

CULTURAL FEAS

Ekushey Book Fair



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

Basanta Utsab

Organisers: National Basanta Utsab Ujapon 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 (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: Samarjit Roy Choudhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhanmondi
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: Rupantorer Gaan
Artists: Shaheen Samad and Enamul Haque
Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag
Date: February 12
Time: 5 pm

Theatre

Play: Dakghor
Troupe: Swapnodol
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, *Introspection* by Ornob on Swapan Choudhury, *Twilight Colours* by Shabnam Ferdousi on Farida Zaman and *Smritir Thikana* by Manzar-e Haseen Murad on Rafiqun Nabi, among others have received critical applause.

Marking 50 years of painting and celebrating Samarjit Roy Choudhury'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 titled *Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin*), Tareque Masud (on SM Sultan titled

Adamsurof), Manjar-e Hasin Murad (*Charushilpe Muktijuddho*), Fauzia Khan (*Onno Anubhobe*) and some others were the only examples of such documentaries. Bengal Foundation's productions have been limited to only exhibitions yet, but serve as a regular platform for such films.

The Bengal Foundation believes that future art enthusiasts and critics will benefit immensely from these documentaries. A sizeable audience who do not have access to the exhibition will have a chance to visually experience the best works of contemporary art. Moreover, the documentaries portray artists at work and throw light on their creative process.

"The expectation is that Bengal Foundation would produce complete films, but its first few efforts were actually treated not as a film but a part of the exhibition. Sometimes the artistic aspects of documentaries have been overshadowed by the overemphasis on the exhibition," observes eminent documentary maker Manjare Haseen Murad.

"Our documentaries are evolving. There are enough spaces for experiments or showing creativity or courage of the directors, as we do not follow any rigid format for the films. We want to create something that is sustainable in the long run and benefits the future generation," says Luva.

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



Apurbo and Tinni in the play

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 Tonni and directed by Chayanika 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

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—*dhul*, *ektara*, 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 Chayyanat under the aegis of gurus such as Shantibala Sinha, Tamanna Rahman and Sharmila Bandyopadhyay. "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

milling outside. The people outside the auditorium were clamouring to get in and incessantly demanded a repeat show—a request with which he gracefully 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

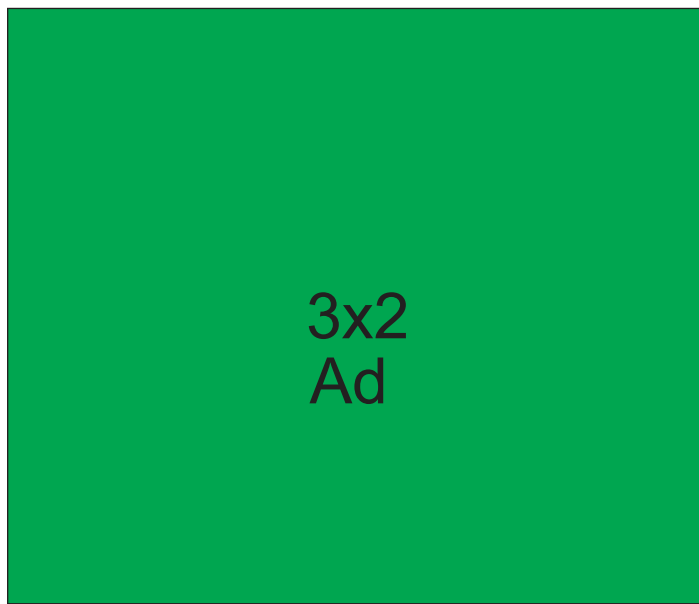
Aishwarya Rai's recent temple hopping with Abhishek and the Bachchan family has come in for much publicity -- for all the wrong reasons. The latest question is: How many husbands does Rai have? Here is the list:

A banyan tree at Benaras, 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



TV GUIDE

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) 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, 10:30 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

News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

RTV

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

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am

BTV

08:40 Bishwa Protidin
09:05 Shomapti
11:15 Musical Programme
12:00 Maa O Shishur Kotha
12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon
01:00 Shukhi Poribar
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Children's Programme
04:00 Onu Poromanu
04:30 Agrodut
05:05 Debate
06:10 Kobi O Kobita
06:40 Dolon Chapra
07:00 Apon Bhumii
07:25 Musical Programme
08:35 Ekush Amar Ahonkar
09:30 Jibon O Jibika

ATN Bangla

10:30 Talk Show:
Onnodrishti
Motamat
01:25 Chalachittr Golpo
02:30 Drama Serial: Nirob Kosto
04:20 ATN MUSIC
05:00 Gram Gonjor Khobor
05:10 Matir Shubtash
05:45 Business Week
06:20 Ashay Pasher
Manush
08:00 Drama Serial:
Kathkoylar Chhobi
08:45 Meet the Press
Channel i
08:30 Shokaler Gaan
09:30 Shangbadpore
Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Gramenphone
Tritomatra
11:05

Programme
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbadpore
Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
04:05 Amader Gaan
04:35 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Boimela Protidin
06:00 Star gate SG one
06:20 Ontoralar Kotha
06:40 Business Show
07:50 Ispahani Shonali
Diner Gaan
09:35 Drama Serial: Tin Tin
10:00 Drama Serial: Shada Ranger
Swapno
09:30 ShangeenPhone Aikar
Shangbad Potro

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobhat
Bangladesh
Chokhi Mele Dekhi
09:30 Magic Show
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
02:00 Padmorag
03:30 Drama Serial:
Shunney Boshobash
04:30 Shomoyer Shad
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:30 Top News
06:45 Iltishar Path Dhorey
07:00 Shuktara
08:15 Drama Serial:
Shomrayjo
09:00 Gaaner Khata
09:30 Bioscope
11:00 Stop n Rock
Rtv
09:05 Aj Potrikai
09:10 Talk Show
10:00 Priomukh

PICK OF THE DAY

Kath Koylar Chhobi
On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Abdullah Al Mamun, Tauquir, Bipasha

12:00 Gaan Ar Gaan	10:10 Article 39	08:10 Dasher Pathhey	04:00 Kahiin To Hoga
01:00 Human Nature	10:30 Amar Ami	09:15 Weekly Drama: Swotta	04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
02:00 Aj Potrikay	11:10 Drama Serial: Sukher Kanta		05:00 Aek Chhabhi Hai Padoss Mein
03:40 Drama Serial: Raat Jaga Pakhi	11:40 Cinebeat Shada Kalo	STAR PLUS	06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
04:20 Praner Manush	02:30 Drama Serial: Chaitali Jochonay	09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan	06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
05:10 Achey Pranay	03:05 Apnar Agami	10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus	07:00 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cod
06:00 Khola Chokhey	03:45 Drama Serial: Swapno Chura	10:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom	07:30 Cheers
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh	04:20 Drama Serial: Hashuli Bagumer	11:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii	08:00 Seinfeld
06:35 Rtv Exlusive	05:00 Protdiliner Boimela (live)	12:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa	08:30 2007 49th Annual Grammy Awards
08:00 Magazine	05:30 Diner Sheshey	01:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay	11:30 Fashion House
Programme: Purush	06:30 Amader Rannaghar	01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan	04:00 General Hospital
08:50 Drama Serial: Raat Jaga Pakhi		02:00 Bhabhi	05:00 Arrested Development
10:45 Rtv Exlusive		02:30 Kesar	06:00 The Simpsons
BANGLAVISION		03:00 Saarthi	07:00 Friends
09:30 Raat Biratey		03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	08:00 08:00

STAR MOVIES

07:45 Braveheart
10:45 Jacket, The Solo
12:30 The Triangle - Ep. 01
03:45 Baby Geniuses
05:25 House Sitter, The
07:00 Bee Season
08:45 Soul Plane
10:10 Deep Rescue
11:45 Faultline
10:30 The Apprentice
11:30 Crumbs
12:00 Two And A Half Men
12:30 Koffee With Karan
01:30 Criminal Minds
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00 General Hospital
05:00 Fashion House
06:00 Arrested Development
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Cheers
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
11:30 2007 49th Annual Grammy Awards
11:30 Fashion House
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
08:30 Wild Discovery
09:30 Discovery Biggest Shows
11:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive
12:30 Yummy Mummy
01:00 Runway Moms
01:30 Wild Discovery

STAR WORLD

02:30 Detective Stories
03:30 Planet Earth
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:30 Extreme Machines
07:30 Snake Week
08:30 Massive Engines With Chris Barrie
09:00 Everything You Need To Know
09:30 The X Revolution
10:30 Extreme Engineering
11:30 New Detectives
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 Jewel of the Orient
09:30 Hollywood
10:30 Telemall
11:00 Bhagyashali Ratna
11:15 Global Sky Shop
11:30 Operation Loch Ness
12:30 Sky Monsters
01:30 Super Copter
02:30 Monkey Business
03:00 Garter Snakes
03:30 Hollywood
04:30 Forest Crocs
05:00 Nat Geo Genius
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Saving The King Of Snakes
06:30 Hollywood
07:30 Medicine
08:30 Deadly Dealy
09:30 Russia's Nuclear Sub
10:30 Fight Science
11:30 Flying Insects
ESPN
09:00 2006 Streetball
09:30 Final Score
10:00 Nba Basketball

(Basketball)

12:30 English Premier
Football League
02:30 Indian Premier Hockey
League
04:30 Sports Yatra
05:00 Le Tour De Langkawi 2007
06:00 English Premier League
Highlight
07:00 Indian Premier Hockey
League
09:30 Sportscenter India
10:00 Sportscenter Asia
11:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of New Zealand
START SPORTS
08:30 Pro Bull Riders
Association Bull
09:30 Pro Bull Riders
Association Bull
Open
12:30 Royal Bank Of Scotland
Six Natio
02:30 Spanish Football
League
04:30 Pro Bull Riders
Association Bull
05:30 Gillette World Sport
2006
06:00 World's Strongest Man
2006
06:30 Tna Badshah
08:30 Mtn One Day Interna-
tional Series
10:00 Full Toss? Haste Rehna
Boss
10:30 Pro Bull Riders
Association Bull
11:30 Engine Block (Maga-
zine)
12:00 Uddeholm Swedish
Rally