

CULTURAL FEAS

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

Documentary Festival

Venue: Shawkat Osman Smriti Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: February 15-18
Time: daily at 11am, 3pm, 5pm and 7pm

Children's Painting Exhibition

By Russian and Bangladeshi school children-winners and participants of the 4th International Children Art Biennale Bangladesh-2006
Venue: Exhibition Hall, Russian Centre of Science & Culture
Date: February 15-20
Time: 10am-7pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Alluvial Dream & Reality
Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: February 16-March 2
Time: 12:00pm-8:00pm

Bangla Calligraphy Exhibition

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

Helmut Käutner Retrospective

Venue: Goethe-Institut Dhaka
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society and the Goethe-Institut Dhaka

February 19th: Romance in a Minor Key and The Devil's General

February 20th: The Affair of Julie and Sky without Stars

Blending eastern poetic prowess and western precision

In conversation with Swani Zubayeer

KARIM WAHEED

His songs deal with contemporary themes, weaving often enigmatic, often wistful or uplifting melodies. Swani Zubayeer's songs sparkle with poetic prowess -- an unmistakable trait of *ghazal*. The talented singer-composer, however, says his songs do not precisely follow the form of traditional *ghazal* (a collection of couplets called *sher*), derived from the Persian *qasida*. Call his songs by any name, but the fact remains Zubayeer's last two albums *Nirjon Shakhkhor* and *Ojossro Kobita* were highly appreciated by music enthusiasts in the country, in particular those who crave variety.

Zubayeer's first guru was Sri Gobindo Rabi Das. His *taleem* in Indian classical music began in 1993 under the supervision of Ustad Mazhar Ali Khan and Jawad Ali Khan (grandsons of the legendary Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan) of Kasur Patiala Gharana. But one incident in 1995 made him change his track. "I was in Delhi and I had the opportunity to experience an internationally acclaimed orchestra (conducted by Zubin Mehta) perform live at the Indira Gandhi Stadium," says the crooner, "that was a breakthrough experience."

Breakthrough indeed. Zubayeer went on to do his Masters in Western Classical Composition from Royal University College of Music in Stockholm, Sweden. However, his passion for both Indian and western classical music are not mutually exclusive. The musician wants to experiment and incorporate elements of Indian classical music into western classical format. According to Zubayeer, "One feature of western classical compositions that I've always admired is the preciseness in execution. Every composition, down to its last note is specified;



even the range of singers -- bass, baritone, tenor or contralto, mezzo-soprano, soprano -- is mentioned. There's provision for originality but no room for distortion.

"Music in our part of the world is all about improvisation. And that leaves an open ground for artistes rendering the same song in different ways. There are debates on accuracy of renditions of certain Tagore and Nazrul songs. I want to create music which will remain unchanged even after hundreds of years."

In 2003 Zubayeer was commissioned by Sundsvall Symphony Orchestra for an orchestral work, titled *The Golden Land*. Based on the six seasons of Bangladesh and the transformation in nature, Zubayeer composed the symphony

where the blend of East and West is evident.

On the current music scene in Bangladesh, Zubayeer says, "There's definitely lack of originality. Not enough groundbreaking styles or inspiring songs have come up in the last three/four decades. Use of traditional acoustic instruments seems to be a dying trend. There is one skilled *sitar* player, no *sarengi*, *esraj*... it's a dismal picture. Everyone is going for fusion but for the most part, what one hears cannot be called fusion; more like choppy and sloppy inclusion of a little Latin here and bhangra there or something else. To be able to efficiently fuse different genres, one needs experience and skills like Kazi Nazrul Islam's creation of Bangla *ghazals* or RD Burman's use of Latin beats or Salil Chowdhury's use of East European orchestra styles.

"Most people don't want to learn things the right way which is also the hard way. Thanks to technology, now one can purchase software of percussion notes, ready to be pasted in compositions.

"However one positive aspect of advancement in technology is that production has become significantly cheaper and at this moment there are more buyers of music albums in the country than ever."

Zubayeer will run a three-month music course in Western Classical Composition at Alliance Francaise, starting from March 3 (every Friday). On the *raison d'etre*, he says, "In a globalised culture, one needs to learn the international language of music to project his/her heritage to the world. My dream is a music institution and this course is a humble beginning. Besides Western Classical Composition, other courses -- in classical guitar, violin and piano -- will also be offered at Alliance Francaise."

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote's programme at Rabindra Sarobar begins

MAINUL HASSAN

With the slogan *Ekush amar ahonkar*, *Ekhush ghuchabey andhokar*, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) inaugurated their weeklong cultural programme, observing 'Ekushey', at Rabindro Sarobar premises, Dhanmondi on February 15. The programme will continue till the International Mother language Day, February 21. SSJ is also running programmes at the Cenntal Shaheed Minar. The programmes at the Shaheed Minar will continue till February 19.

The programme at Rabindra Sarobar started with the National Anthem by artistes of Padatik Sangeet Sangsad and Kranti Shilpi Goshthi. It was followed by the familiar song on Ekushey -- *Amar bhai-er roktey rangano Ekushey February*.

Following that, chief guest of the programme Ramendu Majumder,

president ITI, Bangladesh declared the opening of the event. Nasiruddin Yousuff, president of SSJ; Gulam Kuddus, general secretary, SSJ and others also spoke at the occasion. The welcome speech was presented by Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, member of the



Artistes perform at Rabindra Sarobar

executive committee, SSJ and also convener of the programme. Nasir Uddin Yousuff presided over the programme.

The cultural programme started with a performance by Biman Chandra Biswas, followed by Shamima Rahman Munni. A group recitation was presented by the members of *Boikuntho Abritti Goshthi*. Artistes of Kranti Shilpi Goshthi rendered three chorus songs starting with *Mukiro Mondiro Shopanotole*. Artistes performing solo songs were Rahat Shorkar, Mita, Enayet A Mawla Jinnah, Mahbulul Haider Mohon and Sheikh Alaul Haque.

The last segment of the programme featured two street plays, *Gupto Bidya* by Samay and *Dori Khela* by Prachyanat.

The programmes will be held at Rabindra Sarobar everyday from 4:00pm to 8:00pm.

The gift of reading

Prize giving ceremony of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra



Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed speaks to young readers

MAHMUDA AFROZ

Bishwa Shahitya Kendra organised its yearly prize distribution ceremony yesterday at the Institute of Fine Arts premises, Dhaka University. Under their 'Book Reading Programme', which has been underway for the past 23 years, thousand of students receive prizes each year. Currently there are 1000 branches all over the country and over a hundred and forty thousand students take part. The prize distribution ceremony will end today.

The 'Book Reading Program 2007' attracted 25000 students from 100 different schools in Dhaka this year; 5500 of these students are receiving prizes. The venue, Bokultala, was abuzz with thousands of cheery students and their proud parents. The main rule of the competition was, each participant would borrow one book from Bishwa

Shahitya Kendra each week, for a period of 20 weeks. After the deadline a brief examination would be held asking each student two questions from each of the book he/she has read. Those able to answer all the questions correctly will get the Bishwa Shahitya Kendra prize. Depending upon the number of questions correctly answered, students will receive prizes under the following categories: *Swagato*, *Shubhechcha*, *Obhinandan* and *Bishesh*.

Those who gave away the prizes yesterday were Lutfar Rahman Sarkar, Muhammad Farid Uddin, Dr Zafar Iqbal, Mahbub Jamil, Mobashsher Hussain, Abdul Awal, Ghalib Ahmed Ansari, Emdadul Haq Milon and the founder of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra, Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed.

Emdadul Haq Milon, in his brief speech, said, "Students are the ones who would write the future of

the country." Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed shared heartening stories from his childhood taking the six thousand plus crowd in a frenzy of laughter. He shared the story of winning a plastic spoon in a competition where he had to run backward. The moral was how times have changed from when he was a child. Back in those days there was little opportunity. He hoped this generation would appreciate the event and prizes.


Priyom, daughter of Nurul Alam, received a prize. In his words, "This is a great initiative in our country. Programmes like this will take the nation forward." Srijoni, a student of class eight of Vignarunnessa Noon School, expressed her joy at being a part of something special and winning a prize. Her dream is to build a library someday, where students can come and indulge in reading, the way she does at Bishwa Shahitya Kendra.

Of fusion and con'fusion'

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' staged at AIS/D

KAVITA CHARANJI

A truly delightful rendering of Shakespeare's romantic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (adapted by Dr Carolyn Harper) was on till February 16. The cast and crew included the middle school students of American International School/Dhaka (AIS/D). Giving a fresh



Students of AIS/D in A Midsummer Night's Dream

bly young Japanese girl Michino Hisabayashi and Avita Streathfield (both of whom also choreographed the fairy dances). Tarryn Beattie (in the role of the mischievous Puck) too delighted the audience.

Apart from the actors, most of the production crew were drawn from middle school students. The play was a gargantuan task as we involved so many middle school students. The play had 50 students in two sets of cast so that more students could be given the opportunity to take part in the production. Credit must also go to the other directors: Susan Cover (assistant) and Nora Graham (design).

The audience, mostly expats, enjoyed the performance. In the words of Nabina Pradhan from Nepal (mother of convincing narrator Aashna Pradhan), "The production was different from the Shakespeare version in the sense that it used a lot of modern English. I particularly enjoyed the humorous 'Bumpkins' sections."

Pointing to the USP of the play rendered by the young ones of AIS/D, the directors point out in a note, "As we made design decisions and worked with the actors, the concept we held on to was one of 'Fusion'...the plot of the play itself offers a good bit of con'fusion', as affairs of the heart, laws of the land, and whims of the supernatural collide."

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, 12:15 am.

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, 6:00 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, 7:30pm, 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 Esho Gaan Shikhi Shomapti
09:05 Shei Shur Shei Gaan
11:15 Shukhi Poribar
11:40 Drama Serial: Shubamolota
12:05 Ma O Shishur Kotha
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 Bangla Feature Film
05:05 Nobo Anondey Jago
06:10 Ocean Girl
06:40 Matri Bhasha
07:00 Laukik Bangla
07:25 Ekush Amar Ohonkar
08:35 Amar Bangladesh
09:00 Drama

ATN BANGLA
10:30 Talk Show: Annyodrishti
11:05 Drama: Shokal Shondha
12:15 Shurud Madhuri
12:45 Shathdin
01:30 Nari
03:45 Bhalo Bhalo Bashi Shesh Okhor
04:20 Grameenphone Nari O Rajniti
05:30 Gondhoraj
06:20 Samsung Cine A Ha
08:00 Mega Serial: The New Sabuj Opera
08:40 Drama Serial: Laal
09:20 Neel Beguni
09:20 News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm
09:20 News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

Channel i
08:30 Shokaler Gaan
09:30 Shangkaptore
09:30 Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Tritiomatra
12:30 Citycell Taroka
Kathan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar
01:30 Shangkaptore
01:45 Bangladesh
02:40 Public Reaction
03:20 Magazine
03:30 Programme: Shath Rang
04:25 Dhaka Guide
04:30 Banglalink
04:25 Moneytalk
05:30 Citycell Medha
06:00 Bikash
06:10 Boimela Protidin
06:00 Harano Shoishob
06:00 Harano Shompod
06:20 Drama Serial: Shath Goenda
07:50 Drama Serial: Broher Haat
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi
12:00 GrameenPhone
Ajker Shanbad Potro

ntv
08:35 Ajker Shokal
09:00 Megh Bolechhey
09:00 Jabo Jabo
09:30 Right Click
10:05 Apon Aloy
10:30 Aktel Joy Valentines
01:05 Day concert
01:05 Japan Video Topic
02:35 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhey
03:15 Jabo
03:15 Tomader Pelo
04:25 Bangladesh
05:20 Nupur
Alokatpat

Shanto Kutir
On ntv at 08:25pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Chitrolekha Guha, Fazlul Rahman Babu

06:20 Shubho Shondha
06:50 Shangkriti Ei
Shoptaho
08:25 Drama Serial: Shanto Kutir
09:10 Single Episode
Drama: Jora Elish
Din Dorpon
11:25 Shuprobhat
08:40 Bangladesh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:00 Magic Show
10:30 Bagan Bilash
11:00 Drama: Boshtumi
12:05 Telefilm: Khela Khela
02:00 Shoptaho Sheshey
03:30 Drama: Aaina

04:30 Drama Serial: Godhuli Belay
05:15 Fusion for Baul
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:30 Top News
06:45 Ithashar Path Dhorey
07:00 Bishwa Jurey Shath
Din
08:15 Drama Serial: Shunney Boshobash
09:00 Shondhi Khoney
09:30 Drama Serial: Godhuli Belay

Rtv
09:05 Aj Potrikai
09:10 Children's
Programme
Drama: Esho Haat
Dhori

01:35 Alok Dhara
03:45 Bangla Feature Film
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh
06:30 Bishwa Jurey
08:30 Ate! Gopshod
08:50 Musical Programme: Citycell R music

06:30 Music Moments
08:10 Drama Serial: Krishno
Pokho
09:20 Amar Ami
09:50 Drama Serial: Shukher
Kanta

BANGLAVISION
10:10 Talkshow: Apnar Ki
Kichhu Bolar Achhey
11:10 Shomoy Oshomoy
11:40 Media Bhuvan
12:30 Kachhey
03:05 Durey
03:05 Public Forum
04:20 Ebong Classer Bairey
05:00 Prodinner Boimela
05:30 Diner Sheshey

10:30 Shararat
11:00 Akkad Bakkad
Bambey Bo
11:30 Sonpari
12:00 Golu Ke Goggles
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
01:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron
01:30 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi
Dhoom
01:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kalash
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
03:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen
06:30 Mickey Mouse And
Friends
07:00 The Suite Life Of Zack
And Cod
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
07:30 Golu Ke Goggles
08:00 Saarthi
08:30 Lucky
09:30 Priithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Aek Chhabhi Hai
Padoss Mein
11:30 Thegreatindialau-
ghterchampion2

05:00 Fashion House
06:00 Hope & Faith
06:30 The O.C.
07:30 Tna Xplosion
08:30 Desperate
Housewives
09:30 Grey's Anatomy
10:30 Heroes
11:30 Fashion House

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
11:30 Animal Camera
12:00 Amazing Baby Videos
12:30 African Adventures
01:00 Meerkat Manor
01:30 Snake Week
02:30 Massive Engines With
Chris Barrie
03:00 Everything You Need
To Know
03:30 How Do They Do It?
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 Beyond Tomorrow
06:30 Planet Earth
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Discovery India
09:30 Sacred India
10:30 How Do They Do It?
11:30 Planet Earth

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
10:30 Operation Loch Ness
11:30 Sky Monsters
12:30 Car Chases
01:30 Disaster At Sea
02:30 Monkey Business
03:00 Garter Snakes
03:30 Telepathy
04:30 Winds Of Victory
05:00 Dakota, Orca, Target
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Nurse Sharks
06:30 Russia's Nuclear Sub
07:30 Hunting Hounds of
Arabia

08:30 The Living Edens
09:30 Wild
10:30 Going Global
11:30 NG Investigates
Terrorism

STAR SPORTS
10:30 Tna Impact
11:00 Golf Focus
11:30 The Ubs Golf Club
12:00 Enjoy Jakarta Astro
Indonesia Op
03:00 Asian Tour Weekly
2007
03:30 Round 5 Preview Show
04:00 Football Asia
04:30 Nike Football Locker
Room
05:00 Full Toss? Haste
Rehna Boss
06:00 The Fa Cup - "Road
To Wembley"
06:25 Fa Cup 2006/07
08:30 The Fa Cup - "Road
To Wembley"
08:55 Fa Cup 2006/07
11:00 The Fa Cup - "Road
To Wembley"
11:10 Fa Cup 2006/07

ESPN
10:30 India Down Under
11:00 Sportscenter Week In
Review
11:30 Hitz
12:00 Indian Premier Hockey
League
02:00 First Edition
02:30 Sportscenter Week In
Review
03:00 Ashes Legends
05:00 Indian Premier Hockey
League
10:00 Fa Cup 2006/07 (Jip)
11:00 Sportscenter Weekend
11:05 3 Mobile Ashes Series
2006-07