

CULTURALFEAST

Screening of Satyajit Ray films

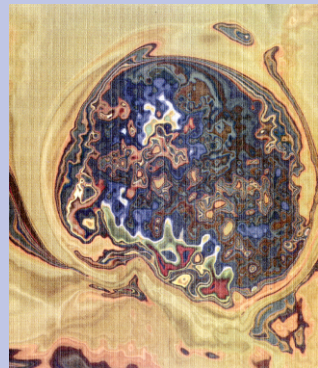


Films: *Pather Panchali*, *Aparajito*, *Apur Sansar*, *Agantuk*, *Kanchenjunga*, *Charulata*, *Asani Sanket*, *Jana Aranya*, *Aranyer Din Ratri*, *Hirak Rajar Deshe*, *Shakha Prashakha* and *Ghare-Baire*
Organiser: Rainbow Film Society
Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: April 23-25
Time: Daily at 11am, 2pm, 4pm and 6pm
Organiser: Goethe- Institut Bangladesh in cooperation with Children's Film Society, Bangladesh
Date: April 26, May 31
Venue: Goethe- Institut Bangladesh auditorium
Time: 4:00pm

Loko Oitija Prodorshoni: Kantha
Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum
Date: April 20-29

Ikebana Exhibition
Artist: Jonaki Mahmud
Venue: Conference Hall of BNCU, BANBESIS Bhawan, Palassy-Nilkhet
Date: April 30

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



Artiste: Rabi Khan
Organiser: Alliance Francaise La Gallery
Date: April 26-May 2
Time: 9am-5pm

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

Portrait of an esraj player

Ekram Hossain speaks on his art

ERSHAD KAMOL

The 200-year-old instrument *esraj*, a combination of *sitar* and *sarangi*, was found in the east-central India, particularly in Bengal. *Esraj* is mostly used as an accompanying instrument in Rabinindra Sangeet. It is also played solo as well as an accompanying instrument in North Indian classical music, mostly in the Vishnupur *gharana*.

A staff artiste of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, AFM Ekram Hossain, is one of the very few *esraj* players in the country. Besides playing classical recitals at concerts, based on lucid ragas such as *ragesree*, *desh* and *khamaj*, Ekram plays *esraj* as an accompanying instrument with commercial music, Rabinindra Sangeet, and dance. *Nupur* and *Nrityanchal*, composed by Ekram, are the only available albums in the country for *Kathak* dance at present. Ekram has played both *esraj* and *tabla* in the albums. Moreover, as a member of the government delegation he has showcased his skills in *esraj* overseas several times.



Ekram Hossain
onwards I began to play both the instruments -- *tabla* and *esraj*." In 1974 Ekram joined Radio Khulna as an *esraj* and *tabla* player.

Later, in 1978 he joined the transcription service of Bangladesh Betar as an *esraj* artiste. Ekram played *esraj* in 1978 in the BTV

production of Tagore's popular play *Raktokorobi*, directed by Mustafa Monwar. Subsequently he joined Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy as an *esraj* player in 1979.

Ekram faced several ups and downs, which left him utterly confused and he had little option but to take a temporary break as an accompanist.

"Unfortunately, the popularity of *esraj* has been steadily declining. When I went to learn more on the instrument from Ustad Phuljhuri Khan, he discouraged me by saying that *esraj* players have no future in the country. And he suggested that I shift to some other instruments. That's why I gave up *esraj* and leaned towards *tabla*. As a *tabla* player of the government delegation I've travelled to many countries.

"But, only a few years back, renowned composers like Shujeo Shyam, Mohammad Mannan and Maksud Jamil Mintu encouraged me to continue playing *esraj*, saying better days are ahead for the musicians. And now I feel that I've wasted my time playing *tabla*, leaving *esraj*. Nowadays I'm busy in the commercial field."

As Ekram has no mentor, he practices *esraj* while listening to recitals by Indian gurus. However, he is doing some experiments. To quote him, "If, the mike of gramophone is added with the *esraj*, it produces a sound similar to that of a *shehnai*. I recreate the *taar shehnai* in this way."

Musical soiree

An evening of Tagore songs by Nandan

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Nandan, recently arranged a special musical programme featuring Tagore songs. The programme, dedicated to the memory of Tagore exponent Waheedul Haque, titled *Dhora dao drishitir bondhon-e*, was held at Chhayanat Sangskriti Bhawan.

Renowned Tagore singer Sadi Muhammad and promising singers of Nandan performed in the programme. Farzana Rahman Boni, Sushmita Golam, Saiful Islam, Suraiya Mozammel, Mahmudur Rahman, Anjuman Ferdousi Kakoli, Tanzina Parveen Toma, Tamanna Khan and Neelotpal Shadhya rendered a variety of songs. Nishat Jahan Rana recited poems by Tagore in between the songs.

Songs rendered at the programme included *Tomaro modhuro roop*, *Jey tore pagol boley*, *Jibon jokhon shukaye jaye*, *Ami jerey shuney bish korechhi paan*, *Prokhoru topono tapey*, *Chokher jolerlaglo jowar* and more

Sunil Kumar Sarkar played keyboard while Giasuddin was on the violin. Mrityunjay Majumdar was on *tabla* and Nazmun Alam played *mandira*.

It was Nandan's 15th programme.



Artists of Nandan perform at the programme

Birishiri Upojatiyo Cultural Academy in dire straits



Dancers from ethnic communities perform at the academy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The aim of Birishiri Upojatiyo Cultural Academy in Netrakona is to preserve and promote the traditions and cultures of the ethnic groups in greater Mymensingh region.

Birishiri is a small rural area near Durgapur upazila headquarters. It is a centre for cultural, religious and educational activities of the Garo and Hajong people.

The academy was established in 1977. Birishiri is about 45 kilometres from Mymensingh and 20 kilometres from Netrakona. Durgapur and adjacent Dubaura and Kalmakanda upazilas have a sizeable population of ethnic groups -- mainly Garo and Hajong.

According to the research officer of the academy, Sreejon Sangma, the academy stretches over three acres of land. The main centre is a two storied building. There is an auditorium adjacent to

the main centre. A spacious auditorium with all modern facilities and 1000 seats is quite impressive in a remote area.

The ground floor houses the office. There is a separate rehearsal room for artists. A spacious room is used as an archive of artefacts. However, due to inadequate funds, new books cannot be procured for the library, adds Sreejon Sangma.

The academy offers a three year-course on ethnic cultural activities -- namely traditional dance, songs, drama and folk festivals. There is provision for twenty students to get admitted in each session.

However, the academy is mostly understaffed and regular activities are hampered due to financial constraints.

Birishiri Cultural Academy which strives to work as a platform for ethnic arts and culture desperately needs attention of the concerned authorities, says Sreejon Sangma.



Kitab Ali Boyati performs 'Ghatu Gaan' at a programme on folk art forms that are on the verge of extinction. The programme was organised by Prothom Alo Bondhushobha in Tangail recently

The newlyweds -- Aishwarya and Abhishek -- accompanied by Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan along with a few close ones made a flying visit to Tirupati after the wedding to gather further blessings, this time from the shrine to Shri Venkateshwara in the seven hills at Tirumala, the second most popular religious site in the world.

Amitabh Bachchan came to the temple to seek blessings just before the Aishwarya-Abhishek wedding on April 15, and apparently donated Rs 51 lakhs



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.

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 Shomapi
11:15 Shukhi Poribar
11:40 Desher Gaan
12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha
12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon
01:00 Talk Show
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Musical Programme
02:40 Selected Programme
03:05 Cartoon
03:30 Educational Programme
04:00 Koishor
04:30 Band Show
05:05 Children's Programme
05:30 Anushilan
06:10 Shilpo Prangon
06:40 Cricket Cricket
07:15 ICC World Cup 2007: New Zealand Vs Sri Lanka

ATN Bangla
08:15 Ajker Shangbadpotro
08:30 Drama Serial: Pichhu Taan
09:15 ATN Commentary Box
10:30 Talk Show: AKTEL Onyodishti
11:05 Drama Serial: Out Door
11:15 Three Stooges
12:15 Aamar Computer
01:30 Shur O Chhobi
02:30 Talk show
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokhu Nai
03:45 Children's Programme
05:10 Ainar Shamney
05:45 Musical Programme
06:20 Talk show: Kothamala
08:00 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha
08:45 Drama: Milir Hatey

Stengan CHANNEL-i
09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone Tritiyo matra
11:05 Cricket Online (Live)
11:30 Amar Chhobi
12:40 Citycell Tarakakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbad Potrey Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Selected Drama of Humayun Ahmed
03:05 Educational
04:05 Crictalk Bishwa Cup Special
04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Muktiuddho Protidin
06:00 Drama Serial: Kianto Shomoy
06:20 Drama Serial: Ochena Adhar
07:50 RC Travel On
08:20 Drama Serial: Modhurenu Somapeo
09:35 Drama Serial: Tin Tin
10:00 Drama Serial: Shadha Ranger Swapno
12:00 Grameenphone Ajker Shangbadpotro

Channel 1
08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
09:30 Chokhi Mele Dekhi
10:00 Cartoon
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
02:00 Shuktara
03:30 Drama Serial: Shomrajjo
04:00 Gaaner Khata

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PICK OF THE DAY

ICC World Cup 2007
First Semi Final
On Btv at 7:15pm
New Zealand v Sri Lanka
Live from Sabina Park, Jamaica



04:30 Bioscope
05:15 Stop n Rock
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:45 Iltashar Path Dhorey
07:00 Alpo Sholpo Golpo
08:15 Drama Serial: Shomrajjo
09:00 Rupantorer Golpo
09:30 Expression
10:50 Gaaner Kotha Kothar Gaan

02:40 Drama: Phoring Bondhu
04:15 Shamol Bangla
05:00 Travel Show
06:15 Talk Show
06:40 Bishwacup Protidin
08:15 Drama Serial: Ei Shob Andhokar
09:00 Agamir Kontho
09:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
10:30 Aladdin
11:00 That's So Raven
11:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:00 Kasturi
12:30 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi

11:15 Undercover Brother
12:45 Method
STAR WORLD
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 My Wife And Kids
11:00 The King Of Queen
11:30 Grey's Anatomy
12:30 Still Standing
01:00 Frasier
01:30 Prison Break
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:00 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00 General Hospital
06:00 Less Than Perfect
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Cheers
07:30 Friends Sr 8
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 Falcon Beach
09:30 The O.C.
10:30 Prison Break
11:30 Fashion House
AXN
09:30 Beastmaster (Season 1)
10:30 PSI Factor (Season 3)
12:00 Maximum Exposure (Season 2)
01:00 The Amazing Race: All-Stars
02:00 Maximum Exposure (Season 1)
03:00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)
04:00 Maximum Exposure (Season 2)
05:30 Amazon
06:30 The Shield (Season 4)
07:30 SI Factor (Season 3)
08:30 Maximum Exposure (Season 2)
09:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season III)

10:30 Sports Disasters 4
11:30 House (Season 1)
12:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season III)
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 Colours of India
10:30 Future Weapons
11:30 Extreme Machines
12:30 Baby It's You
01:00 Runway Moms
01:30 African Week
02:30 Detective Stores
03:30 Mythbusters
04:30 Wild India Week
05:30 Million 2 One
6:00 Everything You Need to Know
06:30 Deadliest Catch
07:30 African Week
08:30 Spiritual Nation
09:30 Baby Story
10:00 Baby Whisperer
10:30 Mega Builders
11:30 Extreme Machines
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
09:30 Dangerous Encounters
11:00 Sauna Belt
11:15 Global Sky Shop
11:30 Air Crash Investigation
12:30 Seconds From Disaster
01:30 Survival Of The Meanest
02:30 From Heart Of Darkness
03:30 Dangerous Encounters
04:30 Mad Labs
05:00 Taipan Reign Of Terror
05:30 Nat Geo Junior
06:00 Kings of the Pantanal
06:30 Dangerous Encounters
07:30 Triumph of Life

08:30 Naked Science
09:30 Is It Real ?
10:30 Dangerous Encounters
11:30 Owls: Silent Hunters
STAR SPORTS
12:30 Guinness 9 Ball Tour 2007, Jakar
02:00 Irb Savers World Series 2006/07
02:30 Spanish Football League
04:30 Tna Archive (Wrestling)
05:30 International Motorsport News 20
06:30 Tna Archive (Wrestling)
07:30 Hitz (Cricket)
08:00 India'S Best With Sunil Gavaskar
08:30 Debutants
09:00 Remember The Titans
09:30 Cricket Crazy
10:30 Tna Archive
11:30 Spirit Of Yachting - The Racers
12:00 Fei World Cup Jumping Qualifiers
ESPN
12:30 English Premier Football League
05:30 Remember The Titans (Cricket)
06:00 TAKING GUARD - WEST INDIES Special
06:30 Asian X Games VI Presented By To
07:30 Football Focus With John Dykes
09:30 2006/07 Spanish League Highlight
10:30 Sportscenter India (Sport News)
11:00 Sportscenter Asia (Sport News)
11:30 Chappell-Hadlee Trophy