

CULTURALFEAST

Photography Exhibition

Title: Bangladesh Now
Organiser: Drik News
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: September 4 to September 13
Time: 3 pm to 8 pm

Film Screening

Title: Soumitra Chatterjee Retrospective
Organiser: Chalachchitram Film Society
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: September 7
Time: 10 am
Film: Apur Sansar
Director: Satyajit Ray
Time: 11 am
Soumitra Chatterjee will exchange views with the audience
Date: September 8
Time: 10 am
Film: Dekha
Director: Goutam Ghosh
Time: 12 pm
Film: Teen Bhuboner Parey
Director: Ashutosh Banarjee
Time: 3 pm
Film: Aranyer Din Ratri
Director: Satyajit Ray

Time: 5 pm
Film: Charulata
Director: Satyajit Ray
Time: 7 pm
Film: Kony
Director: Saraj Dey

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Drohe Nari, Nirbane Nari
Artist: Maksudul Ahsan
Venue: Shilpangan, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi
Date: September 7 to September 21
Time: 12 pm to 8 pm
Title: Oriental Art: My Style of Expression
Artist: Malay Bala
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka
Date: September 1 to September 5
Time: 11 am to 8 pm
Title: Distant Skies
Artist: Mohammad Iqbal
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Date: September 4 to September 18
Time: 12 pm to 8 pm

Drawings and photography exhibition at Shilpakala

Campaign to restore heritage of Shakhari Bazar



Photographs on display

ERSHAD KAMOL

THE narrow street of Shakhari Bazar is unique in the sense that the buildings on both sides of the road represent architectural and cultural heritage, said the discussants at the inaugural programme of the four-day photography and drawing exhibition titled "Drawings and Images of the Architectural Heritage of Shakhari Bazar and Seven Kotwali Mohalla in Puran Dhaka". The exhibition was inaugurated on September 4 at the plaza of National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Urban Study Group (USG), a non-registrar research organisation, and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy have jointly arranged the exhibition. The exhibition has been arranged concurrently with a workshop titled "Challenges of Area Conservation: Lessons from/for Shakhari Bazaar, the Oldest Mohalla in Puran Dhaka."

Professor Anisuzzaman was the chief guest at the opening ceremony. Team leader of USG, Taimur Islam; Chairman of University

Grants Commission, Professor Nazrul Islam; former DG of National Museum, Dr. Enamul Haque; DG of BSA, Quamrul Hassan, ndc; Head of Department of Archaeology of North South University, Harunur Rashid and Founder Member of Ain-O-Shalish Kendra, Dr. Hamida Hossain delivered speeches at the opening ceremony.

According to the discussants architectural heritage of different ages such as Mughal style, late Mughal style, colonial style and Raj style had been followed during the construction of the existing structures at Shakhari Bazar and seven adjacent areas -- Tati Bazaar, Kotwali Road, Panitola, Gownalagar, Radhika Mohan, Boshak Lane and Jhulnabari.

Team leader of USG, Taimur Islam said, "Ground floors of most of the 151 existing buildings at Shkhari Bazar were constructed in 18th century. Most of the people living in these buildings are conch-shell artisans, who have been practicing this craft for generations. All these features of Shakhari Bazar maintain the criteria required

by UNESCO to be announced as a world heritage site.

"We are campaigning to prevent these architectural heritage sites from the demolition process initiated by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in 2004. In fact, it's the duty of the government and organisations like Department of Archaeology under Ministry of Cultural Affairs, DCC, Rajuk and others to renovate the buildings, maintaining the authenticity."

Among the hurdles to restore the heritage sites, Taimur Islam pointed out financial constraints, lack of government interest, development programmes by locals and lack of technical knowledge. The buildings were constructed using lime masonry; the technique is not studied any more.

Claiming Shakhari Bazar "a unique place", Professor Nazrul Islam said, "Many cities of the world like Singapore, Beijing and others have taken initiatives to preserve areas of historic interest. We should chalk out plans to restore the historic buildings and ensure smooth continuation of the conch-shell craft. This can make

the place appealing to tourists."

Photographs on display, mostly taken by Joyoborto, a resident of Shakhari Bazar, feature the historic buildings. Two photographs presented panoramic views of houses at Shakhari Bazar. Outdoor decorations and structures of these buildings portray the uniqueness of the architecture. Moreover, an image of a wrongly renovated building (holding number 32 on Shakhari Bazar) on display features distortion.

Drawings of restoration plans of the buildings presented by the students of universities such as BUET and BRAC under guidance of the experts of USG are also on display.

Moreover, the exhibition features some models of 'Heritage Programme' initiated by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, India. These photographs can be guidelines for the similar organisations in Bangladesh to preserve the archaeological heritage sites.

Another attraction at the exhibition is a multimedia presentation of Shakhari Bazar.

Celebrating 100 years of "Charyapada" discovery

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The body is like the finest tree, with five branches.
Why does one meditate?
Surely one dies of happiness or unhappiness.

--- Luipada, Raga Patamanjuri, Charyapada

Goethe-Institut, Bangladesh held a literary evening, titled *Charyapada: The Beginning of Bangla Poetry* on September 4, to mark 100 years of discovery of *Charyapada*, the ancient manuscript bearing early examples of Bangla, Assamese and Oriya languages. The manuscript was discovered by Haraprasad Shastri in 1907. The evening included discussion and reading from Bangla, German and English translations of *Charyapada*.

Dr. Malama Meleisea, director and representative, UNESCO in Bangladesh; Sven Ostberg, counsellor,

Embassy of Sweden; Professor Syed Mohammed Shahed, director general of Bangla Academy; Rajiv Chaudhury, first secretary of Indian High Commission and Professor Khaled Hossain, Bangla Department, Jahangirnagar University attended the programme as guests.

Young Poet Anisur Rahman presented his paper "Charyapada: The Beginning of Bangla Poetry" while Torsten Oertel of Goethe-Institut inaugurated the programme.

"There was a debate whether *Charyapada* was the literary rudiment of Bangla or other languages. The debate was dismissed eventually," Anisur Rahman said in his paper.

Professor Khaled Hossain thanked Goethe-Institut to arrange the programme. He also regretted saying that the initiative should have come from Bengalis because *Charyapada* is the first ever literary piece that says

something about the everyday people, nature and social aspects of this delta. "Ever since Haraprasad Shastri's discovery, no one bothered again to research further. It is quite possible that more manuscripts are hidden in Nepal, Tibet and the adjacent areas," Syed Mohammed Shahed stated in his speech.

Sven Osteberg said that there is an astonishing similarity of thoughts between the poems from *Charyapada* and the Swedish tradition of oral poetry of that period. He welcomed the interaction of different cultures and heritages.

Poet Aslam Sani, Arin Parvin, Mizanur Rahman and Muriel Schaefer recited from Bangla, English and German translations of *Charyapada*.

Theatre festival in aid of flood victims

"Nimojjon" to be staged on the last day

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The weeklong theatre festival in aid of the flood victims, jointly organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, ends today at the National Theatre Stage. Popular plays by the leading groups of Dhaka have been staged at the festival. On the last day of the festival Dhaka Theatre will stage its new production *Nimojjon*.

Selim Al Deen's play *Nimojjon* does not follow any conventional structure; neither does it develop any particular storyline. Through narratives, the play presents chronological history of genocides that have taken place around the world, questioning our rationality. According to Al Deen's play the history of 'civilisation' and 'genocides' are interwoven: History of genocides prevails in each civilisation.



Actors of Dhaka Theatre in Nimojjon

tion. And the repetition of these brutal incidents has drowned human beings from the superior position. It is a paradox. *Nimojjon* also stresses that unless the structure of a state is

not designed for the welfare of humanism, genocides will never end. *Nimojjon* is directed by Nasiruddin Yousuff.

Ram Gopal Verma's "Sholay" remake bombs at the box office

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It appears to be the worst of time for remakes of Bollywood super hit movies of the '70s.

Both the remakes of the 1975 blockbuster *Sholay*, directed by Ramesh Sippy, and *Victoria No 203*, another film of the '70s, were released on September 1 across India only to be heavily played by critics and failed to generate audience appreciation.

Ram Gopal Verma's take on *Sholay* has flopped in the first week of its release, if audience occupancy in cinema halls (10 to 15 percent) is any indication, Bollywood trade analysts said.

Titled *Ram Gopal Verma ki Aag*, the film stars Amitabh Bachchan in the role Babban (modern day version of the famous character of Gabbar Singh immortalised by Amjad Khan in *Sholay*), Ajay Devgan, Mohanlal (famous South Indian actor) and Sushmita Sen. Bachchan is the only survivor in the remake from the original in which he played the role of Jai.

Bachchan said ever since reading the script of the 1975 movie, he wanted to play the role of Gabbar and he had to wait for 32 years. In fact, his performance in *Ram Gopal Verma ki Aag* is the only silver-lining in the movie, critics opine.

The biggest handicap for the remake of *Sholay* was of course the frequent comparison with the original film which also stars Dhamendra, Sanjeev Kumar and Hema Malini and its catchy dialogues which became household stuff in the Indian sub-continent.

It is a different matter that *Sholay* itself draws heavily from foreign movies like internationally acclaimed Japanese director Akira Kurosowa's *The Last Samurai* and Hollywood

hits *The Magnificent Seven* and *Northwest Frontier*. Even some of the traits of Gabbar is reminiscent of another Hollywood film *For A Few Dollars More*.

Ever since the huge box office success of *Sholay*, a number of Bollywood and regional language movies have drawn sequences from that movie. Ekta Kapoor, a well-known producer of popular television soaps, has done a film on Gabbar Singh in Bhojpuri language, which is going to be released in October this year.

Two clear messages from the failure of the *Sholay* remake are: first, it reflects paucity of original stories in Bollywood and second, repeat of a hit movie of the past is not necessarily the sure recipe of success again.



Mohanlal and Sushmita Sen in the Sholay remake

ALL TIME GREATS Velazquez Diego: A portrait of the legendary artist

One of the leading lights of his time, Spanish painter Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velazquez (June 6, 1599-August 6, 1660), was a noted painter in the court of King Philip IV. He displayed a knack for his individualistic works of the contemporary baroque period and gained importance as a portrait artist. His paintings in Madrid include landscapes, mythological and religious subjects and scenes from common life, called genre pictures. The portraits of court notables, say the cognoscenti, rank with the portraits by Titian and Anthony Van Dyck. His famous paintings include *The surrender of Breda*, an equestrian portrait of Philip IV, *The spinners*, *The maids of honour*, *Pope Innocent X*, *Christ at Emmaus* and a portrait of the Infanta Maria Theresa.

His magnum opus, is of course *La meninas* (The maids of honour, 1656). The subject appears to be one of the *infantas*, Margarita. However, when one looks at the work from various viewpoints, one is unclear as to the identity of the subject: Is it the royal daughter or perhaps the painter himself? Many other questions have cropped up and the answers remain elusive as ever.



Self portrait by Diego Velazquez

His other major work was *La Venus del espejo* (Venus at her mirror, 1644-1648) also known as *The Rokeby Venus* the only surviving female nude by Velazquez.

Velazquez' forte of merging colour, light, pace, rhythm of line and mass in such a way that all have equal value, earned him the sobriquet of "the painter's painter."

Velazquez's works left a lasting impression on realist and impressionist painters such as Edouard Manet. They have also been recreated by more modern artists, including Spain's Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali, as well as the Anglo-Irish painter Francis Bacon. Picasso went so far as to recreate *Las meninas* in his characteristically cubic form. Likewise, Salvador Dali, in anticipation of the tercentennial of Velazquez' death, created in 1958 a work titled *Velazquez painting the Infanta Margarita with the lights and shadows of his own glory*. Others who have been influenced by him are Francisco de Goya, Camille Corot and James McNeill Whistler. Velazquez earned much recognition along the way. Described as "the noblest and most commanding man among the artists of

the country", his "men and women seem to breathe...his horses are full of action and his dogs of life."

In the art scenario of that time in Spain there were essentially two patrons of art, the church and the art-loving king and court. Bartolome Esteban Murillo was the artist favoured by the church, while Velazquez was patronised by the crown. While the former toiled for a rich and powerful church, with little funds to pay for his burial, Velazquez lived and died amidst material comfort.

Velazquez' life was cut short when he was stricken with fever. Feeling that his end was near, he signed his will, appointing as his sole executors his wife Juana and a close friend Fuensalida, keeper of the royal records. He died on August 6, 1660 and was buried in the Fuensalida vault of the church of San Juan Bautista. Within eight days his wife followed him to the grave. Unfortunately, this church was destroyed by the French in 1811, so his place of interment is now unknown. Nevertheless the great artist continues to cast his shadow on the art world.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Grand Finale of LUX Channel-i Super Star'07
On Channel-i at 7:30pm
Beauty Contest



First Snow
On Star Movies at 9:00pm
Genre: Drama/Thriller
Cast: Guy Pearce, Piper Perabo

03:30	Chiron-toni	10:00	Documentary Programme	08:40	Akbar the Great	02:40	Drama Serial: Shesh Odhay
04:00	Dhinak Dhinak Ta	11:30	Drama Serial: Dohon	09:20	Drama Serial: Chhaya Shongi	04:15	Sports vision Children's Programme: Ichhey Ghuri
04:30	Drama Serial: Dibhido	12:15	Akbar the Great	11:30	Just Band	05:00	Citycell Din-er Sheshey
05:15	Gaanwala	12:35	Drama Serial: Lukochuri	11:30	News Watch	06:35	Shurer Bhubon
05:45	Ekusher Shondha	01:00	Prithibir Pathay	09:05	Media Bhubon	08:15	Drama Serial: Mohanogor
07:30	Shangkriti Shatdhin	01:30	Ei Din	09:30	Drama Serial: Swapnochura	09:10	Selected Programme
08:00	Shongsharer Tukitaki	02:30	Drama Serial: Aguntuk	10:10	Deshar Pathay	11:20	X-Crime
08:30	Drama Serial: Prottonari Diganto	03:45	Swapno Diner Gaan	10:40	Drama Serial: Ei Shob Ondhokar	12:00	Shongbad Protidin
10:30	Reporters File	04:20	Sa Sa Dhin Tai	11:10	Documentary	STAR PLUS	
11:45		05:20	Cinema Ar Cinema	11:40	Nana Ranger Din Guli	09:30	Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
Rtv		06:30	Girl from Tomorrow	01:00	Drama Serial: Mohanogor	10:30	Ducktales Kids
09:00	Rtv Exclusive	08:00	Drama Serial: Dohon	02:30	Vokab		
09:05	Witch Blade						
09:35	Ei Desh						

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09:35	Ei Desh						

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-1

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 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

Rtv

News (Bangla) at 10:15pm. and 12:15am

ntv

News (Bangla) 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV

News (Bangla): 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

BTV

11:15	Documentary Programme
11:40	Ongona
12:05	Maa O Shishur Kotha
12:30	Bhabbar Bishoy
01:00	Nritter Taley Taley
01:30	Shukhi Poribar
02:40	Esho Gaan Shikhi
03:05	Cartoon
03:30	Oitthi Shipider Ashor
04:00	Sangeeta
04:30	Apon Bhumi
05:05	Sisimpur
05:30	Ityadi
06:40	Dhormo O Jibon
07:00	Computer
07:30	Drama Serial: Hiraphool
08:30	Pratidin Bangladesh
08:40	Drama: Nayok Na Mohanayok
10:30	Phele Asa Din

ATN Bangla

10:30	Talk Show: Aktel Onnodristi
11:05	Aj Kaal Porshu
12:15	Shurer Madhuri
12:45	Shodaipti
01:30	Nari
02:30	Drama Serial: Doll's House
03:45	Shundor Jiboner Jonno
04:20	Educational Programme
05:00	Gram Gonjer
	Khorob
05:20	Islamic Programme
06:20	TV Serial: Mugly

08:00

Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha
Drama: Koto Chena
Koto Ochena
Drama Serial: Amader Nurul Huda
Drama Serial: Doll's House
GrameenPhone Lead News

CHANNEL-i

09:30	Selected Programme
11:05	Selected Programme
12:30	Citycell
	Tarokkathath
01:05	Tax Helpline
01:15	Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30	Special Programme
03:05	Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak
04:05	Sa Re Ga Ma
04:50	Samooki
05:30	Mukti Judho Protidin
06:00	Tarzan
06:20	Amar Chhoti
07:30	Grand Finale of LUX Channel-i Super Star'07
11:30	Drama Serial: Aste Aste
12:00	GrameenPhone Aiker Shongbadpotro

ETV

08:00	Ekusher Shokal
08:30	Deshjurey Shonglap
01:30	Drishiti
02:00	Drama Serial: Bondhon

STAR WORLD

09:30	Ghost Whisperer
10:30	Beauty And The Geek
11:30	Ugly Betty
12:30	Boston Legal
01:30	Ultimate Force
02:30	The Ellen Degeneres Show
03:30	The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00	General Hospital
05:00	Law & Order: S.V.U.
06:00	Scrubs
06:30	The Simpsons
07:00	My Wife And Kids
08:30	How I Met Your Mother
09:00	My Name Is Earl
09:30	30 Rock
10:00	Two & A Half Men
10:30	The Jane Show
11:00	Criss Angel Mindfreak
11:30	Seinfeld
12:00	Friends

HISTORY CHANNEL