

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

February March 18-April 7
Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts will hold a solo exhibition of abstract art by Mahmudul Haque, one of the major exponents of the trend in contemporary times. The show will be inaugurated at 6.30 p.m. by Honourable Minister for Commerce Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, the Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Jiro Kobayashi will also be present. The exhibition will run through April 7 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Dance/Instrumentals

March 15-18
The Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the High Commission of India, Dhaka will be presenting the following cultural programmes at three cities in the country as per following schedule:

Sitar/Surbahar recital by Mr. Jagdeep Sing Bedi and his troupe

March 18, 2003 at National Museum Auditorium, Dhaka at 07.00 p.m.

World Theatre Day

March 27
On occasion of World Theatre Day, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and ITI Bangladesh jointly organises a celebration ceremony. The programme schedule follows:

- 4.00 p.m. Assembly of theatre activists at the Mohila Samity premises
 - 4.30 p.m. Rally
 - 5.30 p.m. Tea
 - 6.30 p.m. Seminar, Award distribution and cultural show
- Interested are requested to collect their coupon within March 24.

Choitro Sankranti

April 13
Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation arranges a cultural show on the occasion at the Mohila Samity auditorium. The programme will start at 6 p.m.

Parampara

Tutelage with Pandit Jasraj

Legacy of the music maestro

NASHID KAMAL

It was the fall of 1984. Ottawa was ablaze with the autumn colours. Carleton University, where I was studying happened to be located in one of the most picturesque places of the world. On one side there was the Rideau River and on the other side the Rideau Canal. I could not help sing my songs of 'Basant' or 'Bahar' as I walked down the pathway next to the Rideau Canal and enjoyed the crimson red blended with ochre, all set in a green background of leaves and matched in perfect union. Although Tagore had described the Indian spring with such rich colours

*Ore bhai phagun legeche boney boney
Daley daley phuley phuley
patay patayre
araley araley koney koney*

I found it to be a most appropriate description of my own mood and that of the autumn colours which were like God's paintings along the entire pathway of the canal. I wondered how I could complete my tasks in Statistics, which I was studying. I would take all my books and research papers and sit near

the canal, singing songs to myself and hoping I would pass the tests. To make matters worse I found out that Pandit Jasraj would be performing in the auditorium of the University. I rushed to the performance and during the interval I went backstage to meet the Guru. I was already his fan and heard him singing 'Khambar Bahar' in the Kamani auditorium of Delhi in 1982. My soul was just ready for that particular raga where Panditji used his vocal mastery to imitate the buzzing sound of the bee as it went from one flower to another in search of honey. His rendering was unique as he sang out *Kaliyan Kaliyan bhamra* and so was my fear of requesting him for this raga. I knew that Ustadh did not like to sing as per request. I still gathered myself to go backstage and met Sarang Deb, Pandit Jasraj's son. I told him about my request, he stood there nonchalant and pointed to a figure behind me, 'Why don't you tell him yourself?' I looked behind, Panditji was emerging out of another room, he looked so small compared to his majestic presence on the stage. I told him that, he looked surprised and immediately said 'When people are bestowed with God's gift



Guruji at one of his performances

they can look big, no matter what their actual size is', then he asked me in Bangla 'Are you from Bangladesh?' I was quite surprised and hurriedly said 'Yes'. Later that night I went to dinner with him to an Indian gentleman's house and found out that he recognized the red jamdani sari that I was wearing. It was a red jamdani with intricate gold work, same as the vibrant colours of the autumn leaves. He had also lived for many years in Calcutta and his Bangla was flawless. Everyone around him called him Guruji and I addressed him in the same name. He was flanked by his daughter Durga Jasraj, tabla player, student Seema and harmonium player Appa Jalgaonkar. We took on to each other immediately and I left my statistics books and went off to Toronto with him by bus. Guruji made me sit next to him and as the din of fitting in huge musical instruments into the small container space of the bus, subsided as a secondary feature, I took the chance to tell Guruji about my secret yearning. 'Guruji, I would like to be your student'. He just smiled and said 'to phir gana sunao'. Without further ado I sang a number which I had heard once in the Calcutta radio *Deenana dukh haran dev santan hitkari* one of his bhajans. Guruji stared at me

almost thunderstruck, 'Where did you learn this? I only sang this once in a conference in India!'

I spent the next ten days with him and his team in Toronto, going from one public function to another, trying to understand the

Music is the art of the prophets, the only art that can calm the agitation of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given to us.

persona behind the celebrity. I discovered Guruji to be such a delightful companion, so learned in every sense, yet so humble and down to earth. Sometimes, he would marvel at Nazrul's compositions sung by me, sometimes at the wonder of the Niagra Falls, sometimes at the *alu begun tarkari* cooked by his erstwhile neighbour from Bombay, where Guruji lived

in India and where he asked me to meet him next.

That year year Guruji held music camps in Bombay. He invited all his students from all over India for a month long session where the students came to live in his tiny tanpura-studded flat in Versova. He had a young woman as the tabla player who would arrive each morning with a huge black bag (of tabla) which reminded me of the Kabuliwala's jholi. He sat in the living room all day -- the students sitting all around him. We started with sargam and 'palta' and as the voices warmed up he prepared us for a morning raga each day. Some of his favourites were Bairagi, Ahir Bhairav, Todi, Lalit. As he went to the next public performance he would make us accompany him there and would invariably sing the raga that he was currently teaching. This was true for the evening ragas as well. As he introduced each raga he would be sometimes lying back in a half resting position explaining the literature of the raga. Like a very erudite guru he would share both his insight of the Indian mythology as well as use *natak and abhinoy* in his rendering. For example as he sang

*Anat rati mani
Majani pechani
Batiya bolat tutrani*

as he explained tutrani he would show us how the stammering woman is called tutrani and how it is to be represented in songs. I was giggling with laughter. I being much younger than the other students -- Sweta, Pinky, Gargi, Tripti, Ratan, Marina -- all in their teens, lost all control and composed.

His technique would be to teach the *bandesh* in both ektal (slow) and the *tinata* and then allow the students to improvise a various levels. He would ask one of us to do the *alap*, one to do the *bistar* and so on. He'd just spot the most expert person and say 'Ek do shapaat tan mar do abhi' just to give us the indication of what

training and exercise could achieve. At lunch time he would have lunch with us in a small Japanese-style folding table, set on the same place where the tanpuras existed a short while ago. Lunch was very simple daal, bhaat roti, vegetable curry and sometimes some sweet -- but the conversation was worth a million. Guruji would himself giggle with laughter as he told us something like 'Saal mei do bar sardi lagta, ekbar che mahina ke liye or phir se chei mahina key liye' that's all. He is fluent in several of the Indian languages including Bangla, Gujarati, Punjabi and of course Hindi. His quick mind took no recess in hunting appropriate words from one of languages.

As evening approached the small flat in the suburbs of Bombay, Guruji would take us for a walk. Amidst the dusty and windy roads his serene company would add an extra balm of love flavoured with his penchant for mysticism, wit and mastery in deciphering our thought processes. We were in a mood for the evening session before which he offered his prayers. He took out his idols and

read mantra and sang bhajans. Sometimes he was in a mood to teach us his latest bhajan. As he explained the story behind the Sanskrit verses his eyes would light up as he sang in Desh raag

*Chitwan roke hu na rahi
Shyam sunder sindhu sunmukh
Sarita umung vehi*

This version was by Radha who saw Shyam and her heart went out to him as she could not help herself. Just as the river went to the sea and had no way of reverting back, so was Radha's heart and I felt so was Guruji's heart to his cause -- His music, to his love and devotion. He said he found God in music and his only quest was to bring peace on earth, complacence, end of hatred and bitterness through this unidirectional mode of love in music. Through time immemorial we the students only learned the songs and sang them, Guruji through his life and works implemented the underlying messages.

Dr. Nashid Kamal is a renowned vocal artiste and also Professor of Population Environment, Independent University, Bangladesh.



Pandit Jasraj presents a vocal recital flanked by his daughter Durga Jasraj.

TV GUIDE

ATN BANGLA

- 8:00 ATN Bangla News
- 8:25 ATN Sapla Saluk Gold Medel Protejugeeta
- 9:35 Dure Kuthao
- 10:50 Sutorang
- 12:00 ATN Bangla News
- 12:30 The Daily Newspaper
- Ajker Sangbadpotro
- 12:50 ATN Music
- 1:30 Bengali Feature film: Kokhenur
- 2:30 ATN Bangla News Headlines
- 4:50 The Daily Newspaper
- Ajker Sangbadpotro
- 5:00 Gram Banglar Sangbad
- 5:15 Lifeboy Friendship Hospital
- 5:50 Musical Prog: Islamee Sawal O Jawab
- 6:25 ATN Bangla Evening News
- 7:25 ATN Computer Projukte
- 8:00 Mohinee
- 8:35 Path Jana Nai
- 9:00 ATN Bangla News
- 9:15 Audio Mela
- 10:00 ATN Bangla News
- 10:35 Musical Prog: ATN Bangla News
- 11:00 ATN Bangla News
- 12:00 Bengali Film: Neshpapp Bhadu

CHANNEL-i

- Morning Session**
- 06.10 Islamic Programme
- 07.15 Prothom Sur
- 09.30 Music Plus
- 10.10 Bashor Ghor
- 10.40 Close Up Juke Box
- 11.15 Amader gram Amader Sheshali
- 11.50 Amar Chobi
- 12.25 Drama Serial: Beli
- 01.00 Business Show
- 02.00 Bengali Feature Film: Shesh Khela

Evening Session

- 05.35 Jonopoder Khobor
- 05.45 i Sports
- 06.10 Music Plus
- 06.45 Shushashon Shanglap
- 07.15 Channel i News
- 07.45 Ispahani i Tele Quiz (Question)
- 07.55 Durer Akash
- 08.25 Grihogolpo
- 09.00 Channel i News
- 09.31 Ispahani i Tele Quiz
- 10.00 Bhalomondo Manushera
- 10.25 Channel i Mobile Quiz
- 10.30 Channel i News
- 11.15 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh
- 11.30 Live Telecast of BTV's Late Night News
- 12.15 Channel i News

HBO

- 6:30 ATF
- 8:15 Piranha II: The Spawning
- 10:15 Splitting Heris
- 12:00 Terminal Error
- 2:00 Falcon Down
- 4:00 Grease 2
- 6:15 Blade Squad
- 8:00 The Kiss
- 10:00 Pleasantville
- 12:30 Cobra
- 2:15 Grease 2
- 4:30 Daughter of Darkness

AXN

- 6:30 Movie: Rear Window
- 9:30 Queen of Swords
- 10:30 Seven Days: The Cuban Missile
- 11:30 Andromeda: An Affirming Flame
- 12:30 Fear factor
- 1:30 Martial Law: Nitro Man
- 2:30 Movie: Rear Window
- 5:30 Fear Factor
- 6:30 Andromeda: To Loose the Fateful Lightning
- 7:30 Seariest Places on Earth
- 8:30 Queen of Swords
- The Serpent
- 9:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not!
- 10:30 Movie: The Longest Day

STAR WORLD

- (30 Minutes +)**
- 5:30 The Brady Bunch
- 6:00 Cheers
- 6:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
- 7:30 Chicago Hope
- 8:30 The King Of Queens
- 9:00 Grounded For Life
- 9:30 Boston Public
- 10:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
- 11:28 Star Asia Travel
- 11:30 Everybody Loves Raymond
- 12:00 Frasier
- 12:30 Suddenly Susan
- 13:00 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 13:30 Hollywood Squares
- 14:00 The Brady Bunch
- 14:30 Baywatch

- 15:30 The Simpsons
- 16:00 Cheers
- 16:30 Starnews Asia
- 17:00 Frasier
- 17:30 The Drew Carey Show
- 18:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
- 18:25 Starnews Asia
- 18:30 J.A.G
- 19:30 Law And Order - S.V.U
- 20:28 Star Asia Travel
- 20:30 Frasier
- 21:00 The Drew Carey Show
- 21:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway
- J.A.G
- 22:00 Law And Order - S.V.U

STAR PLUS

- (30 Minutes +)**
- 5:30 Bhabhi
- 6:00 Star Geetmala
- 7:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
- 7:30 Aatma
- 8:30 Hit Filmehit Sangeet - 20 M
- 9:00 Fox Kids
- 9:40 Hit Filmehit Sangeet - 20 M
- 10:00 Kabhiekabhi-eregharmeinhuchha
- 10:30 Meri Saheli
- 11:00 Kabhii Sautan Kabhii Saheli
- 11:30 Shanti
- 12:00 Hit Filmehit Sangeet - 20 M
- 12:30 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
- 13:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
- 13:30 Bhabhi
- 14:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 14:30 Shagun (461 - 560)
- 15:00 Kabhi Aaye Na Judai
- 15:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
- 16:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz
- 16:30 Film Topper - 301
- 16:35 Saans
- 17:00 Hit Filmehit Sangeet - 20 M
- 17:30 Hum Saath Aath
- 18:00 Hum Saath Aath
- 18:00 Fox Kids

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

HBO: 12.30 p.m. Cobra. City cop is on the trail of a serial killer. Loaded with action and violence. Stallone fans will love this Rambo-like movie with Stallone on the chase instead of the run.

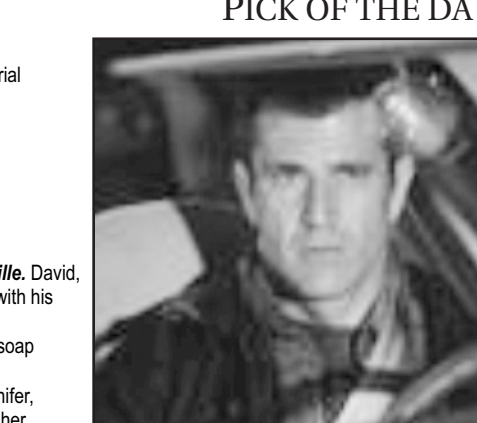
HBO: 10.00 p.m. Pleasantville. David, single, lonely and not happy with his life, flees reality by watching Pleasantville - a 1950's b/w soap opera, where everything is just...pleasant. His sister Jennifer, sexually far more active than her brother, gets in a fight with him about a very strange remote control - given to them just seconds after the TV broke by an equally strange repair man - and they suddenly find themselves in Pleasantville, as Bud and Mary-Sue Parker, completely assimilated and therefore black and white, in clothes a little different and with new parents...pleasant ones.

- 18:40 Aaj Ki Baat
- 18:55 Film Topper - 301
- 19:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
- 19:25 Film Topper - 301 Series
- 19:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
- 20:00 Khichdi
- 20:30 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
- 21:00 Kehta Hai Dil
- 22:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
- 22:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 23:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz
- 23:30 Aaj Ki Baat

STAR GOLD

- (30 Minutes +)**
- 6:30 Geet Bahar
- 7:00 Aanchal Ke Phool
- 10:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
- 10:30 Hit Filmehit Sangeet - 20 M
- 10:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
- 11:00 Dillagi
- 13:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
- 14:00 Geet Bahar
- 14:30 Hit Filmehit Sangeet - 20 M

PICK OF THE DAY



Lethal Weapon 4
On Star Movies at 8.45 p.m.
Martin Riggs and Roger Murtaugh, after escaping death from the previous movies are put on a hit list by The Triads. When blood thirsty mercenaries are on their tail they team up again with Leo Getz and Lorna Cole, a newcomer (Chris Rock) to finally put an end to the Triads for good.

- 8:00 [V] Jumpstart
- 9:00 [V] Hit Machine
- 9:30 [V] Back To Back
- 10:00 [V] Hit Machine
- 10:30 [V] Back To Back
- 11:00 [V] Hit Machine
- 11:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
- 12:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox
- 12:30 [V] Fdts
- 13:00 [V] Hit Machine
- 13:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
- 14:00 [V] Spot Light
- 14:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
- 15:00 [V] Back To Back
- 15:30 [V] Hit Machine
- 16:00 [V] Hotline
- 17:00 Vito5@5
- 17:30 [V]ideo War
- 17:45 [V] Hit Machine
- 18:00 Very V
- 19:00 Ctrl [V]
- 19:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
- 20:00 [V] Back To Back
- 20:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
- 21:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox
- 21:30 [V] Fdts
- 22:00 [V] Hit Machine
- 22:30 Late Night [V]
- 23:00 V Rated R
- 23:30 [V] Back To Back

HALLMARK

- 7:00 Scholastic Clifford - My Best Friend / Cleo's Fair Share
- 7:30 Callou - Episode # 15

ESPEN

- (30 minutes +)**
- 6:00 Sportscenter Hindi (R)
- 6:30 English Premier League Highlights
- 7:30 Motorsport Asia (R)
- 8:00 Pool Mosconi Cup 2002 (R)
- 9:00 Asian X-Games Qualifiers Asian X Games V Presented By Toyota Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA
- 10:00 English Premier Football League
- 10:30 English Premier Football League 2002/03 Manchester, ENGLAND Manchester City Vs Birmingham City (R)
- 12:00 Best Of Pga Golf Best Of Sudden Death
- 12:30 Taking Guard Semifinal 1(L)
- 13:00 Taking Guard Semifinal 1(R)
- 13:30 Pro Billiards 2002
- 14:30 Ama Motocross
- 15:30 Jim Shekhdar Ocean Power
- 16:00 Croc Chronicles S2
- 16:30 Toyota World Of Wildlife S3
- 17:00 Sea Stories
- 17:30 Mission Wild
- 18:00 Dogs With Jobs S3
- 18:30 Earth Pulse
- 19:00 Tarsier-The Little Alien
- 20:00 5 Weddings Couple Of Funeral
- 20:30 People Out There
- 21:00 \$100 Taxi Ride
- 21:30 Chasing Time
- 22:00 Avalanche Angels
- 23:00 Croc Chronicles S2
- 23:30 Toyota World Of Wildlife S3

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

- (30 Minutes +)**
- 6:00 Wild Dog Wilderness
- 7:00 Croc Chronicles S2
- 7:30 Toyota World Of Wildlife S3
- 8:00 Built For The Kill
- 9:00 Poison!
- 10:00 The Octopus Show
- 11:00 Dogs With Jobs S3
- 11:30 Earth Pulse
- 12:00 Simon And The Spirit Bear
- 13:00 To Love, Honour And Obey
- 14:00 \$100 Taxi Ride
- 14:30 Chasing Time
- 15:00 Jim Shekhdar Ocean Power
- 16:00 Croc Chronicles S2
- 16:30 Toyota World Of Wildlife S3
- 17:00 Sea Stories
- 17:30 Mission Wild
- 18:00 Dogs With Jobs S3
- 18:30 Earth Pulse
- 19:00 Tarsier-The Little Alien
- 20:00 5 Weddings Couple Of Funeral
- 20:30 People Out There
- 21:00 \$100 Taxi Ride
- 21:30 Chasing Time
- 22:00 Avalanche Angels
- 23:00 Croc Chronicles S2
- 23:30 Toyota World Of Wildlife S3

STAR SPORTS

- (30 minutes +)**
- 6:30 Cricket Talk Show Best Of Harsha Online (R)
- 7:00 Best Of Pga Golf The 70'S (R)
- 7:30 Spanish Football League 2002/03
- 8:00 Spanish Football League Bilbao, SPAIN
- 8:30 Spanish Football League Club Bilbao Vs Valencia Cf (R)
- 9:30 Atp Tennis Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic Scottsdale, AZ
- 10:00 USA Semifinals(R)
- 12:30 Taking Guard Semifinal 1(L)
- 13:00 Taking Guard Semifinal 1(R)
- 13:30 English Premier Football League
- 14:00 English Premier Football League 2002/03
- 14:30 Best Of Pga Golf Best Of Sudden Death
- 15:30 Asian Pga Tour
- 16:00 Phoenix Dynasty Cup Guangdong, CHINA
- 17:30 Spanish Football League 2002/03
- 18:00 Spanish Football League La Coruna, SPAIN
- 18:30 Spanish Football League La Coruna Vs Rayo Vallecano (T)
- 19:30 Sportsline Tonight
- 20:00 English Premier League Highlights
- 20:30 English Premier League Highlights
- 21:00 Best Of Pga Golf Best Of Streaks (T)
- 21:30 Follow Through Semifinal 1(L)
- 22:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 22:30 Pool Rack 'Em Up - Best Of Jimmy White
- 23:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 23:30 Sportsline Tonight