

CULTURALFEAST

May Day Celebration

Organiser: Udichi Shilpi Gosthi
Venue: Nabisco Shaheed Minar
 Chottor, Tejgaon
Date: May 1
Time: 5:30pm

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: Cryptic Reality
Artist: Abdus Sattar Taufiq
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine
 Arts, Dhaka University
Date: April 30-May 6
Time: 11am-8pm

Grand Group Art Exhibition

145 artworks by renowned Bangladeshi artists
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41,
 D.C.C. North Super Market 2nd Circle,
 Gulshan
Date: April 28- May 28
Time: 9:00am to 7:00pm (Friday
 closed)

Swadesh Properties
Nritya Utsab 2007

Organisers: Naba Nritya and The
 Embassy of the People's Republic of
 China
Venue: Shaokat Osman Auditorium,
 Public Library, Shahbagh
 May 1: Shonai Madhab' by
 Ami's Workshop
Time: 5-9pm

Digital Art Exhibition

Artist: Rabi Khan
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise
 de Dacca
Date: April 26-May 2
Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm

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



A platform for dancers

Third National Dance Festival ends



Jagaron, a dance performance by Jago Art Centre

ERSHAD KAMOL

THE 3rd National Dance Festival arranged by Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha (BNSS), ended at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 29.

As the day was marked by the World Dance Day, a sizeable number of enthusiastic dancers came together at the programme. Apart from the inauguration and closing ceremony in Dhaka, the weeklong festival continued in other district towns such as Khulna, Sylhet, Barisal, Rajshahi, Faridpur, Mymensingh, Bogra and

Chittagong.

Former Director General of Bangla Academy Dr. Ashraf Siddiqi was the chief guest at the event. Rahiza Khanam Jhunu, president of BNSS, presided over the programme. Shaju Ahmed, general secretary of BNSS, also spoke at the event.

In his speech the chief guest Dr. Ashraf Siddiqi said, "Presentation of the indigenous culture of this region is the key feature of the traditional dance forms of Bangladesh. Our folk culture appears colourfully in dance. Bangladeshi artists have been performing folk-based dance overseas, which has received plaudits."

Claiming the festival "a success", Shaju Ahmed said that BNSS has received positive response at every venue.

Rahiza Khanam Jhunu said, "Besides renowned artists, promising dancers have also performed at the festival. BNSS wants to encourage young talents from every corner of the country."

The speeches were followed by dance performances. Artists of BAFA, Chhayarat Sangetayan, Jago Art Centre, Nrityalok Sanskritik Kendra, Tridhara, Odissi and Tagore Dance Movement Centre (Chittagong) and others presented performances highlighting different styles and



An artist of Odissi and Tagore Dance Movement Centre (Chittagong) performs at the event

genres of dance. Besides troupes from Dhaka, five troupes from Chittagong, Sylhet, Dinajpur and Khulna performed at the closing ceremony. Some of the dance presentations were awe-inspiring while some were not up to the mark.

A Raga Basanti based performance by Odissi and Tagore Dance Movement Centre (Chittagong) and Jagaron, a Jago Art Centre presentation, were highly appreciated by the audience.

Other important aspect of the programme was the celebration of World Dance Day. The day was introduced in 1982 to commemo-

rate the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre, whose contribution to dance was immense. This year's World Dance Day was dedicated to children.

The official message by Sasha Waltz, a German art director and choreographer, was read out at the programme. Urging the need of talents such as Anna Pavlova, Uday Shankar, Rukmini Devi, Sangjukta Panigrahi, Bulbul Chowdhury, G A Mannan and Gauhar Jamil, Dr. Shoma Mumtaz (assistant professor of Department of Drama and Dramatics of Jahangirnagar University), delivered a message on the occasion as well.



PHOTO: STAR

Youngsters perform at the Swadesh Properties Nritya Utsab organised jointly by Naba Nritya and the Embassy of People's Republic of China on April 29



PHOTO: STAR

Child artistes dance at the programme held recently by Bangladesh Nrityashilpi Sangstha's Bogra unit on the occasion of National Dance Festival '07

Treading diverse tracks in the media

In conversation with Raju Alim



Raju Alim

AHSAN HABIB

As a TV personality Raju Alim has become a household name. He produces programmes on diverse fields ranging from business, TV plays, films, cultural events, special programmes, educational and more.

Apart from being a TV producer, Alim is also a lyricist, playwright, actor, journalist and poet.

Alim is committed to promote and project the Bengali culture and heritage as well as individual achievements through documentaries. He has made documentaries on Shaheed Asad, Nur Hossain, NSU and National Professor Nurul Islam so far. A documentary by him on Lifeway Friendship Hospital was aired simultaneously on 4 channels ATN Bangla, BTV, ntv and Channel-i.

His first play *Borsha Rater Nupur Dhoni*, based on a story by Shamsur Rahman, was attributed to the poet. "As I am inclined to poetry, poetic consideration while making programmes is my topmost priority," Alim says. Two collections of poems penned by him titled *Shobar Uporey Shorir Shatyao* and *Duronto Pakhir Gaan* have already been published.

Talk show *Ekhoni Shomoy* is a popular programme that Alim produces. Over a hundred celebrities from different sectors have already participated in the programme. In March this year, he produced a daily talk show on the Liberation War -- *Muktijuddho Protidin*. Renowned theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff hosted the

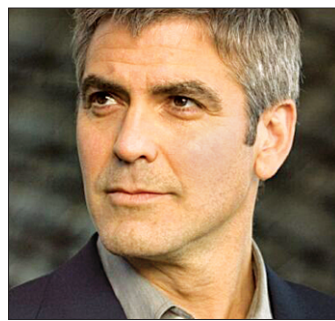
programme.

He is also a lyricist. *Rupali chand ami boddho unmad* rendered by Mehreen and *Chaitro jai boishakh mashey* rendered by Tishma earned him popularity as a lyricist. Ayub Bachchu composed the music for the songs.

To mark May Day, Channel-i will air a special programme -- *Sromiker Jayagaan* -- produced by Alim at 4:30pm. Political leaders and cultural activists such as Manzarul Ahsan Khan, Rashed Khan Menon, Shirin Akhtar, Shykh Seraj and Mamunur Rashid will participate in the programme. Other attractions include recitation by Asaduzzaman Noor and *gano sangeer* by artists of Udichi, Kranti and Wrishiz.

A scene from *Sromiker Jayagaan*

George Clooney's new political drama



George Clooney is getting political again. He's planning a black comedy based on Rachel Boynton's 2005 documentary *Our Brand Is Crisis*. British scribe Peter Straughan has been hired to adapt this behind-the-scenes chronicle of the 2002 Bolivian presidential election, which Clooney hopes to direct and star in.

The story follows candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada (affectionately known to some as Goni) who hired a US political consulting firm to help secure victory. Clooney is eyeing the role of campaign maestro James Carville, who used focus groups, sloganeering and smear tactics to get him into office. It worked but Bolivia quickly descended into crisis under Goni's rule and he was forced to resign

Source: Internet.

Richard Gere: Ready to say sorry

Breaking his silence following the outcry over the kissing controversy involving Shilpa Shetty, Hollywood star Richard Gere offered to apologise if he has "offended" anyone.

"What is most important to me is that my intentions as an HIV/AIDS advocate be made clear and that my friends in India understand that it has never been nor could it ever be, my intention to offend you. If that had happened, of course it is easy for me to offer a sincere apology," he said in a statement.

Gere's comments came a day after a Jaipur court issued an arrest warrant against him for planting a kiss on Shilpa's cheek in public during an AIDS awareness programme in Delhi, a fortnight ago.

In his statement, Gere said "to be honest, this recent media storm has taken me by surprise."

Gere also said he felt sorry that Shilpa had to carry the burden following the controversy for no fault of hers.

"What we thought was a very successful HIV/AIDS event has taken a sad turn. The evening and event in question was intended to celebrate courageous people and partnerships in the supremely important fight against HIV/AIDS, a worldwide pandemic which has afflicted over 5 million Indians and is still increasing," he said.

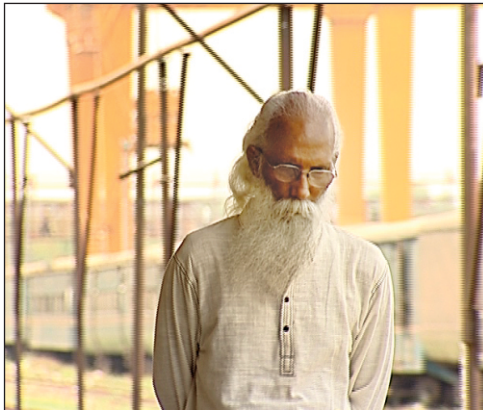
Lauding Shetty, Gere said, "Shilpa Shetty is a courageous and wonderful woman who deserves high praise and support for her campaign to generate awareness on HIV/AIDS."

"I assure you, I have utmost respect for her, and she knows this. Of course, I've felt terrible that she should carry a burden that is no fault of hers. The burden is mine and no one else's," he said.

Source: Internet

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Nekabborer Mohaproyan
 On Banglavisian at 5pm
 Dramatisation of Nirmolendu Goon's poems



Prison Break
 On Star World at 10:30pm
 Genre: Drama
 Cast: Wentworth Miller, Dominic Purcell

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

08:45 *Bishwa Protidin*
 09:05 *Shomapti*
 11:15 *Shukhi Poribar*
 11:40 *Deshar Gaan*
 12:05 *Ma O Shishur Kotha*
 12:30 *Drama Serial: Swapno Shonar Gaon*

01:00 *Talk Show*
 01:30 *Mati O Manush*
 02:15 *Musical Programme: Shurer Shurobbhi*

02:40 *Selected Programme*
 Cartoon: New Woody Woodpecker

03:05 *Educational Programme: Ingreji Shikhar Ashor*

04:00 *Amader Aangina*
 04:30 *Band Show*
 05:05 *Children's Programme: Mon-er Kotha*

05:30 *Anushilon*
 06:10 *Programme on Information and Technology*

06:40 *Geeto Bitan*
 07:00 *Quiz Quiz*
 07:30 *Drama Serial: Ujan*

08:30 *Protidin Bangladesh*
 08:35 *Drama Serial: Shongshoptok*

09:00 *Special programme on May Day*
 09:30 *Protikkhon*

10:30 *Special programme on Buddha Purnima*

ATN Bangla

08:15 *Ajker Shongbadpotro*
 08:30 *Drama Serial:*

09:15 *Pichhutan*
 Drama Serial: *Nirey Taar Neel Dheu*

10:30 *Talk Show: Aktel*
 11:05 *Outdoor*
 11:35 *Three Stooges*

12:15 *Special documentary on May Day: Bostrobalkara*

02:30 *Talk show: Shomoshamoyik*

03:15 *Drama Serial: O Amar Chokhu Nai*

03:45 *Children's Programme: Aaha Ki Anondo*

05:20 *Aainar Shamne*
 06:20 *Talk show: Kothamala*

08:00 *Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha*

08:45 *Special TV play on May Day: Chaka*

CHANNEL-i

09:30 *Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh*

09:50 *Grameenphone Trilpy omatra*

11:05 *Cricknet Online (Live)*
 11:30 *Amar Chhobi*
 12:30 *Citycell Tarokakothon*

01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
 01:30 *Shanghabad Potrey Bangladesh*

02:40 *Selected Drama of Humayun Ahmed*
 Educational Programme

04:05 *Musical Programme*
 04:30 *Sromiker Joyogaan*
 05:30 *Muktijuddho Protidin*
 06:00 *Drama Serial:*

Kianto Shomoy

Drama Serial: *Ochena Adhar*
 Special Drama

07:50 *Drama Serial: Tin Tin*
 10:00 *RC Travel On*
 12:00 *Grameenphone Ajker Shongbadpotro*

06:20 *Kianto Shomoy*
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Rokte Kena Aat Ghonta

06:00 *Saaj Bela*
 06:45 *Ithashar Path Dhorey*

07:00 *Alpo Sholpo Golpo*
 08:15 *Drama Serial: Keo Kachhe Keo Dure*

09:00 *Rupantoror Golpo*
 09:30 *Expression*
 10:50 *Rokte Kena Aat Ghonta*

08:35 *Shubho Shokal*
 09:05 *Anirban*
 10:10 *Cinebit Shada Kalo*

10:40 *Amar Ami*
 11:10 *Public Forum*
 02:40 *Drama: Obosheshe*

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Gayi Roshni

10:00 *Kasturi*
 10:30 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii*

11:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*
 11:30 *Kayamath*
 12:00 *Paraya Dhan*

STAR MOVIES

09:45 *For Your Eyes Only*
 12:00 *Dr. Dolittle*
 01:40 *The Deal*

03:30 *The Chumsclubber*
 05:20 *Noel*
 07:00 *Dark Water*

08:45 *Crazy/Beautiful*
 10:30 *The Last Shot*
 12:05 *Snakeman*

13:45 *Silent Partner*
 09:00 *The Simpsons*
 09:30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*

10:30 *My Wife And Kids*
 11:00 *Grounded For Life*
 11:30 *Grey's Anatomy*

12:30 *Still Standing*
 01:00 *Frasier*
 01:30 *Prison Break*

02:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*
 03:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*

04:00 *General Hospital*
 04:30 *Fashion House*
 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*
 09:30 *Meri Awaz Ko Mil*

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