

RECOMMENDATIONS



Odissi Dance and Sarod Recital

December 9 and 10
Indian Council for Cultural Relation and the High Commission of India will present Odissi Dance by Geeta Mahalik & Troupe on December 9 at 7:00p.m. at National Museum auditorium and a Sarod Recital by Pandit Vikash Maharaj on December 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the same venue.

Visions-1

December 10-24
Alliance Francaise de Dacca will host an avant-gardist French exhibition titled, "Visions-1 new vision in fashion", which will present latest new forms of fashion photography. On the occasion of the opening a Bibi Production's fashion show will take place in the Gallery and the cafe of Alliance Francaise de Dacca on December 10 at 6:00 p.m.

The exhibition will last everyday from 9a.m. 12p.m. and from 5-8p.m. except Saturday (5-8p.m.) till December 24.

Remembering Begum Rokeya

December 9
To celebrate Begum Rokeya Day a discussion session will be held at the seminar room of Bangla Academy today at 11:00a.m. Professor Mansur Musa, Professor Selina Bahar Zaman, Dr. Sultana Zaman, Dr. Sayeda Banu will speak on the occasion. Dr. Nazma Chowdhury will chair the session.

Art Show

November 20-January 10
A group art exhibition of four young artists is being held at the American International School at Baridhara in the city and remains open daily throughout the day.

Event

The magic and mystery of henna

Parley with arts & crafts connoisseurs at "Chitrak", at a "Mehdi Utshab"

FAYZA HAQ

AT a henna-application function, held at "Chitrak" recently, the eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi said, "The tradition of applying henna to the hands, hair etc began in Arabia, as far as one knows, and has traveled to the Indian Subcontinent hundreds of years back, when Taimur Lang came to rule in India. It has always flourished in the Subcontinent both under Muslim and Hindu rule for ages. Today we see it even as a fad/fashion among the boys who use it as they use tattoo -- without leaving any permanent mark, as is the case of the decoration on the

definitely based in Bangladesh. The designs that are being used include 'alpana' patterns with paisley and floral motifs, and accompanying geometrical and symmetrical use of lines in the form of bars, squares and rectangles juxtaposed with one another. Islamic designs are also there: floral motifs used in decorations of mosques, bric-a-bracs etc.

"However, nowadays what is being used is something that is geared to the avant-garde keeping the roots of our heritage in mind: both floral and geometrical motifs have found a home on the palms of our beautiful women. At the same time, young men too leap in for some of this

and the taste for henna application are both admirable; this is so although I admit this comes from the use of watching Indian channel TV and reading imported Indian and Pakistani fashion magazines more than anything else. The students of Fine Arts, not only of Dhaka but those of Chittagong, Rajshahi etc have found something new to concentrate on in their free time. They work as designers so that for them this is a piece of cake.

"One must keep in mind the vibrant and unusual colour of the henna leaf, how to make it rich with mixing 'khor', tea leaves and other ingredients. There is then the design

range of colour, this will not clash with the henna hue as it is monochromatic. Today the young men, following the young women, paint their palms with henna motifs. The fad for this, as I've mentioned earlier, comes from the penchant for tattoos. The hue of the henna is a piece de resistance for some of our festive occasions, whether it has chemicals in it, or whether this has been ground at home and mixed with ground coffee, tea leaves etc.

"Meanwhile, in the shops in Dhaka there are items sold as 'mehdi', but I don't believe that it is real henna. However, even though commercialized, where the leaf is

believe that the venture at 'Chitrak', done over three days till 'chand raat' has been a successful venture to promote our heritage."

Motiur Rahman, Editor of "Prothom Alo" and the chief guest at the occasion, speaking from his personal knowledge and what he had gathered through the net-work, said, "Henna is an integral part of our culture: it is mandatory during weddings. Just as the henna enhances the beauty of the bride, so the bridegroom too must have the 'mehdi' on his nail, according to our tradition." Henna, Motiur Rahman added, is also used during the New Year, the two Eids, 'Shab-e-Barat', 'Shab-e-

work to occupy myself after my only son's tragic death; now I have my own shop.

"My 'mehdi' comprises of material that I get from India in the powder form. It is packed and sealed here in tubes and cones, after it has been prepared here in Dhaka. As regards the motifs that I use, they are traditional ones from India but the use of henna, as most people in Bangladesh know, dates back to the Prophet Mohammed and even before that in ancient Middle East. Our Prophet Mohammed himself, we are told, used henna to dye his hair and beard. It is a natural process to dye the hair and skin a it has no side effect if used

properly, that is if you combine the right ingredients. The skin specialist may tell you that your hair will get dry with henna, but if you use oil and the egg-yolk or items like a bit of 'curd', coffee powder or raw tea, application of henna for the hair is safe is safe for the hair. The mixture of these other items should be made the night before and applied the next day. In Bangladesh, I believe, it came with the influence of the Marwaris and Hindus who applied henna on the hands on occasions such as the onset of their marriages for the 'suhagan' when henna was believed to bring good luck."

Dwelling more on henna application for Eid, Mumtaz Verani said, "Most women enjoy decorating their palms during this occasion and even during weddings. The artists from the Fine Arts Institute, DU, who have



PHOTO CREDITS: INTERNETI KADER (PATHSHALA)

skin with those artful needle-like machine instruments and the permanent dyes. This remains an important part of culture in the Islamic belt that spreads from the Middle East and goes beyond to the Far East."

Speaking about what was special in the patterns of the motifs on the palms, done with henna, Rafiqun Nabi said, "There are two things that one should know about 'mehdi': the colour is very different from the other colours that artists normally use. The hue is not exactly orange or red or brown or even cadmium yellow. I believe that it is something very different from what one normally comes across: it is something unique. Again, the motifs that we use in Bangladesh, this time, on this occasion being done by the students of the Fine Arts Institute, DU, is

exotic and religious painting of the palms, or at least some corner of their thumb, being driven by some environmental influence: one tends to do what the friends and colleagues around are doing. Mind you, even aged men, sometimes have their grandchildren to dye their palms, even though this is purely out of love, affection and fun."

Asked if he approved of the commercial way of applying henna through a plastic cone, as found in the bazaars and done in most homes in Dhaka appeals to his sensibility and whether or not this manner of applying henna is not being somewhat commercialized today, Rafiqun Nabi said, "This practice of applying henna through the cones is there for perhaps the last decade and no more. This is something popular and cannot be waved aside. The designs

which makes our women's palms and even portions of the hands so appealing. Hence, the knowledge of both colour and design is necessary to make henna application successful. Just the application of the colour of henna alone, without intricacies and design know-how may not look artistic. Again, just the design, without the correct registration of the henna hue may not look good either. Henna application should be a combination of both accurate hue and design."

Asked if henna application has become a fad in the east, and which is now being carried over to west, Rafiqun Nabi said, "It goes with the modern clothes, whether it is a sari or 'shalwar-kameez' or even jeans and blouse (the last, if sported well). Even if the women and girls are wearing something blue, purple or any other

colours, colours are added, this is easier to do in the final analysis. Meanwhile, if you have a 'mehdi' plant of your own or buy the leaves from places such as New Market, grind it at home and apply it with care and love, it will be difficult for the person who is designing, as a thin stick has to be used to form the patterns; but this is the conventional and basic way to apply the symbolic colour in question."

"In the henna application, I should add, there is the 'alpana' in the 'mehdi' motifs, which is typically Bengali in origin, which women used in their 'alta' application under their feet and up to their ankles, to put decorative motifs at one time. We don't see this often now, except in case of dancers on stage, but 'alta' was an integral part of decorating our women for festival occasions. I

properly, that is if you combine the right ingredients. The skin specialist may tell you that your hair will get dry with henna, but if you use oil and the egg-yolk or items like a bit of 'curd', coffee powder or raw tea, application of henna for the hair is safe is safe for the hair. The mixture of these other items should be made the night before and applied the next day. In Bangladesh, I believe, it came with the influence of the Marwaris and Hindus who applied henna on the hands on occasions such as the onset of their marriages for the 'suhagan' when henna was believed to bring good luck."

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maker but now that her daughter, Marmareen, has grown up somewhat at 18, she has gone into this project with her entire energy and mental and financial resources. Her son, Asad, died last January and his absence makes it vital that she should do her job with her entire heart and mind.

Mumtaz added that the henna replaces the fascination for tattoo for boys which they like to put on their arms and faces; if they do this with the henna paste the effect will be more healthy, as the henna that she uses is purely herbal in content; moreover, it will last at least a week.

The henna application occasion was fascinating and mind-expanding for someone who might have found subject blasé before talking to the chief speakers on the occasion.

TV GUIDE

CHANNEL 1	
Morning	
9:00	Children's Programme
9:30	Magazine Show: Shat Rong
10:20	Fresh Music
11:00	Binodon Mela
11:30	Dujonke Niye
12:00	Eid'er Bajon Baje
2:00	Tele-film: Olot Palot
Evening	
5:00	Anondo Halchal
5:30	Chaya Zhonkar
6:10	Music Plus
6:45	Aj Shobar Ronge
	Rong Meshate Hobe
7:15	Channel i News
7:40	Ispahani i Tele-quiz (question)
7:50	Ora Dujon
9:00	Channel i News
9:30	Ispahani i Tele-quiz (answer)
9:35	Raater Otithi
10:25	Channel i mobile
	Quiz 2525
10:30	Channel i News
11:05	Obhishopto Bari
12:00	Channel i News
STAR MOVIES	
00:30	Angie
02:15	For The Moment
04:30	Spy Hard
06:00	Calendar Girl
07:45	The New Adventures Of Pinocchio
09:30	Mighty Joe Young
11:30	Toys
13:30	Vital Signs
15:15	Ghost In The Machine
17:00	Crimson Tide
19:00	Supernova
20:45	The Crush

BBC WORLD	
6:00am	BBC News
6:30	Asia Today/Reporters
7:00	Asia Today/Asia Business Report
7:30	BBC News
8:00	Asia Today/Reporters
8:30	BBC News
9:00	Asia Today/Asia Business Report
9:30	BBC News
10:00	World Business Report
10:30	BBC News
11:00	World Business Report
11:30	BBC News
12:00pm	World Business Report / Sports Today
12:30	BBC News
1:00	BBC News
1:30	Euro Brief
2:00	BBC News
2:30	Hardtalk
3:00	BBC News
3:30	Correspondent
4:00	BBC News
4:30	Asia Business Report/World Business Report
5:00	BBC News
5:30	Hardtalk
HBO	
6:45	Cinema Secrets II EP 12: JP3
7:15	The Deep End of The Ocean
9:30	Alive
12:00	Alien Cargo
1:45	The Assassin
4:00	Bats
6:00	Sliver
8:00	Wayne's World 2
10:00	Desperate Measures
12:00	3000 Miles To Graceland
2:15	Bats
4:15	Night Falls on Manhattan
AXN	
6:30	Movie: The Juror
8:30	Xcalibur
9:30	Seven Days/Parker Com
10:30	Andromeda Double Helix
11:30	The Immortal Studio
12:30	Who Dares Wins
1:30	Seven Days
2:30	Movie: The Juror
4:30	The Green Hornet
5:30	Who Wares Wins
6:30	Xcalibur
7:30	The Immortal Flight
8:30	Prime Zone
9:30	X Zone Fear Factor
10:30	Danger Zone Movie:

CNBC	
7:30	Taking Stock
9:00	Meet the Press
9:30	MF Investor
1:00	The Classroom
6:00	Managing India
11:00	Managing India
HALL MARK	
6:00	The Little Riders
8:00	Laurie Lee's Cider With Rosie
10:00	Live Through This
11:00	Walter and Henry
1:00	Touched by an Angel
2:00	Sesame Street
3:00	Scholastic Clifford
3:30	Caillou
4:00	Live Through This
5:00	Star Trek: Voyager
6:00	Touched by an Angel
7:00	My Louisiana Sky
9:00	Star Trek: Voyager
10:00	White Dwarf
12:00	Contract for Murder
STAR WORLD	
(+30 Mins)	
00:00	Focus Asia
00:30	Int World
01:00	The X Files
02:00	Cheers
02:30	Creflo Dollar Daily
03:00	Kenneth Copeland Ministries
03:30	The Simpsons
04:00	World News
04:30	Suddenly Susan
05:00	Hollywood Squares
05:30	The Brady Bunch
06:00	Cheers
06:30	Oprah Winfrey Show
07:28	Star Asia Travel
07:30	Bugs
08:30	Nash Bridges
09:30	The Making Of 1 Giant Leap
10:30	Oprah Winfrey Show
11:28	Star Asia Travel
11:30	World's Wildest Police Videos
12:30	Suddenly Susan
13:00	The Bold & 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	That 70s Show
18:00	Everybody Loves Raymond
18:25	Starnews Upd
18:30	Grounded For Life
19:00	Becker
19:30	Boston Public
20:28	Star Asia Travel

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS	
STAR WORLD: 6:00 & 9:30 p.m. That 70s Show. The name can fool you... Set in the era of Led Zeppelin 8-tracks, Tab colas, and Farrah Fawcett posters, That 70s Show is a nostalgic and funny flashback to the "Me" decade. In tonight's episode, Desperate to earn money for Jackie's Valentine present, Kelso donates to a cryobank.	STAR WORLD: 8:00 & 11:30p.m. Boston Public. Boston Public explores the personal and professional lives of teachers and administrators working at a mid-size high school. You'll soon be wishing you were back in school, or even being thankful that you're not.
AXN: 10:30p.m. Britannic. The lazaret ship Britannic is used by England to transport weapons to Egypt. The German secret service wants to show that abuse of the red cross by overtaking the ship and steering it to a neutral port for inspection. Will the ship be captured?	
20:30	Frasier
21:00	That 70s Show
21:30	Grounded For Life
22:00	Everybody Loves Raymond
22:30	Becker
23:00	Boston Public
STAR GOLD	
(+30 Mins)	
02:15	Hit Geet
02:30	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
03:00	Hit Geet
06:15	Hit Geet
06:30	Geet Bahar
07:00	Parbat Pe Apna Dera
10:30	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
11:00	Lajiwanti
14:00	Geet Bahar
14:30	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
15:00	Jeene Ki Raah
18:15	Hit Geet
18:30	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
19:00	Kuch Yaadein Kuch Baatein
23:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
23:30	Dafaa 302
STAR PLUS	
(+30 Mins)	
00:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
00:30	Shagun
01:00	Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
01:30	Kasautii Zindagii
02:00	Kay
02:15	Hum Hai Kal Aaj Kal Aur Kal
02:30	Khichdi
03:00	Yatra
03:30	Shanti
04:00	Jubilee Plus
04:30	Saans
05:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
05:30	Kyun Hola Hai Pyarr
06:00	Star Geetmala
07:00	Shaka Laka Boom Boom
07:30	Aatma
08:30	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
09:00	Fox Kids
09:40	Hit Geet
09:55	Kya Film Kya Geet
10:30	Maal Hai To Taal Hai
10:30	Hera Pheri
11:00	Meri Saheli
11:25	Film Toppers
11:30	Shanti
12:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
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
15:00	Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
15:30	Smriti
16:00	Kaahin Kissi Roz
16:30	Saans
17:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet

PICK OF THE DAY	
Desperate Measures On HBO at 10:00 p.m. San Francisco police officer Frank Connor is in a frantic search for a compatible bone marrow donor for his gravely ill son. There's only one catch the potential donor is convicted multiple murderer Peter McCabe who sees a trip to the hospital as the perfect opportunity to get what he wants most freedom.	
17:30	Small Wonder
18:00	Fox Kids
18:40	Aaj Ki Baat
18:55	Kya Film Kya Geet
19:00	Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
19:25	Film Toppers
19:30	Shaka Laka Boom Boom
20:00	Krishna Arjun
20:30	Kasautii Zindagii Kay
21:00	Des Mein Nikla Hoga Chand
22:00	Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
22:30	Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
23:00	Kaahin Kissi Roz
23:30	Aaj Ki Baat
STAR SPORTS	
(+30 Mins)	
01:30	Golf Tournament Holden Australian Open Golf Championships Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Day Three(R)
10:00	Spanish Football League 2002/03 Spanish Football League Mallorca, Spain Mallorca Vs Real Madrid (R)
12:00	English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Manchester, England Manchester United Vs Arsenal (T)
14:00	Golf Tournament Holden Australian Open Golf Championships Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Day Three(R)
16:00	Asian Badminton Championships Jvc Asian Badminton Championships 2002 Bangkok, Thailand Highlights #1(T)
18:00	Gillette World Sports Special Gillette World Sports (R)
18:30	Asian Festival Of Speed 2002 Asian Touring Car Series Macau, Macau Rounds Thirteen & Fourteen(T)
19:30	Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (L)
20:00	Golf Tournament Holden Australian Open Golf Championships Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Final

22:00	Day(T) Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (T)
22:30	Cricket Talk Show Harsha Online On Tour In New Zealand (S)
23:30	Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (R)
CHANNEL [V]	
(+30 Mins)	
00:00	[V] Hit Machine
01:00	[V] Hit Machine
03:30	[V] Hit Machine
07:00	[V] Back To Back
07:30	[V] Back To Back
08:00	[V] Jumpstart
09:00	[V] Hit Machine
09:30	[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	