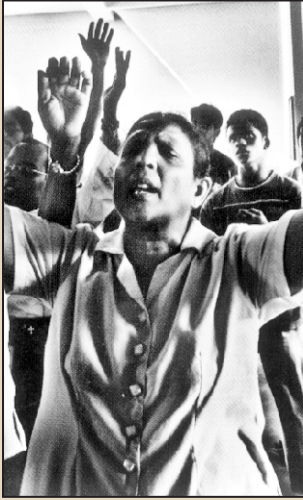


CULTURAL FEAST

Painting Exhibition

Title: A Dew Drop
Artist: Nasima Khanam Queenie
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery
Date: January 03-10



Group Photography Exhibition

Title: Nature's Fury
Participating Country: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Iran, Pakistan
Venue: Drik Gallery
Time: December 26- January 8

Photography Exhibition

Title: A look through the crow's eyes
Organiser: Bengali Foundation
Venue: Gallery of Ward's n Pages, Café Imsonnia, 125, Gulshan-2: The Fine Arts institute, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh National Museum and Bengal Foundation
Date: December 25, 2005- January 27, 2006

Title: Photographs of Zainul Abedin
Organiser: Zainul Gallery
Date: December 29, 2005- January 18, 2006
Time: 12-06pm



Musical Soiree

Title: Baul Song Programme 2006
Organiser: Unesco Dhaka and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery Plaza
Date: January 7
Time: 4:00 pm

2nd National Film Conference

Title: Female Filmmakers in Bangladesh
Organiser: Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies
Venue: German Cultural Centre Auditorium
Date: January 7
Time: 10:00 am

Ushering in quality films

2nd Nat'l Film Conference inaugurated

FAYZA HAQ

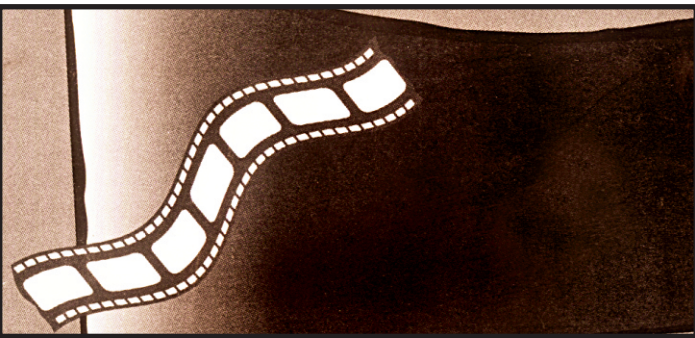
THE 2nd National Film Conference began with fervor at the German Cultural Centre Auditorium on January 5. Speaking at the occasion, Professor Anisuzzaman, the chief guest, said that he, like other film enthusiasts in the country, feels passionately about films, although he had not studied all aspects of them. He said that since 2004, the national film movement with its two conferences has made a step in the right direction towards progress in our film production.

"This conference is a commendable effort to develop the taste of the nation in films. Foreign films should not be screened in movie theatres for commercial purposes. However, foreign films can encourage us by their participation and their ensuing competition," said Dr Anisuzzaman. "Films," he said, "usher in a large audience, stirred by the theme, plot and acting. Songs and direc-

tion also help greatly in making a film. Even making a small film is difficult and can be expensive." Only when actors and directors take a strong stand, he said, can the quality of our local films improve. He said that, the National Film Society, in viewing good films, is taking a positive stand. He concluded by commenting that good films improve the taste for a better life.

"The film industry in our country began its journey in 1959," pointed out Mahboob Jamil, noted filmmaker. "Most of our pioneering filmmakers," he said, "have now passed away". He said that, since the Liberation War, the filmmakers in Dhaka have proceeded with strength and determination, despite cheap sensationalism of commercial films from across the border and at home. "For a few years, since 1971," Jamil said, "attempts had been made to maintain high standards in films."

The conference, he said is to



help the progress of our national films. "Vulgar and licentious films have been overlooked by the Censor Board at times, and I myself have resigned from the board," he castigated. "The board has overwhelmingly strong judicial power. At times, some of the ministries have been reportedly disturbed by its decisions. Similarly, outright copes of foreign films have been passed," said Jamil.

"However, the Censor Board, is a must for our cultural education," said Jamil. "Films have been passed through the board through the sheer strength of lobbying," he insisted. As a consequence, there is frustration and prevailing tension among serious art film makers, he said. The plots and themes should be in depth following the footsteps of masters like Satyajit Ray, he added. "Our films should stir the mind of the viewers and should bring genuine tears and smiles. Our films no longer try to maintain the standards of the classics.

Also, symbolism should be evoked as that is important," he said.

Jamil went on to condemn the mindless "Bollywood" and "Dhallywood" films, which mar the local viewers' taste. "We could possibly raise funds and make good films in future. However, this will surely be limited to a coterie," he said. He concluded by pointing out that unlike our neighbouring countries, we speak one language. "That is a definite advantage and inspiration for everyone connected to Bangladesh films," he said.

Morshedul Islam, the last speaker at the inaugural, said that the film conference had an academic side to it, and should generate interest in new films. This is despite the fact that the limited duration and relatively small audience could not encourage serious discussions. However, he said, the occasion should bring in large groups of film enthusiasts in the near future.

Exhibition

Mingling architecture with nature

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Hendrik Wittkopf, who was here in Dhaka for five days, has held a fascinating acrylic exhibition at Chittrak. The display of translucent paints began on January 2. The 39-year-old German artist, based in London, presents scenes from Kolkata. The painter has spent three years in that city. He visited it nearly every winter -- beginning from 1993. With his architect mother and his artist father, it is quite natural that a sensitive and intellectual artist like Wittkopf should present such pristine landscapes.

Why did he make the trip to Dhaka? Wittkopf had met Habib, a Bangladeshi artist based in Kolkata, at a workshop at the Goe-the Institut in 1997. Habib, in turn, is a friend of the Chittrak Director, Muniruzzaman; and so the visit to neighbouring Dhaka -- to have a taste of *Opar Bangla*. "My first impression of this old city, Dhaka is favourable. I hope to return," he says.

The exhibition is a work on architecture, which he began in London and Munich, and when in Kolkata, he painted important buildings, which are landmarks, along with trees and humans that surround them." They are not pictures of Kolkata but pictures of architecture of the city," as Wittkopf puts it.

The collection of layers of acrylic works on paper and canvas, bring in figurative composition, with the focus on buildings that caught his attention. He amalgamates them with four abstract works which are studies, which he does alongside his main preoccupation -- to see "how structure, colour and material works," as Wittkopf says. He explains, "Sometimes I do abstract studies to see these elements at work. They are, more or less separate from other works."

On of the entries has the words 'Heart Surgery' atop the building. What interested the artist in the



An art work by Hendrik Wittkopf

painting are the many advertisements in the city, that one sees, which feature health services. He takes one of them and dwells on it and its surroundings. Another image looks pristine to the eye but Wittkopf points out the slum in the vicinity, with people struggling near the train tracks. There are splashes of soft hues like purple, blue and lemon-yellow to capture the image of what appears like some innocent dream, taken from nostalgia. Apparent simplicity and studied naïveté is the artist's overwhelming hallmark.

Suggestive lines bring in the flowers and foliage in the forefront of the pristine composition. There is nothing harsh to break the "fancy free" experience of the viewer. "I tried to juxtapose the abstract with figurative; in my work they become one," Wittkopf says. The painting is about migration to the city and it is

a symbol of transition.

The next neat and exact presentation of architecture uses water-colour and poster-colour, utilising the tints available in Kolkata, and brings in a landscape once more with sweeps of subtle, muted and suggestive paints. There are sweeps and curls of grayish blue intermingling with emerald and jade colours. The architecture is in clear gray and white.

Wittkopf's dots, dashes and flecks in his abstract pieces are more mind-whirling and buoyant. With the combination of the two different genres, figurative and otherwise, the display is reminiscent of paintings seen in one's childhood. They speak of apparent harmony and peace, even though these elements, at times, camouflage the underlying turbulent coexistence of the artist's recurrent subjects -- architecture and nature.

NSD Theater Festival

Raarang does Bangladesh proud

ERSHAD KAMOL, from New Delhi

Legendary theatre personality Richard Schechner, artistic director from USA, went to watch the play *Raarang* in New Delhi recently. He was full of praise for the show. In his words, "As I don't understand Bangla, I can't say much about the play. However, I do understand it's based on the tribal resistance to exploitation. I found the performances very energetic and I was impressed by the act."

Raarang was a part of the ongoing 8th Theatre Utsav 2006 arranged by the National School of Drama (NSD). Bangladeshi troupe Aranyak Natya Dal staged *Raarang* on the third day of the Bharat Rang Mahotsav (January 4) at Abhimanch Auditorium, NSD campus.

Mamunur Rashid's play depicts the story of oppression on the Santals, an indigenous group, since the Partition. *Raarang* -- a Santal word meaning battle cry -- zeroes in on the struggle of the indigenous

people in northern Bangladesh against feudalism and religious bigotry. Through the true story of Alfred Shoren, the playwright has portrayed their plight effectively. However, the 'battle cry' fails in the face of treachery by some interested quarters. To present an authentic picture of the Santal culture, traditional Santal songs have been used.

The director of the play, Mamun, unfolds the story through three narrators. While the good

characters are portrayed with a realistic touch, the evil ones are distinguished by their childish and robotic traits.

Though 'aashon' (an open performing space where the audience sits on four sides of the set) is used when staging the play in Dhaka, in Delhi the troupe has used the space on the proscenium arch stage. Using colour effects, light designer Faiz has expressed the mood and tempo of the play.

Indian theatre personality Kuanrji Karwal, said, "This play has impressed me because it is an example of quality blending of Indian theatre traditions and Western theatre forms."

Aranyak Natya Dal staged another show in Delhi at the invitation of Impresso India, while Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) has left for Bangalore to stage *Sonai Bibir Pala* at Satellite Theatre Festival.

Another attraction of the third day of the NSD theatre festival was *Nine Hills One Valley*, staged by Chorus Repertory Theatre, a Manipuri troupe. Allegorically the play *Nine Hills One Valley* features the tragic condition of Manipur today. Director Ratan Thiyam has wonderfully presented the play, which impressed the audience. It was a unique synchronisation of directorial lines, design and acting.

Other plays staged on January 4 were *Hamlet*, *Sarhat Paar Manto* and a multilingual production, *Stations*.



Actors of Aranyak Natya Dal in a dramatic scene from Raarang

AP, Los Angeles

Queen Latifah has become the first hip-hop artist crowned with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"I think the reason I am here is to inspire African-American women who are rappers and full-figured, to know that they can do it, too," Latifah, 35, said last Wednesday at the unveiling of the sidewalk's 2,298th star.

Family and friends cheered for Latifah -- an actress, singer, spokeswoman and producer.

Born Dana Owens, Queen Latifah made her debut in 1989 with the seminal hip-hop album *All Hail the Queen*. Her third album, *Black Reign*, earned her a Grammy award in 1994.

Her leap to TV in 1993 with the sitcom *Living Single* widened her appeal. She went on to star in such films as *Set It Off*, *Bringing Down the House* and 2005's *Beauty Shop*, which she also produced.

But it was the New Jersey native's stint as soulful prison matron Mama Morton in 2002's *Chicago* that earned her a supporting actress Oscar nomination and brought her singing acclaim.

Her latest release, *The Dana Owens Album*, a jazzy collection of blues, pop and soul classics, earned her a Grammy nomination last year.

She is also a spokeswoman for CoverGirl and its record label, CGVibes, among other companies.



Her upcoming project is a film titled, *Last Holiday*, in which she plays the role of a woman with a terminal illness.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Romijer Ayna
On ntv at 08:25 pm
Genre: Drama Serial
Cast: Tinni, Babu, Md Shoeb



Matchstick Men
On HBO at 9:30 pm
Genre: Drama
Cast: Nicolas Cage, Sam Rockwell, Alison Lohman

STAR MOVIES

09:30 Honey I Blew Up the Kids
11:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
01:30 A Murder Of Crows
03:15 Runaway Jury
05:30 Tomcats
07:00 Garfield The Movie
08:25 Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery
10:00 Dark Harvest
11:30 Tomcats
12:30 Film Topper
Hit Filmein Hit

STAR PLUS

01:00 Sangeet Star Bestsellers
02:30 Shanno Ki Shaadi
03:00 Kora Kagaz
05:25 Taaza Hits
05:30 Ssshhhh...Koi Hai...
06:30 House Of Mouse
07:00 Hercules
07:25 Film Topper
07:30 Meri Maa Chanchala
08:00 Pardey Ke Peechey Kaboom
08:30 Honda 12 star screen: best of screen 2
09:30 Shanno Ki Shaadi
11:30 Tu Tu Main Main
12:30 The Bold & The Beautiful

STAR WORLD

10:30 The Bold & The Beautiful

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

10:30 Backyard Science
10:45 Doc Eureka
11:00 Serious: Desert
12:00 Serious: Desert
12:30 Mission Udaan
01:00 Wild Family Secrets
01:30 When Nature Strikes Back
02:30 Air Crash Investigation
03:30 Frontlines Of Construction
05:30 Castro
07:30 Hot Science
08:30 Last Chance Journeys
09:30 A Life With Bears
10:30 Monsoon Railway
12:00 On Assigning

ANIMAL PLANET

10:00 Meerkat Manor A Family Affair
10:30 One Planet Tacugama: Forest of Hope
11:30 One Planet Jane Goodall's Return to Gombe
12:30 Fun Zone The Planet's Funniest Animals
01:30 Honda Presents: Animal Planet Insights Grizzly
02:30 Animal Planet at the movies on the set of the Breed
03:00 Monkey Business
03:30 Keepers of the Forest Tambovata, The Kingdom of the Aras
04:30 Animal Planet Showcase For as Long As There Are Crocodiles
05:30 Animal Planet Showcase Fight for Life
06:30 Indian Safari In Search of Man-eaters
07:30 Attenborough Presents Greatest Wildlife Show on Earth
08:30 The Horsemen The Andalusians
09:00 RSPCA: Have You Got What It Takes
09:30 Wild Encounters Twain the Bush
10:30 One Planet Muddy Waters
11:30 One Planet Is there a Crisis.

DISCOVERY

09:30 Discovery Spotlight Miracle Man: John of God
10:30 Discovery Spotlight Can Prayer Heal?
11:30 Future Visions
12:30 True horror Vampires
01:30 Wild Discovery The

ANIMAL PLANET

10:00 Meerkat Manor A Family Affair
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STAR SPORTS

08:30 Sachin Tendulkar Programming (Hindi)
11:30 Sachin The Legend - His Story (Hindi) (R)
12:00 Euromilhoes Dakar Day 8 Highlights(S)
12:30 Asian Tour Asian Tour: The Royal Trophy Bangkok
05:00 Football Asia (T)
05:30 Chennai Open (R)
10:30 Dakar Rally 2006 Euromilhoes Dakar Day 8 Highlights(R)
11:00 The Fa Cup - Road To Glory (T)
11:25 Fa Cup Fa Cup 2005/06 Luton/Luton Town Vs Liverpool Round 3(L)

ESPN

09:30 Nba Basketball Phoenix Az Usa Miami Heat Vs Phoenix Suns
12:00 Indian Premier Hockey League Phl Premier Division Maratha Warriors Vs Hyderabad D
02:00 Sportscenter Week In Review (R)
02:30 Indian Premier Hockey League Phl First Division Imphal Rangers Vs Delhi Dazzle Rs Tier li (L)
04:30 Cricket Classics Indian Legends (R)
06:30 Super Spells With Wasim Akram (R)
06:55 Sportscenter Sportscenter Weekend
07:00 Indian Premier Hockey League Phl Premier Division Sher E Jalandhar Vs Maratha Warriors Tier li (L)
09:30 Cricket Classics David: The Wall (R)
10:00 Icc Cricket World (T)
10:30 Sachin Tendulkar Programming Sachin The Legend - His Story
09:30 Gillette World of Sports
12:00 Winning Post
02:00 Cricket Classics
04:00 Pakistan v England: 3rd ODI H/Ls (15/12/05)
04:30 Champions Trophy Review
05:00 Winning Post
05:30 Indian Golf Show
06:30 WWE Experience
07:00 NFL Gameday
08:00 Legends
10:00 Pakistan v England: 4th ODI H/Ls (19/12/05)

TEN SPORTS

05:00 Gillette World of Sports
12:00 Winning Post
02:00 Cricket Classics
04:00 Pakistan v England: 3rd ODI H/Ls (15/12/05)
04:30 Champions Trophy Review
05:00 Winning Post
05:30 Indian Golf Show
06:30 WWE Experience
07:00 NFL Gameday
08:00 Legends
10:00 Pakistan v England: 4th ODI H/Ls (19/12/05)

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.

CHANNEL i
09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction
09:45 Trilloy Matra
10:45 Na Bola Kotha (Live)
12:30 Aj Dupurey
01:00 Eboong Cinemar Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
02:40 Shaat Raag
03:10 Dhaka Guide
04:00 Bashundhara Amader Gaan
04:20 Cambrian Hey Taranno
05:15 Janapader Khabor
05:30 Cholo Chitra Shangeenmala

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
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