

WHAT'S ON

Baishakhi Boimela 0
Sahitya Sammelan
Organiser: Sahitya Bazar
Venue: Central Public Library
Premises, Shahbagh
Date: April 19-23

Tagore Dance Drama
Title: Shapmochan
Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Dhaka
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum

Art Exhibition
Title: Emergent Protagonists of Bengal
Venue: Gallery Chitra, Dharamondi
Date: April 19-20
Time: 10am-5pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: The Voice of Time
Venue: Institute of Art & Culture, H-2, R-1/A, Gulshan-1
Date: April 17-26
Time: 12pm-9pm

Musical Soiree
Title: Bajaj Apur Shar
Venue: Chhayantun Shangkirti Bhaban, H-72, R-15A, Dharamondi
Date: April 20

Photography Exhibition
Title: Butterflies of Bangladesh
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15A (New), Dharamondi
Date: April 15-21
Time: 3pm-8pm

An Evening of Rock Music
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-2, R-1/A, Dharamondi
Date: April 21

Theatre
Play: Sheela
Troupe: Dept. of Theatre, DU
Venue: Natmandal, DU
Date: April 17-20
Time: 7pm

Perfect takes

Jitu Ahsan

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Jitu Ahsan arrived in the acting arena following the footsteps of his father – the eminent actor Syed Ahsan Ali Sydney – and since then has carved a niche for himself with his spontaneous acting prowess. Beginning his journey in his childhood, Ahsan's love for acting grew as time passed and prompted him to choose acting as a profession.

Legendary actor Humayun Faridee termed Ahsan as the best and the most talented of the contemporary actors. The skilful Jitu Ahsan has always picked his acting roles carefully and never stopped challenging himself with fresh takes on characters. Recently, he met this correspondent for an interview.

Which projects keep you busy these days?
Jitu Ahsan: I'm acting in several serials at the moment, along with one-hour-dramas. Among the serials – Badrul Anam Soud's "Gronthik Gon Kohe", Rulin Rahman's "Chhayanari Kayanari", Sajjad Sumon's "Dokkhinayoner Din", Jewel Mahmud's "Chup Adalot Cholchhe" are being aired by different channels.

What characters do you play in the ongoing dramas?
Jitu Ahsan: In "Gronthik Gon Kohe" I'm playing a Jatra artiste, while in "Chup Adalot Cholchhe" I am playing a barrister. For "Chhayanari Kayanari" I am playing the role of an urban youth, whose visit to a village gives rise to many incidents. "Dokkhinayoner Din" is an adaptation of the famous novel of the same name by Shawkat Ali. I'm also playing an important role there.

Is "Gronthik Gon Kohe" a remake?
Jitu Ahsan: Yes. Originally it was made for BTV, with the script written by Dr Selim Al Deen. However, it did not have so many episodes then. The role of Shah Kamal – which I am playing – was originally played by Pijush Bandopadhyay. Top actors of the time acted in the drama back then – which was widely acclaimed. Although the budget is limited this time around, the shooting is being carried out with much importance and a wide variety of props. I watched "Gronthik Gon Kohe" when I was a child, and getting the chance to act in its remake feels great.

When did you begin to take acting seriously?
Jitu Ahsan: During my childhood, I watched my father act. I knew all the actors through my father. I went to the BTV office with him. These visits eventually landed me performances as a child artiste. I continued sporadic works as an actor, but never considered taking acting seriously. However, I pursued acting as a career from 2000 onwards.

To what extent do you feel the lack of your father?
Jitu Ahsan: I miss him beyond measure. He once told me that he desired to act with me, but his physical condition did not permit him to do so. The people of the country know the versatility of my father's skills as an actor. I only wish to uphold the ideals taught by my father and be honest throughout my life.

You appeared in all plays directed by the popular actor Humayun Faridee?
Jitu Ahsan: Humayun Faridee was an actor with magic in him. I was blessed with his affection. He advised me to not chase after money, but to be humble in my ways no matter how famous I



PHOTO COURTESY: TUKUN HOSSAIN

turned out to be. I learned a lot from him. I talked to him even on the day before he died. It is my good fortune that he cast me in all his TV plays. I consider myself very lucky to have worked under great directors of the country like Abdullah Al Mamun and others.

Do you have any plan to direct dramas?
Jitu Ahsan: I am yet to learn the tricks and trades of direction and have no immediate plans of directing a play. Acting draws me more. I've never even done any modeling.

Any regrets about being in the media?
Jitu Ahsan: Sometimes we have to shoot under adverse conditions. Often there is no ceiling fan while shooting during sultry summer. Work has to go on even in freezing temperatures. Although we do get paid, the hard work is all for the audience. However it hurts me when I see that my expressions being cut off by TVCs.

What is your opinion about TV plays being aired without any commercial breaks?
Jitu Ahsan: Commercials are important no doubt, but there should be a limit to airing these. If we lose viewers due to overwhelming advertisements, we will be the ones to blame. The audience want uninterrupted entertained. There should be a regulation for airing commercials. The viewer's preference should be given important.

The Voice of Time

Group art exhibition at Institute of Art and Culture

TAKIR HOSSAIN

As part of the inauguration, Institute of Art and Culture (IAC) in Gulshan has organised a group art exhibition titled "The Voice of Time", featuring the works of eminent painters and promising painters in our country.

The exhibition was inaugurated on April 17. The participating painters are Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Monsurul Karim, Ranjit Das, Mohammad Eunos, Farida Zaman, Ivy Zaman, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Laila Sharmaeen, Mohammad Iqbal, Anisuzzaman and others.

At the inauguration, Ali Reza Iftikhar, managing director of Eastern Bank Ltd; artists Monirul Islam, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Hamiduzzaman Khan and participating artists attended the programme.

Among the participating artists, Monirul Islam (etching and aquatint) and Anisuzzaman (woodcut) are recognised as printmakers. However, currently

Islam has focused more on painting. At the exhibition, it is comprehended that his application of paint is strong and the lines are more minimised; colours seem to be subdued.

Anisuzzaman's work is a study of urban architecture and a metropolitan's structural design. His prints are closely interrelated to geometrical and structural elements where one can easily sense his passion for the language of architecture. Black is predominant aspect in his print.

Hamiduzzaman Khan's painting and sculpture both are on display at the exhibition. His painting is engrossed with thick colours and uneven textures. It should be mentioned that the artist has been greatly influenced by abstract expressionism, especially maestro Jackson Pollock.

At the exhibition, Ranjit Das' painting shows a shouting face and the canvas is surrounded by straight lines and blurred forms. The work indicates anguish and longing. The image has a realistic



Shahabuddin Ahmed (right), Ali Reza Iftikhar (2-R) seen with guests at the inauguration.

attachment with horizontal and vertical lines.

Ivy Zaman is well known for her theme-oriented sculptures. At the exhibition, a number of her bronze made sculptures are on display in several rooms in the institute. Upon careful examination of her works, one finds that the artist tries to combine archetypal images with local materials found in her surroundings. She explores the boundaries of expressions with the varieties of birds, animals and botanical motifs like seeds, roots, trees, foliage as

well as numerous indigenous forms.

About the group exhibition, Israt Akhond, director and member of the trustee of IAC said, "We make sense of our surroundings based on the context we are in. Similarly, our focus on contemporary artistic process is also related to how artists interpret everyday environment from which they come and eventually how they shape our artistic sensibility."

The exhibition ends on April 25.

Folk theatre fest begins today at Shilpakala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Featuring different indigenous theatre forms, a five-day folk theatre festival begins today at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The festival will be part of the academy's plan to promote and nurture traditional art forms all over the country.

Seven troupes respectively from Kushtia, Comilla, Bagerhat, Dinajpur, Jhenidah, Tangail and Panchagarh will stage theatre forms such as Nachhimoner Pala, Jarigan, Padabali Kirtan, Kandoni Bishhari, Ashtak Gaan, Shong pala and Choudhagoshai Peshkatar Sangsar.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan is expected to inaugurate the festival as chief guest. On the inaugural day, five folk artists will be honoured for their contribution.

A seminar on "The tradition of folk theatre and its modernisation" will be held today at 3pm at the Seminar Hall of the academy. The festival also includes a workshop that will be run from tomorrow till April 24.

Every day the show will start at 7pm. The festival is open for all.

Liberation War remembered

Mujib Nagar Day observed

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

The Satkhira district administration organised a cultural programme at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park to observe Mujibnagar Day on April 17.

Artists of District Sangskritik Parishad, Linet Fine Arts Academy, Dipalok Academy and Shilpakala Academy performed songs and dances at the function.

Later, a play titled "Ekhone Judha", written by Gazi Azizur Rahman, was staged by artistes of Dipalok Academy.

Sharif Ahmed Shuvo, Sayeed Shahriar Saad, Barun Bannerjee, Azad Chowdhury, Mohammad Abdullah, Sudarshon Mondal, Masud, Tariqul Islam, Asim, Mukul, Pragna, thakur Das, Sujun Kundu enacted key roles in the drama.

Earlier, a discussion was held at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park with Satkhira Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. Md Anowar Hossain Hawladar in the chair.

Engineer Sheikh Mujibur Rahman MP was the chief guest, while Satkhira zilla parishad administrator Monsur Ahmed, Police Super (SP) Md

Asaduzzaman, Sadar upazila parishad chairman Nazrul Islam, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-General) Mukesh Chandra Biswas and Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Sheikh Hamim Hasan were present as special guests.

Those who spoke at the discussion were freedom fighters Sheikh Abu Nasim Moina and Enamul Haque Biswas, Tala upazila parishad chairman Ghosh Sanat Kumar, among others.

Citing the background to the formation of the Mujibnagar government on April 17, 1971, the speakers noted that the defeated forces of 1971 were today conspiring to implement their unfinished, hidden agenda. They talk of democracy verbally but cherish fanaticism, they said.

It is the right time to build a prosperous, democratic and non-communal Bangladesh by holding the trial of war criminals.

They demanded the punishment of war criminals to keep alive the spirit of the Liberation War. A successful conclusion to the trial of war criminals would be the gateway to a secular society, they said.

Jatrapala Bagdatta staged at Charukala

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Set against the backdrop of a battle between Mughal Delhi and Bengal Sultanate, Jiten Bashak's historical jatrapala "Bagdatta" depicts the legacy of suspicion, mistrust and treason of a Bengali soldier akin to Mirzarfar.

Students of the Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) of Dhaka University staged the production, at FFA premises on April 16, as part of the Pahela Baishakh (Bengali New Year-1419) celebrations by FFA.

Throughout the jatrapala, the patriotic Nawab (ruler) of Bengal, Tughril Khan, originally donned by Nabendu Saha, in disguise, enacted a Fakir (saint) to trace out that treacherous soldier who aligned with Delhi. At the end of the pala, Tughril Khan revealed his identity. Moreover, the pala addressed the issue of rigid customs imposed by the Brahmin society in a contemporary manner. The pala went together with a romantic comedy where Aholya (heroine) and Shaktinath (hero) originally donned by Jhuma and Kamol were in love.

The essence of traditional jatrapala comes through the actors' delivery in rhythmic high pitched voice, 'exaggerated' expressions and movements, very bright costumes along with acoustics of cornet, clarinet, mandira and dhol. When all the aspects of the performance synchronise smoothly, the presentation appears to be appealing to the viewers who look for proportion in art. The arrangement was good but several characters' did not have much of an impact on the urban viewers.

Deepak Ranjan, Ujjal Ghosh, Sudipto Biswas, Soumitra Biswas, Badal Pandey, Jerin and others enacted the roles of Momin Khan, Giasuddin Bolbon, Ujir Umed Ali, Mohini Gosai, Daulat Khan, Sayera Banu and others respectively in the jatrapala.

Bagdatta was then directed by Setu. The director presented almost all the segments of the traditional jatrapala such as the music, comic relief and the appearance of 'bibek' (conscience) in an effective manner in the pala.

The students also made music and dance presentations prior to staging the jatrapala.



The essence of jatrapala comes through the actors' delivery in rhythmic high pitched voice, 'exaggerated' expressions and bright costumes.

The Hunger Games Invades Dhaka



A CORRESPONDENT

March 23 saw the release of the highly anticipated movie "The Hunger Games" all across America. Starring 2010 Oscar nominee Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth, the film was already well hyped. Throw in Director Gary Ross, the man behind classics such as "Seabiscuit" (2003) and "Lassie" (1994) and the excited buzz was well deserved.

The story is set in the future in a place called Panem which is divided into 12 districts and Panem. Here, in a twisted version of the years to come, two years are annually selected by lottery from each district to participate in the Hunger Games, a competition which the citizens are forced to view on TV. The games are not exactly as they sound. The 12 participants pitted against one another are forced to eliminate each other from the competition by any means necessary, usually

fighting each other to death. The tale really begins when 16-year-old Katniss's young sister, Prim, chosen as District 12th female representative and in a rush to save her sister's life Katniss takes her place. She, along with her male counterpart Peeta find themselves against opponents much bigger and stronger than them. Unfortunately for them, their opponents have primed and trained for themselves for this very event all their life. It is only a question of time for the young protagonist. The details behind this perverse game reveal itself slowly to be part of pure demented entertainment and part revenge. Audiences find themselves to be engaged and intrigued, yet disturbed, just like some of the citizens of Panem on screen. A different take to the Manhunt angle, it is a movie that needs to be seen.

The movie will now be available to audiences in Dhaka as well. Star Cineplex will start showing of the movie from April 20. The movie premiered at the venue on April 19.

Alfred Hitchcock silent films to be celebrated by BFI

The British Film Institute has revealed details of its celebration of film-maker Alfred Hitchcock, which includes restorations of his silent movies.

Champagne and Blackmail, which were directed by the British master of suspense during the late 1920s, will be shown with live musical accompaniment.

A three-month long season will also see all 58 of his films – including Psycho, Vertigo and The Birds – screened.

Speaking at a launch in London on Tuesday, Heather Stewart, the BFI's creative director, said that the BFI had wanted to get out its "big guns", like other big cultural organisations, during Olympic year.

"The idea of popular cinema somehow being capable of being great art at the same time as being entertaining is still a problem for some people," she said. "Shakespeare is on the national curriculum, Hitchcock is not."

An open-air screening of Blackmail, directed by the 30-year-old Hitchcock in 1929, will be staged in the forecourt of the British Museum on 6 July as part of the BFI's involvement in the London 2012 Festival celebrations.

The film will feature a live score by award-winning composer, musician, writer and broadcaster Neil Brand,

performed live by an ensemble of 18 musicians.

Hitchcock's 1927 boxing drama The Ring will be shown at the Hackney Empire, with jazz and hip hop artist Soweto Kinch providing live music and fellow Mercury prize nominee Nitin Sawhney will score The Lodger: A Tale of the London Fog.

Film critic and chairman of the London Film Critics' Circle Jason Solomon said of the Hitchcock retrospective: "What strikes me now as a cool indie British film-maker."

We're seeing him now as a cool indie British film-maker."

Both The Ring and Champagne will be screened live on The Space - a digital arts service which has been developed by Arts Council England in partnership with the BBC and BFI.

Ruth Mackenzie, director of the London 2012 Festival, told the BBC: "Alfred Hitchcock is one of the great artists of the 20th Century and like all great artists he makes us look at the world differently - and he makes his art form transform itself after his input."

Over his career, spanning six decades, the director was nominated for five Oscars - but won just one honorary statuette, in 1968.

Source: BBC



ATN Bangla and ATN news expands its horizon by introducing mobile TV service for Middle East and Asia Pacific viewers. The service brings ATN Bangla and ATN news live on mobile handsets for viewers from the Middle East and Asia Pacific with plans to expand to other regions. A signing ceremony was held on April 18 at ATN Bangla office to celebrate the occasion between Brand Cart – a sister concern of Top of Mind (TOM) and ATN Bangla and ATN news. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by Ziauddin Adil, CEO of Top of Mind and Mahfuzur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of ATN Bangla and ATN news. Also present at the occasion were Shamsul Huda, Advisor along with other high officials of ATN Bangla and ATN news, and Mahubul Rahim Uday, CEO of Brand Cart.

Beetle Baily

by Mort Walker



Henry

by Don Trachte



ATN BANGLA	03:05 Bangla Feature Film 05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor 08:00 Reality Show: Prohashi Palli Forgotten Roots	Boishakhi TV	11:10 Tale-film: Duti Ghosh Phoring O Ekti Mintyu 08:40 Drama: Bewarish 12:30 Documentary: Jibonekha
CHANNEL i	12:05 Prokriti O Jibon 02:40 Tale-film: Kadombini Moriya Proman Korilo Se Morey Nai 05:00 Janapader Khorob 11:30 Spot light	Maasranga Television	02:30 Phone and Concert: Ichchhey Gaan-er Dupur 05:02 Square Hospital Doctor's Chamber 06:30 Cine Nama 11:00 Fusion Music
ETV	10:02 Sonamoni Shukh-e Oshukh-e 01:30 Bangla Feature Film 06:30 Musical Programme: Tanana	Fox Movies	11:20 Fargo 01:00 Seven Pounds 03:10 Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief Concert
BANGLAVISION	05:10 Knight & Day 07:00 Homeland		

abc radio FM 89.2	06:00 Bhaier Janajaly 09:00 Mahabaty Jibony 12:00 Bhaier Bhaier 05:00 Duranto Bhaier 05:00 Shaandhara 07:00 Shajer Hoga 09:00 Bhaier Bhaier 11:00 Golper Shech Nei RADIO FOOTI	02:00 Fourti Unlimited 06:00 Bumper to Bumper 10:00 Club Fourti 01:00 Fish Back music RADIO TODAY FM 89.6 06:00 Green FM 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka 10:00 Fish Back 12:30 Islamic Program Rupali Gaan 05:00 Today World Music 07:00 Top of the Week
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Ain
On Desh TV at 09:45pm
Single Episode TV Play
Cast: Azad Abul Kalam, Shatabdi Wadud

Collateral
On HBO at 09:30pm
Genre: Crime / Drama
Cast: Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx

Prohashi Palli Forgotten Roots
On ATN Bangla at 08:00pm
Reality Show

10:10 Bhalo Thakun	10:30 The Walking Dead
11:05 Anadar Ramnagar	HBO
06:15 Gaan O Fun	11:30 Music and Lyrics
11:25 Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo (Live)	01:40 Bangkok Dangerous Daylight 03:45 Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone 06:15 Collateral
nTV	12:05 Concert- Bamba Shubhoshondhya 06:15 Natuner Jaygaan (Live)
11:30 Musical Programme: Priyanka Gope and Sandipan	09:30 Collateral 12:05 Due Date Star World
Rtv	11:30 Desperate Housewives 02:30 Supernatural Tuch
10:10 Doctor's Prescription (Live)	05:30 Unforgettable 10:30 Criminal Minds 11:30 Joey
03:45 Natuner Jaygaan (Live)	National Geographic Channel
05:30 Game Show: Ghar-e Bairey R Music	03:30 Snake Wranglers 04:30 I Predator 05:30 Snake Underworld 09:30 Fight Science 10:30 Bruce Lee Lives 11:30 Deadliest Warrior
Desh TV	11:45 Call-er Gaan BBC World
03:02 Live Musical Programme: Priyongor Gaan	
06:25 123 Siskimur 08:15 Bindu Thekey Britto 09:45 Drama: Ain 11:45 Call-er Gaan	

ATN BANGLA	09:20pm Motihel C/A 11:00pm Hama Mital 04:00pm Longa Kando	Boishakhi TV	08:00pm Isokulum 08:15pm Harkipley 09:45pm Galbon Avenue
nTV	08:15pm Rupkatha 09:45pm Kobi	Rtv	08:15pm Chokhobag 09:00pm Chokhobag
ETV	09:30pm Bengali		

BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm. News (English) at 10am, 6pm, 10pm. ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm. News (English) at 9am, 6pm CHANNEL i News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm. nTV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm. ETV News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	Boishakhi TV	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm. News (English) at 9am, 6pm. BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm. News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm. Rtv News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm. Desh TV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm. Maasranga Television News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.
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ATN Bangla	12:30am Lead News	BANGLAVISION	12:00am Moba Shuvo Hi Quran 09:50pm Moneer Khatun Rtv 10:40am Taroklap Desh TV 07:45pm Mub O Mukharro 12:00am Zero Hour Maasranga Television
CHANNEL i	01:00am Trito Mata		
Boishakhi TV	11:00pm Saakhan 12:00am Zero Hour		