

# YEP TALK

The Young Entrepreneurs & Professionals page

## In Search of a Promoter

Syeda Nasrin Akhter

*From the chirping of a bird to the humming of a gay girl- it's all music. Shakespeare said 'if music be the food of love play on.' But these days music is no more the food of love only it has become means for earning food. It means business too. Promoting a musician means a lot today. It has always been YEP FORUM'S objective to promote the younger generation. Whenever Yep Talk had an opportunity it always tried to highlight the activities of the young members of its different chapters. Today's page is being dedicated to the young musicians.*

THE term 'underground musicians' has been invented for those gifted but rather unlucky performers who had the 'THING' in them but never got the proper exposure. Their talent revolves around a certain circle of people. These musicians remain underground until unless they fall in the eyes of proper authority or promoters. In many countries production houses have talent scouts to search for new talents which is an idea alien to our music industry. The efforts for organizing a star search contest was really commendable. Budding musicians from all over the country had a chance to bring their talents forward. For once they got some patronization which could be called a break. The directors of Benson & Hedges first had this effulgent idea. D.J. Pro and Adcom joined them afterward. As it was a debut launch, the contest had some conceptual shortcomings. There should've been categories for different styles of music as well as musicians. Performers could've been categorized as solo, band or classical.

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GLAD TIDERS

artists and one artist could be chosen from each sector. And another thing was noticed that all the eight musicians comprising the judges panel came from different leading bands of the country. The judges were Faisal Siddique Bogi (Renaissance), Shafin Ahmed (Miles), Hamin Ahmed (Miles), Partha Barua (Souls), Ayub Bacchu

had they been playing or singing, if they have performed in public or not, if yes then where and when, if they had made any recording of their music if so then can they provide B & H with a demo and if they want to be professional musicians in the future. A remarkable response was observed from the enthusiastic young musician. All entries then underwent a process of elimination conducted by a panel of renowned local musicians and they judged the best 100 entries which must have been one hell of a job scrutinizing from all styles of music. Fifteen finalists were then chosen from this hundred by the demo tapes they had provided and a live audition before the judges. One group had dropped themselves out.



Daigle's reinterpretation of Matisse's "The Dance" was a personal piece, created to express the relationship between male and female, and of what happens when people dance. "They are in a relationship with each other, but they are really in their own heads. They are looking at each other and questioning," he notes. This painting illustrates why Daigle rejects clothing and costumes in his work. It is not important how you are dressed, he says, adding that he is better able to express human movement in this way. The headless form's and without, much in the same way fish swim in a school. The face above these figures which could be the sun, a mask, or a power of nature-watches all bemusedly. "I like my paintings to be open to meaning from every direction. I like to put in as many elements as I can so they are open like that," the artist says.



VIKINGS — THE WINNER

The final competition was held at Hotel Sheraton's ballroom on 16th July 1999. Many people were disappointed for the show was not open to public. Only complementary tickets were distributed among the elites of the music scene, music producers, press and a very few selective people. Shows, spe-

**You never know whom you are promoting — so come forward — a musician must not suffer — at least not for the lack of a promoter.**

cially a competition like this should occur in places where people can come and witness their future star taking birth. On the day of the finals Hotel Sheraton lobby was trimming with both existing stars and the stars to be. It was a day for enterprising musicians.

The main program started 4 o'clock after the panel of judges were introduced. It commenced with a

band formed in 1995, performed next. They sang two songs which were appreciated by the audience.

The five men rock and blues band Igneous, followed. They played mature and wholesome music which they believe in.

'Akkin Surjuto Hariye Jete Jete' and 'Kamon Tomar Prem' were the two songs that they performed. The fourth band to perform was a four men heavy metal band Cryptic Fate, which was formed in 1993. We had a talk with the bands bass player Sakib after the competition. He was against the idea of putting solo and band performers together in the same competition.

According to Sakib all performers in the competition were good but he thinks organisers were actually looking for something with a heavy sound something like or close to rock'n'roll. Cryptic Fate was basically a heavy metal band they've also released an English heavy metal album in the local market. But for the competition they performed rock numbers since they believed the search was for a rock band. The audience was pleased by their outstanding performance. Sakib believes that the band Vikings falls in this category and became first since their performance was compact. Sakib loved Glad Tiders but it was more like three people jamming together and the little lyrical part they had in their song he failed to understand. The four men psychedelic band Aronnya played next, who were followed by a three men band, Glad Tiders. Their performance was quite impressive and succeeded to provide the audience with something different. When we contacted Dayan, the drummer from the band what he told was that he thinks music is something to be felt not to be understood. They compose their lyric to put the voice as an accompanying feeling which goes with their music. He seemed a little upset with the industry for it has failed to enhance the true feelings

same if I was in his shoes. The sole lady performer of this competition was Mehreen Bhuiyan who started with a song written and composed by the popular band Warfaze. After her performance of two songs there was a ten minutes

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break.

The program resumed with a band named The Trap, formed in 1995 singing mellow songs that communicate with the people. Deep Purple, Rush and Scorpions influence the band. As most of the other contents the bands drummer Rumy thought it was not wise to put solo artists and bands in the same category of the competition. According to them Zolof, Glad tiders and Ferdous had performed real well. The performance of the solo artist Ferdous was unique inspite of the fact that he had to perform without his bass player and one of the lead guitarists. Rumy found the percussion part of his composition excellent which gave his music a different taste to go with his outstanding lyric. He was moved by the lyrical composition 'Orno Kono Astanay the first number by Ferdous. His actual words were to make those skeptic individuals come and see for themselves that young musicians like Ferdous are also contributing to our culture and the bands are not only bad influence for the new generation. He believes a new era is going to start in our music scene. A quintet playing blues and alternative band known as Zolof came on stage after them. They



formers was Syed Kallol, a singer playing acoustic guitar and harmonica.

He was totally upset with the arrangement. He feels as a function it was OK. You may enjoy different types of music in a function but as far as a competition was concerned he felt it was extremely sad that the solo artists had to compete with the bands. His opinion was

**Zolof believes there should not be any classification in music, be it a competition or a simple function — all can perform on one stage.**

that the competition had a conceptual mistake. The next performer went up on stage was Ferdous, the last solo artist of the competition. But the band Vikings took his place as Ferdous' bass player fell ill on the stage and was rushed to the hospital. Vikings is a five men rock band formed in 1990 and practicing ever



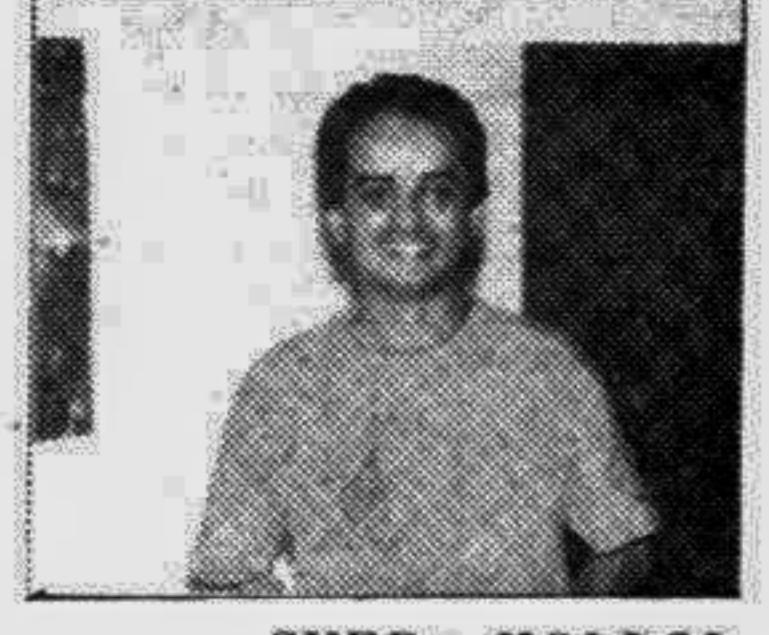
THE TRAP

since. Recently they released a music video. They were the lucky winners of the entire search. Their performance was neat. But it was surprising that their drummer Simon played for another band in the competition. We couldn't get hold of the band members for interviewing.

After the Vikings solo artist Ferdous came back to the stage but without his bass and lead guitarist.

The whole ballroom honored the artist for his spirit with a standing ovation. Despite all the mishaps he managed to perform very well.

No matter how much one appreciates each of these performers their dire need is of a promoter. We all know that Mozart could write charming music for any occasion from his youth on.



SYED KALLOL

## Meet the Young Composer

*Many of the performers of the Star Search Evening and audience opined that if the bass guitarist of the last solo performer S. M. Ferdous would not have suffered from epilepsy he might have performed something mind-blowing that day. Many of the audience were simply mesmerized by his words prior to his performance. Ferdous' lyric was applauded by almost everyone. So, from YEP forum we met this young artist and wanted to know from himself about the magic of his self composed lyrics and tunes.*

YEP: Ferdous, what is the magic in your music?

Ferdous: The magic is in the heart of the listener. I just write about you and me and the things occurring around us in my own subtle way.

YEP: Aren't you being modest?

Fer: Yes, I am. (Heh! Heh!)

YEP: Do you feel like others that on 16th July you could've come out as the winner, if Partho was not attacked by epilepsy?

Fer: But I am the winner!

YEP: Really? How?

Fer: Well, after Partho was taken to the hospital I told Bappada to go with him because he was Partho's younger brother and the shock had bewildered him. Even me and the other members were not in a stable state for Partho was not only an accompanying musician but he was like a brother to me. All of us were undergoing some sort of trance. We couldn't figure out what to do. When finally we got up on the stage all the audience even the judges started clapping to welcome us.

For the support and the inspiration I got from the fellow musicians made my day as a winner.

YEP: What is your overall feeling about the B & H Star Search?

Fer: The effort B & H made is something we were long waiting for. The talented upcoming artists throughout the country never had a chance to put their work forward where they could be evaluated in an open competition. Though I feel it could've been more effective if it was categorized.

YEP: In your opinion whose performance was the best?

Fer: To tell you the truth the performers were not allowed to watch the show, we only had glimpses of it peeping through the backstage doors.

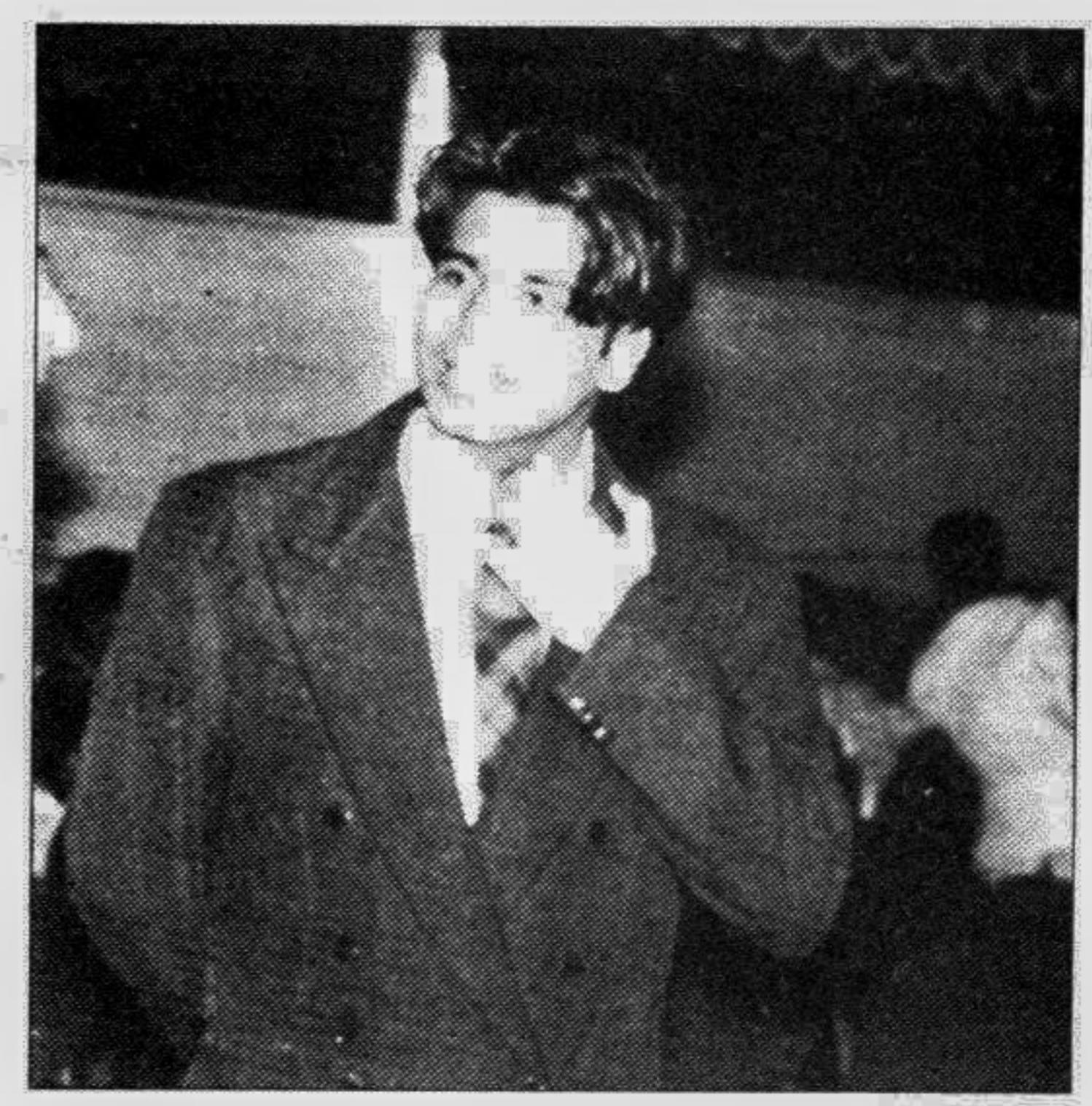
YEP: When and how did you plan to be a musician? Was it spontaneous or you tried to be one?

Fer: Nobody actually plans to be a musician from the very childhood. Only the fame and glamour of the music world spins in a kid's head. I was no exception, the time I became something to be called a musician is unknown to me.

YEP: What really inspires you in choosing your words?

Fer: The simple talks in everyday life having ambiguous meanings inspire me a lot. The rich bangla proverbs have a big influence on my lyrics.

YEP: Why don't you perform others' lyrics?



FERDOUS

Fer: It's not that I don't like others' music and I do perform others' compositions as well. But I perform some selective numbers from very selective musicians both famous and underground. And not to mention I feel comfortable with my own composition.

YEP: For how many days have you been composing?

Fer: It's been yeeaaaars!

YEP: Who are your influences?

Fer: I wouldn't call them my influences but I love Queen; Deep Purple; Pink Floyd; Eagles; Bob Dylan; Doors; Nirvana and so on....

YEP: Tell us something about your future plans with your music?

Fer: Well if nobody buys my tapes I will buy them all so that people can remember me as a SOLD OUT (not me) musician.

YEP: An original plan indeed. All the best.