

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Book Fair

Title: Amor Ekushey Book Fair  
Organiser: Bangla Academy  
Venue: Bangla Academy  
Date: February 1-28

## Photography Exhibition

Title: My World, My Future  
Organisers: British Council, Dhaka and Map Photo Agency  
Venue: British Council, Dhaka  
Date: February 2-28  
Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

## ITI Theatre Festival

Organiser: International Theatre Institute Bangladesh Center  
Venue: National Theatre Stage  
Date: February 21  
Programme: Opening Ceremony, Bau Song, staging of Aaharkondal -- a Janmosutra production  
Date: February 22  
Play: Sonai Bibir Pala, A Centre for Asian Theatre production  
Date: February 23  
Play: Majhi Raater Manushera, a Loko Natya Dal Production

## Film Festival

Organiser: Dhaka University  
Chalachitra Samity  
Movie: Chhur Ghonta, Beder, Meye Jyoisna, Moner Majhe Tumi  
Venue: TSC Auditorium  
Date: February 18

## Solo Exhibition

Title: Recent Sculpture and Other Works  
Artist: Hamiduzzaman  
Venue: Gallery Kaya  
Date: February 17-21

Title: Rejai's World of Wood  
Artist: Rejai Islam Laviu  
Venue: Drik Gallery  
Date: February 16-27  
Time: 2pm-8pm

Title: In Search of Affinity  
Artist: Kazi Sayed Ahmed  
Venue: Alliance Francaise Dhaka  
Date: February 18-25  
Time: 5-8pm

Title: SPAGAT: In Two Worlds  
Artist: Moshida Arzu Alpana  
Venue: Bengal Shilpala  
Date: February 16-28  
Time: 12-8pm

Title: Appointment-- 2006  
Venue: Shilpangan, Road 5 House 25  
Dharmundi  
Date: February 11-March 3

## Profile

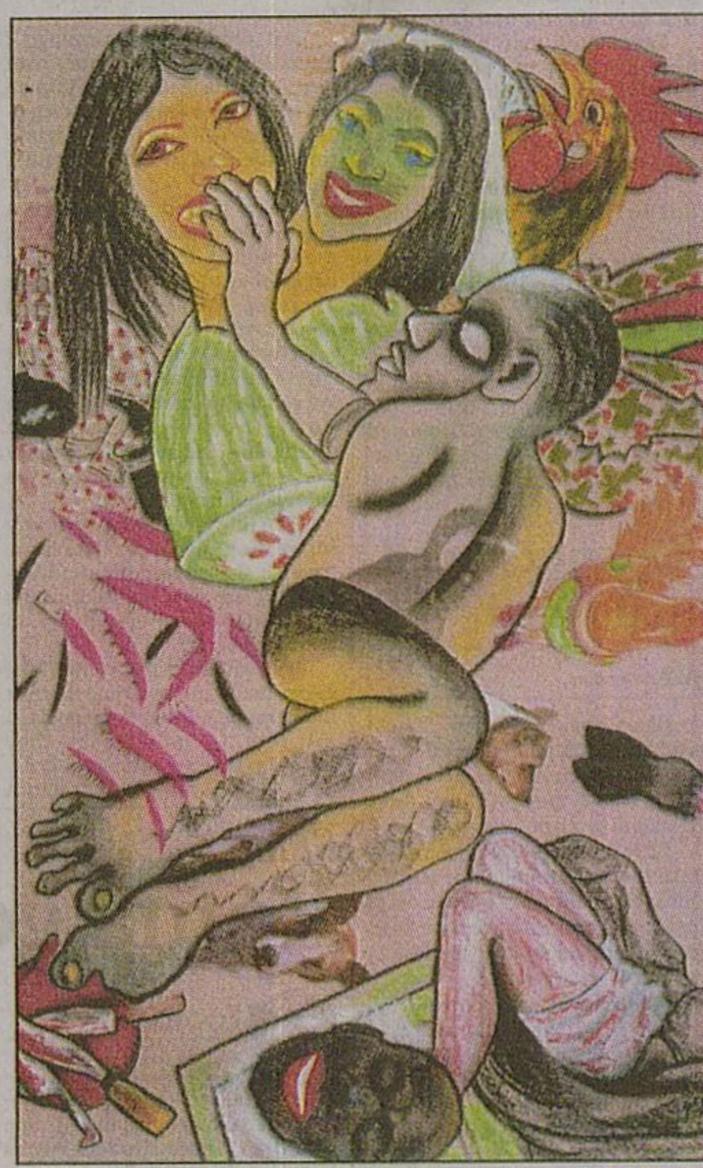
## Shishir's quest for human rights

FAYZA HAQ

**S**HISHIR Bhattacharya, renowned for his critical cartoons and surrealistic paintings says, "Cartoons are based on an incident -- when something unusual or interesting has taken place. It has to be subtle and simple, presented in the graphic medium. This direct message must reach the newspaper readers immediately and should be understood completely. Painting, on the other hand, is a continuous process, which is something more personal and more creative, which I do on canvas. The pleasure I derive from the latter is much more lasting."

Asked the reason for going into cartoons, Shishir said that they were not just an extension of his paintings. He began his cartoons, he said, during the autocratic rule of Ershad, when artists, litterateurs, dramatists, filmmakers, songwriters and other such creative people protested the absence of true democracy. "As an artist, I felt that it was my social responsibility to protest against the prevailing autocracy of that time. I did this especially through my cartoons and also my artwork. I felt that I could reach the people easily through my cartoons. My paintings too are cries for justice but these are not for the consumption of the masses."

Dwelling on the history of cartoons, Shishir said that cartoons were a pictorial expression, which flourished around the 18th century in Europe, and expressed anguish, anger and hatred. There were then the cartoonists, he said, like Goya, Daumier and Hogarth in Spain, France and England. Much later, in India, there was Gaganendranath Thakur. He said that cartoons



A moving work by Shishir Bhattacharya

reflect protest against a cruel and mindless monarchy, an autocratic government or bigoted form of religion or dogma. Cartoons reflect this protest, he said. Their themes could also include other socio-economic problems such as price hikes, traffic jams, noise pollution and Jerry building, he added.

Shishir, who began his cartoons calling out for human rights, in 1983, said, "My cartoons have political overtones and do not usually bring in social humour. They are included in the front page of the newspapers and reflect the papers' opinions as well as my own," Shishir said.

Talking about local cartoonists, he said "The language of cartoons was made powerful by Quamrul Hassan, whose caricature of General Yahya in 1971, as a blood-thirsty demon will never be forgotten. Rafiqun Nabi, at present, is their frontrunner. There are others too like Mustafa Monwar, Qayyum Chowdhury, Huda, and Kalam Mahmud."

Meanwhile, dwelling on his paintings, Shishir said that he wanted to shock the viewers into a realisation of what was happening around them. Today, he has moved away into fantasy, to gently coax the viewer.

Asked to dwell on the difference in the teacher-student relationship in his day and today, since he teaches at the Department of Fine Arts, DU, Shishir said, "The system of art education has changed dramatically. Today, the students have notions of their own and are not easily malleable. They will not take to outdoor sketching in the passionate, dedicated manner as in the past. They don't value academic skills as they did at one time and pursue easy fame and ready patrons rather than anything else."

## Farhana Chowdhury

## Folk and modern dance are her forte

KAVITA CHARANJI

Though a relatively late beginner in dance, Farhana Chowdhury (Baby), a folk and modern dancer is well thought of in the cultural arena. She has made her name both as performer and teacher. Among the feathers in her cap are numerous dance recitals both at home and abroad with her in the main role--there's *Nakshi Khather Mahe*, *Surajmukhi Nadi*, *Chitrangada* and *Shyama*, among others.

As a member of the national cultural delegation, she has visited countries such as US, Japan, Thailand, Korea, Dubai, Qatar, Germany, Netherlands, India, Pakistan, Canada, UK, Australia and Turkey.

Farhana currently works as a dance teacher at the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) and the BAWFA Academy of the Bangladesh Airforce. "It is heartwarming to groom young talents and sharpen their creativity," she says. On the whole, she says, the lively folk dance is her forte since "many Bangladeshis have their roots in the villages." Among her favourite folk dances are those of snake charmers, tea garden workers, *dhol* players, fishermen and harvest time.

She takes her art to distant corners of the country. She has performed folk dances in villages of Chittagong, Barisal, Mymensingh, Bogra and Noakhali districts.

Her talent has been well recognised. An enlisted dance artiste and dance director of the Bangladesh Television, she has bagged awards from the Bangladesh Television Spectators Forum, Shahro Film, Shuktara Academy, Creative Cultural Academy and Chittagong Art College.

Although she admires the work of Sunny Mahapatra (from whom



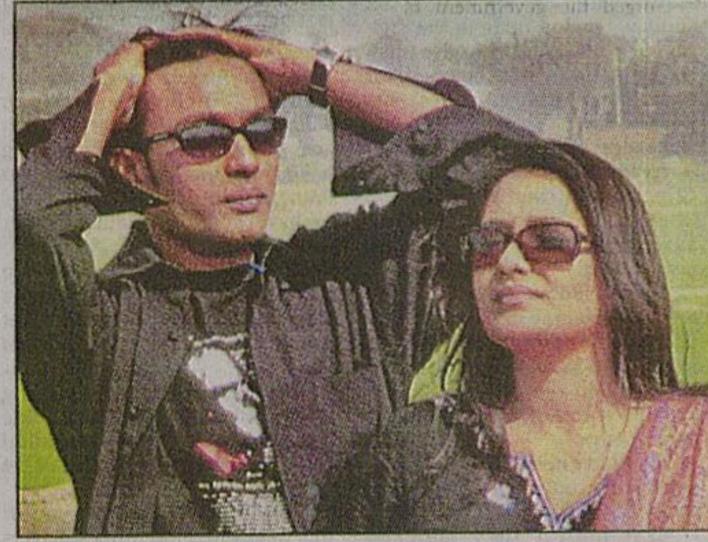
Farhana Chowdhury strikes an attractive stance

she learnt Odissi) and Shibli Mohammad (with whom she learnt the ropes of Kathak), she counts her mother, Rahiza Khanam Jhuma as her guru. The latter, once a teacher of folk dance at BAFA, now is the principal of the cultural organisation. Farhana becomes lyrical when talking about her mother, who taught her the basics

of dance. As she says, "My mother's fluid movements are very beautiful." Another source of inspiration, she says, is her aunt Nima Hamid, a renowned singer.

Farhana is full of plans for the years to come. Along with her friend Sadia Islam Mou, a model and dancer, she hopes to open a dance school.

## Tele-film Doyita on Rtv tonight



Anisur Rahman Milan and Aupi Karim in a scene from Doyita

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

*Doyita*, a tele-film directed by Naresh Bhuiyan will be aired on Rtv

tonight at 8:00 pm.

Written by Shilpi Sarkar Apu, the film follows three young characters -- Doyita, Rumi and

Disha. Doyita and Rumi have been friends since childhood. Their parents are friends with each other as well.

Eventually Rumi realises he is in love with Doyita but before he can come clear about his feelings, Rumi's parents let him know that they would like him to marry Disha. Raised in US, Disha is Rumi's cousin and she moves to Dhaka so that she can get to know her husband-to-be better.

Rumi tells Doyita about his feelings for her but Doyita does not feel the same way. Feeling dejected, Rumi decides to marry Disha. Once Doyita notices Rumi and Disha becoming more acquainted with each other, she realises she has feelings for Rumi as well.

Aupi Karim, Srabasti Dutta Tinni and Anisur Rahman Milan have played the lead roles in the tele-film.

## Hand-painted colourful hoardings highlighting film actors are a traditional practice in Bangladeshi cinema. The entrance to TSC Auditorium has been decorated with a hoarding that emulates the cinematic tradition. To celebrate 50 years of our cinema, memorable Bangladeshi films are being screened at the auditorium. The screenings will continue till February 19.



## 'Pond' photo sets Record

A photograph of a pond taken by Edward Steichen sold for more than US \$2.9 million on last Tuesday, easily setting a world record for the highest-priced photograph ever auctioned, Sotheby's said.

The *Pond-Moonlight*, taken on Long Island in 1904, shows a pond in a wooded area with light coming through the trees and reflected in the water. The photo is slightly bigger than 16 inches by 19 inches. The only other two prints are in museum collections.

The previous record for a photograph sold at auction, US \$1.248,000, was set in November by Richard Prince's *Untitled (Cowboy)*.

Also surpassing that record on Tuesday were two photographs of the artist Georgia O'Keeffe taken by Alfred Stieglitz, her husband. A photograph of her hands sold for US \$1,472,000.

Source: Internet  
The Pond-Moonlight

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

## News Bulletin

**BTB**  
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-1**  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.  
Telecast of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 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 BTB 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.

**BBC WORLD**  
Every hour on the hour

## BTV

08:15 Shubhchichcha Nini  
08:45 Shamprik Biswa  
09:25 Sheshwato Jibon  
09:35 Open University  
10:00 Shasthathya

Kolpokotha  
Drama Serial: Ekush  
El Porey  
Hindoy Mati O  
Manush

Rexona Challenge

10:00:00 Nibedan

01:30 Cartoon

Siempur

02:15 Ekusher Bol Melo

Bulbul

02:40 Bangla Feature Film

Drama Serial: Ferari

05:30 Ekusher Bol Melo

Shrestha

06:10 Wrestling

Shrestha

07:00 Special Programme

Shrestha

07:30 Drama Serial: Antorak Anurag

Shrestha

07:50 Ekush Amar Chongkar

Shrestha

08:35 Shefolla Gathre

Shrestha

09:00 Drama: Shukhey

Shrestha

10:25 Teknaf Thoko Tetulia

Shrestha

10:35 Kothai Pithey Kotha

Shrestha

05:45 Islami Sawai O Jobha (live)

Shrestha

09:30 Shongbad Potrey

Shrestha

09:45 Public Reaction

Shrestha

09:50 Tritty Matra

Shrestha

11:05 Na Bola Kotha (Live)

Shrestha

11:30 Mukto Bazar

Shrestha

12:30 AJ Duprey

Shrestha

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

Shrestha

01:45 Public Reaction

Shrestha

02:40 Medha Bikash

Shrestha

03:20 Dhaka Guide

Shrestha

03:10 Shaheed Rang

Shrestha

03:30 Bangaliin Moneytalk

Shrestha

04:05 Boi Mela

Shrestha

04:20 Prolidin (Live)