

CULTURALFEAST

Photography Exhibition

By the members of Muktachokh, Patshala, 2007
Title: Ballyati Prashade
Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery Zoom, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: April 20-May 3
Time: Saturday-Friday 9am-12pm, 5pm-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: The Forms and Poetry of Nature
Artist: Alakesh Ghosh
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old) Dhanmondi
Date: April 21-May 5
Time: 12pm-8pm



Title: The Story of Lost Painting
Artist: Nikhil Chandra Das
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, Road 4, House 21 Dhanmondi R/A
Date: April 21-30
Time: 10am-8pm

Loko Oitijya Prodorshoni:



Kantha

Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum
Date: April 20-29

Group Exhibition

Organiser: Art & Soul Gallery
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery
Date: April 20-29
Time: 5:30pm

Title: The Forms and Poetry of Nature
Artist: Alakesh Ghosh
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old) Dhanmondi
Date: April 21-May 5
Time: 12pm-8pm

Film Screening

Organiser: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh in cooperation with Children's Film Society, Bangladesh
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh auditorium.
Date: April 26, May 31
Time: 4:00pm

In memoriam: Mohammad Saidur

Nakshikantha exhibition at Liberation War Museum

KARIM WAHEED

Liberation War Museum is holding a *nakshikantha* exhibition at its premises. The exhibition, inaugurated on April 20, features 32 *kantha* (quilt) -- some of which are around 300 years old -- and other artefacts that are a part of Mohammad Saidur's collection.

Throughout his life Saidur had worked tirelessly to attain all the information he could on the folklore and artefacts that are indigenous to our country. In his youth he had the opportunity to get acquainted with Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin and Pallikabi Jasimuddin and the association inspired Saidur to start his research on our rural heritage. While working for Bangla Academy, he enriched the organisation's archive of folk artefacts. In 1996 after retiring from Bangla Academy, Saidur joined Liberation War Museum as a volunteer and collected many documents and memorabilia for the museum. He was specifically keen to highlight the contribution of folk artistes to the war.

Saidur's collection that includes *nakshikantha*, *Lokkhir shora*, *haath-pakha*, *tepa* dolls, terracotta figurines, dice and cutters used for *peetha* making and more can be a treasure-trove for the nation.



A *nakshikantha* on display at the exhibition

PHOTO: STAR

Saidur's goal was to set up an archive in Binnogaon, Kishoreganj and display his fascinating collection. He even opened up an archive on a small scale.

The aim of the exhibition at Liberation War Museum is to provide Saidur's collection with mass exposure. Akku Chowdhury, one of the trustees of the museum said,

"Saidur's contribution to Liberation War Museum was immense. His drive to highlight our rural heritage demonstrated his passion for our culture, our national identity."

Noted folklorist Shamsuzzaman Khan said, "The tradition of *nakshikantha* epitomises the artistic skills and secular worldview of rural Bengali Muslim womenfolk.

Local myths were popular subjects of these quilts, which were meant to be used as an everyday item, yet became works of art in the most unpretentious way possible. Saidur had excellent people skills and he could establish close ties with these rural artisans. His knowledge on details and *phor* (stitch) of *nakshikantha* is incomparable."

Mafuld Haque, trustee of Liberation War Museum recalled how Saidur approached them and expressed his eagerness to work for the museum. "Even the night before he passed away, he was documenting a memorabilia which he had collected for the museum," Haque said.

Haresuzzaman, Mohammad Saidur's son also spoke at the event. Saidur also maintained close ties with folk musicians. Some of these artistes attended the event and performed after the inauguration. Folk songs performed by Mujibur Rahman, Abul Hashem, Mohammad Gunjer Ali Jibon and Jasimuddin Hiru -- all from Kishoreganj -- received warm response from the audience. Abdur Rahmat Boyati and his troupe, also from Kishoreganj, rendered *jarigaan*. The exhibition will continue throughout this month.

Popularity is the name of the game

In conversation with Chayanika

MAHMUDA AFROZ

Though we are in the 21st century the world is still a man's domain. This is more apparent in the field of film or TV programme direction. Very few women have managed to break the glass ceiling and stand at par with men, specifically in Bangladesh. Chayanika Chowdhury is one such individual who has stood up against all adversaries.



Chayanika Chowdhury

Chayanika's venture into the world of direction has been a gradual one. She had no formal education on the subject. However, she had been associated with the media since childhood. A graduate of Chhayanat she says, "I was trained in classical dancing and singing, was part of the BTV show *Abol Tabol*, *Kochi Kachar Mela*, have won prizes in *Notun Kuri* and stood 1st class 2nd in Chhayanat. I had also gone to Shantiniketan to complete my BA in music (that remained incomplete as she got married before she could graduate)."

Chayanika left the cultural arena after her marriage in 1990. Supporting her husband was her priority. "We had to struggle a lot in those initial days. Back then Arun (Arun Chowdhury, TV play director and editor of *Anandodhara*) had financial constraints and I was a housewife. My mother was highly disappointed in me. She had always been career-oriented. Naturally when I ended up being a struggling housewife, she was not happy."

By 1997 Chayanika's husband Arun Chowdhury had become a successful script-writer. Once her children grew up, Chayanika toyed with the idea of writing herself. "One day I wrote something and showed it to Arun, but he refused to see it. He said that if he checked my script I would become dependent on him. I was hurt but determined and took the script to Bipasha (Hayat). She just said one word, "Amazing". A TV serial was developed on that. It was called *Bodh* and was made under Mahfuz Ahmed's banner.

Her big break as a director came in 2001 when she wrote *Shesher Bela* for Mujibur Rahman. "I casually asked him who the director would be and he asked whether I would be interested. I couldn't believe it but agreed instantly." Since then Chayanika did not have to

look back. In 2002-'03 she had 14 releases and in 2006, 16 went on air among which *Jekhane Shimanto*, *Sonar Kathi Rupar Kathi*, *Aanchol*, *Kotha chilo onnorokom*, *Chotushkon*, *Kotha chilo* and *Noshitoneer* received appreciation from the audience.

Chayanika has quite a different way of framing and directing. She has received her share of criticism as well. One of the complaints being 'her serials are just about a title, a promotional song and a flashy setting'. In her words, "Yes I do give the setting a lot of importance. Watching Hindi serials I've always wondered why they appealed to the public, despite having the same old story. I realised that people liked the way the set up looked and I followed the same track. People want to be entertained and I was going to give them that. Today I see many of my contemporaries, who have criticised me, following in the same footsteps. Many directors are now using songs in their TV plays, besides emphasising on the setting. I consider it a success."

There have been other criticisms as well. One of them being that she is successful because of her husband. In her own defence she says, "I have completed 47 serials and most of them have been widely accepted. As much as I love my husband I don't believe Arun's name single-handedly could have gotten me this far. I'm grateful to my actors and my audience. They were ready to work with me when I was new. And now I have my own style which appeals to the public."

Chayanika's future plans include emerging as a filmmaker. "My dream is to make a movie. Not an offbeat movie but a pure commercial one that will touch the heart of millions," she says.

Rakhain water festival celebrated in Cox's Bazar

MUAZZEM HOSSAIN SHAKIL, Cox's Bazar

The Rakhain community in Cox's Bazar celebrated the Rakhain New Year 1369 in the traditional way. Celebrations included splashing water on each other, which symbolises washing away the sorrows, ailments and sins of the previous year and a fresh beginning of another year.

The three-day long water festival of the ethnic communities in Cox's Bazar ended on April 20. On the first day of the year,

Rakhain men and women wake up early in the morning, take a bath and clean up their houses and surroundings. They decorate their homes with flowers. They also offer flowers to rivers, canals and springs seeking blessings from God for eternal peace and prosperity.

Though the festival is related to the ethnic people, Bengalis also take part in it. Tourists frequent the festival as well.

A colourful cultural programme was organised by Rakhain Development Foundation (RDF) at this

year's festival. Artistes of the community performed Rakhain songs. Mala Rakhaine and Maymaychen Rakhain rendered songs, while child artistes Ripamoni and Riyamoni presented a dance.

A discussion addressing the different issues regarding the Rakhain community was also held. Mohammed Aminul Islam, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar was the chief guest and Ushitmong, advisor of RDF, chaired the event.



Rakhain girls and boys splash water on one another at the festival

PHOTO: STAR

TV Watch

'Bhober Haat': 60th episode to be aired tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular mega-serial *Bhober Haat* reaches 60th episode tonight. The serial is aired every Saturday and Sunday at 7:50pm on Channel I.

The 104-episode TV serial has a rural setting, depicting colourful lifestyles of the rural denizens. The play follows the story of two brothers who have cut off all ties for 25 years over some trivial incident. However, the brothers' offspring seek a family reunion, giving rise to hilarious moments.

Bhober Haat is written by Masum Reza and directed by Salauddin Lavlu.

Cast of the play includes Humayun Faridee, A T M Shamsuzzaman, Wahida Mollick Jolly, Salauddin Lavlu, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Tania, Diti and Bonna Mirza.



(R-L) A T M Shamsuzzaman, Dr. Ejaz and Shamim Zaman in the serial



Discussants(L-R) Subir Chowdhury(Director, Bengal Gallery), Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam (Art Critic), artists Nisar Hossain and Roni Ahammed exchange views at the first anniversary of Monthly Art News Letter 'ARTBEAT'

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

BTV

08:40 *Bishwa Protidin*
09:05 Shomapti
11:15 Drama
12:30 *Swapno Shonar Gaon*
01:00 *Maa O Shihur Kotha*
01:30 *Mati O Manush*
02:15 *Lok Lokalay*
02:40 Cartoon
03:05 Educational Programme
03:30 *Shilpo O Shahityo*
04:00 Shotorupa
04:30 *Kirra Giganto*
05:05 TV debate
06:10 *Swastho Kotha*
06:40 Tagore Song
07:05 *Shomoyer Shanglap*
07:30 *Nritter Taley Taley*
08:30 *Protidin Bangladesh*
08:35 Drama Serial:
10:30 *Agun Khora Shondha*

ATN Bangla

10:30 Talk Show:
Onnodishti
Drama: *Khati Shona*
12:15 *Shushtho Thakun*
Independence Day Debate Competition
12:40 *Mantasha Taroka Lok Award-2005*
03:45 *Gram Gonjer Khobor*
05:00 Documentary
Program: *Prapok The Sword of Tipu Sultan*
05:45 Three Stooges
06:25 Drama Serial:
08:00 *Outdoor*
08:40 Drama Serial: *Nirey Taar Nil Dheu*
09:20 Drama Serial: *Pichhutan*

Channel i

08:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
09:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 *Grameenphone Tritiomatra*
11:05 Apollo Tele
11:30 Prescription
11:30 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*
12:30 *Citycell Taroka Kathan*
01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Selected Drama of Humayun Ahmed
03:30 *BBC Bangladesh Shanglap*
04:05 *Cricitalk Bishwa Cup Special*
04:50 *Sa Re Ga Ma Muktiyudho Protidin*
05:30 *Anondodhara Chaer Ashor*
06:20 South Asian
07:50 Mega Serial: *Bhober Haat*
09:35 Drama Serial: *Mon Chhutey Jay*
10:00 *Jog Beyog*
12:00 *Grameenphone Akjer Shangbad Potro*

ETV

12:30 *Ajker Potrikay*
01:00 *Mon Mon Re Amar*
01:30 Musical Programme
02:00 *Shurjer Nichey*
02:30 *Drishti*
03:00 *Amader Kotha*
03:30 *Chitro Geeti*
04:00 Drama Serial: *Agun*

Channel i

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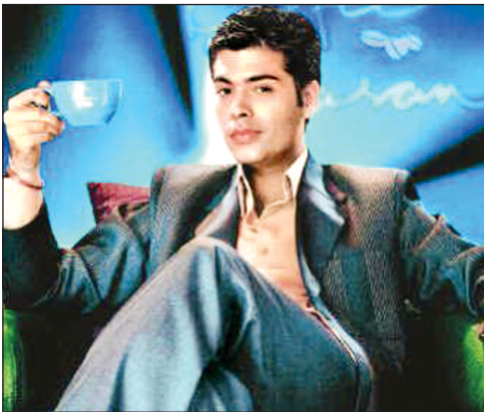
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03:00 *Amader Kotha*
03:30 *Chitro Geeti*
04:00 Drama Serial: *Agun*

PICK OF THE DAY



Swapno Chura
On Banglavisian at 9:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Meer Sabbir, Sumaiya Shimu



Koffee with Karan
On Star World at 9:30pm
Talk show
Host: Karan Johar

04:30 <i>Laga Shondha</i> 05:00 <i>Cookery Show</i> 05:00 Drama: <i>Adita</i> 06:00 <i>Jana Ajana</i> 06:30 Musical Programme 07:30 <i>Ek Cup Cha</i> 08:00 Drama Serial: <i>Durer Batighar</i> 09:15 Pop Show 09:30 Drama Serial: <i>Atyopprakash</i>	03:10 <i>Bachelor Dompoti</i> 12:30 Talkshow 04:15 Musical Programme 05:40 <i>Diner Sheshey</i> 06:25 Sports Vision 06:45 <i>Bishwacup Protidin</i> 08:15 <i>Chaitali Jochhonay Ekti Meye</i> 08:55 <i>Apnar Agami</i> 09:30 Drama Serial: <i>Swapnochura</i>	12:05 Musical Programme 12:30 Game Show 09:10 <i>Chitro Geeti</i> 04:00 Cartoon 05:00 Documentary 05:30 Programme 06:00 Hello Cricket 07:35 <i>Gaan Para</i> 08:00 Drama Serial: <i>Nijhum Shimanter Bolaka</i> 09:15 Drama Serial: <i>Shishir Chhoya Shiuli</i>	07:00 Domino 09:10 National Treasure 11:20 The Puppet Masters 01:15 Ed Wood 08:30 Saans 08:30 Yatra 09:00 Krishna Kathaiken 09:30 Kichidi 10:30 The Great Indian Laughter Challenge 12:30 Jurassic Park (Hindi) 03:00 Jurassic Park 2 The Lost World (Hindi) 05:30 Jurassic Park III (Hindi) 07:30 Kayamath 08:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa 08:30 SAIBABA
09:05 Drama Serial: <i>Krishnopokho</i> 09:30 Bangla Feature Film 02:40 Drama Serial:	09:00 Cartoon 09:30 Talkshow 10:00 Daily News 10:30 Drama Serial: <i>Kanch Ghor</i>	09:00 The Sixth Sense 11:00 Into The Blue 01:00 Oliver Twist 03:15 Patch Adams 05:20 Submerged	

STAR WORLD

09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur baby
10:30 Thodi Si Zameen
11:30 Thoda Sa Aasma
11:30 Kaboom
08:00 8 Simple Rules
08:30 30 Rock
09:00 Scrubs
09:30 Desperate Housewives
10:30 Prison Break
11:30 Heroes
12:30 Angela's Eyes
01:30 Third Watch
02:30 Falcon Beach
03:30 The Apprentice
04:30 Grey's Anatomy
05:30 Hollywood Shootout
06:00 Travel Asia
06:30 Koffee With Karan
07:30 Malcolm In The Middle
08:00 The Kumars At No. 42
08:30 Fashion House
09:30 Koffee With Karan
10:30 Angela's Eyes
11:30 Third Watch
08:30 CSI: NY (Season 2)
09:30 The Amazing Race: All-Stars
10:30 E Buzz
11:30 World's Most Amazing Videos (Season 3)
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)
01:30 CSI: Miami (Season 4)
02:30 CSI: NY (Season 2)
03:30 Girlfight
06:00 Sony Style TV Magazine
06:30 The Amazing Race:

All-Stars

07:30 World's Most Amazing Videos (Season 3)
08:30 Once Upon A Time In Mexico
10:30 Ultimate Guinness World Records
11:30 The Amazing Race: All-Stars
12:30 World's Most Amazing Videos (Season 3)
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Mega Builders
03:30 Future Weapons
04:30 Baby Story
12:00 Baby Whisperer
12:30 Wildest
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Future Weapons
03:30 Wild Discovery
04:30 How do they do it?
05:30 Wildest
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows
10:30 Night Safari
11:30 Risk Takers
10:30 The Living Edens
09:30 Attack of Mystery Shark
10:30 Strange Days
02:30 Underwater Treasures #1
03:30 Underwater Treasures
04:30 Cousteau: Ocean Adventure
08:30 Jack Johnson: Kokua Festival
09:30 A Life Among Whales

At Close Range With NG

Earthpulse 2006
09:00 Malaysia Airlines
09:00 Football Extra
10:00 Guinness 9 Ball Tour 2007, Jakar
02:30 India'S Best With Sunil Gavaskar
02:57 Motogp World
07:00 Championship 2007
07:00 Masters Series
08:30 Monte- Carlo Pres
08:30 Volvo China Open
09:30 Remember The Titans
10:00 Hitz
10:30 Debuts
11:00 Masters Series
09:00 Taking Guard - West Indies Speci
09:30 India's Best With Sunil Gavaskar
10:30 Indian Legends
10:30 Bmw Asian Open
03:30 Ironman
04:25 Sportscenter Week In Review
04:55 India'S Best With Sunil Gavaskar
05:25 Taking Guard - West Indies Special
05:55 Sportscenter
06:00 Weekend (Sport News)
06:25 Super Sunday
06:25 English Premier
08:30 Super Sunday
08:55 English Premier
09:00 Football League
11:30 Final Score
11:30 Indy Japan 300

STAR SPORTS

09:00 Malaysia Airlines
09:00 Football Extra
10:00 Guinness 9 Ball Tour 2007, Jakar
02:30 India'S Best With Sunil Gavaskar
02:57 Motogp World
07:00 Championship 2007
07:00 Masters Series
08:30 Monte- Carlo Pres
08:30 Volvo China Open
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