

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

Title: Songs in Praise of Trees



Photographer: Ismat Jahan
Venue: Shilpangan, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi

Time: October 27-November 02, 10:30am-03:30pm and 06:30pm-08:30pm

Title: Neel: Indigo Exhibition
Organiser: Aranya & Source (MCC)

Venue: Aranya, 60 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani

Time: October 22-November 15
The event features daily demonstrations of dyeing and printing with Indigo as well as information on its cultivation and extraction.

Tapestry Exhibition

Title: Golden Tapestry Exhibition
Artists: Students from different schools of Bangladesh

Venue: British Council, 5, Fuller Road

Time: November 2-4, from 10am to 4pm

Title: Italian Art Books and Handicrafts Show
Organiser: The Italian Embassy

Venue: The Italian Ambassador's residence, House NW 7, Road 54, Gulshan 2

Time: October 29-30, from 10am to 2pm

Title: Even the Walls Have Ears



Artist: Tayaba Begum Lipi
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi

Time: October 21-31, from 5pm to 8pm

Title: Islamic Calligraphy & Italian Reproduction Art
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road 36, House 16, Gulshan

Time: October 29-November 20, from 12pm to 4pm, 7pm to 9pm

Title: Power
Artist: Khalid Mahmood Mithu
Venue: Gallery Chhatak, Road 4, House 21, Dhanmondi

Time: October 22-31, from 10am to 8pm

Savouring the country delicacies

Iftar in a different setting

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

NOWADAYS, when one looks at the front page of the national dailies or the electronic media, one can hardly be unaware of the frenzied customers and not feel the pulse of the denizens at the shopping arcades. Makeshift stalls and restaurants are selling the mouth watering iftar items ranging from *jilebi*, *halim*, *dahi-bara* and many more. Ramadan is on.

But, I wonder why there are no pictures of how Ramadan is observed in villages!

My memory takes me back to my early visits to Sujabah, my ancestral home in Barisal in our younger days and how we observed Ramadan.

After a night-long journey, the big steamer 'Kiwi' finally docked at the shores of Barisal at dawn. From there, we boarded a boat for the final leg of the journey. The boat was clean, bright and spacious enough to be comfortable even for our large group. As the boat started off towards Sujabah, we all rushed to the deck to catch the fresh breeze from the river.

The trip was a long-awaited one for the whole family. We had planned to spend some days of Ramadan with our grandparents at our ancestral home. And our eager grandparents could scarcely wait for our huge 'troop' of cousins, nieces and nephews to arrive.

The sighting of the moon was always a special event. We made fun wagers on who would spot it first. That night we would gather in the attic to catch a glimpse of the elusive silver crescent. As



A wide array of iftar delicacies

PHOTO: STAR

some got busy preparing dinner for the guests (with the greatest dexterity so as not to smudge the fresh mehendi...), others left for the family mosque for prayers.

At night, we huddled around the fire in the centre of the yard, as the tantalising aroma of kebabs and a long session of songs from bygone days, put us in the mood for a hearty dinner. The

food ranged from *paturi* (prawns wrapped and baked in banana leaves), fried fish, to *polao*, plain rice and thick lentils, fresh vegetables, salads, pickles and desserts. Grandparents being grandparents, we could not leave the table without at least tasting every single dish.

Soon after, we would settle in for the night. Dinner would be taken early, so by the time it was 3 o'clock in the morning we would be all

up for another round of meal—*sehr*! Though it wasn't a pleasant experience to take meals at such early hours, there was the pleasure of being with your close ones and take vow to fast for the next day. Dessert would invariably be topped with a bowl full of thick creamy milk with molasses and a banana.

By the next morning, all tiredness forgotten, we would wake up with full vigour from the magic of the riverside air. While the boys took to chess and carom, the girls would lend a hand to

dadijan (grandma) in preparing meals for the evening.

It was always a festive event not just for one household but for the entire neighbourhood. We helped the shy neighbourhood *bous* (newly weds) who came over to help with the grinding of rice and spices. Some would accompany the elders to the nearby pond where fishermen were busy catching the king prawns and the *ruhi* fish. As the daylight faded away, it would be time for a hearty *iftar*.

In the family room, a big *dashtarkhan* (linen) with neat embroidery was laid out on the floor. Glasses were filled with fresh lime juice, *tokma*, curd sherbert or sweet water from the tender coconuts. This was followed by *piazzu*, *muri*, *chhola*, *alu puri*, *dal puri* and last but not the least, the puffed rice balls with molasses; the *moa*—and a variety of *pithas* (cake) coated in date palm juice and thick milk. Nothing would please *dadajan* (grandpa) more than the dates and *chhola* with ginger and green chilies. Flattened rice *chitra* and curd were what he said cooled the system after a long day of fasting.

Besides the rich array of delicacies, what moved me most was the way neighbours would join in, stop by for a chat, arrange for *iftar* together, and simply enjoy each other's company. Elders would complain about the price of foodstuff, boys about who caught the largest fish, and young girls—well there was no end to the chatter! It was not simply a quick *iftar* and rush off to watch TV, it was a time for bonding after a long day.

As we boarded our ship for the return trip, the happy visions of my family remained with me. Many years on, many miles away, I still hold dear those experiences. And for those of us who have enjoyed similar times, we know it's a time that will be cherished forever.

A delectable variety of pithas (cakes)

FILE PHOTO

Rajib in critical condition



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Wasimul Bari Rajib, a prominent name in filmdom and 'managing director of the Film Development Corporation (FDC)', is in a critical condition. He is suffering from intestinal cancer.

He was admitted to Holy Family Hospital on October 20. Earlier, last September he was admitted to the Singapore National University Hospital. However, due to little improvement in his condition, the doctors advised him to return to Bangladesh.

Currently, he is under the supervision of Professor Kaniz Mawla of Holy Family Hospital.

Rajib appealed to his fans and the people of Bangladesh to pray for his recovery.



Aranyak Natya Dal is going to stage its new production *Raaraang* at the Experimental Theatre Stage at Shilpkala Academy today at 7pm. Directed by Mamunur Rashid, *Raaraang* is set against the backdrop of the murder of Alfred Shoren, a Santal rebel. The story of oppression on the ethnic people has been narrated wonderfully in *Raaraang*.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm, Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-1
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ATV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm, News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ATN BANGLA
The Sword of Tipu Sultan

Annodhritee

Islamic Programme

Binodon Jumraab

Mobarak ho Mahe

Ramadan

Amra Korbo Joy

BTV

Bangladesh's Friday

Hoity

Satellite Programme

06:25

Programme

07:30

Alif Laila

08:30

Ananda Aayoran

09:00

Ittadi

10:30

Talk Show: Lal Golap

11:00

Bari Rajib

11:30

Shobha Shur

12:00

Bangladesh O Public

Reaction

04:45

Tritty Metra

10:30

Live Show: Tele

Shomoy

11:30

Islam Ki Boley

12:00

Talk Show: Kora Alap

12:30

Sa Ra Sa Ma

11:25

Bangla Gaan

01:00

Public Reaction

04:40

Janapeder Khobor

05:45

Manohar Iftar

06:00

Music Plus

07:50

Weekly Drama: Bela

Abola

08:35

Drama Serial: 69

10:00

Drama Serial: Ahonish

Bhalobashay Ekjan

07:30

The Sword of Tipu

Sultan

10:25

Annodhritee

11:05

Islamic Programme

03:40

Binodon Jumraab

05:10

Mobarak ho Mahe

06:20

Ramadan

07:30

Amra Korbo Joy

CHANNEL-1

Musical Programme:

Prithom Shur

Shongbadre

Bangladesh O Public</div