

CULTURAL FEAS

Ekushey Book Fair

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

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 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

Children's Art

Exhibition

Title: Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa  
Organisers: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: February 23- March 4  
Time: 11:00am-7:00pm (On Friday 3:00pm-8:00pm)

Bead Jewellery

Exhibition

Organisers: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Venue: Bengal Café, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhanmondi  
Date: February 24- March 2  
Time: 12:00pm-8:00pm

Indigenous Performing Art Festival

Organiser: Department of Theatre and Film, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall  
February 24 Kissa Gaan  
February 25 Manik Pirer Gaan  
February 26 Aikap  
February 27 Royani  
February 28 Kushan Gaan  
Time: 8:00pm

Spring Festival

Organiser: Katha Lolitokala Academy  
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium  
Date: February 24  
Time: 5:00pm

Cultural Programme

Organiser: Kranti  
Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum  
Date: February 25  
Time: 5:30pm

Book Exhibition

Organiser: Bangladesh National Unesco Club Association  
Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbagh  
Date: February 27-28  
Time: 11:30am

Weeklong indigenous performing art festival begins

Gazir Gaan staged on the first evening

ERSHAD KAMOL

A weeklong indigenous performing art festival, arranged by the Department of Theatre and Film of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, was inaugurated on February 22 at the Experimental Theatre Stage. Abul Kalam Shafi Ahmed, the director of the department, delivered the welcoming speech. The Director General of the academy, Quamrul Hassan, was the chairperson, while the Secretary of Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Abdul Haque Chowdhury, was the special guest of the inauguration ceremony.

On the opening day Mojibur Bayati's troupe from Shaikupa in Jhenidah district staged *Gazir Gaan*, an indigenous folkloric drama form that narrates the story of legendary Gazi Pir and his followers. Since this performing art form is completely based on legacy of a *pir*, it began with formal, ritualistic gestures. The *Gayen* (lead singer) implants the symbolic icon of Gazi Pir, known as *Gazir Asha* (hope of Gazi), in the middle of the square-shaped empty stage, with the audience sitting on its four sides. It was followed by the playing of harmonium, cornet, mandira and dhol. After the group instrumental, the *Gayen* presented a devotional song in praise of Gazi with his troupe on stage. This part was followed by *Ashor Bandana*, which is in praise of the performance. After the song of praise, two *Chhukris* (female



Mojibur Bayati (r) and his troupe present *Gazir Gaan*

impersonators) stood up and began light entertainment.

"This kind of cheap entertainment decreases the grandness of the performance of *Gazir Gaan*, which is based on a legend. I've watched *Gazir Gaan* performed by several other troupes in the rural areas, but those troupes have never presented such cheap entertainment by *Chhukris*, which to me is a kind of blending of another indigenous art

form named *Ghatu Gaan*", said Dr. Afsar Ahmed, a professor of the Department of Drama and Dramatics of Jahangirnagar University, who was in the audience.

And immediately after the *Chhukris*' dance, the *Gayen* began his narrative depicting the story of Gazi and Kalu becoming ascetics in a sequence of seven episodes. *Gazir Gaan* ended with the narration of story of Gazi's follower Didar

Badshah's story. According to Dr. Afsar, this is the usual approach of the traditional *Gazir Gaan*.

The performance of the traditional artistes deserves plaudits. The smooth transition of characters and narratives by Mojibur Bayati's troupe should be an example for our urban theatre practitioners, who also apply this stage technique.

Eighth Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enniki Festa commences

MAHMUDA AFROZ

Eighth Mitsubishi Asian Children's *Enniki Festa* 2006-2007 took place at the National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 23, 2007. This colourful art competition was first held in 1990 and is held every two years with participants throughout Asia. The belief is that a bridge of understanding and amity is created among Asian children. There were participants from 24 countries this year.

The competition was being held under the joint auspices of Mitsubishi Public Affairs Committee, Asian Federation of UNESCO and the National Federation of UNESCO Association in Japan. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy was given the responsibility to hold the countrywide competitions for ensuring the participation of Bangladesh.

The topic for this year's competition was "*This is my life*". Through 5 pictures, each child had to depict their day to day life. A total of 7050 art

works from 1410 participants were collected from Bangladesh. Three hundred and thirty-five participants got through the first round amongst which 40 artworks from the best 8 participants have been sent to Japan for the whole Asia competition.

Those who made it to the final 8 are Omor (Maple Leaf International School), Mayesha (Probhati Art School), Hritika (Jhapi School of Art), Asif (Dhaka Bodhir High School), Labonno (Probhati Art School), Biki (Scholastica), Mimi (New Life Fine Art School) and Reshad (Probhati Art School)

The other 327 participants were given certificates of acknowledgment. The event was presided over by Quamrul Hasan *ndc*, director general of the academy. Rafiqul Islam, chairman of Jeebon Bima Corporation was the chief guest for the occasion. In Quamrul Hasan's opinion "Although the lifestyle of children of different countries is totally different, the display and interactions of their brass and colour as well as their thinking are alike and identical. We do hope that a strong bridge of culture will be built among the Asian children through these identical and inseparable approaches."

In 8 year old Mayesha's words (one of the 8 finalists for the whole Asia competition) "I am so happy that my picture is on display for thousands of people to see. My Rubel sir inspired me and I dream of being a painter some day." Her proud mother added, "This is an excellent opportunity with international exposure. Her drawings will be displayed in Japan, we could not have been happier."

Throughout the room 6 to 12 year old children were squealing with pleasure and proud parents looked on, content to see their ward's happy faces.



Art works by the school children on display at Shilpakala

Event

Teaching children about Ekushey

MAINUL HASSAN

To observe Ekushey, *Karok Nattya Shomproday* (KNS), a cultural organisation, arranged a hand writing competition for children at the central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday. Titled *Borno Likhon Protijogita 2007*, the programme was a well-attended. The slogan of the occasion was *Esho rokte jeta bornomala shundor kore likhi*. "The main purpose was to introduce the Bangla alphabet to the children", said Shankar Shaojal, secretary, KNS. "We have paid great price for Bangla. It is very important that the future generation understands and appreciates the sacrifices of the martyrs," he added. KNS has been holding the event at the first Friday right after February 21 for the last 20 years.

The event was divided into three sessions. The first session featured *Hate Khori*, an age-old tradition. In the olden times while introducing the alphabet to the children, they were given special sticks made out of bamboo or *Khori* to write. They were introduced to alphabets through the ritual. At the programme language movement veteran Emdad Hossain and Rowshan Ara Bachchu introduced the children to Bangla alphabets. With colourful chalks they held the children one by one, and helped them to write the names of the language martyrs and the Bangla alphabets. In the



Children at the handwriting competition

programme Shaojal appealed to the guardians to make their children understand the importance of the day, and realise how fortunate they are to be introduced to the alphabets of the language movement veterans.

The second session featured the hand-writing contest. Children aging between 3 to 6 years participated in the event. The contest started with a group presentation by the members of Sargam Lolitokola Academy. They rendered various numbers

related to Ekushey and Bengali alphabet throughout the session starting with the song *Esho rokte jeta borno mala shundor kore likhi*. The contest was followed by the third session. In this segment members of KNS introduced the children to the *alpona*. The children took paint brushes and painted the *alponas* at the central Shaheed Menar.

The programme wrapped up with the prize giving ceremony.

Homage to Louis Kahn

Penn Station Kills Me': Naeem's Installation at Exit Art gallery, New York

'Light - Suspense - Death' (aka "Penn Station Kills Me") is a new video+architectural installation created by Naeem Mohaieen and Philadelphia-based architecture collaborative Gensler+Gutierrez. The project had its genesis from an interest in the strange circumstances surrounding Kahn's death.

In 1974, after his last trip to South Asia, Kahn returned to New York

and was found dead in the men's room of Penn Station. His body lay unclaimed for three days because he had crossed out his name and address on his passport. Later, it was discovered that he was deeply in debt in spite of international commissions, and he had lived parallel lives, says a press release.

The project imagines a third story between the two polarities of Kahn's



grand, clean architecture, and his messy, all-too-human life.

Reflecting on the Shangshad Bhavan's original provenance as a 'nation building' project commissioned by Ayub Khan, the artists wrote: "Midway through construction, the war broke out. Suddenly there was no country, no government, no one to pay the bills, and seemingly no need for a national unity project."

The physical structure of the installation synthesises and pays homage to Kahn's linguistic apertures: geometry, light, and raw material. A wall constructed from concrete/polymer fibre slabs, suspended by cables, hybridises the geometric filigree and monumentality of the Dhaka project—setting the stage for the video weave.

The project opened at Exit Art gallery in New York this week, as part of 'The Building Show' group show. A smaller portion of the project will also travel to La Celda Contemporanea in Mexico City and Kadist Art Foundation in Paris.

Gensler + Gutierrez is an interdisciplinary architecture practice that was recently a finalist for a public commission at the Philadelphia International Airport. Naeem Mohaieen works on art/film/text interventions in New York and Dhaka, and was in the 2006 Whitney Biennial (Wrong Gallery).

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, 10:30 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

**RTV**  
News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

**BTV**  
08:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi  
09:05 Shomapti  
11:15 Prothom Antora  
11:40 Shukhi Poribar  
12:05 Drama Serial: Shubamolota  
12:30 Ma O Shishur Kotha  
01:30 Mati O Manush  
02:15 Sisimpur  
02:40 Bangla Feature Film  
05:05 English Debate  
06:10 Ocean Girl  
06:40 Matri Bhasha  
07:00 Shei Shur Shei Gaan  
07:25 Shobar Jonno Cinema  
09:00 Drama: Holona Akash Chhoya

**ATN BANGLA**  
10:30 Talk Show: Annyodishti Shoner Multiphone  
11:05 Shurer Madhuri Shathdin  
12:15 Nari  
12:45 Special Programme  
01:30 Shesh Okhor  
05:30 Grameenphone Nari O Rajnit  
06:20 Gondhorrang  
08:00 Samsung Cine A Ha Mega Serial: The New Sabuj Opera  
08:40 Drama Serial: Laal Neel Beguni  
09:20 Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey

**Channel i**  
08:30 Shakaler Gaan  
09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Tritomatra  
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan  
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh  
01:45 Public Reaction  
02:40 Magazine  
Programme: Shath Rang  
03:20 Dhaka Guide  
03:30 Special Programme  
04:25 Shoter Shondhaney  
05:30 Boimela Protidin  
06:00 Harano Shoishob Harano Shompod  
06:20 Drama Serial: Shath Goenda  
07:50 Drama Serial: Bhober Haat  
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush  
10:00 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi  
12:00 GrameenPhone Aiker Shanbad Potro

**ntv**  
08:35 Aajker Shokal  
09:00 Megh Bolechhey Jabo Jabo  
09:30 Right Click  
10:05 Apon Aloy  
10:30 Aktel Hip Hip Hurray  
01:05 Japan Video Topic  
02:35 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhey Jabo Jabo  
03:15 Tomader Pelo Bangladesh  
04:25 Nupur  
05:20 Alokatpat  
06:20 Shubho Shondha  
06:50 Kachhey Shoptaho  
08:25 Drama Serial: Shanto Kutir  
09:10 Bhalo Besho Mor

PICK OF THE DAY

**Amar Ami**  
On Banglavisn at 09:20pm  
Talk show hosted by Auppee Karim  
Tonight's Guest Aiyub Bachchu

**Grey's Anatomy**  
On Star World at 9:30pm  
TV Series  
Cast: Ellen Pompeo, Sandra Oh

**STAR PLUS**  
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus  
10:30 Shararat  
11:00 Akkad Bakkad Bambeby 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 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhoom  
11:30 Mr. And Mrs. Smith  
01:15 Fast And The Furious, The  
03:05 Around The World In 80 Days  
05:05 Crash  
07:00 Star Wars: Ep. Iii - Revenge Of The Sith  
09:25 Robots  
11:00 Fast And The Furious, The

**BANGLAVISION**  
10:10 Talkshow: Apnar Ki Kichhu Bolar Achhey  
11:10 Shomoy Oshomoy  
11:40 Media Bhuvan  
02:30 Kachhey Durey  
03:05 Public Forum  
04:20 Ebong Classer Bairey

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 Shararat  
08:00 Kayamath  
08:30 Lucky  
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan  
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby  
10:30 Aek Chabhi Hai Padoss Mein  
11:30 Thegreatindialaughterchampion2

**STAR WORLD**  
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
12:30 The Kumars At No. 42  
01:00 Travel Asia  
01:30 My Wife And Kids  
02:00 The King Of Queen  
02:30 Crumbs  
03:00 8 Simple Rules  
03:30 Malcolm In The Middle  
04:00 According To Jim  
04:30 Frasier  
05:00 Fashion House  
06:00 Hope & Faith  
06:30 The O.C.  
07:30 Tria 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 Wild Discovery  
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 Fight Science  
12:30 Kung Fu Monk  
01:30 ShowReal Asia  
02:30 Monkey Business  
03:00 Crabs  
03:30 Atlantis  
04:30 Winds Of Victory  
05:00 Peewee, Zeke, Ozzy  
05:30 Big Bang  
06:00 Pilot Whales  
06:30 Science Safari  
07:30 Last Of The Dragons  
08:30 Great Indian Witch Hunt  
09:30 Latika Tiger Princess  
10:30 The Great Betrayal  
11:30 Bioterror Alert

**STAR SPORTS**  
10:30 Joe In Tna-The Ringside Story-Pa  
11:00 Joe In Tna-The Ringside Story-Pa  
11:30 Sports Yatra (Cricket)  
12:00 Sports Yatra (Cricket)  
12:30 The Ubs Golf Club (Golf)  
01:00 Hyundai Hopman Cup Xix (Tennis)  
04:00 Football Asia (Soccer/Futbol)  
04:30 Nike Football (Soccer)  
05:00 Wrc Highlights Show (Auto Racing)

06:00 A1 Grand Prix  
08:00 Qualifying (Auto R  
08:30 Gillette World Sport  
2006 (Inter  
08:30 Club Epl (Soc-  
cer/Futbol)  
08:55 English Premier  
Football League  
Club Epl (Soc-  
cer/Futbol)  
11:00 English Premier  
Football League  
11:10 English Premier  
Football League

**ESPN**  
10:30 Champions Of The  
World (Quiz Sho  
Sportscenter Week In  
Review (Spo  
11:30 Hitz (Cricket)  
12:00 First Edition (Soc-  
cer/Futbol)  
12:30 Indian Premier Hockey  
League (Fi  
02:30 India Down Under  
(Cricket)  
02:55 Sportscenter Week In  
Review (Spo  
03:25 First Edition (Soc-  
cer/Futbol)  
04:25 Kfc Twenty20  
International (Cric  
-South A  
05:55 Sportscenter Weekend  
(Sport News  
06:00 Premiership Saturday  
(Soccer/Fut  
06:40 English Premier  
Football League  
08:45 Premiership Saturday  
(Soccer/Fut  
08:55 English Premier  
Football League  
09:00 Final Score (Soc-  
cer/Futbol)  
11:30 English Premier  
Football League