

WHAT'S ON

Children's Art Exhibition Title: Mizutshishi Asian Children's Enikka Festa Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy Date: March 18-23

Group Art Exhibition In Memory of Dwebeto Das Dev Venue: Zaimal Gallery, FFA, University of Dhaka Date: March 12-17 Time: 10am-8pm

Film Show Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society Venue: Hussain Cultural Centre Auditorium, H-510, B-7, Dhanmondi Date: March 16-17, Time: 3pm

Exhibition Title: Peace Women Across the Globe, Peace Women Across Bangladesh Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi Date: March 9-19

Solo Photography Exhibition Photographer: Nipmuzzaman Prince Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi Date: March 25-April 6

Hindustani Classical Musical Sotiree Artist: Padma Bibhabori Pandit Jasraj Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA, Date: March 18; Time: 6:30pm

Theatre Play: Bhumadhyosagar Troupe: Oboyob Natyadala Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: March 17 at 7pm

Solo Printmaking Exhibition Artist: Sanhita Ghosh Venue: Zaimal Gallery, FFA, University of Dhaka Date: March 13-17

Group Art exhibition Title: Women in Nature Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15/A, Dhanmondi Date: March 17-23 Time: 3pm-8pm



ON CENTRE STAGE Beautiful Bangladesh

RAISAA TASHNOVA

Perhaps it was at that moment that around 25,000 Bangladeshis at the opening ceremony of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 [February 17] and millions of their fellow citizens honestly felt proud to belong to this 'school of life'.

Fifteen days prior to the opening ceremony, Gazi Shuvro was provided with the enormous task of projecting a beautiful Bangladesh to the whole world -- all within a time span of 3.5 minutes.

"Projecting a beautiful Bangladesh was not a difficult task, since Bangladesh is truly and effortlessly beautiful; the time constraint and the selections required made it challenging," says Shuvro.

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The video features the major attractions of Bangladesh through the eyes of a tourist, learning something unique from each step of her travels.

culture of our country were addressed under banners such as 'school of spirit', 'school of mysticism', 'school of celebration' etc.

"It was a product of excellent team work," says Shuvro. "We faced hurdles as big as death of a crew member, but such was the dedication on board that everyone kept working despite major setbacks. I guess we were the real students of the 'school of hope'."

When asked how he felt about the reception of the video, an excited

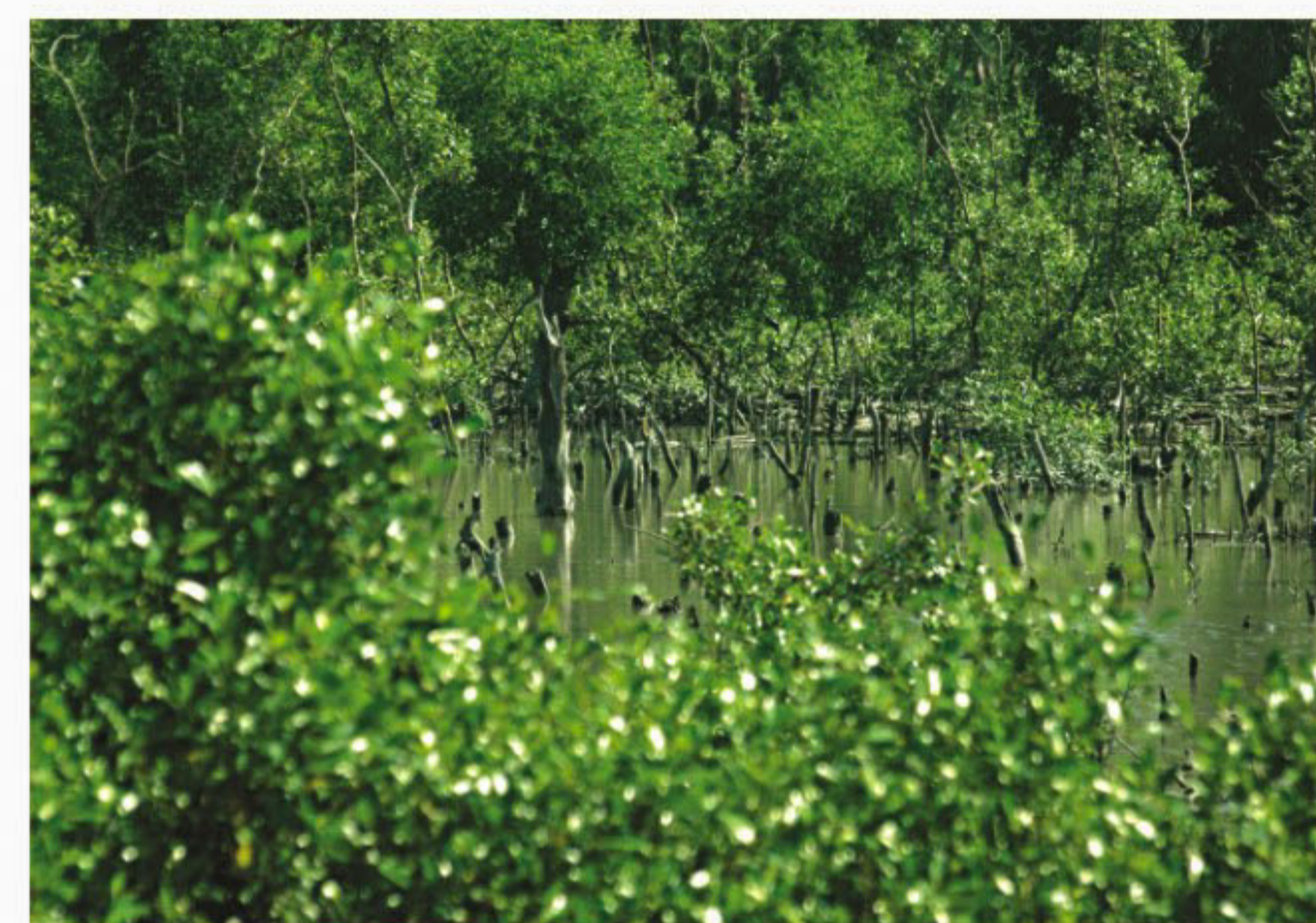
Shuvro responded that the adrenaline rush he felt when it made its debut at the Cricket World Cup inaugural was beyond words.

"The way the whole stadium erupted in cheers and applause...oh man! Further encouragement came when foreign nationals and NRBs [non-resident Bangladeshis] asked me about Bangladesh after watching the video. Some NRBs posted comments on my Facebook wall, saying that they miss their beautiful country. Now, that was really moving."

With this video, Bangladesh Tourism Board has pushed our country into global spotlight. Shuvro says it is now our turn to lend a hand.

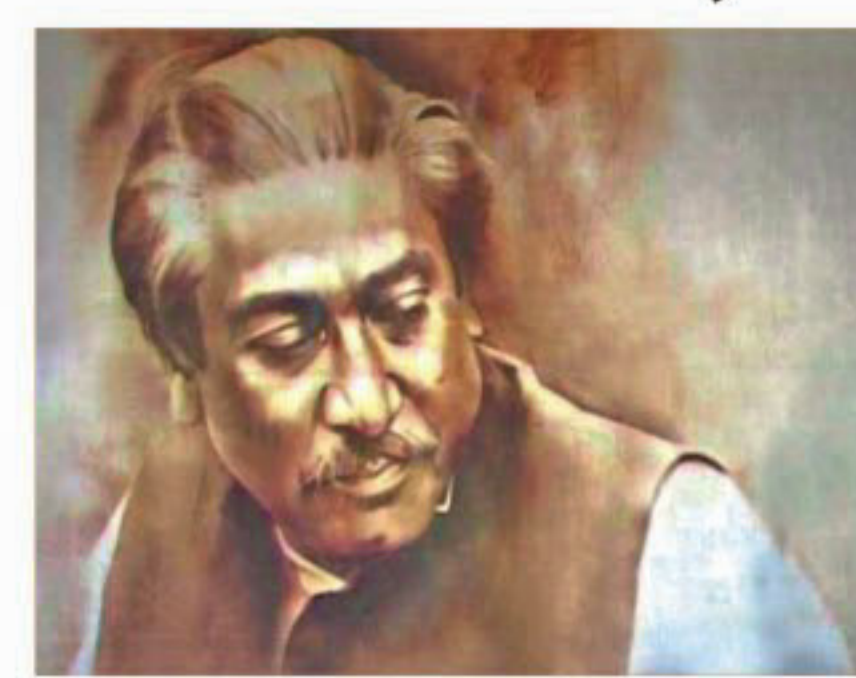
"Those among us who are knowledgeable and well-informed can help just by generating awareness in tourism among those who are less informed. We can sit and complain about the government not taking enough initiatives to improve infrastructure and sources of recreation or we can start thinking and acting positively as a nation, and be students of the 'schools of happiness and playfulness'."

This video proves that there indeed is a 'school of talent' in this country. With the world cup being held here and the spotlight on us, maybe it's high time we show the world just how vibrant and full of life we are.



Bangabandhu's 91st Birth Anniversary

Special documentary on ATN Bangla



A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 91st birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, ATN Bangla will air a documentary on his early life at 1:30pm today.

Gopalganj where the Father of the Nation, was born and raised will be highlighted in the programme. Memoirs of his friends -- Nurul Haque and Manik Miah -- will also be featured in the documentary.

The documentary has been compiled and directed by Mridha Rezaul and Nabuwat Rahman respectively.

Women's Movement in Focus

Three documentaries premiered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark 100 years of International Women's Day, three documentaries -- in commemoration of the continued struggle and movement to establish women's rights -- were premiered on March 14 at Chhayanaud auditorium, Dhanmondi, in Dhaka.

Directed respectively by Moynul Huda, Shabnam Ferdousi and Hamed Kibria, the documentaries -- "Journey through Journalism", "Lady with the Lamp" and "Women's Movement" -- highlight different aspects of the women's movement to ensure their rights.

AV Centre of Steps Towards Development has produced the documentaries.



Scenes from "Journey through Journalism" (top) and "Lady with the Lamp".

Directed by Moynul Huda, "Journey through Journalism" highlights the advancements women have made in the arena

of journalism which is considered as a challenging profession. The documentary features female journalists who have overcome various social challenges of family and have made significant impact on the media. Noted female journalists such as Baby Moudud, Sumona Sharmin and Munnal Saha have shared their experiences in this documentary.

As women of a developing country, the issue often discussed in the global context is women's rights to health care. Shabnam Ferdousi's "Lady with the Lamp" reveals women's contribution to Bangladesh's health sector. Women's contri-

bution to the health sector has been overlooked and underappreciated all along. Bengali women have served as doctors and nurses for years. If we consider women's roles as mother/caregiver, doctor or nurse, it would be evident that women's journey in the health sector has never been smooth. This issue has been discussed in the 31-minute-long documentary "Lady with the Lamp".

The extended and dramatic history of women's advancements and achievements have been highlighted in Hamed Kibria's 10-minute documentary, "Women's Movement".



Dhaka University Theatre Fest Ends through Bichar Gaan

JAMIL MAHMUD

The fortnight-long theatre festival by the Department of Theatre, Dhaka University (DU) wrapped up on March 15 through performance of traditional 'Bichar Gaan'.

The festival that began on March 1 featured 25 plays, including works of world renowned playwrights. The plays were staged at the Natmandal auditorium on DU campus.

The festival was arranged as part of the curriculum of the final year students. Each student from the batch directed a play. Actors, set, music and light designers -- all are DU students as well.

Syed Muhammad Zubayer directed the 'Bichar Gaan' act. Sheikh Zahid Azim collected and compiled the script. Azim and Afzal Kabir were the lead performers of the pala.

'Bichar Gaan' usually features conversation between the performers through sing-

ing. Rhythmic movements and gestures of the performers are also considered integral components of the pala. Of the art form's several sub-genres, the students chose the 'Guru Shishya pala' for the performance.

The 'Guru Shishya pala' featured conversation between a teacher and his disciple, while several others accompanied them in chorus. The pala demonstrated how a disciple seeks a true master and how a master will choose a worthy individual as his disciple. This approach also symbolically refers to the eternal endeavour to be in the Creator's proximity.

Sheikh Zahid Azim and Afzal Kabir played the master and the disciple in the pala. Both performers gave credible effort to provide performances as palakar traditionally do. Fourteen other students helped them in chorus.

The director also designed the set, light and costumes for the production. The festival, titled "Robi Srijonshil

Taruner Natyaprakash 2011" featured a diverse range of theatrical works -- from indigenous forms of Bangladesh to world classics from Europe and America.

Though there were few local productions, the festival was dominated by adaptations of European dramas, such as "Paddohmi" (adaptation of Samuel Becket's work); "The Old Man and the Sea" (Ernest Hemingway); "Enigma" (Floyd Dell); "The Dumb Waiter" (Harold Pinter); "A Marriage Proposal" (Anton Chekhov); "The Audition" (Rudolf Siraer) and "Death Knocks" (Woody Allen).

The Bangladeshi plays staged during the festival included "Ujaney Mrittu" (written by Syed Waliullah); "Mukhosh" (adapted by Syed Shamsul Haq); "Jukihin Joog" (by Abdul Mannan Syed) and "Kathokra" (by Buddhadeb Basu). The duration of the plays ranged from 30 minutes to over one hour.

Telecom operator Robi was the sponsor of the festival.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Ode to Eternal Spring

'Praner Khela' at Bengal Gallery

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Spring, the king of all seasons, arrived last month, and is now stretching its flavours, beauty and bliss all through this month. The eternal appeal of spring was the theme of this month's instalment of 'Praner Khela', a regular musical programme arranged by Bengal Foundation. The soiree was held on March 15 at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

Renowned sitarist Reenat Fauzia and noted Nazrul Sangeet artistes Yasmin Mushtari and Bizon Chandra Mistry performed at the programme.

Reenat Fauzia began with a performance of Raga Shudh Basant on the sitar. She played alap, jor alap and vilambit gaut that she learnt from her guru Ustad Khurshid Khan, and self-composed drut gaut on teen taal. A bit of sawal-jawab with tabla artiste Ifekhar Alam Prodan followed. As she played the raga, it seemed the sitarist was

meditating through her music -- creating an ambience that reminded one of a bumblebee's delightful buzz in spring. Jhala along with rhythmic tehai wrapped the performance. The artiste's son Tahsin Khan accompanied her on tanpura.

Chhayanaud teacher Bizon Chandra Mistry rendered two Nazrul songs -- "Amar Apnar Cheye Apon Je Jon", based on Raga Pilu Baroa and "Bhoriya Poran Shunitechhi Gaan", set on Raga Behag Basant. Bizon also performed several raga-based songs on spring. He performed a Pandit Gyan Prakash Ghosh composition "Dakhina Batash Aaji Bohey Mridu Mondey", set on Raga Basant Bahar, which was originally rendered by Pandit Ajoy Chakrobarty. Taan performances (on Raga Bhairavi and Kafi) within the song by Bizon were remarkable. The singer then performed his own composition "Tomar Abhimani E Ankhi", written by tabla artiste Sabina Musa Sandhya. Based on Raga Parameshwari and Mishra



Pilu, two songs -- "Bhor Holo Bibhabori" and "Tumi Na Eley Jalsha Gharey" followed.

Seasoned singer Yasmin Mushtari performed a number of songs at the event. Her performance also featured songs inspired by spring and romance. Mushtari's repertoire included "Phagun Raat-er Phuler Neshay", "Dur Benu Kunjey", "Tomar Namey E Ki Neshas", "Gahin Raatey Chum Ke Ele Bhagatay" and more. The artiste received rounds of applause from the audience for her superb rendition of the Nazrul ghazal, "Harano Hiyar Nikunjo Pothey", based on Raga Bageshree.

Ifekhar Alam Prodan on tabla, Sunil Kumar Sarkar on keyboard, Asit Biswas on esraj and Nazmul Alam Jhuru on percussion accompanied the singers.

Director General of Bengal Foundation Luva Nahid Chowdhury hosted the programme. Eastern Bank Limited sponsored Praner Khela.



Clockwise (from top): Yasmin Mushtari, Reenat Fauzia (R) with Ifekhar Alam Prodan and Bizon Chandra Mistry perform at 'Praner Khela'.

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Table with TV channel listings including ATN Bangla, Channel I, ntv, and HBO.

Table with radio station listings including abc radio FM 99.2, Dhaka 100, and Radio Foorti.

Time to Cricket On Boishakhi TV at 01:10pm. Talk Show On ICC World Cup 2011 (Live) Host: Habibul Bashar Sumon.

Dead Again On Star Movies at 12:00am. Genre: Drama/Romance. Cast: Kenneth Branagh, Emma Thompson.

Magic On Desh TV at 11:55pm. Single Episode TV Play Cast: Fazlur Rahman Babu, Momo.

Table with TV channel listings including Rtv, Desh TV, and Discovery Channel.

Table with TV channel listings including Star World and National Geographic Channel.

Table with TV channel listings including ATN Bangla, Channel I, ntv, and HBO.

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