

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Reminiscence
On the 9th death anniversary of founder-curator of BFA AKM Abdur Rauf
Organiser: Mukljodha, Shipi Abdur Rauf Smrit Sangsad
Venue: Auditorium, Bangladesh Film Archive, 121, Shahbag
Date: April 1, Time: 5pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Recent Works
Artist: Fareha Zeba
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, Rd 16, Sec 4, Uttara
Date: March 21-April 3
Time: 11am-8pm



Art Exhibition

Artists: Jupiter Pradhan & Sauganga Danshandhari (Nepal)
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhacca, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: March 27-April 5
Time: 9am-12pm, 5-8pm (Saturdays 5-8pm)



Solo Exhibition

Title: Onupreonar Oboyob
Artist: Kirti Ranjan Biswas
Venue: Gallery Shipangon, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: March 25-31
Time: 12-8pm



A voice for freedom

"Ekho Ekattor" staged in Chittagong

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Chittagong

At a time when the nation has raised its voice for the trial of war criminals and collaborators in the Liberation War of 1971, Bodhan Abritty Parishad staged its second production of a poetic play "Ekho Ekattor". Even the post-liberation younger generation of the country, brought up on the staple of historic distortion and disinterest in the era of the Liberation War, have expressed their interest in learning about our glorious past. A repeat presentation of the valiant struggle of the freedom loving people and the role of the evil anti-liberation force is therefore immensely needed. And "Ekho Ekattor" is truly contemporary from this viewpoint. Bodhan staged the play for the second time on Saturday at the Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) while it was at first staged on December 18 last year.



Bodhan Abritty Parishad stage "Ekho Ekattor" at TIC auditorium.

PHOTO: STAR

The poetic play, written by Sohel Anwar and directed by Pronob Chowdhury, earned so much popularity in the port city during its first presentation, that the organisation staged a repeat performance within three months, said Bodhan President Ronojit Rakkhit.

The play was not confined to the simple narration of a tale; rather it turned out

to be replete with story telling, where familiar scenes were presented through outstanding recitation and histrionics. "Ekho Ekattor" revolves around two stories of a village called Noyanjoli. One includes different incidents before and after the Liberation War while the other story is about the present situation in the village. Two central

characters, Moulvi Jasim Uddin and Mir Kashim, played the roles of Freedom Fighter and razakar (collaborator). The storyline: Mir Kashim, a pro-Pakistan leader, was defeated in the 1970 elections due to strong anti-Pakistan message of Moulvi Jasim. The furious Kashim took revenge by assaulting and killing Jasim during the war. The villagers

had little memory of the brutal killing for a long stretch of time, but it surfaced again with another incident. After 37 years when Kashim once again urged the villagers to vote for him, a brave youth slapped him during a campaign rally. This courageous action inspired the youth of the village and the story unravels along these lines. In the course of a brief discussion after the play, the trustee of the Liberation War Museum and litterateur Mafidul Hoque thanked Bodhan for its contemporary production and expressed the hope that the younger generation would speak out once more against the anti-liberation forces. Cultural personality Dewan Maksud, headmaster of Municipal Model High School AHM Fazlul Kader, TIC Director Ahmed Iqbal Haider, Anup Saha and Bodhan President Ronojit Khastagiar were the speakers in the discussion conducted by Bodhan organising secretary Pronob Chowdhury.

Jewel Aich: Illusionist extraordinaire

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Anywhere in our country, if you are talking about 'magic,' the name Jewel Aich is bound to come up. Aich has set an example in showmanship and performing illusions. At a time when no one would consider taking the art of performing magic as a profession, Aich not only proved it possible, but, throughout his illustrious career, achieved international acclaim.

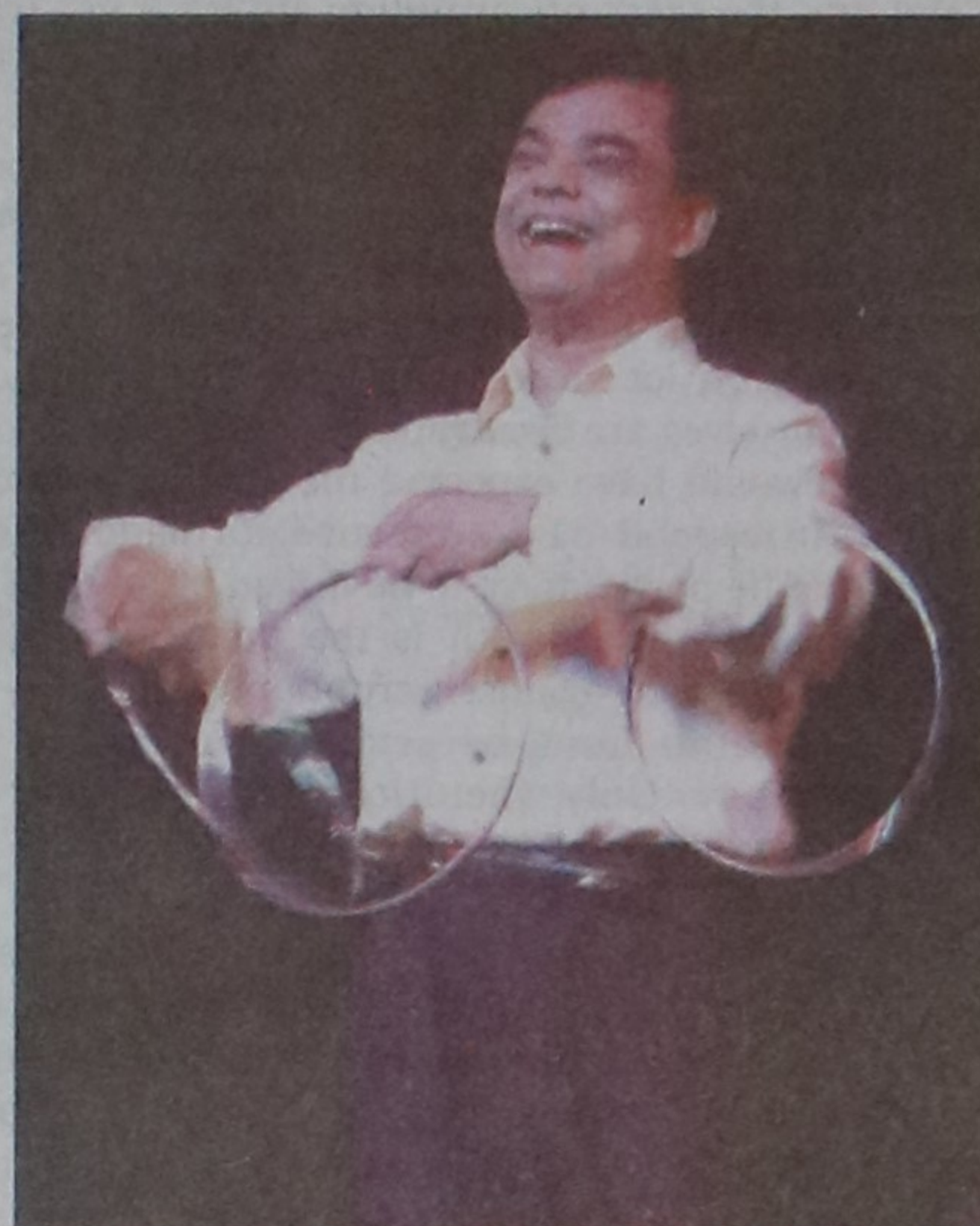
Aich has performed in many countries and recently enthralled audiences in Nepal with his breathtaking illusions. The show was held on March 26 at Hotel Radisson in Kathmandu to mark the 38th Independence Day of Bangladesh.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Uperndra Yadav and the Bangladeshi ambassador in Nepal, Imtiaz Ahmed Chowdhury jointly inaugurated the event by cutting a cake that resembled the map of Bangladesh.

Nothing seemed impossible at the show where the accomplished illusionist wowed the audience with almost twenty magic tricks. Pieces of blank paper turned into dollars, making a woman float in the air with the help of a flute, saving a man's life even when he has his head in a guillotine and several other illusions captivated the audience at the show. Even the simple card tricks performed by Aich turned extraordinary with the seasoned magician's superb oratory and persuading skills.

During a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the illusionist said,

"I've often faced the question what made me interested in this particular art form. I think it is a bit difficult to explain why you nurse a passion for anything. For me, I was drawn to magic at an early age, watching the local circus



Aich recently enthralled audiences in Nepal with his breathtaking illusions.

groups and street magicians perform. I tried to execute those tricks myself. Particularly, I remember reading those fantasies by poet Bande Ali Miah; I wanted to be like the magicians in those stories who travelled all over the world."

From the very beginning, Aich wanted to take his performing skills at an international level. He was a freedom fighter, and right after the country earned its independence, Aich wanted to do something to brighten the country's reputation in the world. He chose magic, which, according to him, has its origin deeply rooted in our culture and heritage.

A leading figure in our cultural arena whose earnest efforts took magic from the streets all the way to the homes of the affluent and to grand public stages, Aich has performed in every district of Bangladesh. He always tries to

come up with something new for the audience -- a reason behind his unchallenged success. But he finds very few new artists interested in taking up magic as a profession these days.

"Of course there are many talented illusionists in this country, but, as it requires talent and devotion, the number is less than it should be. This generation seems more interested in living in a world of fantasy rather than create fantasies for others. A negative impact of the rapid growth of electronic media and Internet is that it takes away the power of imagination. Everyone wants to concentrate only on what is being presented before them. But there have always been some people who take the lead and initiate a movement," says Jewel Aich.

No doubt, Aich belongs to this group of people.

Banglavisión turns three

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Satellite TV channel Banglavisión turns three today. On the occasion the channel will telecast special programmes throughout the day.

Saltamami:

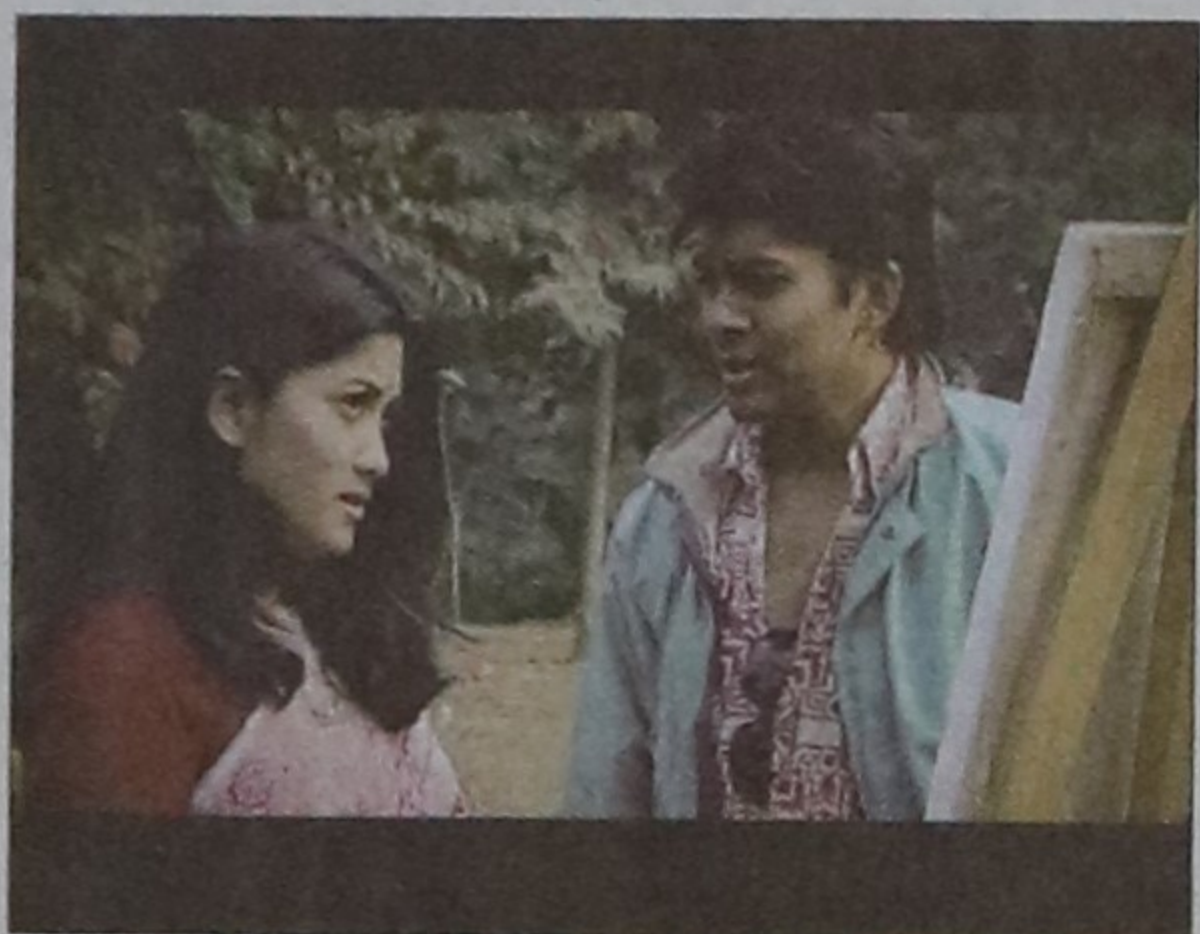
"Saltamami", a special programme on the last three years of Banglavisión will be aired on 12:30 pm. The programme is hosted by Sharmin Lucky.

Shapludur Gaan:

A special episode of "Shapludur Gaan" will be telecast at 2:30 pm. The programme is hosted by Lara Lotus.

Live With

A band show featuring live performance by the Miles will be aired at 6:25 pm. Tania Hossain will host the



Srabonti and Jitu Ahsan in "Buk Pocket-ey Jol Kada". Monalisa and Joy play central roles in "Emotion".

programme.

TV Play: "Buk Pocket-ey Jol Kada"

TV play "Buk Pocket-ey Jol Kada"

will be telecast at 8:15 pm. The play is directed by Masud Hassan. The cast includes Srabonti, Jitu Ahsan, Golam Faruk and others.

TV play "Emotion"

As part of its special anniversary programme, Banglavisión will air single episode TV play "Emotion" at 11:10 pm.



Week-long book fair ends in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Seven eminent personalities were honoured with awards at a function in Sylhet held Saturday night for their achievements in different fields. The awardees are Major General CR Dutta Bir Uttam (retired) for his role in the Liberation War, Professor Abdul Aziz for his part in the Language Movement, Bidit Lal Das for songs, Abdur Rahim for drama, Dondon Lusai for sports, Rafiqur Rahman for literature and Shamsad Husam for journalism. General Dutta could not be present at the function while Shamsad Husam was abroad.

Sylhet City Corporation Mayor, Badar Uddin

Ahmed Kamran was present as chief guest at the function, while convenor of the Boi Mela Committee, Suprio Chakrabarty was the chairperson. Shamsul Basit Shero conducted the event. Boi Mela Parishad, Sylhet organised the week-long fair with assistance from the City Corporation. As many as 31 stalls graced the fair while over a hundred new books were published.

The mayor expressed the hope that the book fair would be organised on a larger scale in the future and efforts would be made to make it a regular event.

The book fair, held at the Srihatta Sangskrit College premises, attracted a sizeable number of visitors of all age groups.

Several organisations presented sessions of poetry recitation, musical soirees, discussions, plays, publications etc. The organisations included Chhoralok, Chhara Mancha, Sylhet Natya Parishad, Nrityasram, Metropolitan Kindergarten, Nityamancha, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Naboshikha Natya Dal, Digonto Theatre, Ekushey Theatre, Nagarnat, -Sylhet and Nupur Sangitaloy.

On the concluding day, prior to the award giving function, a discussion and a session of reading from articles was held with Sylhet Sahitya Parishad chief Pulin Roy as chairperson. Poet AK Sheram was present as chief guest while Abdul Malik was the special guest.

World Theatre Day observed in Barisal

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal.

Theatre activists observed World Theatre Day on March 27 with discussions, gatherings and cultural programmes at the Shabdabali Studio Theatre auditorium in Barisal city.

Theatre activists also brought out a procession through the city roads. The Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) of Barisal divisional unit organised the programme.

Syed Dulal presidium member of BGTF delivered the keynote address and presided over the meeting.

Dr. Afsar Ahamad, head of Theatre Department of Jhanginagar University was the chief guest in the programme.

Theatre personalities Nikhil Shen, Mintu Bashu, Kazal Gosh, Saifur Rahaman Miron, Faruk Hossain, Maynul Islam were the speakers.



Theatre activists bring out a procession in Barisal.

PHOTO: STAR

Naomi Campbell rocks Mumbai

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

For the first time, British supermodel Naomi Campbell wrapped herself in a saree and walked down the ramp in Mumbai here on Saturday to pay tribute to the victims of last November's terror attacks in India's financial capital Mumbai.

Dressed in a red saree with intricate designs and wearing traditional Indian jewellery, along with a host of Indian celebrities, 39-year-old Campbell helped raise funds for the city's emergency medical services in a charity show called "Amchi Mumbai" (my Mumbai).

After the show, which was part of Lakme Fashion Week, Campbell, who runs an organisation "Fashion for Charity" set up five years ago, said she loves coming to India and was happy to help the victims of Mumbai terror strikes that killed 166 people.

The International Management Group in America and Europe, for whom Campbell is a model, floated the idea of fashion show to help Mumbai terror attack victims.

Gunmen went on a three-day rampage on some of the most famous landmarks in Mumbai, the financial and entertainment capital of India, killing 166 people.

After the fashion show, the dresses will be auctioned on eBay and the money raised from the auction will go to an organisation founded in 2002 by a group of citizens from Mumbai.

Campbell teamed up with leading New York hotelier of Indian origin Vikram Chatwal to organise the event. According to Chatwal, "The priority is to really help the victims and create awareness... Like New York, Mumbai is always ticking and pulsating and moving forward, and what Naomi is doing with Fashion for Relief, and Fern, will really help the city."

Campbell has the image of a diva often



Campbell sporting a black saree, walks the ramp.

beset by controversies but is one who has never hesitated to chip in when it comes to contribute to a noble cause. Remember, she raised money for victims of Hurricane Katrina in the US in 2005 and again for British flood victims two years later?

Several other celebrities wore T-shirts with inscription "Amchi Mumbai" and Campbell ended up with a black saree with a yellow border.