis the other contemporary paintings with the same theme of jet-black crows, seen against the sunset.

Biren's old preoccupation with the beautiful female forms, with folklore features -- holding on to a pigeon or parrot, or a flower is witnessed in two entire rooms of the gallery. The pulsating oranges, emeralds, corals, and Prussian blues present images of women, as once presented by Biren's teachers -- only with lines and colours of his own imagination and experience.

Apart from his paintings, Biren has written a series of successful books on painting for children. These books will hold even adults spellbound.



ALL TIME GREATS

Asha Bhonsle: The ageless Diva

Which fan of Asha Bhonsle can forget the melody queen? None if one goes by the response to her music. This great artiste has performed playback to suit almost every film actress in the Hindi film industry since 1948. Even now, with over 722 films to her credit, Asha is a much sought after name, attracting attention worldwide.

Asha was born in India's Maharashtra State to the Mangeshkars, a family of musicians. She launched into a singing career in the footsteps of her sister Lata Mangeshkar. Her first official playback was for the Hindi film *Chunaria* (1948) and her first solo was for *Raat Ki Rani* (1949).

Asha has sung a record 20, 000 songs in over 14 languages. Some unforgettable moments on the silver screen are her songs for Helen in the film *Chinatown* and another picturised on Madhubala in the film *Humrahi*.

Success did not come overnight. However, with the support of music directors such as OP Nayyar and RD Burman, she gained a foothold and a niche independent of her sister. Among her hits are *Mere Samam*, *Kashmir Ki Kali*, *Ek Musafir Ek Haseena*, *Pran Jaye Par Vachan Na Jaye* and many others with OP Nayyar. In her four-decade career, she has wowed Bollywood



fans with unforgettable songs. Asha is a favourite with the critics too. She is known for her unique, cheerful style of singing--take for instance, *Piya Tu* and *Dum Maro Dum*.

Asha has also sung for albums, Hindi pop and ghazals. She is equally at ease with both ghazals and fast numbers. Among her gawali numbers are *Nighan Mila No Ko Jee Chahata Hai*, *Hum Kisise Kum Nahin* and *Saum Le Pukaar*.

Asha has stood tall despite increasing competition from younger talents on the music scene. There are names such as Alka Yagnik, Kavita Krishnamurthy and Sadhana Sargam to contend with but Asha has met the challenge with songs such as *Yai Re, Yai Re* and *Tanha Tanha* both from *Rangoola*. She also teams up with Adnam Sami and Ghulam Ali with equal ease for private albums of songs or ghazals.

Her talent has won wide acclaim. She was the winner twice over of the National Award--in 1981 for *Dil Cheez Kya Hain* (*Umrao Jaan*) and in 1986 for *Mera Kuch Samaan* (*Hazrat*) the Filmfare Award eight times (from 1967-1977) besides many other awards. To Asha also goes the credit for being the first Indian singer to be nominated for the Grammy Award in 1997 and the Dada Phalke Award and Dayawati Modi Award in 2001.

Here's hoping many more prolific years for Asha.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Mini-screen

Sporsher Bairey draws near an end

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular mega serial *Sporsher Bairey* is set to wrap up with its 110 episode. The final episode will be telecast on ntv in June. But before the last episode, the hundredth episode will be aired on May 3 with different interesting features.

Explaining what ntv has in store for viewers, director Shahiduzzaman Selim says, "There will be some interviews with the actors and behind-the-scenes people of the serial. These include Shahana Bajpai, the singer of the theme song, and the composer Amab. There will also be clippings of the best sequences chosen by the directors that have been telecast in the earlier episodes."

About the final episode, Selim says, "We do not want to reveal the story of the final episode naturally, but I can give a hint on the episode. The story revolves around the young girl Shukonya, the centre of attraction for the audience. The last scene of the last episode will also revolve around this girl. I would say the end is unpredictable."

Some prominent actors, Dilara Zaman and Mir Sabbir, and some new faces will be seen in the later episodes. The regular artistes Raisul Islam Asad, Afroza Banu, Abdullah



Azad Abul Kalam and Srabanti in the serial

Al Mamun, Bijori Barkatullah, Sanjida Pritee, Azad Abul Kalam, Srabanti and others will appear in their usual roles.

About promoting new artistes in television plays, Selim says, "We are committed to promoting new artistes not only on screen but also behind the screen. For instance, we have introduced a new cameraman Masud, video editor Atiqul Islam, music composer Rahul Anand and singer Shahana. And Pritee a prom-

ising artiste had her breakthrough performance in this serial. However, I feel we should not only concentrate on promoting new actors. The background people without whom a production cannot be an artistic one, should be given enough support and importance."

Selim is satisfied with the audiences' response to the serial which began last year. As he says, "This is a great achievement for me as a new director."

Super Glue: Nagorik Natyangan's upcoming play

ERSHAD KAMOL

In its 10-year-journey, promising theatre troupe Nagorik Natyangan has already presented 13 stage plays. This year the troupe is set to present another play, titled *Super Glue*, on May 29 at the Experimental Theatre Stage.

Shaju Khadem, director and playwright, is immersed in rehearsals with his cast and crew. On the genesis of the play, Khadem says, "*Super Glue* is an improvisational production. Several people have masterminded the production. I have edited the material to give it a shape of a script, which can be staged."

"The story is absurd. We seek to deliver the message that man has

the wonderful potential of adapting himself to any changed situation. As the subplot of the play, we will show that unity is the strength which can overcome any obstacle," added Shaju.

On the directorial approach of the experimental production *Super Glue*, director Shaju says, "Like the other experimental improvised production, we will not follow one single trend, rather it will be a blend of different drama forms. We will try to blend narrative technique with third theatre form (introduced by Badal Sarkar) and non-verbal form. Choreography of the play will also be the juxtaposition of western, oriental and ethnic dance forms."

Shaju's suggestive set design is

stylish. There will be different stairs on the stage. Changing a few set elements he is planning to create a different atmosphere such as a ship and island.

For their upcoming production, Nagorik Natyangan has selected all new performers. Lucky Inam, the chief of the troupe, said, "In most of the theatrical groups in Bangladesh, the young talents do not get the chance to reveal their potential, as the seniors do not give them the opportunity. We seek a change. That is why we are producing *Super Glue*, in which the director playwright, and designer Shaju Khadem, a young talent, is working with all the young performers."

Ashwariya on The Oprah show!

Aishwarya Rai sure knows how to keep herself in the public eye. After featuring in Cannes, Madame Tussauds and *David Letterman's Show*, her next stop was *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

She is the first Indian actor to feature in this widely watched television show. She certainly seemed to have won over her hostess, as Oprah wore the sari that Ash had brought along. Oprah commented that the sari was very 'sensual.'

Ash answered the often-asked question on her still staying with her parents, with: "Unlike in US, back home, you're a loser if you say, 'Mom, I'm out of here.' In India it's more about the family, about living together, about remaining connected, and that's probably the most beautiful special thing about it."

Excerpts from the show:

Oprah: I think you're gorgeous. When you look at yourself, do you see that?

Ash: To me, beautiful is, as beautiful does. I think that's what speaks volumes.

Oprah: We did a show recently where we were looking at women around the world, and we were talking to French women at a cafe... They said we (Americans) are all fat.

Ash: I'm from India, I wouldn't say that because we, Indians like to eat well. We're well endowed.

Oprah: Do they say we're rude?

Ash: No, Indian people are very hospitable.



Ashwariya (L) teaches Oprah how to look graceful in a sari

Oprah: Do they say we talk too much?  
Ash: Opinionated maybe.  
Oprah: Do they say we get a lot of divorces?  
Ash: Ah, that could be a discussion.  
Oprah: You know what, you could be a diplomat!

Courtesy, The Oprah Winfrey Show

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, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
- Teletext of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
- ATN BANGLA**
- News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 11pm.
- News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm.
- Teletext 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.
- 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
- 09:00 Satellite Programme
- 12:15 Shogbad Potrer Pata Thekey
- 12:30 Health Bulletin
- 01:05 Laukik Bangla
- 02:05 Khetley Khetley Computer
- 02:30 Bangla Feature Film
- 05:05 Shukhi Poribar
- 05:30 Shashiyakatha
- 06:00 Khabor: Dosh Janaped
- 06:35 Jibonori
- 07:00 News Headlines, Shpra Market, Weather Forecast
- 07:05 Programme on Books
- 07:30 Egiye Cholar Pothey
- 08:25 Prolidin Bangladesh
- 08:30 Drama of the Week: Daitlo Pristha
- 10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
- 10:30 Shaptodinga
- 12:05 Satellite Programme
- CHANNEL i**
- 09:30 Shogbad Potrer Pata Bangladesh and Public Reaction
- 09:45 Trityo Matra
- 11:00 Agora Shopping Guide
- 11:30 Drama Serial: Din Chokley Jay
- 12:00 Routiner Bairey
- 12:30 Aaj Dupurey
- 01:00 Ebon Cinema Gaan
- 01:25 Public Reaction
- 02:40 Medhabikash
- 03:50 Bangla Gaan
- 04:20 Special Programme
- 04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
- 05:15 Janapader Khabor
- 05:30 RC Tone And Tunes
- 06:00 Muski Plus
- 06:30 Amar Chhobi
- 07:50 Drama: Kebol Raat Hoye Jay
- ATN BANGLA**
- 08:25 Beast Master
- 09:35 Drama Serial: Shompra Rongin
- 10:00 Drama Serial: Pothey Pothey Challey Challey
- ntv**
- 08:30 Aajkal Shakal
- 09:00 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe
- 09:30 Nari Gharey Bairey
- 10:05 Priyomukh
- 11:30 Bangla Feature Film
- 02:35 Drama Serial: Hello Dollie
- 03:15 Kichu Kacha Kichu Gean
- 03:50 Drama Serial: Sheola
- 04:25 Shapla Kuri
- 04:50 Competition 2004
- 05:20 Smriti Jansal
- 06:20 Shubho Shondhya
- 06:50 Horikos Genius Bangladesh
- 08:20 Drama Serial: Kachheri Manush
- 08:50 Drama: Chitchat
- 11:25 Dindarpan

PICK OF THE DAY



- HBO**
- 8:15 Bloodlust: Subspecies
- 10:00 Hysterical Blindness
- 12:00 Holy Matrimony
- 2:00 Tempo
- 3:45 The Munsters' Scary Little Christmas
- 5:30 Sudden Death
- 7:45 National Security
- 9:30 The Bone Shalcher
- 11:15 Enter The Dragon
- 1:15 American Outlaws
- STAR GOLD**
- 9:40 Pyar Kiye Jaa
- 1:30 Hogi Pyar Ki Jeet
- 4:45 Policewala Gunda
- 8:30 Golden Gun
- 9:00 Border
- STAR PLUS**
- 1:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
- 2:00 Kesar
- 3:00 Saarthi
- 5:00 Tedhe Medhe Sapney
- Chitchat**
- On ntv at 8:50pm
- Drama
- Script & Direction: Ali Fida Ikram
- Tojo
- Cast: Tanvin Sweetie, Mamunul Haque, Shahrukh Amin
- Imon and Lopa live with their son Grishma. Imon is workaholic and does not pay much attention to his wife and son. Lopa feels lonely and begins chatting with a stanger online. Imon too builds up a relationship with another girl through online chatting. However, the twist of the story is revealed when Lopa and Imon meet their cyber pals.

- 2:30 Growing Up Wild
- 4:30 Animal Miracles Coffee
- 5:30 Animal X Russian Yeti
- 6:00 Monkey Business
- 6:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals
- 7:00 Amazing Animal Videos
- 7:30 Land of the Tiger Desert Kingdom
- 8:30 Growing Up Wild
- 10:30 From Cradle to Grave
- 11:30 Wild Encounters
- 1:30 Egypt Week Pharaoh's Revenge: Egypt's Lost Treasure
- 2:30 Days That Shook The World
- 3:30 Past is Wild, Future is Wild Valley of the T-Rex
- 4:30 The Case Studies in Forensic Scie Fatal Abductions
- 5:30 Real Kids Real Adventures Sucked Underground
- 6:00 Baby Story, A Baby Nolin
- 6:30 Danganman, Warrior Women Adventures
- 7:30 Wild Discovery
- 8:30 Crocodiles
- 9:00 Building The Ultimate Tanks
- 9:30 Amazing Baby Videos
- 10:00 Rivals Jackie Kennedy
- 10:30 Great Cars
- 11:00 Massive Engines With Chris Barrie Airlines
- 11:30 Great Crimes And Trials of the 20th Century
- 12:00 Wayne Williams: The Atlanta Killer
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**
- 4:00 Dogs With Jobs
- 4:30 Backyard Science
- 4:45 Doc Eureka
- 5:00 Serious Arctic
- 5:30 Ng Explorer
- 6:30 Seconds From Disaster
- 7:30 Insects From Hell
- 8:00 Totally Wild
- 8:30 Science Of Waves
- 9:30 Marine Machine
- 10:30 Interpol Investigates
- 11:30 Taboo
- ESPN**
- 8:30 Goals(R)
- 9:00 Euro Beachsoccer
- 10:00 English Premier Football League
- 12:30 Open Day One(L)
- 2:30 Goals(R)
- 3:00 English Premier Football League
- 5:00 ESPN Football Classic
- 6:30 National Finals #2(R)
- 8:30 English Premier Football League
- 10:30 Sportscenter India (L)
- 11:30 Sportscenter Asia (R)
- 12:00 Sportscenter Asia (S)
- STAR SPORTS**
- 8:30 33rd Hassan II Golf Trophy Morocco
- 9:30 Gymnastics Flg World Cup 2005/06 Cottbus, Germany (T)
- 12:30 English Premier Football League
- 2:30 2004/05 Aston Villa Vs Bolton Wanderers (T)
- 3:00 Extreme Programming
- 4:00 Yachting Oryx Quest 2005 Highlights(T)
- 4:30 Extreme Magazine
- 5:00 Countdown(T)
- 6:00 Outdoor Quest 2004
- 6:30 Sabah Malaysia Day Four
- 8:00 Gillette World Sports Special 2005(R)
- 8:30 Alp Tennis U.S Men's Claycourt C'ships 2005 Final(R)
- 8:30 Sportsline(L)
- 8:30 UEFA Champions League
- 10:30 Sportsline(R)
- 11:00 Football Crazy(S)
- 12:00 Football Asia(R)
- TEN SPORTS**
- 9:00 WWE After Burn
- 10:30 Golf Highlights
- 11:30 Indian Golf Show
- 12:00 Legends
- 3:30 European PGA
- 5:30 Golf BMW Asian Open Day 1
- 6:30 Caribbean Classics
- 7:00 Indian Golf Show
- 7:30 European Tour Weekly
- 8:00 World Rally
- 9:30 Caribbean Classics
- 11:30 Transworld Sports
- 12:00 WWE The Bottom Line