

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.



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-

solo performer Abir Ibne Mannan who has been learning classical Nazrul Sangeet and ghazals from the age of five. Besides singing, he plays the guitar and the harmonium. He began with the song 'Bohudur Agiye Jete Chai', followed by another number 'Jao Pakhi Ure Jao'. Tempest, the rock

about their music and was suggested to switch their style of music to a rather commercial sector. He grew up watching other musicians play and strumming his badminton racket pretending to be a guitarist cherishing the thought of doing something eventually. Best of luck to him. He praised the solo artist Ferdous immensely and has plans to get together with him and do something worthwhile. Dayan said Ferdous has a different style of practicing music which is way too far from anything that could be called commercial. To him it sounded like 'out of the world' and 'simply the best.' Dayan also appreciated another solo artist Kollol's effort. 'He had the guts to do what he did and I would've done the

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 brake. 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

(L.R.B), Pili (Renaissance), Ahsan Elahi Funty (Feelings) and Labu Rahman (Feedback). But, since the competition was meant for both solo and band artists the panel of judges should've been selected from both band and solo. Among the local celebrities an international media figure Meghna Reddy was also seen among the judges. She is a V.J. from channel [V]. To judge a musical talent it would've been more inspiring and logical to have someone from the international music arena. Anyway, new musicians sure can hope and keep their fingers crossed, for the coming years might bring them better opportunities as the organisers announced to organize such competitions every year.

The organisers started their search in February this year. Initially they gave away forms through newspapers and restaurants. In the form applicants were asked questions like the style of music they perform, who are their musical influences and why do they like them, which instruments can they play (including voice), for how many years

Kallol 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 that the competition had a conceptual mistake.



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 has beauty and direction which comes not from human thinking, but from forces within 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.

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 sure 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. 'Akin Surjito 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 Aronny 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

were the only band to sing an English song 'Always With You'. Zoloff believes all the fourteen performers should be awarded heavily as all of them proved themselves exceptional. There should not be any classification in music, be it a competition or a simple function — all can perform on one stage. According to Zoloff Glad Tiders was the best band and among the solo performers the last participant Ferdous was too cool. The next two bands were Eclipse and Winsome who had come from Rajshahi to participate in this competition.

One of the few solo per-



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-



Zoloff

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



SYED KOLLOL

Zoloff 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 Viking 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

wards, but we also know since his quarrel with his first employer, Mozart found it increasingly difficult to earn a living, being finally buried in a pauper's grave. You never know whom you are promoting — so come forward — a musician must not suffer — at least not for the lack of a promoter.

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 Parthoda was taken to the hospital I told Bappada to go with him because he was Parthoda's younger brother and the shock had bewildered him. Even me and the other members were not in a stable state for Parthoda 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 over all 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.

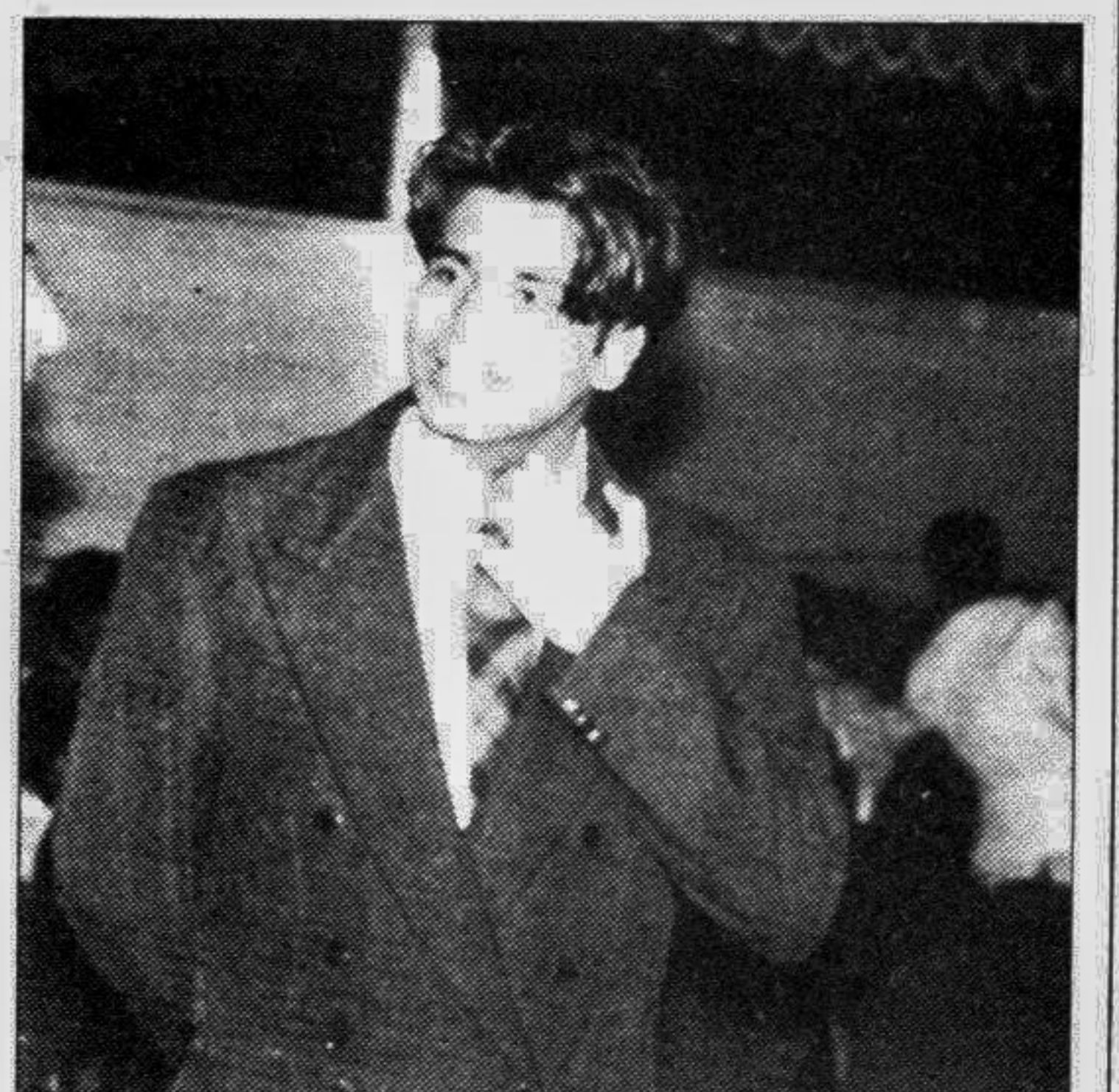
YEP: When and how did you plan to be a musician? Was it spontaneous or you tried to be one?

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.