

WHAT'S ON

90th Anniversary of the Poem "Bidrohi" Organiser: Nazrul Institute & Ministry of Cultural Affairs Venue: National Theatre, BSA Date: June 24-25

Exhibition Title: Save Puraan Dhaka Organiser: Urban Study Group Venue: Nalin Kanta Bhattasalli Gallery, National Museum Date: June 10-22

25th Anniversary Film Festival Organiser: Zahur Raihan Film Society; Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dharamond; Date: June 17-25 Time: 4pm onwards

Solo Musical Soiree Singer: Dia Chakravarty Venue: India Gandhi Cultural Centre, 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1 Date: June 25 Time: 6:30pm

Theatre Play: Apod Troupe: Dhaka Padatik Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: June 25

Solo Art Exhibition Artist: Mustapha Khalid Falah Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A JH-60, Dharamondi Date: June 17-July 1 Time: 11am-8pm

Musical Soiree Organiser: Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Porishad Venue: Shaikhet Osman Smriti Auditorium Date: June 21

Musical Soiree Organiser: Nandan Venue: Chaynaut Sangskriti Bhaban, Dharamondi Date: June 24 Time: 6:45pm

SPOTLIGHT

Architectural visions to save Dhaka's heritage sites



USG is displaying 50 digitally manipulated collage photographs of several sites in old Dhaka, particularly Shankhari Bazaar, that show how the neighbourhoods would look had the government taken necessary steps to preserve the historical integrity of the area.

AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN Old Dhaka is usually looked at as a part of the city that is nothing but an intricately woven labyrinth of dingy streets, massive piles of junk, dead-end alleys and cramped, dilapidated buildings. What is often missed by most is that the "old town", as it is commonly known, has immense historical value and it bears the legacy from the Mughal and colonial period. Considering all that, one may wonder what might have caused these areas that evolved over centuries to be reduced to a kind of inner city ghettos with choking problems at every turn. A sheer disregard for the preservation of our cultural heritage on the successive governments' part is responsible for the situation, asserts a voluntary organisation of architects called Urban Study Group (USG). USG is displaying 50 digitally manipulated collage photographs of several sites in the old town, particularly Shankhari Bazaar, that show how the neighbourhoods would look had the government taken necessary steps to preserve the historical integrity of the area. The exhibition, titled "Save Puraan Dhaka: An Architectural Vision for the Urban Regeneration of Puraan Dhaka through Mohalla (neighbourhoods) Revitalisation", that began

on June 10 at Nalin Kanta Bhattasalli Gallery, National Museum, will end on June 22. The architects believe that the old town "has what it takes to once again be a valued and cherished historic quarter of the capital". And all that is needed for the aesthetic "revitalisation" of the neighbourhoods is awareness and protective measures to prevent unregulated constructions of new buildings. "Under an uncontrolled and unregulated development spree that has taken over the old town, it seems everything special in Puraan (old) Dhaka is about to be lost forever," reads the USG introduction to the exhibition. Most of the major cities around the world have retained and conserved their heritage sites and the centuries-old edifices not only for their historic value but also for their magnificence. USG has been campaigning for the conservation of Shankhari Bazaar since June 2004 and the members are of the opinion that an awareness regarding heritage protection and preservation has been generated among people. Taimur Islam, CEO of USG, said, "An in-depth feature on our campaign published in Star Weekend Magazine (July 28, 2006) was of tremendous help to our work."



The group agrees that there is a general level of agreement among everyone that buildings of historic value should be preserved and taken care of. However, the architects are of the opinion that the whole area needs to be preserved if we really want to save the antiquities of old Dhaka. USG has, so far, listed 2000 buildings of architectural and historic values in the neighbourhoods of old town. And it hopes that the government will include these buildings on their list of heritage sites. The rate, at which the buildings are being demolished and replaced by newer ones, will leave nothing to preserve after 2-3 years if immediate actions are not taken -- warn the architects.

Runa Laila's take on reality shows



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Internationally renowned Bangladeshi diva Runa Laila recently noted that while reality shows have become very popular and developed tremendously in India, it is not the same in Bangladesh because the market might be limited.

The singer, who was in Kolkata as a judge on "Singing Star", a reality show aired on the Bengali channel Rupasi Bangla, said that singing talents like Shreya Ghosal and Sunidhi Chauhan are the products of reality shows. On the controversy of featuring children in reality shows, Runa Laila said, "It can be a great platform for the little ones. But one has to remember that to establish oneself as a singer a very strong base is a prerequisite." She is all for greater artistic exchange between India and Bangladesh which have so much in common, culturally. Runa Laila's hugely popular numbers of the 1980s like "Shadher Lau", "Bondhu Tin Din" and "Istitationer Rail Garita" are still a big draw in West Bengal. "Yes, these songs became huge hits. I am happy that people in West Bengal still remember them," the singer added. Celebrated Bollywood playback singer Kumar Sanu, one of the judges on "Singing Star", said, "I am thrilled to have Runa Laila as part of our show. Her love for music and understanding of the Bengali taste will give a unique touch to our panel of judges."

Abdur Rahman Boyati undergoes surgery

Baul Abdur Rahman Boyati has been critically ill. He has been admitted to Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital in Dhaka, says a press release. Specialists of the department of urology at the hospital have so far done various tests, and on June 19 a surgery team led by Dr. Towhid Mohammad Saiful Hossein Dipu carried out necessary surgeries on Boyati. Abdur Rahman Boyati has sought prayers from everyone. Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital is bearing the overall treatment cost.



Theatre for awareness



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) held a street play in front of Uttara Ganabhaban at Dighapatia in Natore last Saturday afternoon. The play, titled "Manbona Anuim", centred on the issues of health, education and local government and aimed to raise social awareness on these fronts. Prokash, Liton, Subrato, Sohan, Beauty, Mostofa, Navon, Ripon and Shahin of YES Gono Natok Dal were the performers in the play, directed by Paritosh Adhikari. The play addressed the sufferings of the masses due to conflict among political parties.

Photo exhibition in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh A photo exhibition on the life and achievements of the Father of the Nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was held at the auditorium of Momenshahi Cantonment Public School and College on June 19. The exhibition was organised by Bangabandhu Smriti Jadugar (memorial museum). More than 100 photographs of Bangabandhu (from 1952 to 1972) were displayed at the exhibition, titled 'Itihash Kotha Boley -- Sangram Thekey Swadhinata and Bangabandhu'. The photos on Agartala Conspiracy Case, Six Point Demands (in 1966), declaration of independence (on March 7, 1971) drew particular attention. The photographs on the genocide during the Liberation War (in 1971) also riveted the attention of young and old visitors alike. Documentary films related to the war were also screened at the event. Principal Motiur Rahman MP inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Shah Sagirul Islam, commander of 77th Infantry Division of Momenshahi Cantonment and also president of the Momenshahi Cantonment Public School and College, presided over the function and delivered the welcome speech. Major General Md. Mahub Haider Khan; Brigadier General Md. Golam Mustafa; Brigadier General Md. Firoz Rahim and Principal (in-charge) of Momenshahi Cantonment Public School and College Sarwar Alam were present at the function. The event, followed by a cultural programme by the students of Momenshahi Cantonment Public School and College, charmed the audience. The cultural programme included rendition of songs, dances and a short play. Freedom fighters took part in a segment, titled 'Muktijuddhader Smriticharan'. Students also posed questions to the chief guest on the various events of the Liberation War. Describing different incidents of the Liberation War, the chief guest urged the students to imbue their future careers with the spirit of the war. The young generation will benefit from this exhibition with a glimpse of the rare photos, a valuable part of the country's history.



Visitors at the exhibition.

Rich tributes to National Poet Discussion on the bard



Dr. Bidhan Sengupta (bottom) speaks; a dance performance at the programme.



Dr. Bidhan Sengupta, an eminent Nazrul researcher of West Bengal (India) was the main speaker. Kazi Nazrul Islam's granddaughter Khil Khil Kazi; singer Khalid Hossain; actor Mahmud Sajjad; Jayanta Chattopadhyay; Sathkhira Zilla Parishad chief executive officer Delwar Haidar also delivered speeches. Terming Kazi Nazrul, a poet of rebellion, love and equity, Dr. Bidhan Sengupta said, "Kazi Nazrul Islam is a poet of humanity. He wrote songs and poems to break social barriers. His writings depicted the oppression of the masses. His poems, songs, short stories, articles, dramas and novels remain a beacon for generations to come." He said that the legacy of the literary works of Nazrul Islam can free the society from exploitation. Paying rich tributes to Kazi Nazrul Islam, other speakers said that the nation will remember him for his contribution to Bengali literature. After the discussion, a cultural function was held at the venue.



British Library makes Google search deal

One of the world's biggest collections of historic books, pamphlets and periodicals is to be made available on the internet for the first time. The British Library has reached a deal with search engine Google about texts dating back to the 18th Century. It will allow readers to view, search and copy the out-of-copyright works at no charge. Google will also make the books available on its site. The library gets more than a million visitors a year. It has more than 150 million items representing every age of written civilisation, including books, journals, manuscripts, maps, stamps, music, patents, photographs, newspapers and sound recordings in all written and spoken languages. Google has similar partnerships with about 40 libraries around the world. Its plans to digitise copyrighted texts have run into serious legal problems. Among critics were the Authors Guild of America and the Association of American Publishers.

SOURCE: BBC

Amy Winehouse "too inebriated to sing" in Belgrade concert

Amy Winehouse has been boosed by crowds in Serbia's capital Belgrade after appearing to be too drunk to perform. The concert was due to kick off her 12-day European tour, but was not the performance that 20,000 fans had hoped to see. For almost 90 minutes, Amy Winehouse mumbled her way

through parts of songs. She sang a few strained notes, before stumbling across the stage and at one point throwing her microphone to the floor. At times she left the stage altogether -- her band attempting to fill in. She was frequently boosed by the crowd. Many had paid up to

(£40) to see her in a country in which wages are some of the lowest in Europe, and their anger was clear. The Grammy-award winning singer had been under strict instructions not to drink after recently finishing a course of alcohol rehabilitation in London. Hotel staff on her European tour

are said to be under orders to remove alcohol from her room. She has struggled with addiction for some time and it was hoped this tour might mark a new start. The singer is due to continue the tour with a performance in Istanbul on Sunday.

Source: Internet



Table listing TV programmes for ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL i, CHANNLE i, ntv, and ETV. Includes show titles like 'Off Time', 'Katha Mala', 'Ebong Cinemar Gaan', etc.

Table listing radio programmes for abc radio FM 99.2, 99.00, 12.00, 03.00, 05.00, 07.00, 09.00, 11.00, and Radio Footi. Includes show titles like 'Bhorer Janatala', 'Mukhorito Robony', etc.

Advertisement for Neel Paerar, a musical programme on ETV at 07:50pm. Host: Fatema Tuj Zohra.

Advertisement for Amelia on Star Movies at 08:50pm. Genre: Adventure/Biography. Cast: Hilary Swank, Richard Gere.

Advertisement for Poush Phaguner Pala on ATN BANGLA at 09:20pm. Drama Serial. Cast: Raisul Islam Asad, Sohana Saba.

Table listing TV programmes for Ekushey-er Business, ETV, BANGLAVISION, Desh TV, and Boishakhi TV. Includes show titles like 'Ekushey-er Business', 'Eating Belating', etc.

Table listing drama serials for ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL i, ntv, and Rtv. Includes show titles like 'Ora Ko jon', 'Poush Phaguner Pala', etc.

Table listing news bulletins for BTV, NEWS (Bangla), NEWS (English), NEWS (Bangla and English), NEWS (Bangla), NEWS (Bangla), NEWS (Bangla), NEWS (Bangla), NEWS (Bangla), NEWS (Bangla), NEWS (Bangla), NEWS (Bangla).

Table listing talk shows for ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL i, ntv, and Rtv. Includes show titles like 'Lead News', 'Vision 2020', 'Trito Matra', etc.