

CULTURAL FEAS



Art Exhibition
Title: Cosmic Journey
Artist: Ali Imam
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Time: February 09-22, from 12pm to 8pm

Thumri Evening
Artist: Samina De Urmi
Venue: Goethe Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Time: February 8 at 7pm

Musical Soiree
Artists: Prithwiraj and the members of Gayokee MusicAcademy
Organiser: Gayokee MusicAcademy
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Time: February 9-10, at 7pm

Solo Concert
Artist: Kumar Biswajit
Organiser: Fusion
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium
Time: February 10

Drama Festival
Nagorik Natyangan Natya Uthab 2005
Organiser: Nagarik Natyangan
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: February 6-12, at 6:30pm
Schedule
Feb 08 Golmatha Chokhamatha (Do)
Feb 09 Brand (CAT)
Feb 10 Ami Birongana Bolchhi (Nagarik Natyangan)
Feb 10 Shikarokti (Abhash, India)
Feb 11 CharAdhyay (Do)
Feb 12 Apurba Golap (Do)

Nagorik Natyangan Drama Festival 2005

Nagorik Natyangan drama festival begins with Habuchandra Gabuchandra

ERSHAD KAMOL
Hectic preparations for a week-long drama festival are afoot. Nagorik Natyangan workers have decorated the National Theatre Stage at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy with colourful banners and installation work.
On February 6, cultural activists were present during the inauguration programme of the festival. After the instrumental presentation of the group members, acclaimed journalist Obayedul Haque, chief guest of the programme, inaugurated the drama festival. Manzur-e-Moula was the special guest of the ceremony. Dr Inamul Haque, the president of the theatre troupe, was in the chair, and Lucky Inam, general secretary of Nagorik Natyangan, delivered the welcome speech.
In this programme, the troupe honoured eight eminent cultural activists of the country: Kabir Choudhury, Saeed Ahmed, Ataur

Rahman, Syed Shamsul Haque, Aly Zaker, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Rafiqun Nabi and Abdus Selim.
Ramendu Majumdar, president of International Theatre Institute Bangladesh Branch, and Golam Kuddus, general secretary of Shommilito Shankskritik Jote, delivered speeches congratulating the troupe on its 10th anniversary.
After a prolonged discussion session, Nagorik Natyangan staged *Habuchandra Gabuchandra*.
As a street play *Habuchandra Gabuchandra*, written and directed by Mahmudul Islam Selim, has always been a successful production, but as a stage play it was not a quality one. This is the first time the troupe has staged the street play as a full-fledged theatre on the proscenium arch stage.
Selim has unfolded the play using an indigenous art form—*pala gaan*. The *Gayen* (bard) and his *Doarki* (co-artist) presents a



Veteran Obayedul Haque (3L) inaugurating the festival; (L-R) Syed Shamsul Haque, Lucky Inam, Mahmudul Islam Selim, Manzur-e-Moula, Dr Inamul Haque and Kabir Choudhury are also seen.

fable where the rulers ride roughshod over the masses. At the end of the fable, the common people revolt against the rulers. Though the artistes have displayed quality choreography on stage, the design section—set and light—was not up to the mark.

BTV
07:30 *Shubhechha Nin*
09:00 Satellite Programmes
12:15 *Shangbadpotrer Pata Thekey*
12:30 *Shasthya Tatthya*
01:05 Cartoon Film
01:30 *Shobar Jonnyo Shikkha*
02:05 *Hater Kachhey Computer Darpan*
02:30 *Shukhi Poribar Chalanika*
04:05 *Shangeeta*
04:30 Open University
05:05 *Probash Mela*
05:30 *Mithoshkriya*
06:10 *Shondhyamalo*
07:00 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast
07:05 Quiz Quiz
08:30 Drama Serial: *Monalisa*
09:00 Drama Serial: *Aparupa*
10:25 *Teknat Theke Tetulia Shonali Shokal*
11:00 *Ujjabon*
12:05 Satellite Programmes
CHANNEL i
09:30 *Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public reaction*
09:45 *Tritio Matra*
10:45 Grameen Phone Cricket Online
11:30 *Aamar Chhobi*
12:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan Chithi Palam*
12:30 *Angj Dupurey*
01:00 *Bangla feature film*
01:25 Public Reaction
01:30 *Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh*
03:45 *Banglar Gaan*
04:15 Special Programme
04:45 *Sa Re Ga Ma*

05:30 i sports
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Special Programme
07:50 Drama Serial: *Poribar O Ekti Company*
08:25 Drama Serial: *Ek Akasher Tara*
09:35 Drama Serial: *Chalchhe Chalbe*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Ekti Timir Tara*
ATN BANGLA
10:30 Talk Show: *Annodrishti*
11:15 Drama Serial: *Mohona*
11:35 Business This Week
03:45 Musical Programme
04:30 *Shomoshamoyik*
05:10 *Amar Computer*
06:20 *Aynar Shamney*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Shukhnagar Apartment*
08:30 Drama Serial: *Mati*
09:00 Drama Serial: *Bajimaat*
09:30 *Ek Dui Teen*
10:35 *Mile Pholok Ray*
12:20 *Dekhi Nayan Mela*
ntv
08:00 *Aajker Shakal*
08:30 Drama Serial: *Sporsher Bairey*
09:20 Crime Watch
10:05 *Tarar Shatthey*
10:30 *Alochon*
11:00 *Chhobir Gaan*
11:30 *Khabor Deshey Deshey*
12:02 Drama (Repeat)
02:30 Drama Serial: *Jhut Jhamela*
03:05 *Tifiner Pankey*
03:40 Drama Serial: *Anyarokom*
04:25 *Ke Korbe Bajimat*
05:15 *Ithasher Ei Diney*
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:50 *Ei Amader Gram*

HBO
08:10 Drama Serial: *Sporsher Bairey*
08:50 *Taray Taray*
09:40 Drama Serial: *Shaola Dindarpan*
11:25 *The Beast*
9:15 Cinema Secrets III: *Amazing Creatures*
11:30 Deliver Us From Eva
2:15 Necessary Roughness
4:30 Tales from the Crypt
42:The Pit
5:15 Forrest Gump
8:00 Showdown in Little Tokyo
9:30 Winchell
11:45 Jerry Maguire

STAR MOVIES
8:30 *Afi's 100 Years...100 Movies*
9:20 *Babe: Pig in the City*
11:00 Bringing Down The House
12:45 Trapped
2:15 Long Life Happiness & Prosperity
3:50 MXP: Most Xtreme Primate
5:25 Transporter
7:00 Shanghai Knights
8:55 Rapid Fire
10:30 Air Strike
12:10 Transporter
STAR GOLD
9:55 Yamraaj

STAR PLUS
3:00 Saarthi
3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi
4:00 Kahin To Hoga
4:30 K.Street Pali Hill
5:00 Maan
5:30 Hit Filmcin Hit Sangeet
6:00 Patang
6:30 Adventures of Mickey And Donald
7:00 Disney's The Weekenders
7:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
8:00 Hello Dollie

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 Ally Mcbeal
6:30 The Simpsons
7:00 Home Improvement
7:30 Friends
8:00 Newsradio

CHANNEL
1:30 Understanding Future Wars
2:30 Junkyard Wars
3:30 Real King And Queen of England
4:30 FBI Files The Killing Zone
5:30 Operation Junkyard
6:00 Healthy Living
6:30 Battlefield Detectives
7:30 Serengeti Today As Seen On TV
8:30 Science Frontiers
9:00 Great Sperm
9:30 Life on the Edge
10:30 Terra X In the Shadow of Pharoahs
11:30 Understanding Paranormal
STAR SPORTS
12:45 Hitz (R)
5:00 Extreme Programming
Wild Spirits 2004/05 (T)
5:30 Adventure Action Asia Challenge (T)
6:00 The Rugby Show (T)
6:30 Super Centuries (R)
7:00 Max Power 2005 (T)
8:00 Sportsline (L)
8:30 Indian Premier Hockey League Tier II (T)
Sportsline (R)
ESPN
8:00 ICC Cricket World (R)
8:30 NFL Superbowl XXXIX
Jacksonville USA New England Patriots Vs Philadelphia Eagles
12:30 English Premier Football League
Vs Everton (T)
2:30 Winter X Games VIII
Classic Ski Pipe & Slope Mt. Aspen USA
TEN SPORTS
8:00 Gamer TV
10:00 WWE Raw
10:30 Top Ten Batsmen
11:00 Gillette World Sport
11:30 ATP Tennis
12:30 Italian Serie A - Highlights
2:30 German League
Bayern Munich Vs Bayer Leverkusen
3:30 Legends: Australias Greatest Games
4:00 Top Ten Batsmen
4:30 Polo Goal League
Tournaments
5:00 Gamer TV
5:30 Gillette World Sport
7:30 WWE Smackdown
8:00 Gamer TV
9:00 Italian Serie A - Highlights
10:00 War Of A Million

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-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 7:15 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 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

The artist's model

Abul Hashem: A face bearing a million expressions

AFSAR AHMED

ABUL Hashem is a model, an artist's model. Now in his 70s or more, he continues to pose as a model to the aspiring artists of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka (Charukala)—despite the nagging pain in his legs or the struggles of day to day life. His wrinkled face bears a million expressions that all the artists seek. Although Oscar Wilde described modelling as a modern invention, in our country the concept of modelling as a profession is still in its infancy. However, without models, artists' ventures cannot be fulfilled.

Abul Hashem has the attributes required of an artist's model—commitment and patience. He has an unusual face and can always give the artists what they are looking for. A good model develops a special kind of bond with artists and Abul Hashem has developed such an intimacy with the students of Charukala. The closeness is so profound that he has metamorphosed from Abul Hashem to *Chacha* (Uncle). His real name is almost forgotten as everyone calls him Chacha. "I don't mind being called Chacha, rather I am delighted and feel a sense of closeness," says a smiling Hashem.

Talking about his debut in this profession, Hashem recalls, "I have been modelling for artists for 14-15 years. Lovely madam (artist Rokeya Sultana) was the first to give me a break in the institute and after that I didn't have to look back." He has modelled for Rokeya Sultana, Sheikh Jamal, Shishir and many other established artists as well as the aspiring ones.

"The abstract poetry of thought provoking elements or interesting handling of brush strokes are the elements that make for a vibrant painting," believes Hashem. "In each sitting I reach towards a relentless goal of infusing life and movement," he adds.

According to Hashem, the normal workday is from 10am to 2 pm, with a recess of five minutes every half an hour. "I love the sweetened tea during a break. Sometimes the students treat me with tea, biscuits and cigarettes. Respect this is what I love in this profession, otherwise the payment is very little. Per sitting it differs from Taka 100 to Taka 150," says Hashem. However,



Abul Hashem

Hashem has a grouse: "Getting paid is often a lengthy and painful process since payments could be delayed from two to four months. Because of my ailment, I can hardly pose for students nowadays, which actually worsens my economical condition," he sighs.

Good aesthetic sense, believes Hashem, is a vital ingredient in this profession. That's why he questions, "How many glimpses of nature have you witnessed in your life?" And he gives the reply himself, "Those brief moments where time and space seem to literally dissolve, and you are left with a vision wholly yours, a view unique and beautiful, captured forever in your mind."

Getting nostalgic he goes back 40 years in time and reminisces, "This was the essence of

what I tried to weave: saris, lungis and *gamchhas* in the village of Raipura, Narsinghdi. Then I sold them into the Baburhaat or other distant market places. I tried to convey in my work the immense power and grandeur of nature." However, the constant erosion of the river transformed this artiste into an artist's model.

Charukala Institute is now the only place where he feels at home. He sleeps in the yard of the institute and spends his time with the students. He wants nothing further from life. He has only a few ambitions. In his own words, "I want an art piece done by any artist for whom I modelled."



Shafin Ahmed, the celebrated composer, lead vocalist and bassist for the popular band "Miles", recently spoke to *The Daily Star* on a gamut of issues:

Any nickname?
Muna.

What's a perfect day?
Getting up by 8 on a crisp morning, going to work after a hearty breakfast, returning home for lunch, finishing office by six in the evening then getting back to music. This could be for recordings, shows or rehearsals till 11-11.30 pm. Back home before midnight and a sound sleep of seven to eight hours. That's my idea of a perfect day.

How do you handle a crisis?
I am not a bookworm, but I have a habit of reading books on self-development. The authors are not always well known, but write from experience on how they face difficult situations. Books are my survival kit and I get engrossed in such books during a crisis.

What would you like to inherit?
Definitely! She listens to every track we make, and calls a spade a spade. Which means she praises us when she likes it but also lets us know when she doesn't.

Is your mother your toughest critic?
What's the worst part of being a celebrity?

As a celebrity you have to act as a "cool dude." The worst thing is having to keep your cool in tricky situations. Imagine someone bumping into your new car and you still can't punch him on the nose.

Are you involved with social welfare projects of any sort?

Very much so. Only a few months back our band members, in our own humble way, lent a hand for a Cancer Hospital to be erected soon at the outskirts of Dhaka. On February 13, the major bands of the subcontinent will hold a concert at Mumbai for the tsunami victims. Miles has been invited at the gala fund raising concert. We like to extend our support for such endeavours.

Best awards received so far
Miles received the Best Band award a couple of times. We won the popular band award in Meril-Prothom Alo award. I also won the "Number 1 Male celebrity awards of Bangladesh 2004" voted globally by fans through the Internet.

Countries where you received greatest response during a performance?

Our band has travelled to a number of countries but surprisingly we received the greatest applause in the USA and India. We having been frequently staging shows at Kolkata. Since our albums were released there, the numbers are very popular and we are invited to perform almost every month.

Why will your fans not forget you?
Firstly, because of my compositions which have been smashing hits. Secondly, because of the fantastic hats which I wear during my performances!

A Valentines RaaGa

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Production house G-Series brings out a melodious romantic album on the occasion of Valentine's Day. The self-titled album containing 10 tracks by the band RaaGa will hit the stands on February 13.

The band RaaGa came to notice on their first performance with big names like Miles, Aurthohin and Artcell at a concert at Sheraton Hotel in 2003. The line-up of the youngster band includes Ashique, Elita, Joy, Chishti, Emran and Nafis.

Ashique, one of the organisers of the album, has worked on the lyrics, tune and composition while Emran has done the keyboard and programming part. Aspiring singer Elita, the main vocal of the band, has already earned credentials by performing duet in one of Black's album before. Nafis has played the drums, percussion and rhythm.

Sponsored by Onetel, the album has melodious songs like *Kothay*, *Brishiti*, *Aasha O Alo* and others. The album



The members of the band RaaGa

marks the first-time use of the professional turntable during the recording of the album.

Alicia Silverstone says new film magical



AP, Lithuania

Alicia Silverstone likes the way her new film—the mystical thriller *Silence Becomes You*—makes her feel uplifted. "This movie is beautiful, magical, romantic and really sexy. And I had an incredibly creative experience here in Lithuania," the 28-year-old actress told The Associated Press.

The British-produced film tells the story of two sisters who bring home a man on a dare.

Silverstone, whose screen credits include *Clueless* and *Batman & Robin*, said working with director Stephanie Sinclair helped her renew her craft.

As for the time she's been in Lithuania, Silverstone said she's fallen head over heels for Vilnius. The actress said she enjoyed wandering the streets at night and was amazed by the city's history.

As for her character in the film, Silverstone said she can relate to Violet. "As a person I would like to be more like Violet in some ways, and I would like Violet to be more like me," she said.

TV GUIDE