

CULTURAL FEAS

Exhibition

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: Charon
Artists: Mazarul Islam Khan, Sudipta Mallick and Subir Obayed
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15/A, Dhanmondi
Time: April 26- May 05, from 10am to 8pm

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Parapar
Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road
Time: May 2-3, at 7pm

Baishakhi Mela 1412

Organiser: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industry Corporation
Venue: the regular venue of International Trade Fair at Sher-e-Banglanagar
Time: April 28-May 05, from 10am to 8pm everyday

Satyajit Ray Film Festival 2005

Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium, Road 96, House 25, Gulshan 2
Time: May 02-14, at 6pm everyday
Schedule:
May 03 Jana Aranya
May 04 Nayak
May 05 Sonar Kella
May 06 Seemabaddha
May 08 Teen Kanya
May 09 Charulata
May 12 Ghare Baire
May 13 Chokher Bali
May 14 Atithi

Play

Occasion: May Day
Title: Jalbalika
Group: Padatki Natya Shangshad
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: May04, at 7:15pm

Title: Metamorphosis
Group: Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT)
Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Time: June 9, 16, 23, 30, at 7pm

Exhibition

Occasion: 60th anniversary of Victory over Fascism
Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Time: May 04-10, from 10am to 8pm

Artist: Muhammad Mohsin
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Shегun Bagicha
Time: April 30-May 09, from 11am to 7pm

Concert

Parapar comes to town

KAVITA CHARANJI

AFTER taking Kolkata by storm, London-based music group Parapar is here in Dhaka. Between yesterday and today, the group is performing at the British Council auditorium. The team of four, Moushumi Bhowmik (vocal), Oliver Weeks (guitar), Rosalind Acton (cello) and Ben Hillyard (bass) seek to create music that stresses continuity between diverse musical traditions -- *kirtan*, *Bhatiyali*, *adhunik*, the blues and both Indian and Western classical music. Audience response is evident in the brisk ticket sales.

"Two thirds of the material that we are performing are Moushumi's own compositions. These works fuse Bangla folk music: *palagan*, *Bhatiyali*, *jhumur* among others. Moushumi's songs will remain intact and we will find a way to shape and complement her. She is the focal point of our music," maintains Oliver. He has gathered knowledge about the music of Bengal, having carried out fieldwork in 1999 on *Baul gaan* in the Birbhum district of West Bengal. He has also written a number of works which experiment with develop-

ing Bangla language texts and musical styles within a western classical framework.

Moushumi Bhowmik, the central performer, is a singer, lyricist and a music researcher. She is not new to the country; visiting Dhaka over the last 10 years, she has staged performances, met friends, and undertaken research. She has co-edited a book, titled *Zenana Mehfil*, with Shaheen Akhter of Ain o Salish Kendra. This work covers Bangalee Muslim women's writing over the first 40 years since they began publishing. In Moushumi's words, "I had to come here to do research for the project and also get to know more and more people, make friends, perform and collect songs."

Among the milestones in her musical career are two projects with the renowned filmmaker Tareque Masud. She wrote the song for *Muktir Kotha* and composed the background music for *Matir Moina*. In her words, "Tareque and Catherine are very close and long time friends. It is a learning experience for me to share ideas and inspiration with them." Talking about her experience in the course of shooting *Matir Moina*, she says, "This was the first time I was doing the



Moushumi Bhowmik

music for a feature film. It was a challenge."

Moushumi also has to her credit three albums of songs, written, composed and sung by her: There's *Tumio cheel hao* (HMY 1994), *Ekhono galpo lekho* (Times Music 2000) and *Ami ghar bahir kori*.

What is her usual theme? In Moushumi's words, "There is a certain political consciousness woven into the songs."

Another member of the group, Ben Hillyard, is visiting Dhaka for the first time. "It will be interesting to see how the audience reacts to our performance," he says. His credentials are good: he is a London-based composer, musician and teaching artiste, specialising in electric and acoustic bass.

Rosalind Acton is also positive about the group and its performance. "I am classically trained. Usually we just read music and interpret it rather than actively create. Here all of us are creating," says Rosalind.

Event

Karmojibi Nari celebrates May Day

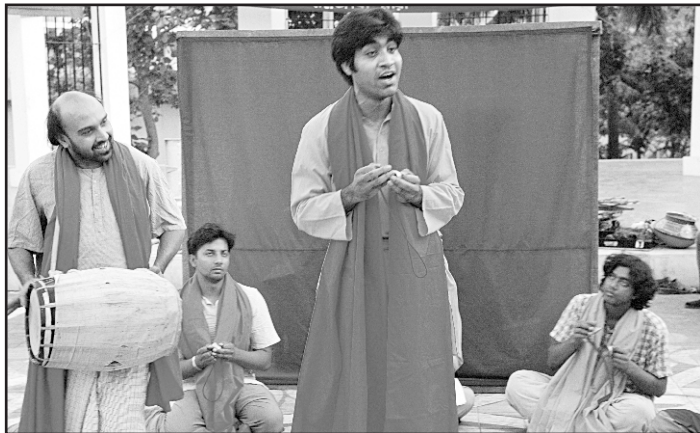
ERSHAD KAMOL

"Song of May Day
Sailing in the blue sky,
Triumphant song of labourers
Listen to it --
(You will hear) rhythm of Henry's hammer.
Ho ho ho ho
Rhythm of Henry's hammer."
(Last verses of *Naam Tar Chhilo John Henry*)

The choir of the cultural front of Karmojibi Nari rendered the awareness generating revolutionary songs on May Day.

Hundreds of female workers, with red flags and festoons and red head-bands, gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar Premises to celebrate the International Labour Day.

The choir sang *Purbo Digante Shujo Utthechhe*, *Dhono Dhaney Pushpe Bhora* and other patriotic songs, which were a clarion call to garment workers to be aware of their rights.



Artistes performing at the event



PHOTO: STAR

A scene from the street play Adhikarer Proshne Amra

Interspersed with the songs were speeches by the president of the organisation, Shirin Akhtar and the mothers of the victims of the collapse at Spectrum Sweater Factory at Savar. Rokeya Rafiq Baby, the executive director of Karmojibi Nari, was the host of the programme.

After the songs, a street drama,

Adhikarer Proshne Amra by Preetim Kumar Bal was staged.

Preetim's play depicts the struggle of the women workers in the current social milieu. Garments workers in our society often face injustice. There are times when they do not get help even from the law enforcing agents.

Preetim's play delivered various messages relating to the rights of women workers. To give the work a realistic flavour, the playwright has used many popular songs like *Bukta failta jay* and others sung by the slum dwellers.

In the awareness generating street drama, director Kamaluddin Nilu has followed the drama trend introduced by German drama legend Bertolt Brecht.

Sabina Sultana, as the leader of the women workers, delivered a moving speech in the final scene, calling for mass participation in the fight for workers' rights. All the performers of Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) performed enthusiastically in the street play.

Unilever launches the biggest talent hunt in Bangladesh

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To bring forth the gifted singers in the country, Unilever has launched a grand talent hunt in Bangladesh: *Close Up 1 Tomakeeye Khujchey Bangladesh* at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on May 2. The event was launched by Sanjiv Mehta, the Chairman and MD of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. Mehta said that with the talent hunt, Unilever is embarking upon a journey to fulfill the dreams of the young artistes of Bangladesh. Unilever hopes that *Close Up 1* will successfully embrace music, talent and confidence to help the talented musicians establish themselves.

The nationwide competition will be telecast on ntv (starting from May 4), the media partner for the event. Enayetur Rahman, the managing director of ntv and Aly Zaker the Chairman of Asiatic Marketing Communications Ltd, the creative partner for this competition, also spoke on the occasion.

The concept of a youth contest was first attempted in 2003. In its first year, *Close Up 1* focused on creative writing and fashion designing. The next year it was poetry and T-shirt designing. However, it was evident

that music was an integral part of the lives of the youth. With this insight, this year a bigger, better and brighter *Close Up 1 Tomakeeye Khujchey Bangladesh* -- was conceived.

Bangladeshi citizens, aged between 16-30 would be eligible to participate in the programme by registering at a Call Center by dialing 011 121123, or by logging on to the website, www.closeup1.com.

The preliminary screening will be held at 11 different locations across the country. Eminent music personalities like Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, Kumar Bishwajeet, and Shakila Zafar, have agreed to be part of the jury. In addition to the judges, the viewers will also participate in the joint selection process by casting their votes through SMS. CityCell is assisting the event with their call centres and other major telecom companies are willing to help as well.

The champion will sign a Taka five lakh contract for an album, a four-day trip abroad for two and other attractive prizes. In addition, the *Close Up 1* winner will be part of major concerts at home and abroad along with major artistes of Bangladesh.

Nrityanchal's dance performance

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The annual dance evening of Nrityanchal Performing Arts Academy was held at the Shishu Academy auditorium on Saturday last.

The programme started with a *Bharatnatyam* dance piece, *Shlokam*, performed by the children of the academy. Media personality Muhammad Jahangir delivered his welcome speech. The chief guest of the show, the Chairman of International Theatre Institute, Bangladesh, Ramendu Majumder said, "Due to lack of exposure to innovative dances in Bangladesh, dance as an art form has not been able to reach the status of theatre or literature. In this context, Nrityanchal's effort to attractively present dance with a blend of the contemporary and traditional style is commendable."

Shamim Ara Neepa, one of the

directors of Nrityanchal, said, "This show features the students of Nrityanchal from all age groups."

The young participants charmed the spectators throughout the show. With the popular rhyme *Aay chelera aay meyera*, a group of children, portrayed the joy of childhood.

The peacock dance, *Mayur Nache Eka*, realistically depicted effects of lightening and thunder. A well-coordinated presentation consisting of 40 children, under the age of 10, performed *Ta Ta Thoi Thoi*.

The perfectly orchestrated *mudras* and attractive features of the *Kathak* piece *Tarana*, was followed by the dance drama *Satya Rajar Deshey*. The amusing gestures of the potbelled king Habuchandra and his sycophant minister entertained the audience. The next piece *Jibontori* was a blend of folk and ethnic dance styles.



PHOTO: STAR

Dancers performing a Peacock Dance

A cultural presentation by Autism Welfare Foundation

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"*Dhano dhanney pushpey bhora*," sang 55 children at a recent two-hour cultural function held by the Autism Welfare Foundation (AWF) at Shilpakala Academy. This was not just any ordinary programme. The participants were autistic children who--thanks to AWF-- had a chance to show the world that it is possible to have a life after impairment.

"People were delighted to see the children sing and dance," says Dr Rownak Hafiz, chairperson of AWF. "Some parents were so moved that they wept." There were other positive features. "The programme revealed that even if some of the children cannot talk they can communicate through music and dance."

After the opening song, a select group of children sang and danced with *Projapati*, *Prajapati kothai pele bhai emon rangen pakha*. Then came the children's song *Amader deshta shapna puri*. Another song and dance presented the distinctive features of Bangladeshi culture. Next was a song with a dance, called *Nongor tolo tolo shomoi jey holo holo*.

The music was followed by a fashion show of students who portrayed characters such as brides, bridegrooms, matchmakers, students of schools, universities and fishermen, among others. Finally, the curtains went down with the National Anthem.

Hard work went into putting up the show, recall AWF teachers. For the last two months, the students had gone through regular rehearsals. Even otherwise, they say, songs, dances, art, plays and physical



Children put their best foot forward

exercise are an important part of the curriculum. The art forms go along with a self-help scheme where the students are taught how to look after themselves.

Autism is a brain-based developmental disorder. The degree or characteristics differ from one person another, however, those affected have impairment in social interaction, social communication and imagination.

Where to from here? Rownak and AWF visualise a larger complex of their own, which will enable them to increase student capacity from the current figure of 55 children. The other scheme is to enhance training of teachers through overseas trainers. The training will extend to teachers of other schools for the impaired and parents. "Our main ideology is to make the children as independent as possible. Children love music, dance and other art forms. Besides these art forms help socialisation of the children," says Rownak.

TV GUIDE

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

* 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, 7:30 pm, 10:30 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 pm, News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 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.

Channel i

09:30 Public Reaction
09:45 Tritio Matra
10:45 Grameen Phone Cricket Online
11:30 Aamar Chhobi
12:00 Chithi Pelam
12:30 Ajaj Dupurey
01:00 Ebong Cinemar
01:25 Public Reaction
01:35 Special Programme
03:50 Banglar Gaan
04:20 Special Programme
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 i Sports
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 i Speed
07:50 Drama Serial: Poribar O Ekti Company
08:25 Drama Serial: Ek Akasher Tara
09:35 Drama Serial: Chalcchhe Chalbey
10:00 Drama Serial: Shakkhii Kutum

ntv

08:30 Aajker Shakal
09:05 Drama Serial: Sporsher Bairey
09:30 Khaborer Shondhaya
10:05 Tarar Shathe
10:30 Alochan
11:00 Chhobir Gaan
11:30 Khabor Deshey Deshey
12:02 Single Episode Drama
02:30 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamela
03:15 Tifiner Fankey
03:40 Drama Serial:

04:25 Anyorokom
05:15 Hoi Hullor
05:15 Itihashe Ei Diney
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Shiray Shonity
08:10 Drama Serial: Sporsher Bairey
08:50 Nupur
09:40 Drama Serial: Shaola
11:25 Dindarpan
10:30 Talk Show: Annodrishti
11:05 Drama Serial: Mohona
11:35 Business this Week
12:15 Amar Computer
12:50 Shustho Thakun
01:25 Cine Gaan
02:30 Drama Serial: Ghunpoka
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai
03:50 Drama Serial: Bhawal Raja
04:25 Shannayashi
05:10 Shomoshamoyik
05:45 Nari
06:20 Islami Sawal
06:20 Aynar Shamney
08:00 Drama Serial: Shukhnagar Apartment
08:30 Drama Serial: Ek Akash Neel
09:00 Drama Serial: Shukher Lagiya
09:30 Ek Dui Teen
10:35 Law Based Programme
04:25 The Incredible Hulk
05:10 Rattled
1:45 Uncle Buck
3:45 HBO Sneak Peek: XXX
4:15 Far and Away
7:00 The Long Kiss
9:30 Goodnight
9:30 Weapons of Mass Distraction
11:30 Carnivale 09: Insomnia
12:30 Carnivale 10: Hot
1:45 Live From Baghdad
4:00 The Long Kiss
Goodnight



PICK OF THE DAY

Sporsher Baire

On ntv at 8:10 p.m.

Drama Serial

Cast: Abdullah Al Mamun, Srabonti, Jeetu Ahsan

Playwright: Pantha Shahriar, Director: Shahiduzzaman Selim

In the 100th episode of the mega serial, there will be interviews with behind the scenes people of the serial. These include playwright Pantha Shahriar, three directors Shahiduzzaman Selim, Amitabh Reza and Taher Shipon, composer of the title song Arnab and singer of the title song Shahana Bajpai. There will also be clippings of the best sequences chosen by the directors

STAR MOVIES

8:00 Bread My Sweet, The
9:45 Blue Streak
11:20 Solaris
1:00 Boiling Point
2:30 Burial Society, The
4:00 Muppet Christmas Carol
5:35 Metro Chase, The
7:00 Dudley Do Right
8:20 That Thing You Do!
10:15 Solaris
12:00 Children Of The Corn II

STAR GOLD

9:00 Muthu Maharaja
1:00 Chashme Buddoor

5:00 Desh Premee
9:00 Dulaura
9:05 Hit Filmein Hit
Sangeet- 20 M
9:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
10:00 Hit Filmein Hit
Sangeet- 20 M
10:00 Hit Filmein Hit
Sangeet- 20 M
10:30 Hatim Sharaat
11:30 Karishma Ka Karishma
12:00 Hit Filmein Hit
Sangeet- 20 M
1:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay

1:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
2:00 Bhabhi Kesar
2:30 Saarrthi
3:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi
3:30 Kahiin To Hoga
4:00 K.Street Pali Hill
4:30 Tedhe Medhe Sapney
5:00 Hit Filmein Hit
Sangeet- 20 M
5:30 Maal Hai To Taal Hai
6:00 Adventures Of Mickey And Donald
6:30 Disney's The Weekenders
7:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa

8:00 Princess
8:30 Dollieauruskamagich ag
8:30 Dekkho Magar Pyar Se
9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
9:30 Miilee
10:00 Kkavyanjali
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi
11:30 Kahiin To Hoga
12:00 K.Street Pali Hill
9:00 The Drew Carey Show
9:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 The King Of Queens
11:00 Grounded For Life
11:30 Boston Public
12:30 Still Standing
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 Charmed
9:30 Wild Card
10:30 Miss Match
11:30 Newsradio
12:00 Cover Story

STAR WORLD

9:00 F.I.R
9:30 F.I.R
10:30 Ng Investigat
11:30 Ng Junior
11:45 Ng Junior
12:00 Ng Junior
12:30 On Assignment
1:00 F.I.R
1:30 F.I.R
2:00 F.I.R
3:00 Ng Wild
4:00 Dogs With Jobs
4:30 Backyard Science
4:45 Doc Eureka
5:00 Serious: Arctic
5:30 Ng Explorer
6:30 Interpol Investigates
7:30 Insects From Hell
8:00 On Assignment
8:30 Burma's Forbidden Islands
9:30 Basketball Diplomacy: From Mao To Yao
10:00 From The Heart
10:30 Interpol Investigates
11:30 National Geographic's Taboo
9:30 English Premier League Highlights
12:30 Asian 9-Ball Tour
San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour, Kaohsiung Quarterfinal #1(R)
English Premier Football League
England West Bromwich Albion Vs Arsenal (T)
Super 12 Rugby 2005

STAR SPORTS

8:30 English Premier League Highlights
9:30 Asian 9-Ball Tour
San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour, Kaohsiung Quarterfinal #1(R)
English Premier Football League
England West Bromwich Albion Vs Arsenal (T)
Super 12 Rugby 2005

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8:30 F.I.R

4:30 Tna Xplosion (T)
5:30 The Golf Club (R)
6:00 The Rugby Show (T)
6:30 Moto Gp Highlights
Motogp World Championship 2005
Shanghai, China
Highlights(T)
8:00 Sportsline (L)
8:30 English Premier Football League
England West Bromwich Albion Vs Arsenal (R)
10:30 Sportsline (R)
11:00 Tna Xplosion (R)
12:00 Yachting Spirit Of Yachting 2005
Brothers In Racing(T)
8:00 Icc Cricket World (R)
8:30 Winter X-Games
Winter X Games VIII - Day 1, Part 2 Mt.
Aspen, Co Usa
English Premier Football League
Fulham Vs Everton (T)
12:30 Winter X-Games
Winter X Games VIII - Day 1, Part 2 Mt.
Aspen, Co Usa
Beach Soccer Euro
Beachsoccer League 2004
Fa Cup Classic
Matches Arsenal Vs Chelsea Fa Cup 1/2 Final(T)
5:30 English Premier League Highlights
English Premier