## RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 15th National Fine Arts Exhibition 2002

December 28-January 27 The 15th National Fine Arts Exhibition 2002 started on December 28 at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. At the exhibition several awards including Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award 2002 for the Best Work, Bengal Foundation Award, Arab Bangladesh Bank Award, Deepa Haque Award, Bashundhara Group Award and Pacific Group Gold Medal will be declared. Honourable President Professor Dr. Jajuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the exhibition. The exhibition will run through January 27 everyday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7



Exhibition Solo exhibtion of Abdus

Shakoor's paintings and drawings begins as from today at "Shilpangan".

#### **Exhibition** December 27- January 8

A solo exhibition of paintings by A H M Bashirullah started at the Alliance Française de Dacca on December 27. The exhibition will January 8 everyday from 10 a.m

### Music & Dan

# When Michael Jackson look-alike came to town

CULTURE

Living it up with Navi and "High Times"

**FAYZA HAQ** 

HE new year's eve at "Sheraton Winter Garden" was as agog with light, colour, music and dancing till the wee hours as one expected. The food, served earlier, was passable -except for the desert which was scrumptious-- specially the apple pie, for which people specially go to that particular eating place. They were skimpy with the tea or coffee. But the run of the mill five star hotel food did not deter the middle aged men from dancing with strange gyrations and jerky motions with their young and beautiful companions. Similarly, the few foreigners, with their gold caps and gold whistling paper, pranced about on the floor as the band "High Times" and Navi ( the Micheal Jackson look-alike)belted out favourite songs of the 80s with the accompaniment of the drums, keyboard and guitar. Young women with tinted hair, layers of make-up and the short ensembles of "shalwar-kameez" or jeans and leather jackets, junk jewellery and six-inched heels were there with their suitable partners too. Even at 1am, people were crowding and stampeding to get onto the dance floor after the dinner, such is the penchant for dancing in public by the upper echelons of the society.

The young women singers with their body-hugging blouses, draped gold belts and black slacks were partly imported phenomena while the rest of the players seemed the usual handful of young aspirants in the band music field, with the background music sometimes drowning the rendering of Madonna and Michael Jackson songs. The lights flashed behind and on the singers as well as on the dancers from time to time while the merrymakers, in the overtly western trend , danced the night away, impervious to the cold and any possible misery of the masses, not so far away in their slum hovels. "High Times" has earlier sung for charity but this was not such an occasion. It was all fun and frolic, impervious to any



Members of "High Times" performing at "Sheraton Winter Garden"

She had graduated last year as a

medical doctor from the Caribbean

Island, having graduated from the

Dominican Republic. She was born

musical family. My elder brother

Guchu began 'Chaos' while the

other, Bogy is in 'Renaissance', as I

said earlier. My uncle Pablo Khan is

also involved in music and he first

began with 'Feelings' and it is he

who discovered James of 'Nogor

Baul' and Protik Nabi, a Bengali pop

of band and pop music, Omar said,

"There is a big group of people who

want to hear English music. The

problem with our country now is that

we have only new Bengali bands

coming up and so I got together with

my old school friend Shadib, the

guitarist, forming 'High Times' and

my wife joined me later. We've been

married for two years now. As Azra

speaks Spanish fluently, we use that

as an advantage, as a we do a lot of

Latin pop and jazz numbers. We

generate the songs of the 80s and

play music which is popular with a

particular generation and not just

the teenagers, as there is a void for

this type of music in the market right

now. Right now Kylie Minogue and

Micheal Jackson along with

Madonna are still very much in

vogue. We just don't play what is

popular but what we like and what

Asked to comment on the culture

singer who is a big hit right now."

Omar added." I come from a

and raised in USA, earlier."

prevailing socio-economic or political problems gathering momentum in the city.

Imran, who organised the function, putting it pithy words, said ," The purpose of the dancing and singing was to celebrate the new vear in a congenial atmosphere. The exclusive element is the presence of the look-alike Michael Jackson dancer and singer Navy. The band is that of the Omar, the younger brother of Faisal Siddigui, Omar's wife Azra and others."

Omar, sitting in the green room after her performance after midnight, surrounded by snacks, smoke and drink, said," My whole family is into music. My brother Bogey, was with 'Renaissance' and he is the president of Bangladesh Association of Band Music (BAMBA). Our band , 'High Times' has at present five members, including Sody, Azra, Mehdi, Shadib and Rumi. Mehdi plays the keyboard, Shadib plays the guitar, Sody on bass guitar, Rumi plays the drums while Azra and her sister Nadia . visiting from USA, are the vocals. Our group normally performs in big functions such as this. As a graphic designer by profession, I cannot have as many performances as I might have wanted.

"Azra ,my wife is a physician and is working at present with public health and was with a project run by UNICEF, which has recently ended.

Year we presented Madonna numbers like 'Lisla Bonita', 'Music', 'Can't get you out of my head' by Kylie Minogue. As live performances they appear appealing and people can dance with these numpers. We play at celebration balls, at charity show, on Halloween, to raise funds for the underprivileged, at clubs such as the International Club. We can perform once or twice a month as both my wife and I are totally preoccupied otherwise." Saying something about his

we qualify as good music. On New

work as a graphic designer, Omar said," We try to focus on providing people with designs at competitive rates. I'm trying to be a success in Dhaka in the web and print media. My organization is called 'Image Nation'. I expect our future concerts will include more of our participation even as regards the lighting, acoustics, setting up of the ambiance etc. I was satisfied with my performance today and wished that I could play a bit longer. In bringing the look-alike Michael Jackson, I've tried to introduce the king of pop to the people

Giving his impression of band music in Bangladesh, Omar said," the problem is that people are just listening to Bengali music of James and 'LRB'. It limits the listener's imagination to that genre of music. For Bengali music to flourish, one can't listen to international music so that one's vision tends to shrink. We want to give the audience what other bands cannot offer. We offered Madonna's "Lisla Bonita' and 'You sigo aqui' (I'm still here) and it is by Paulina Rubio. We began in 1997 as a classic rock band inspired by 'Pink Floyd' and we hope to do a 'Pink Floyd' show within a month. Sahdib on the guitar is amazing when he plays 'Pink Floyd' and I think this will carry us a long way. Mehdi, who plays the keyboard, who was playing in Canada for the top 40s in the chart therefor quite some time is here to help us out. People in Dhaka are a little tired of the DJ scene and the thumping new electronic music. Rumi, our drummer, is promising too. They



long now for the music of the 80s and 90s, the music that they had heard when they were growing up, and that is why live music of this type at this point is something very popular. We perform for fun: it's not our full time job, so we aren't aiming at TV performances. Likewise, we've no compositions of our own so far. It's been six months when we got together again, so there is all that future us.

"In future, instead of playing at parties, we hope to have our own concerts. We're available for private performances too at homes, should anyone back us. We do get compensated for our efforts and so we enjoy this hobby of ours guite immensely. There are other bands like us such as 'Pentagon', 'Miles' etc. But we are the ones that play western music only, I believe. Rumi, who was once with 'Renaissance' and who plays regularly at Alliance Francaise etc is not so familiar to me, incidentally. In Bangladesh it is hard to make a profession out of music so we let it at that."

Azra said," I got into music basically by singing on my own since I was nine years old; however, I have no classical or formal training. It was in the family, as my father used to sing and so it grew to be my hobby. I have performed in public before many times, as a child with my father, and as I grew older I sang

20:00 Raaz [1 - 3]

23:00 Avinash lps -

23:30 Aaj Ki Baat

(+30 minutes)

STAR WORLD

Cheers

Show

Buas

Roswell

10:30 Oprah Winfrey

Show

11:28 Star Asia Travel

12:30 Suddenly Susan

Beautiful

Squares

World's Scariest

Police Chases

Dark Angel

Oprah Winfrey

22:00

5:30

6:00

6:30

7:30

8:30

9:30

21:00 Khullja Sim Sim

Ssshhhh...Koi

at college functions with an audience of about 700 people. I use to sing 'gawwalis' and Hindi film songs which were very much in demand in USA by the migrant community there as well as the American fans of Indian songs. My favourite numbers were 'Tere bian kia jina', 'Chura lia hai tumne hai dil ko' and 'O sathee ray' Now that I'm here I'm singing more of English as well as Latin numbers, as I also speak Spanish. This was at the University of North Carolina, USA, where I was studying Chemistry and Psychology. It was later that I went to medical school at the Dominican Republic

for five years: there too I performed

for the Indian community there.

"The response overseas to Indian film songs was overwhelming as I usually performed at Indian functions so that the Indian crowd felt nostalgic and raved about my signing as they tend to be so homesick abroad. However, there were some westerners who came along and appreciated the music too, as recently there has been the trend to go in for Indian culture in the west, the Middle East and other places on the globe. The outsiders find Hindi songs exotic and beautifully, and if they have people to help them understand the words they realize that the words are very meaningful. A lot of people in my university were taking Hindi and Urdu classes and

they naturally grasped a lot of the meaning of the songs. My own parents are from India and I myself speak Hindi and Urdu quite fluently.' Navi, the piece de resistance of

the show sang "Billy Jeans" etc.,

danced till sweat poured over his

face, was "gorgeous, sexy and the

best dancer on the face of the

earth", as one female fan put it. Navi

said," I love what I'm doing very much as I'm a fan of Michel Jackson I've been impersonating him for 13 years. I have my own backing of dancers and singers and am not usually with any band. I learnt dancing on my own by watching Michael Jackson's videos all the time, for years. I have performed in front of him in New York, last year. This was a tribute to Michael Jackson. I'm fascinated by MJ because I think he is a great entertainer. Michael Jackson, in my opinion, is a victim of his own success. He went into show business when he was five years old. He has never quite been the everyday person: he is different and what we call 'strange' as he sees life as an experiment, to create music and videos. He's enjoying himself now as he is the father of three children. I'm originally from the Caribbean Islands and I'm friends with this group and that's why I'm here. I've peen in Bangladesh as a guest and for a holiday; I think Bangladesh is fantastic: I love the food, the swirl of the traditional clothes and I believe that the people are extremely friendly. I look forward to coming again: in the meantime I hope to do some shopping and sight -seeing before I leave."

was worthwhile in as much that one got to know the personalities of Navi and the band. One also got an opportunity to witness how some of the elite pass their leisure hours and celebrate something as important as a new year's eve.

Australia Vs

Day 1, High-

South Africa

Cricket Castle

Series Cape Town

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa Vs

Day 1, High-

liahts(S)

Pakistan 2nd Test,

Sportsline Tonight

Sportsline (R)

Orange Test

**AUSTRALIA** 

Australia Vs

Day 1, High-

Orange Test

**AUSTRALIA** 

Australia Vs

sion(L)

07:30 Rally Racing Mrf

National

Series Sydney,

England 5th Test

Motocross C'Ship

2002 Pune, MA

**INDIA** Event

Highlights(R)

Orange Test

**AUSTRALIA** 

Australia Vs

Series Sydney.

08:00 Australia Cricket

Day 2, 1st Ses-

lights(R)

05:27 Australia Cricket

England 5th Test

Series Sydney,

Australia Cricket

lights(S)

2:30

England 5th Test,

The night of the performance

# TV GUIDE

#### 8.40 Shubhessha Nin Alor Pathe 9.15 Krira Jogot Shustha Thakun 9.40 10.00 The News Cartoon Notun Kuri-2002 News Headlines 12.00 News Headlines Afternoon News Headlines Desher Gan 3.20 Aiker

Shangbadpotro 3.25 Bengali Feature **News Headlines** 4.00 5.00 Khabar 5.35 Cartoon 6.00 Khabar 6.10 Ei Prithibi Programs From 6.35 Chittagong Center 7.00 News Headlines Weather Report Malonsho Chayachobi 8.00 8 o'clock Bengali

News 8.30 Shamprotik Proshongo 9.00 Annyarokom-Magazine Program 9.30 Prio manush 10 o'clock English **News Headlines** 10.30 Ai kal Porshu 11.00 Foreign Documen

#### tary Program 11.30 Shangbad

ATN **BANGLA** 6:00 Islamic Prog ATN Bangla News Musical prog Sandan Baŭl Mela 9:00 Mage Serial: Kun Semanay Mukte Film Magazine: Henolux Benudon Bichitra Reporting prog: Prekkhapot Islamic Prog: ATN Bangla News 12:30 Islamic Prog: 2:30 ATN Bangla News Headlines 3:25 Bengali Feature Film: Jebon Maney Juddo Islamic Prog: Children prog Cholo Gan Gai 7:00 ATN Bangla **Evening News** 7:25 Viewers opinion prog: Motamot

Drama: Asto Madol

ATN Bangla News

Musical prog: Tume

ATN Bangla News

10:35 Musical prog.: Seat

Magazine prog:

Rang-ar-Mela

10:00

#### **HBO** 6:30 Instinct to Kill 8:15 Fangs 10:15 Bloodfist v:

Human Target 12:00 Mother 4:00 Joe Dirt 5:45 The Hunted 8:00 Crocodile Batman & Robin 10:00 12:30 The Last

Seduction 2:45 Mother Joe Dirt

4:45 **AXN** 6:30 Cruel Intention 8:30 Rated

9:30 Pacific Blue Old Squad 10:30 11:30 Martial Law 12:30 Now See This 1:30 Pacific Blue Movie: Cruel 2:30 Intention The Green

4:30 Hornet 5:30 Now See This 6:30 Martial Law 7:30 Motorworld Seven Days 8:30 9:30 Celebrity Adventures

Movie: US Seals 10:30 12:30 The Hunter 1:30 Queen of Swords The Pact 2:30 Martial Law

#### STAR MOVIES 6:00

7:00

The Ticket 6:30 Absolute **Beginners** 8:30 Turbulence 3 Rich In Love Coupe De Ville 12:00 1:45 Of Mice and Men 3:45 Sex. Lies and Obsession Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit

Benath Loch

Ness 9:00 Last Dance 8:45 12:00 Gupt 10:45 Final Assault 12:15 Rich in Love Stakeout ONE SONY

### Music Mantra Just Mohabbat Dil Ka Dwar

7:30 Amrit Varsha Sant Asaram 8:00 8:30 Charbusters

6:00

7:00

9:00 Good Morning Disney 10:00 Music Mantra Bournvita Quiz 10:30 Contest

Shree Ganesh Hum Sab Ek Hain

12:30 Kya Haadsa Kya Hageegat 1:30 Kabhi Biwi Kabhi Jasoos Boogie Woogie 2:30 Om Namay

Shivay 4:00 Just Mohabbat 4:30 Chhoti Si Asha 5:00 Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahin 5:30 Shri Krishna 6:30 Disney Hour

7:30 Charbusters Music Mantra 8:30 Kya Haadsa Kya Hageegat 9:00 Devi 10:00 Heena 10:30 CID 11:00 Meri Biwi Wonderful

#### 11:30 Bhanwar 12:00 Chhoti Si Asha

**SET MAX** Mini Movies: Bhakti Mein Shakti KPFH Satte Pe Satta 9:00 Hotlist 9:30 Guide KPFH Satte Pe 1:00

Satta 1:30 Kohram 5:00 Hotlist 7:00 Immandaar Kapil Dil Se

ADVENTURE (+30 minutes)

#### TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS STAR MOVIES: 8.45 p.m. Last



Upon taking a new job, young lawyer Rick Hayes (Rob Morrow) is assigned to the clemency case of Cindy Liggett (Sharon Stone), a woman convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death. As Haves investigates the background for her case, the two begin to form a deep friendship, while all the while the date for her execution draws nearer.

Lifeboat

Land

Explorer's

Journal

Franz Joseph

Surfer's Journal

Fresh Air Crew

Sahara Sprinter

The Great Indian

Railway Pt2

Franz Joseph

Lifeboat

Land

14:00 Surfer's Journal

Journal

Windborn

16:30 Surfer's Journal

Journa

18:00 Fresh Air Crew

Lifeboat

21:30 Fresh Air Crew

22:00 Shark Feeders

Assault On

Manaslu

23:30 Danger Diaries

CHANNEL [V]

Shark Feeders

Danger Diaries

Assault On

17:00 Explorer's

Explorer's

**Danger Diaries** 

5:30

6:30

7:00

8:00

9:30

10:00

10:30

11:30

12:30

13:00

14:30

15:30

18:30

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:30

HBO: 12.30 a.m. The Last Seduction. Bridget Gregory has a lot going for her: she's beautiful, she's intelligent, she's married to a doctor. But all of this isn't enough, as her husband Clay finds out. After she persuaded him to sell medicinal cocaine to some drugdealers, she takes off with the money, almost a million dollars. and goes undercover in a mid-

Danger Diaries (+30 minutes) [V] Hit Machine 7:00

7:30 [V] Back To Back 8:00 [V] Jumpstart [V] Hit Machine 9:00 [V] Back To Back 9:30 [V] Hit Machine 10:00 10:30 [V] Back To Back

[V] Hit Machine 11:00 11:30 [V] Zabardast Hits 12:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox 12:30 [V] Fdfs 13:00 [V] Hit Machine

13:30 [V] Zabardast 14:00 [V] Back To Back 14:30 [V] Zabardast 15:00 [V] Back To Back

[V] Hit Machine

16:00 [V] Hotline 17:00 Vitop5@5 17:30 [V]Ideo War [V] Hit Machine 18:00 Very V 19:00 Ctrl [V]

15:30

19:30 [V] Zabardast Hits 20:00 Po [V] **21:00** [V] Jungli Jukebox

### **Batman & Robin**

21:30 [V] Fdfs

22:00 Club [V]

STAR GOLD

Shart

(+30 minutes)

6:30

10:25

10:30

11:00

13:55

14:00

14:30

14:55

15:00

18:25

18:30

19:00

22:25

22:30

23:30

5:30

6:00

6:30

7:00

7:30

8:30

23:00 [V] Zabardast Hits

23:30 [V] Back To Back

Geet Bahar

Hit Filmein Hit

Sangeet

Geet Bahar

Sangeet

Hit Filmein Hit

Kya Film Kya Geet

Machalti Jawani

Woh Main Nahin

Hit Filmein Hit

Dacait 03:25

Sangeet

Ooh La La

STAR PLUS

Bhabhi

Boom

Aatma

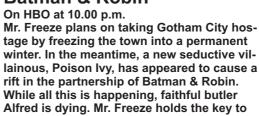
Geet Bahar

Geet Bahar

Hit Filmein Hit

Shaka Laka Boom

(+30 minutes)



9:00

9:40

9:55

10:00

10:30

11:00

11:25

12:00

15:00

15:30

16:00

16:30

17:00

17:30

18:40

18:55

19:00

19:25

19:30

11:30 Shanti

PICK OF THE DAY

13:00 The Bold And The 13:30 Hollywood The Brady Bunch 14:00 14:30 Baywatch Kya Film Kya Geet 15:30 The Simpsons Maal Hai To Taal 16:00 Cheers

Sangeet

Fox Kids

Hit Geet

Hera Pheri

Meri Saheli

Film Toppers

Hit Filmein Hit

Tu Tu Main Main

Hum Hai Kal Aaj

Krisshna Arjun

Aur Phir Ek Din

Hit Filmein Hit

Small Wonder

Kya Film Kya Geet

Shaka Laka Boom

Hum Hai Kal Aai

Sangeet

Sonpari

13:30 Ek Mulaqat

Kal A

14:30 Kyun Hota Hai

Pyarrr

Khichdi

Saans

Sangeet

Fox Kids

Aaj Ki Baat

Kal Aur Kal

Film Toppers

Boom

Hai

16:30 Starnews Asia 17:00 Frasier World's Wildest 17:30 Police Videos 18:25 Starnews Asia 18:30 Nash Bridges 19:30 Traders

20:28 Star Asia Trave 20:30 Frasier 21:00 World's Wildest Police Videos 22:00 Nash Bridges 23:00 Traders

#### **ESPN** (+30 minutes) 6:00

Sportscenter Hindi 6:30 Sportscenter Hindi (R) 7:00 New Zealand Cricket National Christchurch,

Bank Series 02/03 **NEW ZEALAND** New Zealand Vs India 3rd Odi, Highlights(R) 9:00 Asian Bowling

Tour Aviva Asian Bowling Tour. Hong Kong Women'S Highlights(R) 10:00 Western Union World Football (T)

10:30 Goals! (R) 11:00 English Premier The Brady Bunch Football League **English Premier** 

Football League 2002/03 Manchester, ENGLAND Manchester United Vs Sunderland (R 13:00 English Premier Football League **English Premier** Football League

2002/03 London, **ENGLAND** Arsenal Vs Chelsea (R) 15:00 English Premier

Football League **English Premier** Football League 2002/03 Newcastle, ENGLAND Newcastle United Vs Liverpool (R) **17:00** Atp Tour World Series Tournamen

Tata Open Chennai, INDIA Quarterfinals(L) 21:00 Sportscenter Hindi

21:30 Cricket Programming Samsung Ratings Year In Review (T)

22:00 Sachin Tendulkar Programming India Vs... Presented By Sachin Tendulkar (T)

23:00 Sportscenter Hindi (T) 23:30 Cricket Programming Super Selector (R)

(+30 minutes)

1:00 Australia Cricket Orange Test Series Sydney, AUSTRALIA

England 5th Test Day 2, 2nd & 3rd Session(L) 12:30 Sports Unlimited 13:30 South Africa

STAR SPORTS

Cricket Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series Cape Town SOUTH AFRICA South Africa Vs Pakistan 2nd Test Day 1, High-

14:25 South Africa Cricket Castle Lager/Mtn Test

liahts(R)