WHAT'S ON

Venue: Goethe Institut, H-

R-15/A, Dhanmondi

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine

AND BUREAU PARTY OF

Painting Exhibition

Venue: Alliance Française de

Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road,

Artist: D. D. Mollick

Culture

Freedom

Celebration in Rajshahi

The ten-day Rajshahi Cultural Festival kicked

off at Green Plaza of Nagar Bhaban here on

March 17 with the slogan, "Culture for Free-

The northwestern city is abuzz with the pres-

ence of eminent personalities from the fields of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Arts, H-275/F, R-16,

Date: March 22-31

Time: 12pm-8pm

All programmes are in local



On HBO at 11:45pm **Genre: Action** Cast: Jackie Chan,

On BANGLAVISION at 08:15pm Cast: Tushar Khan,



Under The Tuscan The King of Fighters The Big Hit The Making of: It's

World Cup Carniva National Geographic Channel

Extra Innings The Known Universe

DRAMA SERIAL BANGLAVISION ATN BANGLA 08:15pm Ladies First 09:45pm All Rounder

06:30

Ta Na Na

07:50pm Neel Josnaay Kalo 10:40pm Life Is Beautiful

News (Bangla): 2:30 pm 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm

2:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm

10:30 pm, 12:30 am

09:05pm Amar Ami

10:45am Tarokalap

06:00pm How's That

Boishakhi TV

01:10pm Time to

11:45pm Shoja Kotha

TALK SHOW

NEWS BULLETIN News (Bangla) at 7:30am.

ate Night News (Bangla a

telecast on all Bangla

News (Bangla): 7:00 am,

NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm,

10:30am Grameenphone

09:45am Grameenphone

12:30pm Taroka Kathan

BANGLAVISION

Lead News

Tritiomatra

11:05am Asian City Topspin

10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00

ATN BANGLA

am, 4:00 am

9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm

literature, culture and art. Rajshahi City Corporation and Rajshahi Div sional Commissioner's office jointly launched the festival to mark the 91st birth anniversary of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day. Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman along

with eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haq and artist MA Quaiyum inaugurated the festival. Chaired by Rajshahi Divisional Commis-

sioner Abdul Mannan, the inaugural function was also attended among others by Rajshahi Lekhak Parishad president Ruhul Amin Pramanik and historian Toshikul Islam Raja.

Seminars on different important issues, a book exhibition, publication ceremony, folk music programmes, dramas, documentary screening, reception of noted personalities and more are parts of the festival.

Writer Syed Shamsul Haq, poet Zulfikar Matin, Anik Mahmud, Hayat Saif, noted intellectual Dr. Hayat Mamud, economist Sanat Kumar Saha and Dr. Shoroshish Sarker are

likely to attend the festival. Local traditional folk presentations, including Gambhira, Alkap, Madarer Gaan, will also be held during the festival.



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), High Commission of India, Dhaka arranged a solo Hindustani classical vocal music recital at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on March 18.

The featured artiste was Padma Vibhushan Pandit Jasraj, whose accomplished voice has paved the way for Indian classical music (vocal) to resonate across the world over decades. His compositions have won him legions of disciples and ardent fans. Finance Minister AMA Muhith was the chief guest a

the programme. Rajeet Mitter, the Indian High Commi sioner; Suraiya Begum ndc, Secretary In Charge, Minis try of Cultural Affairs and Director General of BSA, Kamal Lohani, were special guests. The full-house greeted the master artiste with thun-

derous applause. Bangladeshi artiste Nashid Kamal presented a profile of Pandit Jasraj. Born in to a family of outstanding musicians, Pandit Jasraj was initiated into music by his father, Pandit Motiram. Thereafter he underwent intensive training

under his elder brother and guru, Pandit Maniram and subsequently under Maharaja Jaiwant Singh. Perfect diction, clarity in sur (musical notes), and gayaki (creative musical progression), command over all aspects of laya and rhythm, depth of composition and an unmistakable interplay between notes and words to evoke the desired mood and emotion, are the hallmark of

Pandit Jasraj's music. This sensitivity, added to the pure

classical approach, has given his singing a lyrical quality. Pandit Jasraj has created over 300 bandish (composi tions) and has traversed the uncharted path of singing ancient Sanskrit verses of great saint-poets in pure

Indian classical style. This has helped create a major spiritual revolution in classical music.

> Pandit Jasraj is one of India's best-known cultural ambassadors to the world. He has been honoured with all three Padma titles -- Padma Vibhusan (2000), Padma Bhushan (1990) and Padma Shree (1975) -- and also the Sangeet Natak Academy Award from the Government of

The Pandit began his performance with a khayal performance on vilambit ektaal, set on Raga Behaag. The style of rendition was rather poetic. Through immaculate meend, the way Panditji presented Kori Madhyam (sharp Ma) and Shudh Madhyam (pure Ma) during his rendition demonstrated his musical prowess. His expressions and hand gestures during the performance epitomised the image of a complete artiste. Another khayal, set on the melancholic Raga Darbari

Kanada, followed on vilambit ektaal. Tabla artiste Ram Kumar Mishra incorporated several rela (torrent or rush or beats) in the performance. Legendary court musician Mian Tansen is considered to be the master of this raga that the third Mughal

(royal court). Raising his voice to the highest Sa, the maestro effortlessly moved back and forth, touching all the three Sa of different scales. Rounds of applause were like the waves

Emperor, Akbar, frequently asked to hear in his Darbar

of the ocean inside the hall With the bandish, "Ya Meri Mawla, Ya Rasul-Allah" Panditji went through a meditative form of music on kaharba. Based on Raga Bhairo, the spiritual quest captured the hearts of many.

"God is the same whether we call him by different names," Panditji said.

In Search of Tupac

Biopic launches open casting call



The unmistakable interplay between notes and words to evoke the desired mood and emotion is a hallmark of Pandit Jasraj's music.

And last but not the least, the master artiste gave the audience a musical high, with a bhajan set on Raga Bheem Palashree.

The unquenchable thirst of the audience was never appeased as they wanted more from Panditji Marina Ahmad Alam, who has been a student of Pandit Jasraj for the last 25 years, along with Tripti Mukherjee accompanied the maestro during the two hour-long musical journey. Ram Kumar Mishra was on tabla and Mukund Patkar was on harmonium.

Runa Laila Sings

for Underprivileged Children

The Zonta Club of Dhaka III, an organisation with the motto "advancing the status of women worldwide", arranged a concert featuring the diva Runa Laila at the Grand Ballroom, Radisson Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka on March 18. The programme was a part of the club's wider efforts to raise funds for Shishu Bikash Kendro, a school for underprivileged children [mostly girls].

The programme began with the staging of the play, "Joutuker Obhishap" [Curse of Dowry], by the students of Shishu Bikash Kendro. While the plot had a strong social message to impart, the amateurish, but nonetheless spirited performances by the children received a warm response from the audience who were eagerly waiting for Runa Laila to show up.

Seasoned actor and husband of Runa Laila, Alamgir kept the audience entertained with his wit and

Runa Laila renders "Istishaner Railgarita" with the children of Shishu Bikash Kendro.

The songstress started her performance with homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War. After a cover of the subtle melody

"Shilpi Ami Tomaderi Gaan Shonabo", "Bondhu Tin Din Tor Barit Gelam", "Allah Megh De Pani De" and "Shadher Lau". She also sang her Hindi and Urdu songs --"Aap Ki Dil Anjuman Me", "De De Pyar De", several ghazals and The singer admitted that most

included her familiar songs

of the people in the audience were her acquaintances and

Folk Songs Leave Sylhet Audience Spellbound

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

'Shohojia Ashor', a session of folk and mystic songs, held at the Sylhet Auditorium on March 18 was widely appreciated by the audience. Shohojia Sylhet organised the event where two accomplished artistes presented songs of Lalon, Hason Raja, Radharaman, Jalal Uddin, Manmohan

Dey, Shah Abdul Karim and others. At the beginning of the two-and-ahalf hour programme, renowned folk artistes of Sylhet region --

Chandrabati Roy Burman and Sushama Das -- were honoured. Shohojia Sylhet convener Amborish Dutta and poet Tushar Kar spoke on the occasion.

Ranesh Thakur started the programme with a kirtan, "Doyal Guru Amaye Doya Koro Hey". He also rendered "Koi Jaorey Shujon Naiyya", "Ki Aar Bolbo Tarey", "Joper Agey Koro Montro", "Asray Niyey Boshey Thako" and others.

Shahjahan Munshi, from Manikganj, presented a number of popular songs of Lalon and Shah Abdul Karim like "Jaater Ki Roop" "Shomoy Geley Shadhon Hobena", "Jekhaner Shai Baramkhana", "Krishno Prem Kolonker Dali", "Ami Karey Kiba Boli", and "Keno Piriti Baraila Rey Bondhu".

The audience enjoyed the unique programme all the more as such an event was held in Sylhet after a long

BULBUL AHMED, Natore

To mark Bangabandhu's 91st birth anni

versary and National Children's Day, the

Natore district administration and Ban-

gladesh Shishu Academy, Natore jointly

arranged an art competition for children

at the local Shishu Academy on March 16



Artistes presented songs of Lalon, Hason Raja, Radharaman, Jalal Uddin, Manmohan Dey, Shah Abdul Karim and other mystic bards at the programme.

"Shishuder Bangabandhu," and the sub-

The Deputy Commissioner of Natore

distributed the prizes among the winners

hope that such competitions would spark

on March 17. Officials expressed the

children's interest in Bangabandhu.

ject of the story telling was "Liberation

Tribute to a Hero Special programme at Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking the 91st birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in Trishal organised painting and essay competitions at its Arts Faculty building on Seventy five students from different edu-

cational institutions of Trishal took part in the competition in three groups -- 'Ka', 'Kha' and 'Ga'. The subjects for 'Kha' and 'Ga' groups were "Liberation War and Bangladesh" and "Liberation War and Bangabandhu", while the subject for the 'Ka' group was open.

High school students participated in an essay competition on "Bangabandhu and



His Vision of Bangladesh."

The judges of the art competition were Safin Omar, Emdadur Rashed and Tapon Kumar Sarker. The results of the competition will be announced on March 26 and 12 participants will be awarded, university

Vice-Chancellor of the university Profes-

Morgan Creek Prods. is opting for an

The banner's launched a web site -

embody Tupac for this starring role."

unknown for the lead role in the upcoming

"Tupac" biopic and has launched an online

insearchoftupac.com -- for "individuals who

The site asks applicants to download a 24-

line scene, read the scene on-camera and

perform their favourite Tupac song/rap on

camera for no more than one minute. Sub-

missions will be accepted through April 30.

A spokesman said that Morgan Creek is

looking to start production in early summer

in Georgia, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and New Source: Internet

sor Syed Giasuddin Ahmed inaugurated the

On the occasion, a discussion was held with Profesor Ahmed in the chair. Among others, Dean of Social Science Faculty, Dr. Habibur Rahman; syndicate member ANM Nazrul Islam; treasurer Professor Md. Abul Bashar and convener of the celebration committee Professor Md. Nazrul Islam spoke at the discussion.

The speakers said that we should follow the ideals of Bangabandhu. Under his leadership, the nation took part in the Liberation War and snatched victory from the Pakistani Army in a nine-month long bloody battle, they said. We should pay our respects to the father of the nation by contributing more to the all-out development of the country, they added.

York with Antoine Fuqua ("Training Day,"

has sold over 75 million albums. The film

chronicles his rise to superstardom as a hip

hop artiste and actor, his imprisonment and

"Tupac" will be produced by James G.

Robinson, David Robinson and LT Hutton,

and exec produced by Tupac's mother, Afeni

Shakur. The screenplay was written by Steve

Bagatourian, Stephen J. Rivele & Christopher

Shakur, who died in 1996 after being shot,

"Brooklyn's Finest") directing.

the East coast/West coast rap war.

Wilkinson.



Mohammad, Rezaun Nabi, Mokhlesur Rahman, Niloofar Chaman, Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed, Md. Amirul Momanin Chowdhury, Mohammad Fakruzzaman, Tayeba Begum Lipi and Golam Rabbani Shamim.

Dialogue (CPD), Professor Rehman Sobhan, will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Veteran Bangladeshi painter Monirul Islam will be present as special guest. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of BRAC Bank Ltd, will be present as guest of honour.

Arts has organised a series of exhibitions, titled "Rooted Creativity". The ninth instalment of the series will open on March 22 at Bengal Gallery in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The exhibition will run till March 31.

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, Bengal Gallery of Fine The participating painters are Nazlee Laila Mansur, Nazib

Renowned economist and chairman of the Centre for Policy

The Maily Star Celebrating the culture of our beloved Bangladesh in an evening of music and dance Come enjoy an evening of classical music and dance with Fahmida Nabi & her troop, Munmun Ahmed with her katthak dance, and Swarnamoy Chakraborty with his songs in the Celebrating Life 2011 in Chittagong Venue : The Chittagong Club, Pool side Date & Time: 22nd March 2011, 6:30 pm Collect your cards from The Daily Star Chittagong Office 67 Jamal Khan Road, Chittagong Phone: +8801913626272, 031618618 dess maris

friends, and that she felt quite at The Zonta Club also runs an adult literacy programme for the parents of their students. Mamtaz Choudhury, president of the Zonta Club of Dhaka III, said, "Due to ever increasing inflation, we need constant support and patronage from philanthropists, apart from the funds from our PHOTO: PALASH KHAN members. "Jokhon Thambe Kolahol", she She also expressed her opticharity works of the organisers, rendered the mega-hit "Istishaner Runa Laila proposed to be an mism about getting more support Railgarita" with the children of honorary member of the Zonta from sponsors for the nurturing Shishu Bikash Kendro. of underprivileged children in the The cultural icon's repertoire Appreciating the services and

Cultural event to mark Bangabandhu's birth anniversary and National Children's Day

Some 120 children from local educa-

tional institutes participated in the eve

A special programme on the occasion

included painting, story telling, essay

and impromptu speech competitions

At the art competition, the children

painted portraits of Bangabandhu. The

essay writing competition was held o