

CULTURAL FEAST

Ekushey Book Fair



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

Basanta Utsab

Organisers: National Basanta Utsab Udgapan Committee
Venue: Bakul Tola, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: February 13
Time: 7:00am

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 (Dharmoddi)
Date: February 15-21
Time: 4:00pm

Bangla Calligraphy Exhibition

Artist: Arham-ul-Huq Chowdhury
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: Samarjit Roy Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dharmoddi
Date: January 28-February 10
Time: 12:00pm-8:00pm

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
Artists: Shaheen Samad and Enamul Haque
Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag
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

Capturing the essence of contemporary artists

Documentaries by Bengal Foundation

AHSAN HABIB

BENGAL Foundation, an organisation that mainly works in the field of music and fine arts, has produced a number of documentaries on prominent artists and their exhibitions. Though this may be directly related to the Foundation's regular activities, it signals the Foundation's increased attention to films.

"Initially our aim was to have a video documentation of an exhibition for our internal use. Now we have come a long way and produce complete documentaries that can stand on their own as quality films," says Luva Nahid Chowdhury, the director general of Bengal Foundation. The increased attention can only help revitalise documentary productions that need a fresh lease of life in the country.

In terms of documentary production, the Foundation has produced 22 documentaries so far, though they have been based on exhibitions only. *An Allegory of Self-exploration* directed by Wahid Tarek on Nazlee Laila Mansur, *Instraction* by Omrob on Swapna Choudhury, *Twilight Colours* by Shabnam Ferdousi on Farida Zaman and *Smitri Thikana* by Manzar-e Haseen Murad on Rafiqun Nabi, among others have received critical applause.

Marking 50 years of painting and celebrating Samarjit Roy Chowdhury's 70th birthday, a documentary on his life and works by Fauzia Khan was screened at Bengal Art Gallery on February 10.

Regular efforts to make documentaries on artists or artworks were absent in the past. However, some random efforts by Alamgir Kabir (on Zainul Abedin), Tareque Shilpacharya (Zainul Abedin), Tareque Masud (on SM Sultan) titled

received critical applause.

Already, the documentary culture seems to be picking up.

Recently 16 documentaries were screened in Chittagong which gave art enthusiasts a chance to view some rare images and the creative process behind them.



Stills from documentaries produced by Bengal Foundation



'Swapner Neelpori': TV play on Valentine's Day



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Priyota (Tinni) and Shubhro (Hillol) are in love. Their docile classmate, Atonu (Apurbo) is also infatuated with Priyota but cannot express his feelings for her. To Priyota's surprise, one day he sends his mother with a marriage proposal. Priyota makes it clear that she has no feelings for Atonu. Atonu's mother realises all is not well with him and

decides to take him to London for treatment. Atonu requests Priyota to bid him farewell. The play ends on a note of suspense.

Apurbo, Tinni and Hillol are the main characters of the play.

The play is scripted by Ifat Arefin Tinni and directed by Chaynika Chowdhury. It goes on air on February 14 at 9:15pm on ntv.

The hot and happening at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards

Tonight's telecast of the 2007 Grammy Awards at the Staples Centre in Los Angeles (8:30pm on Star World) has a not-so-secret weapon.

In case you haven't heard, 1980s British New Wave band the Police are reuniting to open the music awards show. It's their first performance on a Grammys telecast. That's the good news if you're a fan of Roxanne, Message in a Bottle or any other Police hit you can think of.

Besides the performance by the Police, here are other things to look out for during tonight's telecast:

Expect eight-time Grammy nominee Mary J Blige to bring down the house again, as she did at last year's Grammys when she performed One with U2. They don't call this woman "the queen of hip-hop soul" for nothing. And there's only one don't-miss award presenter: Diva-in-the-making Jennifer Hudson of Dreamgirls, whom they should have asked to perform given her Oscar nomination.

Watch for Justin Timberlake pairing up with someone in a duet. Also don't miss the costume-loving duo of Gnarls Barkley. We can also



Mary J Blige leading with 8 Grammy nominations

hope for some unexpected fan protest or for politics to enter the picture -- most likely this year from the Dixie Chicks or Neil Young, both of whom are up for Bush-bashing music.

R&B singer-pianist John Legend, pop-blues artist John Mayer and British newcomer Corinne Bailey Rae are performing

together. The Grammys have tried, and mostly failed, in the past to ignite the ceremony by grouping artists together -- such as Madonna and Gorillaz, or Jay-Z, Linkin Park and Paul McCartney during last year's event.

Source: Internet

Keep on the dancing shoes In conversation with Babu

KAVITA CHARANJI

Folk, modern and creative dance--these are the chosen spheres of the upcoming dancer Shahidul Islam Babu. Dropping into *The Daily Star* office recently, Babu took time off to talk about his early years, passion for dance and his current preoccupations.

For starters, Babu explained his love for folk dance. To quote him, "In Bangladesh, 85 percent of the people live in culturally rich villages. Folk dance is an easy means to communicate with them. What's more the audience can easily identify with the props that are used--dhol, ekthara, pitcher and scythe among others."

Babu's guiding force in his early days was his brother Shafiqul Islam who taught and learnt Rabindra Sangeet at the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA). Along the way, Babu completed a seven-year foundation course in Manipuri classical dance at Chaynat under the aegis of gurus such as Shantibala Sinha, Tamanna Rahman and Sharmila Bandopadhyay. "Shantibala Sinha is one of the best Manipuri dancers in India," asserts Babu, who later went on to complete his certificate course in dance from BAFA. Making his presence felt in the sphere of the classical dance form Kathak, he has been a disciple of Anup Kumar Das and late Zinath Jahan. Another of his teachers was Humayun Kabir.

Other dancers who have led the way for him are Kabirul Islam Rattan (folk, modern), Rahiza Khanom (folk) and Minu Haque (Odissi). Currently Babu works as an instructor in folk and modern dance of BAFA.

In the course of his dance career, Babu has visited countries such as India, Myanmar, Thailand, China, Korea, Malaysia, Jordan and Iraq as a member of the cultural delegations of Bangladesh. His trip to Jordan stands out vividly in his memory. As he recalls, he gave a 45-minute performance in a packed hall, with a large crowd



Shahidul Islam Babu

millions outside. The people outside the auditorium were clamouring to get in and incessantly demanded a repeat show--a request with which he graciously complied. "I was just as happy to see them as they were to see me," says a nostalgic Babu.

Now Babu has set his sights on choreography. Besides being a performer, he is a skilled dance director in BTV and private channels and adept in stage programmes. He has

also groomed many young dancers to "keep alive the classical forms of Kathak, Manipuri and folk dance for the future generation."

This year Babu has work aplenty. He expects to do more dance items on the TV channels and has possible performances in Dubai, Thailand and Singapore. All that aficionados of dance can tell Babu is to keep on his dancing shoes.

Aishwarya Rai: Almost a modern Draupadi

Aishwarya Rai's recent temple hopping with Abhishek and the Bachchan family has come in for much publicity -- for all the wrong reasons. The latest question is: How many husbands does Rai have? Here is the list:

A banyan tree at Benares, a banana tree at a Bangalore temple, an idol in Ayodhya. She is currently engaged to Abhishek Bachchan and

hasn't filed for a divorce from her current three husbands. In which case, once they marry, Abhishek will be her fourth husband.

That's pretty impressive for a woman, who Amitabh Bachchan believes is a very "domesticated" and "a simple girl". Marry one more without divorcing Abhishek and she will set her own standard.

Source: Internet

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TV GUIDE

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. (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 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00pm.

tv
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.

CHANNEL 1
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.

RTV
News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am.

BTB

08:40 *Bishwa Protidin* 12:30 Programme
09:05 *Shompati* 01:05 *Ebtong Cinemar Gaan*
11:15 *Musical Programme* 01:30 *Shangbadpore*
12:00 *Maa O Shishir Kotha* 01:45 *Bangladesh*
12:30 *Swapno Shonar Gaon* 04:05 *Public Reaction*
01:00 *Shukhi Poribar* 04:35 *Amader Gaan*
01:30 *Matli O Manush* 05:30 *Bonimla Protidin*
02:15 *Children's Programme* 06:00 *Star gate SG one*
04:00 *Onu Poromana* 06:20 *Ontoriler Kotha*
04:30 *Agrodut* 06:40 *Business Show*
05:05 *Debate* 07:50 *Ispahani Shonali*
06:10 *Kobi O Kobia* 08:35 *Diner Gaan*
06:40 *Dolon Chapa* 09:35 *Drama Serial: Tin Tin*
07:00 *Apon Bhumti* 10:00 *Drama Serial: Shada*
07:25 *Musical Programme* 10:00 *Ranger*
08:35 *Ekushey Amar Ahonkar* 10:00 *Swapno*
09:30 *Jibon O Jibika* 12:00 *GrameenPhone Ajker Shangbad Potro*

CHANNEL 1

10:30 *Talk Show:* *Onnordhishi* 08:40 *Shuprobhat*
12:10 *Motomot* 09:30 *Bangladesh*
01:25 *Cholochitrer Golpo* 10:00 *Chokh Mele Dekhi*
02:30 *Drama Serial: Nirob* 10:30 *Magic Show*
04:20 *ATN MUSIC* 02:00 *Padmorag*
05:10 *Gram Gorjor Khobor* 03:30 *Drama Serial:* *Shunney Boshobash*
05:45 *Business Week* 04:30 *Shomoyer Shad*
06:20 *Ashay Pasher* 06:00 *Sajj Bela*
06:30 *Top News* 06:30 *Top News*
08:00 *Drama Serial:* *Ithasher Path Dhorey* 06:45 *Ajker Bangladesh*
07:00 *Shuktara* 06:30 *Rtv Exclusive*
08:15 *Drama Serial:* *Shomrayo* 06:35 *Cinema Ar Gaan*
09:00 *Gaancer Khata* 06:40 *Magazine*
09:30 *Bioscope* 06:45 *Programme:* *Purush*
11:00 *Stop on Rock* 08:50 *Drama Serial: Raat*
11:15 *Jaga Pakhi* 10:45 *Rtv Exclusive*
11:30 *Rtv* 10:45 *Protidiner Boimela*
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12:00 *Rtv* 10:45 *Protidiner Boimela*

Channel i

08:30 *Shokaler Gaan* 09:00 *Article 39*
09:30 *Shangbadpore* 09:15 *Weekly Drama: Swoitta*
11:10 *Drama Serial: Sukher Kanta* 09:30 *Kumkum - Pyra Sa*
01:00 *Human Nature* 02:00 *Aj Potrikay* 01:10 *Drama Serial: Sukher Kanta*
01:30 *Article 39* 02:30 *Drama Serial: Chaitali* 01:20 *Bandhan*
01:45 *Public Reaction* 03:40 *Drama*