

National Museum highlights global civilisation

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

DIGNITARIES speaking at the National Museum recently had all praise for opening of the World Civilisation Gallery. The new gallery features artifacts, paintings, statues, carpets and many more from China, Iran, Korea, Japan, Switzerland, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh etc.

The speakers said that with globalisation every step such as this is a growth towards understanding and harmony. This would enhance cultural ties with other countries, they added. The onlookers would benefit greatly by learning from other cultures and heritage. The speakers added that the venture by the National Museum should have a lasting impact.

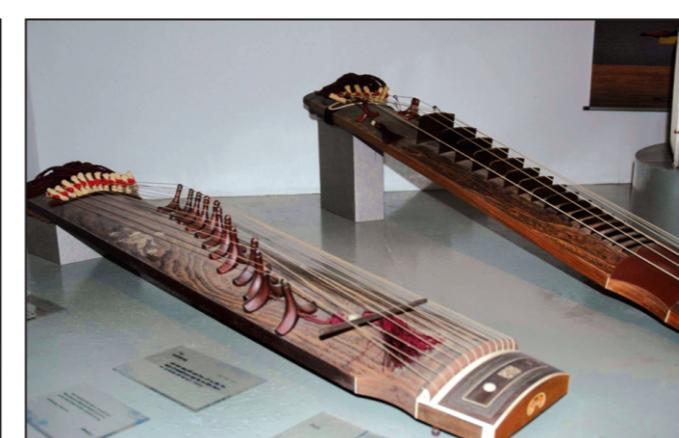
The new gallery features 40 portraits and digitally regenerated copies of paintings by old masters.

Professor Mahmudul Haque, director general of the National Museum, said that it was tough to make the selection of the artworks. Torun Ghosh helped him, especially in making the prints. The four embassies of Korea, Switzerland, Iran and China also played an important role in making this a success. Haque hoped that the gallery would help in teaching students of fine arts and art enthusiasts.

Dora Rapold, Swiss ambassador said the exhibition would contribute to international understanding. It is a collection of arts and crafts, urban and rural, new and old. She added the embassy was happy to donate items to the museum.

The counselor of Iran in his turn said Iran and Bangladesh has century-old ties and the artifacts reflect the Iranian life. Others present at the function said that the museum authorities deserve applause for expanding the number of galleries in the National Museum from 12 to 18.

Abul Barq Alvi, professor of the Institute of Fine Arts, said, "We have no collection of works by the old masters. People in Bangladesh long to look at paintings from overseas specially the Western classics. Copies of the classics in the new collection would satiate that keenness to some degree."



Artifacts and musical instruments on display at the National Museum

'Kathin Chibar Dan Utsab' observed in Rangamati

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

'Kathin Chibar Dan Utsab', one of the biggest religious festivals of the Buddhist community was celebrated at Ananda Vihar recently in the Rangamati hill town.

In the function, Gyanananda



Buddhist devotees gather at the festival

Mohathero, principal monk of the Moitree Vihar, delivered his religious speech.

Gyanananda in his speech warned the devotees of the worldly sins. Quoting Lord Buddha, he said, "Killing and misbehaving with parents are great sins and if anyone

does it, they have to suffer the dire consequences."

'Kathin Chibar Dan' implies an extremely difficult task. Literally translated, 'Kathin' means difficult, 'Chibar' means cloths and 'Dan' means donation.

During the festival the specific clothing material, which is used by Buddhist monks (known as 'Bhante') have to be prepared within 24 hours from 'jum' cotton. The cotton is first processed in spinning wheels into threads and finally the cloth is made from the threads.

Agrabangsa Mohathero, Kondinya Bhikkhu and Gyanalankar Bhikkhu also addressed the congregation.

Ananda Vihar Managing Committee (AVMC) organised the festival. District Council Chairman Dr Manik Lal Dewan attended the event as chief guest while professor (Retd) Mongansu Chowdhury professor of Cultural College was present as special guest.

Hundreds of Buddhist devotees thronged the compound of Ananda Vihar on the occasion.



Teleserial *Payer Tole Banbhashi* featuring Ilias Kanchon, Champa, Probir Mitra, Shomu Chowdhury and Romana among others will be aired today at 12:10pm on Channel i. The teleserial presents the struggle of a woman rendered homeless by river erosion. *Payer Tole Banbhashi* is written by Rokeya Islam and directed by Sadeq Siddiqui

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Doing the catwalk around the world

In conversation with the promising model Shaon

KAVITA CHARANJI

"Having walked the ramps of Paris and Milan, why not New York as well?" questions gutsy model and VJ Tabassum Shaon on a visit to Dhaka from Mumbai. She refers to a three-year contract offer from Ikon New York Model Management to model for the print media, ramp and even acting. "I am really fortunate to have bagged this contract," she says.

All set to make her way to the US by January, Shaon has been busy on several fronts in Mumbai and Dhaka: as print media model for Mumbai's Taj Hotel beauty salon, the Kerela resort of Taj, special Eid programmes for Channel i. In addition, she walked the ramp at the Bollywood Fashion Award function in New York and New York Fashion Week this year. In the former, she displayed attire designed by Sabyasachi and Manish Malhotra.

As if that wasn't enough, she has received several film, TV serial and choreography offers. She would also like to continue her studies side by side. She has gained admission to study law at the Bandra National College, Mumbai but has to fine tune the balance between academics and her passion for modeling.

At a relatively young age, Shaon has had a heady taste of success. Despite her busy career in showbiz, she has bagged a first class in economics from Symbiosis College, Pune in India. She has also worked with top designers in India and Bangladesh. Among the Bangladeshi designers are Maheen Khan, Tamara Abd, Roxanna Salam, Anila Haque, Kuhu and Ruchi. In India she has worked



Shaon

close with choreographers Rashmi Virmani and Elrich D'Souza.

There's no place like home for many who are based overseas. However, Shaon is hard headed enough to realise that in Bangladesh the fashion industry is still in its infancy. Often models are expected to work gratis, without regard for getting their due. "There is a great need for professionalisation of the industry," says Shaon.

Certainly Shaon's voice ought to carry weight. She has to her credit the title of Miss Bangladesh and represented the country in the Miss World contest held in Sun City in South Africa in 2001. Later she was VJ for a show, *Fully Phataphati*, branded by MTV for Tara Bangla. Here Shaon perused listeners' requests and played the songs of well known artists.

Now bound for New York, Shaon is optimistic about her future. "By representing Bangladesh in New York, I hope to be a catalyst for change and professionalisation in the country's fashion world," she says.

Buzz

'Color of the Cross': New Jesus film puts race into religion

The life of Jesus has always provided controversial subject matter for filmmakers.

From Monty Python's irreverent *The Life of Brian* to Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*, Hollywood's often-iconoclastic interpretations of the gospel story have rarely failed to stir up religious fury. Mel Gibson's bloody account of the final hours of Jesus, *The Passion of the Christ*, was named the most controversial Hollywood movie of all time by US magazine *Entertainment Weekly*. Appearing on the same list was the movie adaptation of Dan Brown's blockbuster, *The Da Vinci Code*.

But a new film covering the last two days of Jesus' life is aiming to stir up a new debate about popular representations of Christ by depicting him as black. Furthermore, the film suggests that the persecution suffered by Jesus may have been racially motivated.

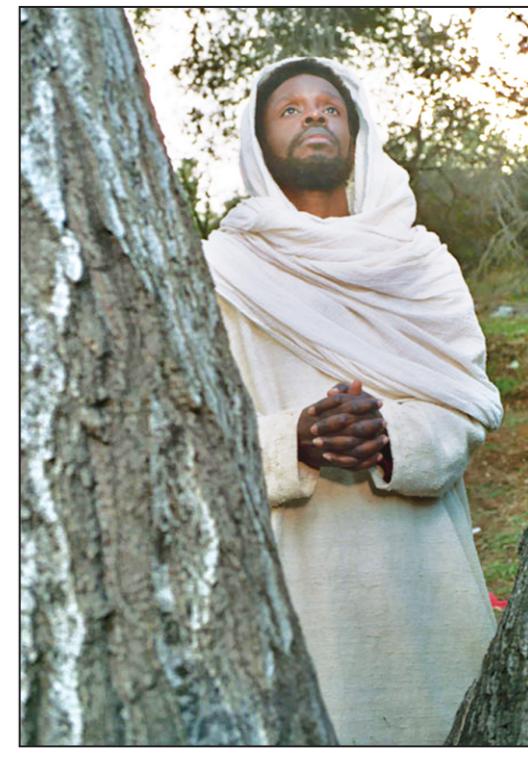
Color of the Cross, written, produced and starring Haitian-American filmmaker Jean Claude LaMarre opens in the US on Friday. The film is scheduled to open to broader audiences next month.

LaMarre said the film was intended as a step towards rehabilitating the portrayal of black characters in Hollywood films after decades of negative stereotyping.

"The idea of re-imaging is very important to my vision of this story," said LaMarre. "For decades blacks have been the victims of negative imaging... Jesus is a great place to start."

The 1973 musical *Jesus Christ, Superstar* controversially depicted Judas as a black character while a 1992 film called *The Second Coming* featured a black Jesus.

Stephenson Humphries-Brooks, an associate professor of religious studies at New York's Hamilton College and author of *Cinematic Savior: Hollywood's Making of the American Christ*, said, "Color of the Cross is the first film to feature a black lead character in a straight interpretation of the Gospel story -- and that it



LaMarre in *Color of the Cross*

could have a powerful effect on African-American self-identity by suggesting an alternative to the dominant white stereotype of Jesus as a white European male."

Source: CNN

TV GUIDE

BTV

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.

Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am; 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.

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.

ATN

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.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 4:55pm; 7:30pm.

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30pm; 11:30pm.

Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

ntv

Selected Programme

Satellite Broadcast

11:15 Songbad Poter Pata

11:30 Blangla Feature Film

03:30 Tele Film

06:30 Drama

08:30 Drama

10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia

12:10 Tele Film: Payer Tole

Ban Bhabshi

07:50 Drama: Jobbar Ali

09:35 Drama: Pain

Grammenphone

Ajker

Shanghbadpotro

09:30 Sa Re Ga Ma

Grameen Phone

Trityomatra

09:45 Rtv Exclusive

10:15 Talk Show: Prio

10:30 Drama Serial: Ramizer Aaina

03:15 USA Concert

03:50 Apran Jigysa

04:25 Bhinno Swader

Khabor

05:10 Din Dorpon/Ithasher

El Diney

05:20 Apnar

Jigysa

06:20 Shubho Shondha

Crime Watch

06:45 Drama Serial: Labanya Prokha

Music Express

09:00 Bibamo Bhalobasha

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