

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

May 11-16
The inaugural ceremony of a painting exhibition of Anupam and Nisha will start at the art gallery of the Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. at 5.30pm. on May 11. The exhibition will remain open till May 16 from 3.00pm to 7.00pm daily.

May 09-23
The Bengal Tours Ltd. and Gallery Chitrak will jointly hold a painting exhibition by renowned artists titled *Sundarbans: A Beauty in Silence* from May 9. The artists include Abdur Razzaque, Bulbon Osman, Rafiqun Nabi, and others. The show continues up to May 23 daily from 10 am to 8 pm.

Theatre

May 15
The theatre group of Asim Das will present Moliere's 'George Dandin ou le Mari Confondu' on May 15 at 6:30p.m. at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka.

Exhibition

May 22- June 5
The inauguration of a painting exhibition by Kakoli and a sculpture exhibition by Reaz will take place at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka on May 22 at 6:00p.m. The exhibition will continue till June 5.

Music

May 22
French musical evening at the Café La Veranda at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka.

Film show

May 11
Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'Perfect Storm'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Music

Wedding blasts!

When delight turns into distaste

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

A few days back I went to a wedding reception. Everything was picture perfect. The venue, menu, the grand setting of wedding hall -- nothing was amiss. Even the most critical of our friends could only nod in appreciation! The flower arrangement was done by the professionals no doubt. Orchids were probably flown in. The tables were set with candles in small wrought iron stands.

The party had the look of a fashion house. The petite young girls arrived in kameez, styled in oriental designs, ethnic patterns, thick embroidered silks and in lahengas. Short kameez is certainly in vogue. Ladies adorned in stylish jewellery sparkled from every nook and corner of the marquee. Friends of all ages were having a grand time talking about the latest rumor in town -- who has done what, where, why! Then it began -- the entertainment for the night.

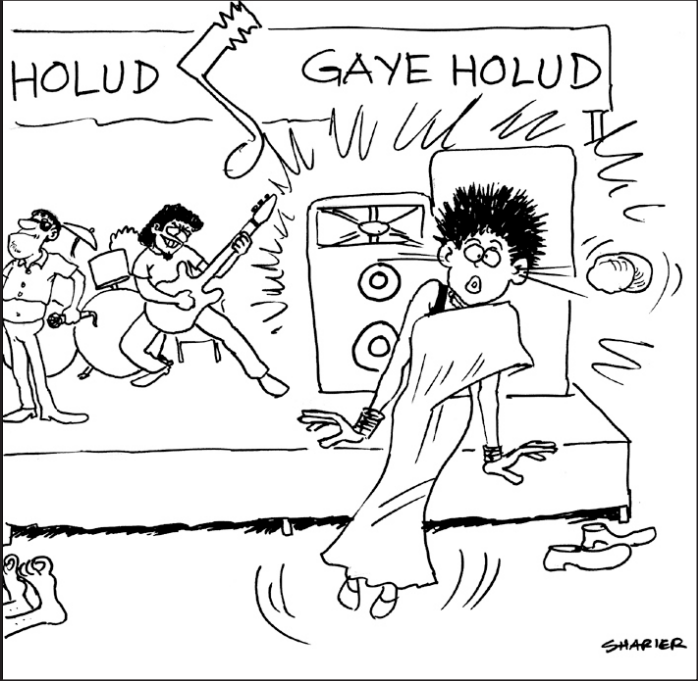
That is if you like having a megawatt speaker blaring inches from your ear, and love a shouting conversation with your neighbouring

friend. Needless to say, all the catching up, juicy talk died a sudden death.

The music if I can say, began with a blast. The guests seemed extremely unhappy. I am sure some even looked up to see if the chandeliers were holding up. Some even put their fingers on their ears to avoid the loud speakers and the violent drums. Few failed to understand why the songs weren't even Bengali. Everyone around me had an expression of uneasiness. Some decided to leave earlier than planned. I felt helpless. I thought that I had a role to play.

I asked one of my friends to request the musicians to play something soothing. I also suggested a few Bangla songs. Unfortunately they were not prepared for such requests. What had happened to our wedding songs? Why have we started to believe that we have to copy the *filmy style*?

I remember vividly how we used to arrange our own programmes for such occasions. A month before the wedding took place young boys and girls would gather at the bride's house and rehearse songs. *Lila Balee, Biyaar Shajoney, Lal tuktukeybou jai go, Oreyshampaan*



wala, Holud bato mendi bato. Holud beguni shobuj shada neel and countless other songs were sung on the *gaye holud*. And the

audience never failed to participate.

Then Feroz Shai appeared on the scene. He had a set of vocalists who performed at the wedding parties. The songs were all in Bangla. The *deshi* instruments comprised of *dhhol*, harmonium, clarinets, percussions and so on. He had a tremendous impact on the audiences, a grand success at the parties. After his sudden demise I have little idea of what happened to his band group.

Enormous number of band groups have now sprung up. But, except a few, we hardly see any originality among them. And I must stress those leading groups have rightly taken the stage by storm. But most "other" groups are taking the easy route of copying chart hits.

So much has changed in the last few years. The towns have been replaced by mega cities. Lakes have given way to community centers and shopping complexes. The music culture, ever changing, has tried to evolve accordingly. But the crude mixture of the ruralite and the urbanite has clearly created

confusion. Sentiments are of little value. Extreme sense of unequal competition have flared up to disproportionate degree. The electronic media have been sending different signals of latest trends and there has been a tendency to desperately copy rather than follow ones own culture.

Somehow times were different when we took active role in all social gatherings.

One of my aunt was the daughter of the Nawab of Dhaka. I remember the grand celebrations that went on for a month. We chalked out our programmes and accordingly the elders bought clothes for us and we would all embroider or fix the *zaree* borders in our dress. On the day of *gaye holud* we had *rang khela*. We waited for this day impatiently, as it was a special day of merry making for us. The boys bought the powdered colours from the market and mixed it with water. As soon as the bridal party arrived with the traditional sweets and fish the *rang khela* began.

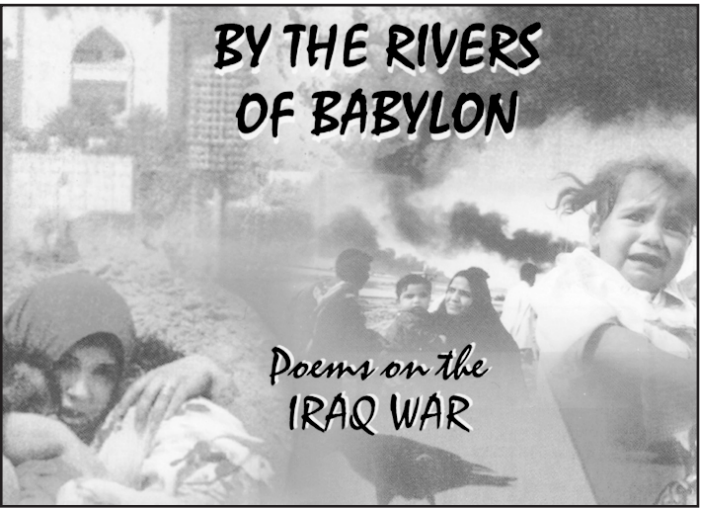
No one was spared a good-humoured smearing. Often the colour lasted for weeks and no amount of washing helped! This occasion was held mostly in houses with big gardens to avoid spoiling the interiors of the house. Often that wasn't spared either. A special *saree* for the bride was coloured on this day by the cousins.

There were Kawali sessions every night when great Kawals came and performed. Special Kashmiri tea was served which was rich in aroma and content. Home made *halwa*, sweets and sumptuous food was served. Then there were sessions of songs by the younger groups.

In fact the songs were the icing on the cake, not something to be dreaded as some people feel now! I still remember, these occasions were never tiring or did not evoke disturbance for the guests. I would suggest the young performers to present their songs or dance in a manner that would not make every one else scramble for home! It should be refreshingly lively and not something that makes you wish you had stayed back home.

Book launching

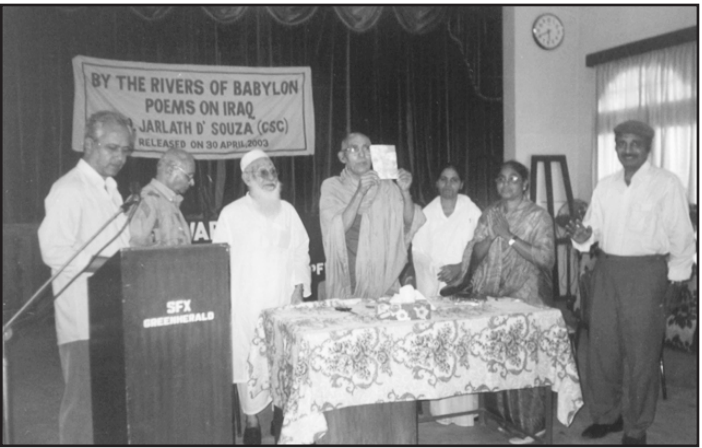
"By the Rivers of Babylon"



A very special anthology of poems was released on Wednesday, 30 April, 2003, at the auditorium of Greenherald International School, Moham-madpur says a press release. Entitled "By the Rivers of Babylon," the poems are on the War in Iraq. The anthology has been collated by Brother Jarlath D'souza, teacher of English at Greenherald School, and writer of poems in English and Bangla. The book is his third published set of poems.

"By the Rivers of Babylon" contains seventeen poems of reputed Bangladesh poets, translated into English by Brother Jarlath D'Souza. All the poems are protest poems, against the unjust War in Iraq. The poets translated include: Shamsur Rahman, Sihab Sarkar, Mahadev Saha, Mahbub Hasan, Bimal Gupta, Abu Kaiser and Zahedul Huq. Eleven of the poems in the book are by the compiler himself. Also included are three protest poems in English by Mohammed Habibur Rahman, M Mizanur Rahman and Sabir Hossain. In the context of the current situation this is the first such anthology in Bangladesh. All the poems are in English.

The book, "By the Rivers of Babylon" was formally launched/released by Ven. Bodhipal Mahathero, Buddhist leader, and acting Chairperson of BICPAJ, an inter-faith organisation. Those who spoke on the occasion included: journalist Sanjeeb Chowdhury, Muslim religious leader Bazlur Rashed, Urdu poet Sabir Hossain, social activist Momena Khatun, Greenherald principal Sister Renu, Bishop B D Mondol, industrialist Abdul Qayyum (Chittagong), student of the compiler Badrus Samad. On this occasion, many of the poems in the book were recited.



The launching ceremony of the book 'By the Rivers of Babylon.'

TV GUIDE

ATN BANGLA

6:00	Islamic Prog
8:00	ATN Bangla News
8:25	Irani Serial Dubbed in Bangle: Ibne Cina
9:00	Reporting prog: Ghotona Probhah
9:35	Sports Magazine: Stedium
10:10	English Serial Dubbed in Bangla: Secret Woman
12:00	ATN Bangla News
12:30	The Daily Newspaper Discussing Prog: Akjer Sangbadpotro
12:40	Musical prog: ATN Music
1:20	Bengali Feature Film : Zogazog
4:20	New Singer competi-tion prog: Nabin Boran
4:50	The Daily Newspaper Discussing Prog: Akjer Sangbadpotro
5:00	Gram Gonger Sangbad
5:50	Musical prog: Saat Rang
6:25	Islamic prog: Islamee Sawal O Jawab
7:00	ATN Bangla Evening News
7:30	Musical Prog: Surer Madure
8:05	Drama Serial: Sandatara
8:40	Game Show: Bhabi Nonodine
9:00	ATN Bangla News
9:25	Drama Serial: Erasha
10:00	ATN Bangla News
10:30	Special Talk Show : Somokalin Bisswo
11:00	ATN Bangla News
12:00	Bengali Feature Film: Dusmon

CHANNEL-i

6:15	Islamic Programme
7:15	Prothom Sur
9:30	Music Plus
10:00	Drama Serial: Khoda Boxer Hat
11:00	Radhunar Ranna
11:30	Flop Show
12:15	Tara O Shampa Reza
12:50	Drama: Purbarag
2:00	Bangla Feature Film: Janmodata
5:35	Jonopoder Khabor
5:40	IT Magazine: Janala
5:55	Make Niye
6:10	Music Plus
6:45	Banijjya O Arthoniti
7:15	Channel-i News
7:45	Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (Q)
7:55	Unnayan Manusher Jyanna
8:25	Drama Serial: Griha Golpo
9:00	Channel-i News
9:31	Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (R)
9:35	Mega Serial: Akannyaborti
9:50	Special Programme: Anchor Amar Ma
10:10	Drama Serial: Khela
10:30	Channel-i News
11:15	Sangbadpotre Bangladesh
11:30	Live Telecast of BTV Late Night News
12:15	Channel-i News
TARA BANGLA	
7:00	Tara Aloy
7:30	Jalshaghar
8:30	Tara News
9:30	Tara News

Bangladesh Tara News

HBO

6:30	And the Band Played on
9:15	Must Be Santa
11:15	Spring Break Lawyer
1:00	Dark Descent
3:00	Dragonheart
5:00	15 Minutes
7:30	Austin Powers the Spy Who Shagged Me
9:30	Cool World
11:30	Tales from the Crypt Presents Bordello of Blood
1:00	The Point Men
2:45	Satan's School for Girls
4:30	15 Minutes

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

07:30	Great Adventures With Hayden Turner
08:30	King Cobra
09:30	The Photographe
10:30	Mission Everest
11:00	Nick's Quest
11:30	Video Diary
12:00	Wild Orphans
12:30	Search For The Afghan Girl
13:30	Next Wave S2
14:00	National Geo-Genius Sr 2
14:30	Mission Everest
15:00	Built For The Kill
16:00	Wild Orphans
16:30	Ng Explorer
17:30	Dinosaur Fever
18:00	Tomorrow's World
18:30	Journey Through The Underworld
19:00	National Geo-Genius Sr 2
19:30	Mission Everest
20:00	Built For The Kill

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO: 09:30 p.m. *Cool World*. Jack Deebs is a cartoonist who is due to be released from jail. His comic book "Cool World" describes a zany world populated by "doodles" (cartoon characters) and "noids" (humanoids). What Jack didn't realize is that Cool World really does exist, and a "doodle" scientist has just perfected a machine which links Cool World with our world.



STAR MOVIES: 07:00 p.m. *Joyride*. To a dumpy motel in an out-of-the-way little town, a mysterious woman, calling herself only Ms. Smith, comes to stay. Not only is she stunningly lovely, but her big black convertible is a beaut. J.T., the just-out-of-high-school son of the motel's owner, is taken by the car, and in an attempt to liven up his dull life, and possibly to impress Tanya, a hotel guest who flirts with him and wants to be a model, he steals the car, and brings along Tanya and his pal James.

21:00	Afganishtan Revealed
22:00	Mission Everest
22:30	Wild Orphans
23:00	Next Wave S2
23:30	Chinese Toy Stories

STAR GOLD

7:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M
7:30	Shankar Sita Ansuya
10:55	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
11:00	Geet Gata Chal
11:30	Kuch Yaadein Kuch Baatein
11:55	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
12:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M
12:25	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
12:30	Erinest Goest to Africa Hindi Dubbed
3:00	Without Ticket
3:25	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit

3:30	Ram Shastra
6:55	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
7:00	Celebrite with Music
7:30	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
7:35	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M
8:00	Jubilee Plus
8:25	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
8:30	Bade Miyan Chote Miyan
11:55	Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
12:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20 M

STAR WORLD

6:00	Morris Cerullo
6:30	Benny Hinn
7:00	Kids say the Darndest Things
7:30	Thunderbirds
8:30	Billboard US Countdown
10:30	The Bold & The Beautiful
12:30	Ally McBeal

PICK OF THE DAY



Men in Black II

On Star Movies at 8:45

It has been four years since the alien-seeking agents averted an intergalactic disaster of epic proportions. Kay has since returned to the comforts of civilian life while Jay continues to work for the Men in Black, the highly funded yet unofficial government agency that regulates all things alien on earth. While investigating a seemingly routine crime, Jay uncovers a diabolical plot masterminded by Serleena, an evil Kylothian monster who disguises herself as a sexy lingerie model.

1:30	Mutant X
2:30	Artistic Licence
4:30	An Audience with ricky Martin
5:30	Kids say the Darndest Things
6:00	Travel Asia
6:30	Baywatch Hawaii Futurama
7:30	Malcolm in the Middle
8:30	Everybody Loves Rammymond
9:00	Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
9:30	Frasier
10:00	Top Drive
10:30	The X Files
11:00	Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
12:00	Dharma & Greg
DISCOVERY	
8:30	The Tower of Babylon
9:30	Discover India :Immortal Capital: the the Many Cites of Delhi
10:00	Discover India

Speak: The Nurse Killer	7:30	World Birthday	9:30	The Ultimate Guide: Pregnancy	10:30	Night Safari: Night in the Jungle	11:30	Supernatural Science Extra- Sensory Perception	STAR PLUS	6:00	Mirch Masala	6:30	Geet Bahar	7:30	Dr Morepen Tango - Sat	8:25	Film Topper-301 Series	8:30	Gurukul-Ancient Wisdom of In	9:30	Jai Mala Ki	10:30	Yatra	11:00	Samnewali Khidki	11:30	Hai Na Bolo Bolo	12:25	Film Topper-301 Series	12:30	Chupa Rustam	1:00	Musafir Hoon Yarron	1:30	Mirch Masala	2:00	Taaza Hits	2:05	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet - 20	2:25	Mail Milap	2:30	Aflatoon	6:00	Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet 20	6:25	Taaza Hits	6:30	Fox Kids Sunday- 500 Series	7:00	Mission Everest	7:25	Film Topper - 301	7:30	Sonpari	8:00	Jubilee Plus	8:30	Bajaj Boxer Indian Telly Awarc	11:30	Chupa Rustam	12:00	Taaza Hits	STAR MOVIES	7:45	Death Train	9:30	Woman On Top
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11:15	Keeping The Faith	1:30	Mr Wrong	3:15	The Order	5:00	Girflight	7:00	Joyride	8:45	Men In Black	10:30	Child Play 2	12:00	3 Strikes	SONY	7:30	Sant Asaram Vani	8:00	Shri Krishna	9:00	Shree Ganesh	10:00	Mahabharat	11:00	Bournvita Quiz Contest	11:30	Honey I Shrunk The Kids	12:30	Kya Hadsaa Kya Haqeeqat	1:30	Sunday Matinee	5:00	Harmony	5:30	Chartbusters	6:00	Music Mantra	6:30	Disney Hour	7:30	Kapil Dil Se	8:00	Cricket Masters	8:30	Kya Hadsaa Kya Haqeeqat	9:30	Bollywood Time	11:30	Shaam-E-Ghalib	TEN SPORTS	6:30	Heat	8:00	Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Pakistan	10:00	Pick of the Week	6:30	Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Pakistan	7:00	Chilli Factor	7:30	Bajaj Caliber 1 15	7:35	Trans World Sports	8:35	Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Pakistan	10:00	Wild On The Set	10:55	Bajaj Caliber 1 15
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Sports Update	11:00	Robot Wars	11:30	Bajaj Caliber 1 15	Sports Update	11:35	Robot Wars	ANIMAL PLANET	8:30	Wild Rescues	Phyllis The Mana-tee, Search & Rescue, Wallaby	9:00	Croc Files	9:30	Animal Planet Safari	Safari Great Hunts	10:30	Champions Of The Wild	11:00	Cats/Velvet Claw	Love Hate Affair	11:30	Planet's Funniest Animals	12:00	Breed all About It	Labradors	12:30	Animal Doctor	Possum Up Pole	1:00	Friday Rescues	2:30	Jeff Corwin	Experience	3:30	Wild	Island/Zookeepers	Keeper Diary	4:00	Wild On The Set	Snakes	4:30	Animal Planet Safari	5:30	Supernatural	Extraensory Perception	6:00	Lifesense	6:30	Animal Doctor	Kindifarm	7:00	Friday Rescues	8:30	Jeff Corwin	Experience	9:30	Wild	Island/Zookeepers	Zoo Or Circus	10:00	Wild On The Set	Rodents	10:30	Animal Planet Safari	Supernatural Time	11:30	Warp	12:00	Lifesense
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