

CULTURAL FEAST

Solo Art Exhibition

Organisation: Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA) in association with Alliance Francaise de Dacca
Artist: Wakilur Rahman
Title: Reading Space Seeing Space
Venue: 26 Satmasjid Road Dhanmondi RA
Date: December 3-15

Theatre

Group Theatre Federation Festival- 2005
December 6 Binodini by Dhaka Theatre
December 7 Kanjush by Loko Natya Dal
December 8 Circus Circus by Prachyanat
December 9 Nityapuran by Desh Natak
December 10 Raktakarobi by Nagorik Nityasampradaya
December 11 Raarang by Aranyak Natya Dal
All of the shows will be staged at 6:30pm at the Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Photography Exhibition

Title: Our Hopes Our Fears Our Reality
Theme: HIV/AIDS and gender related issues
Photographer: Bristi Chowdhury
Venue: Shilpangan, House 25, Road 05, Dhanmondi
Date: December 01-14
Title: Russia & its people
Occasion: Inaugural
Venue: Exhibition hall of the Russian Centre of Science & Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Date: December 8, at 5:30pm

Film Festival

Organiser: Dhaka Chalachchitra Shobha
Title: Asian Film Festival 2005
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62 Science Laboratory
Date: December 11
Film **Time**
Blackboard 3:30pm
Children of Heaven 6:00pm
Date: December 12
Film **Time**
Cup 3:30pm
Osama 6:00pm
Date: December 13
Film **Time**
Suicide Club 3:30pm
The Fast Runner 6:00pm
Date: December 14
Film **Time**
Dukhai 3:30pm
Kittankhola 6:00pm
Date: December 15
Film **Time**
The Little Angel 3:30pm
Puteri Gunung Lidang 6:00pm
Date: December 16
Film **Time**
Concert for Bangladesh 3:30pm
Muktil Gaan 6:00pm
Date: December 18
Film **Time**
Abaro Aranya 3:30pm
Utara 6:00pm
Date: December 19
Film **Time**
Red Cherry 3:30pm
East Palace West Palace 6:00pm
Date: December 20
Film **Time**
The wind will carry us 3:30pm
Laila 6:00pm
Date: December 21
Film **Time**
Baichumo 3:30pm

In Conversation

“I believe classical is the base of music in every culture” ---Monica Yunus

KARIM WAHEED

REVIEWERS from US dailies, *New York Times*, *Charleston City Paper* and *Palm Beach Daily News* had described her as -- “especially winning”, “utterly captivating” and “a voice destined for super-stardom” respectively. Her voice ranges from a low A to a high F and she has been featured in several operas by prestigious



Monica Yunus

PHOTO: STAR

opera houses, which includes New York's Metropolitan Opera.

The vivacious, charming and talented soprano, Monica Yunus has an impressive lineage. She is the daughter of Dr Muhammad Yunus, a renowned economist who has put Bangladesh on the map through his innovation of the ‘microcredit system’.

Monica is the daughter of Dr Yunus and his first wife, Vera. “I’ve inherited my dad’s perseverance and passion for classical music from my grandmother (Vera’s mother),” Monica chortles. “I was born in Chittagong but my mother and I left the country when I was four months old. I grew up in New Jersey, US and this is my first visit to Bangladesh since we left Chittagong. I’m doing a show organised by Nityanchal at the Goethe Institut on December 5, but basically I’m here to visit family,” she adds.

So how did she start her career as an opera singer? Monica says, “After graduating from the Juilliard School in music (vocals), I did an internship with the Pittsburgh Opera. I auditioned for Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* conducted by James Levine, at the Metropolitan Opera and fortunately I was selected.” Monica made her critically acclaimed debut as Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro* in 2003 and joined the Metropolitan Opera for productions of *Die Frau Ohne Schatten*, *Le Rossignol*, and *The Queen of Spades*. Following these performances she made her European operatic debut as Oscar in *Un Ballo in Maschera*.

Monica has also appeared in Palm Beach Opera’s production of *Hansel and Gretel* as Gretel, Nashville Opera’s *Die Fledermaus* as Adele, Granite State Opera’s *Rigoletto* as Gilda and Anchorage Opera’s *Don Giovanni* as Zerlina in 2004-2005 season. She also performed a recital at Madrid’s Auditorio Nacional and sang as the soprano soloist in Mahler’s *Symphony No. 4* with New York City’s MetroChamber Orchestra, the same season.

Talking about her inclination towards West-



Monica in Soprano costume with Dr Yunus

ern classical music and opera, Monica says, “I believe classical is the base of music in every culture. It is obvious that nowadays, the number of classical music enthusiasts is limited. An album of classical music won’t sell like a Britney Spears album does. But it is music in its purest form and I feel passionately about it.”

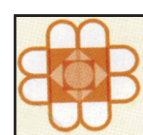
Who are the artists she considers to be outstanding and what are her dream characters? “Maria Callas is definitely a legend; I also find Mirella Freni and Renée Fleming amazing. About characters I’d like to play: Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Titania in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* come to mind,” says Monica.

Memorable moments with her father? Monica gleams, “There are so many. I’ve had the opportunity to travel to several countries

with my dad. I’ve met the King and Queen of Spain when I accompanied my father to the country. A truly unforgettable moment was my father having a private meeting with Bono at the Clinton Global Initiative. Bono is not just one of the biggest rock stars in the world, he is a generous person who genuinely cares for the whole world.”

Is she interested in Bangla music? “I won’t say I’ve heard a lot of Bangla songs so far but I want to learn Bangla and I do have intentions of doing something in Bangla. I’m also interested in bringing a full-fledged orchestra to Bangladesh.”

Hopefully the brilliant soprano will achieve her goals and we’ll get to hear more of her.



BGTF Drama Festival '05

Binodini: A narrative of an actress

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Preview of tonight’s play:

Dhaka Theatre’s production *Binodini* features the introduction of subcontinental urban theatre based on a European theatre format. In the British days, courtesans performed the female characters since women from conservative backgrounds were not allowed to act in theatre. Binodini Dasi, an actress with a dark past, made tremendous contribution to our theatre in the 19th century. *Binodini* is an autobiography-

based narrative of Binodini Dasi, where Shimul Yousuff performs in the role of Binodini.

Simon Zakaria, with guidance from Selim Al Deen, Nasiruddin Yousuff and Shimul Yousuff, has dramatised *Binodini*. Nasiruddin Yousuff directs the solo performance-based play.

Kamaluddin Kabir is the set designer while Ishrat Nishat is the light designer of the play.

Today Dhaka Theatre will stage *Binodini* at the Experimental Theatre Stage at 6:30 pm.



Shimul Yousuff as Binodini

“Pretty Woman” still the highest paid actress

REUTERS, Los Angeles

She traded Hollywood for motherhood and did not star in a movie this year, but Julia Roberts still ranks as Hollywood’s highest-paid actress at US \$20 million a film, according to an annual poll.

The *Hollywood Reporter*, an entertainment paper recently published its annual list of the top-earning actresses, putting Nicole Kidman just behind Roberts at No. 2.

Kidman commands an estimated US \$16 million to US \$17 million per movie, the Reporter said.

The No. 3 and No. 4 spots were held by Reese Witherspoon, currently starring in ‘Oscar hopeful’ *Walk the Line*, and Drew Barrymore, both of

whom take in \$15 million a movie. Roberts, with her broad smile and infectious all-American style, earned an Oscar for playing feisty consumer advocate Erin Brockovich in the 2000 movie of the same name.

That role and her ability to lure audiences into theaters in movies like *Ocean’s Eleven* put her in the ranks of \$20 million-plus movie actors, a realm previously reserved for hugely popular actors like Tom Cruise.

Roberts, 38, put her career on hold in 2004 and 2005. She gave birth in November of last year to twins, Phinnaeus and Hazel, and is married to cameraman Danny Moder.



Julia Roberts

Essays in water-colour

FAYZA HAQ

The competition in water-colour, organised by Shako, a local woman artists’ group, held recently at Gulshan, was a veritable delight to watch. Kuhu, one of the senior artists of Shako said, “You ask me about Shako. It’s not something feminist. For this programme today, I’ve worked with Rafiqun Nabi and Jamal Ahmed, who are the chief guests today; and who will adjudge the three prize winners in time. Most of the contestants are male stu-

dents. The artists in Shako include young and more established ones. Thus we’re carrying other artists, step by step, and promoting them.”

Explaining the raison d’etre of Shako’s latest endeavour, Kuhu said, “There is an element of social consciousness in our effort. It is time to give back to society what we have received.”

The 16 students began painting at 11.30am and finished around 4 pm. This contest was geared at young artists from the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. There

were three cash prizes. Meanwhile, side by side, the nine participants of Shako conducted a workshop for its members.

The proceeds of the workshop will go to DHL: Express, which sponsored both the contest and the workshop. Ahsan Parvez, of DHL, dwelling on why the company was sponsoring the two projects, said, “I think that Shako helped the people of Bangladesh, all along, with their charitable work. It has aided acid-survivors, differently-abled artists and other groups. The two programmes are meant to encourage the fine arts students and further unveil the talent in Shako.” DHL has several other plans. Says Parvez, “It is quite possible that DHL may sponsor an art gallery for women. A lot of women artists don’t get as much encouragement and promotion as men artists.”

Having a brief parley with two participants of the contest, Shumon Biswas of the Institute of Fine Arts, Crafts Section, and Afroza, also from the same institute, one realised that the young painters were very promising. Shumon Biswas, asked to comment on his experience of the project, said, “At first, I was a little bewildered with the new scenario and new faces



The prize winners (seated) seen with their teachers

but within a brief spell I felt tranquil. My guide is Nasreen Begum, whose exquisite works I’ve always admired. I’ve always sought a competition to display my work. I’m naturally a little nervous because the contest time is limited. Yet, inspired and hopeful, I’m pressing on with my endeavour.”

Commenting on her experience Afroza Sultana, also painting ad lib, with excellent speed, dexterity and know-how said, “What is new are the objects of the still-life, I haven’t quite experimented with painting banana

leaves and two other vegetables that you see in my composition.”

One came away content and surfeit with the experience of seeing a fine competition and the workshop.

The prize winners were: Md Ahkamul Haque Tunir, Md Zahir Zahiruddin, and Md Al-Akhir Sarkar of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.

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 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 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 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News (English) (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL-i
09:30 *Shongbad Potrey* Bangladesh
09:45 *Tritio Matra*
10:45 Grameen Phone Cricket Online
11:30 *Aamar Chhobi*
12:30 *Aaj Dupurey*
01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:25 Public Reaction
01:30 *Shongbadpotrey* Bangladesh
04:00 *Bashudhara Amader Gaan*
04:15 Special Programme
04:40 *Saa Re Gaa Maa*
05:15 *Janopoder Khobor i-Sports*
05:30 Music Plus
06:00 *Shera Radhuniri*
07:50 1412
08:25 Drama Serial: *Ek Akasher Tara*
09:30 Drama Serial: *Chalchhe Chalbey Tumi Shudhu Amar*
ntv
08:35 *Aajker Shokal*
09:30 *Khoborer Shondhane*
10:05 *Vinna Swader Khabor*
10:30 *Bari Ghar Thik Thik*
11:00 *Cin gaan*
11:30 *Ganbhira*
12:02 Single Episode
02:30 Drama Serial: *Bela Bhumi*
03:50 *Akash Chhonya*
04:25 *Gallery*
05:20 *Apar Jiggasha*

06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:50 *Frankly Speaking*
08:25 Drama Serial: *Bela Bhumi*
09:10 *Nupur*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Amader Anondo Bari Dindarpan*
11:25 **ATN BANGLA**
10:30 Talk Show: *Annodrishti*
11:05 Drama Serial
11:35 *Bussiness This Week*
12:15 *Amar Computer*
12:45 *Cholo Gaan Gai*
02:30 Drama Serial: *Ghunpoka*
03:15 Drama Serial: *O Amar Chokkhu Nai*
03:45 *Aha Ki Anondo*
04:20 *Somosamoik*
04:50 Selected programme
05:10 *Nari*
05:45 *Islami Swal Jawab*
06:20 *Aynar Shamney*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Shukhnagar Apartment*
08:30 *Ferari Siren*
09:00 *ATN Taroka* (acting)
10:40 Musical Programme
HBO
09:45 *Trapped*
12:00 *A Simple Wish*
01:45 *Knockaround Guys*
03:45 *Threshold*
05:30 *Merci X*
07:15 *Deep Blue Sea*
09:30 *Citizen Cohn*
11:45 *National Security*
01:30 *Esther Kahn*
STAR MOVIES

PICK OF THE DAY

Nupur
On ntv at 9:10 pm
Genre: Dance programme
Host: Nipa, Shibli

Resident Evil
On Star Movies at 8 pm
Genre: Action/ drama
Cast: Milla Jovovich, Sienna Guillory, Oded Fehr

08:20 highlander	11:30 The Office	10:30 TRU Calling	06:30 Reel Race	Malaysia Monsoon Cup(T)	Football League 2005/06 London; England Chelsea Vs Middlesbrough(R)
11:30 Look Who's Talking Too	12:00 Coupling	11:28 Star Asia Travel Shorts	08:30 Risk Takers	01:30 English Premier Football League	01:30 Gillette World Sports Special Gillette World Sports 2005(R)
12:10 Big Daddy	12:30 Everybody Loves Raymond	11:30 Seinfeld	9:30 Discovery Rewind	09:00 Young and Wild	02:00 Iifa Shield Kolkata; Wb India Final(R)
02:05 Try 17	01:00 Becker	DISCOVERY	10:30 Extreme Machines	10:30 Jeff Corwin Experience	04:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(T)
04:00 Species	01:30 The A Team	08:30 Analyse This	11:30 New Detectives	11:30 Lyndal's Lifeline	05:00 Extreme Programming Wild Spirits 2005/06(T)
06:00 Soul Assassin	01:58 Star Asia Travel Shorts	09:30 Engineering Wonders	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	09:30 Interpol Investigates: Dangerous Company	05:30 The Rugby Show England; England New Zealand Vs New Zealand 4th Odi; Highlights(R)
08:00 Resident Evil	03:30 Bold And Beautiful	10:30 Wild Discovery	09:30 Monday Mystery: Interpol Investigates: Dangerous Company	10:30 Nat Geo Investigates: Crash Of The Concorde	07:30 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
11:40 Air Rage	04:30 Hollywood Squares	11:30 Amazing Baby Videos	11:30 Sunday Night Special: The Airshow Miracle	11:30 Sunday Night Special: TWA Flight 800	08:28 Sportscenter India Sportscenter Update(L)
STAR WORLD	05:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway Comedy	12:00 Force of Nature	12:30 Sunday Night Special: TWA Flight 800	12:30 Nat Geo Investigates: Crash Of The Concorde: Episode 1	08:30 Superskills Samsung Superskills Semifinal #1(T)
09:00 The Drew Carey Show Comedy	05:30 Buffy The Vampire Slayer Sci-Fi	12:30 Engineering Wonders	01:30 Guardians Of Angkor	03:30 Monday Mystery: Interpol Investigates: Dangerous Company	09:00 Soccer Fifa Fever(R)
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show Chat Show	06:30 The King Of Queens	01:30 Analyse This	02:30 Nat Geo Investigates: Crash Of The Concorde	04:30 Football Focus Pakistan Tour Of New Zealand National Bank Series Napier; New Zealand New Zealand Vs Pakistan 4th Odi; Highlights(R)	09:30 Born To Play: Masters Of Football(R)
10:30 Married To The Kells	07:30 Friends Comedy	02:30 Popular Mechanics For Kids	04:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	05:30 Nat Geo Investigates: League Highlights(R)	01:00 Sportscenter India Sportscenter Update(L)
11:00 The King Of Queens	08:30 Kevin Hill	03:00 Fat Free	05:30 Sunday Night Special: The Airshow Miracle	06:30 Nat Geo Investigates: League Highlights(R)	02:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
	09:30 Ghost Hunters	03:30 Ten Years Younger	07:00 Sunday Night Special: TWA Flight 800	07:00 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	03:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
		04:30 Wild Discovery	08:00 Nat Geo Investigates: Crash Of The Concorde	07:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	04:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
		05:30 FBI Files	08:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	08:00 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	05:00 The Rugby Show England; England New Zealand Vs New Zealand 4th Odi; Highlights(R)
			09:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	08:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	07:30 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			10:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	09:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	08:28 Sportscenter India Sportscenter Update(L)
			11:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	10:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	08:30 Superskills Samsung Superskills Semifinal #1(T)
			12:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	11:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	09:00 Soccer Fifa Fever(R)
			1:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	12:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	09:30 Born To Play: Masters Of Football(R)
			2:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	1:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	01:00 Sportscenter India Sportscenter Update(L)
			3:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	2:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	02:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			4:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	3:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	03:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			5:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	4:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	04:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			6:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	5:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	05:00 The Rugby Show England; England New Zealand Vs New Zealand 4th Odi; Highlights(R)
			7:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	6:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	07:30 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			8:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	7:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	08:28 Sportscenter India Sportscenter Update(L)
			9:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	8:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	08:30 Superskills Samsung Superskills Semifinal #1(T)
			10:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	9:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	09:00 Soccer Fifa Fever(R)
			11:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	10:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	09:30 Born To Play: Masters Of Football(R)
			12:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	11:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	01:00 Sportscenter India Sportscenter Update(L)
			1:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	12:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	02:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			2:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	1:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	03:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			3:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	2:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	04:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			4:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	3:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	05:00 The Rugby Show England; England New Zealand Vs New Zealand 4th Odi; Highlights(R)
			5:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	4:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	07:30 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			6:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	5:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	08:28 Sportscenter India Sportscenter Update(L)
			7:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	6:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	08:30 Superskills Samsung Superskills Semifinal #1(T)
			8:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	7:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	09:00 Soccer Fifa Fever(R)
			9:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	8:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	09:30 Born To Play: Masters Of Football(R)
			10:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	9:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	01:00 Sportscenter India Sportscenter Update(L)
			11:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	10:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	02:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			12:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	11:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	03:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			1:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	12:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	04:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			2:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	1:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	05:00 The Rugby Show England; England New Zealand Vs New Zealand 4th Odi; Highlights(R)
			3:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	2:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	07:30 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling(R)
			4:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	3:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	08:28 Sportscenter India Sportscenter Update(L)
			5:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	4:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	08:30 Superskills Samsung Superskills Semifinal #1(T)
			6:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	5:30 Nat Geo Junior: Backyard Science	09:00 Soccer Fifa Fever(R)
			7:30 Nat Geo Junior: Back		