

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: Says Nothing
Organiser: Mindscape Photographers' Club
Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Francaise 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Time: May 05-22, from 9am to 12pm & 5pm and 8pm

Title: Abchaya
Artist: Bruno Ruff
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Time: May 06-12

Title: Dream of the Elusive
Artists: Rokeya Sultana
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Time: May 06-20, from 12pm to 8pm

Artist: Artists of Santaran, a forum of artists from Chittagong
Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: May 10-13

Artist: Najmul Hassan
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: June 03-16

Artists: Aashraful Hassan
Venue: Alliance Francaise, Dhaka and Chittagong
Date: May 13-30

Title: Child
Photographer: Abdur Rab Dodul
Venue: MA Beg National Photography Gallery, BPS, 63/2, Science Laboratory Road, Dhaka-1205
Date: May 05-June 02, from 10am to 8pm

T-shirt Exhibition on Tagore and Nazrul

Organiser: Nityauphar
Venue: 118/A, (3rd floor), Aziz Super Market, Shahbagh
Date: May 07-26

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 12 Ghare Baire
May 13 Chokher Bali
May 14 Atithi

Film Screening

Title: Films of Krzysztof Kieslowski
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: May 23-26 and June 05-08, at 5pm and 7pm

Death Anniversary

Occasion: The seventh death anniversary of Shawkat Osman
Discussions: Shamsur Rahman, Shardar Fazlul Karim, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Ataus Samad, Mustafa Nurul Islam, Selina Hossain
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Shegun Bagicha
Date: May 14, at 4:30pm

In conversation "We need to weed out obscene films" --Ujjal

NOVERA DEEPIA

MOVIEGOERS of the 70s still remember the young man in the comedy Iyey Korey Biye, who played the role of a house help in order to marry the girl of his dreams. The protagonist is Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, popularly known as Ujjal. With an acting career spanning over 30 years, he has acted in over 100 films, including Binimoy, Nalish, Nasib, Usila, Shakti Porikkha and Nijerey Haraye Khunji.

"Before embarking on the silver-screen, I was a full-fledged television actor. I acted with the popular and talented actresses of the time such as Dolly Anwar, Rubina and Sujata. I was an aspiring television actor, but somehow I joined movie arena."

In 1970 Subhash Dutta was looking for a new face to pair up with Kabori, in his film Binimoy. After a brief photo session, Ujjal was finally selected. "I was quite nervous working with Kabori, who was a very popular actress by that time, the film was a hit."

Ujjal, for the most part of his film career portrayed characters of ardent lovers. But in 80s late Mumtaz Ali cast him in a negative role. And films such as Nasib, in which he played a villainous role, were very well received. "The total scenario is not conducive to making good films. However, as I have a responsibility towards the audience I must make films that don't have any questionable material."

Ujjal is actively involved in the Film Producers and Distributors Association, the apex body responsible for policy making in the industry. He is



Ujjal in one of his films also a member of the Film Censor Board.

On the issue of vulgarity in recent films, Ujjal says, "Some directors are making such films to benefit financially. These directors are trying to compete with the popular satellite culture in an erroneous way. Social unrest and negligence of the authority in producing quality films are also responsible for fuelling the trend of vulgar films. This has resulted in a negative attitude amongst the viewers who are not willing to watch movies in cinema halls anymore."

"The variation, glamour and, to some extent, visually stimulated images on satellite channels have made the moviegoers expect more from the Bangla films. The responsibility of ameliorating the situation goes to film circles as well as the audience. The management of the Film Development Corporation (FDC) should be vigilant and the Ministry of Information must implement the law to stop such obscenity and take exemplary action against the violators," Ujjal concludes.

Gautam's second Indo-Bangla joint production sets sail

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

After Padma Nadir Majhi in the mid-1990s, internationally acclaimed film director Gautam Ghosh's plan of making his second Indo-Bangladesh joint production is firmly on course.

Ghosh, whose first joint production includes Bangladeshi stars like Raisul Islam Assad and Gulshan Ara Champa, is understandably tight-lipped about the story of his next venture.

All that he is ready to share with the media is that the change brought about in the people's lives by consumerist culture and apparent helplessness of ordinary individuals to stem the tide and erosion of culture would recur in his movies in coming years.

But one thing appears certain, Ghosh is determined to make the Indo-Bangla joint venture a reality. "I have a long commitment to direct an Indo-Bangla production which should not be delayed."

The director of films like Dakhal, Paar, Antargali Jatra, is

now busy conceptualising his next project.

Ghosh's latest documentary, Impermanence on the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, is to be premiered in the United States later this month. Screenings of the film were held in Venice in

September last year and in New Delhi last month.

The director has earlier made documentaries on maestro Satyajit Ray, legendary shehnai player Ustad Bismillah Khan and Rabindra Sangeet exponent Kanika Bandopadhyay.



Champa and Asad in Padma Nadir Majhi directed by Gautam Ghosh

Exhibition

Evocative images on canvas

FAYZA HAQ

Tasadduk Hossain Dulu, who works through symbolism, presents it via the apparently trivial elements of life around us. He has struck a strong blow at socio-economic and political injustice -- prevailing in Bangladesh in particular. Qualifying from the Institute of Fine Arts, Chittagong University, he is frank and to the point. He uses simple items of daily wear -- such as gloves, clothes pins, bolsters, undergarments, mugs and coiled rubber balloons. This is seen at his fifth solo exhibition, which opened at Chittrak Gallery on May 6.

Tasadduk, coming from a cultured background, with music and literature being encouraged as a child, took to painting and drawing in his youth. Today he works in an organisation that encourages visual art -- painting after his office hours, as long as he can stay up. He labours with his acrylic on canvas, preferring acrylic to oil, with his brother and wife to egg him on. As a student he had his teachers at the Chittagong University like Abul Mansur, and Dhali al Mamun to guide and coax him, along with the inspiration of older masters. Sporting a walrus moustache and dark-rimmed glasses he appears overwhelming but he remains soft-spoken though firm and incisive. Tasadduk has chosen the apparently minor objects in our day to day living to tell his tale of unmitigated oppression and injustice.

Taking See-4 we discover two gloves on a wash-line. The blue and red gloves have a yellow peg. "We are



Two art pieces by Tasadduk Hossain Dulu



clapping at everything before us like the silent gloves, who have no other recourse. The tiny red clay bird perched on the rope represents us as insignificant and helpless. Two gray-blue combs with fine teeth are introduced in See-6. By these objects the artist denotes the futility of the prevailing law and order situation, where desperate remedies are reportedly taken to remove evil. However uncertainty and havoc prevail. The multicoloured and apparently vibrant bolster of a child, seen in See-3, also has a vicious slant.

The bolster, in See 3, the artist explains, is a local cry in one night stands in sleazy hotels. He is not running down sex-workers, but the men who ply the helpless women, and so make the society questionable. His angst-ridden, moralising tone is continued in See-9 where he has introduced the shapely legs of dancers sans clothes. The floating ruby-red cast-off garment on the waters evokes the nightlife of cities like Los Angeles, Paris and other hubs of civilisation, viewed worldwide.

Tasadduk's message is simple and straightforward. He has used a large measure of black to drive home his point that "there is something evil in the kingdom of Denmark". His is a loud cry for a revival of the pristine existence, which he believes society enjoyed many years ago. This exhibit is a protest against mechanisation, industrialisation and the get-rich-quickly, stressful existence in our urban society.

Tasadduk has participated in innumerable group exhibitions, including four Asian Biennials and four National Art Exhibitions of the Shipkaka Academy, Dhaka. His work is certainly mind-whirling.

ALL TIME GREATS

Begum Akhtar: The Queen of Ghazals

Akhtaribai Faizabadi, or Begum Akhtar, as she was more popularly known, earned the epithet of Mallika-e-Ghazal. Almost synonymous with the concept of ghazal gaayaki, she evolved her unique --and unparalleled--style of singing.

Her voice became mature in the course of time and acquired richness and depth. In her distinctive style, she sang ghazals and other light classical pieces. She has nearly 400 songs to her credit. She was a regular performer on All India Radio and usually composed her own ghazals. Most of her compositions were raga based.

Begum Akhtar was born on October 7, 1914 in the small town of Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh in northern India. She was born in an upper crust family that was not musically inclined. However, at her uncle's insistence, she was sent to train under Ustad Imdad Khan, the great sarangi exponent, and later under Ata Mohammed Khan. Later, she travelled to Calcutta with her mother and started learning music from classical stalwarts such as Mohammad Khan, Abdul Waheed Khan and finally she became the disciple of Ustad Jhande Khan Saheb.

At the tender age of 15, she gave her first --and highly successful-- public performance. No less a famous personality than poetess Sarojini Naidu appreciated her singing during a concert which was organised in the aid of victims of the Bihar earthquake (in the 1930s). This encouraged her to continue singing ghazals with more enthusiasm. She also cut her first disc for the Megaphone Record Company at that time. A number of gramophone records were released carrying her ghazals, dadras and the 30s thumris, among others.



With the advent of the talkie era in India, Begum Akhtar acted in a few Hindi movies in thirties. East India Film Company of Calcutta approached her to act in King for a Day (alias Ek Din Ka Badshah) and Nal Damayanti in 1933. Like others of that era, she sang her own songs in all her films. She continued acting in the following years. The movies she acted in are:

Ameena (1934), Mumtaz Begum (1934), Jawaani Ka Nasha (1935) and Naseeb Ka Chakkar (1935).

Subsequently Begum Akhtar was approached by the famous producer-director Mehboob Khan, to act in Roti (1942). In 1945, Begum Akhtar tied the knot with barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed Abbasi and became known as Begum Akhtar. However, after marriage, due to her husband's restrictions, she could not sing almost five years, and subsequently, she fell ill. Music was prescribed as the only remedy!

In 1949, she returned to the recording studios. She sang three ghazals and a dadra at Lucknow Radio Station. She wept afterwards and returned to singing in concerts, a practice which lasted until her death.

Begum Akhtar continued her association with films. At the behest of music director Madan Mohan, she sang in two Hindi movies: namely Daana paani (1953) and Ehsaan (1954). Satyajit Ray's Bengali film Jaisa ghar (1958) was her last role where she played the role of a classical singer.

Her musical career ended in a concert held in Ahmedabad. She had raised the pitch of her voice as she felt that her singing that day had not been as good as she had wanted it to be. She had not been feeling well that day to begin with. The additional demand and stress she put herself under resulted in her falling ill and being rushed to the hospital. She passed away on October 30, 1974 leaving a big void in ghazal lovers' hearts.

Just eight days before she passed away, she recorded a ghazal penned by Kaifi Azmi: Sunaa karo meri jaan un se un ke afaane Sab ajanabii hain yahaan kaun kis ko pahachaane

She was posthumously awarded the Padmabhushan.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

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, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am. Telecast 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, 11pm. News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 4:00pm, 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) 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, 7:30pm. Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm. Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BTV 07:30 Shubhechha Nin 09:00 Satellite Programme Shongbad Potrer Pata Thekey Health Bulletin Loukik Bangla 02:05 Khetley Khetley Computer 02:30 Bangla Feature Film 07:00 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast Programme on Books 07:30 Documentary Programme Drama of the Week 10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia 10:30 Aamader Aain Satellite Programme 12:05 CHANNEL i 09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction 09:45 Tritiyo Matra 11:00 Agora Shopping Guide 11:30 Drama Serial: Din Choley Jay 12:00 TVC Sky Shop 12:30 Aaj Dupurey 01:00 Ebgong Cinemar Gaan 01:25 Public Reaction 02:40 Rutiner Bairey 03:50 Banglar Gaan 04:20 Special Programme 04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma 05:15 Janapader Khabor 05:30 RC Tone And Tunes 06:00 Music Plus

06:30 Amar Chhobi 07:50 Drama: Keboli Raat Hoye Jay 08:25 Beast Master 09:35 Drama Serial: Shompurno Rongin 10:00 Drama Serial: Pothey Pothey Chalthey Chalthey 10:25 Annodrishti 11:05 Ek Dui Tin 12:15 Bangla Feature film 03:50 ATN Rannaghar 04:20 Shundar Jiboner Jonno 05:10 Bangla Namer Desh 05:45 Islami Sawal O Jawab 06:20 Children Programme 08:00 Drama Serial: Tana Poren 08:30 Drama Serial: Ek Akash Nil 09:00 Drama Serial: Krishnopokkho Shuklupokkho 09:30 Drama Serial: Mohona 10:30 Char Deyalar Kabbo 12:10 Bangla Feature Film ntv 08:30 Aajker Shakal 09:00 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe 09:30 Nari Gharey Bairey 10:05 Priyomukh 11:30 Bangla Feature Film: Bhabir Sangsar 02:35 Drama Serial: Sporsher Bairey

PICK OF THE DAY



Ek Akash Neel On ATN Bangla at 8:30pm Drama Serial Cast: Kushum, Jeetu Ahsan, Riya, Shahed Sharif Khan, Romana



djuice Jhakanaka Concert On ntv at 8:50pm Concert Performers: Black, Miles, Silk Route, Amit Sana, Rahul Saxena

03:15 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan 03:50 Drama Serial: Sheola 04:25 Shapla Kuri Competition 2004 05:20 Mahilangan 06:20 Shubho Shondhya 06:50 Horlicks Genius Bangladesh 08:20 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush 08:50 Djuice Jhakanaka Concert 11:25 Dindarpan HBO 10:15 Tough Luck 12:00 Pavement 2:00 Charlotte Gray 4:30 Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle 5:00 The Sum of All Fears 7:30 The Mask Showdown in Little Tokyo 11:00 New Best Friend 12:45 Sleepstaker: The sandman's Last Rites 2:45 Tough Luck 4:30 The Mask STAR MOVIES 8:15 Jet Lag 9:45 Windtalkers 12:00 No Way Out 2:00 Intrepid 3:45 Rocketman

5:25 Lord Of The Flies 7:00 Assassination Tango 8:55 Master And Commander: The Far Side Of The World 10:15 Death Train 12:45 American Psycho 2 STAR GOLD 1:00 Kabhi Haan Kabhi Na 5:00 Kroadh 9:05 Lakeer - Forbidden Lines STAR PLUS 10:30 Hatim 11:30 Shararat 12:00 Karishma Ka

8:30 ag 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 K.Street Pali Hill STAR WORLD 10:30 American Idol 11:30 The Practice 12:30 J.A.G. 1:30 Magnum P.I. 2:28 Star Asia Travel 2:30 Oprah Winfrey 3:30 Bold And Beautiful 4:30 Hollywood Squares 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 American Idol 9:00 Growing Up Gotti 9:30 The Chronicle: News From The E 10:30 Really Caught In The Act 11:28 Star Asia Travel 11:30 Newsradio 12:00 Cover Story NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 11:45 Ng Junior 12:30 Storm Stories 1:00 Ultimate Adv 3:00 Ng Wild 4:00 Dogs With Jobs 4:30 Backyard Science

4:45 Doc Eureka 5:00 Serious: Jungle 5:30 Ng Explorer 6:30 Interpol Investigates 7:00 Planet Wild 8:00 Wildlife Diary 8:30 Science Of Sport 9:30 Marine Machine 10:30 Seconds From Disaster 11:30 National Geographic's Taboo ANIMAL PLANET 10:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals 11:00 Amazing Animal Videos 11:30 Supernatural Superstars 12:00 Secret World of Gardens 12:30 Pet Nation 2:30 Growing up Wild 4:30 Animal Miracles Hockey Dog 5:30 Animal X Carnivorous Herbivores 6:00 Monkey Business 6:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals 7:00 Amazing Animal Videos 7:30 Land of the Tiger 8:30 Monsoon Forests 10:30 From Cradle to Grave Call Of The World 11:30 Wild Encounters :Babies Of The African Plains DISCOVERY CHANNEL 11:30 The Case Studies in Forensic Scie M.E's Casebook 12:30 Night In The Jungle 1:30 Extreme Machines II Mega Trucks 2:30 Days That Shook The World 3:30 Past is Wild, Future is Wild What Killed the Mega Beasts? 4:30 The Case Studies in Forensic Scie Trial By fire 5:30 Real Kids Real Adventures III Heimlich Hero 6:00 Baby Story, A Baby Berger 6:30 Dangerman, Warrior Women Adventures With Geoff Mackley, The Deep Freeze 7:30 Night Underwater Building The Ultimate I & II Skyscrapers 9:00 Amazing Baby Videos 9:30 Legends of the Isles: The Loch Ness Monster 10:00 Rivals Lennon Vs McCartney 10:30 Great Cars 11:00 Massive Engines With Chris Barrie Ships 11:30 Great Crimes And Trials of the 20th Century Ku Klux Klan, The Killings, After Midnight STAR SPORTS 8:30 Asian Tour: Sk