

CULTURAL FEAST

National Zainul Festival 2004



Occasion: 90th Birth Anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin  
 Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh National Museum and Bengal Foundation  
 Time: December 10-30  
 Schedule  
 December 12-January 07  
 Special Exhibition of Zainul Abedin  
 Time: 11am to 7pm on weekdays and 3:00pm to 8:00pm on Fridays  
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275/F, Road 27, Dhahmond, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh National Museum.  
 December 17-30  
 Handicrafts Fair  
 Time: From 11am to 7pm on weekdays and 3:00pm to 8:00pm on Fridays  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Musical Soiree

Artiste: Samina Chowdhury  
 Organiser: Orchestra  
 Venue: All Community Club Auditorium (House 40, Road 35, Gulshan 2)  
 Time: December 25, 06pm

Ikebana Exhibition

Title: Solo Ekabana Exhibition  
 Artiste: Maleka Khan  
 Venue: Gallery Kaya, House 20, Road 16, Sector 4, Uttara  
 Time: December 24-25, from 11am to 8pm

CD Launch

Title: Amaro Porano Jaha Chay  
 Artiste: Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury and Zeena Rahman  
 Venue: Dhaka Club  
 Time: December 26, at 7pm

Theatre festival

Organiser: Theatre Art Unit  
 Venue: National Theatre Stage at Shilpakala Academy  
 Duration: December 20 to 26  

Date	Time	Play	Group
25-12	6:30	Projapati	Natyakendra
26-12	do	Shonkranti	Aranyak Natya Dal

Sponsored by Uro Cola, Bengal  
 Wares and Food Mart  
 Tickets available at Sagar  
 Publishers, Theatre Corner and Pathok Shamabesh

# Intellectuals from the masses

HARUN UR RASHID

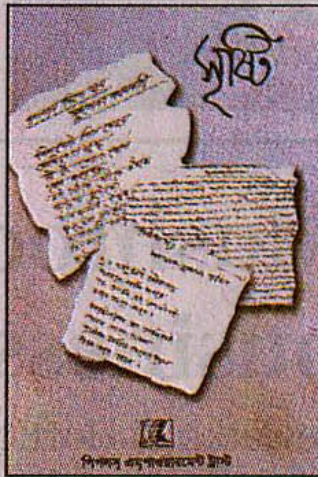
M Golam Mustafa Ansari, helper at a grocery shop of Joypurhat, could not believe that he had won the second prize for his 24-line poem at the 2nd conference for working writers. Nor could his shop-owner who, on learning about his employee's talent, came all the way from Joypurhat to witness Ansari receive his prize and honour. Along with Ansari, two other working writers—M Nurul Islam, a tool-keeper of Bangladesh Railway from Ishwardi, Pabna, and Aktaruzzaman Rakib, a timber businessman—were also bestowed the rare honour of their life for literary feat at the conference.

Organised by the People's Empowerment Trust (PET), the event took place at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium of the Public Library on December 23. Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman was the chief guest at the prize-giving ceremony.

A total of 95 working people from 59 districts participated in this exceptional competition. Headed by eminent educationist Sardar Fazlul Karim, a jury board comprising Professor Ahmed Kamal, Biswajit Ghosh, Syed Azizul Haque, MM Akash and rickshaw-puller Abdul Motaleb Akand selected 51 pieces of original literary works—stories, plays, poems, biographies and essays—by people

living mainly by physical labour. 'The last person was the first place winner of our last year's competition,' says Shishir Shil, convenor of this year's conference.

'Anyone from travelling Baul singers to landless peasants, rural homeopath doctors to rickshaw-pullers, *chapat* vendors to the fourth class employees at government offices, whoever has a monthly earning less than Tk. 3000, can participate in this project,' maintains MM Akash, founder chairperson of PET, explaining the term 'working writers'. But how were the organisers sure of a participant's identity as a working writer? 'For further scrutiny, this



The cover jacket of the collection



The winners (standing) with the organisers and members of the jury board

year we requested the participants to submit, if possible, a copy of their biodata and a photograph. Moreover, the language and spelling in their writings, their subjects and technology used for submission of the write-ups also helped us understand the social status of the writers,' says Akash.

A collection, titled *Srishti*, containing the 51 selected write-ups was brought out on the occasion. Apart from the prize-winners, the writers include people literally from all walks of life: a retired sugar-mill worker Azizur Rahman Badal from Joypurhat, a store-manger MA Salam from Chittagong, a seamstress Rubina Mamtaz from Gazipur, a private tutor Nurul Haque Dhali from Shariatpur, a driver Anowar

Hossain and many more. The titles as well as the literary works reflect deep insight and intellect of these under-privileged writers. The first prize winner story is named *Nikhajer Khojey* (In Search of the Lost) while the two winner poems are titled *Potakay Mishey Jaay* (Merging into the Flag) and *Shoubhaggyo* (Good Fortune).

'We may not have been able to reach innumerable working people with literary talents; for, there might have been some who could not afford to buy the paper and ink for writing or the cost of sending their writing to us by mail. But we are working on how to overcome these obstacles and extend the reach of our project,' concludes an optimistic Akash.

# From Blues to Rock n Roll

An enchanting evening with The BilliTones



Billy and Toni Stevens performing at the programme

NOVERA DEEPTA

The universal appeal of the music of legendary names such as the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Bob Marley or Elvis Presley is undoubtedly ever lasting. Exactly for this reason, the musical performance along with lecture, titled *Sincere Forms of Flattery: Blacks, Whites and American Music* by the BilliTones, appealed to the audience here in Dhaka.

A chronological presentation on the evolution of American music, the performance explained the historical contexts of the songs The BilliTones performed. The duo sang from Little Richard, Steven Foster, Sting, Bob Marley, John Lennon, Los Lobos, Ray Charles and many more maestros of the world music.

In their presentation the BilliTones tried to

establish the truth that black American musicians made a tremendous contribution in bringing American music to its current position. As Billy Stevens said, 'All American music is a fusion of black and whitemusic.'

Among the audience the US Ambassador Harry K Thomas and veteran folk musician of the country Mustafa Zaman Abbasi were present. Musatafa Zaman Abbasi commented, 'The combined contribution of Americans made their music widely accepted and popular. To understand and enjoy the show properly it needs an intelligent audience. I have enjoyed their performance earlier, so I have come to see their show again.'

As ambassadors of American culture and music, Billy and Toni Stevens have performed in over 25 countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Their musical programmes educate while they enter-

tain, demonstrating how social and cultural diversities have contributed to American music's evolution. The BilliTones duo recreate the sounds of classic rock band using five instruments between them, including synthesizers, harmonicas and percussion, in addition to their tight vocal harmonies. Compact and self-contained, they play a varied mix of rock n' roll, Motown, World Beat, and Rhythm n' Blues for a variety of audiences, occasions and venues.

Inspired by the rock n' rollers of the 1950s and 1960s, Billy began playing blues and country harmonica in college, and began technology-driven solo performances in the early 1980s, becoming a veritable 'Modern-Day One-man Band'. His custom array of keyboards, harmonicas, drum machines and effects made it possible to tour for the US State Department's office of cultural affairs.

Toni joined Billy on stage in 1993. Her lead and harmony vocals, as well as her balanced hand with a vocal harmoniser, contributes to the illusion of a much larger group.

'Both Billy and Toni contribute to the spoken portions of their programmes, providing historical context for understanding the development of American music and its global influence. From spirituals to blues, ragtime to swing, country to rock, and reggae to rap, a BilliTones programme makes clear the process of emulation and innovation which underlies the creativity of American musicians, past and present.'

By focusing on the interaction between black and white musicians and audiences, Billy and Toni explain how mutual inspiration spurred the creation of each major genre of American music. From Stephen Foster to the Beatles and from Elvis to Eminem, Billy and Toni show how every generation creates their own new music.

As youth movements sprang up across the globe, often united by a passion for anything American, new forms of 'World Music' evolved. Billy and Toni demonstrate that with its message of peace, freedom and social justice.



# Theatre Art Unit Jugopurti Natya Utshob '04

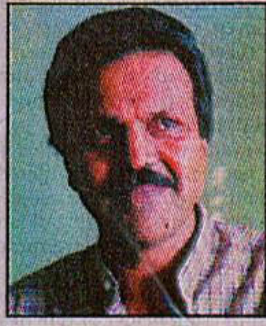


# 'National Theatre Stage is our dream' -- Tareq Anam

ERSHAD KAMOL

Tareq Anam Khan is one of the most popular stage drama actor-directors in the country. This year his troupe Natyakendra has launched a new production *Projapati*, which they are staging at Theatre Art Unit's drama festival.

Tareq said, 'We missed the Dhaka Drama Festival-2004 because our group members were preoccupied with other activities. Now, we are



happy to take part in the colourful drama festival arranged by Theatre Art Unit. In fact, the National Theatre Stage is the long cherished desire of the theatre activists of Bangladesh. Our participation in the festival is meaningful in the sense that we have become a means of popularising the National Theatre Stage as a theatre venue. Moreover, I want Shilpakala Academy to cooperate with the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation to make it a regular venue for staging plays.'

PREVIEW

## Projapati



A sequence from the play Projapati

*Projapati*, the translation of popular American playwright Thornton Wilder's *Matchmaker*, is based on Austrian playwright Johann Nestroy's drama *A Day Well Spent*. Tareq Anam has translated *Projapati*, maintaining the authenticity of the original comedy.

*Projapati* is a comedy. The protagonist of the play is a matchmaker. The antagonist, a shrewd man named Horas, thinks that everything in the world can be achieved by money. Through a change of approach in the antagonist's observations on life, the play reveals that money is not the sole driving force in the world.

Tareq Anam Khan is director as well as the set and light designer of the play.

Tareq Anam Khan, Ibtesam Mahmud Shyama, Obid Rehan and others perform in *Projapati*.

Natyakendra stages *Projapati* today at 6:30 p.m. at the National Theatre Stage as part of the drama festival arranged by Theatre Art Unit.

# Popularising Shakespeare

FAYZA HAQ

Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, Minister of Information and Communication Technology, speaking at the inauguration of the first Bangla biographical website on Shakespeare at the British Council, said that Shakespeare is known all over the world. He said that he himself, at the secondary school level was eager to know about Shakespeare 45 years ago when he was given a gift of the complete works of Shakespeare. He also wanted to emulate the great writer in his power of speech. Even as a student of science, Shakespeare had been a part of his curriculum as a basic training to open up the minds. Now that the students have the website, the world is at their fingertips. After 450 years, Shakespeare's name is now a part of a Bangla website, Dr Moyeen Khan pointed out. When a piece of culture crosses time and geography, like Shakespeare's works, it becomes immortal, he said. With literature, he concluded, one not only learns but feels.

Harry K Thomas, the US Ambassador, speaking on the occasion, said that he was delighted with the Bangladeshi website project, as now many will learn to love Shakespeare. He pointed out that Shakespeare's love of common speech helped shape the English language. He said that Shakespeare happened to be his favourite author.

Margub Murshed said that he had been fascinated by Shakespeare's

heroes and villains and that he had grown to worship the playwright, guided by his father. He said that reading Lamb's tales of Shakespeare had been an integral part of his childhood, and that his generation was more acquainted with Shakespeare than today's one is. He insisted that Shakespeare was as great as Homer or Dante.

He too stressed on the fact that Shakespeare's plays and poems had appealed to people for four centuries. He believed that his talent flowered during 1600 when he wrote his great tragedies. He pointed out that his plays were based on the writings of Plutarch and Holinshed. Professor Mamtazuddin Ahmed, TV actor and dramatist, said that he had admired Shakespeare for 40 years. He pointed out that Munier Choudhury had worked immensely to make him popular in Bangladesh and that it was a pity that he had been killed before he had completed his work of translation. Shakespeare had presented about 500 unforgettable characters to the world of theatre. Mamtazuddin Ahmed said that he himself would have liked to

have been one of the Shakespearean characters, specially Falstaff. He commented that the Bangla website on Shakespeare was an ambitious project.

Whatever you read or watch of Shakespeare's works is so mature, he said, whether you take *Julius Caesar*, *Othello* or *Hamlet*. Even in a place like Khulna, Mamunur Rashid pointed out, *Comedy of Errors* is produced with aplomb. Helaluddin Ahmed, an advisor of the Bangladesh Shakespeare Association, said that the website dealt with the Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies and histories. It discussed his works like *Hamlet*, *Romeo Juliet* and *Love's Labour's Lost*. It also dealt with his life and career.

Russell Ahmed, secretary general of the Bangladesh Shakespeare Association, said that the purpose of the website was to make Shakespeare popular in Bangladesh and that the project took four years to complete.



# 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) 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, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
 Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

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

**ntv**  
 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.

**TARA BANGLA**  
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.  
 Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.  
 Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

**BBC WORLD**  
 Every hour on the hour

**BTV**  
 08:15 Quiz Quiz  
 08:40 Bishwa Protidin  
 09:00 Satellite Programme  
 12:15 Shangbadpotrer Pata Theke  
 12:30 Shasthya Tatvitya  
 01:05 Nibedha  
 02:05 Online  
 02:30 Shukhi Poribar  
 03:05 Drama of The Week  
 04:05 Alor Shatada  
 04:30 Talk Show  
 06:00 Desh Janopad  
 06:10 Wrestling  
 07:05 Documentary Show  
 07:30 Selected Programme  
 08:30 Special Anniversary Programme of BTV  
 10:30 Special Xmas Programme  
 12:05 Satellite programme

**CHANNEL-i**  
 09:45 Titilyo Matra  
 10:30 Na Bola Kotha  
 12:00 Chhili Pelam  
 12:30 Aaj Dupure  
 01:00 Eobong Cinema Gaan  
 01:30 Public Reaction  
 01:35 Bangla Film  
 03:45 Banglar Gaan  
 04:15 Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan  
 04:45 Sa Ro Ga Ma  
 05:15 Janopadar Khabor  
 05:30 Cine music  
 06:00 Music Plus  
 06:30 Drama Serial: Ekjon Mastan O Ekti Meye  
 07:50 Drama Serial: Dr Mahataber Swapan  
 08:25 Drama Serial: Boyosh Jakhon Ekush  
 09:35 Hidayo Mati O Manush  
 10:00 Drama Serial: Banchitra Je Ki Shukh

**ATN BANGLA**  
 10:25 Annodisattee

11:15 Drama Serial: Rater Kanna Bhorer Shishir  
 11:50 Drama Serial: Mohona  
 12:25 Asha Chhilo  
 01:05 Dekhey Noyon Meha  
 01:35 Shurer Madhuri  
 02:30 School Bela  
 03:10 Drama Serial: Shirsho Birdu  
 03:45 Musical Programme  
 04:30 Chalo Gaan Gai  
 05:10 Shobar Jorno  
 06:20 Auto Man  
 08:00 Drama Serial: Lodhya  
 08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shabuj Opera  
 09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni  
 09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Janome  
 10:35 Natun Diganta  
 12:00 Feature Film: Jesus

08:00 Aajker Shakal  
 09:20 Amra Akhion Unish Kur  
 10:30 Chhanga Cinema  
 02:30 Uro Jay Bakpoldit  
 03:15 Pepel Music Express  
 03:40 Drama: Paribanur Kahini  
 04:25 Sports World  
 05:15 Ithasber Ei Diney  
 05:20 Akopai  
 06:20 Shubho Shondhya  
 06:55 Xmas Special: Muktir Ahaban  
 08:15 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamela  
 08:50 Bhalobasho Mor Gaan  
 11:25 Dindapan

10:45 The Munters' Scary Little Christmas  
 12:30 Carnivale 12: The Day That Was the Day  
 1:45 A Town Without Christmas

**PICK OF THE DAY**

**Bhalobasho Mor Gaan**  
 On ntv at 8:50pm  
 Musical Programme  
 Hosted by Ferdousi rahman  
 Participated by Alam Ara Minu, Shammi Akhtar

**Bean**  
 On HBO at 7:45pm  
 Genre: Comedy  
 Cast: Rowan Atkinson, Peter MacNicol, John Mills  
 Directed by Mel Smith

3:45	STAR GOLD	STAR WORLD	ANIMAL PLANET
6:00 The Neverending Story II The Next Chapter	9:50 Avsar 1:30 Agun Pandit 4:30 Badal 8:30 Bwi Ho To Aisi 12:00 Jagir	1:00 Travel Asia 1:30 The Kids From Room 402 2:00 Roboroach 2:30 Mansker Farm 3:00 Inspector Gadget 3:30 Kelly Ruben & Fantasia	12:00 Nightmares of Nature 12:30 Barking Mad 1:00 Aussie Animal Rescue 2 1:30 Bad Reputation 2:30 The White Crocodile 3:00 Animals A-Z Space Age Reptile 3:30 Life of Birds, The Mastery of Flight 4:30 Mad Mike And Mark 2 5:30 Predator's Ball 6:30 The X Files 7:30 Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape 8:00 When Hidden Cameras Attack 8:30 Tri Wrestling 9:30 Mutant X 10:30 Coupling 11:00 Absolute Power
7:45 Bean 9:30 2 Fast 2 Furious 11:45 Empire 1:45 Empire of the Sun	10:30 Dharam Aur Hum 11:30 Sankshipt Ramayan 1:00 Star Bestsellers 2:30 Mirch Masala 3:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron 3:30 Mujhe Meri Bivi Se Bachhao 6:30 Meri Mrs Chanchala 7:00 Yatra 7:30 Piya Bina 8:00 Pardey Ke Peechey 9:30 Chor Machaaye Shor 12:30 Heltraisen Bloodline	1:00 Travel Asia 1:30 The Kids From Room 402 2:00 Roboroach 2:30 Mansker Farm 3:00 Inspector Gadget 3:30 Kelly Ruben & Fantasia 4:30 Koffee With Karan 5:30 Briannia India's Child Genius 6:30 The X Files 7:30 Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape 8:00 When Hidden Cameras Attack 8:30 Tri Wrestling 9:30 Mutant X 10:30 Coupling 11:00 Absolute Power	12:00 Nightmares of Nature 12:30 Barking Mad 1:00 Aussie Animal Rescue 2 1:30 Bad Reputation 2:30 The White Crocodile 3:00 Animals A-Z Space Age Reptile 3:30 Life of Birds, The Mastery of Flight 4:30 Mad Mike And Mark 2 5:30 Predator's Ball 6:30 The X Files 7:30 Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape 8:00 When Hidden Cameras Attack 8:30 Tri Wrestling 9:30 Mutant X 10:30 Coupling 11:00 Absolute Power

9:30	11:30	12:30	2:30
Life Of Birds, The Insatiable Appetite Whale Giant of the Ocean Nature's Great Events Great Milestones	Football Locker Room (T) Irb World Of Rugby (T) Nba Inside Stuff (R) Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Australia Vs India 2nd Test Day 1 Highlights (T) Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Australia Vs India 2nd Test Day 2 Highlights (T) Locker Room Football Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Australia Vs India 2nd Test Day 3 Highlights (T) Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Australia Vs India 2nd Test Day 4 Highlights (T) Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Australia Vs India 2nd Test Day 5 Highlights (R)	Wild Discovery Lion Battlefield Raw Nature Raw Mates Death At Midnight Impact Stories of Survival Impact Scene Of The Crime Dawn Spring The Death or Glory Journeys To The Ends of the Earth Amazon Animals Days and Nights in an Indian Jail Subways in America Reel Race Altered Statesmen Eden Prosecutors The Pride And Joy	Pro Billiards 2004 Women's Trick Shot Magic Jeanette Lee Vs Ewa Laurance Championship(R) Sportscenter Week In Review (R) Scorpio Speedster - India's Fastest Bowler Highlights(T) The India-Pakistan Hockey Test Series(R) East Bengal Club Vs Mohun Bagan Club Semi-Final 2(T) Australia Vs India 5th Odi Highlights(T) India Tour Of England 3rd Odi Highlights(R)
Discovery Channel	2:30 Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Australia Vs India 2nd Test Day 2 Highlights (T) 4:00 Locker Room Football 4:30 Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Australia Vs India 2nd Test Day 3 Highlights (T) 6:00 Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Australia Vs India 2nd Test Day 4 Highlights (T) 7:30 Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Australia Vs India 2nd Test Day 5 Highlights (R)	11:30 Prosecutors The Pride And Joy	3:30 Sportscenter Week In Review (R) 4:00 Scorpio Speedster - India's Fastest Bowler Highlights(T) 4:30 The India-Pakistan Hockey Test Series(R) 6:30 East Bengal Club Vs Mohun Bagan Club Semi-Final 2(T) 9:00 Australia Vs India 5th Odi Highlights(T) 10:30 India Tour Of England 3rd Odi Highlights(R)
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	12:00 Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge 12:30 Tomorrow's World 1:30 Mummy Road Show 2:30 Riddles Of The Dead S2 3:30 On Assignment 4:00 Planet Wild 5:30 Nick's Quest 6:30 \$100 Taxi Ride 7:00 Game For It 9:30 Seismic Seconds 11:30 National Geographic Special	9:30 Subways in America 10:30 Reel Race Altered 11:30 Prosecutors The Pride And Joy	TEN SPORTS 7:30 Trans World Sports 8:00 Gamer TV 9:00 WWE Velocity 9:30 Speed 10:00 Winning Post 11:00 Trans World Sports 1:00 Italian Serie A Juventus v Milan 2:00 Legend: Marwan Alatapeh 4:00 Cricket Classics/Ind v NZ, 17/4/1998 4:30 Sportswatch 5:00 Winning Post 5:30 Gamer TV 6:30 WWE - Experience 7:00 Speed 7:30 Indian Golf Show 8:00 UEFA Cup Extra Magazine Show 9:00 Portuguese League Highlights 9:30 Chelsea World Sport 10:00 MNI Indian National Raii Championship 04 10:30 Winning Post 11:00 ATP Tennis 12:00 WWE - Experience
STAR SPORTS	10:30 Programming Slam! Road To The Australian Open (R) 11:00 English Premier League Preview (R)	9:30 Subways in America 10:30 Reel Race Altered 11:30 Prosecutors The Pride And Joy	ESPN 10:30 Hitz (R) 11:00 Indianoil Asia Cup 2004 Sri Lanka 11th Odi Highlights(T) 12:30 Pro Billiards 2004 Women's Trick Shot Magic Jeanette Lee Vs Lon Jon Jones Semif Inal #1(R) 1:30 Pro Billiards 2004 Women's Trick Shot Magic Ewa Laurance Vs Ming Ng Semifinal #2 (R)