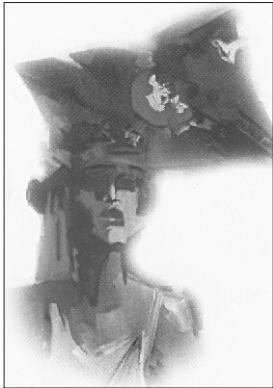


RECOMMENDATIONS



Kumarproshad Mukhopadhyay's lecture demonstration

Eminent musician Kumarproshad Mukhopadhyay from India is going to deliver a lecture on classical music arranged by Bengal Foundation on March 5, at 11a.m, says a press release. Singers, composers and journalists are invited at the demonstration session.

Exhibition

March 6 - 26

To celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, an exhibition will be held, featuring the recent works of the eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury. The display will be inaugurated on March 6 at 7:00 pm at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts (House- 275/F, Road 27 old, Dhanmondi). The show will be open for all till March 26 from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

February 27-March 06

Divine Art Gallery at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel is holding 8th solo painting exhibition of artist Samiran Chowdhury. The exhibition is open from 9 am to 8 pm.

March 4th- March 14th

Alliance Francaise holds the 2nd solo exhibition of Ronni Ahmed from 5 to 9pm. Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise De Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi.

Ikebana

March 05

The Embassy of Japan and Dosokai Ikebana School is organising a competition and demonstration by Sogetsu School of Ikebana. The program starts at 2:30 pm at the BRAC centre Mohakhali.

Fashion



PHOTO:AFP

A model wears a creation as part of Colombian designer Maria Luisa Ortiz's autumn/winter 2004-2005 women's collection on the last day of the Milan's fashion week.

Celebrity couple

A dedicated couple in drama lane

An evening with M Hamid and Falguni Hamid

ERSHAD KAMOL

THE Hamid duo, especially M Hamid, holds a special place in the theatre movement of the country. Professionally, director (training) of NIMCO, M Hamid is currently the president of the popular theatrical group Natyachakra. When he was the DUCSU cultural secretary, he introduced stage shows at the campus to entertain the students.

Hamid says, 'As a student of Jagannath College, I appeared for the first time on stage in the play Shurjamaal by Kalyan Mitra in the main character. I also participated in the drama competition of the Mohsin Hall. When I was the DUCSU cultural secretary, I along with my friends, established the campus-based group Natyachakra in September 1972. I was the conveyor of the fifteen-member committee. In those days, we staged regular shows on the campus. Later on, Natyachakra was modified like other traditional theatrical groups.'

Although Falguni started as a journalist in The Banglar Bani, she had a deep passion for art and literature, particularly for acting. She passed the television audition in 1978 and joined Natyachakra.

Since then she has been working as a playwright, director and producer. She also has a great knack for dress designing. 'In fact, at present I pay more attention on designing and making of plays than acting.'

Falguni is the owner of 'Tele Real LTD.', the first production house in the country. As a regular member of Natyachakra, she has acted in 12 plays. She says, 'The role that I have enjoyed most is that of Kajoli in the play Protikhar Prohor. In theatre, my favourite performers are Aly Zaker, Ferdousi

Majumdar, Momtazuddin Ahmed and Shimul Yousuff.'

As a theatrical activist, M Hamid likes Rabindranath Tagore, Brecht and Shakespeare. He admires Nasiruddin Yousuff, Peter Brook, Ajitesh Bandopadhyay and Shombhu Mitra as directors. He says, 'So far I have directed eight plays for Natyachakra

theatre is my greatest passion.'

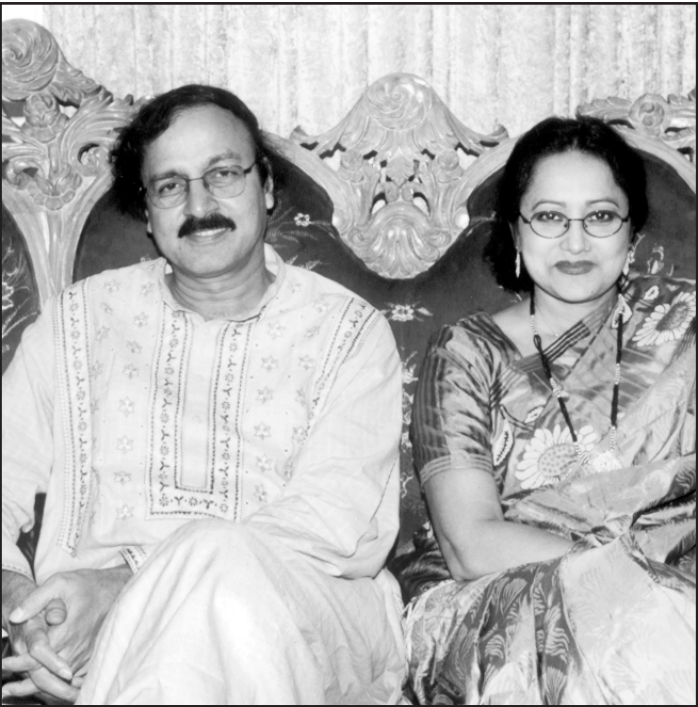
Hamid was the Director (programme) in BTV. He considers BTV as a dying horse. He says, 'During Pakistan time the only government channel started with a few half-professional officials. Till 1982, the recruitment was satisfactory. After that, the whole system has collapsed because of the

and at the same time if they are not paid well, there must be corruption in that institute.'

In BTV, budget system for making of a programme is very critical because of the influence of the Ministry. If the talented people are not evaluated for the outstanding performance they will lose the motivation for creation. Moreover, promotion and remuneration should be readjusted according to the merit not necessarily seniority. All these have happened in BTV. Though, individually, a few people are trying to maintain transparency, it is not sufficient enough to reach the goal if the whole system is not changed. If the system is changed in BTV, it can offer better services than any other private channels in Bangladesh, as it has got sufficient resources.'

The busy couple does not get enough time together. Narrating an interesting story from their family life Falguni says, 'Hamid is very strict when he directs a play. When I worked in the play Let There Be Light by Zahir Raihan under his direction, I could not respond to the instruction as I was very young then. Once, Hamid became very angry with me and pushed my hand with such a blow that my hand sprained.'

Falguni has acted in serials for BTV during 80s. As a performer she has won Sher-E-Bangla Smriti Award, BACHSAS Award, and Drama Personality Award of Bangladesh for her play Dorah as well. About her performance on screen, she says, 'I consider my best performances on TV -- Shomoy Ashmoy by Mamunur Rashid and Feary by Aktar Ferdous Rana. In both the plays I performed in the role of a widow.' She admires Asaduzzaman Noor, Abul Hayat, Suborna Mustafa, Tania, Tarin, Tonima, Ishita, Taukir, Joy and Toni Dias in acting.



M Hamid and Falguni Hamid

and have also performed in eight plays. I have adapted Protikhar Prohor from Sartre's A Man Without Shadow and have written a patha natak (street drama) Remote Control. I have worked with Bangladesh Television since 1980 but

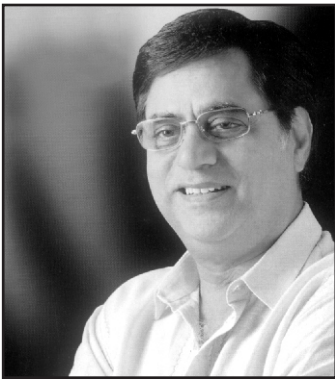
impact of extra political pressure. There can be various reasons for it. Bureaucracy and lack of evaluation of the creative work of the employees.' He adds, 'Conceptually, in an institution, when there is a lack of monitoring system of the works of the employees

Across border

Jagjit changes his tone

'Pakistan has opened its arms to Indian musicians'

AFP, Mumbai



Top Indian ghazal singer Jagjit Singh, once a strong opponent of Pakistani artists performing in India, has changed his tune after being invited across the border to stage shows in three Pakistani cities.

Singh, who like other Indian artists had not been allowed to perform in Pakistan for the past 25 years, said he was warmly welcomed by audiences when he staged live shows last month in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

'I am happy that the Pakistanis gave me an opportunity to perform in their country,' said Singh. 'Now I have no objections in Pakistani artists coming to perform in India.'

For more than two decades there had been an unofficial ban on Indian artists performing in Pakistan. However during this time Pakistani artists had been allowed to perform in India, with singers Ghulam Ali and Adnan Sami becoming huge hits here, especially the latter with his renditions of Bollywood numbers.

when we cannot travel in that country, when we as artists cannot perform in that country, why should we welcome their artists in India,' Singh had told Advania at the time.

However, his opposition melted after his tour of Pakistan, which came at the invitation of Pakistan International Airlines as part of the peace process between the two countries.

'The shows were for very selected audiences in all places and the tickets were priced at 6,000 rupees (132 dollars), but still they were sold out.'

As a goodwill gesture, Singh donated a cheque of 5,000 dollars to legendary Pakistani singer Mehdi Hassan, who is battling a paralytic stroke.

'Mehdi Hassan was my inspiration when I began singing. I was sad when I heard that he was sick and therefore I thought that I must immediately do something for him,' said Singh.

Singh, who last performed in Pakistan in 1979, had been incensed with the one-way ban by Islamabad on Indian artists and last year met Indian Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani to demand a ban on Pakistani artists performing in India.

On his list of targets were singers Abeeida Parveen and Adnan Sami, popular band Junoon and ghazal maestro Ghulam Ali.

'When we cannot play cricket with them,

Stardom



PHOTO:AFP

Indian superstar Hrithik Roshan poses during the Bollywood Zee Cine Awards ceremony in Dubai recently. Roshan received at the 49th annual Manikchand Filmfare awards in Bombay on 21 February the best actor award for his role of a mentally challenged person who encounters aliens in the superhit movie 'Koi Mil Gaya'.

Album review

Latest Rock album Dinbodol hits the audio market

FAIZUL ATANIM

WITH the release of Dinbodol - the mixed album, producer Duray's work became a representation for the underground musicians. The music drew the line that differentiated between the Metal crowd and modern Alternative traditions as the compilation makes a swift promotion of almost all the popular genres. It assorted emotions and styles from Metal, Alternative, Rock, Pop and anything underground as it allowed us to grip the inside craving in all of us. Today, we are assailed with fresh vibes of Electronic music, Nu-Metal, stereotypical commercial compositions and many more, when the musical climate of the country is so geographically different. The best is undeniably trying to ladder its way up.

Possibly Dinbodol is the most commercial as well as entertaining album in continuation with other mixed compilations. This is the delicious looking 14" Steak Pizza of Rock, Pop and other genres. I cannot lie and say I enjoyed the majority of the CD; it has everything for immediate impact - crisp production, tight, few very compact songs - Artcell, Black, Cryptic Fate (ABC)'s single, Aashor, Arbovirus, Breach, Fulbanu's Revenge, Metal Maze and Stentorian. What Dinbodol lacks, is universal creativity, a majority of great bands, long-term appeal and artistic value (for some of the bands).

The ABC track Ashirbaad is an alluring metal number with modern alternative elements blended in a masterpiece - with heavy catchy guitar riffs, enchanting lyrics and energized drumming, it breaks off with a jump-start intro. The song has it all, great harmonizing vocals, very tuneful vocals and keyboards in the climax and superb bass lines and mastered playing from the members of 3 top bands of Bangladesh right now. It is the most delightful track. One cool factor regarding the ABC song was the use of their own song and album names as part of the lyrics. By being the first rock bands to get together and make a single, they created a milestone for the newcomers.

Aashor's song Shunno, an appealing rock number with a brand-new concept intro is a brave experiment. The guitar effects, deep vocals and lively drumming made it one of the best tracks.



The cover jacket of the album

Fulbanu's Revenge came up with the most authentic song in the whole album. It has a bit of that electronic music vibe with the use of excellent guitar and keyboard effects. Although it suffered an average mixing during the chorus, it later turned out to be one of the most ostentatious track.

Next, the Arbovirus song Obhishap and Breach's Boshonto both had very catchy chorus. Breach had fresh styles of guitar usage, vocal layers and flamboyant drumming resulting in a brilliant post-grunge track. Although Obhishap experienced a minor hiccup with accented vocals, but nonetheless, is a great Nu-metal-ish number.

Metal Maze and Stentorian gave compact metal amusement with Oshir Shomoy and Bhoy consecutively. With great guitar processor effects and drumming, Metal Maze made a great comeback after their album fiasco. Stentorian song practised a brilliant vocals and guitar works. The songs were much appreciated.

Even though the Nemesis song - Dushopno became a recurrence of the previously released Obcheton, the guitar solo caught great attention. Icons, Moshpit and Scarecrow seemed promising with songs Nishpap Oporadi, Asroy and Durey Kohao. Asroy, the song had remarkable

drumming and a better composition could do justice to the song.

On personal achievements, vocal lines in Rebom's Shobkicu and Bivishika's Mohakla were fruity and tasteful along with drumming of Poizon Green song Bkhanai Mrima astounding.

There were songs of bands called Veryl N' Sugar and Music Zoo composing their own set of songs with absolute imperfection. Their songs experienced dreadful compositions and sour notes. Obosheshey, the VNS song is a total ridicule-ripping Limp Bizkit's '1000' The ever-tormenting song has total out of tune vocals. The chord progressions of the songs were totally mixed in a bad rhythm - more of a dreadful improvisation. The Fred Durst - wannabe vocals of Veryl N' Sugar made their song utterly disposable and fruitless making a negative impact on the album. Hellediver's composition Lokhor was less than ordinary.

The 19-track CD has some front and rear cover designs. The front picture of a rebellious kid is an indication of promising bands that are expected to storm the music scene.

The bottom line - Dinbodol album will definitely add flavour to our music industry and it is well worth a listen.

Film

Lalon's public release at Kushtia today

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

LALON'S position as a philosopher and composer of songs has still remained unsurpassed even after a hundred years of his death. But surprisingly, very little is actually known about the life of this mystic poet and much of it is shrouded in mystery.

Tanveer Mokammel's endeavour in Baal legend Lalon Shah that got a final expression in his feature film Laloni aims to find the mystic's persona, his philosophy, and tries to explore the lyrical beauty of his songs. The film had its press show on January 25, this year and was premiered on ntv on the 2nd day of Eid-ul-Azha. The first commercial release of the film will be in Kushtia. Tanveer Mokammel said

Lalon was born in Kushtia, he built up his sanctuary and passed his entire life there, so we shot most of the film there. Many local baals took part in this film, and finally we have selected his birth place for the first commercial release. The film will be gradually released all over the country,' he added.

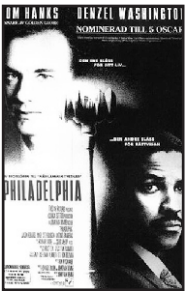
'Lalon' was recently screened at Kolkata, by Somoloy, a cultural organisation and was praised by all, informed Tanveer Mokammel.

The cast of the film includes Raisul Islam Asad, Orko Saha, Azad Abul Kalam, Shomi Kaiser, Bhaswar Banarjee, Chitrakha Guha, Ramendhu Majumder, Wahida Malik, Joli and about 25 local baals. Anjan Chowdhury Pintu and Kino-Eye Films produced the film.



TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



MGM: 9:30 pm. Philadelphia. Genre: Drama. Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington, Roberta Maxwell. A gay lawyer stricken with AIDS seeks assistance from a homophobic personal injury attorney when a prestigious Philadelphia law firm fires him for incompetence. Not the standard 'issue' movie or even the standard courtroom drama but a sensitive and heartfelt look at the affect of AIDS on family, friends and the people who interact with an AIDS victim.



HBO: 3:45 pm. The Little Rascals. Family/Comedy. Travis Tedford, Bug Hall, Brittany Ashton Holmes. Spanky and the members of the He-Man Woman Haters Club find out that Alfalfa has been courting Darla. After a trial they sentence him to forget about her and other girls forever. Alfalfa is having trouble with his punishment, particularly since the new rich kid is moving in on his territory, and he works to win her back. Meanwhile Butch and Woim are trying to steal the gang's prized go-cart for the big derby coming up.

Prasad, Shabana (Azmi)

1:30 EK Ka Teen Platinum

5:30 Shaan (Amitabh Bachchan, Parveen Babi, Shashi Kapoor, Sharugha Sinha)

9:30 2001-Do Hazzaar Ek (Jackie Shroff, Tabu, Dimple Kapadia)

TARA BANGLA

10:00 Telefilm Rpt.

11:30 Antakshari - Rpt.

Bangladesh E Samay

12:30 Serial Jug Rpt.

1:00 Safari Rpt.

2:00 Taka Na Sona

2:30 Bangladesh Focus

3:00 Payer Talai Sorshe

3:30 Tara News- Aaj

4:00 State Govt. Lottery

ZEE TV

1:00 Thief Of Baghdad/Hum Paanch

1:25 Jhalak/Hum Paanch

1:30 Hum Paanch/Kaun: The Magic Make-up

PICK OF THE DAY



The Mummy

On HBO 9:30 pm.

Genre: Adventure/Action/Fantasy/Horror

Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz, John Hannah

As punishment for killing Pharaoh Seti and sleeping with his mistress, Egyptian priest Imhotep was mummified alive and cursed. But in 1923 he is inadvertently resurrected by treasure hunters and must be stopped before he can wreak his final vengeance on the world.

Box/Kaun

2:25 Jhalak/Kaun

2:30 YZY/Kaun

3:00 Jhoot Bole Kawa/Kaun

3:25 Jhalak

3:30 Movie: Style

6:30 Cartoon Network On Zee

7:25 Jhalak

8:00 Khana Khazana

8:30 Kabhie Kabhie (Short Stories)/ Special Prog

9:00 Sansui Antakshari

9:30 Jeena Isi Ka Naam Hai

STAR MOVIES

11:45 Beautiful Creatures

1:15 Hemoglobin

2:45 Multiplicity

5:40 Far And Away

7:00 Joe Somebody

8:40 Bubble Boy

10:15 Chasing Cain I: Vow

12:00 Pavilion

STAR GOLD

9:00 Stumped

12:00 Maya

12:30 Panaah

4:30 Prem Shakti

8:00 Without Ticket

8:30 Dil Chahta Hai

STAR PLUS

3:30 Kalash

4:00 Ek Mulaqat

4:30 Smriti

5:00 Mamla Gadbad Hai

5:25 Film Topper - 301 Series

6:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain

6:30 Fox Kids

7:30 Sonpari

8:00 Karisham Kaa Karishma

8:30 Hatim

9:30 Shararat-Thoda Jaadu

Thodi

10:00 Ssshhhh...Koi Hai...

11:00 Jeet

12:00 Kya Baad Hai

STAR WORLD

2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show

3:30 Bold And Beautiful

4:30 Hollywood Squares

5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway

5:30 Miami Vice

6:30 The Simpsons

7:00 Home Improvement

7:30 Friends

8:00 Just Shoot Me

8:30 Tna Wrestling

9:30 World's Wildest Police Videos

10:30 Nash Bridges

11:30 Baywatch

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

2:00 Tomorrow's World

3:00 Gene Hunters

3:30 Hot Science

4:30 National Geographic's Taboo

5:30 Monkey Business

6:00 Mission Wild

6:30 Dogs With Jobs

7:00 Toyota World Of Wildfire

7:30 Cry Of The Wolves

8:30 Scientific American Frontiers

9:30 Tomorrow's World

10:00 Gene Hunters

10:30 National Geographic Special

11:30 National Geographic's Taboo

ANIMAL PLANET

2:00 The Protectors Cat House

2:30 Wild Encounters Great Milestones

3:30 Animal Hospital

4:00 Wild Rescues

4:30 Emergency Vets Attitude Adjustment

5:00 Breed All About It Schnauzer

5:30 Amazing Animal Videos

6:30 Planet's Funniest Animals

7:30 Life Of Birds Problems of Parenthood

8:30 The Protectors

9:00 The Protectors Eagle

Emergency

9:30 The Protectors

10:00 The Protectors Heat

10:30 Wild Encounters

Almighty Amphibians

Wild Encounters Claws- The Life of Crabs

11:30 DISCOVERY CHANNEL

2:00 New Detectives

3:30 Stranger than Fiction

Wild Discovery Snakes: Deadly Companions

4:00 Truth Or Scare

5:00 Splat! Film Technama

6:30 Travelers Paris

7:30 Challenge Rumble in the Jungle

8:30 Wild Discovery The Haunted Moor

Friday Spotlight Las Vegas

10:30 Future Perfect

Technopics

11:00 Great Crimes and Trials

Charles Whitman

12:00 Thirsty Traveler

Jamaica: Rum

STAR SPORTS

11: