

## RECOMMENDATIONS

## Fair

January 17-February 5  
Bangladesh Folk Art & Crafts Foundation holds the Folk Art Fair and Folk Festival 2003 at its premises at Sonargaon. The fair continues up to February 5.

## Exhibition

January 25-February 5  
Art Quest inaugurates an art exhibition from January 25 at the National Museum Gallery at 11 a.m. Containing the art works of a number of eminent artist of the country, the exhibition will run till February 5 daily from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Thursday closed; Friday 3.30 to 7.30 p.m.).

## Music

January 27  
Alliance Francaise de Dacca organises an evening of classical music by Kalpana Bhattacharya. The programme starts at 7 p.m. at the Alliance Francaise Auditorium.

## Exhibition

January 21-February 10  
Renowned German photographer Andreas Herzler recently conducted a workshop titled Foreigners in Bangladesh last year. The outcome of the workshop—a collection of photographs by fifteen photographers and students is on display at the Goethe Institut Dacca. The exhibition will continue till February 21 everyday from 2 pm to 8 pm, except weekends and holidays.

## Exhibition

January 26-February 1  
The third Inter University Photography Exhibition 2003 is going to start on January 26 at the Drik Gallery. Organised by North South University Photography Club, the inauguration of the exhibition will take place at 11 a.m., where the Information Minister Tariful Islam will be present as the Chief Guest. On February 1, at the closing ceremony of the exhibition, prizes will be given away to the participants. The proceeds from the exhibition will be donated to the Acid Victim Funds of the daily Prothom Alo.

## Fashion

January 27  
Dhaka International Leather Fashion Show 2003 takes place at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel Poolside at 9 p.m. Followed by a dance show, the event is organised by Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters Association.

## Music

# When music enriches our culture

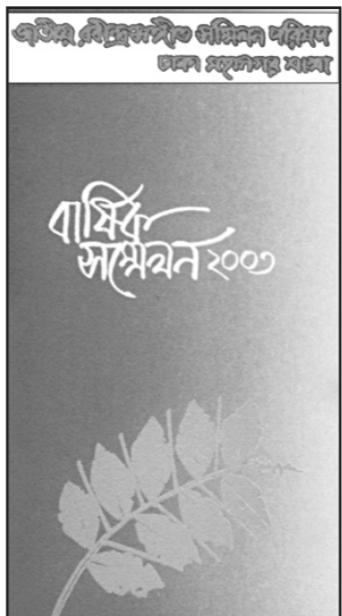
A conference of Tagore songs and more

HARUN UR RASHID

OUR Bangali cultural nationality is remarkably different from that of the rest of the world in two ways: first, we have a glorious history behind our language, and then, we have a vast treasure of music. According to renowned music scholar Wahidul Haque, language and music are the two essential elements that have always greatly influenced the formation of cultures the world over. In fact, he said, he had not found any sociological and anthropological documents that there was any time when people did not have language or music. But unfortunate for our culturally enriched country, we are at present going through a time of cultural decadence. Wahidul Haque was speaking at the Annual Conference 2003 of the Dhaka Metropolitan Branch of National Rabindrasangeet Conference Council (NRCC), held recently at the Showkat Osman Auditorium of Public Library.

Dhaka Metropolitan Branch of the NRCC organised the conference to mark the end of tenure of its organising committee elected for the term 2001-2003. The conference also declared the new committee for 2003-2005 term. Presided over by AFM Saifuddowla, President of the outgoing committee, at the conference were also present Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Wahidul Haque. Partho Sharothi Sikdar, General Secretary of the 2001-2003 committee, presented a report of the activities of the branch in the last two years.

National Rabindrasangeet Conference Council is one of the very few organisations—not to speak of musical organisations alone—which has been successfully working for more than two decades. So far, the council has organised twenty-one annual conferences. Moreover, during this period, the council has spread its activities over most parts of the country by forming forty-four branches at district levels. Some branches have also formed,



like the Mouli Bazaar and Shetabganj branches.

Although the council has formed centering Rabindrasangeet, from the very beginning, it has also laid importance on other kinds of music of the country. Especially, at many branches students are also taught Nazrulgeeti by expert teachers. And to pick out talented singers, the council arranges a central Rabindrasangeet competition every two year, where winners at the district level competitions contest. This competition has already marked significant difference in various aspects from other traditional musical contests. Competitors have to sing one song each from a council-selected list of five songs. They also have to recite the songs and answer relevant queries by the judges besides performing them.

Moreover, each participant has to prepare five other songs of their own choice, from which he/she has to perform one chosen by the judges. In addition to these, there are optional extra five marks for performing the song in accompaniment with the taanpura alone, which is regarded as the main interest in music on the part of the competitor. The council appoints a panel of a minimum of twenty-four judges at the preliminary level of the central competition, while at least six judges are responsible for evaluating in the final round.

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The Dhaka Metropolitan Branch of the NRCC organizes a good number of workshops, performances and regular and special events. Among the regular events that the branch has organised during last two years, were celebrations of the rainy season, spring and autumn, Independence Day, International Mother Language Day, and training workshops on Rabindrasangeet. It also organised performances of Nazrulgeeti, folk songs and classical music. Among the special events were performances of Bangla songs of olden days, songs of the Rabindranath Tagore, Dwijendralal, Atul Prasad and Rajani Kanta.

Again, this year, the branch held a marvellous performance combining music of the east and the west. Professor Frank Kunz of the Arizona State University, USA, played western classical music on the guitar while Richard Adams accompanied him on the viola. Eastern music was presented by the artistes of the council.

The recent Rabindrasangeet competition of the council at Aroni School in Dhamondi. At the annual conference of 18th January, the winners in two categories in three grades of that competition were awarded by the chief guest Dr. Zafar Iqbal. After the prize-giving ceremony the first graders performed Rabindrasangeet. A few invited artistes also rendered songs of Rabindranath Tagore. Listening to the songs performed by the young singers was an pleasing experience. No doubt the council is training up talented singers. It can be expected that soon that the country will regain its glorious culture, which is perhaps essentially musical in nature.

## Event

# International gathering at Kolkata Trade Fair

Bangladeshi cultural team helps improve trade links

RUMMAN UDDIN AHAMED

THE 16th international trade fair was held at Kolkata recently. One of the participating countries at the fair was Bangladesh. The chief guest was the Trade Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Choudhury, while the fair was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of West Bengal Buddhadev Bhattacharya. On this

is by the Bengal National Chamber and the Commerce Industries at a local hotel. In the banquet a laudable cultural programme was presented with songs and dance.

Later on, in the large fair pavilion the national level artistes performed in a cultural programme of three hours. The programme enriched the cultural and trade relation of both the Bengals. The dances and songs



Bangladeshi cultural delegation at the Kolkata Trade Fair

occasion the Bangladeshi cultural team consisting of 25 members under the leadership of national award winner, Shahidul Haque Khan, participated in the fair.

The Bangladeshi team

consisted of the vocal artistes Subir Nandi, Farida Parvin, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya, Niaz Mohammad Chowdhury, Lina Taposhi, Abu Bakar Siddique and Munmun Ahmed held the audience spellbound.

Next, a programme at Salt Lake's Swabhumi pavilion by the Bangladeshi artistes captivated the audience for three hours. At the end of the programme, Export Development Bureau's Vice Chairman said that they went there with Bangladeshi culture and the love of Bangladeshi people which will gradually tighten the bond of the two countries in cultural and trade affairs. Four days long Bangladeshi cultural programme has bemused the audience of Kolkata so much that they requested for more programmes in the near future. The people at the government level expressed the hope that the cultural programmes will further strengthen the cultural bridge as well as improve the trade relations.

## Venture

# JPR flies high

Organizing events

CULTURE DESK

VENTS-management has been mostly hotel-based in our country. And those in very high profile are reasonably rare. Events like fashion shows, trade shows, annual general meetings, concerts and the likes are generally held at a few luxurious three-star or five-star hotels. And in some cases the management responsibility of these ceremonies entirely goes to the concerned hotel authorities. There are, however, companies—a very insignificant number of them—who sometimes hold such programmes. But the standard seldom attains the international level.

Standing against such a backdrop, JETSETPR has recently ushered in an unprecedented trend of events-management in the country. Having hosted its first event in July 2001, JETSETPR—or JPR, as it is known—has almost redefined and set new standards to entertainment business.

Utilising the latest technology of the 'digital era', JPR provides state-of-the-art solutions to its clients in forms starting from graphic work, multimedia presentations to media coverage for productions. Besides, JPR's elitist strategy of the promotional business often involves

participation of celebrities like beauty-pageant winners, models and look-alikes. Recently, at the New Year's eve party at a local hotel, JPR introduced a famous Michael Jackson impersonator.

Headed by Mishal Karim, the company truly reflects its creator's tastes and preferences. Karim, the CEO, has a bright UK-based educational background in economics and finance. He entered the entertainment business at an early age. At only 19 he became one of leading promoters in London running two successful club nights: Friday nights at ICENI, and Tuesday nights at C

é de Paris. Among his early successful events were also the Karl Kani fashion show and the record launching ceremony of the band Bad Boy. At 21 Karim found his place in a two-page spread in a leading fashion magazine for women, Company. A UK-based television channel also aired a documentary, named Flash, on young entrepreneurs, among whom Karim was one.

By February 2003 JPR is hopeful to launch its website [www.jsetpr.com](http://www.jsetpr.com) so that its clients may avail online registration facility. Already having two representative offices in London and India, JPR also hopes to expand its network to Dubai and Oman.



Mishal with Yukta Mukhee

## TV GUIDE

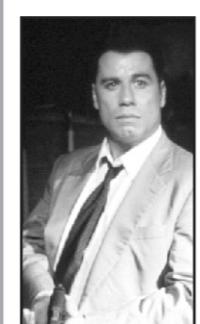
## BTV

12.15 Shubhechha Nin  
12.30 Ajker Shangbadpatro  
12.40 Health Bulletin  
01.00 Khabar  
01.05 Priyo Shilpi Priyo  
02.00 News Headlines  
02.05 Cartoon Show  
02.30 Open University  
03.00 Khabar  
03.05 Amar Desh  
03.30 Shukri Paribar  
04.00 News Headlines  
04.05 SSC Students' Programme: Lekhpora  
04.30 Swapner Deshey  
05.00 Khabar  
05.05 School Debate Competition  
05.45 Children's News  
06.00 Khabar-Desh Janapad  
06.10 Dolon-champa  
06.30 Chhandey Ananday  
07.00 English News Headlines  
07.05 Share Bazaar & Weather Bulletin  
07.10 Prothom Bangladesh  
07.30 Drama Serial  
08.00 Bangla Shangbad of 8' clock  
08.30 Shamakaleen Naatok  
09.30 Drama Serial  
10.00 English News at 10' clock  
10.25 News Report  
10.30 Shamakaleen  
Aurthoneeti  
10.35 Rangdhonu  
11.00 Anandolone  
11.30 Shangbad/ News Headlines  
CHANNEL-i  
07.00 amProthom Shur  
09.30 Music Plus  
10.50 Jeebon Jekhane Jemon  
11.25 Mega Serial: Grihalpal  
12.30 Drama Serial: Panthjan-er Shokha  
02.00 Bangla Feature Film: Hatty  
05.35 Janapad-er Khabar  
05.45 Alokito Bangladesh  
06.10 Music Plus  
06.50 Drama Serial: Bashor Ghar  
07.15 Channel-i News  
07.45 Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (Questions)  
07.55 Close Up Juke Box  
08.25 Drama Serial: Amader Graam  
Amader Shefai  
09.00 Channel-i News  
09.31 Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (Answers)  
10.00 Drama Serial: Dola Quiz 2525  
10.25 Channel-i Mobile

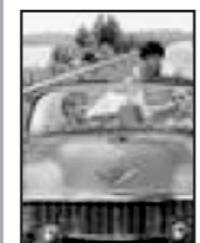
## ATN BANGLA

5:30 "Islamic Prog  
8:00 ATN Bangla News  
8:25 New Singer competition prog:  
9:35 Musical prog:  
10:10 Talk Show:  
12:00 ATN Bangla News  
2:05 Film Song's prog:  
2:30 ATN Bangla News  
2:45 Bengali feature film: Lat Saheber Meya  
5:40 The Daily Newspaper Discussing Prog:  
7:00 Ajer  
7:00 Double Whammy  
5:50 Islamic prog:  
11:00 Islame Sawal O  
12:30 Jabab  
6:25 Children Prog:  
ATN Sapla Saluk  
7:00 Gold Medel  
7:00 Protejugeta  
7:00 ATN Bangla  
8:00 Evening News  
8:00 Musical Prog:  
8:35 Band Musical  
9:00 ATN Bangla News  
9:15 Musical prog:  
9:30 Musical prog:  
10:30 Drama serial:  
11:00 ATN Bangla News  
12:00 Bengali feature film: Jute  
6:45 The Ticket  
SONY  
6:00 Music Mantra  
6:30 Just Mohabbat  
7:00 Dil Ka Dwar Khol  
7:30 Amit Varsha  
8:00 Sant Asaram Vani  
8:30 Charbusters  
9:00 Good Morning  
10:00 Music Mantra  
10:30 Bournvita Quiz  
11:00 Music Mantra  
11:30 Music Mantra  
12:00 Hum Sab Ek Hain  
12:30 Kya Haadsa Kya  
13:00 Iyi Back To Back  
13:30 Iyi Hit Machine  
14:00 Iyi Hit Machine  
14:30 Iyi Hit Machine  
15:00 Iyi Hit Machine  
15:30 Iyi Hit Machine  
16:00 Iyi Hit Machine  
17:00 Iyi Hit Machine  
17:30 Iyi Hit Machine  
18:00 Very  
19:00 Ctrl Iyi  
20:00 Iyi Back To Back  
20:30 Iyi Zabardast Hits  
21:00 Iyi Jungli Jukebox  
21:30 Iyi Fdfs  
22:00 Iyi Hit Machine  
22:30 Iyi Back To Back  
23:00 Iyi Back To Back

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO: 10.00 p.m. The General's Daughter. The naked corpse of Captain Elisabeth Campbell, daughter of Lieutenant General 'Fighting Joe' Campbell, is found staked out on the urban warfare range of Fort MacCallum. Army CID detectives and ex-lovers Paul Brenner and Sara Sunhill are called in to investigate, and find themselves wrapped up in a maelstrom of sexual impropriety and misguided face-saving.



STAR MOVIES: 8.45 p.m. Coupe de Ville. Three brothers—a corporal, a troublemaker and a dreamer—meet for the first time in five years. They have met to drive home a car they have bought for their mother's 50th birthday. During the long ride home they

## STAR MOVIES

7:00 The Ticket

8:00 Sant Asaram Vani

8:30 Charbusters

9:00 Good Morning

10:00 Music Mantra

10:30 Bournvita Quiz

11:00 Music Mantra

11:30 Music Mantra

12:00 Hum Sab Ek Hain

12:30 Kya Haadsa Kya

13:00 Iyi Back To Back

13:30 Iyi Hit Machine

14:00 Iyi Hit Machine

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15:00 Iyi Hit Machine

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26:00 Iyi Hit Machine

27:00 Iyi Hit Machine

28:00 Iyi Hit Machine

29:00 Iyi Hit Machine

30