

CULTURAL FEAST

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

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), Dhamondi
Date: February 24-March 2
Time: 12:00pm-8:00pm

Solo Painting

Exhibition



Title: Alluvial Dream & Reality
Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpala, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhamondi
Date: February 16-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 26 Alkarp February 27 Royani February 28 Kusun Gaan
Time: 6:00pm

Book Exhibition

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

Indigenous Performing Art Festival

Islamuddin Palakar stages 'Arbula Shundori'

Islamuddin Palakar (C) in colourful attire narrates *Arbula Shundori's Kiss*

PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV

ERSHAD KAMOL

PALAGAAN, narrative folk ballad of the greater Mymensingh region, is the most popular indigenous performing art form in Bangladesh for its unique melody and presentation. Whether a *Palagaan* is based on the stories of the

puranas or folktales, the common thread is human issues such as love. When the *palakar* or *bayati* (the lead singer) in a *Palagaan* narrates only one story, the performing art form is labeled as *Kissagaan* by some folklore experts.

As part of ongoing indigenous performing art festival arranged

by the Department of Theatre and Film, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Islamuddin Palakar staged a *Kissagaan* titled *Arbula Shundori*.

Like his guru Abdul Kuddus Bayati, Islamuddin also begins his presentation with *Bandanageeti* (devotional ode to Allah and his Prophet). But, he

adds the name of his guru at the end of his *Bandanageeti*. Later, like his guru he greets the audience and subsequently narrates the story.

Islamuddin, also like his guru, presents the narrative in the form of a dialogue with his *dohar* (choristers). The *bayati* plays the roles of different characters, at times assisted by the choristers who also enact some roles. Another similarity between the guru and disciple is the use of props like pillow, rope, doll and others while enacting some characters in different sequences of the story. And the dissimilarities that are evident in presentation are: Abdul Kuddus Bayati's voice modulation is much more resonant, while in Islamuddin's performance 'body movement' and gesture are more important.

The story of *Arbula Shundori* staged by Islamuddin Palakar on February 24 at the Experimental Theatre Stage is simple -- a triangular love story between a prince, a princess and the daughter of a gardener. Because of the treachery of Bilkis Malini, the daughter of a gardener, Princess Arbula's life comes to a tragic end.

Analysing the story line of the narrative, one may find many flaws. However, the three-hour performance of Islamuddin -- especially his ability to enact different characters by modifying gestures as well as smooth transition of the scenes -- moved the audience.

Celebrating spring A colourful cultural evening

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Spring (*bashanta*), the season of life, is here once more. The air has lost its nip and spring flowers, new foliage and the cooing kiskis herald the onset of the season. To commemorate spring, cultural organisation, Katha Lalitakala Academy (KLA) organised a cultural evening at the Shishu Academy auditorium, titled *Bashanta Utsab* 1413 on February 24. The slogan of the programme was *Aji Bashanta Jagroto Darey*.

The vivid and colourful event featured group dance, singing, rhymes, patriotic songs and folk numbers by child artistes. A high point of the function was children

bedecked in traditional sarees and flower ornaments.

The whole event was divided into three sessions. The first session featured two group performances. Beginning with a group song, *Phagun hawaye hawaye*, a group dance performance *Bashanta Boron* followed next.

A discussion and prize giving ceremony was held in the second session. The introductory speech was given by Alauddin Ahmed, principal KLA. The chair of the session was Syed Margub Morshed, former chairman BTRC.

He thanked the organisers for holding the wonderful event and expressed the hope that they would continue holding such

colourful programmes. Sharifa Quadir, principal Uchchhash Lalitakala Academy and Lion Jaglu Mahmud, chairman, Dhaka New Lions Eye Hospital also spoke on the occasion. AKM Badruddoza presided over the event.

A prize giving ceremony followed the discussion.

The third session, the main attraction of the evening, followed. On the heels of a group dance performance *Momer Putul*, came a group song *Phool photey boley hashi hashi* and an eloquent and touching Nazrul song *Mon-er rang legechhey*.

Altogether 26 performances were staged at the well attended programme.



Young dancers perform at the event

'Obstacle of Life': Featuring the dark side

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A seven-day painting and drawing exhibition titled *Obstacle of Life* ended recently at Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. The works are the creation of upcoming artist ASM Rashidul Alam Manik. Though Rashid is only an MA second part student of Department of Drawing and Painting of Institute of Fine Arts, his canvases feature a contemporary issue-- complexity of urban life.

Manik has a negative interpretation of the contemporary urban life. In his view the nature of urbanisation in Bangladesh is a kind of obstacle for the spirit of life. Through the delicate complex lines on the faces of human beings, Manik in his 61 paintings and drawings on display has portrayed the dark side of urban life. Though the idea of presentation is not new, young artist Manik's medium and composition are different. Moreover, the issues dealt by Manik in *Obstacle of Life*, to some extent, are marginalised compared to that of renowned artist Kalidas Karmakar's *Alluvial Faces* series. Kalidas in digital lithography medium has presented the complexity of human character through delicate lines on the human faces. However, Manik, with the exception of two acrylic works, has drawn figures with ordinary pen.

Black complex lines with remarkable empty spaces of Manik's canvases create a surrealistic ambience, where the figures of dry trees, human faces, woman, and dog symbolically represent bareness, cruelty and hypocrisy of urban people. Another important aspect of Manik's canvas is that the faces and figures are not realistic rather like that of tree and big stone, which suggests that the young artist desires natural beauty instead of concrete made urbanisation.

Barongbar 1 and *Barongbar 2* are two acrylic

*Barongbar* (acrylic) by ASM Rashidul Alam Manik

works on display. Rashid has used bright colours such as yellow, blue, red and black in this series. Upper part of the tree-shaped face of a human being is filled with bricks, while the lower part is filled with the trunk of trees. This symbolic face represents the urban phenomenon of making

concrete buildings by indiscriminate tree felling. *Srishti, Akalpita, Kalpona, Abiram, Alap, Samaj, Acheton Manush, Snehomoy, Kalalap* and others are pen drawn canvases featuring the hazards of urban life.

James Cameron finds Jesus, literally

James Cameron, director of block-busters such as the *Terminator* series and *Titanic*, has a sensational documentary waiting in the wings. *Jesus of Nazareth* has a whole new story to tell, reports *Time* magazine.

Producer Cameron and his director, Simcha Jacobovici, claim that Jesus was not resurrected as Christianity purports, and that Jesus' burial cave was discovered by Cameron near Jerusalem. Cameron also makes claim that carpenter Jesus fathered a son with Mary Magdalene, in the explosive new *Time* article.

Israeli construction workers were digging the foundations for a new building in the industrial park in the Talpiot, a Jerusalem suburb over 25 years ago.

According to *Time*, the dirt gave way, "revealing a 2,000 year old cave with 10 stone caskets. Archaeologists were summoned, and the caskets carted away for examination. It took 20 years for experts to decipher the names on the ten tombs; some in ancient Greek and some in Hebrew. One inscription said 'Jesus, son of Joseph,' another said 'Mara,' a common form of Maria or Mary, and another said 'Yose,' a common form of Joseph.

Archaeologist and Israeli Professor Amos Kloner didn't associate the crypt with the New Testament

Jesus, and all were common Jewish names according to *Time*.

In old Jerusalem, faithful Christians for centuries had been worshipping the empty tomb of Christ at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Christ's resurrection is a cornerstone belief that a boy born to a mortal virgin woman is the Son of God.

Now James Cameron and Jacobovici contend they have collected real evidence through DNA tests, archaeological evidence and Biblical studies that the 10 coffins did belong to Jesus and his family, reports *Time*.

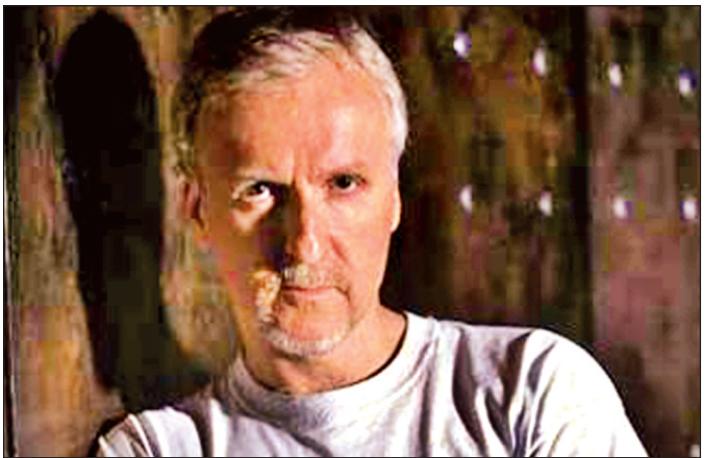
Time also reports Cameron is

holding a press conference in New York, at which he will reveal three coffins, supposedly those of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother Mary and Mary Magdalene.

News about the film, which will be shown soon on Discovery Channel, Britain's Channel 4, Canada's Vision, and Israel's Channel 8, and has been a hot blog topic in the Middle East.

Time magazine speculates Cameron's 90-minute documentary is "bound to outrage Christians and stir up a titanic debate between believers and sceptics."

Source: Internet



James Cameron

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTB
08:40 Bishwa Protidin
09:05 Shompati
11:15 Musical Programme
12:00 Maa O Shishur
12:30 Swapno Shonar
13:00 Shukhi Poribar
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 Boi Potro
04:00 Onu Poromana
04:30 Agrodut
05:05 Debate
06:10 Kobi O Kobita
06:40 Dolon Chapa
07:00 Apon Bhumi
07:25 Drupadi
08:35 Chhayachondo
09:30 Jibon Jibika

ATN Bangla
10:30 Talk Show:
Onnordroshi
12:10 Motamot
12:20 Cholochitrer Golpo
01:25 Drama Serial: Nirob
Kosto
04:20 ATN MUSIC
05:00 Gram Gonjer
Khobor
05:10 Matir Shubatash
05:45 Business Week
06:20 Ashey Pasher
Manush
08:00 Drama Serial:
Kathaykalar Chhobi
08:45 Meet the Press
10:30 Top News

CHANNEL 1
09:00 Bioscope
11:00 Stop n Rock

Rtv
09:05 Aj Potrikai
09:10 Talk Show
10:00 Priomukh
10:30 Bangla Feature Film

CHANNEL 2
02:00 Padmorag
03:30 Drama Serial:
Shunney Boshobash
04:30 Aj Potrikai
09:30 Rtv Exclusive

CHANNEL 3
09:00 Gaaner Khata
09:30 Shompati
10:00 Jatra

STAR PLUS
05:00 Hashuli Bagumer
Upokotha
05:30 Protidiner Boimela
(live)
06:30 Diner Sheshey
08:10 Desher Pathay
09:15 Weekly Drama:
Shunyo

STAR MOVIES
08:15 Clearing, The
10:00 Cinderella Man
11:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
12:30 Kayamath
01:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
01:30 Kumkum - Pyra Sa
Bandhan

STAR WORLD
09:00 The Simpsons
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 The Apprentice
11:30 Crumbs
12:00 8 Simple Rules
12:30 Koffee With Karan
01:30 Angela's Eyes
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
08:30 My Wife And Kids
09:00 Everybody Loves Raymond
09:30 The King Of Queen
10:00 Frasier
10:30 Fashion House

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 Padoss Mein
Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cod
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
07:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
07:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
08:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
08:30 Karam Apna Apnaa
09:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
09:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati-Srk
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kayamath

STAR SPORTS
08:30 Pro Bull Riders
Association Buil

ESPN
08:30 Pro Bull Riders
Association Buil

STAR SPORTS
08:30 Pro Bull Riders
Association Buil

STAR SPORTS