

CULTURAL FEAST

Book Fair



Title: Amar Ekushey Book Fair. Organiser: Bangla Academy. Venue: Bangla Academy. Date: February 1-26.

Theatre Festival

Venue: National Theatre Stage, Shilpakala Academy.

Table with columns: Play, Troupe, Date. Lists various theatrical performances.

Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Marina Golyaeva. Date: January 30- February 5. Venue: Exhibition Hall of the Russian Centre of Science and Culture.

Title: Breakfast News. Artist: Yasmin Jahan Nupur. Date: February 3- February 13. Venue: Alliance Francaise Dhaka.



Photo Exhibition. Title: Visible. Organiser: Bangladeshi Street Children. Venue: National Museum. Date: January 22- February 4.

Dance recital

Shovana Narayan's Kathak spellbinds audience

KARIM WAHEED

THE term Kathak means, "narrating a story". One of the oldest, yet thriving dance forms, Kathak originated in northern India.

These bards, performing in village squares and temple courtyards, mostly specialised in recounting mythological tales from the scriptures, and embellished their recitals with hand gestures and facial expressions.

Shovana Narayan and her group performed at the Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka on January 31. The dance recital was presented by High Commission of India, Dhaka and Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

Narayan's career spanning several decades has seen her mesmerising audiences worldwide and she has been honoured with several awards. She received the Padmashri Award for excellence and her outstanding contribution to dance in 1992.



Shovana Narayan evokes sounds of nature with her ghungroo

The auditorium was packed with ambassadors of different countries, noted cultural personalities, dance exponents and enthusiasts. Narayan's group that included Afsar Mullah, Dharmendra Gautam, Urmi Mishra and Sangeeta Srivastava, started the show with a composition titled Om -- ancient verses written by a scribe, Ravan.

(dance of destruction) was enjoyable. After a brief instrumental prelude, Narayan made her dramatic appearance. Besides dancing, the danseuse seemed to have another talent -- quick wit.

Shovana Narayan's performance was a delight to dance exponents, dancers and enlightening to those who do not have a great understanding of Kathak. The art lovers would certainly appreciate more events like this.

clue when I'd like to speak; you best keep the mike on throughout the evening.

Greeting the audience in Bangla, Narayan said, "I'm here after 13 years and the warmth I've received is still invigorating." A noticeable feature in Kathak is the complex and often fast rhythmic footwork. With the aid of ghungroos, a skilled Kathak dancer can express a lot through the footwork.

The highlight of the evening was two dance compositions narrating mythical stories -- Draupadi's Vastraharan (disrobing) and Buddha's renunciation from Yashodhara's perspective. With intense and subtle facial expressions, eloquent gestures, intricate footwork and tahai (a spinning movement in one spot at great speed), Narayan became the Pandava queen and the wife of Gautam Buddha.

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Muktijuddho O Nari

Month long programme ends with palagaan

ERSHAD KAMOL

It was a palagaan with a difference: The gayens (bards) did not begin the show with a devotional song nor did they focus on the soul or God as the subject of the pala. Rather, beginning the show with patriotic song, the gayens-- Maya Rani Sarkar and Aleya Begum-- presented the pala based on the contribution of women during our Liberation War.

Among the interesting highlights of the palagaan was the lyrical argument in question-answer format between Aleya Begum and her counterpart Maya

Rani, acting as a male. The audience was captivated by the improvised presentation of Maya Rani Sarkar and her troupe, and Aleya Begum and her troupe. Time and again their fast paced rhythm and melody with stentorian voice modulation created a stir amongst the audience.

Earlier the discussants-- novelist Selina Hossain and women's activist Maleka Begum-- had a discourse on the role of women during our Liberation War.

The discussants said that the traditional history of Liberation War does not recognise the direct contribution of the women in our freedom fight. Women are stereotyped as victims of the Pakistani Army or as caring mothers or wives. However, this approach fails to do justice to the valour of Taramon



Bibi, Karimon Bibi, Sitara Begum, Rakon Devi and many others who played a part in the war.

Recognising cultural talent



Abdur Rahman Boyati receiving the award from Dr Anisuzzaman (2nd R)

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On January 31, Ustad Momotaz Ali Khan Music Academy, a reputed music school, celebrated its anniversary at the Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum.

Poet Sufia Kamal was awarded posthumously for her contribution to our culture. Renowned folk singer Abdur Rahman Boyati also bagged an award. The young talents in different categories--dance, drama and music--were also accorded recognition in the anniversary programme.

Educationalist Dr Anisuzzaman was the chief guest while artist Hashem Khan was the special guest at the programme. In conclusion, the activists of the music academy presented cultural programmes.

Closeup 1 contestant Rinku accorded reception in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

One of the leading contestants of the talent hunt Closeup 1, Mashur Rahman Rinku was recently awarded at a programme jointly organised by Centre for Communi-

cation and Development (CCD), Bangladesh Advance Students Alliance (BASA) and Youth Voice. The event was held at Rajshahi College premises. Rajshahi College principal Professor Shamsul Haque, vice principal Professor Shafiq Uddin and

Centre for Communication and Development (CCD) executive director Golam Murtuza awarded a crest to Rinku for his superb performance in Closeup 1. Rinku, a former student of Rajshahi College, presented Baul songs on the occasion.



Rinku performing at the event

Tom Cruise front-runner for worst acting award

Tom Cruise may have survived a Martian attack in last year's remake of War of the Worlds, but he has failed to elude Hollywood's movie police. The actor was among the contenders announced on Monday for the annual Razzie Awards, which "honour" the worst achievements in film.



Cruise will compete for the year's worst actor award with Will Ferrell (Be-witched, Kicking & Screaming), Jamie Kennedy (Son of the Mask), Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (Doom) and Rob Schneider (Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo).

The Golden Raspberry Award Foundation, an organisation that claims more than 700 voting members, announced the nominees. Foundation head John Wilson said in an interview he did not think Cruise's portrayal of a working-class man in War of the Worlds was particularly credible.

Cruise was nominated twice in the new category of most tiresome tabloid target, which salutes "the celebrities we're all sick and tired of," Wilson said.

Son of the Mask, a sequel to the 1994 Jim Carey hit, led the nominated films with eight mentions. Winners will be announced on March 4, the day before the Academy Awards.

Source: Internet



Fatema Tuz Zohra performs at the National Music Festival Bangladesh '06 on January 31. On the third and last day of the festival noted singers performed songs of Tagore, Nazrul, Atulprasad, Dijendralal Roy, Rajanikantha Sen and adhunika songs.

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) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm. News (English) at 8:20 am, 7:00 pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm. News (Bangla) at 6:30 pm, 11:30 pm. News (English) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm. News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Program Name. Lists TV schedules for ATN Bangla, ntv, and STAR PLUS.

PICK OF THE DAY



Britto On ATN Bangla at 09:30 pm Drama Serial Cast: Mamun-Ur-Rashid, Nadia

The Specialist On HBO at 9:30 pm Genre: Action/Adventure Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Sharon Stone

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Program Name. Lists TV schedules for STAR WORLD and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Program Name. Lists TV schedules for ESPN and STAR SPORTS.