

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

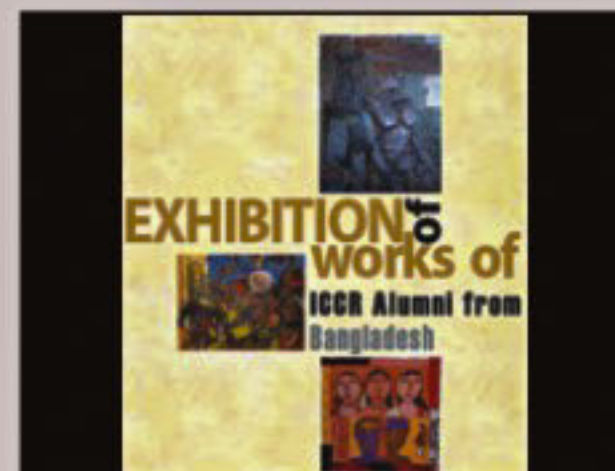
Dance Programme
 Title: Sufi Kathak
 Artist: Manjari Chaturvedi (India)
 Organisers: Indian High Commission & ICCR
 Venue: National Theatre Hall
 Date: March 11, Time: 7pm



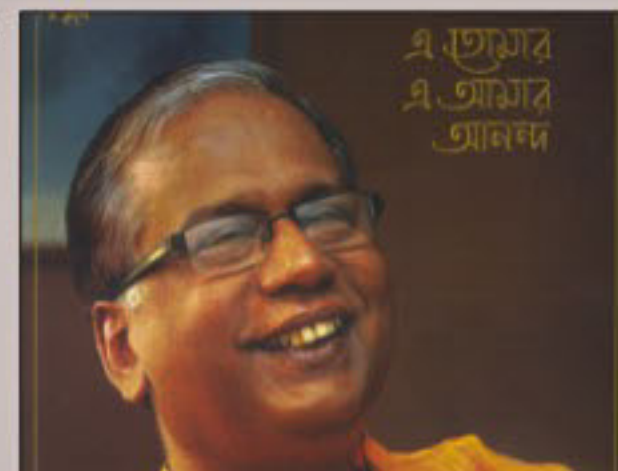
11th Int'l Short & Independent Film Festival
 Organiser: Bangladesh Short Film Forum
 Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbagh
 Date: March 4-12
 Time: 11am onwards



Group Art Exhibition
 Organiser: High Commission of India, Dhaka and ICCR
 Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
 Date: March 10-23
 Time: 10am-6pm



Cultural Programme
 To celebrate Nasiruddin Yousuff's receiving of 'Ekushey Padak'
 Organiser: Bangladesh Gram Theatre
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: March 12
 Time: 4:30pm onwards



Recalling 1971

Special programmes at TSC

MAINUL HASSAN

On the 26th of this month, we will be celebrating 39 years of Independence. However, the nation still awaits the trial of war criminals who had carried out heinous brutalities against those who wanted a free country. Addressing the issue, cultural organisation Shammilito Shangkritik Jote (SSJ), in association with Sector Commanders Forum (SCF), is holding a programme at Shonarjito Swadhinota Chattar, TSC.

The programme, titled "Juddhaporadhider Bicharey Oikyabodho Jati", began from March 9. The programme will continue till March 26.

"Today's programme marks the beginning of an elaborate campaign, we will hold special programmes -- rallies, long march, cultural programmes -- across the country to raise awareness on the need for the trial of war criminals," said Hassan Arif, general secretary, SSJ.

Nasiruddin Yousuff, president, SSJ and Golam Kuddus, vice president, SSJ were among others who attended the inauguration. M. Hamid, and Major (ret'd) Shamsul Arefin, attended the event on behalf of SCF.

Everyday a *muktijoddha* (freedom fighter) will recall his/her experiences from the Liberation War at the programme, making the audience aware of what truly happened during the war and of the sinister roles that the war criminals played back in 1971, said the organisers.

The reminiscence will be followed by cultural performances. Leading cultural organisations including Udichi, and theatre troupes from across the country are expected to perform at the event.

On the opening day seven cultural organisations of youngsters performed at the programme.

Young performers of Kendrio Khelaghar Ashor, Kishor Theatre, Magnolia and Kendrio Alor Bhuban staged songs and dances and recitations.

Duranto Theatre staged "Jago Bangali", Kanon Theatre staged "Haturey Doctor" and Moitry Children Theatre Troupe staged "Oder Biruddhey Projonmo". The street plays addressed the trial of war criminals and other social issues.

The performances by young artistes drew in a huge crowd at the TSC Swarak Dwip.

Mannan Hira, president, Bangladesh Patha Natak Parishad; Mizanur Rahman, general secretary, BPNP; Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and representatives of other cultural organisations were present at the event.

SSJ will hold special programmes celebrating the Independence Day at Central Shaheed Minar from March 24 to 26. Similar programmes will be held at Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi.

"We will also light candles at the monument at Razarbagh on March 25 in memory of those killed on the fateful night in 1971," informed Hassan Arif.

Farida Zaman's solo exhibition in Kolkata



Farida Zaman

A CORRESPONDENT

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (Kolkata) and Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts have jointly organised a twelve daylong solo exhibition of Bangladeshi painter Farida Zaman. The exhibition, titled "Nature and Life", is now being held at the Jamini Roy Gallery, Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR, Kolkata.



A painting by the artist.

A noticeable feature of the artist's works is the depiction of riverine life in Bangladesh. Her works movingly articulate the lives of fishermen and women.

Cats, fish, birds, fishing nets and dusky women are other recurring subjects in her paintings. She usually uses crimson, blue, yellow, orange, brown, black and other bold hues. Her line drawings are one of her main traits, and the lines, dots and various familiar forms are inspired

by Bangladeshi folk elements.

Her works truly document the everyday joys and woes of the fishermen community and rural life.

Farida Zaman was born in 1953. She had studied in Dhaka and Shantiniketan (West Bengal). The artist has held five solo exhibitions and participated in many group exhibitions at home and abroad.

The exhibition in Kolkata ends on March 20.

Street theatre festival in Narayanganj

Featuring several troupes from Dhaka, a two-day street theatre festival, "Muktho Natya Mela", will be held in Narayanganj on March 11-12, according to a press release.

Among the Dhaka troupes, Theatre Art Unit, Prachyanat, Opera and Central Theatre Department of Udichi will stage plays. Narayanganj troupes including Natua, Unmesh, Ekota Khelaghar Ashor, Narayanganj Udichi and Aikik Theatre will also stage plays at the festival.

Aikik Theatre is the organiser of the festival. The plays will be staged at the Narayanganj Central Shaheed Minar premises. Veteran cultural personality of Narayanganj, Abdur Rahman will inaugurate the festival. Ten plays will be staged throughout the festival.

Ravi Shankar, daughter perform together in Australia



Ravi Shankar (right) performs with daughter Anoushka.

Ravi Shankar is proud of bringing Indian music to the Western world over the past 60 years, but he's prouder still of passing on his composing and sitar-playing skills to his daughter Anoushka.

The sitar legend, who will be 90 in three weeks, and Anoushka, 28, were the headline act at the closing day (March 8) of this year's Womadelaide world music festival.

Shankar, who arrived in Adelaide with his daughter at the weekend, said he had no intention of giving up performing, recording or writing because

of his age.

"Music is what keeps me going," he said.

"I can never stop thinking of new things, composing new things."

Anoushka, whose half-sister is jazz-pop star Norah Jones, has her own recording career and has been playing sitar since childhood.

"I started performing with him (Ravi Shankar) when I was 13 but I've been learning from him since I was nine," she said.

"It does put a bit of pressure on you learning from a master but it's a

high standard.

"If your teacher is that incredible then your education is that incredible."

Shankar was largely responsible for introducing Indian music to Western culture in the 1960s. His appearance at the Monterey and Woodstock festivals in the 1960s made him a star in the US. His work remains an influence on many styles of music. He has just completed a sitar symphony that will have its debut, performed by the London Philharmonic in the British capital, in July.

He said his famous associations with Western musicians such as violinist Yehudi Menuhin and Beatle George Harrison had helped him on his way to a long, successful career.

"Meeting people like Menuhin had an impact because my music became immediately so well known," he said.

"The second influence was much later, of course, and for the young generation George Harrison. Both of them helped a lot in bringing out my music all over the world."

Harrison was Shankar's student during the Beatles era and the two musicians worked together in concert and on each other's recordings afterwards.

Now the collaboration is with Anoushka, who hopes her solo work will carry on and further the cause of sitar music made famous by her father.

Source: Internet

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre to be inaugurated today

A CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Karan Singh, president of the prestigious Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) will inaugurate the new Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka today. The centre aims to promote bilateral exchanges in the fields of art, culture, literature and language.

On the eve of the inauguration, this correspondent had the opportunity to

talk to Dr Bharati Ray, the Kolkata-based vice-president of ICCR, about the spin offs of the centre. "We must not forget our roots and the similarity in our history, geography and culture. The centre will strengthen the existing intellectual, cultural and academic exchange between the two countries," said Dr Ray.

Cultural personalities in Dhaka look forward to the establishment of the centre. Said Lubna Mariam, the

founder-general secretary of cultural organisation Shadhona. "By setting up the centre, ICCR is reiterating its commitment to strengthen cultural ties with Bangladesh."

Meanwhile, Luva Nahid Chowdhury, singer and director general of the Bengal Foundation, is equally upbeat. "Artistes from Bangladesh, both in the performing and visual arts, will be able to receive the same level of training here as they would in India," she said.

Oscar's big question How did David slay Goliath?

AP, New York

For Hollywood pundits, industry folk and Oscar fans still paying attention, a major question remained: How did David slay Goliath?

For as much as "The Hurt Locker" was the critics' darling, it had three major strikes against it in its battle against the mighty James Cameron's "Avatar."

First, the box office was paltry -- it's taken in just \$14.7 million domestically, compared to an amazing \$720.6 million for "Avatar." That makes "The Hurt Locker" the lowest-grossing best picture winner since accurate records have been kept.

Second, it had no big acting names, usually an important factor in Oscar victory.

And third, it was about the Iraq war, a subject moviegoers traditionally just don't want to deal with.

How did "The Hurt Locker" win out? Theories abound:

Finally a non-political film about Iraq: Many films about the Iraq war have fallen into a trap of appearing preachy or at least having a strong point of view. Viewers may or may not agree with that view -- that still doesn't mean they want to get it in the movies.

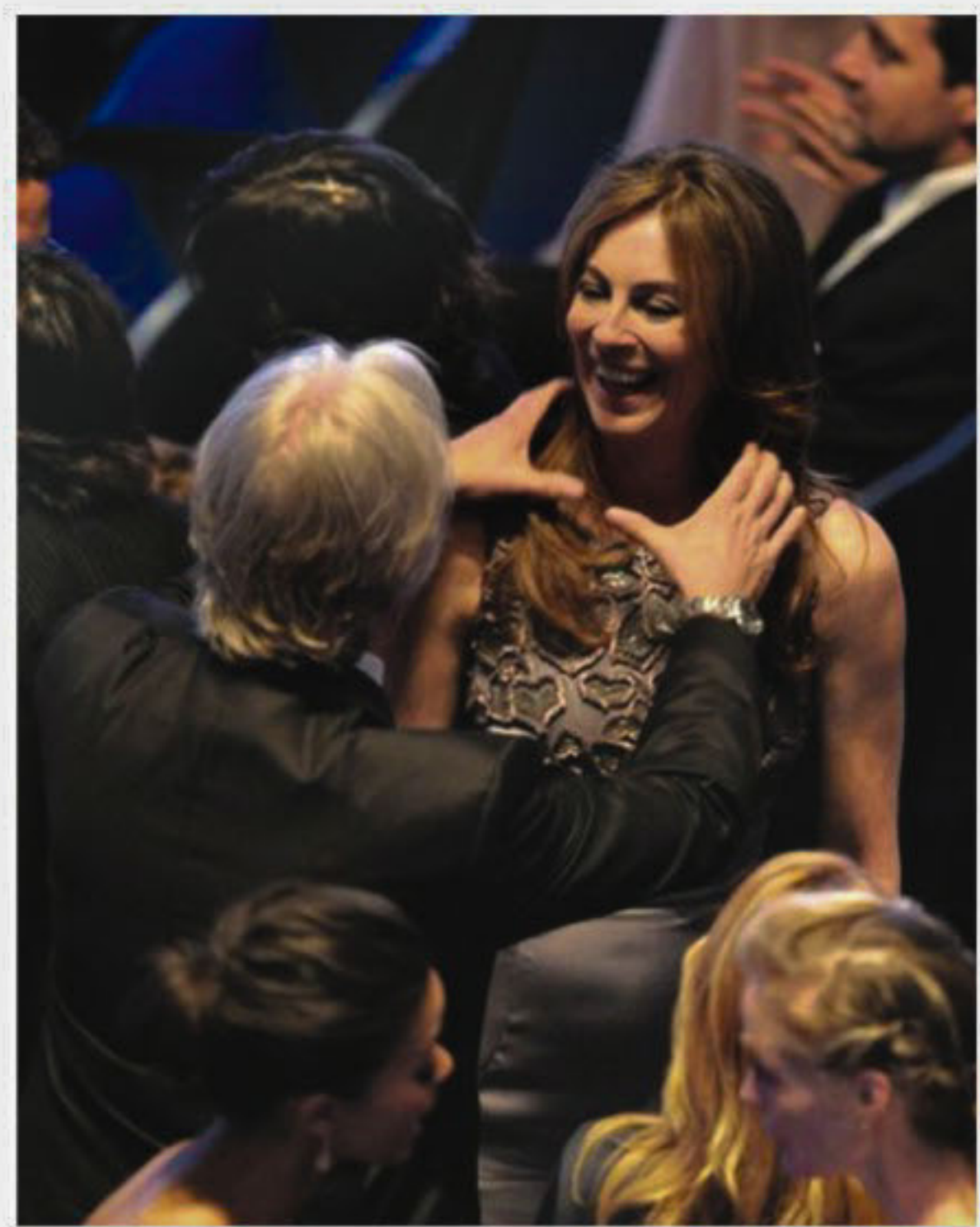
But "The Hurt Locker," a story of three technicians on a bomb-defusing team in Baghdad, is at heart an action movie -- a documentary-style close-up of the men, their relationships, their missteps and the almost unbearable tension inherent in their exhausting, terrifying, tedious work.

Oscar voters don't care about box office: Who says Oscar cares about box office? "The Oscars don't pay attention to that at all, and nor should they," Maltin says. In fact, he adds, they've often been accused of being too elitist, favouring independent movies over big films favoured by the broader public.

The woman factor: As compelling as her movie was, director Kathryn Bigelow had a compelling story of her own. This director who specialises not in female-oriented films but in big action thrillers had a real shot at becoming the first woman in Oscar history to win the best director prize, with her film winning best picture, too.

Yet Bigelow tried to downplay that element of her story, saying in interviews that she just wanted to be seen as a filmmaker, not a female one.

The ex factor: Nor did Bigelow have any desire to capitalise on the "Ex Factor" -- in case you're way behind on your Oscar gossip, she



James Cameron (left) and Kathryn Bigelow are seen before the start of the 82nd Academy Awards on March 7, 2010.

was married to Cameron from 1989-91. Were there some voters who were secretly rooting for her to leave him in the dust? No way of knowing, and the two seemed amicable through the awards season, with him standing and cheering as she won her Oscar. Still, there's no doubt that the "battle of the exes" (ok, we're done with the puns) added to the hype.

The voting system: Then there was the new system for choosing best picture, with 10 nominees this year instead of the usual five. In previous years, a voter would simply make one choice for best picture. But this year's ballots had a preferential system, meaning voters ranked their choices. The lowest choices were then eliminated. That meant it was a system that favoured consensus choices, some hypothesised.

How about... it's just a really good movie: "Look at all the awards this film won -- screenplay, sound, editing," notes Sklar, the NYU film professor and author of "Movie-Made America."

"The sheer quality of the work must have influenced a lot of the professionals in the industry who were voting. It's just such a well-made movie from aesthetic and technical point of view, it overcomes all those other concerns."

And so maybe it's this simple: In the end, good writing, superb acting and just plain excellent filmmaking do win out in Hollywood.

Sometimes.

Cultural events in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The 100th International Women's Day was observed in Satkhira. Local NGOs chalked out several programmes including discussion, rally and cultural events in the district town to mark the Day.

District Women's Directorate and the 100th International Women's Day celebration committee, a platform of 37 NGOs, held a daylong programme at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park.

NGO workers, cultural activists, farmers, teachers, journalists, lawyers, government officials and young-



A group dance performance at the programme. PHOTO: STAR

sters of the town participated in the rally, which paraded the thoroughfares of the town.

A discussion was held in the par with District Women's Directorate officer Taramoyee Mukherjee

in the chair.

Satkhira ADC (General) Mukesh Chandra Biswas was the chief guest while Satkhira Municipality Mayor Sheikh Ashrafal Haque was the special guest.

Violence, in many forms, affects girls from the time they are in the wombs of their mothers, speakers said. Different forms of cruelty occur at every stage of life and need to be addressed at every level, they added.

After the discussion a cultural function including songs, dances and plays -- to create awareness among the people to ensure women's rights -- was also held at the same venue.