

Mehendi: Tradition mingled with a new look

Colour your palms with rusty-red

NOVERA DEEPTA

As always in the countdown to Eid, Bangalee girls are heading to the nearest beauty parlour to have mehendi (henna) applied on their palms. This old custom still has a wide appeal. Although the tradition is believed to have its roots in India, mehendi is very popular in Bangladesh too. It is particularly popular as a make up item on special occasions such as Eid or weddings. Mehendi has a pride of place as the accessory of a married woman.

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact origin of mehendi. Some historical evidence suggests that it was introduced in India during the 12th century AD. Again, there is proof that henna was used to stain the fingers and toes of the Pharaohs prior to mummification over 5000 years ago when it was also used as cosmetic and for its healing power.

Mehendi is derived from the leaves of a

small tropical shrub—*Lawsonia inermis*, ground into a paste. After applying on palms in intricate designs, the paste gives out a rusty-red pigment. The dye has a cooling property, and no side effects on the skin.

Designs of mehendi traditionally fall into four different styles. The Middle Eastern style is mostly made up of floral patterns similar to those in Arabic textiles, paintings and carvings and does not usually follow a distinctive pattern. The North African style generally follows the shape of the hands and feet using geometrical floral patterns.

The point is to have sheer fun with designs and experiment with them until one feels really passionate about it.

Apart from this, computer graphic designs are also used with the traditional mehendi designs. Traditional Arabic designs of mehendi have now become popular. Wonderful designs make the art of mehendi more attractive and beautiful.



Girls waiting patiently for best colour effect

In Bangladesh, henna is used on occasions like weddings and traditional programmes. It is traditional for the bride to get together with her friends and spend hours applying the henna on her palms.

Generally, mehendi takes a long time for the best effect. A few modern methods have however lessened the time. Zardosi Mehendi is the most popular one, which is in tune with today's fast life. In this method one can sport beautiful designs on the hands and feet with different colours in 30 minutes. However, it lasts only for a few days.

Many girls were seen flocking to designer Umme Salma Mimi for mehendi decoration. She said 'Although the tradition has become a little commercial, different beauticians

have taken this opportunity to paint hands with mehendi, which is very professional. The colour is even darker and stays for long just like the natural mehendi.'

Fouzia, another designer from a fashion house, loves to paint mehendi on girls' hands. She says, 'As I like to paint and draw pictures, I love to create designs with mehendi.' She adds, 'Previously it was believed to be women's fashion, but now boys also want to have mehendi tattoos on their biceps.'

A promising ramp model Urfi wears mehendi on his biceps. 'It is not just women's stuff, it also suits men,' he says. 'If you look at it as a temporary tattoo--a painless alternative to permanent tattoos, you will really like it a lot because it's fun.'

Trendy T-shirts for Eid

AFSAR AHMED

Eid would be incomplete without new attire--saris, salwar kamiz, fatua, punjabis and lungis. For those in search of different apparel, there is an array of T-shirts available in the market. Queries fashion freak Tashfin, 'Nowadays trends have changed a lot. Everything is getting shorter--the length of punjabi or normal shirts. So why don't we wear T-shirts instead of punjabis?'

For people who think on his lines, a popular draw is Nitya Upahar. This T-shirt outlet has introduced nine new designer T-shirts to the fashion conscious.

Dhrubo Esh, popular graphic artist, has designed three T-shirts for the festival season. This apparel, printed on a pale green background, bears a black portrait of the poet Jibanananda Das with a dragonfly touching his head. With the name of the poet written in bright red, the T-shirt is undoubtedly a great attraction for poetry aficionados.

There is one more design for Jibanananda lovers. A silhouette from the back of a couple in blue and red reflects a romantic moment. Printed are the lines from the poet's poem *Abar bochor kari porey/Tar shathey dekha hoi jodi* just down the whole T-shirt in off-white with

splashes of black. Esh's third design is *The Beatles*, which was displayed during Puja.

Bahar Rahman, the proprietor of the shop, has designed three extraordinary T-shirts with motifs depicting *Mymensingho Geetika* and *Thakurmar Jhulee* and another one on the rock legend Jim Morrison. Coloured in beige, Dwij Ishan's Kamola Shundari is the motif of the T-shirt *Mymensingho Geetika*. *Thakurmar Jhulee* is definitely the first choice for every Bangalee child and one of the T-shirts depicts the tale of *Madhumala* and the stone castle of the Netherworld in colour beige.

You know the day destroys the night... This line by the legendary singer Jim Morrison, is printed on the T-shirt with his signature and embossed on a gray background with three of his portraits in different moods. For music lovers it is an obvious choice.

Anisuzzaman Sohel and Sajjad Mahmud have also designed two T-shirts on this occasion. Another attraction is Muntazir Mamun Imran's T-shirt *Moheshkhali*.

So for those shoppers looking for new gift ideas or in search of a new addition to their wardrobes, these reasonably priced thematic T-shirts are the best answer.



Eye-catching motifs on T-shirts



Delicate designs on palms

CULTURAL FEAST

Lecture, Poetry & Musical Programme



Title: Influence of Mysticism in Bengali Poetry & Songs
Organiser: Goethe-Institut Dhaka & Panchoshor
Venue: Auditorium of Goethe-Institut (German Cultural Centre, House# 10, Road# 9, Dhanmondi, Dhaka)
Time: November 21 at 6pm
KG Mostafa will present the keynote paper and artists from Panchoshor will perform in the poetry & musical session.

Exhibition

Title: Solo T-shirt Designing Exhibition 2004
Artist: Salim Khan Tarun
Organiser: Shaipic
Venue: Jahnu Art Gallery, Fine Art DPT, Dhaka University
Time: November 8 to 14

Neel: Indigo Exhibition

Organiser: Aranya & Source (MCC)
Venue: Aranya, 60 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani
Time: October 22-November 15

EID SPECIAL

Telefilm *Dulabhai* on Channel i

Channel i is all set to celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr with fun and entertainment. The six-day long fiesta starts a day prior to Eid. The programmes, include 12 plays, nine telefilms, six musical programmes, two children's show, two magazine programmes and more. Here we highlight the telefilm *Dulabhai*.

Dulabhai: Written by D A Tayeb and directed by Shahidul Haque Haidari, the telefilm is basically a comedy. On the third day of Eid at noon, the viewers will enjoy the telefilm. The writer D A Tayeb, along with

popular artistes like Tania Ahmed, Abdul Quader, Saleh Ahmed, Abdus Sattar and Caesar, acts in the telefilm.

Synopsis: Anisuzzaman Tuku lives in a low rent house with his two sons, two brothers and a sister. He hardly earns enough and it is difficult for him to run the family without an extra income. Soon, he gets involved in illegal activities to earn more. In course of time the family moves to a better area where they get acquainted with a nice family. But here Tuku gets involved in further trouble. Subsequently, peculiar developments occur.



Telefilm *Babodhan* on 2nd day of Eid



A scene from the telefilm *Babodhan*

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The second day of Eid: a day to relax at home and watch TV. Like other channels, ATN Bangla also plan to air an array of programmes on this day. Among them are the telefilm *Babodhan* which can be viewed at 1:20 pm.

This new telefilm has been penned by playwright Pantho Shariar. Actor Zahid Hasan dons the mantle of director.

Babodhan, a typical melodrama, portrays the joys and sorrows of life. Characters such as Sajjad, Nitu and Shubho are the protagonists of the story. The story begins with a newly born girl whose mother Ritu (Sajjad's wife) dies during childbirth. Sajjad spends his lonely days with his little daughter. In the interest of

the motherless girl, Sajjad's in laws pressurises him to marry Nitu the younger sister of Ritu. The proposal shocks both Sajjad and Nitu, as Nitu loves Shubho. Nitu gets perplexed as she has always treated Sajjad as an elder brother.

However, despite the hurdles, Sajjad and Nitu gets married. Does Nitu take her new relationship seriously? Or does Shubho create problems in his ex-girlfriend Nitu's married life? For an answer, viewers will have to wait till 1:20pm of the 2nd day of Eid.

Abdullah Al Mamun, Dolly Zahur, Intekhab Deenar, Richi Solaiman, Monalisa, Ruma and Zahid Hasan portray different characters of the telefilm.

Underground audio albums on Eid

FAIZUL A TANIM

This Eid-ul-Fitr along with new blends of fashion is releasing some exclusive audio albums from our local rock music industry. New albums like *Asroy* of Kronic and self-titled album of Elephant Road were already released on November 8.

While Kronic is totally a new comer, the group Elephant Road is comprised of expatriate musicians from USA with the likes of Imran Hussain, Mashuk Rahman and Joy Islam--the celebrated band members of RockStrata, Aces and In Dhaka.

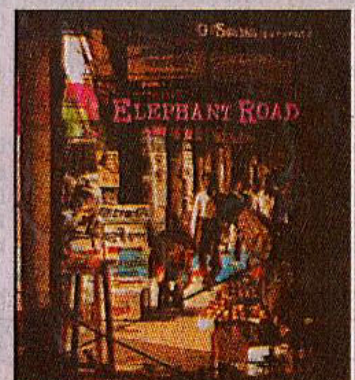
Asroy is already heard of doing well. Songs like *Ochena onubhuti*, *Nishidho nagori* and *Shesh patay* are catering to different tastes of



music listeners.

Another mixed rock album *Lokayato* will be a 16-band extravaganza featuring Aurthobin, Black, Artcell, Cryptic Fate, Aashor, Fulbari's Revenge, dNa, Kral, Icons, Reborn, Stentorian, Scarecrow, Bivishika, Arbovirus, X Uranium and Striking. This is supposed to be another milestone mix like the two *Agonituk* volumes.

Bangladeshi musicians living abroad compiled yet another excellent riveting album from the group Kranti. This album is supposed to be an admirable Eid treat for the local music connoisseurs. Variable sound effects, excellent vocals and, most importantly, a new trend of composed music--this album is supposed to storm the scene.



TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Nari Gharey Bairey

On ntv at 6:55pm
Programme on women issues
Hosted by Mehazab Galib



Face/Off

On Star Movies at 7:00pm
Genre: Action/Thriller/Drama/Sci-Fi
Cast: John Travolta, Nicolas Cage, Joan Allen

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) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
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.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
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.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL-i

09:30 *Shongbad Potrey*
Bangladesh and Public Reaction
09:45 *Tritiya Matra*
Sports Time
10:45 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
12:30 *Aaj Dupurey and CityCell Taroka Kathon*
Elong Cinema Gan
01:00 *Public Reaction*
01:30 *Bangla Film: Kanchan Mala* (Azim, Sujata)
03:40 *Banglar Gaan*
04:10 *Bangladesher Shikho Shikhar*
04:50 *Ranjanaul Mubarak*
05:45 *Manohar Itar*
06:00 *Music Plus*
06:30 *Gillette World Sports*
07:55 *RC Travel On*
08:25 *Drama Serial: Kichhu Megh Kichhu Roddur*
09:35 *Drama Serial: Din Choley Jay*
10:00 *Drama Serial: Gunai Bibi*

ATN BANGLA

10:30 *Talk Show: Annodishti*
11:15 *Drama Serial: Adol Badol*
11:50 *Shimshin Shimany*
12:30 *Bangla Feature Film: Darling*
03:15 *Drama Serial: Bou Chai*
03:50 *Musical Programme*
04:30 *Islami Sawal O Jawab*
05:10 *Ramadan*
06:20 *Islamic Programme*
08:00 *The sword of Tipu Sultan*
08:30 *Drama Serial: Khawab*

09:00 *Drama Serial: Shu Patrer Shondhane*
Islamic Programme
Face to Face Live

ntv

08:00 *Aajker Shakal*
08:20 *Shanglap*
10:02 *Zoo Adventure*
10:30 *Aashinagar*
11:00 *Transworld Sports*
12:02 *Circus Lights*
02:35 *Sponsorer Baire*
03:05 *Dehghari*
03:45 *Drama Serial: Shiyala*
04:25 *Fardi*
05:20 *Apnar Jigyasha*
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:55 *Nari Gharey Bairey*
08:15 *Siddika Kabir's Recipe*
08:50 *Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan*
09:40 *Drama Serial: Shiyala*
11:25 *Dindarpan*

HBO

10:00 *The Masque of the Red Death*
12:00 *Point of Origin*
1:45 *A Smile Like Yours*
3:45 *Don't Look Back*
5:30 *Trojan War*
7:15 *Red Planet*
9:30 *Eraser*
11:45 *Beverly Hills Cop III*
1:45 *The Bourne Identity*
8:30 *Home Alone 4*
10:00 *Gosford Park*
12:15 *Green Card*
2:15 *Snow Job*
4:00 *Aero Troopers*
5:25 *Tornado Warning*
7:00 *Face/Off*
9:15 *Critical Assembly*
10:45 *Gosford Park*

STAR GOLD

5:50 *Arjun Pandit*
1:30 *Beap Numbri Beta*
6:30 *Justice Choudhary*
8:30 *Saajan Chale Sasural*
11:45 *Pratikar*
1:30 *Britannia India's Child Genius*
2:28 *Star Asia Travel*
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*

STAR WORLD

11:30 *Kabhi Bhu Thi*
4:00 *Kahin To Hoga*
4:30 *K-Street Pali Hill*
5:00 *Maan*
6:00 *Maal Hai To Taal Hai*
6:30 *Fox Kids*
7:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
8:00 *Helo Dollie*
8:30 *Dekho Magar Pyaar Se*
9:00 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*
9:30 *Sanjivani - A Medical Boon*
10:00 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki*
11:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi*
11:30 *Kahin To Hoga*
12:00 *K-Street Pali Hill*

STAR PLUS

6:30 *The Simpsons*
7:00 *Home Improvement*
7:30 *Friends*
8:00 *Just Shoot Me*
8:30 *Ed*
9:30 *The Practice*
10:30 *N.Y.P.D. Blue*
11:28 *Star Asia Travel*
11:30 *Baywatch*
11:30 *Maal Hai To Taal Hai*
12:00 *Kora Kagaz*
1:00 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*
1:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
2:00 *Bhabhi*
2:30 *Kesar*
3:00 *Saanthi*
3:30 *Kyunki Saas Bhi*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

11:30 *National Geographic Special*
12:30 *Riddles Of The Dead*
1:30 *Monkey Business*
2:30 *Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures*
3:00 *\$100 Taxi Ride*
3:30 *Game For It*
4:30 *Different Ball Game*
5:30 *Monkey Business*
6:00 *Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures*
6:30 *\$100 Taxi Ride*
7:30 *Game For It*
7:30 *National Geographic*

Special

8:30 *Cheating Death*
9:30 *The Sea Hunters*
10:30 *Riddles Of The Dead*
11:30 *Different Ball Game*
11:30 *Greater Crimes And Trials*
12:30 *In The Depths Of The Forest*
1:30 *Body Snatchers*
2:30 *Seven Wonders of the Industrial World*
3:30 *Top Ten Mexico*
4:30 *Greater Crimes And Trials*
5:30 *Global Treks*
6:00 *Mystery Hunters*
6:30 *Junkyard Wars 11 Sky Sniper*
7:30 *Killer Crops of Costa Rica*
8:30 *Unsolved History Plots of Lincoln*
9:30 *In Therapy*
10:00 *Building the Ultimate Skyscrapers*
10:30 *Dangerman, Warrior Women Grace*
11:30 *O'Malley, Pirate Queen*
12:30 *The Case Studies in Forensic Science*
Discoveries

DISCOVERY

11:30 *Greater Crimes And Trials*
12:30 *In The Depths Of The Forest*
1:30 *Body Snatchers*
2:30 *Seven Wonders of the Industrial World*
3:30 *Top Ten Mexico*
4:30 *Greater Crimes And Trials*
5:30 *Global Treks*
6:00 *Mystery Hunters*
6:30 *Junkyard Wars 11 Sky Sniper*
7:30 *Killer Crops of Costa Rica*
8:30 *Unsolved History Plots of Lincoln*
9:30 *In Therapy*
10:00 *Building the Ultimate Skyscrapers*
10:30 *Dangerman, Warrior Women Grace*
11:30 *O'Malley, Pirate Queen*
12:30 *The Case Studies in Forensic Science*
Discoveries

Senseless

2:30 *Lords of the Animals*
3:00 *The Wild Japanese*
3:30 *Macabres*
4:30 *Asia Animal Tracks: Malaysian Sunbeams*
5:00 *Animal Four Story Fall*
5:30 *The Protectors*
6:00 *The Planet's Funniest Animals*
6:30 *Amazing Animal Videos*
7:00 *Zookeepers*
7:30 *Monkey Business*
8:30 *Wild Wild Web*
9:00 *Asia Elephant Rescue*
9:30 *Animal Planet*
10:30 *Asia Fighting Bears of The Punjab*
11:30 *Warriors of The Monkey God*
12:30 *The Unexplored White Shadows*

STAR SPORTS

11:30 *Watersports Pro*
12:30 *English Premier Football League 2004/05*
2:30 *Chelsea Vs Everton (T)*
3:30 *World Championship 2004 Usa (R)*
4:30 *Cricket Gold(R)*
5:00 *Japan Gt Championships 2004 (T)*
5:30 *Slam! Road To The Australian Open*
6:30 *Sportscenter India(L)*
7:30 *Champions League*
8:30 *Extra Uefa Champions Matchweek 4(T)*
9:30 *Sportsline (R)*
10:30 *Asia Golf Travel / Phuket Thailand (R)*
11:00 *WWE: After Burn*

ESPN

10:00 *English Premier Football League 2004/05*
11:30 *Cricket Gold(R)*
2:30 *X-Files 2002 - Mike Melzger(T)*
3:30 *English Premier Football League 2004/05*
4:30 *Chelsea Vs Everton (R)*
5:30 *X-Files 2002 - Mike Melzger(T)*
6:00 *Uefa Champions League Matchweek 4(T)*
8:00 *Cricket Gold(R)*
9:30 *Cricket Gold(R)*
11:30 *Sportscenter India (R)*
12:00 *Goals! (R)*

TEN SPORTS

10:00 *WWE: Smackdown*
10:30 *Gamer TV*
11:00 *European Tour Weekly*
11:30 *ATP Tennis*
12:30 *German League Highlights*
2:30 *ASB Tour Indonesian Leg*
3:00 *ICC Cricket World Cup*
3:30 *ATP Tennis*
4:30 *Gillette World Sports*
5:30 *Sportswatch*
6:30 *WWE: After Burn*
7:30 *German League Highlights*
8:00 *Sportswatch*
10:00 *Indias Tour of Pak: 5th ODI H/Ls*
11:00 *Portuguese League H/Ls*
12:00 *WWE: After Burn*