

WHAT'S
ON THIS
WEEK

Film Screening

Film: War and Peace (I, II)
Director: Sergei Bondarchuk
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: September 21
Time: 3pm onwards

Group Art
Exhibition

Title: Searching Our Roots
Organiser: Alliance Française de Dacca
Venue: Gallery, Alliance Française de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: September 5-18
Time: 9am-12am and 4pm-8pm (Only 4pm-8pm on Saturdays)



Film Screening

Title: Importance of Wim Wenders: A Retrospective
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society and Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: September 15-17
Time: 2pm onwards



Exhibition

Title: Eid o Aamar Swopnobhumi
Organiser: Nitya Upahar
Venue: Gallery Nitya Upahar, 3rd floor, Aziz Co-operative Super Market, Shahbag
Date: September 5-30
Time: 10am-8pm



James' latest album "Kaljamuna" to be released before Eid

ERSHAD KAMOL

After two years popular rock n roller of the country Faruk Mahfuz Anam, popularly known as James, is going to release his latest album titled *Kaljamuna* just before the upcoming Eid ul Fitr. In 2006 James released his last solo project *Tufan*.

Of the 10 songs in the album James has composed five. The rest of the songs are by other composers such as Prince Mahmud. Talking to *The Daily Star*, James said he expected huge success for the album.

He said, "I've been working hard to release the album for the last couple of months. Members of Nagorbaul are playing instruments. Most of the songs of the album are highly experimental in terms of presentation and composition. In most of the sound tracks, folk tune music has fused with psychedelic rock. I believe the songs will be hits at the Eid market."

Commenting on music composed by other composers James said, "I enjoyed rendering songs composed by young talented composers. Earlier I rendered songs composed by Prince Mahmud in mixed albums, which achieved huge popularity. The other two young composers are



Faruk Mahfuz Anam James

also equally talented. In case of solo projects I'll sing songs composed by the young music composers."

Commenting on not releasing any albums for two years James said, "During the last two years I was really busy with music tours abroad. My band Nagorbaul performed shows in Japan, Aus-

tralia and Cyprus, invited by Bangladeshi expatriates."

According to James, all of these tours were successful. He said, "The concerts gave relief to the Bengalis who living abroad always long for Bengali culture. Most of the audiences were the young generation who love my music. Which is why they were moved by

popular tracks."

James mentioned that after Eid his troupe Nagorbaul would go on music tours in North America. Moreover, negotiations are going on to release a Hindi album in India.

He is hopeful of releasing solo and band albums in Bangladesh in the coming days.

Musical Drama featuring nine celebrities in Eid special "Ityadi"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

In the last twenty years, the television magazine programme *Ityadi* has been providing the audience with innovative, creative and educative entertainment. Equally popular to young and old, *Ityadi* features segments that contain the spirit of our rural and folk heritage, contemporary issues, satires on various social inconsistencies and many more.

Ityadi Eid special is here again with its usual features and newness.

One of the attractions of this Eid special episode of *Ityadi* is a musical drama featuring nine celebrities of this generation. Mir Sabbir, Shahriar Nazim Joy, Kushum Sikdar, Anisur Rahman Milon, Apurba, Pran Roy, Nirob, Emon and Shahriar Shuvo will participate in this satirical musical drama on the Eid market and price hike. The situation in the Eid market and the psychology of both sellers and buyers will be in focus in the musical drama. Anwar Hossain Bulu is the videographer of this special segment.

This episode of *Ityadi* is likely to be aired on the second day of Eid ul Fitr after the news at 4pm on BTV. A production of Fagun Audio Vision, *Ityadi* is scripted, directed and hosted by Hanif Sanket.

Hanif Sanket(c) discusses the script with (L-R) Apurba, Milon and Pran Roy on the set of *Ityadi*.

Drama serial "Priyodorshini" on Rtv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Based on a story by late Pranab Bhatta, drama serial *Priyodorshini* will be aired tonight on Rtv at 9:10 pm. The 52-episode serial is scripted and directed by Arun Chowdhury.

Priyodorshini revolves around the stories of women, their sorrows and moments of bliss. The serial focuses on different emotions of women. Some are mothers, some daughters, while some in the serial portray a sister, a wife or a beloved. There is also a mother who is in search of her lost daughter. Then again the conjugal dilemmas of couples are also included. The serial moves on with several aspects of the lives of women.

Popular actors Subarna Mustafa, Dolly Zahur, Bannya Mirza, Momo and others form the cast. Nazrul Islam and Arun Chowdhury have written different episode of the serial.



Subarna Mustafa in the serial.

Afghan women artists show their spunk

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

Just recently this correspondent had the rare opportunity to view an exhibition displaying the works of Afghan women artists. This first of its kind function was named "A new start." Instead of the usual Page 3 crowd milling around at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in Delhi, there were a number of genuine art lovers with a passion for the medium. Among the gathering at the opening were important personages such as Gursharan Kaur, wife of the Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh, Dr Karan Singh, president of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Pavan K Varma, director general of ICCR.

The works that appealed to me: One depicting a chess board with three chess men reveals how

women have been helpless, subjugated pawns for too long in the world. Then there was *Mirror of History* by Zarghuna Hotak (2007). This work, in acrylic on canvas, shows a woman looking at her reflection in a mirror. Perhaps she doesn't recognise who she is any more. She seems to have lost her entire identity thanks to the chains that men have put on her. She could be an educated woman but the world still knocks all the stuffing out of her. Perhaps she needs to look in the mirror for reassurance.

Instead of pontificating, here are some voices from the exhibition:

Sughand, assistant producer with NDTV Good Times: "I am a total art lover. I really like this work by Shamsia, titled *Ommolbanin* (2007), which is acrylic on canvas. This painting is about borders. There is a window view from which you can see the whole world. You

are inside it and you are watching trees grow and the changing seasons of spring, autumn and winter. Everything is all behind the scenes."

"Then there is *A New Geography* (2007) by Rada Akbar. You can see at first hand how women have been locked up somewhere and all they know about the world outside is in their imagination. She wants to break free but is totally swamped. It is a very joyful colour combination of red, yellow, a tinge of green and blue."

Shuchi Khanna, art teacher at Sanskriti School: "In one painting there are no faces, just burkha-clad women and everything is behind wraps. There is blood all around and it depicts the plight of the women of Afghanistan. I think it is a big landmark that the Afghan women have been able to come out and exhibit here."

Vandana Shourie, architect and

artist: "This work by Mariam Nabil Kamal, titled *Freedom of Expression* (2007), is given very figuratively and shows lots of mikes and a face upside down which is a bit confusing. You can be in any position but should be able to speak out, hence the mikes."

Gursharan Singh: "Thousands of women have not realised the gravity of losing their husbands, sons and daughters. Thousands have also lost their lives or been seriously injured by continuing violence. The violence has wrecked Afghanistan in the last two decades. I believe that women have a critical role in rejuvenating the social structure in Afghanistan and should express themselves vocally."

Truly a good show put up by the ICCR together with Centre for Contemporary Arts, Afghanistan and Embassy of India, Kabul.



Display of art works by Afghan women artists.



New York Film Festival plans a China focus

The New York Film Festival has announced plans for its 2009 programme just two weeks before its 2008 edition starts, Reuters reported.

The 47th annual festival will focus on the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China and feature a retrospective of movies made between 1949, when the Communists gained power, and the Cultural Revolution in 1966, revisiting the best-known films from that period as well as works less known outside China.

The programme will include the first major American screening for a collection of about 20 films made in the early years of the country's state-run studio system. The 2008 festival begins on September 26 and runs through October 12.

Source: The New York Times

Erratum

In yesterday's issue of the Arts & Entertainment page, in the news titled 'Sara Zaker directs "Eid Vacation"', it should have read that *Eid Vacation* will be aired on the first day of Eid-ul-Fitr at 8:15 pm on ntv. We regret the error.

Despite De Niro and Pacino, not much thrill in "Righteous Kill"

If only Robert Aldrich were alive! The pulpmeister of the horror lollapalooza "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" certainly knew how to build a grand showcase for his corrugated divas (Bette Davis and Joan Crawford), while the hapless Jon Avnet hasn't a clue what to do with his (Al Pacino and Robert De Niro). In "Righteous Kill" these two godheads of 1970s cinema go macho-a-macho with each other - furrowing brows, bellowing lines, looking alternately grimly serious and somewhat bemused -- in a B-movie (more like C-minus) duet that probably sounded like a grand idea when their handlers whispered it in their ears.

De Niro and Pacino have squared off only once before on the big screen, in Michael Mann's 1995 thriller, "Heat," in which they spent most of the film in separate story lines, joined only by the parallel editing and a late-act, disappointingly anticlimactic

meeting at a diner. They share far more face time in "Righteous Kill," playing well-seasoned New York City Police Department detectives and long-term partners who take turns clucking at each other like hens while swaggering around town like gamecocks. True to strut, pouf and wattles, Pacino's cop goes by Rooster, while De Niro is just Turk, which doesn't appear to be short for Turkey, though it sure does help to pass the time if you think about it.

Time, alas, doesn't so much pass in "Righteous Kill" as crawl, despite the usual overcutting, which tries to pump energy into the inert proceedings. Avnet, whose last movie was the clunker "88 Minutes" (one of Pacino's worst), is not a natural director, to put it kindly. His handiwork is most evident in the unsteady tone, though to be fair it's always hard to know who deserves most of the blame for this kind of star-struck, suit-crammed (eight producers,

three executive producers, one cop-producer) mush.

Like most actors, Pacino and De Niro need a strong hand, some kind of visionary authority to put them in their best light and prevent them from leaning on the tics and tricks -- Pacino tends to turn up the volume, while De Niro glowers until he looks ready to pop -- that now too often mar their performances. "Righteous Kill," a clutter of recycled cop-movie and serial-killer film clichés (it's hard to believe that the screenwriter, Russell Gewirtz, also wrote "Inside Man"), is far from their worst effort. And the two have some nice moments with each other and some of the other actors. Pacino seems to be genuinely moved during his final showdown with De Niro, or maybe he's just a sweet sentimental fool.

Source: The New York Times

Robert De Niro and Al Pacino in Jon Avnet's *Righteous Kill*.