

RECOMMENDATIONS

**Exhibition**

**March 18-April 7**  
Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts holds a solo exhibition of abstract art by Mahmudul Haque, one of the major exponents of the trend in contemporary times. The exhibition will run through April 7 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

**April 5-10**

'Earthen', an institute of three artists Debashis, Swapan and Shahadat, holds a Terracotta Art Exhibition at the Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. The inaugural ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. and the show will be opened by M. Anwarul Kabir Talukder, State Minister for Finance and Planning. Artist Abdus Satter and Philippe Nicaise, Alliance Francaise Director, will also attend the ceremony. The show continues up to April 10 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**April 4-8**

Artlinks organises a solo of digital painting by New York-based artist Masud Ul Alam. The exhibition remains open from 3 to 8 p.m.

**April 4-15**

Shilpangan holds a special 12-day painting show of reputed painter Ranjit Das. The exhibition starts at the Shilpangan Gallery at 5.30 p.m. the inaugural occasion will be attended by Enayetullah Khan, Mohiuddin Khalid and artist Samarjit Ropy Chowdhury. The show remains open from 10 am to 8 p.m.

**Book Fair**

**April 2-15**  
'Shrabon'--a literary publishing house, holds an amazing book fair at its stall at the Aziz Super Market, to protest the ongoing US-led war against Iraq. The fair features a huge collection of books written to condemn war over the time. The fair also presents T-shirts, stickers, and posters--all inscribed with war-condemning slogans. The book fair is open until April 15.

**Tribute**

## Last night with Aleya!

NASHID KAMAL

THE name Aleya was borrowed from the character of Serajuddoulah drama and it was the name by which my grandfather Abbasuddin Ahmed addressed his charming young wife. However, it took me a long time to decipher that it was not her real name -- Lutfunnesa Begum is what she was christened as -- but how was one to know? In all the letters that Dadu wrote to his beloved wife, the salutation was 'Sneher Aleya'. Aleya kept those letters in a wooden almirah and her letters dated back even upto May 9, 1933 when my father was born. The couple stayed parted -- Abbasuddin, in search of his musical fame resided in Calcutta while Aleya was left behind with her in-laws in their ancestral village home in Coochbehar state of India.

At a very early age of fifteen she had become a mother and very soon she was a mother of not one, but four children. Aleya lived in Coochbehar town instead of her village home in Balarampur and she followed her husband's advices in rearing her children. As Calcutta became a seat of eminence for her husband, Aleya felt left out as a woman. She moaned and pined so much to her brother-in-law Abdul Karim, that he could no longer hold his pen. Verses shot off like magic bullets and stung the hearts of the elites of Calcutta who heard the pining woman through the *bhauwaiya* songs rendered by Abbasuddin. Very few came to know that songs like *Oki ekbar ashia shonar chand more jao dekhia re* *O more kala re kala* *Opore chokilam bari* *Kala ruilam kala shari shari re* were written with the ink of natural tears flowing out of the eyes of Abbasuddin's beloved Aleya.

For a short period Aleya stayed in Calcutta getting to know eminent personalities like poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, poet Jasimuddin, poet Ghulam Mustafa, Professor Abu Hena and many others for their association with

her husband. In 1947, the entire family migrated to erstwhile East Pakistan. She herself had hailed from Domar, once an obscure village in Rangpur district. She had formal schooling of only 3-5 years at the most, but she felt enlightened enough to hold the reigns of life.

After independence, her house in Purana Paltan, named Hiranman Manzil after her mother-in-law, became the seat of art and culture for the post-independence population. Aleya became the central figure hosting the future artists and litterateurs of this country. She was the driving force bringing inspiration to her husband, her two sons Mustafa Kamal and Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and daughter Ferdousi Rahman. In 1959, Aleya lost her husband and found herself amidst an ocean of loneliness.

Undaunted by the odds that life has to offer, she added her own 'twist to her tale' and became an ardent social worker engaging herself in women's organizations specially working on rekindling the glory of Begum Rokeya. Aleya, who used to sing folk songs and Nazrulgeeti and played the sitar earlier, found a new expression for her creative desires. This medium of expression

was her pen, through which was penned beautiful verses in Bangla. Sometimes she wrote about her mother, sometimes she wrote about love, sometimes she just gave life to simple and rustic images in her mind, dating back to her lost adolescence in the olive gardens of Coochbehar. The poems were published in Lolona, Begum, Bichitra, Ittefaq and others. In her stories of maharajahs and maharanis the scenes were glorified with flowers almost to the point of the fragrance being emitted through the very pages of the poetry book she published. It was titled *Kichu phul kichu sruti* (some flowers, some memories). In real life too she loved flowers and as her lonely life continued with all thirst being unquenched, her only oasis remained in speaking to the flowers, nurturing them with her green fingers. She brought flower and beauty to anyone and everyone who happened to be near her. That too was plentiful as in her own way she carved a niche in every heart. Ranging from the erudite writers such as Sufia Kamal, Zobeda Khanam, Laila Samad, Mafruha Chowdhury -- talented singers Sohrab Hossain, Bedaruddin, Abdul Latif, Golam Mustafa, young-



Lutfunnesa Begum

sters like my friends, my younger sister's friends all had a special place for Bhabi/Dadi. Her ever-smiling face, with the naughty glow of Dadu's Aleya was forever an encouraging factor behind the success of her three children and was carried on to our generation through her careful inspiration and enthusiasm.

Dadi as she was to all of us (seven grandchildren) was always in tomorrow's generation. She never dwelled in the past, never for once carried her age-old traditional values, never stifled us, never discouraged us, only added more zeal to our adventures and escapades in life and enjoyed our achievements to the brim. After every travel, it was a joy to share photographs, experiences and memories with her. She felt as if she was there. She was way ahead of her times. She heard my interview on VOA and remembered to tell me about it. This encouragement she also gave to all other luminaries who frequented our house. Bar Ishtiaque Ahmed, Dr. Sufia Ahmed, Dr. Halima Khatun, Syed Abdul Hadi, Bar Moudud Ahmed, Hasnat Abdul Hye, Mrs Rowshan ara Rahman, Khan Ataur Rahman, actor Golam Mustafa, social worker and

friend Ayesha Zafar historian Dr Enamul Huque are only a few names amongst millions who had the privileged of eating at her ever-loving diningtable.

This dining room was a source of joy to all her relatives who came from near and far to have lunch/dinner with her. Dadi cooked with her own hands till the last days of her life, sometime around four years before her death. Dadi cooked golden coloured curries which to this day remains a mystery for us--no matter how we try to solve the curry it never happens to be that glittery and golden. Perhaps her beautiful mind with all its glittering qualities was reflected in the golden curry just as the water in the river reflects the inner beauty of an innocent face. She sat there in her porch cutting betel nuts, writing poems, drying orange peels, lecturing her nieces on life's crooked roads and choices made to embark upon them. She published two more books 'Shomoi kotha bole (Time speaks)' and 'Shesh bikalar alo (The light of the fading sun)

In fact that was the moment that I met Dadi last in her house on March 7, '03. As I entered the house at around 5.30

## Announcement



There must be a thousand questions that you would like to put to your favourite artistes, but never had the chance to. We would like to give you that opportunity. We start our 'Personality of the month' with eminent Rabindra sangeet artist Kalim Sharafi. So, send us your questions that

you would like to put to Kalim Sharafi, latest by April 10, 2003 at:

Personality of the month  
Culture-desk  
19 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
Bangladesh  
e-mail : culture@thedailystar.net

PM, all the birds were flying to their nests, all the crows had turned off their voices and the light spring winds were caressing her hair with the complete beauty of the season that it signifies. I felt extremely happy to see Dadi sitting outside in the garden, admiring the pot plants. As I entered she asked me to bring one plant as she wanted to water it. She was so alive and vibrant even when all hope had left her, she saw hope in the tender green leaves of the pot plants. I brought the plant and a jug of water and she watered it, with her paralyzed right hand. On March 10, night befell on the dwellers of this city and I heard the phone ring with my father's voice at the other end. My aunt was there with my Dadi, she was beckoning us to go. Dadi was ill. We rushed there and from 1 AM to 5 AM I slept next

to Dadi hoping that she would recover. My father and aunt did not sleep all night, but I lay next to her, positioning myself on her pillow as I felt very tired. Dadi hated sleeping alone, and when she left at 5.30 in the morning I just wondered how lucky I was to be able to spend the last night with her. We didn't let her go alone, we were there for her in every sense as we saw her sliding away. As I looked at the early morning sky, so vividly viewable from the south-facing jasmine porch of the house, I wondered if Dadi had become the mysterious light in the sky that was so sought after by Dadu and aptly named 'Aleya'.

Dr. Nashid Kamal is a renowned vocal artiste and also professor of Population Environment, Independent University of Bangladesh.



Lutfunnesa Begum is seen with her daughter, eminent singer Ferdousi Rahman and her grand-daughter Nashid Kamal

## TV GUIDE

BTV	
08.40	Shubhechchha Nin
08.50	Alor Pathay
09.00	Khabar
09.15	Krira Jagat
09.35	Shustho Thakun
10.00	The News
10.05	Documentary Show: Janmohumi
10.15	Swapner Deshey
10.35	Notun Kurni-2002
11.00	News Headlines
12.00	News Headlines
03.10	English News
03.15	Ajker Shingbadpatro
03.20	Bangla Feature Film
04.00	News Headlines
05.00	Khabar
05.35	Cartoon Show: Ghost Busters
06.00	Khabar-Desh Janopad
06.10	Ei Prithibi
06.35	Chittagong Centre's Programme
07.00	News Headlines
07.05	Maloncho
07.30	Film Show: Alif Laila
08.00	8 o'clock Bengali News
08.30	Shamprotik Proshongo
09.00	Cine Magazine
09.30	Priyo Manush
10.00	English News at Ten
10.30	Chhayachhando
11.30	Khabar/The News
CHANNEL-i	
07.15	Prothom Shur
09.00	Jato Pod Tato Mot
09.30	Cholar Pathay
10.00	Radhuni Ranna
10.30	Chhutir Shokal
11.30	Grihagalpo
12.30	Close Up Heat Wave
02.00	Shatyer Shandhaney
03.00	Bangla Feature Film: Nach Nagina Nach
05.35	Janopader Khabar
05.45	R C Kidly Kids
06.10	Music Plus
06.45	Kothay Kothay
07.15	Channel-i News
07.45	Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (Q)
07.50	Magazine Show: Shajai Swapno Ghar
08.25	Drama Serial: Harek Rakom Jibon
09.00	Channel-i News
09.31	Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (R)
10.00	Drama: Ami Tomay Bhalobashi
10.25	Channel-i
11.15	Shangbadpatrey Bangladesh
11.30	Live Telecast of BTB Mobile Quiz 2525
10.30	Channel-i News Late Night News
12.15	Channel-i News

ATN BANGLA	
6:30	Islamic Prog
8:30	ATN Bangla News
8:55	Mega Serial: Kun
	Semanay Mukte
9:30	Drama Serial:
	Hada-Ar-Bhudar
	Kandokarkhana
9:55	Film Magazine:
	Henolux Benudon
	Bichitra
10:40	Reporting prog:
	Prekhhapot
11:35	Islamic Prog:
12:30	ATN Bangla News
12:30	The Daily
	Newspaper
	Discussing Prog:
	Ajker
	Sangbadpotro
13:10	Islamic Prog:
3:00	ATN Bangla News
	Headlines
3:55	Bengali Feature
	Film: Sompate
5:20	The Daily
	Newspaper
	Discussing Prog:
	Ajker
5:30	Gram Gonger
	Sangbad
6:55	Children prog:
	Cholo Gan Gai
7:30	ATN Bangla
	Evening News
8:00	Viewers Opinion
	Prog: Motamat
8:35	Drama Serial:
	Sandhatara
9:10	Magazine prog:
	Tasmery
	Kechokhon
9:30	ATN Bangla News
9:55	Drama Serial:
	Shes Bekalar
10:30	ATN Bangla News
11:00	Special Talk

11:30	ATN Bangla News
	News
12:0	Bangla Feature
	Film: Mone
	Rekho Amai
STAR MOVIES	
6:00	Managua
7:45	Unfaithfully Yours
9:45	Sunset Strip
11:30	D3: The Mighty Ducks
1:15	Vanishing, The
3:15	Another Stakeout
5:20	Man Who Cried, The
7:00	Scent Of A Woman
9:35	Pretty Woman
11:45	Mad Dog And
	Glory
1:30	Psycho li
STAR WORLD	
6:30	Cheers
7:00	Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00	Chicago Hope
9:00	Roswell
10:00	Dark Angel
11:00	Oprah Winfrey Show
11:58	Star Asia Travel
12:00	Fight School
1:00	Suddenly Susan
13:30	The Bold And The Beautiful
14:00	Hollywood Squares
15:00	Baywatch
16:00	The Simpsons
16:30	Cheers
17:00	Starnews Asia
17:30	Frasier
18:00	Tna Wrestling
18:55	Starnews Asia
19:00	World's Wildest
16:30	Gene Hunters
17:00	Shiver

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS	
STAR MOVIES: 11.45 p.m. <i>Mad Dog and Glory</i> . Wayne Dobie is a shy police photographer who saves the life of crime boss Frank Milo. Greatful, Milo insists on being Wayne's friend, offering him the companionship of "Glory", one of his employees. Wayne is thus in a difficult situation: he can't be seen to be fraternising with criminals, and he's unsure about how to deal with Glory.	
AXN: 10.30 p.m. <i>Arlington Road</i> . Widowed when his FBI agent wife is killed in an FBI anti-terrorist operation gone wrong, a college professor becomes increasingly obsessed with the culture and sub-society of these dangerous groups. The arrival of new neighbors, gives him new spirit, as they are gregarious and friendly, with two children that his son can be friends with. He is even beginning to see another woman.	
20:58	Star Asia Travel
21:00	Frasier
21:30	World's Wildest Police Videos
22:30	Nash Bridges
23:30	Tna Wrestling
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	
6:30	Savage Paradise
7:30	Trail Of The Cougar
8:30	Elephant Power
9:30	Hippos Of The Zambezi
10:30	Truth Files
11:30	Dogs With Jobs
12:00	Earthpulse
12:00	Africa From The Ground Up
13:00	Wildlife Detectives
20:30	Scientific American Frontiers
21:30	Shiver
22:00	Human Edge
22:30	Africa On Ice
23:30	Gene Hunters
24:00	Shiver
ADVENTURE ONE	
6:00	Danger Diaries
7:00	Voyager
7:30	Ng Adventures
8:30	Surfer's Journal
9:00	Explorer's Journal
10:00	Mountain Rescuers
11:00	India Diaries
11:30	Extreme Science
12:00	Danger Diaries
13:00	Into The Deep
13:30	Ng Adventures
14:30	Surfer's Journal
15:00	Explorer's Journal

PICK OF THE DAY	
	<b>Pretty Woman</b> On Star Movies at 9.35 p.m. Edward is a rich, ruthless businessman who specialises in taking over companies and then selling them off piece by piece. He travels to Los Angeles for a business trip and decides to hire a prostitute. They take a liking to each other and he offers her money if she'll stay with him for an entire week while he makes the "rich and famous" scene. Romantic comedy ensues.
16:00	Dive To The Edge Of Creation
17:00	Surfer's Journal
17:30	Explorer's Journal
18:30	Cycling Mongolia
19:30	India Diaries
20:00	Extreme Science
20:30	Danger Diaries
21:30	Voyager
22:00	Cycling Mongolia
23:00	India Diaries
23:30	Extreme Science
24:00	Danger Diaries
STAR SPORTS	
6:30	Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour Singapore, SINGAPORE
7:30	Royal Challenge Indian Open Royal Challenge Indian Open Golf 2003 Day Three Highlights(R)
8:00	Futbol Mundial (R)
8:30	Dream Team (R)
9:00	Nba Basketball Portland, OR USA
10:30	Animal Edens
18:00	Mission Wild
18:30	Dogs With Jobs
19:00	Earthpulse
19:30	Africa From The Ground Up
20:00	Wildlife Detectives
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20:30	Danger Diaries
21:30	Voyager
22:00	Cycling Mongolia
23:00	India Diaries
23:30	Extreme Science
24:00	Danger Diaries
11:30	Sudirman Cup Dr Sudirman Cup 2003 Netherlands, NETHERLANDS
14:30	Pga Tour Highlights The Players Championship (R)
15:30	Inside The Pga Tour (T)
16:00	Windsurfing Adecco Asian Windsurfing Tour 2002/03 Penghu, TAIWAN Highlights(T)
16:30	Wrestling Apple Crush (T)
17:00	Royal Challenge Indian Open Royal Challenge Indian Open Golf 2003 Day Four Highlights(T)
17:30	Nba Basketball Portland, OR USA

Utah Jazz Vs Portland Trailblazers (R)	20:00	Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (L)	
20:30	Nba Inside Stuff (T)	21:00	Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour Singapore, SINGAPORE
22:00	Semifinals #1(T)	22:00	Dream Team (T)
22:30	Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (T)	22:55	Formula One Qualifying 2003 Formula One Fri Qualifying Interlagos, BRAZIL Brazilian Grand Prix Qualifying(L)
24:00	Here We Go! English Premier League Preview (T)		
HALLMARK			
4:59	White Dwarf	6:59	Scholastic Clifford Mac's- Secret Dog Club & Dog Park.
7:29	Caillou-All in a day	7:59	Sesame street (Season 29)- Episode Number 54 Princess Stallion, the
10:59	Field of dreams	12:59	Mcleods Dauthers II-Desperate Measures
13:59	Guardian, the - Mothers of the Disappeared	14:59	Scholastic Clifford Mac's -Secret Dog Club & Dog Park.
15:29	Caillou -All in a day	15:59	Flipper-Past Tense
16:59	Sesame Street (Season 29)-		

Episode Number 54	17:59	Star Trek Voyager Memorial	
18:59	Harry and the Hendersons	20:59	Family Law-Pilot
21:59	Star Trek: Voyager - Spirit Folk	22:59	Harry and the Hendersons
00:59	Gas, food lodging		
ESPN			
6:30	Sportscenter Hindi (R)	7:00	Tony Hawk's Gigantic Skatepark Tour (R)
8:00	Wrestling Apple Crush (R)	8:30	Asian Bowling Tour Aviva Asian Bowling Tour, Malaysia Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA Semifinals & Finals(R)
11:30	Western Union World Football (T)	12:00	Lpga Golf Safeway Ping Phoenix, AZ USA Final Round(T)
14:00	Premier Snooker League Premier Snooker League 2003 Flint, UNITED KINGDOM (R)	16:00	Women'S College Volleyball Ncaa Div. I Women'S Volleyball Championships New Orleans, LA USA Usc Vs Stanford Championship(R)
18:00	Goals! (R)	18:30	English Premier Football League Best Of English Premier Football League Newcastle, ENGLAND Newcastle United Vs

Arsenal (R)	20:30	Sportscenter Hindi (L)	
21:00	Here We Go (S)	22:30	Best Of Pga Golf 98 Best Of The Pga Tour-Planes,Trains & Automobile (R)
23:00	Goals! (R)	23:30	Sportscenter Hindi (T)
24:00	Best Of Pga Golf South Africa (R)		
HBO			