

CULTURAL FEAST

Ekushey Book Fair



Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 1-28
Month-long book fair

Ekushey Cultural Programme

Organiser: Sammilito Sangskritik Jote
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar Premises
Date: February 9-19
Time: 4:00pm

Organisers: Sammilito Sangskritik Jote
Venue: Rabindra Sarobar Amphitheatre (Dhanmondi)
Date: February 15-21
Time: 4:00pm

Bangla Calligraphy Exhibition

Artist: Arham-ul-Huq Choudhury
Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka
Date: February 17-28
Time: 10:00am-8:00pm

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: In Quest of Truth and Beauty
Artist: Samirat Roy Choudhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpajaya, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: January 28-February 10
Time: 12:00pm-8:00pm

Bashanto Utshob

Organisers: National Bashonto Utshob Ujjadipon Committee
Venue: Bakul Tola, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: February 13
Time: 4:00am

Group Art Show

Title: Appointment 2007
Venue: Shilpangan, Road 3, House 26
Date: February 5-18
Time: 10:00am-1:00pm & 5:00pm-9:00pm

CD Launch

Title: Rupantor Gaan
Artistes: Shaheen Samad and Enamul Haque
Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: February 12
Time: 5pm

Theatre

Play: Dakghor
Troupe: Swapnopal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage
Date: February 12
Time: 6:30pm

Ceramic Exhibition

Venue: Zainul Gallery-1, Institute of Fine Arts
Date: February 8-15
Time: 11am-7pm

Exhibition

'Appointment 2007': A medley of mediums

FAYZA HAQ

'APPOINTMENT 2007' has brought together the works of well-known artists like Alokes Ghosh, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Farida Zaman, Javed Jalil and others at Shilpangan. The display, which began on February 5, will be on till February 18. Water colours, oils, acrylics and mixed media have found their way to the exhibit.

One of Javed Jalil's mixed-media works, *Fishing for the soul* is a linear work that has brought together press ink and pastel to present figurative work. The picture presents a primitive, muscular man in a boat, striving to catch fish. In reality he is peering into his own private world. "He seeks to find himself, while he is also searching into the past, assessing his sorrows and desires. Beside him is a woman emerging from the water and other elements," Javed explains. This is inspired by Picasso's *Fishing in the Entebbe*."

Farida Zaman in *Fisher woman* tries to capture the festive days and other moments of happiness in the lives of the fisherfolk. She has used the folk elements like boats, birds, waves and rain. She has brought in bright brown, black, scintillating red and sunlit yellow by using acrylic on paper. "People speak of green



Clockwise (from top-left): *Fisherwoman* by Farida Zaman, *Nature* by Alokes Ghosh and *Fishing for the Soul* by Javed Jalil

Bangladesh but the colours I've used are the hues I see around me. The scenes are also reminiscent of my idyllic childhood days in Chandpur," Farida comments.

Hamiduzzaman Khan, in his *Face*, a water colour, has brought in an elongated portrait of a woman enveloped by smudges of black falling hair.

There is red on her nose and lips, while the forehead flanks fragments of the Bangladeshi flag. This is set on a backdrop of indigo blue.

Alokes Ghosh's water colour landscape brings in ink-blue clouds in the distance. Boats at full sail and land masses with trees and houses are also included in the composition. The final impact is a mass of gray with the gathering clouds being only slightly reflected in the flat gray streaks of the water.

More landscape is to be seen in Mohammed Zahiruddin's *Nature*. This introduces bars of blues, purples and green to delineate the river, land and the horizon above.

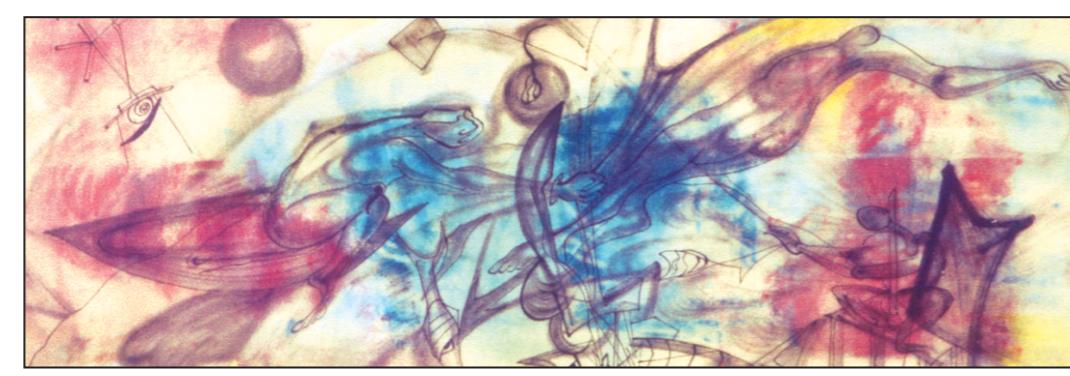
Apart from the sweeps of the tree-tops at the back is the solitary tree to the right, in the forefront, complete with falling branches and twigs.

The chalk pastel *Still Life* by Ifat Ara Dewan brings in a mass of tiny white blossoms, held in a rounded turquoise blue vase. Smudges of blue, brown and yellow complete the simple composition.

A voluptuous flaming red-clad female figure is seen in Anukul Majumdar's *Passionate woman*. The full figure reminds us of the figures in the frescos of Indian temples. The lines are minimal and yet dramatic and moving.

Face, a sculpture in bronze by Ivy Zaman, has hollow, slanted eyes, a prominent nose, full lips and a heavy necklace at the throat. This is evocative of the Santal women that Ivy saw in her student days.

The exhibition is a good collection of experiments by our local artists, ushering in different mediums and styles.



Art competition to honour Shaheed Sergeant Jahurul Haque

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War Museum organised an art competition for youngsters yesterday at the museum premises. The event was held to honour Shaheed Sergeant Jahurul Haque. The museum jointly with Jahurul Haq's family holds this event every

February.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Sarwar Ali, one of the founder trustees of the museum, at 10:30am. A total of 330 children and adolescents participated at the event in two groups.

The event was divided in three sessions. The first session included

the painting contest. After the competition was over a short cultural programme featuring performances by the participants, was held. The event ended with prize distribution among the winners. A total of 18 prizes were given. Besides the 1st, 2nd and 3rd, participants received special prizes from the family of Shaheed Sergeant Jahurul Haque.

The fist prize in children's category went to Mohammad Ashfaq Tahmid Khan while Raad Siraj bagged the first prize in the adolescent category.

Eminent artists and personalities -- Rafiqur Nabi, Hassan Ahmed, Muniruzzaman, Nisar Ahmed, Abu Barq Alvi, Shishir Bhattacharya and Lalarukh Selim -- were the judges.

The prizes were handed over by Rafiqur Nabi, Faridur Reza Sagor, Akku Chowdhury (a trustee of the museum), Dr Mainul Haq, nephew of Shahid Sergeant Jahurul Haque, Colonel (Retd) Shoukat Ali, Flight Sergeant (Retd) Abul Jalil and others.

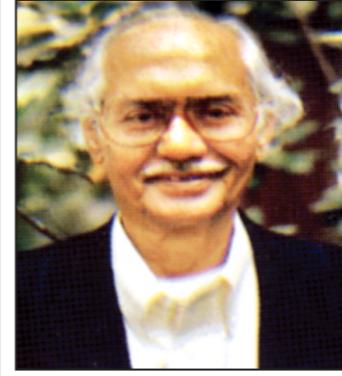
The award giving ceremony will take place in Kolkata on May 7.



Hundreds of young participants at the Liberation War Museum premises

PHOTO: STAR

Kabir Chowdhury to receive Tagore Peace Award



Eminent intellectual and National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will be honoured with Tagore Peace Award by the Asiatic Society, India, says a press release. The award will be given in appreciation of his significant contribution to development of human understanding and promoting global peace based on ideals of humanism and pacifism.

The award giving ceremony will take place in Kolkata on May 7.

Folk music festival at Shilpkala ends

KHALID-BIN-HABIB

The four-day folk music festival ended on February 8 with fanfare. Beginning on February 5, the festival was arranged by the Department of Dance and Music of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) at the Plaza of National Art Gallery.

Thirty prominent and aspiring folk singers as well as six troupes participated, performing different songs belonging to various categories -- Lalon geeti, Mursidi, Bhaiwaiyya and others. The singers have been regularly performing for urban and rural listeners.

Eminent artiste Indramohan Rajbongshi sang *Ki jalan jalai*. Dr Nashid Kamal sang a popular song *Amaye eta raatey kenekey daki*. Himangshu Biswas, Jamal Uddin Banna, Kalpona Rajbongshi, Shahnaz Shathi, Mitali Mallick, Manna Ashrafi, GM



Artistes Maloti Paul (top) and Kanon Balu Sarkar perform on the last day of the folk music festival

Zakir Hossain, Manju Shaha, Saiful Alam Raza, Maloti Paul, Kanon Balu Sarkar, Jamshed Ali Dewan, Tapon Majumder and others also performed on the last day of the event.

The highlight of the finale was presentations by noted folksinger Kangalini Sufia and her troupe. The seasoned artiste presented songs including *Onashe dekhte pari*, *Konba pothe nitaiganj jai* and *Ektara haatey niya*.

Renditions by other folk groups -- Akbar Ali Shahi, Bakul Boyati, Kabita Rani, Abdur Rahman Shilpa Goshthi, Samir Baul and their troupes -- received a warm response from the audience.

Folk music with its vibrant styles and unpretentious approach has a mass appeal. The festival, held every year by BSA, intends to promote and uphold the heritage of songs of our roots.



Movie Watch

'Traffic Signal': A world often overlooked

Chandni Bar peeped into the lives of bar dancers. *Page 3* exposed the gilty lives of the glitterati and chitterati. *Corporate* was about wars fought inside the boardrooms.

Madhur Bhandarkar's new outing *Traffic Signal* (final episode of the trilogy that started with *Page 3*) introduces the audience to a world that is hardly ever noticed. A world one sees every single day at the traffic signals, but forget all about it the moment the light turns green.

The movie is more of a collage of moments than a cohesive script.

A flourishing 'industry' exists at the intersections of Mumbai and those who engineer and run the 'empire' include gangsters and politicians. This is no glossy, feel-good, escapist cinema that has actors dressed in designer outfits and breaking into songs in the Swiss Alps. The ragtag characters look like they have not bathed in weeks and the lingo they speak is outright pedestrian, coarse and uncouth.

Silsila (Kunal Khemu), a young orphan, who took his first tiny steps at the 'Signal', is now its manager. He loves all those working at the signal, which in a way is his family, but would spare none when it comes to business.

Silsila's mentor Jaffar (D Santosh) is the collector of his region. Both Jaffar and Silsila work for the local Mafioso, Haji (Sudhir Mishra).

Inherent in the social structure lies a nexus between the local mafia and politicians, though at that level Silsila is almost non-existent.

Yet, by a force of circumstance, Silsila gets drawn into the bigger game and finds himself responsible for the annihilation of his own world. What would Silsila do in such a situation?

Like Bhandarkar's previous films, *Traffic Signal* too is about assorted characters. There's a kid called Tsunami, who has lost his parents in the Tsunami. There's a girl (Neetu Chandra) from Gujarat who sells traditional outfits. There's

a hooker (Konkona Sen Sharma) who has a soft corner for a drug addict. The junkie, in turn, has his own story to tell.

The film does not peep into every character's lives. All it does is introduce the characters that breathe the same air on the mean streets.

Bhandarkar's choice of subject is laudable, although one wishes that there were ample dramatic moments in the narrative. The subject material will have its share of admirers and adversaries.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



Kunal Khemu and co-artist in the film

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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

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, 2:00 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, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 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, 10:00 pm, 12:30 pm.

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

News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm, News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm.

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

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am.

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk Show: *Annyodhishi*
11:05 Drama: *Shokal*

12:15 *Shurer Madhuri*
12:45 *Shathdin*

01:30 *Nari*
03:45 *Shobor Jonno*

04:20 *Shesh Okhro*
05:30 *Grameenphone Nari*

06:20 *Gondhoraj*
08:00 *Samsung Cine A Ha*

08:40 *Mega Serial: The New Sabuj Opera*
08:40 Drama Serial: *Laal Neel Beguni*

09:20 *Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey*

08:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
09:30 *Shangbadpore Bangladesh*

09:45 *Public Reaction*
09:50 *Tritiymatra*

12:30 *Citycell Tarika Kathan*

01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*

01:30