ATN BANGLA

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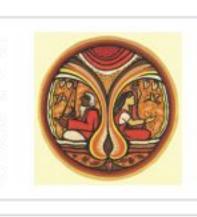
Maasranga Television

Bangla Feature Film

Drama Serial: Kobiraj

WHAT'S ON

4th Annual Classical Music Organiser: Lakshyapar Venue: Convention Centre, NCI Date: Dec 26-27, Time: 1st day: 9am 10pm; 2nd day: 7pm-6am



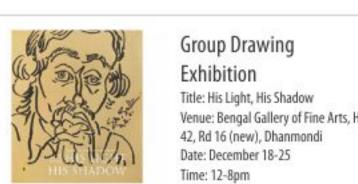


















Udichi holds its national

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshti recently held its two-day national coun-

cil in Dhaka, says a press release.

The 18th instalment of the council was inaugurated by its artistes, who were injured in a bomb attack in Jessore in 1999, at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka, Members and activists of Udichi from across the country attended the event with much enthusiasm.

Eminent educationist and essavist Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury was chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.

Asaduzzaman Noor MP, president of Bangladesh Abritti Samonnoy Parishad; Tapan Mahmud, president of Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (BRSSS); Fakir Alamgir, noted artiste and president of Gano Sangeet Samannoy Parishad; Minu Haq, dancer and president of Bangladesh Nritya Shilp Sangstha (BNSS); Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy; Mannan Hira, president of Bangladesh Pathonatok Parishad; Hasan Arif, secretary of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, among others were present as special guests at the

inaugural session. On the inaugural day, a procession was brought out from the Central Shaheed Minar, which ended at Shawkat Osman Auditorium of Central Public Library, Shahbagh. The two-day council witnessed cultural programmes with the participation of artistes from all district wings of Udichi.



Christmas means joy on earth. It is the

found baby Jesus with his parents in the

Yuletide season when the three kings

stable, following the star -- or so the

of the church welcomes Christmas car-

ols. These timeless songs are also heard

at hotels and international schools. Hav-

ing participated in some of these events

isn't quite complete without these songs.

Papers are given to get the right words in

with my friends, it seems that Yuletide

the carol singing, and Santa Claus is

costume, with the inevitable reindeer

Dhamondi celebrate the event with

sledge at the back. Big malls in

various size and colour.

there at the hotel with his red and white

bright, glittering posters and letterings.

is not only the Christian community that

Cards from overseas carry the notes of

enjoys the event with cakes and pitha of

the precious Christmas songs such as

"On the first day of Christmas my true

love gave to me" or "Silent night, Holy

night". Figures of long limbed deer,

coniferous trees and snow-covered

Christmas Revel and rejoice

and relatives, who live and work across the seven seas. One is also invited to homes, where Christian friends cook delicious polau, firni and kebabs. Goodies like chocolate and cookies are passed around. In areas like New Market the Bible story goes. Here in Dhaka, the head season is remembered and Christmas

trees are lit up in shops. Even at cake

available with the yummy pastry. The television, newspaper and magazines all carry special features on this

Many have dance parties, not only on

the New Year but also on December 25. Staying up and going to the church at midnight to watch carols being sung is the done thing. Wine and fruit juice punch is a common drink in large bowls during this season. Roast meat or duck stuffed with seasoning, curried meat pies, or mince pies -- with raisins, chopped up fruit rinds and sugar --Connoisseurs and foodies go in for the plum pudding too. Egg nog is sometimes served at elite gatherings. And so the seasonal revelry goes on beyond midnight.



Christmas in rural Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Last minute touches to usher in Christmas are underway in 25 villages in Pabna district. Thirteen churches, including Baptist and Catholic houses of worship have been beautifully decorated with the narrative of Christ's nativity, predominantly in Church.

Pabna Sadar upazila, Chatmohar upazila, Ishwardi upazila, Ataikula and Atghoria upazila.

"Special prayers for Christmas and carols will be held in all the churches in the district. As the part of the traditional event, a cake festival, cultural and sports competitions will be organised,' said Uttam Das, secretary of Pabna Baptist

Yuletide memories

Kallyan Coraia

welfare of everyone.

we did together.

everyone.

Kallyan Coraia, Actor

together on Christmas, the day is still a happy

together for the whole family and pray for the

I grew up in Lautia village, under Pabna district.

in Mothurapur Mission, which was near our

home. Those days are still fresh in my memory.

As a child, I would be at the Christmas celebration

A Christmas fair was arranged near our village

Another thing that was very important to us

other Christian households. It was a fun thing that

After moving to the capital, everything became

Dhaka-centric. I usually do not keep shooting sched-

ules on Christmas day. I spend time with my family,

I've arranged a small get-together on Christmas

go to the church and spend time with my friends.

Eve where all my close friends will come. This

zens. I hope Christmas brings good tidings for

was to collect homemade pitha and cakes from

My plan for this Christmas is to arrange a get



Andrew Kishore

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Andrew Kishore, Singer

I was born and raised in Rajshahi, and spent some wonderful childhood years there. Those carefree times make me nostalgic. Every year during Christmas, I look back at those days and reminisce the great moments.

When I was young, I used to look for gifts under the pillow on Christmas Eve, as the gifts were always left there by my parents.

Each Christmas, I eagerly anticipated new clothes as gifts, which always made me very happy. We were a middle-income family and we would be happy with whatever gifts my father would get mission. My friends and I made all necessary us. Interestingly, instead of eating at home on preparations for exploding firecrackers on the Christmas, we would visit a nearby community occasion. We also used to enjoy hymns that were center and join the Christmas feast there.

Plenty of games were arranged in those days, and I also participated in some of them. I also used to enjoy the special plays being staged on the occasion. Each year I waited for Christmas to come. It

was the day for us to celebrate and make merry.

Certain responsibilities came with age. Even after moving to Dhaka, I used to visit Rajshahi on Christmas. However, that regular practice changed over the years. The past few years, I've been outside the country, performing at concerts,

My son, who studied in England, has now come Christmas, I will pray for my country and its citiback home, but my daughter is now studying abroad. Although the whole family cannot get

"Muktijudder Natyatshab-2012"

> comes to an end PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

With a call to all patriotic people of the country to stand united against all communal forces, a three-day drama festival titled "Muktijudder Natyatshab-2012" concluded in Chittagong last Sunday. Pantomime, a quarterly publication from Chittagong city,

organised the festival at the District Shilpakala Academy. KDS Group supported the festival. The first day of the festival featured a mimodrama titled

"Freedom" and a monodrama "The Border" -- both presented by Pantomime Movement. Scripted and directed by Rezwan Razan, Pantomime Move-

ment's production "Freedom", through apt expressions and body movement, described how the Pakistan army with the help of their local cohorts brutally tortured the general people of the country. It was the 16th show of the mimodrama. Following the show, the monodrama "The Border", scripted

and directed by Raj Ghosh, was staged. The drama zooms in on the relationship of a border guard and a child, who, later is shot by the former's colleague. Theatre troupe Anadikalpo staged the play "1971", written

by Humayun Ahmed, on the second day of the festival. Directed by Masudur Rahman, the play narrated the story of Rafique, who was shot dead by the Pakistan army as he helped the villagers and freedom fighters, pretending to be a The festival concluded with the staging of "Kobor", written

by Shaheed Munier Chowdhury. The troupe Alor Khonje staged the drama based on the Language Movement. Earlier, former Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiddudin Chowdhury inaugurated the festival as chief

guest. KDS Group's Managing Director Selim Rahman; theatre personality M Saiful Alam Chowdhury; cultural activists Pradip Dewanji, Alam Khorshed, Professor Arup Barua and journalist Najimuddin Shyamal spoke on the occasion.

Sylhet Station Club observes 125th anniversary

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The three-day celebration of Sylhet Station Club's 125th founding anniversary ended on Saturday night by handing out of honorary awards to several illustrious personalities of the region for their outstanding contribution to different fields at the national level. The three-day event also included cultural functions and a

seminar on the history of the Sylhet-Assam region. Sculptor of the 'Aporajeyo Bangla', Syed Abdullah Khalid, and veteran sports personality Ranjit Das were honoured with awards on the concluding day. However, Das could not join the celebrations due to ill health.

The cultural function began with a dance, followed by rendition of inspirational songs. These were presented by young artistes of Sylhet, while Bhabna from the capital performed some group dances. Nasima Shaheen, Subir Nandi and Ankhi Alamgir were on

the stage with unique presentations of modern and folk songs. Former Election Commissioner Sohul Hossain; Sylhet Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran; Sylhet Metropolitan Police Commissioner AB Barua; festival committee convener Suprio Chakravarty and club president Nuruddin Ahmed addressed the gathering at the concluding function.

BTV, almost half a century later



Remnants of a golden past: Champa, Abdullah Al Mamun and Raisul Islam Asad in Shahzadir Kalo Negaab (left); Asaduzzaman Noor and Dolly Zahur in Eishob Dinratri. Courtesy: Ek Jiboney Television by Faridur Reza Sagor.

"Bornali"; and Fazley Lohani in "Jodi Kichu Money Na Koren" to name a few. From April 2004, BTV branched off into

a 24/7 international dimension by launching the satellite channel BTV

Now that we are open to the world, perhaps it's a good time to evaluate the standards we are projecting to our international audience. It's no secret that the BTV audience has

progressively been moving away. And it is not because of the lure of satellite TV. The top private channels enjoy massive popularity, not only for their entertainmen shows, but also for documentaries and news programmes. BTV is in the unenviable position of playing catch-up with programme formats, content and style. A closer look would probably reveal that the pioneering BTV producers are decisionmakers at private channels.

So where's the bottleneck? Critics com plain that there is a dearth of quality performers and musicians. Many emi nent musicians who were the heart and

soul of the immortal songs of the yeste years are no more. Accompanists are mostly untrained and have very little incentive to develop their skills further. Pay cheques don't compare well with private channels'. Technical developm has come to a standstill. Many of the musical programmes are supposedly taped in private studios or for those who can afford it, in overseas studios. Some point out that the whole set up for programmes has become like another puppet show, artistes arriving on stage only for lip-synch while the troupe of accompanists listlessly strum their instru

down to the make-up crew and the cameraman to make a good show of it all. Even with the declining audience, BTV has the largest volume of viewers simply because of its network -- viewers not less than 100 million in the country alone, with more than 10,000 registered artistes. Surely advertisement revenues alone

could be a major source of funding for the

ments for show. Even the stage decora-

tions are re-used innumerably. So it's

institute for the new generation. Another radical approach could be that BTV cuts its investment in any new developments, and becomes a net purchaser of

renovations? The directors of yesteryears

could develop a meaningful training

privately packaged programmes only. With its nationwide and now international audience, that would certainly get the sponsors' attention to fund these programmes. BTV can then be more of a telecaster, and outsource all original content production. The 48th anniversary of BTV seems to be a jarring reminder that the role of the

state run institution needs to be reevaluated. From its inception, BTV has been the birthplace of talent from all fields of entertainment -- from the charismatic newscasters to actors, dramatists, singers, dancers, sports personalities to the charming announcers. Innovation, skill and sincerity were the buzzwords. At the threshold of mid-life crisis, now seems a good time as any to see how that brilliance can be revived.

Shilpakala Academy produces jatrapala Isa Khan

MUSINGS

How BTV has changed! When it was

launched in 1964 (under the name of

Pakistan Television Corporation), people

would excitedly flock in front of their TV

sets, waiting expectantly, looking at a

blank screen with the words PTC on it.

The title music "Apache" by the Beatles

programmes for the first time. The TV

centre was then at the DIT building in

Motijheel, Dhaka. With a one-room stu-

tion presented countless programmes,

station was finally shifted to Rampura t

modernise the facilities and broadcast

technically developed programmes. By

1980, the black and white programmes

the heart and soul of the variety of

There was of course, the ever-

Surprisingly the big name producers -

programmes -- were not always career

innovative Mustafa Monowar famous for

Tagore. Mustafa Kamal Syed, Abdullah Al

Rahman formed the driving force behind

the variety programmes and TV plays.

Sakina Sarwar, Musa Ahmed, Kazi Abu

others supervised the music programm

ties such as the former Chief Justice

Mustafa Kamal and Professor Abdul

Matin conducting the quiz programme

Chowdhury hosting "Apnar Doctor"; Pro-

"Shoptoborna" and the popular musical

fessor Abdullah Abu Sayeed anchoring

"Bolun Dekhi"; Professor Badruddoza

Zafar Siddique, Qamrunnessa Hasan and

But there were also famous personali-

his artistic touch with the puppets and

directing plays, from Shakespeare to

Mamun, Atiqul Huque Chowdhury,

Nawazish Ali Khan and Mustafizur

dio and limited technical hands, the sta-

Ten years later, on January 9, 1975, the

From December 25, 1964, the national

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

was a household tune.

mainly on local culture.

were replaced by colour.

TV started to telecast different



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of the year long project to celebrate the declaration of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, as the "2012 Capital of Islamic Culture for the Asian Region" by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in association with Ministry of Cultural Affairs undertook different initiatives and arranged programmes. As part of the initiative, the academy has produced a jatrapala.

Titled "Isa Khan", the pala depicts the life and struggles of the mighty ruler of Sonargaon. It is an insight into the history of this region as well.

The academy premiered the production on October 17 at the Bangladesh Loko O Karushilpa Foundation premises in Sonargaon, the capital of Isa Kha's Bhati region. The production saw its Dhaka premiere on

December 22 at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Written by Bhairavnath Gangopadhyay, the pala has been directed by eminent jatra artiste Milon Kanti Dev. Isa Khan's conflict with the Mughal emperor and his fight against Man Singh is an oft-read story. The

two battles as well as internal politics has come forth throughout the pala. A group of jatra artistes including Milon Kanti Dey, Shishir Rahman and Tanmoy performed the

major roles in the pala. The traditional ambiance of jatra was apparent during the performance. Apart from costumes and set design, the beats of the trumpet, tabla and dhol as well as the non-stop recital by the orator in the

background made for a perfect ambiance.

Cultural programme at "Manikganj Bijoy Mela"

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

A cultural function was held at the "Bijoy Mela" (Victory Fair) stage in Manikganj last Saturday night. Manikganj Samity in Dhaka arranged the events where singers Romana Islam, Farzana Chumki Siddikur Rahman and Russel rendered solo. Artistes of

Shilparath performed dances. The artistes of Mirpur Bangla College staged a musical, "Banglar Mukh". Singers Romana Islam and Farzana Chumki were given reception at the Earlier, the organisation hon-

oured 16 high school teachers of seven upazilas and Manikganj Municipality of the district. Manikganj Samity also gave stiper to 324 high schools of the district

Columnist Syed Abul Moksud was present at the function as chief

Manikganj Samity's president



sided over the function where local lawmaker ABM Anwarul Haque; former lawmaker Mofizul Islam Khan Kamal;

Professor Mahfuza Khanam pre

Manikganj Zila Parishad's admir trator and president of Manikganj

district unit of Bangladesh Awami eague, Golam

Mohiuddin; stipend distributing committee's convener, Aliuzzaman Khan and its member secretary Himel Khan among others addressed the gathering.

by Mort Walker

HERE'S

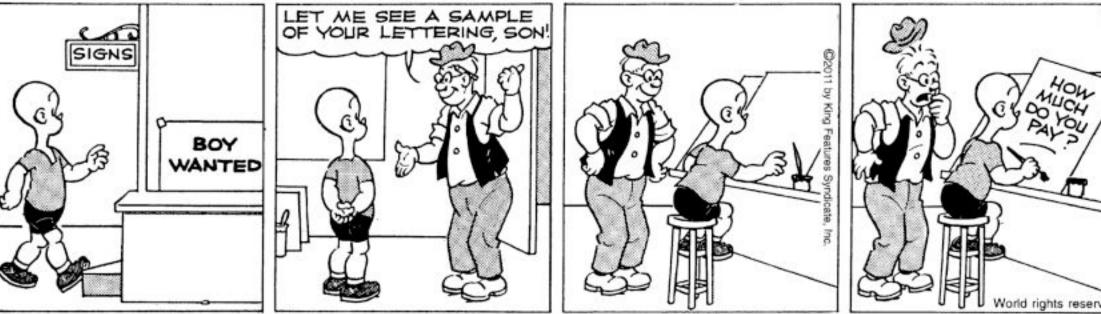
NUMBER!

by Don Tranchte

Beetle Baily



Henry



06:20 Robin Hood

09:30 Drama Serial: College CHANNEL 9

10:30 Drama Serial: 11:15 Sports Daily **CHANNEL 24**

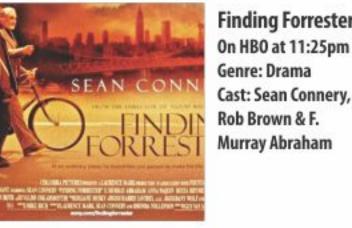
01:00 Musical Programme

Bangla Feature Film RADIO

Raat Bhor Gaan

Borodin-e Amra On ETV at 07:50pm Celebrity Talk Show Host: Lara Lotus







Drama Serial: Bagha 08:20 Drama Serial: 09:35 Straight Line Bhomradah Collag Boishakhi TV Fox Movies

BANGLAVISION Gnomeo & Juliet Nacho

Mr. Bean's Holiday Finding Forrester Star World 11:30 Two And A Half Men

12:00 Last Man Standing 12:05 Business Talk Discovery Channel 02:30 Gaan R Gaan

Desh TV

02:30 Tattoo Hunter 05:30 Man vs. Wild Bangla Feature Film Drama Serial: Radio

DRAMA SERIAL

08:15pm The Side Effect 09:20pm To To Company 1:30pm Roshni 07:45pm Sat Kahon Maasranga Television 09:30pm Kamini

08:15pm Nagarik

NEWS BULLETIN

News (Bangla) at 10am, News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm. News (English) at 10am, News (English) at 9am, ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, News (Bangla) at 10am. 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm. News (English) at 9am. News (English) at 1pm, CHANNEL i 3pm, 6pm, 9pm. News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm. News (Bangla) at 2pm 7:30pm, 10:30pm.

News (Bangla) at 1pm,

oishakhi TV

News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm. News (Bangla) at 2pm. News (Bangla) at 7pm

TALK SHOW

12:02am Ekushey-er Raat

Democracy Maasranga Television CHANNEL 24 Muktabak

12:05am Modhyraater

12:00am Zero Hour