

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Image
Artist: Mohammad Fokhrul Islam
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: May 2-15
Time: 9:00am - 12:00 pm & 5:00pm - 8:00pm
On Saturdays 5:00pm - 8:00pm



Photography Exhibition

Title: Partnership in Practice
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: May 01-10
Time: 3pm-8pm



Art Exhibition

Title: Return to the roots
Artists: 7 Bengali artists from India
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: April 25-May 9
Time: 12pm-8pm



Theatre

Play: Nimojon
Troupe: Dhaka Theatre
Venue: National Theatre Stage, BSA
Date: May 1
Time: 7pm



Making the nation laugh

'Unmad' celebrates 30th anniversary

NADIA SARWAT

Drik Gallery was overcrowded with young people; on display were cartoons instead of the usual paintings or photographs. On April 29, the five-day long cartoon exhibition organised by the satire magazine *Unmad* came to an end. The exhibition marked the 30th anniversary of *Unmad*, the first cartoon based satire magazine in the country. The magazine's popularity is still unrivalled.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Professor Muhammad Zafar Iqbal on April 25. There was a piece of wood instead of ribbon at the entrance. Professor Iqbal had to saw the wood. The piece of wood was labelled as "Ghune'dhora Shomaj".

A total of 100 cartoons in 91 frames were on display. Sarcastic in nature, the cartoons mock social discrepancies, mindless stupidity and insensitivity. Some even poke fun at several international issues.

One cartoon shows a private car grazing in a meadow. An old saying goes "When hungry, even a tiger can eat grass," but why the car? Asked by a goat the car answers, "As the fuel price is going up everyday, I've decided to try grass." In another cartoon, an individual is seen snoozing in front of a TV; the news is on -- highlighting price hike, accidents, politics etc. The man jumps up when a TV commercial appears with an offer of a two-paisa discount from a particular mobile phone operator.

In 1978, a small group of college students including Ahsan Habib, Quazi Khaled Ashraf, Sultanul Islam, Rezaun Nabi and others started the magazine. First nine issues were published in a rather haphazard way. Within a couple of years, *Unmad* became so popular that the team decided to take it seriously.

Ahsan Habib, the editor and



Cartoons published in *Unmad*, displayed at the exhibition

founder member of the magazine said, "The journey of a satire magazine that provides laughs to its readers is not necessarily always fun and games. We had to go through a lot of hardship. There were times when we couldn't

afford white papers for the cover page and used newsprint instead. Newsprint was also very expensive at times. The reason *Unmad* is still going strong is because of the loyal readers."

The team is also planning to

open an outlet in Dhaka that will include products like T-shirts, mugs, stickers and other items with the *Unmad* logo that has become quite popular over the last three decades.

"We are also contemplating

publishing cards on several occasions like Pahela Baishakh, Nabanno Utsab and more," added the editor.

At the exhibition, cartoonists Mehedi Haque, Manik-Ratan duo and Sadia were awarded.

Special programme on "May Day" on Boishakhi Television tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A special programme on "May Day" titled *Haturir Shurey* will be aired on Boishakhi Television tonight at 8pm. Journalist Kamal Lohani, Shahidullah and Shirin Aktar will discuss on the significance of the day. Artist Bipul Bhattacharya, theatre personality Shimul Yousuff, Wrishiz Shilpi Goshthi and Udichi Shilpi Goshthi will perform songs, while noted singer Fakir Alamgir will host the programme. Kamal Ansari is the producer of the programme.



Fakir Alamgir (left) hosts the show

"Amar Chhobi" celebrates 400th episode: A milestone

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The film-based show, *Amar Chhobi*, aired on Channel-I has reached a milestone. The 400th episode of the programme will be aired tonight at 6:00 pm. To mark this special moment, a special programme will be held at the Star Cineplex, Bashundhara City on May 4.

Featuring life and works of film related personalities of the country, *Amar Chhobi* started its journey with an interview with filmmaker A.J. Mintu in January 2, 2000.

The 100th episode of the programme was aired on February 17, 2002. The 200th and 300th episodes were respectively aired on June 3, 2004 and June 1, 2006. The episodes were titled *Amader Chalachchitrey Prothom* and *Tinsho Porbey Amar Chhobi: Amader Chalachchitrey Mulyaban Archive*.

Tonight's episode will feature previously recorded and aired interviews of film personalities who have passed away. Interviews with filmmakers Ehtesham, Dilip Biswas, Motaleb Hossain, Sheikh Neyamat Ali and Tozammel Haque Bakul; actors Sumita Devi, Golam Mustafa, Rahman, Azim, Hashmat, Siddique Jamal Nantu, Rajeeb and Manna; cinematographers M.A. Samad and Rafiqul Bari

Chowdhury; music directors Subal Das and Anwar Parvez and dance director Amir Hossain Babu.

So far 259 episodes of *Amar Chhobi* have highlighted personalities from film and other sectors; 55 episodes have highlighted reminiscence on 36 personalities who have passed away and 85 episodes have highlighted 58 different topics.

Initially the show was aired at 10pm on Sundays. After shifting to different days and times, over the

last four years it has been airing at 6:20pm on Thursdays.

In different times, several companies including Singer Bangladesh Limited, Unitrend and Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd. sponsored the programme.

Shafuzzaman Khan Lodi is the anchor of the programme. The show is compiled by Shamim Alam Dipen and jointly directed by Dipen and Lodi. Dream Merchant in association with Impress Television Ltd. have produced *Amar Chhobi*.



Shafuzzaman Khan Lodi (R) and Shamim Alam Dipen (back row) seen with guests on the show

International Dance Day celebrations ends

Twenty-five Dhaka-based troupes perform at the closing programme



Tamanna Rahman (C) and her troupe perform a Manipuri dance

ERSHAD KAMOL

With the slogan "Nriyter Taal-e-Taal-e Bishwa Aaj Ekshathay," a three-day programme was jointly organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and Bangladesh Nriyashilpi Sangstha (BNS) to celebrate this year's International Dance Day.

The programme continued basically at three venues of BSA. Moreover, two events took place at TSC and Rabindra Sarobar for the masses. The grand gala ended on April 29 at the National Theatre Stage. The celebration

programme was dedicated to the memory of the late dance guru G.A. Mannan. Veteran danseuse Laila Hassan was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award.

This year's celebration was more significant to the dancers and was a well-planned elaborate one. Besides the participation of the leading dance troupes and dance gurus, representatives of ethnic groups living in Bangladesh and a troupe each from China and India participated in the programme.

A major achievement of the grand celebration was a talent hunt programme. Eighteen young talents were selected from six dance categories, who will be considered for BSA programmes at national and international level.

A three-day mela was held at the open stage of the plaza, National Art Gallery of BSA, which provided an opportunity to exchange views in an informal manner.

Moreover, a seminar was held on the second day of the festival. Assistant Professor, Depart-



Deepa Khandokar's troupe Dibya perform at the programme

ment of Drama and Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University, Dr. Shoma Mumtaz presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

Commerce and Education Adviser Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman was the chief guest at the closing ceremony. Secretary of BSA Ashraf Mosdeq delivered the welcome speech. Former DG of BSA Quamrul Hassan, ndc, who was the adviser of the celebration committee, delivered the speech of felicitation. Professor Mridul Kanti Chokroborty of the Department of Theatre and Music of University of Dhaka also spoke at the programme. Director General of BSA presided over the programme.

A total of 25 Dhaka based dance troupes presented various dance forms such as *Kathak*, *Bharatnatyam*,

Manipuri, *Odissi*, folk and creative compositions. The dance recitals were directed and choreographed by the leading dance gurus of Dhaka.

Most of the troupes presented the dance pieces, which they frequently perform at various events in Dhaka. Kabirul Islam Ratan's troupe Nriyayok, Belayet Hossain Khan's troupe Jago Art Centre and Kochi Rahman's troupe Akriti presented new compositions at the programme.

A few troupes, in the name of 'creative dance', choreographed with the playbacks of Bangla films. It was quite difficult to watch a programme that lasted over four hours on a hot evening at an overcrowded theatre where the air-conditioning system does not work.

"Mumbai Cutting:" Filmmakers bring to light different facets of the metropolis

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Mega metropolises have inspired poets and filmmakers down the centuries. Nearer home, Kolkata served as the muse for master directors Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen have been in some of their films like *Seemabaddha*, *Pratidwandi*, *Neel Akasher Niche*, *Padatik*, *Interview*, *Kolkata-71*, *Chalchitra*, *Mahaprithivi* and *Parashuram*.

Sen was, in fact, so much in love with Kolkata that in late 1980s he, seizing on the opportunity of deserted streets during a "Bangla bandh" (strike), picked up his movie camera and passionately took stock shots of the city. This correspondent had the opportunity of watching Mrinal da, in his trademark white *Aligarhi pyjama and punjabi*, lying on the wide street in front of the Writers' Building, the seat of administration of West Bengal state, and looking through the camera.

And now, Mumbai, the financial capital of India, has become the subject of a collage of short films made by eminent Indian filmmak-



Revathy



Rituparno Ghosh

ers including Rituparno Ghosh, Sudhir Mishra, Jhanu Barua (Assam), actress Revathy (Kerala), Rahul Dholakia (Gujarat) and Bollywood director Anurag Kashyap. Titled *Mumbai Cutting*, the film, covering varied facets of life in Mumbai -- its beauty and squalor -- was screened at an Indian film festival in Los Angeles on April 27 and is slated for India release on June 1.

Mumbai's stock market, Asia's biggest slum, infamous underworld and their dons, Bollywood, dance bars, plush bungalows, the Arabian Sea and more -- all feature

in separate shorts made by the directors.

Rituparno's *Urge* is about the magnetic pull of Mumbai as an enchantress and Mishra's *The Ball* starring Soha Ali Khan is about a murder that took place a decade ago. Kundan Shah's *The Hero* records the travails of suburban train travel in Mumbai, the communication lifeline of the metropolis and its suburbs.

A production of Sahara Motion Pictures and White Cloud companies, *Mumbai Cutting* also features actors Ranvir Shorey, Tejaswini Kolhapure and Ranvijay Singh.