

## Concert

## Music to combat HIV and drug abuse



Azam Khan (R) sings to the audience



Model Nobel (L) performs along with Ayub Bachchu

## Taking 'Chandalika' to the West

In conversation with Sharmila Bandopadhyay

## KAVITA CHARANJI

East met West recently when dancer Sharmila Bandopadhyay winged her way to New Jersey. She went at the invitation of Bengali expatriates to choreograph *Chandalika*, a dance-drama by Tagore. She was responsible for training 12 students, members of a club called Prantik.

Sharmila admits to being a little shaky initially because she had choreographed and performed *Chandalika* only in Bangladesh. Explains Sharmila, "Students here know my style of teaching. I took up the challenge only because I wanted to take Bangladeshi culture to Bengali children overseas, who otherwise are not fully conversant with their heritage."

Sharmila is quick to give credit to Bengali expatriate and a former batch mate from Dhaka University, Nazneen Hossain. Apparently Nazneen was instrumental in the formation of Prantik, of which she is the general secretary.

The performance turned out superbly, says Sharmila. "I have a distinctive style of movement and hand gestures. However, the students worked very hard to learn from me."

Much effort went into the nitty gritties, she points out. The carefully selected costumes went from Bangladesh, while some were organised in New Jersey. Also for the first scene of *Chandalika* the female characters were required to wear ornaments fashioned out of flowers. Since the requisite flowers were not available in the US,

Sharmila (who played the role of *Chandalika*'s mother, Maya) used plastic flowers.

"The support from the Bengali expatriate community was overwhelming," asserts Sharmila. Many of the parents had to balance their jobs, their children's rehearsals and other commitments—often covering huge distances. "The barriers completely broke down on the final day," says an upbeat Sharmila who points out that in the first scene, which she

watched from the wings, she couldn't distinguish whether she was in Dhaka or New Jersey.

Sharmila has carved a niche in the Bangladeshi dance arena including Manipuri, Odissi, Bharatnatyam, Kathakali and creative dance. She is also the director of Nritya Nandan and teaches Manipuri dance at Chayyanaut.

Participants of *Chandalika* along with Nazneen Hossain (2-R)

## KHALID-BIN-HABIB

Each and every day many around the world are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS—most of them young and more than half young women and children. It's time for everyone to beef up measures to combat this scourge.

With the aim to generate awareness among the youth of Bangladesh about the growing risks of HIV/AIDS and to observe the World AIDS Day, daily *Prothom Alo* organ-

ised a concert titled *Shochedonotar Utshob* at the Rabindra Sarobar Amphitheatre (Dhanmondi) on December 4. The theme of the musical extravaganza was to empower humanity to take personal responsibility in their fight against AIDS and also to raise awareness on drug abuse. Though the event was part of an awareness programme, the venue had a festive feel.

Popular names in the country's contemporary rock music scenario

featured in the concert and their performances created a cheerful ambience. Azam Khan, Ayub Bachchu and Mahmuduzzaman Babu took the audiences through an exhilarating journey of their favourite music. The added attraction of the event was the special appearance of noted journalist and writer Anisul Haque, popular actor Afzal Hossain and model Nobel.

The concert was scheduled to start at 3:00pm but long before that the venue was crowded with music

lovers. Mahmuduzzaman Babu sang the all-time favourite patriotic song *Ami Bangla-e-gaan-gai*.

Then came Azam Khan and Ayub Bachchu respectively. Khan, also a freedom fighter, won the hearts of the audience with four of his famous tunes. He began his performance with *Ami jarey chairey* and won applause all the way through till his last song *Bangladesh*.

Bachchu delivered a short speech on HIV and drug abuse and

began singing.

The audience sang along with the rocker. Complying with a request from the public, he sang seven of his popular songs from different music albums. Bachchu's all time hit songs -- *Ekdin ghum bhanga shohorey*, *Ural dibo akashvey*, *Meye*, *Mon chalei mon*, *Shei tumi keno eto ochenha holey*, received a warm response from the audience.

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## CULTURAL FEAST

## Exhibition

Celebrating 400th birth anniversary of the Dutch Master Painter Rembrandt

Organiser: The Embassy of

Kingdom of Netherlands & Society

for Promotion of Bangladeshi Art

Venue: Art and Soul Gallery, Road

36, House 16, Gulshan-2

Date: December 6-12

Time: 11:00am to 8:00pm

Solo Art

Exhibition

Artist: Jalilur Rabbi Tamim

Venue: Alliance Française de Dacca,

26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi

Date: November 24-December 7

Time: Sunday to Friday 9:00am-12:00pm and 5:00pm-9:00pm, Saturday 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Artist: Hasibur Rahman Kiron

Organiser: Alliance Française de

Dacca

Venue: La Galerie, 26 Mirpur Road,

Dhanmondi Dhaka

Date: December 7-13

Time: 9:00am to 12:00pm and

5:00pm-8:00pm

Except Saturday 5:00pm-8:00pm

Solo Exhibition

Artist: Hamiduzzaman Khan

Organiser: British Council

Venue: British Council 5 Fuller

Road, Dhaka

Date: December 3-21

Time: 10:00am to 7:00pm

## Channel Click

## Talk show 'Ekhoni Shomoy' on Channel i



Guests Apon Ahsan (L) and Sara Zaker (C) with the host of the show Brownia

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

*Ekhoni Shomoy*, a talk show featuring renowned personalities from the cultural, sport and journalistic worlds, is currently running on Channel i.

The latest episode of the show is set to air at 9:35pm on December 7.

In the course of the programme, the participants from different sec-

tors will share their experiences related to current issues.

Popular TV actress and theatre personality Sara Zaker along with the other celebrities of the country is the guest artiste of the show. She has also done several memorable campaigns with some international organisations.

The show is hosted by Farzana Brownia and directed by Raju Alim.

## Aishwarya and Hrithik in legal muddle

A case has been filed against Aishwarya Rai and Hrithik Roshan, owing to their on-screen kiss in Sanjay Gadhvi's *Dhoom 2*.

Alleged as an "obscene sequence", the atypically Bollywood lip-lock has got Hrithik and Ash into legal trouble.

The case was filed in the court of judicial magistrate first class R K Batham by advocate Shailendra Dwivedi under Sections 292 (vulgarity) and 509 (derogatory to women) of the Indian Penal Code.

As Dwivedi's complaint has it, women

have felt offended after watching the scene as it has promoted vulgarity in the society, especially among the youth.

The date of recording the evidence has been fixed as December 11, 2006. The actors have to face this legal issue merely two weeks after the film's release. The kiss will especially take its toll on Aishwarya Rai, who was recently held in a customs scuffle over a parcel with 23,000 Euros.

Source: Internet

Hrithik Roshan and Aishwarya Rai in *Dhoom 2*.

## Bush administration to be cartoon

A scene from *Lil' Bush: Resident of the United States*

Comedy Central has ordered *Lil' Bush: Resident of the United States*, a cartoon satire that re-imagines President Bush and key executives in his administration as elementary school misfits.

The title character is surrounded by close pals like Lil' Cheney, who grumbles unintelligibly, and Lil' Condi, who pines for Lil' Bush and does his homework for him.

*Bush* is not without its risqué moments. When Lil' Bush's school serves falafel instead of hot dogs for lunch in one episode, he and his pals torture the cafeteria employees with methods made famous during the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

Six episodes from writer-producer Donick Cary (*The Simpsons*) have been ordered to air on Comedy Central next year.

*Bush* got its start in September as six five-minute clips offered by Amp'd Mobile, a US-based wireless service that packages video entertainment programming with cell phone service.

It won't be Comedy Central's first foray into devoting an entire series to poking fun at Bush. In 2001, the live-action spoof *That's My Bush*, from *South Park* creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone, had a short-lived run on the network.

Source: CNN.com

## TV GUIDE

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

## News Bulletin

## BTV

08:30 Open University  
09:15 Satellite Broadcast  
12:30 Maa O Shishir Kotha  
01:00 Shukhi Poribar  
01:30 Hijo Tomal  
02:15 Sisimpur  
02:40 Selected Programme  
03:05 Cartoon  
03:30 Cricket Shekha  
04:00 Esho Computer Shikhi  
04:30 Oi Notuner Keton Urey  
05:30 Cartoon  
06:40 Shondha Maloti  
07:00 Maf O Manush  
08:35 Protidin Bangladesh  
09:25 Drama  
10:25 Teknaf Thekey Tetulia

## CHANNEL-i

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

## ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.

## CHANNEL-1

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00pm, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am.

## BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.

## News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm

4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00pm.

## ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.

News (Bangla) at 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

## CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am.

## BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.

## News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm

4:05pm.

## RTV

News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.

## News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am

4:05pm.

## TV GUIDE

Meet the Press  
On ATN Bangla at 11:05am  
Talk Show  
Host: Manzurul Ahsan BulbulTomorrow Never Dies  
On Star Movies at 10:15pm  
Genre: Action / Adventure  
Cast: Pierce Brosnan, Teri Hatcher, Michelle Yeoh