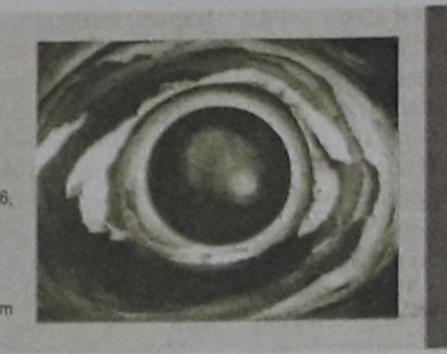


Solo Painting Exhibition Title: Image

Artist: Mohammad Fokhrul Venue: Alliance Française, 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 Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (new), Dhanmondi Date: May 01-10 Time: 3pm-8pm



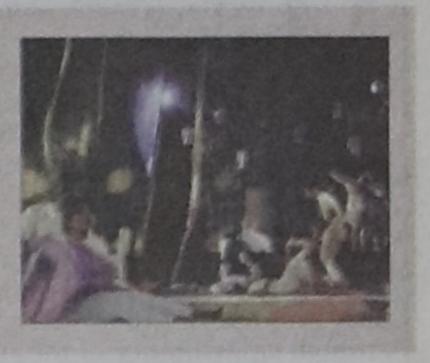
Art Exhibition Title: Return to the roots Artists: 7 Bengali artists from India Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R 27 (Old), Dhanmondi Date: April 25-May 9

Time: 12pm-8pm

Entertainment



Theatre Play: Nimojjon 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 "Ghuneydhora 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 particu-

lar 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

Ahsan Habib, the editor and









Cartoons published in Unmad, displayed at the exhibition

through a lot of hardship. There were times when we couldn't

founder member of the magazine afford white papers for the cover said, "The journey of a satire maga- page and used newsprint instead. zine that provides laughs to its Newsprint was also very expensive readers is not necessarily always at times. The reason Unmad is still fun and games. We had to go going strong is because of the loyal

The team is also planning to

open an outlet in Dhaka that will mugs, stickers and other items with the Unmad logo that has become quite popular over the last

three decades. "We are also contemplating and Sadia were awarded.

publishing cards on several occainclude products like T-shirts, sions like Pahela Baishakh, Nabanno Utsab and more," added the editor.

At the exhibition, cartoonists Mehedi Haque, Manik-Ratan duo

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 "Nrityer Taal-e Taal-e Bishwa Aaj Ekshathey," a three-day programme was jointly organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and Bangladesh Nrityashilpi 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.

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 This year's celebration was 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

keynote paper at the seminar.

Commerce and Education Adviser Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman was the chief guest at the closing ceremony. Secretary of BSA Ashraful Mosddeq 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. Kaththak, Bharatnatyam, does not work.

ment of Drama and Dramatics, Manipuri, Odissi, folk and cre-Jahangirnagar University, Dr. ative compositions. The dance Shoma Mumtaz presented the 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 Nrityalok, Belayet Hossain Khan's troupe Jago Art Centre and Kochi Rahman's troupe Akrity 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 A total of 25 Dhaka based four hours on a hot evening at dance troupes presented vari- an overcrowded theatre where ous dance forms such as the air-conditioning system

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. Artiste 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 coun try; Amar Chhobi started its journey with an interview with filmmaker A.J. Mintu in January 2,

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 Chalachchitrer 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

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 Chhobi.

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.

Shafiuzzaman 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 Telefilm Ltd. have produced Amar



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

"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-

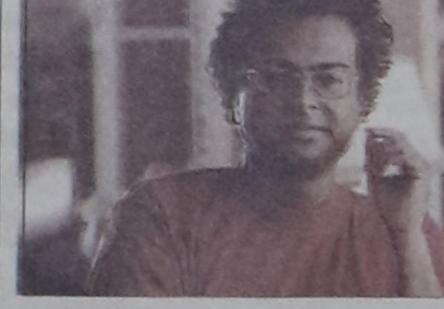




ers including Rituparno Ghosh, in separate shorts made by the Sudhir Mishra, Jhanu Barua (Assam), actress Revathy (Kerala), Rahul Dholakia (Gujarat) and Bollywood director Anurag

Kashyap. 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

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



Rituparno Ghosh

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 com-

Titled Mumbai Cutting, the

munication 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