

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Group Art Exhibition
 Organiser: Gallery Chitrak
 Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
 Inauguration: April 3 at 6pm
 Date: April 3-12
 Time: 10am-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi
 Date: April 10-19
 Time: 3pm-9pm



Musical Soiree
 Title: Pran-er Khela
 Artist: Rathindra Nath Roy
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-275/F, R-27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: April 12
 Time: 7:30pm



Chaitrosankrantir Book Fair
 Organised by: Adom Publication
 Venue: Central Public Library Premises, Shahbag
 Date: April 1-13
 Time: 10am 8pm



National Film Award winners' reactions

A CORRESPONDENT

National Film Awards for the year 2008 were announced on February 11. An eleven-member jury, chaired by the additional secretary to the Ministry of Information, selected the winners for 24 awards in 23 categories. Young filmmaker Murad Parvez's "Chandragrahan" bagged the best film award.

Reactions from some of the winners:

Popy (best actress, for her role in "Megher Koley Roud"):

This is my second National Film Award, but I was so excited that I felt that I got it for the first time. It feels great to be recognised for my work. When I work, I do it without any expectation -- I just put my mind to it and try to bring out the best. I want to thank the whole team -- everyone from the directors to technicians.

Kabir Bakul (best lyricist, for his song in "Megher Koley Roud"):

This was my first National Award. It's a dream come true. Every creative individual wants recognition of his/her work. I dedicate this award to the late Pranab Ghosh, who inspired me greatly. I missed him a lot at the awards ceremony.

Alam Khan (best composer, for "Ki Jadu Korila"):

It's wonderful! This is my sixth National Award. It's been an immense pleasure to have my work properly evaluated and recognised.

Dilara Zaman (best supporting actress, for "Chandragrahan"):

I'm very happy. It's nice to know that I have found a place in peoples' hearts. Earlier I received Ekushey Padak but this is my first National Award.

Gulshan Ara Chompa (best supporting actress, also for "Chandragrahan"):

This is my fifth National Award. I'm ecstatic for two reasons -- I received



Popy



Kabir Bakul



Alam Khan



Dilara Zaman



Gulshan Ara Chompa



Kanak Chapa

the prize from my favourite personality and this award recognises my efforts in portraying a difficult character (of a mentally unstable woman) in "Chandragrahan". To look the part, I had to go without bathing for days. My character repeated only these words --

"O baba rey!" I had to make the audience understand the hunger, torment and helplessness my character felt with these words and my gestures.

Kanak Chapa (best female playback singer, for "Ek Takar Bou"): Winning this award is a mat-

ter of great honour. It is a major recognition for me, but the true reward is the love and support of music enthusiasts and my near and dear ones. I thank them for their continuous support.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (centre, first row) with winners of National Film Awards for 2008.

Reader's Corner

Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC

ZEENAT KHAN

Every year US capital Washington, DC welcomes the arrival of spring with the two-week Cherry Blossom Festival. The event started on March 28th and ends today.

After the long winter, a much-anticipated spring arrives in the nation's capital with grandeur. It is a celebration that resembles a queen's coronation. The arrival of spring here means rebirth of nature in its full glory. It is significant on many levels. The capital city seems to be the only place to celebrate this fitting event. During this two-week long event, about a million people come to the nation's capital to view this spectacular celebration. The kinship between United States and Japan is celebrated in the spring, and it is an event unlike any other that takes place here in Washington, DC.

The story began in the 1900s with a campaign, which urged that Washington needed the lovely flowering Cherry tree from Japan to beautify itself. In 1912 the mayor of Tokyo, Yoko Ozaki presented three thousand cherry tree seedlings to US president Taft as a token of friendship. This was given with the hope that this symbolic gesture will strengthen US-Japan relations, the Cherry trees will grow, and the beautiful flowers would make this nation's capital a magical place to enjoy in the spring.

In Japan, Cherry tree is called "Sakura" which is a flowering plant. The Cherry flowers are a shade of pretty pink and white. The trees in Washington, DC were planted around the Thomas Jefferson Memorial near the tidal basin along the Potomac River. For two weeks in the beginning of spring the streets of the capital are filled with thousands of tourists and local people who come to experience this spectacular occurrence. This is symbolic as well as a fun event for everyone to enjoy. During the two-week period the much-awaited full bloom occurs depending on the weather. And what a breathtaking sight it is!

This particular year marks the 98th anniversary of the gift of Cherry trees and the ongoing friendship between Japan and America. Other than spending endless hours watching the full bloom in its glory, there are a lot of do these two weeks. The event starts with an opening ceremony where both Japanese and US dignitaries attend. There is a stage that is set up near the edge of the tidal basin. On the stage, music, dance and songs are performed by local, national as well as international artists. Hundreds of art and music lovers volunteer their time in order to make this festival a success and continue with this tradition. The beauty of it is that it is open to the public.

More than two hundred cultural performances and special events, from art exhibitions to cuisine and variety shows are performed throughout the day, including repeat performances so that people do not miss out on the major actions. There are Cherry blossom walking tours, Cherry blossom cruises and 'bike the



sites' tour that are organised by the US park services.

And of course, a festival would not be complete without a parade. On April 4, both sides of Constitution Avenue in Washington, DC was filled with spectators to watch the colourful parade. Parents and children gathered at the parade sight from dawn to reserve a good viewing spot.

The Japanese street festival 'Sakura Matsuri' provides thirty-five hours of endless fun. This is where the younger people gather the most; it focuses on modern Japanese culture. A few special events are saved for the evening hours. Some choose to go aboard the Spirit of Washington, a cruise ship for an evening of fun and entertainment with live music, dancing and enjoying a sumptuous buffet dinner, while cruising through the Potomac river.

The Japanese embassy sponsors the annual Lantern Lighting ceremony. The Cherry Blossom princess from the Japanese embassy first salutes all 50 US princesses, then lights the 300-year-old Japanese stone lantern. This symbolises the long lasting friendship between the two countries in different continents.

There is a rare opportunity to visit the Japanese embassy by the fifty pageant princesses from each US state. They are greeted by the official Cherry Blossom princess. Then they are treated to a Japanese Tea ceremony that is held in their honor. There are treats from both America and Japan for the curious eaters of fine cuisine.

Teams from both US and Japan keep the crowd entertained with such skills that one is blown away. There are about estimated one million people who come to Washington, DC to be a part of this enchanting happening. Year after year people come to witness this renewal of friendship between two countries who were on opposite sides during World War II. Along with all the fun activities there is this sense of hope that people feel. This immense sense of optimism is almost contagious.

The Cherry blossom Festival ends with a Cherry blossom grand black-tie gala and the grand finale will have the fireworks. At the gala, the next year's National Cherry blossom Queen is crowned.

Zeenaat Khan is a freelance writer based in the United States

ON AIR

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

BTV
 12:30 Shukhi Paribar
 01:00 Nriyter Taley Taley
 02:15 Bashori
 03:05 Cartoon
 03:30 Shombhabonar Bangladesh
 04:05 Chetonay Muktiyudha
 04:30 Sufi Shadhoker Bangladesh
 05:05 National Television School Debate Competition
 07:00 Muktiyudha Protidin
 07:45 Documentary Programme: Phirey Dekha
 08:25 Etihash Oitijhye Bangladesh
 08:30 Krishi Dibanishi
 09:00 Pachage Drama Serial:

ntv
 09:30 Bioscopewala Package Drama Serial: Golmal
 10:25 Smriti Jagania
ATN BANGLA
 12:30 National Cricket League T20 (Live)
 01:25 Cholochchitr Golpo
 05:30 Aynar Shamney
 06:15 The Lost World
 12:00 Grameenphone Lead News
CHANNEL i
 11:30 Special Programme
 01:05 Musical Programme: Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma
 04:05 Muktiyudha Protidin
 04:30 Arshinagar
 05:30 Drama Serial: Meyeti Dhaka Jachchhey
 06:00 Jibon Jekhaney Jemon
 11:30 Travel On
 12:00 Grameenphone Aajker Sangbadpatra
ntv
 02:30 Drama Serial: Chokkor Shanto Kutir
 03:15 Quiz Show: Janar Achhey Boiaar Achhey
 05:30 Apnaar Jigyasha
 06:40 Unnoyoner Jonyo Shouharo
 09:30 Boishakhi Kahon
ETV
 11:30 Ekusher Business
 02:02 Desh Jurey
 02:30 Ekusher Business
 03:30 Deho Ghari
 04:30 Street Magic

05:25 Kobi O Kobita
 05:45 Sports Plus
 06:30 Desh Jurey
 07:50 Tomi Miyar Recipe
Rtv
 02:03 Bangla Feature Film Protidin
 06:03 Crime Focus
 06:45 Road To Democracy
 09:25 R Music
 11:30 Good Short
 12:00 Cinema Aar Gaan
DESH TV
 05:30 Dur Paath
 06:30 Bazarey Notun
 07:45 Dekhao Apon Protibha Mukhoshey Mukhoshey
 08:15 Shimanto
 10:30 Total Sports
BANGLAVISION
 11:35 Shoundarjo Katha
 02:30 Bangla Feature Film
 06:05 Sports Time
 06:40 Point of Order

09:05 Cookery Show: Amader Ranna Ghar
 12:00 Shangbad Protidin
HBO
 10:30 Nancy Drew
 12:30 Close Encounters Of The Third Kind (Director's Cut)
 03:15 Batman: Gotham Knight
 04:45 Mortal Kombat Annihilation
 06:45 The Interpreter
 09:30 American Ninja
 11:30 Nancy Drew
BBC WORLD
 12:00 BBC World News
 12:30 World Business Report
 12:45 Sport Today
 01:00 BBC World News
 01:30 World Business Report
 01:45 Sport Today
 02:00 BBC World News
 02:30 HARDtalk (r)
 03:00 BBC World News
 03:30 World Business Report
 03:45 Sport Today
 04:00 BBC World News

04:30 World Business Report
 04:45 Sport Today
 05:00 GMT with George Alagiah
 06:00 BBC World News
 06:30 World Business Report
 06:45 Sport Today
 07:00 Impact Asia with Mishal Husain
 08:30 World Business Report
 08:45 Sport Today
 09:00 BBC World News
 09:30 HARDtalk (r)
 10:00 The Hub with Nik Gowing
 11:30 World Business Report
ESPN
 11:30 H2O Sports International
 12:00 Fina Aquatics World
 12:00 Sec Women's Gymnastics Championship
 06:30 Jet Sprint World Championships
 07:30 Premier League Highlights
 08:30 Sportscenter India
 09:00 Sportscenter Asia
 09:30 Jet Sprint World Championships
 10:30 Sportscenter India

Talk show

ATN BANGLA
 12:30am Hello Bangladesh
CHANNEL i
 09:50am Grameenphone Trinitomatra
ntv
 12:00am Ei Shomoy
ETV
 10:10pm O Bondhu Amar
BANGLAVISION
 11:20pm Onno Nayan
Desh TV
 11:45pm Shoja Katha

Drama Serial

ATN BANGLA
 08:00pm Chhannochthara
CHANNEL i
 09:35pm Gonber Kopaley Shanti Nai
 10:00pm Aalo Chhayya
ntv
 08:15pm Mamuli Ekta Manush
 09:45pm Dhupchhaya
ETV
 08:20pm Gurin
 09:30pm Lollita
DESH TV
 09:45pm Noditye Ondhokaar
BANGLAVISION
 08:15pm Babar Hotel
 09:45pm Diba Raatri
 Khola Thakay

News Bulletin

BTV
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 am.
 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am
 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
 News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
 Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).
CHANNEL-i
 News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN BANGLA
 NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am
News Every Hour:
 7:00am, 11:00am, 12:00pm, 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm
News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.
BANGLAVISION
 News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm
abc radio
 News: 08:00 am, 12:00 pm, 03:00 pm, 06:00 pm, 09:00 pm, 12:00 am;
 English Bulletin: 1:30pm, 7:30pm
 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
ETV
 News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ntv
 News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm,



Shimanto
 On Desh TV at 8:15 pm
 Drama Serial
 Cast: Subarna Mustafa, Jitu Ahsan



The Interpreter
 On HBO at 6:45 pm
 Genre: Drama/Mystery
 Cast: Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn



Boishakhi Kahon
 On ntv at 9:30pm



abc radio FM 89.2
 06:00 Bhorer Janalay
 09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney
 12:00 Darun Dupurey
 03:00 Duranto Bikeley
 05:00 Shondhalara
 07:00 Shajer Maya
 09:00 Raat-er Akashy
 11:00 Golper Shesh Nei
RADIO FOORTI 88.0 FM
 07:30 Hello Dhaka
 10:00 Morning Express
 12:00 My Time
 01:00 No Tension
 04:00 Dhaka Calling
 09:00 Night Rider
 01:00 Back to Back music
RADIO TODAY 89.6 FM
 07:15 Good Morning Dhaka
 11:00 Musti Unlimited
 01:00 Today's Adda
 04:00 U Turn
 08:00 Tobey Tai
 11:00 Raa! Bhor Gaan
 12:00 Today's Happy Moments