

CULTURAL FEAS

Crafts and Ceramics Exhibition

Title: Crafts and Ceramics Exhibition by Young Artists  
 Venue: Dots Contemporary Art Centre, 191/A, Haque Tower, Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road, Tejgaon  
 Date: October 15 to November 9  
 Time: 11:00 am to 8:00 pm

Musical Soiree

Title: Sarod Badon Ashor  
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation  
 Date: November 2  
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya  
 Time: 7:00 pm

Album Launch

Title: Gaaney Esho Praner Manush  
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation  
 Date: November 3, 4, 5 and 6  
 Artistes: Auditi Mohsin, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, Jannat-e Ferdous, Khairul Anam Shakil  
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya  
 Time: 7:00 pm

In Focus

Art gallery in Mymensingh kindles memory of Zainul

**AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh**  
 ZAINUL Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery and museum), located at Shaheeb Quarter Park Area in the Mymensingh district town, is a reputed institution. The gallery strives to keep alive the memory of the master artist at the place where he spent his boyhood.  
 The art gallery has 74 pieces, including 58 original art works by the artist. These artworks still charm the visitors with their vivid representation of life.  
 The museum also has a rare collection of 69 mementos used by the artist, kept in a big glass box at the center of the gallery. These include brushes, pelican ink pot, spatula, scraper, a large portrait-

holder made of leather, linseed oil, reed pen, spectacles and easel, said Dulal Chandra Gain, assistant keeper of the art gallery.  
 Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin was a student of the local Mrittunjai School when his devotion to painting surfaced. He would often sit on the large shoals of Brahmaputra river and draw. It was during this time that his teachers encouraged him to go to Kolkata to study art.  
 Zainul, who was often homesick, later established the Sangrahashala in his hometown for the future generation.  
 The Sangrahashala was inaugurated on April 15, 1975 by the then vice-president of People's Republic of Bangladesh Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam on the bank of the Bramaputra, a place adorned by



The master painter at work

sprouting greenery.  
 At the beginning, the museum was run by a committee with the assistance of local administration and the elites as per agreement with the Shilpacharya, the founder of the museum.  
 Later in 1999, considering the importance of the museum, the National Museum took charge from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and started development works to make the art museum a special attraction to artists as well as art enthusiasts.  
 Though the museum started with a display of 77 paintings, on May 2, 1992, 17 art works were stolen. Among these 10 were seized from Dhaka the same year. Besides the 58 original paintings, 16 replicas of the artist's works are also on display.  
 Some of the paintings on display at the gallery are *Famine*,

*Waiting at the Ferry Ghat*, *A Malnourished Child in the Lap of his Mother*, *A Village Woman with a Pitcher on her Waist*, *Kazi Nazrul Islam*, *A Woman just after a Bath*, *A Mexican Woman*, *Mompura '70*, a painting on the devastating tidal wave in Bhola in 1970 and *Life and Struggle*.  
 The renovation works of the museum began in 1997 and were completed by June 2004.  
 Every year a five-day-long festival is organised by the gallery authority from December 25 to 29 to celebrate Zainul Abedin's birth anniversary. The programmes include a colourful procession, painting competitions for the children, Zainul fair, discussions on life and works of Zainul and traditional cultural shows featuring Baul songs.



A frontal view of the art gallery



Afroza Banu has won appreciation amongst the viewers for her bold performances on TV and stage. Viewers still recall her portrayal of Shimu in the popular TV serial *Shokal Shondhya*, the first of its kind in Bangladesh. Her performance in stage plays such as *Dui Bon*, *Rakkhoshi*, *Shat Ghat*, *Kanakori*, *Shesh Rokkha*, *King Lear* and *Rupban* won plaudits from the audience. Here's a one on one conversation with Afroza:

- Three things you do as soon as you wake up..**  
 While sipping a steaming cup of tea, I read the newspaper and watch the morning news flicking through all the news channels between 7:00-7:30am. While doing so I also do some free hand exercises.
- The worst comment you have ever heard..**  
 I can't remember one; but of course there has been constructive criticism and I take that positively.
- Your greatest asset.**  
 My family.
- Describe yourself in one sentence..**  
 I am emotional yet practical.
- Favourite hangout place..**  
 My own house.
- Upcoming TV serials...**  
*Shonar Phul*, *Modhdhoborti*, *Hasholi Begum-er Upokotha*.
- Three things people don't know about you..**  
 I love hanging out, I can hang out and have fun with anyone and I can do all types of work from fixing electrical

appliances to cooking and cleaning.  
**Difference between theatre, small screen, and big screen...**  
 In our country people go for theatre out of passion. Hence there is a different kind of commitment -- since you perform in front of the audience you also get the pulse of the spectators immediately.  
 The small screen is a household item. It's a family affair and brings families together.  
 The big screen is an industry. Movies have a larger canvas. However in our country the scope for artists like me is less. Technically all three genres are completely different from the other.  
**The most important part of acting is...**  
 Leaving my own identity and entering into a new character.  
**Your motto in life...**  
 "Shobare bashre bhala naile moner kalo ghuchbe na re", which means "Love everyone and let your spirit soar, like a beautiful swan."  
**If you were not a human what would you be?**  
 I would be a tree. We humans have a lot to learn from trees. They are so useful materialistically and spiritually. They fulfill us physically, mentally and spiritually.  
**You dislike...**  
 Hypocrisy.  
**You feel embarrassed when...**  
 My fans come up to me and say what a great job I have done in some TV serial and praise me on and on and before they leave they say, "Sorry, but I forgot your name". This happens often.

fan mail!

For this month's fan mail we turn the spotlight on popular music diva Runa Laila. Readers are invited to send in questions by November 20, with their full name, address/email at:

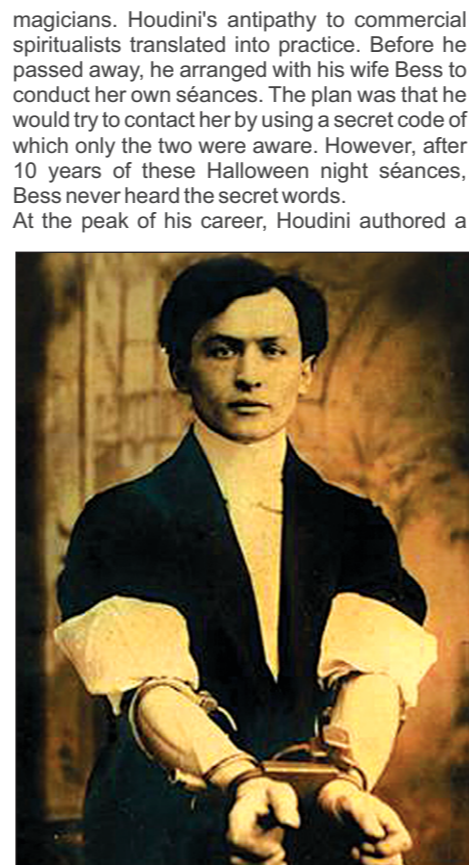
fan mail  
 Culture Page  
 19 Karwan Bazar  
 The Daily Star  
 Dhaka 1215  
 or  
 culture@thedailystar.net and  
 culture\_dailystar@yahoo.com

Please note that the questions to be printed will be selected by *The Daily Star*.



ALL TIME GREATS  
 Harry Houdini: The enigma remains

Trick or treat? The fun festival of Halloween was observed on October 31 in the US and many parts of the world. Halloween derives from Hallow's Eve, the night before All Saint's Day, an ancient holiday with roots in both the occult and Christian lore.  
 For long Halloween was believed to signify the coming together of the spiritual and physical worlds, facilitating communication with the dead. A sharp critic of this theory was Harry Houdini, the great 20th century illusionist, stunt performer and escape artist, who departed from the earth 80 years ago on Halloween night.  
 In his view "spiritualism" was a turn-of-the-century American religious movement, whose practitioners posed as mediums or communicators with the dead.  
 Houdini was born as Ehrich Weiss or Ehrich Weisz, on March 24, 1874 in Budapest, Hungary to a Jewish family. From 1900 onwards Houdini claimed in interviews to have been born in Appleton, Wisconsin on April 6, 1874, but his Hungarian birth certificate was uncovered by researchers after his death. In 1878, his family moved to the United States. He was called "Erie" or "Harry" by friends.  
 Houdini initially focused on traditional card acts. At one point he billed himself as the King of Cards. His "big break" came in 1899, when he met the showman Martin Beck. Impressed by Houdini's handcuff act, Beck advised him to concentrate on escape acts and booked him on the Orpheum Vaudeville Circuit.  
 Houdini and his acts still have a cult following and that group includes some of the world's greatest



magicians. Houdini's antipathy to commercial spiritualists translated into practice. Before he passed away, he arranged with his wife Bess to conduct her own séances. The plan was that he would try to contact her by using a secret code of which only the two were aware. However, after 10 years of these Halloween night séances, Bess never heard the secret words.  
 At the peak of his career, Houdini authored a 300-page book titled *A Magician Among the Spirits* which featured his scepticism of the spiritualists, who he believed were able to perform feats not through supernatural powers but sleight of hand and psychological manipulation. Preserving the legacy of Houdini is the privately run Houdini Museum in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the world's only museum devoted exclusively to Houdini memorabilia. The ancient home houses the late magician's letters, props and other artefacts.  
 Houdini's last performance was at the Garrick Theatre in Detroit, Michigan on October 24, 1926. The next day he was hospitalised at Detroit's Grace Hospital. Houdini died of peritonitis from a ruptured appendix at the age of 52 on October 31. The most widespread account is that Houdini's ruptured appendix was caused by multiple blows to his abdomen from a McGill University student, J Gordon Whitehead, in Montreal on October 22.  
 Even after his departure from the material world, enigma surrounds the illusionist's life, career and the cause of his death. A new biography of the legendary performer suggests that Houdini worked as a spy for Scotland Yard, monitored Russian anarchists and chased counterfeiters for the US Secret Service -- all before he was possibly murdered.  
 The book *The Secret Life of Houdini: The Making of America's First Superhero* was released on Halloween.

Oprah gives \$300,000 to audience

CHICAGO, Ap  
 Oprah Winfrey has famously given members of her audience new cars, paid off their debts and fulfilled their wildest dreams. Now she's given them what she calls the "gift of giving back."  
 On a show that aired Monday, Winfrey gave more than 300 audience members US \$1,000 debit cards sponsored by the Bank of America to donate to a charitable cause.



Oprah Winfrey

Winfrey called the show her "favourite giveaway ever."  
 "I can honestly say that every gift I've ever given has brought at least as much happiness to me as it has to the person I've given it to," the 52-year-old talk-show host said. "That's the feeling I want to pass on to you."  
 People can give the entire sum to one person -- relatives aren't eligible -- or they can split it among charitable causes. Audience members also received a DVD recorder to tape their stories for a future show.  
 "You're going to open your hearts, you're going to be really creative, and you're going to spend it all at once on one stranger or spend a dollar on every person," Winfrey said.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

**BTv**  
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
 News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
 Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.  
**CHANNEL-i**  
 News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.  
 Telecast of BTv news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**ATN BANGLA**  
 News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.  
 News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm  
 Telecast of BTv News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**ntv**  
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 7:00 pm, 9:30 pm.  
 News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.  
 Telecast of BTv News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**TARA BANGLA**  
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.  
 Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.  
 Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.  
**BBC WORLD**  
 Every hour on the hour

**BTv**  
 09:15 Satellite Broadcast  
 11:15 *Amader Ranna*  
 11:40 *Ongona*  
 12:05 *Sangbad Potrer Pata Theke*  
 12:30 *Maa O Shisur Kotha*  
 01:00 *Shukhi Poribhar*  
 02:15 *ICC Champions Trophy 2006: South Africa Vs West Indies*  
 02:15 *Teknaf Thekey Tetulia*  
**ATN BANGLA**  
 09:20 ATN Commentary BOX  
 10:30 *Anydrishti*  
 11:05 *Drama: Bhoat O Bhalobasha*  
 03:45 *ATN Ranna Ghar*  
 04:20 *Shundor Jiboner Jonno*  
 05:10 *Amader Joto Kotha*  
 05:45 *Islamic Programme*  
 06:20 *Prapak*  
 08:00 *Drama Serial: Hortoner Bibi*  
 08:30 *Drama Serial: Ferari Siren*  
 09:00 *Drama Serial: Koto Chena Koto Ochena*  
 09:30 *Drama Serial: Chaya Mukh*  
 10:40 *Char Deyaler Kabyo*  
**CHANNEL i**  
 09:30 *Shangbad Potre Bangladesh*  
 09:45 *Public Reaction*  
 09:50 *Grameen Phone Trityomatra*  
 12:30 *Aaj Dupurey O Citicall Tarokakothon*  
 01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*  
 01:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*  
 01:45 *Public Reaction*  
 02:40 *Tritiyo Matray Agni*  
 03:05 *Hridoye Mati O*

04:05 *Manusher Daak*  
 04:25 *Amader Gaan*  
 04:25 *Sa Re Ga Ma*  
 05:30 *X Music*  
 06:00 *Music Plus*  
 06:35 *Amar Chhobi*  
 07:50 *RC Travel on Concert*  
 08:20 *Drama Serial: Bishudho*  
 09:35 *Onuprobesh*  
 10:00 *Drama Serial: Ebong Shomachar*  
 12:00 *Grammiphone Aker Shangbadpotro*  
**ntv**  
 08:35 *Ajker Shokal*  
 09:00 *Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe*  
 10:05 *Bhab Boithoki*  
 10:30 *Dhakar Cinema*  
 01:05 *Muktangan*  
 01:35 *Drama Serial: Labonyoprobha*  
 03:15 *Mega Serial: Rang Er Manush*  
 03:50 *Drama Serial: Amader Anondo Bari*  
 04:25 *Mon Amar Shondhan kori*  
 05:15 *Dindarpan*  
 05:20 *Smitir Janalay*  
 06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*  
 06:50 *Right Click*  
 08:25 *Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhe Jabo Jabo*  
 09:00 *Glamour World*  
 10:00 *Drama Serial: Kuhak*  
 11:25 *Dindarpan*  
**Rtv**  
 08:00 *Ei Shokal*  
 09:05 *Aj Potrikay*  
 09:30 *Prithibir Pathay*  
 10:30 *Griho Shoili*  
 11:30 *Bishwa Jurey*  
 12:05 *Jugal Bondi*  
 02:30 *Islamic Programme*

**PICK OF THE DAY**  
 03:40 *Tele Film: Doita*  
 04:20 *Hit Beat*  
 05:10 *Nazul Song*  
 05:30 *Children's Programme*  
 06:00 *Ajker Bangladesh*  
 08:00 *Drama Serial: Ebong Bhola*  
 08:50 *Cookery Show*  
 09:20 *Drama Serial: Surey Aka Chhobi*  
 10:45 *Rtv Exclusive*  
**CHANNEL 1**  
 08:40 *Shuprovat Bangladesh*  
 09:30 *Chokh Mele Dekhi*  
 10:00 *Cartoon*  
 10:30 *Bangla Feature Film*  
 02:00 *Expression*  
 03:30 *Drama Serial:*

08:30 *Gham Drama*  
 08:30 *Kaajjal - Sabbki Ankhon Mein Basi Drama*  
 09:00 *Ek Ladki Anjaani Si Drama*  
 09:30 *Aisa Des Hai Mera Drama*  
 10:00 *Thodi Khushi Thode Gham Drama*  
 10:30 *Khauffnak Thriller/Horror Contd. Contd.*  
 11:00 *Man Mein Hai Vishwas Spiritual Contd. Contd.*  
**STAR WORLD**  
 08:30 *Cheers*  
 09:00 *The Simpsons*  
 09:30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*  
 10:30 *Ed*  
 11:30 *A.G.*  
 12:30 *A.G.*  
 01:30 *Knight Rider*  
 02:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show The Bold And The Beautiful*  
 03:30 *General Hospital*  
 04:30 *Monk*  
 05:30 *The Simpsons*  
 06:30 *Cheers*  
 07:00 *Friends*  
 07:30 *Seinfeld*  
 08:30 *Hope & Faith*  
 09:00 *According To Jim*  
 09:30 *The Office*  
 10:00 *Two And A Half Men*  
 10:30 *Sons & Daughters*  
 11:00 *Growing Up Gotti*  
 11:30 *Seinfeld*  
 12:00 *Friends*  
**STAR PLUS**  
 08:30 *Kyun Hota Hai Pyarr V First Day First Show- Starlu*  
 09:00 *09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus*  
 09:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*

10:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*  
 10:30 *Shaka Laka Boom Boom*  
 11:00 *Shaka Laka Boom Boom*  
 11:30 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa V First Day First Show- Starlu*  
 11:55 *V Trailers - Star Plus*  
 12:00 *Bolly V - Star Plus*  
 12:25 *Resham Dankh*  
 12:30 *Thriller/Horror Contd. Contd.*  
 01:00 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*  
 01:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*  
 02:00 *Bhabhi*  
 02:30 *Kesar*  
 03:00 *Saarthi*  
 03:30 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*  
 04:00 *Kahin To Hoga*  
 04:30 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*  
 05:00 *Hum Saath Saath Hain*  
 05:30 *V Trailers - Star Plus*  
 05:55 *V First Day First Show- Starlu*  
 06:00 *Mum Tum Aur Hum*  
 06:25 *Bolly V - Star Plus*  
 06:30 *Buzz On Maggie*  
 07:00 *Timon And Pumbaa*  
 07:25 *Bolly V - Star Plus*  
 07:30 *Sonpari*  
 08:00 *Karishma Ka Karishma*  
 08:25 *Bolly V - Star Plus*  
 08:30 *Antarksh*  
 09:00 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*  
 09:30 *Viraasat*  
 10:00 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*  
 10:30 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii*  
 11:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*  
 11:30 *Kahin To Hoga*  
 12:00 *Paraya Dhan*  
**STAR MOVIES**  
 08:50 *Avatar*  
 10:35 *Cyborg 2*  
 12:15 *Chain Reaction*  
 02:00 *Quick And The Dead, The*  
 03:50 *Stage Beauty*

05:40 *Open Water*  
 07:00 *Mighty Aphrodite*  
 08:40 *Beauty Shop*  
 10:30 *Pursued*  
 12:15 *China Moon*  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
 08:30 *Nat Geo Junior*  
 10:30 *Rated W*  
 11:30 *Seconds From Disaster*  
 12:30 *Unwind*  
 01:30 *World Culture*  
 02:00 *Chasing Time With Hutch*  
 02:30 *The Living Edens*  
 03:30 *Triumph Of Life*  
 04:30 *Nat Geo Junior*  
 06:30 *Triumph Of Life*  
 07:30 *A Tale Of Three Chimps*  
 08:30 *Megastructures*  
 09:30 *Frontline Of Construction*  
 10:30 *Triumph Of Life*  
 11:30 *Blue Realm: Tentacles*  
**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**  
 08:30 *Land Of The Tiger*  
 09:30 *Deadliest Catch*  
 10:30 *I Shouldn't Be Alive*  
 11:30 *Junkyard Wars 11*  
 12:30 *Yummy Mummy*  
 01:00 *Runway Moms*  
 01:30 *Raw Nature*  
 02:30 *Psychic Witness*  
 03:30 *Beyond Tomorrow*  
 04:30 *Land Of The Tiger*  
 05:30 *One Step Beyond 2*  
 06:00 *How Do They Do It?*  
 06:30 *Stunt Junkies*  
 07:30 *Ultimate Cars*  
 07:30 *Raw Nature*  
 08:30 *Life In The Undergrowth, Silk Spinners*  
 09:30 *Hunters, Savage Pack*  
 10:30 *Man Made Marvels*  
 11:30 *Haunting, A - Season II*