

CULTURALFEAST

30th Anniversary Programme

Troupe: Padak Naitya Sangsad
Venue: National Theatre Stage,
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 21
Time: 11:30am onwards

Premiere Show of Video Documentary

Title: In search of Heritage
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road
15A (new) Dhanmondi
Date: January 23
Time: 4pm

Book Launch

Title: Cultural Heritage & Fair Trade of Bangladesh
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road
15A (new) Dhanmondi
Date: January 22
Time: 4pm

Handicraft Fair

Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road
15A (new) Dhanmondi
Inauguration: 4pm
Date: January 21

Musical Soiree and Painting

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts,
Bengal Shilpakala, 275/F, Road 27,
Dhanmondi
Date: January 21
Time: 6:30pm

Reminiscence

On Wahidul Haq
Organiser: Konchoshon
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium,
Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: January 23
Time: 7pm

Sculpture and Art Exhibition

Title: Brave World of Structure
Artist: Ivy Zaman
Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, House 26,
road 3, Dhanmondi
Date: January 19-February 2
Time: 12pm-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: In Search of light
Artist: Rafique Siddiqui
Venue: National Art Gallery,
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 18-25
Time: 12pm-8pm

Title: Written Image
Artist: Wakilur Rahman
Venue: Gallari Kaya, House 20, Road
16, Sector 4, Uttara
Date: January 18-29
Time: 11am-8pm

Title: The Making of Kuhu Art
Artist: Kuhu
Venue: Gallery Chitrag, Road 4, House
21,
Dhanmondi R/A
Date: January 18-February 15
Time: 10am-8pm

Title: Art in Mind
Artist: Arif Al Karim Bhuiyan
Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance
Française de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road,
Dhanmondi
Date: January 10-21
Time: 9am-12pm & 5pm-8pm
(everyday), 5pm-8pm (Sunday)

Recitation and Musical Soiree

Organiser: Amra Surjomukhi
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium,
National Museum, Shahbag
Date: January 25
Time: 5pm

Musical Soiree

Title: Poushporima Sadhusanga
Venue: Gorgona Masterbar,
Auchipur, Sripur, Gazipur
Date: January 22
Time: 6pm

Ingenious play with space and time

Wakilur Rahman's exhibition at Galleri Kaya

FAYZA HAQ

WAKILUR Rahman, settled in Berlin for the last 20 years, is currently having an exhibition at Galleri Kaya to present his ideas and views. He has done this before repeatedly at the popular Dhaka galleries like Chitrag, Alliance Francaise and

Goethe-Institut. Wakil believes that viewers should be given space to pause and think in peace and harmony. His play of space is with colours and lines, in different mediums. Presently he is introducing books, letters, alphabets in various languages, pertaining to Bangladesh. This is in order to make the

onlookers aware of their roots, their present existence, and their future -- in the context of the rest of the world.

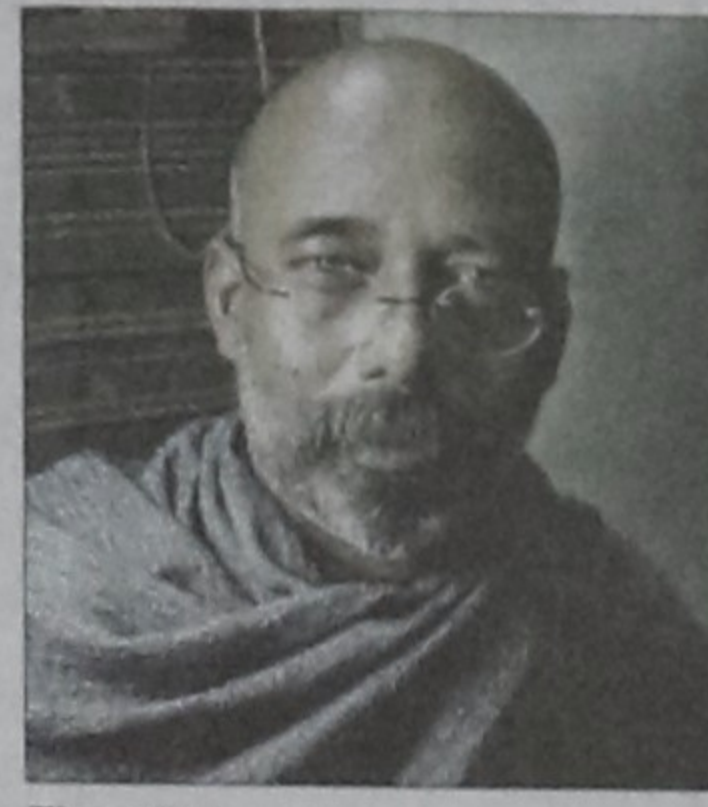
Confident and composed, Wakil is sure that his attempt to make the onlookers stop and think about his nouveau approach to art is something that will definitely catch on with time.

A freelance artist, Wakil is certain of his patrons, and has no hang-ups about finding buyers for his work. If his message is happily received by connoisseurs and viewers that is enough to impart the sense of satisfaction that he seeks, Wakil says.

Exposed to innumerable styles and themes in Europe, Wakil is not out to imitate or recall any artist of the past or present. Wakil says that he learns even from the not so well known artist. Even though the paintings and artefacts in his presentations are simple in hues and forms, they are certainly elements that are overwhelming.

Dhaka today, Wakil comments, is more preoccupied with the business of making ends meet in the burgeoning bourgeois existence.

People are like automatons and they should be made to pause and think about which direction they are going about in life, says Wakil. He enjoys being the enfant terrible -- who has shook up the metropolis for over two decades. Wakil's object is to stir up the Dhaka viewers from their complacency and



The artist

take an active interest in their heritage and their environment. The rain clouds, the earth, the rice fields, the terra-cotta tiles, the Sanskrit-based Bangla letterings, the flowers and even the humming bees of the Sundarbans are subjects of his semi-abstract work. His powerful paintings, with their moving subjects, are far from humdrum or ornamental. They are modern works of a minimalist, who views life through minuscule prisms. He once delights the viewers with his corals, beige, burnt sienna and amber sweeps, and then gladdens their hearts through his songs of time in colour and lines.

Wakil's works are a tribute to the brave people of Bangladesh who have battled on -- despite obstacles like natural disasters and socio-economic upheavals.



Artwork by Wakilur Rahman

Tribute to Mahbub ul Alam Chowdhury Cultural programme by Kranti

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Kranti Shilpi Gosthi (KSG) arranged a special programme to pay tribute to the Language Movement veteran poet Mahbub ul Alam Chowdhury. Mahbub ul Alam Chowdhury, the writer of the first poem on 'Amar Ekushey' Kandte ashini, phashir dabi niye eshechhi passed away on December 23 at the age of 82. The programme was held at Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi on January 18.

The event began with members of Kranti singing the song *Tolo tolo aj mukto potaka*. A minute's silence was observed in memory of the deceased poet. A book launching followed. The book contains Mahbub ul Alam's Chowdhury's poems and is titled *Gorad Bhangar Shongramira Jago*. It was launched by poet Belal Chowdhury.

Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay next recited Alam's famous poem *Kandte ashini, phashir dabi niye eshechhi*.

A discussion followed. The chief guest was Syed Shamsul Haq.

Cultural personality Ramendu Majumder, poet Belal Chowdhury, Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and Joushan Ara Rahman (widow of Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury) spoke on the occasion. The speakers recalled their memories of the veteran poet.

Mahbubul Haider Mohon, president, KSG presided over the session. The vote of thanks was given by Kurshid Alam Shopon.

The discussion was followed by a cultural programme, which featured songs, dance and poetry recitation. Choral renditions were performed by Chhayanat, Wishiz Shilpi Gosthi, Nibedon, Bonhishikha, Kranti and other organisations. Solo performances were presented by Kolyani Ghosh, Shoful Alam Raja and others. Group recitation was performed by Dhaka Shorkalpo. Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqui, Shima Islam, and Rafiqul Islam also took part in the recitations. The event wrapped up with the staging of a street play *Bhibranto* by Kranti.

Nrittanchal's dance festival to begin

Cultural organisation Nrittanchal arranges a dance festival from January 25 to 28, says a press release. Co-ordinator of Nrittanchal, Muhammed Jahangir, directors Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammed were present at the press conference.

The festival will be held at the National Theatre Stage of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Eminent dance master (guru) Kartik

Singh and Kunjal Sarker will grace the event.

The festival will include a multimedia dance musicale titled *Tin Konyar Daan*, and two dance-dramas *Bhanusinger Podaboli* and *Mohua*. There will also be a workshop and a round table seminar on dance. Sukalyan and Entourage, an Indian dance group will also perform at the festival.



Muhammed Jahangir(R) speaks at the press conference

Certificate giving programme of Prachyanat School

NADIA SARWAT

"What does art do for us? It shapes the human experience and connects the past and future to our present. It tells us how we want to see our lives, what would be the ideal vision. Art is the soul of a nation," said eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq, chief guest at the certificate giving programme of the 13th batch of Prachyanat School of Acting and Design.

The event was held on January 17 at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Noted theatre personality Rokeya Rafique Baby was the special guest at the programme. Directors of Prachyanat, Azad Abul

Kalam (Acting), and Shahidul Mamun (Academics) were also present at the event. One-minute silence was observed for the recently deceased dramatist Selim AlDeen.

"I congratulate Prachyanat for running this school of acting and design successfully. The state should operate institutions like this. Though many may think otherwise, acting is the most difficult of all performing art forms as in this medium one needs to let go of all inhibitions and become different characters," Rokeya Rafique Baby said in her speech.

Azad Abul Kalam said, "Right from the start, Prachyanat has faced adverse situations. Yet we

have managed to train thirteen batches in the last seven years. Credits go to the instructors who worked with us without any remuneration."

Twenty-three students of the 13th batch received certificates from the guests. The six-month-long workshop includes acting style, theatre design, theories and its applications and other aspects of theatre.

The young artists staged their production *Khoror Gondi* at the programme. The play -- Rudro Prasad Sengupta's translation of Bertolt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* -- was directed by Hira Chowdhury. The performance was much appreciated by the audience.



Award recipients (back row) seen with eminent cultural personalities at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

Human rights take centre stage through music, photography and more

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

"Everyone or no one
All human beings are born free and equal
In dignity and life"

--- Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Human rights were at the forefront of Amnesty International India's Cur-tain Raiser of the International Week of Justice Festival 2008 recently. Through musical performances, a photography exhibition, a film, the festival was held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The show, titled *Voices of Dignity*, began with delightful fusion music by the group Advaita. Among their numbers were *Mere Yaar*, a song on AIDS awareness, *Hamsadhuani* (about the happiness of the soul), and *Why* (a search for answers). The band, with a strong proclivity for the spiritual dimension, has been hailed as one of the most original and creative sounds to emerge from the Indian underground music scene. Described by the print media as "pioneers" and "a bright spark", the group stole many hearts.

Another showstopper was a musical performance by Sajid Akbar who brought together acoustic guitar and electronic sounds. Likened with American folk singer Sufjan Stevens, the

singer's compelling music included *Prayer for Rain*, *Late Afternoon Car Drives Home*.

Another attraction was the inaugural film *Khuda Ke Liye* (In the Name of God) directed by Pakistani filmmaker Shoab Mansoor. The film effectively captured the difficulties faced by the Pakistanis in particular and Muslims in general since 9/11. It also homed into the conflict between the fundamentalists and the liberal Muslims. An interesting facet was the connection that was drawn between developments in North America, Europe and Asia. The film also delved into the condition of women during the Taliban days in Afghanistan and the tensions between religion and cultural expression.

The Amnesty function also featured a riveting exhibition of photographs. The works on display, said the organisers, "helps to break the numbing effect that the usual depiction of violence and suffering creates." The superb black and white works represented the talent of Parthiv Shah, Harikrishna Katragadda, Sohrab Hura, Sonia Jabbar, Suwendu Chatterjee and Swapan Nayak. The photographs packed a mighty punch -- Hura's effort was to capture how "the lack of employment opportunities in the villages force many to migrate to the cities with dreams of a better life. But only a few manage to survive."

Likewise, Sonia's work depicted the angst of three mothers whose sons had "disappeared" in Baramullah district of the troubled Kashmir.

Putting the festival in perspective was Mukul Sharma, director of Amnesty International India. "We feel there is a sense of urgency in addressing human rights issues in the country... The UDHR gave the world a framework to defend socio, economic, political and cultural rights along with the rights to marriage, sexuality, language and freedom of expression... People and the youth will have to defend human rights and persuade governments to enforce such rights."

The focal point of Amnesty India's International Week of Justice Festival Curtain Raiser, the film festival takes up the issues of death penalty, disappearances, terror-counter-terror. The photography exhibitions were held at various educational institutions in Delhi until yesterday.

"Art for activism" is how Amnesty describes its campaign: "While the written and spoken word have proved and still prove to be a powerful medium, Amnesty International emphatically has never ignored the global shift towards a visual culture and its power to inform, sensitise and galvanise people." Certainly Amnesty's spellbinding programme did just that.

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Swapnochura
On Banglavisation at 9:45 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Srabonti, Joy



Flyboys
On Star Movies at 7:00 pm
Genre: Action
Cast: James Franco, Jean Reno

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, 3:30 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, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) at 8:00 am, 7:00 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:00 pm, 12:30 am.

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 7:30 am, 1:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:30 pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 4:00 pm.
News (English) at 6:00 pm.

Rtv

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

ntv

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

ETV

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

ATN BANGLA

08:15 *Ajker Shantbadpota*
08:30 Drama Serial: *Ochin Pakhi*
09:15 Drama Serial: *Amader Nurul Huda*
10:30 Talk Show: *Onyodnshli*
11:05 Drama: *Neel Srot*
12:15 *Char Deyal-er Kabjo*
01:30 *Khelar Jogot*
02:30 *Take Cars*
03:15 Tele-film: *Tomar Lagiya*
05:00 *Gram Ganjer Khabor*
05:45 *The Sword of Tipu Sultan*
06:20 Special Programme: *Marjia*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Aloknogor*
08:40 Drama Serial: *Syed Barir Bou*
09:20 Drama Serial: *Prothom Shokal*
11:30 *Daily Soap: Dolf's House*
12:00 *Gramphone Lead News*

CHANNEL i

08:05 *Togora Song*
08:30 *Shakaler Gaan*
09:30 *Shangbadpotray Bangladesh*
09:45 *Public Reaction*
09:50 *Gramphone Trilokatra*
11:05 *Aplo Tele Prescription*
11:30 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*
12:30 *Citycell Taroka Kathan*

01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 Mega Serial: *Prabash*
02:40 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
03:30 BBC Bangladesh Shonglaap
04:15 *Hridoyer Gaan*
05:30 *Tomar Shur-er Dhara*
06:00 Drama Serial: *Alor Khonjey Jontrona*
06:30 South Asian
07:50 Mega Serial: *Ghar Kutum*
08:20 Drama Serial: *Noukadubi*
09:35 Mega Serial: *420*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Ochena Neel Kontho*
11:30 Drama Serial: *69*
12:00 *Gramphone Ajker Shangbadpota*

ntv

08:30 *Ajker Shokal*
08:55 *Bangla Feature Film*
09:15 *Talk Show: Ei Shomoy*
01:05 *Japan Video Topic*
02:30 Drama Serial: *Swapnojal*
03:15 Drama: *Khunjer Bera*
04:25 *111 A Nelson Number*
04:50 *Apnar Jugyasha*
06:20 *Shubho Shondha*
06:45 *Joto Modhur Bhul Guli*
08:15 Drama Serial: *Shantokutir*
09:00 *Crime Watch*
09:45 Drama Serial:

Rtv

08:15 *Gaenchil Ei Din*
09:05 *Documentary*
09:35 *Jonno Protyasha O Shorakar-er Ek Bochhor*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Neel Nirjon-ey*
11:00 *Tarokalap*
11:30 *Ontorongo Alap*
12:30 *Drama: College Student*
01:30 *Dhallywood Beats*
02:30 *Bangla Feature Film*

Rtv

06:00 *Protidin*
06:30 *Jago Bangladesh*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Modhyobarti*
08:35 *Wide Angle*
09:20 Drama Serial: *Poroshpor*
11:00 *Borney Borney Rochito*
11:30 *News Watch*
08:40 *Shuprobhaat Bangladesh*
09:15 *Nirbachito Khabor*
10:30 *Bangla Feature Film*
02:00 *Bizwa Jurey Saat Din*
03:30 *Drama: Tara Tinjon Jhamelay Achhi*

CHANNEL 1

04:00 *Cookery Show: Shomoyer Swad*
05:15 *Tyager Mohimay Samujal*
06:00 *Saalbela*
07:00 *Shondhikhoney*
08:15 *Drama: Koshal Bou*
09:00 *Shomoyer Aynay Rajniti*
09:30 *Cine Tunes*
11:00 *Padmaraag*
11:30 *Nirbachito Khabor*

ETV

08:00 *Ekush-er Shokal*
12:30 *Ekush-er Business: Special Focus*
01:30 *Ekush-er Business: Shophol Jara*
03:30 *Cine Heats*

04:00

Cartoon
04:30 *Total Music*
05:45 *Ekusher Shondhya*
06:15 *SMS Mania*
06:30 *Desh Jurey*
07:30 *Nishi Kutum*
08:30 *Drama Serial: Chena Manush-er Panchali*
09:30 *Ekusher Shomoy*
10:30 *Musical Show Spondon*
12:00 *Ekusher Raat*

BANGLAVISION

09:05 *Drama Serial: Pingol Akash*
09:30 *Bangla Feature Film*
02:00 *Daily Soap: Mohanagar*
08:30 *Drama Serial: Shoma*

03:05 *Kulir*
04:20 *Nodi O Jibon*
04:20 *Banijyomela Protidin*
06:05 *Din-er Sheshey*
06:50 *Sports Vision*
08:25 *Drama: Mohanagar*
09:05 *Visa Aamar Agami*
09:45 *Drama Serial: Swapnochura*
11:25 *Drama Serial: Shohar-er Shesh Bari*
12:00 *Shangbad Protidin*

ZEE STUDIO

10:30 *Charlie Chaplin*
11:00 *Ultimate Film Fanatic*
11:30 *George Of The Jungle*
01:35 *Autumn In New York*
03:25 *My Father The Hero*
05:55 *Time Share*
07:55 *Hollywood's 10 Best (new Series)*
08:25 *Eraser*
11:00 *Blind Dating*

STAR MOVIES

09:00 *Quest Of The Dragon*
10:30 *Crazy/Beautiful*
12:15 *Eragon*
02:00 *Full Monty, The*
03:30 *Kinky Boots*
05:25 *Stormbreaker*
07:00 *Flyboys*
09:20 *Independence Day*
11:45 *Firestarter*

STAR PLUS

09:30 *Krishna Kathayien*
12:00 *Star Voi Chhote Ustaad*
01:30 *Colgate Star Parivar Awards 07*
05:00 *Jaiwa 2007*
07:00 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
07:30 *Nokia 14th Annual Screenkalyawd*
08:30 *Saibaba*

09:30 *Prithviraj Chauhan*
10:00 *Baa Bahoo Aur Baby*
10:30 *Aek Chabhi Hai Padoss Mein*
11:00 *Lead India*
11:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
11:55 *V Trailers - Star Plus*

HISTORY CHANNEL

09:15 *Sauna Belt*
09:30 *Oskar Schindler*
10:30 *Mary Magdalene*
11:30 *Jane Eyre*
01:30 *The Pullman Palace Cars*
02:30 *True Story of Gladiators*
03:30 *Ancient Discoveries*
04:30 *Doomsday 2012*
05:30 *Mayan Doomsday Prophecy*
09:30 *Atilla the Hun*
11:30 *Modern Marvels*

STAR WORLD

09:30 *According To Jim*
10:00 *My Wife And Kids*
10:30 *Two & A Half Men*
11:30 *8 Simple Rules*
12:30 *Kyle Xy*
01:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*
03:30 *Desire: Table For Three*
04:30 *The Ellen Degeneres Show*
05:30 *The Jane Show*
06:00 *Travel Asia*
06:30 *Brothers & Sisters*
07:30 *American Inventor*
08:30 *Six Degrees*
09:30 *Desperate Housewives*
10:30 *The Closer*
11:30 *J.A.G.*

07:00am *Hello Dhaka (Apu)*
11:00am *Amar 88.0 (Nusrat)*
03:00pm *Dhaka Calling (Sakib)*
07:00pm *Seven Eleven (Sadia)*
11:00pm *Late Night Show (Shuvo)*

Radio Today 89.6 FM

07:15am *Good Morning Dhaka (Biplot)*
07:45 am *Today's Happy Moments*
08:45am *Shokaler Khabor*
12:00pm *Today's Adda (Nudrat)*
01:45pm *Dupurer Khabor*
04:00pm *U-tum (Kibria & Tania)*
06:45pm *Shondher Khabor*
08:00pm *Tobe Tai Hok (Sayem)*