

RECOMMENDATIONS

Spanish film session

December 7-9
Zahir Raihan Film Society, in association with the Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, will screen six films in the Contemporary Spanish Film Session at the Alliance Francaise auditorium at Road No.3, Dharmamondi:

- Dec-7: *Butterfly* 5pm
- Mad Love* 7pm
- Dec-8: *Intact* 5pm
- Sex and Lucia* 7pm
- Dec-9: *Girl of Your Dreams* 5pm
- Goya in Bordeaux* 7pm



Exhibition

November 18-December 15
A photography exhibition titled 'Man Without Qualities' by Matthias Wanher is on at the exhibition hall of the Goethe Institut.

Anniversary

December 12
The 25th founding anniversary special programme of children's drama association Dhaka Little Theatre will be held at Drik (House no. 58, Road no. 15/Anew) at 10 am to 5 pm.

Exhibition

December 03-18
An exhibition of art works created during the Contemporary Asian Art Workshop 2002 by artists of the country will start on December 3 at the National Art Gallery of Shilpakala Academy. The 4-day workshop held at Rajendrapur was a part of the 10th Dhaka Biennale in which artists from Africa, Asia and Pacific countries took part. Begum Selima Rahman, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, will inaugurate the exhibition at 6 pm. The display remains open from 12 to 8 pm everyday until December 18.

Drama Lane

Bangladesh Mahila Samity 4 Natok Soroni, New Baily Rd.
(Evening show at 7:00 pm
Morning show at 11:00 am)

| Group | Plays | Date |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------|
| Granthik Natya Goshthi | <i>Girigiti</i> | 25 |
| Shushama Natya Shamproday | <i>Gunodhar</i> | 26 |
| Breetta | <i>Wall Mikoya</i> | 27 |
| Desh Natya | <i>Nihata</i> | 28 |
| Shangshad | <i>Shanglap (Morning)</i> | |
| Bangladesh Theatre | <i>See Morog (Evening)</i> | 28 |

Channel your thoughts

Be deshi, buy deshi

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

BA NGLADESHI handloom has a heritage of more than a hundred years. The Dhakai muslin had been famous since the days of the Moguls. It was even exported to Rome and other countries for the kings and nobles. But ironically, the weavers involved in this traditional skill had little knowledge about the latest designs or textures. They remained totally oblivious of the growing demands for a change in style.

The weavers involved in traditional skills basically designed materials according to their own taste and imagination. Their lack of knowledge about the variety of texture and colour failed to attract the upper crest of the society

times the fashion conscious ladies are now exposed to all types of materials the world can offer. Designs and textures are now constantly changing. Despite the wide array of fashion available, traditionally woven 'tanter sarees' have not faded away.

It's known to all that the market during Eid 'makes or breaks' a designer boutique. If the boutique is a hit, then the designer can use the goodwill for years to come. Looking around, it was not difficult to see how the designers worked feverishly to win the hearts of picky customers all across the country.

The mild winter has set up the stage for a colourful season. The television serials and latest movies have a big influence on the customers. Sarees and 'imported lahengas' are often named after the

hours on designing specially for the 'Adonis collection'; a huge variety are almost 'sold out' in the trendy boutiques. White embroidered panjabee has been replaced to a great extent by colourful materials. The sherwani cut has been designed with a matching shawl. This year founa was popular among the younger people. The jeans panjabee and founa have been designed for the cool season ahead. Besides bright colours of maroon, chocolate, black, olive green, and so on are triggered.

A few years back, Aarong offered stylish silk lungis with matching gaudy panjabees. Stylish toopi were also offered by designer boutiques. It's good to see that the designers of our country are high lighting our very own dress patterns with a trendy and innovative outlook. The media does play a



Tant panjabee.



Short kameez in chiffon.



Sequined saree in georgette.

for a long period. The cotton sarees of our country were mostly short in length and breadth even some ten-twelve years back. Even the texture was coarse after a single wash and designers initially had a local effect until designers began to take an interest in our local craft.

With a massive influx of machine fabrics and foreign textiles in modern

most popular cinemas. However, petite ladies this year will be seen in short kameez in exotic style of chiffon and Georgette. However, the fashion conscious ladies still hold a high value for sarees for festivals and glamorous occasions.

It's been a pleasant change to see that our fashion designers also spent extra

very big role in promoting our young fashion world to compete with the changing society.

The motto of our designers should be 'Embrace your culture and feel proud of its traditions'.

Eid special

Tele film: Bhalobasha dot com

CULTURE DESK

BASED on comedy of situation a telefilm *Bhalobasha Dot Com* by Debashish Biswas, produced under Rupkatha banner, will be aired on ntv, on the fourth day of Eid at 9:30 p.m.

Romana is a paragon of beauty; anybody seeing her loses self-control. Both Shahed and Shimul of the same locality are in love with Romana. Thinking the other one smarter, both the boys want to give each other a lesson. Kader gives some evil advice to Shahed to fulfill his desire. What happens to the rivals at the end is the ultimate attraction of the tele film.

The cast includes Riaz, Ratna, Shimul, Shahed, Abdul Kader, Saleh Ahmed and others.



Abdul Kader prompts Shahed with evil advice.

What's in

'Ittyadi' strikes again!

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

HANIF Sanket once again presents *Ittyadi* Eid special, to be telecast on the 2nd of Eid at 10:30pm on BTv. Like every Eid, he presents some unique features in this programme too. Hanif Sanket, script writer, director and host of *Ittyadi* talks to our correspondent.

The Daily Star: The viewers always

have a great expectation from you and from *Ittyadi*. How do you feel about it?

Hanif Sanket: I have worked under great pressure to satisfy my viewers for the last fifteen years, and it is the audience who has been constantly inspiring me to create something better.

TDS: What is special about this Eid episode?

H S: I have always tried to give my viewers something exceptional and this time too they will not be disappointed. This *Ittyadi*, as usual, starts with the song *Ramjaner Oi Rojar Sheshey Eo Khushir Eid*, of course with a new picturisation. We shot this episode on the largest open air set ever in Bangladesh covering an area of 200 ft by 200 ft. Five thousand audience enjoyed the shooting.

TDS: Who are the stars appearing this time?

H S: Riaz and Mou perform a dance with a popular folk number and this is the first ever dance by the duo on TV. In the next folk song the audience will enjoy Nobel and Reshmi, the popular duo of RC Cola ad. In another music video of a song by the new sensation Akbar, film actress Purnima performs as the model. Three star singers Pantha Kanai, Biplab, and Hasan present a song, Eid song by Nokul Kumar Biswas and a special event by expats will surely give the audience further pleasure. Among others all the regular episodes like skits on different issues, *Nana Nati*, *Mama Bhagney*, Bangla dubbing of English film and the regular audience-part are also spectacular.

TDS: Why don't you perform in



Hanif Sanket

other available channels?

H S: I believe in being unique. I do not want to compromise this with too many productions. And I also believe that if everyone paid sufficient importance to creativity we would be able to advance our cultural tradition without jeopardising its true nature.



Nobel and Reshmi perform in an item in the Eid special *Ittyadi*

Humayun's Eid hattrick

CULTURE DESK

IT has seemed for past few years that Eid means Humayun Ahmed--a tremendously entertaining drama or two, with lots of fun, absurdly funny characters and some touching acting. Indeed, since the mid-'80s Humayun Ahmed has been the most popular name among the TV viewers especially during the two Eids. Dramas like *Hothath Ekdin* will always have a place in the audience's heart.

This Eid, too, Humayun Ahmed presents two dramas on Channel-i and ntv. *Jamunar Jal Dekhte Kalo* will be aired on Channel-i at 7:50 pm, and ntv presents *Ei Barshay* at 9:45 pm. Both the dramas will be aired on Eid Day.

Jamunar Jal Dekhte Kalo is about two film stars Raju and Brishti, who come on an out-door shooting with their director Shamsuddin. Both the

actors have their own eccentricities--Raju is always talking on the mobile phone, while Brishti is ever preoccupied with her make-up box. A journalist named Mizan one day, comes to this unit and tells 'something' to both Raju and Brishti. He produces a paper to one of the actors in the unit that creates an extremely climaxing situation. What is the paper? Is it a *Kabin Nama* of marriage? The cast of the play includes Riaz, Shawon, Mahfuz, Ahmed Rubel, Faruk Ahmed Ejazul Islam and others.

Ei Barshay features Riaz, Shawon, Masud Ali Khan, Saleh Ahmed, Faruk Ahmed and others.

Besides, Humayun's popular film *Dui Duari* will be screened on BTv at 1:30 pm on the same day. The film features Riaz, Shawon, Mahfuz, Saleh Ahmed, Masud Ali Khan and others.



Riaz and Shawon in Humayun Ahmed's *Jamunar Jal Dekhte Kalo*

Drama: Subarna Alpana

CULTURE DESK

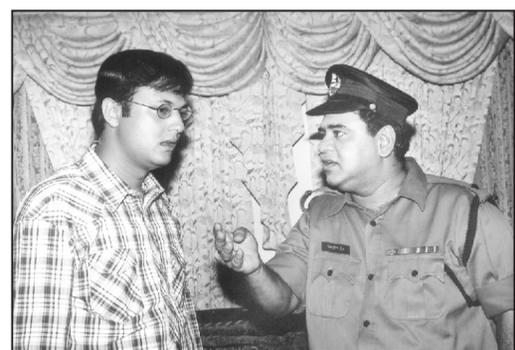
STARRING Mahfuz Ahmed, Srabontee, Shomi Kaiser, Shahed, Ishita and others, this drama is written by Manzurul Alam and will be telecast on Channel-i on the day of Eid at 9:35 pm.

The story has a hot-tempered lady suffering from hypertension. Her husband and daughters are always wary of her. The family abides by specific rules set down by her and tries to escape from them. They wake

up very early in the morning, but tend to fall asleep here and there later on during the day.

The lady faces problems with her tenant who is a painter and does not pay the house rent. So she calls the police and eventually every one except the tenant is arrested.

In the meantime, the lady's sister remarks that the tenant has already paid the rent to her. Everyone becomes suspicious of this crazy situation and wonders why he should pay the rent to the unmarried sister.



Shahed and Tushar in a scene from the drama *Subarna Alpana*.

Eid bonanza

Black: Utshober Por

Second venture from 'The Men in Black'

FAIZUL A TANIM

IT was a pre-Eid congregation of music admirers at the official launching of Black's second album 'Utshober Por' on November 21 from the record label G-series. Ectetra Music organized the ceremony at the Ectetra bookshop in Gulshan-1. The Press conference on this occasion comprised a brief album introduction from the band members and question/answer session. Khaled of G-Series made a brilliant attempt answering to the most common query from the journalists and guests - why is the term 'alternative rock' applied to signify the band's genre? He replied, 'There are different categories of Nazrul and Tagore songs rooting out from the broad heading classical music. Similarly, alternative music is a sub-category coming out from the main title Rock'.

The 16-song compilation vividly mixed and recorded by Durey, the sound engineer, was a much-awaited musical treat. Assorted with the varied and entertaining drumming by Tony, brilliant use of dual vocals-Jon and Tahsan and occasional female harmony by Elita with dynamic keyboard tunes of Tahsan, groovy bass lines by Miraz and catchy guitar riffs of Jahann the alluring recipe got instant reception from the crowd.

Tracks one to six are solid alternative rock songs with great composition and distinctive flavours. Track number

one?' being a blast, makes an exceptional introduction.

The second song 'O' has very good use of audio processor effects.

Next, number three 'Porahoto' has delightful dual vocals with amusing female harmonizing on the chorus, making a great impression.

Then fourth song 'Ichha' is a lively track with a lot of melody and positive lyric.

Sweet melody rock, number five 'Onukhnon' makes a sudden end, leaving its potential on listeners' grace.

Although the sixth 'Utshober Por' seems full of life from the song title and striking tunes, the lyrical expression makes a vague impression of the title.

The seventh song 'Opomito' perhaps is the ordinary poppish track making it the most commercial song.

Getting to the midst, eighth number 'Akoi Rokom' has vibrant drumming, unique guitars and keyboards. A bit more length could surely justify the song.

'Ei Chaya Pothey', the ninth track builds up a gloomy rock feel with multitude of emotions.

Subsequently, number ten 'Rudhho Bodh' has a promising intro with a twist of *Stone Temple Pilots* influence. Nonetheless, the guitar riff and bass works are remarkable.

'Shlok' is the number eleventh track. A melody rock song, weakly opening with a duet but takes an amazing turn with guitar strums and lively drum-



beats as the pace of the song spurts up. That sudden changing part could have made a much better intro. The flute work however is outstanding, rhythm is admirable and the song as well has a good 'fluty' finish.

Delightfully, the twelfth track '6' September' has very catchy guitar riffs but just when the song was taking a fine twist, it ends abruptly.

Unique drumming commences the thirteenth song 'Micha Michi' - it is a good song having U2 flavoured guitar riffs but a hazy ending.

An electronic pop style number fourteen, 'Praktik' has a fair English rap part, which could have blended better with a more fast-paced tune. The rap did not fuse

thoroughly with the song.

The fifteenth song 'Eka' is a satisfactory poppish song. It has some sweet piano tunes and good female harmony.

The last number 'Bimurto' however leaves the album with a not good enough close, cutting down the higher expectations.

The number of songs could be cut short to make detailed longer tracks with more obvious endings. Overall drumming was phenomenal with lot of excitement and energy, making it rather an eventful album.

Moreover, not using fake DJ sound in this compilation was more of a polished accomplishment.

Dalchut

Melody of simplicity...with elegance of expressions

EVER heard of Sanjeeb Choudhury and Bappa Mazumder, or a song called *Gari Cholena* which became a major hit way back when the album *Hridoypur* was released? Presumably, with the number of listeners who heard of the band Dalchhut, the answer would be a wholehearted 'yes'.

It was 1996, Bappa--the imaginative composer and Sanjeeb--the inspired lanky long-haired lyricist along with guest member Mithu created music that caught attention of many listeners.

From then onwards, this group has contributed tasteful compositions to our music industry. Soon Shumon of Aurthohin, Pancham, Tipu as well as drummer Rumie would help them--Dalchhut showed plenty of gratitude towards the guest bassist Shumon.

The album *Hridoypur*, released in 2001 got them huge success after which they concentrated on a permanent lineup comprising Sanjeeb Choudhury as vocals, Bappa Mazumder as vocals and guitarist, Rumie on the drums with Ratul on the bass, Pankaj--the keyboard man, Ferdous with the rhythm guitars and Rose on the percussions.

Their simple, yet elegant Bangla modern songs are reflections based on present day music scenario. Having influences from Eric Clapton, Dire Straits, Pink Floyd and Simon & Garfunkel, as stated by Bappa and Sanjeeb, their music is a fusion of the east and west. They try to emphasise a lot on their lyric to have a lively and intimate interaction with the listeners.

Dalchhut seems to be relatively happy with the recording facility and recordist. Charu as their sound engineer and Muzikman--their favourite studio, have made positive impressions. Commenting on recording labels, they felt the necessity to change the ten-year-old strategy, which is still being followed. 'Royalty system should be introduced, provided that there are proper auditing teams to monitor those labels,' says Sanjeeb.

They are not very happy with the present music scenario as proper music and bands are not being promoted, rather cheap commercial entertainment take over the field. How-



ever, groups from the underground scene are showing optimistic views towards quality music, which is appreciable.

With a good demand at home, their music is quite popular in Kolkata also. The band is working on their next album for which recording of three songs have already been completed.

Swapno Baji

Sanjeeb of *Dalchhut* comes up with his first ever solo album and is quite hopeful of its success. The compilation comprises ten songs with wonderful lyrics. It ranges from sophisticated emotional song *Shomudro Shontan* up to the political *Swapno Baji* with a multitude of emotions.

Eid Albums

Duti Mone Ek Pran

Pop-queen Asha Bhonsle along with Baby Nazneen come out on this Eid in a mixed album titled *Duti Mone Ek Pran*. With Pradeep Saha's lyrics and Debendra Chatyapadhyay's compositions, Asha Bhonsle has sung two numbers. Baby Nazneen sang the rest of the eight tracks, which were composed by various eminent composers of Bangladesh, like Sanjeev Choudhury, Kazi Faruque, Delwar Arzuda Sharif, Zulfikar Russel, Kabir Bakul, Sujat Kabir, Bappa Majumdar, Sadi Khan, Mannam Mohammed and Arman Khan.

Paanch Shilpir Dour

This is the only band music album, which will be released under the World Music Banner this Eid. Popular singers like Partho Barua, Pantho Kanai, Pothik Nabi, Pritam, Rupom and Rajiv have their new numbers in this album. Out of the 10 songs, four have been composed by Pritam and sung by himself and Pothik Nabi. This album is said to have a variety of musical flavours for the audience.

Paglir Prem

Comedian Kajal is coming out with his album *Paglir Prem* this Eid. The numbers have been composed and written by Ashraf Babu.

Rasik Jana

The audience can look forward to a Baul mix this Eid by Pantho Kanai, Mehedi and Kanganli Sufiya. Mehedi has composed the songs.