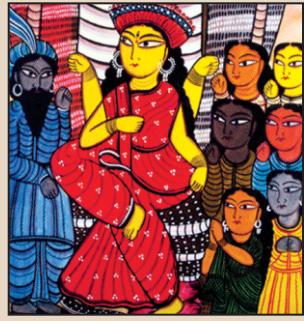


CULTURAL FEAST

Classical Music Soiree

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage
Date: April 4 to 7 at 6 pm



Exhibition

Title: Otiijher Potochitra
Artist: Dukhu Shyam, Rabban and Rahim
Venue: DOTS, 191/A, Haque Tower, Tejgaon-Gulshan Klink Road
Date: April 6-21 from 11 am to 8 pm

Title: Envoy of Peace from China
Organiser: Embassy of the People's Republic of China
Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: April 3-15

Title: Kishorer Chokher Mukti Juddho
Artist: Rasha
Venue: Arka Art Gallery, 1st floor, Banani City Corporation Market
Date: March 31-April 14, 2006
Time: 10am to 8 pm

Title: 'Of Angels and Chariots' by Fida Haq
Organiser: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Venue: Bengal Shilpalya, House 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhammconi R/A
Date: March 27-April 7, 2006
Time: 12 noon to 8 pm

Title: Pata Chitra
Artist: Shambhu Acharya
Venue: Gallery Kaya, H#20, R#16, Sector 4, Utara
Date: April 7-16 from 11 am to 8 pm

Title: 'Empreintes—Traditional techniques revisited through contemporary art'
Organiser: Alliance Francaise
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhammconi
Date: March 30-April 12

Solo exhibition on Potteries (Shora)
Artist: Shukumar Paul
Venue: Art and Soul Gallery, House 16, Road 36, Gulshan 2
Date: April 7-16
Time: 11am to 8pm

Print Exhibition
Artist: A Rahman
Venue: Gallery Chitrak
House# 21, Road-4, Dhammconi R/A
Date: April 7-16
Time: 10am-8pm

Film Screening

Title: Film shows to commemorate Satyajit Ray's death anniversary
Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House No 25, Road No 96, Gulshan-2
Date: April 23-25
Movie: Pather Panchali (April 23)
Kanchan Jangha (April 24)
Parash Pathar (April 25)
Complimentary passes available at the Indian High Commission and the Indian Cultural Centre

12th Asian Art Biennale

The end of a successful exhibition

ERSHAD KAMOL

INAUGURATED on March 5, the 12th Asian Art Biennale, one of the most popular biennales in Asia, ended successfully on March 31. 532 artworks by 348 artists of 33 countries, including Bangladeshi exhibited and competed in different art forms such as paintings, sculpture, etching, mixed media, installation, calligraphy and others at three galleries -- National Art Gallery in Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, Osmari Auditorium and National Museum.

Five jury members -- Wu Xiao Jiang from China, Iromie Wijewardenne from Sri Lanka, Le Thong from Vietnam, and Sadek Khan and Syed Jahangir from Bangladesh -- selected the three Grand Prize winners and eight Honourable Mention Awards.

Like other popular international biennales, modern and technically rich art works such as installation and mixed media were predominant in the competition. Of the three Grand Prizes, two went to Dhalai Al Mamoon of Bangladesh and Hiroshi Fuji of Japan for installation. Sedahgat Jabbari of Iran won the other prize for his mixed media work, which is a modern perspective of calligraphy. Minal Haque and Tejosh Haldar of Bangladesh, Maria Kristina Ulas of Estonia, Jagath Ravindra of Sri Lanka, Salman Al Maliki of Qatar, Hilda Hyari of Jordan, Egidijus Rudinskis of Lithuania and Rashid Abdul Rahman of Oman won the Honourable Mention Awards for their modern approach both in terms of theme and presentation as well as use of matter.

A five-member selection committee -- Murtaja Baseer, Abu



A viewer closely observes a life-size sculpture at the exhibition

Taher, Alok Roy, Moinuddin Khalid and Hamiduzzaman Khan -- selected 174 art works of the 134 Bangladeshi artists from 1500 works by the 600 artists. ABM Salauddin, director of Department of Fine Arts of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, claimed that this year's selection was unbiased. Moreover, 20 invited Bangladeshi senior artists exhibited one art work each at the biennale, he said.

Murtaja Baseer, a member of the selection committee said, "I sought a transparent selection process. Personally I'm not an admirer of installations, as the art form is not suitable for our socio-economic condition. However, in

all the prestigious international biennales like Venice Biennale and others, the organisers always prefer to include art forms such as multi-media, photography and installation. Even the foreign jury members of the Asian Art Biennale prefer the technically rich art forms for the awards.

It is a fact that Bangladeshi artists are doing quality installation. I suggested the inclusion of this art form in the Asian Art Biennale, so that the Bangladeshi artists can compete for the prizes."

Besides, a competition and exhibition, a two-day seminar was held at the Experimental Hall, BSA. Najma Khan Majlish and Syed

Manzoorul Islam were the keynote speakers at the seminar titled "Gender Perspective in the Asian Art". Talking about the seminar, Baseer said, "The topic of the seminar was interesting and new. However, none of the speakers properly evaluated the topic. They have mixed up 'gender perspective' with the 'women's issue' and basically analysed from feminist point of view. However, male and female both are part of gender perspective."

Local and foreign art experts are full of praise for the biennale. Foreign artists confessed to surprise at viewing such a huge event in Bangladesh. On overall arrangement Murtaja Baseer said, "I believe the Asian Art Biennale is a positive step in the development of art in Bangladesh. If we analyse and compare the development before and after the introduction of the biennale in 1981, we see that the Bangladeshi art has displayed dynamic development during the last two decades. The biennale has given a scope to indigenous artists to view the art works of foreign artists and thereby enrich their minds and work. I believe that young Bangladeshi artists are doing better than those of other South Asian countries. In this sense BSA is doing a great job."

Successful organiser ABM Salauddin said, "The function was a fall out of the BSA's hard work. There should be a separate cell under the Fine Arts Department of BSA to organise the biennale."

Salauddin has ambitious plans for the next biennale. He said, "The next biennale will include digital photography."

Exhibition

Unconventional installations by two artists

FAYZA HAQ

thing which can be defined through architecture and museum objects."

Among the many items of the installation was the *Cockroach girl*, made from calico fabric put together with latex glue. When Jessica came she wasn't used to cockroaches but after two months she says she lives in harmony with them. "I realise now that they are just harmless creatures," she says. "It is related to other work that show that women are helpless. That's why I've depicted the insect as being on its back. I found that there are many women who spend their time mostly in the kitchen. They work very hard but they're not valued and don't have as much freedom as the men."

Another entry depicted two green chillies. "I'm not used to chillies and biting into them is like biting into snakes for me," Jessica says. Behind it, a non-sense poem *Bapu Ram Shapu Ray* was inscribed. The poem is about pretending to have courage. It was framed in boxes for sending toiletries in Bangladeshi weddings.

Then we came across a mosquito motorbike related to the film that she showed during the programme. From the beginning of her stay here she focused on the mosquito, as it was a symbol for her. It stood for corruption and frustration. The mosquito net symbolised protection for the people. She felt that conniving and powerful people were sucking the strength and energy of the helpless masses. Jessica was also amazed by the folk art and so she depicted *rickshaw-walla* shoes, beautifully decorated ones with designs for those who had none. "Rickshaw art is not valued as much as established art," she commented. There was also a gauze butterfly in purple standing for the dreams and aspirations of the people of Bangladesh.

There was an installation with numerous gaudily coloured mosquitoes around a giant white mosquito net in the tea-terrace. The mosquitoes were hanging upside down and were trapped. About her short film, *Blue mosquito*, Jessica says, "The film is about the feelings that I experienced under the surface of everyday life here; the struggle to be free, the search for the unattainable."

Kabir Ahmed Masum Chisty's *News at 10* puppet show performance presented news in the form of a puppet play. The puppets have no speech and they reflect the vision of the director. In the background of the puppet show is a painted audience who watch the play unfold.

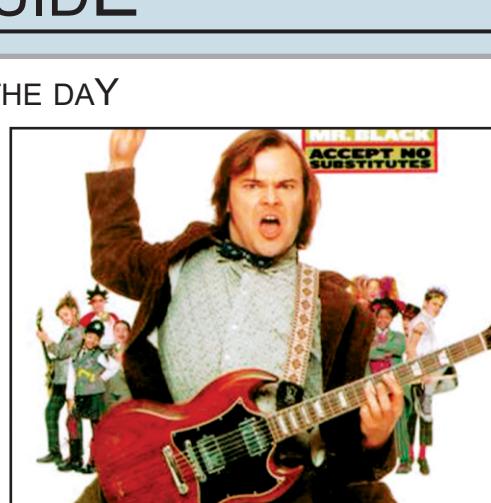


News at 10 -- puppet show performance

PICK OF THE DAY



Kachher Manush
On ntv at 08:25 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Alamgir, Humayun Faridee, Subarna



The School of Rock
On HBO at 09:30 pm
Genre: Comedy
Cast: Jack Black, Joan Cusack

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTW
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 BTW 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.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am; 10:00 am; 11:00 am; 1:00 pm; 3:00 pm; 4:00pm; 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am; 12:00 pm; 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 BTW 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

CHANNEL 1

09:30 Drama Serial: Britto
Char Deyaler Kabyo

09:35 Open University

10:00 Satellite broadcast

12:30 Shasthratathy

01:00 Lauki Bangla

02:45 Tathyaprajkti

02:40 Selected TV Play

03:30 AFC Challenge Cup

Bangladesh 2006, live telecast of Sri Lanka

Vs Nepal from MA

Aziz Stadium in Chittagong

06:05 AFC Challenge Cup

Bangladesh 2006, live telecast of Pakistan Vs

Macau from Bangabandhu

Stadium in Dhaka

08:35 Protidin Bangladesh

Weekly Drama: Sabur

10:25 Arir Swapno

Teknaf Thekey Tetulia

10:30 Apran Shasthyo

10:00 Drama Serial: Pothey

08:45 Mukto Shanglap

10:30 Anyodhishi

11:05 ATN Taroka, Tarokader

Taroka (3' round-Acting, Group D)

12:20 Bangla Feature Film: Asha Bhalobasha

01:05 Muktangan

03:45 ATN Rannaghbar

04:20 Shundor Jiboner

Jonyo

04:45 Ispahani Pure Snax

Quiz Time

05:10 Anader Joto Kotha

05:45 Islami Sawaal O

04:25 Shapla Kuri Contest

2005

06:20 Paprok

04:50 Snapshots of Change

08:00 Rock Link

05:15 Dindarpan

08:30 Drama Serial: Ferari

Siren

09:00 Drama Serial: Horton Bibi

06:50 Frankly Speaking

04:30 Drama Serial: Keu

09:30 Shongbadpotre

Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Trityomatra

12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citicell

Tarokakothon

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:45 Public Reaction

02:40 Trityo Matrave Apni

03:05 Hridoye Mati O

Manusher Daak

Bashudhara Amader Gaan

04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma X Music

06:00 Music Plus