



## Thailand through my eyes

March 1-10  
Bengal Gallery of Fine arts is holding a photography exhibition by Dr Rashid Un Nabi titled 'Thailand through my eyes' at 6:30 p.m. The exhibition will continue everyday from 12:30 p.m. till March 10 (Closed on public holidays).

## Concert

March 10  
Goethe Institut presents a musical concert by Stefan Hissa and Michael Sloboda. The programme starts at 7 p.m. at the Osmani Memorial Hall.

## Exhibition

February 28-March 9  
A solo exhibition by artist Tahera Khanom is being held at the Gallery Chitrak on February 28 at 5:30 p.m. The exhibition will continue everyday from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. till March 9.

## Exhibition

February 28-March 6  
Dirk Gallery holds an exhibition of paintings, sculptures and architecture by five young architects. The exhibition continues up to March 6 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Exhibition

March 2-16  
The Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University and the Embassy of Japan is jointly holding a painting exhibition by Bangladeshi artists who studied in Japan. The exhibition takes place at Zainul Gallery of the Institute. The show is open from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Music

March 6  
Dhailib Sangeet Niketan arranges an evening of instrumental music by its students at Mohila Samity. Ustad Motiul Haque Khan, one of the leading sitar players in the country, will also play the sitar at the event. The programme will start at 7 p.m.

## Heritage

## Tuning off...

## The neglected Bangladesh Bazaar

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

WHEN was the last time you switched on the radio? If you cannot remember, you are probably part of a million-strong group of people who have opted to let the dust settle on their sets. And sadly, rightly



For those who see our cultural legacy on a steady downward slope, this can be a timely reminder that we need a spark to rekindling our fading heritage. For a nation to thrive and take pride in its roots, its mass media needs not only to be managed with total commitment; it needs a soul.

Tragically, Bangladesh Betar with its countless listeners seems destined for an early death.

Nowadays the immense pressure of television, cinemas, cassettes, VCD's internet have pushed down the role of the radio to a minimum. Even then to people all around the city, in the small tea shops, in the mufassis and villages, the radio is still a very popular means of entertainment and education. While it presents songs and drama it also regularly presents educational programmes on family planning, agriculture, students forum and most importantly the news.

At present there are approximately 98 lakh licensed owners of a radio set in Dhaka alone. The unlicensed users may be many times more. Besides

Dhaka, the other stations are situated at Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal, Thakurgaon, Rangpur, Rangamati and a relay station at Comilla. With its tremendous reach, it is not surprising that it attracts advertisers. In spite of its demand both locally and internationally, the radio centers themselves are in miserable condition due to sheer negligence.

Ironically the establishment of the Radio station was an occasion of national pride. After the partition of 1947 the first Radio station was centered at Nazimuddin road at Old Dhaka the erstwhile city center. After a few years it was shifted to Shahbagh. In 1980 the main station was transferred to Agargaon to the north of the Sangsads Bhaban. Today, the commercial service and the transcription service are carried on from the Shahbagh center.

The station at Agargaon was built to modernize the facilities and broadcast technically-sound programmes. On the first floor are the offices, tape library and small studios from where news and other educational programmes are conducted. The three main studios are on the second floor. At present there are as many as 3500 enlisted artists at the Dhaka radio station.

During the embryonic stage, vocalists like Abbas Uddin Ahmed, Abdul Ahad, Feroza Begum, Jaharana Ahsan, Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Full Jhuri Khan, Ustad Gul Md. Khan, Yusuf Khan Koraishi and others came from India and filled up the vacuum created from the migration of non-Muslim artists to India. Artists like Afsari Khanam, Anjali Mukherjee, Laila Arjumand Banu, Malika Pervene were already performing here.

Everyday 30-35 artists gather to record songs at the center. In



## Snapshots from the past

This is how a popular children's programme *Khelaghara* was conducted by Dr. Fyzennesa way back in 1964 at the Shahbagh radio centre.

era of music was led by Ferdousi Begum, Anjuman Ara Begum, Mahbuba Rahman, Farida Yasmeen, Asafuddowlah, Anwaruddin, Abu Baker, Nina Hamid, Abdul Alim, Sanjida Khatun, Farida Bari Malik and a host of others. This lineage was carried on from the pre-liberation period of Bangladesh by Sabina Yasmeen, Abdul Hadi, Shahnaz Rahmatullah, Runa Laila, Khondokar Faruk, Abdul Jabbar to Papa Sarwar, Nilufar Yasmeen, Shubir Nandi and a host of internationally reputed artists.

The Dhaka radio center which was the birthplace of such talent is beset with innumerable problems resulting from negligence and is now tottering on the edge of ruins. Almost in unison its facilities, infrastructure, creative team, technical team seem to have regressed into a shadow of its former self.

There is a dearth of musicians as well. In place of 60 there are now about 30 musicians. Musicians like Ustad Fihly Khan, Mir Kasem Khan, Modhu Babu, Motiul Huq Khan, Abdur Rahman, Yasin Khan and so many of them were the heart and soul of the immortal songs of yesteryears. Musicians are mostly untrained and have very little incentive to develop their skills further. At present there is only one professional Sarode player, Yousuf Khan, in Bangladesh. Music directors like Abdul Ahad, Dhir Ali, Monsur Ali, have passed away and Shujeen Shyam, Azad Rahman, Khondokar Nurul Alam, Ojit Ray have retired long ago. There is at present a serious shortage of music directors prevailing at the stations.

Yet, so many of the problems could be easily addressed. The huge advertising funds itself could be re-invested in the stations by the Cultural Ministry. With better services they would only attract more advertisements. So in a way, the money spent is not "wasted". The directors who are still able to contribute could also be brought in contractual service and made to train the newcomers. The Shilpo Kola Academy is best placed to address the problem of dearth of musicians. With its huge setup, management, they can quite easily take steps to train and support budding talents. And the funds needed can come from the grants that it receives from donors for this very purpose.

Besides "hard equipment" even the tapes and recorded pieces have not been preserved well. Most of the tapes are now worn out. In the process many invaluable songs have been erased or lost. Such is the way many famed artists have exited forever, the music world.

The radio station is the birthplace of so many talents. Let us not only pay tribute to the legends posthumously, but try to preserve their work, so that newer generations can be trained and can woo back the lost audience. An important media like the radio can influence the national psyche and it is a dangerous gamble to leave it neglected.

## Music

## Eagles hatch summer farewell tour

REUTERS, NEW YORK

shows.

THE Eagles will spread their wings at least one more time this summer for their "Farewell I" concert tour, as Monday turned into a rather popular day to announce summer concert gigs.

Other tours announced were those of Peter Gabriel, Annie Lennox and a double bill of Matchbox Twenty and Sugar Ray.

The Eagles tour is set to kick



PHOTO: KEVIN MAZUR

off at Richmond, Va.'s Coliseum on May 9 and continue at least through mid-July.

The outing reunites the "The Long Run" version of the band with Don Henley, Glenn Frey, Joe Walsh and Timothy B. Schmit sans Don Felder to reprise the group's cadre of mega-hits such as "Hotel California" and "Take It Easy." (Felder is suing the band after being ousted in 2001.)

The Eagles have scheduled 19 dates so far, including stops in Philadelphia, Boston, Dallas, Atlanta and Nashville, among others, with another 20 or so engagements yet to be announced. Fans who sign up at the group's online fan club site (<http://eagles.yahoo.com>) will get a shot at advance-sales windows for many of the

"Bare" will be released June 10 by BMG's J Records, will play 18 cities between March 26 and April 30, including intimate gigs at New York's Apollo on April 14 and UCLA's Royce Hall on April 29. More dates will be announced for shows after the release of "Bare."

Matchbox Twenty and Sugar Ray are teaming for a 49-concert run in arenas that starts in Little Rock, Ark., on April 26. (Matchbox Twenty will play a solo show the day before in New Orleans). The double bill, which will feature Maroon 5 as the opening act through May 31, is booked through early July with a stop June 14 at L.A.'s Staples Center.

## TV GUIDE

BTW	
12.10 pm	News Headlines
12.15	Shubhechha Nir
12.30	Ajker Shangbadpatro
12.40	Health Bulletin
01.00	Khabar
01.05	Selected Programme
02.00	News Headlines
02.05	Cartoon Show
02.30	Open University
03.00	English News
03.10	Bangla Feature Film
04.00	News Headlines
05.00	Khabar
05.30	Magazine Show: Ityadi
06.00	Khabar-Desh Janapad
06.35	Islamic Programme: Jibon Alo
07.00	News Headlines (English)
07.05	Boi Patro
07.30	Film Show: Three Stooges
08.00	Bangla Shangbad at 8'o clock
08.30	Drama of the Week: Ami Joddha
09.30	Chhaya Chhando
10.00	English News at 10'o clock
10.25	News Report
10.30	Movie of the Week
11.30	Late Night News/News Headlines
CHANNEL-i	
07.15	Prothom Shur
09.30	Music Plus
10.00	i Sports
10.50	Drama Serial: Durer Aakash
11.30	Mega Serial: Grihalgalpo
12.10 pm	Drama Serial: Profi Churnia
02.00	Bangla Feature Film: Palabi Kotthay
05.00	Rabindra Sangeet Show: Gaaner Oparey
05.35	Janapad-er Khabar
05.45	Jato Pad Toto Mat
06.10	Music Plus
06.45	House Full
07.15	Channel-i News
07.45	Ispahani-Tele Quiz (Questions)
07.55	Jui Priyo Natok: Haowa Ghar
09.00	Channel-i News
09.31	Ispahani-Tele Quiz (Answers)
09.35	Drama Serial
10.00	Bangla Music Show: Close Up Heat Wave
10.25	Channel-i Mobile Quiz 2525
10.30	Channel-i News
11.15	Shangbadpatro Bangladesh
11.30	Live Telecast of BTV Late Night News
	Telecast of Recorded BTV News at Ten
12.15 am	Channel-i News

## HBO

7:00	Alive	8:00	Music Mantra
9:30	Snow Falling on Cedars	9:00	Current Bollywood
12:00	K-911	10:00	Kukus
2:00	Blade Squad	11:00	Achanak
3:45	Daughter of Darkness	11:30	Aahat Dehshat Ke 6 Saal
5:45	Brother's Keeper	12:00	Dil Vi Pyar Vyar
7:30	Batman	6:15	Mad About Mambo
10:00	Cobra	8:15	Wall Street
11:45	3000 Miles to Graceland	10:30	The Fly li
2:00	Alive	12:30	Moms On Strike
4:30	Posse	2:15	Scenes From A Mall
10:30	Seven Days : The Collector	11:15	Leaving Las Vegas
11:30	Farscape : Revenging Angel	1:15	U-571
12:30	Guinness World Records : Primetime	(30 Minutes +)	ADVENTURE ONE
1:30	Martial Law : Lock-up	(22 Episodes X 1hr)	Quest For K2
2:30	Movie : Slow Burn	7:00	Out There
4:30	The Right Stuff	7:30	Next Wave
5:30	Guinness World Records : Primetime	8:00	Surfer's Journal
9:30	Last Of The Anzacs	8:30	Explorer's Journal
10:30	Farscape : The Choice	9:00	Quest For K2
11:30	Danger Diaries	9:30	Next Wave
12:30	Quest For K2	10:00	Caillou - Episode # 3
1:30	Death to the Queen	10:30	Flipper - Episode # 1
2:30	Guinness World Records : Primetime	11:00	Of The Dead
4:30	Surfer's Journal	11:30	The Great Outdoors
5:30	Death to the Queen	12:00	Caillou - Episode # 3
9:30	Now See This!	12:30	Caillou - Episode # 1
10:30	Thu Horror Movie : Alien	13:00	Geet Bahar
11:30	Out There	14:00	- Episode # 4 -
12:30	Next Wave	14:30	Hit Filmein Hit
1:30	Surfer's Journal	15:00	Sangeet - 20 M
2:30	King Of The Outback	15:30	Kuch Hit Kuch
4:30	Action Asia	16:00	Superhit
5:30	Challenge	16:30	Superhit
9:00	Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 120	17:00	Hit Filmein Hit
10:00	Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 123 Barge Of The Dead	17:30	Taaza Hits
11:00	The Great Outdoors	18:00	Kuch Hit Kuch
12:00	The Guardian - Episode # 14 Family	18:30	Kuch Hit Kuch
1:00	Caillou - Episode # 123 Barge Of The Dead	18:45	Kuch Hit Kuch
2:00	Geet Bahar	19:00	Chandail
3:00	Surfer's Journal	19:30	Saheli
4:00	Geet Bahar	20:00	Shanti
5:00	Surfer's Journal	20:30	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
6:00	Geet Bahar	21:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
7:00	Surfer's Journal	21:3	