

CULTURAL FEAST

Ekushey Book Fair

Venue: Bangla Academy
Date: February 1-29
Time: 4pm,
11:00am onwards on weekly holidays

National Street Theatre Festival '08

Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises
Time: From 4 pm everyday
Date: February 1-7

International Art Exhibition

Organiser: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh
Venue: Auditorium, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 5 Old Secretariat Road, Nirmal, Ramna
Date: February 9-24
Time: 2pm-8pm

Discussion on Film

Title: Film Production Possibilities with Germany
Organiser: Bangladesh Documentary Council and Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, House 10, Road 8, Dhanmondi
Date: February 8
Time: 4:30 pm

Documentary Screening

Seven Documentaries produced by AV Centre
Title: Voices of Adolescents
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: February 4-6
Time: 4 pm everyday

Photography Exhibition

Marking 65th anniversary of Battle of Stalingrad
Organiser: Russian Centre for Science and Culture
Venue: Russian Centre for Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Date: February 6-14
Time: 10 am-7 pm (except Friday & Saturday)

Title: Studying Life
Venue: Drik Gallery, 100 Agargaon Road
Date: February 1-15
Time: everyday 3-8 pm

Title: Through The Viewfinder
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Date: February 1-7
Time:

Exhibition

Title: EVILIZATION
Artist: Ra Kajal
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: February 1-15
Time: daily 12 noon-8 pm

Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Long Distance Information
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House 275F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: January 28 - February 13
Time: 12pm-8pm

Amar Ekushey Granthamela '08

Discussion on cinema at the fair premises

ERSHAD KAMOL

AS part of the daily discussion at the month-long Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2008, filmmaker Manzar-e-Hasin Murad presented a paper titled *Achievements in art and literature over three decades: Film (1972-2007)* on February 4.

Though film industry developed in Bangladesh in the early '60s, according to Murad's paper we have made little achievement in cinema over the last three decades. According to Murad, few films like *Stop Genocide*, *Arunodaya*, *Agnishakhi*, *Dhire Bohey Meghna*, *Megher Anek Rang*, *Shurjo Dighol Bari*, *Alor Michhil*, *Dumurer Phul*, *Emiler Goenda Bahini*, *Chitra Nadir Pare* and others can be considered quality mainstream movies made in a period of over three decades. He further added that in the alternative cinema circuit, independent filmmakers in the country have also made a few notable films like *Chaka* and *Matir Moina*.

Going over why there has not been significant development in the Bangladeshi film industry, Murad blamed the ongoing socio-political turmoil, incompetent filmmakers, over-commercialisation and distortion of history as the key factors.

Though the title of Murad's paper mentions 'achievements in the last three decades', he discussed films that highlight the Liberation War and the spirit of



Manzar-e-Hasin Murad speaks at the programme

freedom. Filmmaker Badal Rahman, Deputy Director of Bangla Academy Mahbub Azad and Head of Programme of BTV Faridur Rahman discussed on Murad's paper. The discussion was presided over by eminent filmmaker Soovas Dutta.

Mahbub Azad said, "We don't have a shortage of remarkable stories for making interesting films, but not many films of a certain standard have been made so far."

Faridur Rahman addressed the

technical aspects of filmmaking. He said, "These days filmmakers are making many films, which don't follow the 'language of cinema'. These types of films should be labelled as 'drama on celluloid'."

He also criticised the trend of distorting our language in the name of experimentation by some popular young filmmakers.

Badal Rahman blamed the political turmoil as the major bar towards development of the film industry in Bangladesh. "Discussion on culture without politics is

incomplete. Which is why art forms in Bangladesh are struggling," he said. "I'm optimistic about the future of our film industry. To achieve a certain standard in our film industry, the government should provide a guideline involving the filmmakers," he added.

Soovas Dutta in his speech urged the political leaders not to manipulate the film industry. He said, "I believe that the filmmakers should be allowed to express their opinions and ideas."

The discussion was followed by a cultural programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Aparajeo Sunderban

Khasru Chowdhury's solo photography exhibition



Photographs by Khasru Chowdhury

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The unique splendour of the Sunderbans, the largest single block of tidal halophytic mangrove forest in the world that is recognised as a UNESCO world heritage site, has been presented beautifully at the ongoing photo exhibition at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Not only the spectacular fauna and flora of the Sunderbans, but also its biodiversity and natural resources have been highlighted at the

exhibition titled *Aparajeo Sunderban* by Khasru Chowdhury. Chowdhury has been travelling in the areas of Sunderbans for the last 34 years. One hundred and ten photographs taken in the last six years by the photo-artist are on display.

The 10-day photography exhibition, jointly organised by *Pratham Alo* and BSA, began on January 28. C.S. Karim, adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Water Resources, inaugurated the exhibition. Deputy Editor of *Pratham Alo*, Sajjad

Sharif, delivered the welcome speech. Photo-artist Khasru Chowdhury in his speech pointed out the backgrounds of these images. Director General of BSA, Quamrul Hasan, chaired the opening ceremony.

Khasru Chowdhury, a tiger expert, has worked with renowned TV channels such as Discovery, Animal Planet, National Geographic, NHK and BBC.

Along with the main attractions of the Sunderbans -- the Royal Bengal tiger and the spotted deer, photographs of several mammals,

reptiles, birds and other rare species in midst of the mangrove forest are also on display.

Moreover, locals like the *bawalis*, honey collectors and others whose life and culture are interrelated with the mangrove forest, are also seen in the photos. The exhibition also features the darker side of the Sunderbans like the poachers killing tiger and trapping the deer.

Some photographs feature the regeneration of the Sunderbans after the Cyclone Sidr recently devastated the mangrove forest.



Voices of Adolescents

Documentary screening at the Public Library

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The three-day documentary screening, titled *Voices of Adolescents*, started at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library on February 4. A total of seven documentaries are being screened at the programme. Each film is 30-40 minutes in duration, and all of them are produced by the Audio Visual (AV) Centre of the NGO, Steps Towards Development. The programme also includes discussion on adolescence every day prior to the documentary screening.

At the inaugural programme, human rights activist Advocate Sultana Kamal was present as the chief guest. She also chaired the first day's discussion. Britt F. Hagstrom, the Swedish Ambassador and Rokeya Sultana, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs attended the event as spe-

cial guests. M. Habibur Rahman, Director of Education, Save the Children UK and Dr Mehrib Khanum, Professor of Psychology, Dhaka University, were the discussants at first day's programme.

The event opened with Sultana Kamal formally unveiling the DVDs

of the documentaries. Ranjan Karmaker, Executive Director of Steps Towards Development and Mainul Huda, Director of the AV Centre spoke at the programme.

The discussion included speeches by M. Habibur Rahman, Dr. Mehrib Khanom, Britt F. Hagstrom, Rokeya Sultana and Sultana Kamal, along with two school students -- Habibur Rahman and Nusrat Rafsanjani, from the Birsresha Abdur Rouf School and the Birsresha Matiar Rahman School respectively.

Students are expected to participate at the coming discussions.

The films screened on the first day (February 4) were *I Had Something to Say* and *Intimate Talks*.

Generation Gap and *A Tale of Transformation* were screened yesterday. *Barren Dreams*, *A Tale of Faraway Hills* and *Heaven Searcher* will be screened today.

Bazul Rahman, editor of the

and social activist-columnist Sanjeeb Drona as discussants, according to sources.

Adolescence is a time when boys start to explore the world and become men while girls become women but for them the external world begins to shrink. Before girls can start to understand their physical changes they are often forced to become embarrassed about it. *I Had Something to Say* by Fauzia Khan brings to light the lives of a few such girls.

Intimate Talks by Hamed Kibria explores the lives and dreams of three adolescent musicians of Dhaka. Rafi studied folk music at *Chhayana* and performs at national and international programmes, while Iftekhar and Moin are influenced by western music and are members of a band called ABHROK.

Generation Gap by Moinul Huda attempts to show the differences in opinion and understanding among three boys and girls and their predecessors.

A Tale of Transformation by Tasmiah Afrin Mou portrays adolescence in the rural society and how the young men and women are affected by globalisation.

Barren Dreams by Anwar Chowdhury is about the struggles of the adolescents living in the Patilbari-Dighalkandi -- chars of Jamuna -- who are often deprived of basic rights and modern facilities.

A Tale of Faraway Hills by Khaleeda Akhtar Rosy portrays the lives, trials and tribulations of the Tripura adolescents. The Tripura is an indigenous community in Bangladesh, living amidst nature.

Heaven Searcher by Mushfequa Alam Camellia is about Shyamoli, an adolescent girl in *purdah* (in veil) and others who are busy preparing for the after-life.

The screening session starts at 5:30 pm and is open to all. The programme ends today.



(R-L) Ranjan Karmaker, Britt F. Hagstrom, Sultana Kamal, Rokeya Sultana, Mehrib Khanum, M. Habibur Rahman and Mainul Huda at the DVD launch

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Daily Sangbad, chaired the second

day's (yesterday) discussion with theatre and television personality Sara Zaker as the discussant. Writer Selina Hossain will chair the last day's (today) discussion with Gawher Nayeema Wahra, Head of Programme, Save the Children UK,

Dinajpur pays tribute to Selim Al Deen

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Cultural organisations, teachers, political and student groups of Dinajpur recently recalled the contribution of Salim Al Deen to our theatre.

Dinajpur Natyia Samity organised the memorial programme at Dinajpur Natyia Samity Auditorium. The programme was presided over by Md. Azizul Imam Chowdhury, vice president of the organisation.

At the meeting, the speakers said that the contribution of Professor Salim Al Deen is remarkable as till death, he engaged himself with challenging creative tasks.

The speakers also noted that the much-deserved Ekushey Padak was awarded rather late to Al Deen for his contribution. It was the state's privilege to honour the icon.

Al Deen played a key role in shaping our contemporary theatre. Almost single-handedly he revived the pre-colonial tradition of theatre, enriched its repertoire by using time-tested modes of presentation, blending modern

sensibilities with indigenous styles of narration.

The speakers included Mirza Anwarul Islam Tanu, General Secretary of Dinajpur Natyia Samity; Professor Mahmud Didar, Head of the Bangla Department, Dinajpur Government College; Dr Masudul Haque,

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Dinajpur Government College and Md. Habibul Islam Babul, Principal, Dinajpur Collegiate Girls School and College. The programme was moderated by Md. Sultan Kamal Bachhu, Assistant General Secretary of Dinajpur Natyia Samity.



Professor Mahmud Didar delivers a speech at the programme

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Sa 2 Sa
On Channel i at 11:30 pm
Musical Programme
Host: Ayub Bachchu



Bean
On Star Movies at 5:30 pm
Genre: Comedy
Cast: Rowan Atkinson, Peter MacNicol

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, 9:00 am, 2:30 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, 11 pm.
News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 8:00 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.

BTV

08:15 Shuprabhat
08:30 Drama Serial: Shanghaplak
11:15 Mao o Shishur Katha
12:30 Bulbul
01:30 Hijo Tomal
02:15 Nabo Anondoy Jago
03:00 Cartoon
03:30 Shukhi Poribar
04:05 Shondha Maladi
04:30 Amader Rannaghar
05:05 Siempur
05:30 Mitokasia
06:10 Ekush Amar Ohonkar
06:30 Grantho Katha
06:50 Mali O Manush
07:30 Protikhon
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh
08:35 Drama Serial: Alo
09:05 Drama Serial: Tumi
09:30 Kemon Achho
09:30 Paribarton
10:30 Prothom Onlora
11:00 Talk Show: Date Line
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08:15 Aker Shangbadpota
08:30 Ashay Pasher
09:15 Drama Serial: Manush
10:30 Shopromongol
11:05 Drama Serial: Talk Show: Onyodrisht
12:15 IT Zone
01:30 Band View
02:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House
03:10 Drama Serial: Rupali
03:45 Children's Programme: Srishtithi
04:20 Islamic Programme: Islami Ki Bolei Amra
05:30 Gram Ganjer
05:30 Khorob

05:20 Islamic Programme
05:40 Talk Show: Proshongo
06:00 Musical Programme
06:20 Drama Serial: Jegey
08:35 Drama Serial: Khujle
09:00 Drama Serial: Rangila
11:30 Talking Point
12:00 Grameenphone Lead
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