

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Certificate Giving and Theatre

Organiser: Aranyak Nityadal
Venue: Natmandol, Dhaka University
Date: June 12
Time: 6pm onwards



Art and Craft Exhibition

Artist: Pintu Deb
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Date: June 10-16
Time: 10:00 am - 08:00 pm



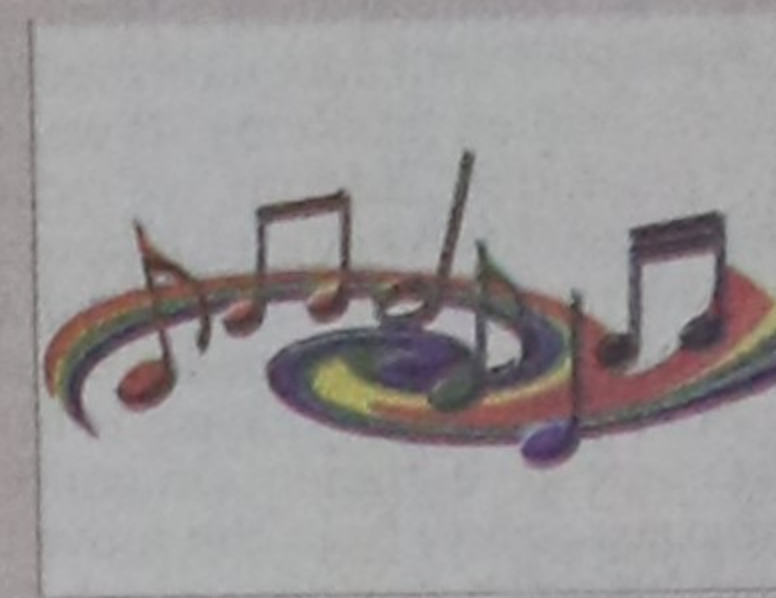
Solo Art Exhibition

Title: The Enchantment of the Transcendental
Artist: Nurul Islam
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: June 7-18
Time: 12pm-8pm



Musical soiree

Title: Ghorowa Goner Ashor
Artist: Nasima Shaheen
Organiser: Prachya Shilpa Parisad
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalachitra Kendra, 62, Science Laboratory Road
Date: June 12
Time: 7pm



Consistency in acting and the gradual change in media

In conversation with Shirin Bakul



AUREEN AHSAN

TV and theatre actress Shirin Bakul has been a familiar face in our cultural arena for over a decade now. Recently the artiste spoke to *The Daily Star* about her recent works on the small screen and the gradual transformation the media has undergone over the years. Excerpts from the conversation:

How did you come into this profession?

I started out with recitation. I did a course conducted by Kanthashilan and was associated with this recitation group. My entry into the world of theatre happened quite unexpectedly. But, after that there was no looking back.

Tell us about your most recent works?

I have a few plays that are already on air on different channels, such as 'Kon Graamer Meye' on BTV and 'Rupali Manush' on ATN Bangla. I'm also working in two more upcoming plays - 'Astoy and Gono Jagoroni Shohogho'.

Your most memorable performance?

I have worked on TV, theatre and also the radio. On television, my most memorable role has been that of Rehana in 'Shangshaptak', directed by Abdullah Al Mamun. Another memorable role is Nandini in Tagore's 'Roktokorobi'. Cur-

rently, I am a member of the Nagarik Natya Sampraday.

Which medium do you prefer? I really enjoy working in radio plays. I believe it is a rather challenging task to be able to portray a character when the audience can only hear you. For that, an artiste must be articulate and be able to convey the right emotions. My second preference is theatre.

The media has gone through a major transformation since you joined. Would you say that the artistes now have more opportunities and privileges?

I think the basic changes have occurred due to the changes in people's way of thinking. Parents are more encouraging and supportive about their children pursuing careers in the media. Back in the day we had a tough time convincing our parents. Family values and education were the prime focus back then. Moreover, opportunities have widened. The number of TV channels has increased with the growing number of aspiring artistes. But I have to say that artistes of yesteryears had a lot more patience and eagerness to learn. We attended workshops and had to work hard consistently to reach where we are today.

How do you picture yourself, say 5 to 10 years from now? I thought I would continue working as a teacher but unfortunately I'm not. I've studied Bengali literature and want to be able to publish at least two books for the *boi mela* every year, as well as write some good scripts for plays.

"Khudey Gaanbaj 2008": An effort to promote child singers



(L-R) Faridur Reza Sagor, Samina Chowdhury, Ferdousi Rahman, Sabina Yasmin and Kumar Bishwajit at the press conference

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With Shera Kontho 2008 in full gear, Channel i has launched another musical talent hunt

Khudey Gaanbaj 2008. The latter is specifically for child singers. Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director, Channel i and Impress Telefilm Ltd, made the announcement at a press conference held at

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. The talent hunt will highlight talented young singers (between the ages of 6 to 12).

Speaking on the contest Sagor said, "During the auditions of

Channel-i Shera Kontho we noticed that the turnout included a large number of children, who wanted to sing. The main reason behind organising this contest is to give them an opportunity to demonstrate their talent."

Five children from each division will be selected. The audition rounds in Chittagong, Shylhet, Barisal and Khulna have already ended. The audition in Rajshahi will be held on June 14 and the auditions for Dhaka is scheduled to be held on June 20 and 21.

A total of 30 children will be selected from all over country who will later take part in the selection round, and one of them will win the title *Khudey Gaanbaj*.

Veteran artiste Ferdousi Rahman was the chief guest at the press conference. Noted singer Sabina Yasmin was also present at the occasion. The contestants will be evaluated by singers Samina Chowdhury and Kumar Bishwajit.

Khudey Gaanbaj 2008 will be aired on Channel i, starting from the end of this month or the beginning of next month, according to the sources.

"Chak De India" scoops top IIFA honours

AFP, Bangkok

"Chak De India" scooped top honours at the "Bollywood Oscars," winning nods for best film, director and actor for its look at how issues of religion, class and gender play out in national sports.

The movie tells the story of a Muslim captain of the Indian field hockey team who leaves the game after being wrongly accused of throwing a World Cup match against Pakistan.

After disappearing for seven years, he returns to coach the Indian women's team, leading them to a World Cup victory of their own.

The script won screenwriter Jaideep Sahni an award for best story, while Shimit Amin took best director and star Shah Rukh Khan best actor.

The film was among a raft of movies showcased at the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) that broke away from the splashy musicals that have made Bollywood famous, in favour of tackling tougher issues in formats with a more global appeal.

Vivek Oberoi, who picked up a gong for best performance in a negative role for "Shootout at Lokhandwala," said he believed the trend in India was to produce movies that could draw in international audiences.

Oberoi said Indian filmmakers are focusing on "more global concepts and ideas that reach beyond the borders of India because the viewership and the audiences have reached beyond the borders of India."

Despite the focus on non-musicals, high-production dance numbers stole the show.

Dia Mirza donned a black halter top for a racy performance to promote her upcoming action thriller "Acid Factory," while Oberoi and co-star Shriya Saran shone in silver for a hip-hop performance touting their thriller "Mission Istanbul."

Akshay Kumar donned a tiger coat as he flew onto the stage from the back of the hall on a skateboard, gliding along a wire, while turbaned dancers walked down the isles singing.

Global marketing is key element of the IIFA awards, which have been held in cities from London to South Africa's Sun City, in hopes of attracting new audiences.

The Indian film industry was valued at 2.2 billion dollars last year, just a fraction of what Hollywood earns in a year. But that is expected to nearly double by 2012, with overseas ticket sales playing a key role.

The ceremony was broadcast live to 600 million television viewers, but few of them were actually in Thailand because the show was not carried on local television.

But hundreds of fans turned out to watch their favourite stars parade down a distinctive green carpet as they arrived at the gala late Sunday.

But some of the biggest stars of the night were shut out, including the Bachchan clan, India's first family of film.

Former Miss World Aishwarya Rai-Bachchan, who dazzled fans and her husband Abhishek



The Bachchans at the IIFA Awards held in Bangkok



A scene from *Chak De India*, which won the top honours

Bachchan lost out for their lead roles in "Guru" -- the rags-to-riches story of an Indian business tycoon.

Another hot celebrity couple, Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone, did pick up awards as the best new actors for their respective parts in "Saawariya" and "Om Shanti Om."

Padukone's film "Om Shanti Om," about an intrigue that carries over into a reincarnated life, swept most of the technical awards.

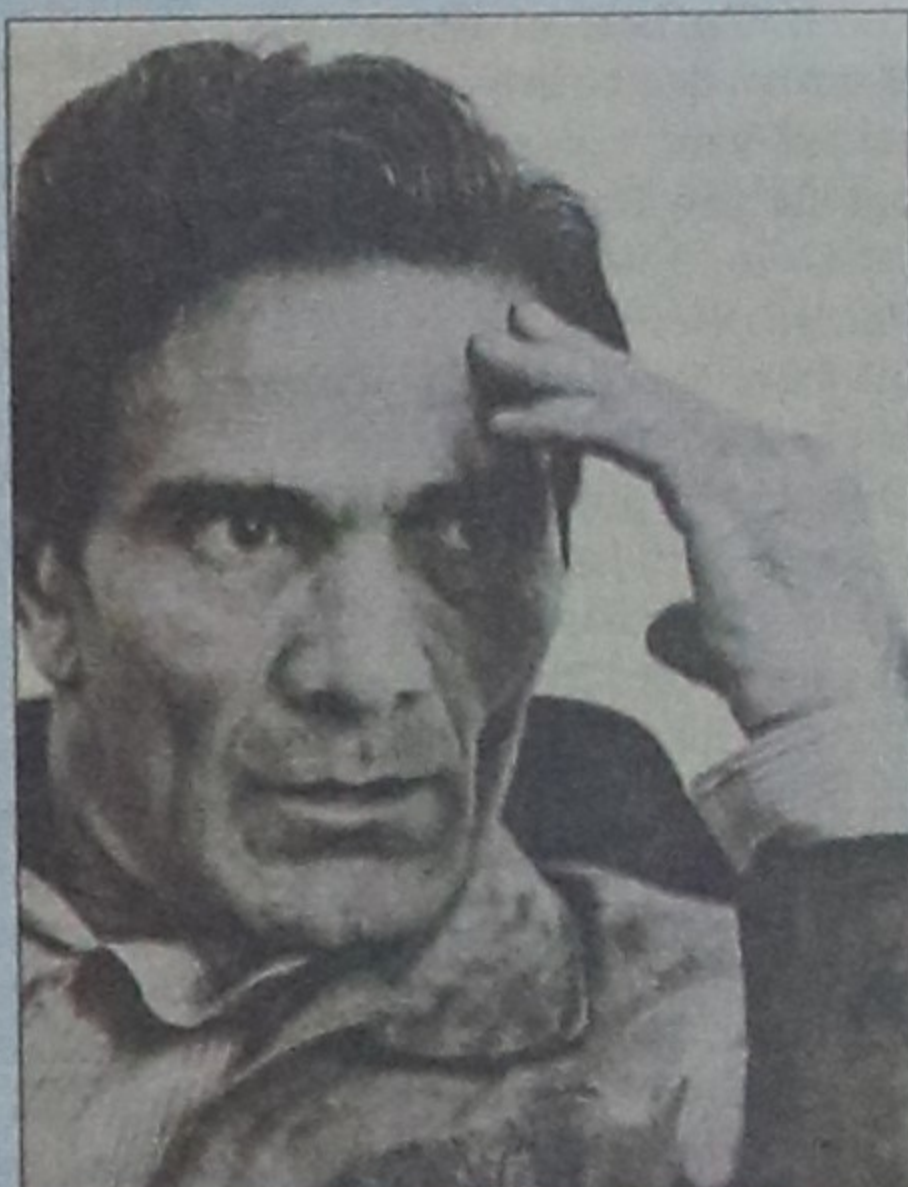
BSFF to screen films of master directors

Bangladesh Short Film Forum (BSFF) in association with Centre for Asian Art and Culture (CAAC) has taken an initiative to screen films by some of world's master filmmakers throughout this year. As part of the initiative, screening of eight films by Italian filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922-1975) starts from today, according to a press release. Pasolini's films including *Arabian Nights* (1974), *The Canterbury Tales* (1972), *Porcile* (1969) and *Oedipus Rex* (1967) will be screened till June 17.

Apart from Pasolini, a retrospectives on Robert Bresson (France), Ken Loach (UK) and Yasujiro Ozu (Japan) will also take

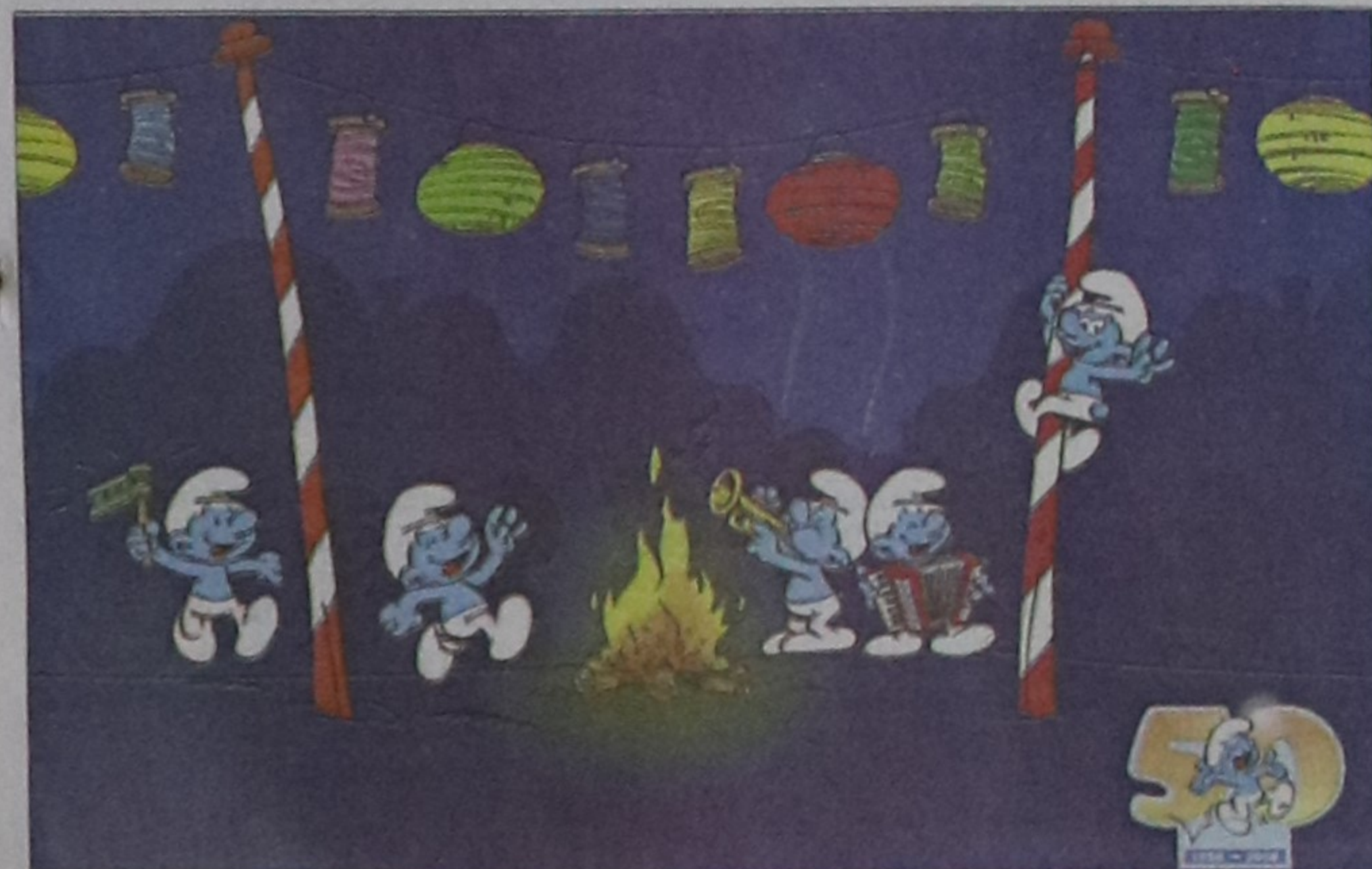
place. Screening of contemporary films from Iran, Taiwan, Korea and Bangladesh, will also take place throughout the year. At every film session, a keynote paper will be read out on a respective filmmaker or country.

The inaugural session of the retrospective on Pasolini will take place today at 5pm at Bangladesh Film Centre, Aziz Co-operative Super Market, Shahbag, Zahirul Islam Kochi, general secretary of BSFF, will read out the keynote paper. The film screening is dedicated to the memory of noted Bangladeshi filmmaker Alamgir Kabir.



Eight films of Pier Paolo Pasolini will be screened at the programme

Smurfs head for big-screen at Columbia Pictures



The Smurfs are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year

The Smurfs, those blue-skinned cartoon gnomes with short tails and white hats, are celebrating their 50th anniversary with a Hollywood movie deal announced last Tuesday by Columbia Pictures.

The Sony Corp.-owned studio said it has acquired motion picture rights to the Belgian-born characters from Lafig Belgium S.A. for a big-screen Smurfs adaptation mixing computer-graphic imagery and live action.

A similar "hybrid" treatment was recently given to another popular cartoon ensemble in the highly successful "Alvin and the Chipmunks" movie from 20th Century Fox, a unit of News Corp.

Like Alvin and his rodent companions, the Smurfs will be created by CGI technology and interact with real actors portraying humans.

No casting decisions have been made or director chosen, but the studio is in negotiations

with David Stem and David Weiss, the writing team behind both "Shrek" sequels and "The Rugrats Movie," to pen a Smurfs screenplay.

The Smurfs, simply drawn, diminutive beings -- just "three apples tall" -- with blue skin, white trousers and white caps, ran, among the most widely recognised cartoon characters in the world.

Encompassing over 100 characters, the mostly male individuals all share the Smurf moniker and a descriptive first name -- such as Lazy Smurf, Grouchy Smurf, Brainy Smurf and Grandpa Smurf.

Created in 1958 by Belgian cartoonist Pierre Culliford, aka Peyo, the Smurfs first appeared in a series of Belgium comic strips and were originally called Les Schtroumpfs in French.

They are perhaps best known to the English-speaking world from the long-running Hanna-Barbera cartoon series that aired on NBC through the 1980s and is still seen in roughly 30 countries.

The Smurf phenomenon has also spawned a huge merchandising empire comprising statues, games, toys and videos.

Movie rights to the property originally were secured in 2002, and the producer for the project, Jordan Kerner, had been developing a Smurfs feature at Viacom Inc's Paramount Pictures, which now has an option to co-finance the film and distribute it internationally.

No time frame for production or release of the film has been set, but a Columbia spokesman said, "We are committed to it and hope to get moving on it as quickly as we can."

Source: Internet

"Shopnojal" on ntv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV serial *Shopnojal* will be aired tonight on ntv at 8:15 pm. The serial is written by Ahmed Shahabuddin and directed by Dipankar Dipon.

Dilip and Nova are in love with each other and they get married. However, Dilip's father has not accepted this relationship. Dilip and Nova's happily married life comes to a standstill when Nova falls gravely ill. After several diagnosis and tests, the doctors declare that Nova is suffering from *leukaemia*. On hearing this news, Dilip's father agrees to go and meet his ailing daughter-in-law, and the story proceeds on.

Nova, Dilip Chakrabarty, Srabonti, Dr. Enamul Haque, Ataur Rahman, Shams Sumon, Elora Gauhar, Prova, Rupom, Jyotika Jyoti, Aruna Biswas, Mir Sabbir, Abul Kashem and Tohfa Hassan play the various roles of the serial.

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