

CULTURALFEAST

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

10th International Short & Independent Film Festival, Dhaka'08
Date: February 14-22
February 21
Venue: Shawkt Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library
11am: Palter Panchali: A Living Resonance, 1000 Yards Stare, Burning Wings
03pm: Moustaches Unlimited, Tahara, Historia Nature, I Like You Too
05pm: Goodbye to Love, Apon's Bike, The Snail, Celestial, Smokestack
07pm: Dunk, Sonata: A Story of Autism, Background Sirens
Venue: Seminar Room, Central Public Library
11am: Edith Collier: A Light Among Shadows, Framming
03pm: Pearl of Kaszon, The Ossuary, The Water & the Milk, Cellucis, The House
05pm: Pencil, The Other Face, Before You Hit the Ground, The Dante Quartet, Abel's Black Dog
07pm: The Bumblebee Man, L... Dreaming, White Sonata, The Last Trick

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

Theatre Festival
Title: Naty Parban 2008
Organiser: Jahangirnagar Theatre
Venue: Mukta Mancha, Jahangirnagar University, Savar
Date: February 16-25
Time: 7pm everyday
February 21
Musical Ensemble
Troupe: Prachyanat
February 22
Musical Soiree
Troupe: Samageet

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Natural Affection
Artist: Kazi Kamul Islam
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: February 13-23
Time: 3pm-8pm
Title: Mournful Verses of Nature
Artist: Rejaul Karim
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka
Date: February 16-24

Exhibition
Organiser: Nityaupahar
Title: Dhruvadi Bomomala
Venue: Gallery Nityaupahar, Aziz Super Market, Shahbag
Date: February 7-29
Time: 10am-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Turtle neck Mt. Rubal Kang
Organiser: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: February 15-21
Time: 12 to 8 pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Escape to landscape: The destiny
Artist: Mohammad Wayes
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 26 (old), 15A (new) Dhanmondi
Date: February 17-23
Time: 3 to 8 pm

An evening of classics with Manna Dey

NAZIA AHMED

A beautiful spring evening was drastically altered by an unexpected cold shower on February 19, but inside the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre, music enthusiasts had something or rather 'someone' who had the capability to take their minds off the inhospitable weather. Eminent Indian singer Manna Dey took admirers down memory lane with his classics at the first of his two shows.

Embrasure Films, Inc and Priyanti Edit and Effects jointly organised the shows titled 'Manna Dey Night' to raise funds for Sidravictims in the south-western region of the country. Half of the proceeds from the shows will be donated to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund for the rehabilitation of the Sidravictims, according to the organisers. Noted Indian singer Arundhati Holme-Chowdhury also performed at the show.

Arundhati started with a Tagore song Dariye achho tumi. That was followed by Ei din jeno protidin phirey phirey ashey. After four more songs and a short break came the long-awaited moment. Manna Dey took the stage and rendered Shopno jodi modhur emon and Ei kuley ami ar o kuley tumi. Classics like Chainey banchte ami prehin hajar bochor, Ami aibon shudhu bhool korey gecchi and the heart-rending Shey amar chhoto bon received rounds of applause.



Manna Dey sings at the programme

"Music is my passion and language has never been an issue," said the veteran artiste and crooned the evergreen hindi number from the film Waqt, Aye mere Zohra Jabeen.

Even at the age of 89, the renditions did not seem to lack the youthful vibrancy and versatility the artiste is known for. After another short break

Arundhati once again took the stage and rendered Emni korey jaye jodi din, Joto bhavana chilo and Sraboner dharar moto.

Decades on, the song still pulsates within the memory of countless people. As Manna Dey breathed life into the song that has single-handedly made his voice immortal to generations of Bengalis, Coffee House-er shei addata aaj ar nei, the crowd seemed rapt. Throughout the evening, the singer received over 160 requests.

"This is my fifth visit to Bangladesh and I am delighted to be here on this stage and sing to you all," said the gracious artiste. The second show was held at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

"Hridoye Mati O Manush" turns five Call for an agricultural revolution

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Hridoye Mati O Manush needs no introduction to the Bangladeshi TV audience. Hosted by media personality and agricultural activist Shykh Seraj, (Director, News, Channel i), the programme started initially on BTv as Mati O Manush in 1982, and later continued on Channel i from February 21, 2004.

The informative programme is an initiative to encourage the farmers and developments in the agricultural sector. It covers all aspects of agriculture, its problems and possibilities and ways of improving the farmers' livelihood.

According to Seraj, "My target-audience initially consisted of farmers and I advised them on ways to improve their agricultural activities. In time the viewership has not been limited to just the farmers, now traders and investors take interest in the show as well. Which is why I have shifted my emphasis to all aspects of agriculture."

To keep the countrymen abreast of agricultural developments at an international level, Seraj has already filmed several episodes of Hridoye Mati O Manush in countries such as the Philippines, Thailand and China.

In the first three years, the programme introduced farmers to



Shykh Seraj in one of the episodes of Hridoye Mati O Manush

new methods like 'crop diversification' and 'composite farming'. It also informed them on the simpler ways of production, transportation and marketing and how to avoid dealing with the unnecessary middlemen. Meetings were also held with the farmers before the national annual budget each year. Farmers were shown docu-

mentaries on 'handling food safely', 'fertiliser shortage', 'Asian farming methods', and 'the agricultural views of Rabindranath Tagore'.

"Some of the topics covered in the fourth year were 'potato production', 'the past, present and future of the dairy industry', 'the salt industry', 'jute production and

industry', a follow-up on 'the use of urea and other harmful chemicals in puffed rice', 'casaba farming in the Monga-prone areas', 'shrimp farming in Khulna', 'unavailability of safe fertilisers', 'the erosion of river banks and the tribulations of the affected people', 'bird flu awareness' and special coverage of the Bengal Meat Industry of Pabna and the farmers market of Bogra," says Seraj.

Seraj adds, "Some of our recent agricultural advancements are 'the reduction in the use of urea and the introduction of gutti urea', 'the introduction of hybrid rice', 'the successful farming of baokul', and 'the farmers market of BDR and the local government.'" Shykh Seraj has received the Ekushey Padak along with three other National Awards -- National Youth Award, Fisheries Award and Poultry Award. He was awarded USA Ashoka Fellow in 1993. In recognition of his contribution to the agricultural sector, Young Asia Television of Sri Lanka produced a documentary on him.

A new programme, Krishi Deebanishi, also hosted by Seraj, is currently on air on Channel i, as an extension of Hridoye Mati O Manush.

Hridoye Mati O Manush will be aired tonight (February 21) at 9:30 pm.

ITI Theatre Festival '08 "A satisfactory arrangement"

-- Nasiruddin Yousuff

ERSHAD KAMOL

Nasiruddin Yousuff is the Organising Secretary of Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre (BCITI). He served as the president of the Committee for Cultural Identity and Development (CIDC), a part of the ITI Worldwide Committee, three times. Currently he is the Director of CIDC. The committee focuses on promoting dramatic forms and expressions, which are essential components of cultural identity. Current CIDC projects deal with wide-ranging themes such as resolving socio-political conflicts through artistic collaboration.

The convenor of the reception committee at the ITI Theatre Festival, Yousuff said, "This year's arrangement is satisfactory. Nineteen foreign delegates have arrived in Dhaka to participate at the festival, in which leading troupes of the country will stage their popular productions. For the third time the Worldwide Executive Committee meeting is being held here."

"We are arranging workshops, however, BCITI should consider arranging other activities such as producing plays involving the leading artistes of the country. The foreign experts can also contribute to this type of theatre," Yousuff added.

Nasiruddin Yousuff believes that with the help of UNESCO, ITI should introduce scholarships in theatre at the universities in the west for students from the developing countries. This can develop the technical standard of world theatre, which is currently in turmoil.



Nasiruddin Yousuff

"Urubhangam": A play with an anti-war message



Actors of Department of Theatre and Music, DU stage Urubhangam

As part of the ITI theatre festival, Department of Theatre and Music, University of Dhaka (DU) staged an adaptation of Bhasa's Urubhangam, based on the epic Mahabharata, on February 19, at Natmandol, DU campus.

As done in the traditional Sanskrit theatre style, accompanied by acoustics, seven actors enter the stage and subsequently pay homage to the gods Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Displaying different spectacular stances the actors continue this performance until a narrator takes the audience to the concluding part of the Kurukshetra (the battleground where Pandavs

and Kauravs are fighting) mentioned in the Mahabharata. In this part, the Kaurav hero Duryodhana starts a club (gada) fight with his rival, the Pandav hero Bhima.

The energetic young actors, with appropriate body movements and voice modulation, successfully created the brutality of war and deceit -- suggested by Lord Krishna, the leading light of the Pandavs, Bhima strikes Duryodhana on his thigh with the gada, which is considered 'dishonest' according to the laws of club fight.

This act of violating the rules of war makes Balarama (played by Noor-us-Saiyem Khan) agitated. Even the leg-

endary warrior Ashwathama (played by H.M. Shahjalal) announces that he would have his revenge over the Pandavs. But Duryodhana (played by Syed Mamun Reza) does not allow the Kauravs to take revenge on Bhima for his immoral act, rather he regrets his previous actions and finds peace in heroic death. The epilogue urges for peace.

The essence of Sanskrit theatre has been aptly presented in the directorial compositions of Wahida Mallik. Her sense of proportion in art is noteworthy. The director's ability to create a climax in the sequence where the protagonist of the play, Duryodhana, in his last moments, meets his family members is laudable. In this scene, Ashiqur Rahman Leon's performance as the aged and blind Dhritrashtra, father of Duryodhana, was remarkable. Syed Mamun Reza as the dying hero Duryodhana performed well.

Another important aspect of the play is the simple yet effective set and light designs by Syed Jamil Ahmed. Baby Rozario's dance composition and Aklima Islam Kuheli and Tapan Kumar Sarkar's music composition have enriched the aesthetics of the play.

The performance by the Department of Theatre and Music on February 19 was a relief to the audience in the midst of several average theatre productions.

Abdur Shakur Shah honoured with Sultan Medal

AZIBOR RAHMAN, back from Narail

Rasheda K. Chowdhury, Adviser to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, said that there is no place for fundamentalism in the society. In her view, education and culture can be used as effective means against corruption.

The Adviser spoke on the last day (February 18) of the Sultan Mela, held in Narail. She was the chief guest at the closing programme of the weeklong fair arranged on the occasion of the 83rd birth anniversary of SM Sultan. At the programme, the Adviser also presented the Sultan Padak (medal) to Abdur Shakur Shah, director of Institute of Fine Arts, DU.

Additional Divisional Commissioner of Khulna, Shamima Sultana also spoke at the programme chaired by Mohammad Quayyum Sarder, Deputy Commissioner of Narail and President of the Sultan Foundation. Among others, Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, Director



Abdur Shakur Shah receives the Sultan Padak from Rasheda K. Chowdhury (in-charge) of the local Shilpakala Academy and Abdur Shakur Shah also spoke on the occasion.

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Shob Pakhi Ghorey Phere On ATN Bangla at 8:40 pm Single Episode TV play Cast: Anisur Rahman Milon, Tarin



Gramer Namti Khonjona On ntv at 9:00 pm Single Episode TV play Cast: Shuborna Mustafa, Shubho



Ekush-er Golpo Shuni On Banglavisation at 6:20 pm Special children's programme on Amar Ekushey Host: Poet Asad Chowdhury



Jatishshor On Rtv at 8:00 pm Single Episode TV play Cast: Ahmed Rubel, Masud Ali Khan

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 am, 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. BANGLAVISATION News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm. News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm. News (English) at 6:00pm. 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 10:30 Shuprobhaat 11:40 Drama Serial: Kon Gram-er Meys 12:05 Maa O Shishur Katha 12:30 Drama: Shesh Okhor 01:30 Bhasbar Gaan 02:15 Agricultural Programme 02:40 Children's Programme 03:00 Cartoon 03:30 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm. 04:05 Special Programme 05:05 Sissampur 05:30 Children's Programme 06:10 Ekush Amar Ohonkaar 06:35 Recitation Programme 07:30 Talk Show: Shondhani Shonglaap 08:40 Drama: Shey Din-e Ek Swapno 10:30 Special Programme. ATN BANGLA 08:15 Aiker Shangbadpatro 08:30 Drama Serial: Mouchakey Dhal 09:15 Drama: Rang 10:30 Manchoy Tael 10:30 Talk Show: Onyodishti 11:05 A.T.N unplugged 12:15 Unisher Bhalobasha 12:45 Mon Poboner Ghun 01:30 Ekh Muktho 02:30 Bhalobasha 03:15 Bhalobasha Din-e Buk-er Ba Pashey 05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor 05:20 Onnorkom Bhalobasha 06:20 Pratham Bhalobasha 08:00 Aj Bhalobashar Din 08:40 Drama: Tiri Ebang 11:30 Daily Soap

Doll's House 12:00 Gramephone Lead News CHANNEL-i 09:30 Shangbadpatrey Bangladesh 09:45 Public Reaction 09:50 Gramephone Tilmola 11:05 Wand Shorashon Boimela 12:05 Smilitay 12:30 Citycell Tarokakathan 01:05 Ebong Cineamar Gaan 01:30 Bhasbar Gaan 02:35 Bangla Amar Bochon 03:05 Hrdoye Mati O Manusher Daak 03:30 Dukhini Amar Bomomala 05:30 Wand Shorashon Boimela 06:00 Ek Dui Teen 07:50 Drama: Apur Pathsalas 09:35 Farmers File 5 11:30 Aste Aste Aste Gramephone Aker Shangbadpatro ETV 08:00 Ekush-er Shokaal 08:30 Ei Bangla Kaboychitra 09:00 Protikriti 09:30 Shaheedminar 09:30 Ekusher Shishupath 10:00 Ami Jodi Chole Jai Bondhokoro Nako Lorai 11:30 Bhasba Kanya 12:30 Bangla Feature Film: Alor Michhil 05:15 Shanskriti Shathain 05:45 Ekusher Shondhya 06:15 SMS Mania 06:30 Dash Jurmy 07:30 Amader Bomomala 08:00 Shandor Korey Likhi 08:30 Drama 09:30 Ekusher Shomoy 10:30 Ekush-er Chokh

11:30 Amader Boimela Rtv 08:15 Gaanchil Ei Din 09:00 Rtv Exclusive 09:05 Swadesh Swadhinta 09:35 Japto Jiban 10:00 Drama Serial: Anondajtra 11:00 Taroka Alap 11:30 Drama Serial: Aguntuk 12:35 Ekusher Gaan Ekusher Kobita 01:00 Gaanchil Ei Din 01:30 Dhallywood Beals 02:30 Bangla Feature Film 03:45 Borney Borney Rochito 06:00 Protidin 06:20 Ekusher Gaan 06:50 Drama: Jaesthor 09:00 Drama Serial: Anondajtra 11:00 Special Programme: Amra Jay Bhashay Katha Bol 11:30 News Watch 12:00 Rtv Exclusive ntv 08:55 Drama Serial: To-Let 09:30 Bijo Ebong Bajao 10:05 Shakhor Omolin 10:30 Tomader Jono 11:00 Jey Shobhey Bongete Jonni 11:30 Moder Gorb 12:10 Bhasbar Gaaney Abdul Latif 12:35 Rokhtey Photano Prool 02:30 Tele-film: Ononto Pradi 04:25 Talk Show: Bhasbar Lorai 05:30 Moino Mukhor Shabdaboli 06:15 Shubho Shonaha 06:45 Shei Din Ki Ghatyechhilo 08:15 Drama Serial: Swapno Jaal

09:00 Drama Serial: Gramir Naami Khonjona Ei Shomoy BANGLAVISATION 09:00 Protidin-er Boimela 09:30 Drama Serial: Swapnochura 10:10 Boimela Protidin 11:35 Bheendeshi Ontorey 12:30 Hrdoye Ekush 02:30 Vocab 02:40 Shel Theke Amader Bhasba 04:20 Boimela Protidin 05:30 Hrdoye Lekha Bomomala 06:05 Din-er Shehey 06:20 Ekusher Golpo Shuni 06:50 Ekush-er Bomomala 08:25 Drama: Bangala 09:45 Amar Kontho, Amar Bhasba 11:25 Kalha Kaboy Shongbad Protidin STAR MOVIES 12:45 Trapped 02:30 Love Stinks 04:30 Mafa 05:25 Robotosh The Shadow Chronicles 07:00 Phat Giriz 08:40 Deja Vu 10:45 Excess Baggage 12:30 First Descent 08:30 American Idol 10:30 Love You To Death 11:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak STAR PLUS 01:30 Kurnum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 02:00 Bhabhi 02:30 Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat 03:00 Bidaai 07:00 Star Vai Chhote Ustaad Sangam 08:00 Santaan 08:30 Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat 09:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 09:30 Bidaai 10:00 Kaslan 10:30 Kahanui Ghar Ghar Ki 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi STAR WORLD 01:30 Desire: Table For Three 02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show 03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 04:00 General Hospital 05:00 Enterprise 06:00 Malcolm In The Middle 07:30 The Simpsons 08:30 My Wife And Kids 07:30 Friends 08:00 Seinfeld

Radio Foorti 88.0 FM 07:00am Hello Dhaka 11:00am Amar 88 03:00pm Dhaka Calling 07:00pm Seven Eleven 12:00am Back to Back music Radio Today 89.6 FM 07:15am Good Morning Dhaka (Biplob) 07:45am Today's Happy Moments 08:45am Shokair 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) 09:45pm Raater Khabor 11:45pm Modhro Raater Khabor 08:30 American Idol 10:30 Love You To Death 11:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak STAR PLUS 01:30 Kurnum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 02:00 Bhabhi 02:30 Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat 03:00 Bidaai 07:00 Star Vai Chhote Ustaad Sangam 08:00 Santaan 08:30 Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat 09:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 09:30 Bidaai 10:00 Kaslan 10:30 Kahanui Ghar Ghar Ki 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi STAR WORLD 01:30 Desire: Table For Three 02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show 03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 04:00 General Hospital 05:00 Enterprise 06:00 Malcolm In The Middle 07:30 The Simpsons 08:30 My Wife And Kids 07:30 Friends 08:00 Seinfeld