

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Painting Exhibition

Painter: Biren Shome
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, H-26, Rd-3, Dhanmondi
Date: December 20-January 5
Time: 10am-8pm



Musical Soiree

Marking the Death Anniversaries of Ustad Ayat Ali Khan and Ustad Alauddin Khan
Organiser: Ustad Ayat Ali Khan Sangeet Niketon
Venue: German Cultural Centre, H-10, R-9, Dhanmondi
Date: December 5
Time: 7pm



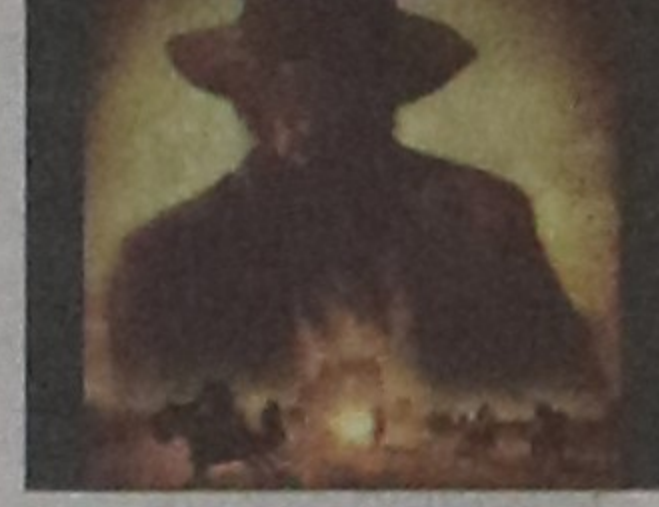
Christmas Carol

Organiser: Incarnation
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Ramna
Date: December 11
Time: 4pm



Film Screening

Film: Blueberry (2004)
Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: December 4
Time: 10:30am & 6pm



“Uttaradhikar”: First Bangladeshi reality show creates ripples

SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

Today, we are in an era of reality television, a place where fiction meets reality. These reality shows not only provide the audience with live unedited, unplanned and unscripted conversations and actions, but in many cases allow viewers to participate in the shows. Following in the footsteps of the international television scenario, Bangladesh has decided to catch up with this new trend. The first reality show, “Uttaradhikar”, has arrived on the scene -- much to the delight of the audience -- and looks like it is here to stay.

“Uttaradhikar” sees 10 celebrities locked up in a luxurious palace, where cameras keep a relentless eye on their every move and record their conversations.

Though the *zamindar* ensures that their stay in his sprawling palace is comfortable, the celebrities are virtually under ‘house arrest’ as they are completely cut off from the outside world, which includes their friends and families. Each participant has a different attitude, thought process, behaviour and lifestyle but requires the ability to survive individually as well as a cooperative team member in order to carry on the game and come out as the winner.

The show reveals how they support one another and even yell and get angry at each other or engage in heated arguments. To add to the excitement, there is also a room where they can communicate with the *zamindar* and get an opportunity to voice their true feelings for and against each other. The



“Uttaradhikar” sees 10 celebrities locked up in a luxurious palace, where cameras keep a relentless eye on their every move and record their conversations.

show has managed to quench our innate curiosity about some of the celebrities of the entertainment industry,

revealing the best and worst side of each contestant.

Gradually, each housemate will be evicted from the palace and the last contestant remaining in the palace will be declared the winner and will go on to become the heir or the “Uttaradhikar” of the 100-year-old *zamindar bari*. The participants on the show include actors, singers and models like Shimul, Shahriar Nazim Joy, Tushar Khan, Fardin Khan, Jon, Flora Gawhar, Lila, Sana, Lora Lotus and Shmila.

Talking about his role in the show, actor Shimul commented, “It’s an incredible story and really interesting like the stories we heard as kids which is why being involved with ‘Uttaradhikar’ has been so exciting.”

According to actress Elora Gawhar, “It is like an adven-

ture for us to be a part of the show and an adventure for the viewers to see us on screen.” Model Emi stated, “I have to agree, this is a once in a lifetime chance which is why I had to say yes, plus with a great prize who wouldn’t want to be a *zamindar*?”

The reality show has managed to put these celebrities in real life situations, allowing fans the exhilaration of watching them. Simply put, it is a reality show, which has truly entertained and touched the audience.

As the old saying goes, “Sometimes reality is stranger than fiction.” Well, all the viewers glued to the TV better be prepared to be surprised or even shocked as something far more real and far stranger unravels on the small screen.

The writer is a freelance contributor

Min’yo: Folk music from the Land of the Rising Sun

A Japanese troupe, consisting of six folk musicians, will perform at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on December 8 and 9, says a press release.

In association with Japan Foundation, the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will jointly organise this two-day event.

Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Information, has given consent to grace the event as the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony on December 8. Tamotsu Shinotsuka, the Japanese Ambassador, will be present as the guest of honour.

The visiting musicians will introduce Japanese culture through *Min’yo* or traditional folk songs of Japan. The singers will present folk songs from all over Japan. Performances will also include seasonal compositions and songs rendered to provide some relief during hard labour along with some instrumental tunes featuring traditional



Six musicians will perform *Min’yo* or traditional folk songs of Japan at BSA on December 8 and 9.

Japanese instruments like *shamisen*, *shakuhach* and *taiko*.

Japanese and Bangladeshi musicians will perform fusion

music in view of exchanging musical understanding of the two nations. The concert on December 9 (at 6:30 pm) will be open to public.

“Park-er Jibon” going to Kolkata Short Film Festival



Bangladeshi filmmaker Shahiduzzaman Badar’s “Park-er Jibon” is participating at the upcoming Kolkata Short Film Festival being held at Nandan in West Bengal, says a press release.

The five-minute and thirty second film zooms in on a family of flower vendors who spend their days in the park. The film has been produced by Dhaka Photographic Institute.

The festival (from December 6 to 12) is being jointly organised by Chitrabani and Nandan.

Solidarity against terror through music and poetry

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It was a powerful ode against terror.

The solemnity of the winter evening at the iconic India Gate here was heightened by several notches as playback singer Shreya Ghosal belted out the Rabindra Sangeet “Jodi tor daak shuney keu na aashey” and tennis ace Sania Mirza recited the English translation of the Nobel Laureate’s poem “Chitto Jetha Bhoyshunno Uchcho Jetha Shir”.

The occasion was the observance of the first anniversary of the deadly Mumbai terror attacks which had left 166 people dead in November last year and it saw leading artistes, athletes, politicians, bureaucrats and some brave hearts who survived the incident, here last Sunday.

It was on this day that Indian security forces had ended the 60-hour dance of death unleashed by terrorists in the heart of the country’s financial capital.

Organised by the Indian Home Ministry, the event saw prominent personalities from the different fields, including Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, actress-director Nandita Das, playback singer Kavita Krishnamurthy, lyricist Javed Akhtar, Olympic gold medal winner shooter Abhinav Bindra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram, coming

together to send out a strong message against terror and express solidarity with the victims of Mumbai terror attack.

For a change, it was the artistes and athletes who did the talking and the politicians and bureaucrats just listened.

Shah Rukh said how “devils in every religion created a new religion called terror-religion.”

He said it was important that this “terror-religion” is destroyed. “I’m often asked about my views on terrorism. There can be no two opinions on that.”

Javed Akhtar recited his own poem written just three days back: “Koi dildaar ban key aaye toh dildaar hum bhi hain/ magar jo dushmani chhedhi toh taiyaar hum bhi hain” (if one with a gracious heart approaches us, we will

reciprocate but if one comes as an enemy, we too are ready to respond).

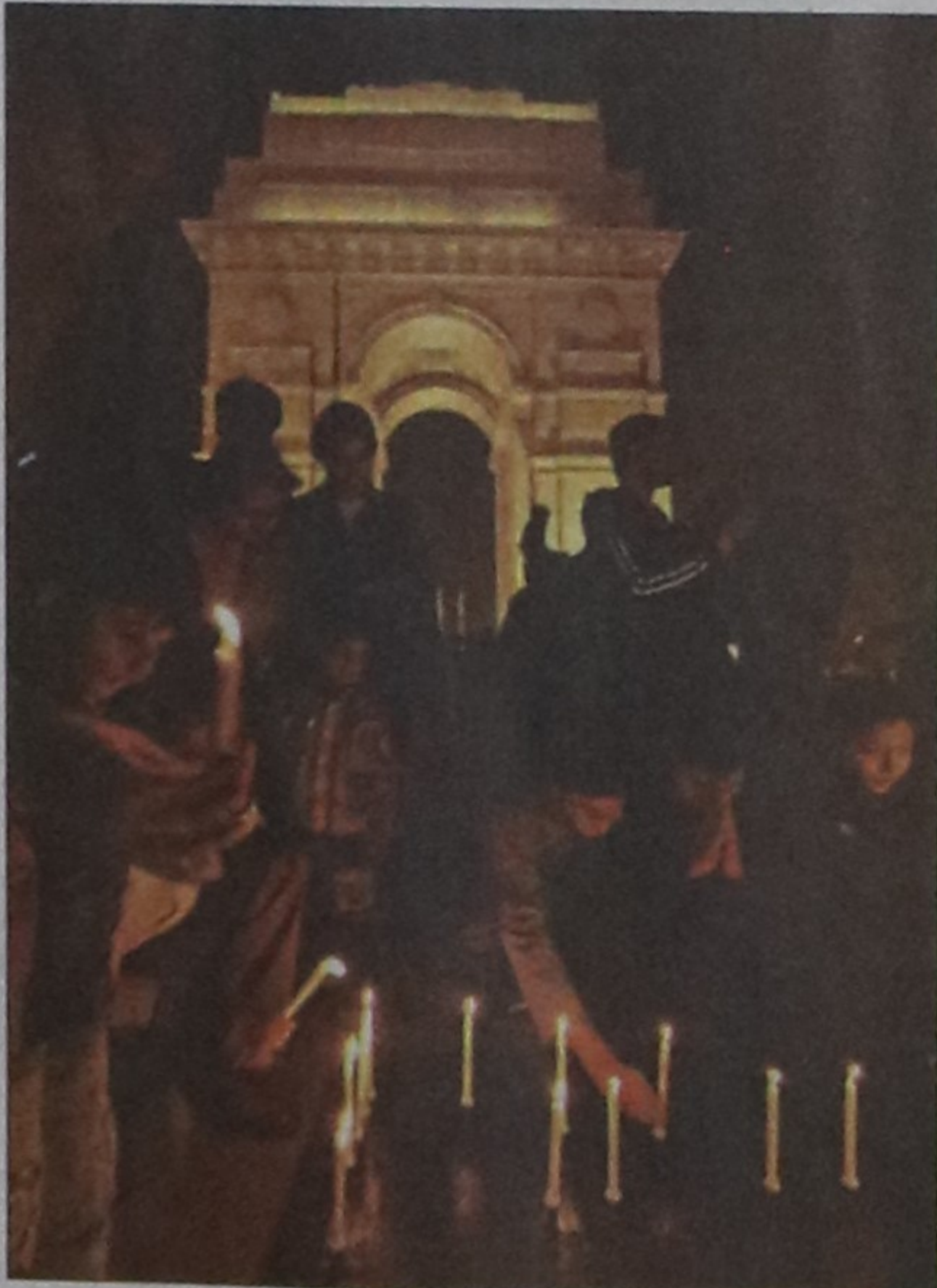
Singer Shilpa Rao rendered the song “Vaishnava jan...” immortalised by the voice of legendary Lata Mangeshkar while violinist L. Subramaniam and singers Shankar Mahadevan, Shreya Ghosal and Kavita Krishnamurthy performed to spread the message of the resolve to stand up against terror.

Sania Mirza fell back to Tagore’s poem to make her anti-terror statement while Abhinav Bindra said that as an athlete he has realised that winning against terror was the only option.

Conceptualised and directed by Bollywood director Feroz Abbas Khan and hosted by Nandita Das, the hour-long programme, held against the backdrop of an illuminated India Gate, came to an end with the rendition of the national anthem in which everyone present at the function lent their voice.

Vishnu Saktham Zende, the announcer of Indian Railways who was on duty when the terrorists had struck at the railway station in Mumbai on November 26 night and saved the lives of many with his announcements over public address system, was also present at the function.

As the winter evening mist started gathering, the message of solidarity in the fight against terror warmed up the hearts of all those present at the event as also those who saw it beamed it live through television.



People light candles in memory of those who died in the 2008 terror attack on Mumbai, on the first anniversary of the attack, at the India Gate monument in New Delhi, India on November 26, 2009.

Top Asian cameraman expresses distaste of digital

AP, Hong Kong

A top Asian cinematographer has expressed his distaste for digital cameras in a recently released book, complaining about having to use them to shoot an adaptation of Haruki Murakami’s hit novel “Norwegian Wood.”

Cannes-winning Taiwanese cameraman Mark Lee Ping-bing says in an interview published in “A Poet of Light and Shadow” -- a collection of his still photographs -- that shooting in digital format takes away the artistry of camera work and lighting because you can immediately see your work on a display monitor and fix it -- as opposed to waiting to develop the film.

Lee, best known as a frequent collaborator with his countryman, director Hou Hsiao-hsien, also complained that digital technology allows filmmakers to fix flaws by computer afterward instead of doing things right on the set.

“Film is unknown, uncertain. It’s a chemical reaction. To be frank, it’s a little

bit like painting. So if you’re technical skills and experience aren’t up to part, you’ll think that HD (high-definition digital video) is very easy to use,” Lee said in the book.

“But HD is different. There is a monitor. It shows what you have shot. You’ll know if it’s a little dark in one part and you need to add a bit of light. Everything is on the monitor. Everything is OK if you have the monitor. All the expectation and the texture is gone,” he said.

Lee also denounced the practice of covering up visual flaws on computers.

“Maybe there is a kid who knows about how to play computer games, or is sensitive to colour -- they can get the job done. But if everything can be changed by computer, then this is not a form of art,” he said.

Lee said he didn’t enjoy shooting digital for Tran Anh Hung’s recent adaptation of “Norwegian Wood,” but the French-Vietnamese director insisted on it because he liked the outcome of his previous movie, “I Come with the Rain.” He said the Japanese production com-

pany, Asmik Ace Entertainment Inc., also wanted to use film to portray the popular love story set in 1960s Tokyo.

Lee said he avoided looking at the display monitor when shooting “Norwegian Wood.”

“I didn’t want to be affected, to be controlled by it,” he said.

Besides the ease of transfer and computer manipulation, the digital format is also popular with filmmakers because it is significantly cheaper than film and allows them to experiment without worrying about cost.

Besides Hou and Tran, Lee has also worked with Hong Kong’s Wong Kar-wai and Ann Hui. China’s Tian Zhuangzhuang and Jiang Wen, as well as Japan’s Hirokazu Kore-eda. He won the technical grand prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 2000 for shooting Wong’s romance, “In the Mood for Love.”

Kayo Yoshida, an executive at Asmik Ace Entertainment, declined to comment on Lee’s remarks.

“A Poet of Light and Shadow” was published in November.

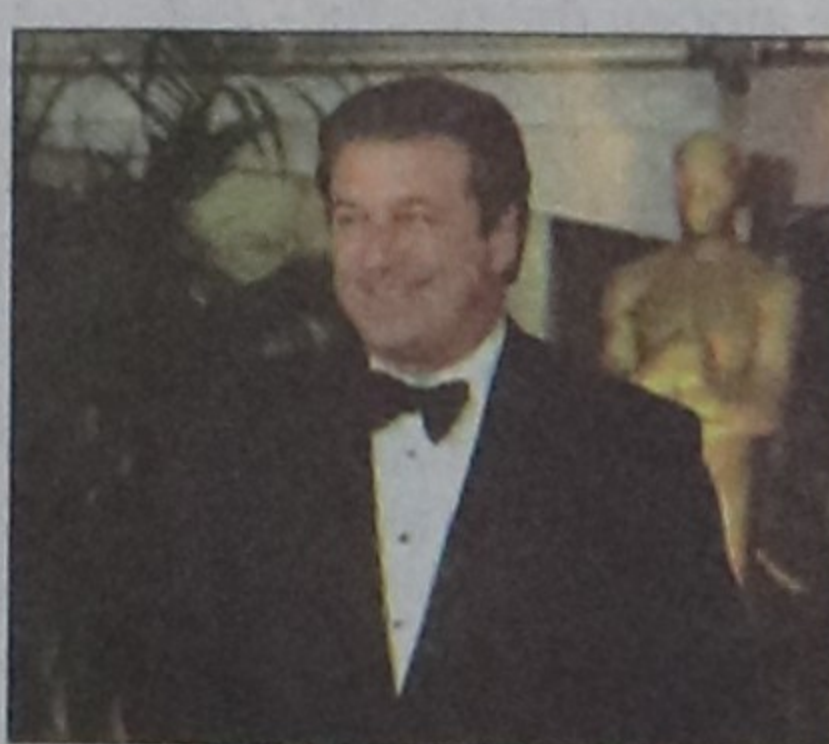
Alec Baldwin says he’ll quit acting after “30 Rock”

He found the role that defined his career in the NBC sitcom, but “30 Rock” actor Alec Baldwin says he is prepared to leave the acting profession altogether in 2012.

The Emmy award winner told Men’s Journal that he is calling it quits when his contract for the hit show expires in two years. “I don’t have any interest in acting anymore,” he said. “I’m not young, but I have time to do something else.”

This isn’t the first time Baldwin, 51, has grumbled over his intent to leave the industry.

“In March 2012, I’ll wake up and say, ‘What am I going to do now? Am I done?’ I think I will be done. I may finish a play or something, but I’m retiring at the wrap



Alec Baldwin

party,” the actor said.

Baldwin, who won his second Emmy award for the NBC series this fall, also

admitted that he has been disappointed with his performance on the big screen, which doesn’t bode well for the Christmas Day release of his latest film, “It’s Complicated,” with Meryl Streep and Steve Martin.

“I consider my entire movie career a complete failure. I’ll tell you why. The goal of moviemaking is to star in a film where your performance drives the film, and the film is either a soaring critical or commercial success, and I never had that,” Baldwin said.

Baldwin is set to co-host the Academy Awards in March with Martin.

Source: CNN