

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibitions

Title: Paint and Pixel
Artist: Nazia Andaleeb Preema
Venue: La Gallery, Alliance Francaise
Date: March 03-14, From 9am to 12pm and 5pm to 8pm

Title: Faces
Artist: Arhamul Huq Chowdhury
Venue: Essentials, House 20, road 24, Block K, Bonani
Date: March 03-11, from 10am to 6pm

Title: Craft & Art of Clay Exhibit
Photographer: Tayabuzzaman Topu
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery
Time: March 04-13, from 11pm to 8pm

Title: Chitrakabuya
Photographer: Abdullah-Al-Masum
Venue: BPS Gallery, House 63/2, Science Laboratory Road
Time: February 11-March 11, from 10am to 8pm

Folk Festival

Title: Lokokarushilpa Mela O Lokojo Utshab 2005
Organiser: Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Venue: Sonargaon at Narayanganj
Date: February 25-March 17

Film Screening

L Gaidai Retrospective
Organiser: Dhaka Film Society
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Schedule

March 07
04:00pm The Diamond Arm
06:00pm Evan Vassilyevich Changes His Profession

French New Wave Film Festival
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Time: March 06-16

March 07
05:00pm Betty
07:00pm Bed is a Bed of Roses
March 08
05:00pm The Lady and the Duke
07:00pm Goodbye Children

March 09
05:00pm The Aviator's Wife
07:00pm Day for Night
March 13
05:00pm The Incurable
07:00pm Confidentially Yours

March 14
05:00pm And Now, Ladies and Gentlemen
07:00pm Death in a French Garden
March 15
05:00pm The Beautiful Troublemaker!

Musical Soiree

Title: Tomari Tulona Tumi
Organiser: Panchashwar
Artist: Shumon Chowdhury, Nasima Shahin, Farhana Akhtar, Shumon Majumdar, Jannat-E-Ferdous, Mamun Zahid Khan
Venue: Goethe Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Date: March 11, at 7pm

Film Screening

Organiser: Indian Cultural Centre
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-2
Date: March 03-10, at 6:00pm everyday
Schedule
March 07 Taal
March 10 Swades
March 14 Raaz
March 17 Veer Zaara
March 21 Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne
March 24 Footpath

A homage to Abdul Latif

The man of indomitable spirits

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

A few years back, prominent cultural figures from Dhaka, hailing from Barisal, were invited over for the centennial celebration of Brojo Mohon College popularly known as BM College. The ship was to start at 6 pm and we hurried for the Sadarghat terminal. Everyone seemed in a jovial mood. Abdul Latif, Papaya Sarwar, Jewel Aich, Khairul Alam Shobuj, Nawazish Ali Khan, KS Firoze, Latifa Helen and myself could barely conceal our excitement as we boarded the ship. Chandradweep, an organisation of Barisal, had arranged this memorable programme. That trip now seems all the more significant as this was the last time I had the opportunity to interact with Abdul Latif, whom we affectionately called Latif bhai.

When I first met him it was sometime around the 1960s. The then-president of Pakistan, Ayub Khan was to pay a visit to the Dhaka radio station at Shahbagh. Massive preparations were underway to put up an impressive show. As the youngest group of artists at the station, we were also preparing for a live performance and would train under Latif bhai. The ever-jovial Latif bhai was to teach us rhymes and spiritual songs.

On weekends we used to rehearse at the big studio no. 6 at Shahbagh. Eminent composers Abdul Ahad, Samar Das and Latif bhai would also train us for the final show.

The spirited Latif bhai was a wizard with children's songs. It was a familiar sight to see him in his white pyjama and punjabi, a cigarette at the corner of his mouth, riding his Vespa to work. Tora chashney kichhu karo kachhey Khodaar rohom chhara (Depend on no one but God), Imaan ekota srinkhola ei niye shudhu potho chola, the rhythmic songs Ek shiyaley randhey barey, Laal jhuti kakatua, Jhor elo elo jhara, Ailo deya nishaley and many more were composed in the most simple form to match the spirit of the young singers.

His onstage performances never failed to captivate us. He sang as he spoke, with a booming voice, and in high spirits. He was equally emotional, pious and sensitive. His tunes were varied but always had a touch of



Abdul Latif alongside his prestigious awards

PHOTO: STAR

the folk element. He was also a master in Puthi paath, the traditional art of reciting folk tales--hardly heard nowadays.

He had the amazing ability to write lyrics and compose tunes at a moment's notice. The story runs that one of his timeless songs was written in a similar fashion. While on his way to office he had a sudden inspiration to write a song on the Language Movement. He hurriedly came back home. With a piece of paper, he scribbled the words Ora Amaar Mukher Kotha Kaira Nitey Chaay (They want to snatch away the language of my forefathers). This was in the year 1952. The song was soon on everyone's lips, the message of the song forthright and strong.

Rathindranath Roy would often sing the song at the programmes of Ekushey. The emotionally packed song would evoke passion amongst the audience every time. Abdul Alim's most popular numbers Duarey aishachhey palki, Porer jaga porer jomin, and many more incomparable songs were com-

posed by Abdul Latif. On the whole Abdul Latif composed over 1500 songs.

He was also a mentor to eminent artists such as Ferdousi Rahman, Nina Hamid, Indramohun Rajbansi, Rawshan Ara Masud, Mina Borua and many more.

Latif bhai denied the Tamghay title the Pakistan government had bestowed on him. He was honoured with Ekushey Padak in 1979 and the Swadhinota Padak in 2002.

Latif bhai met with an accident sometime back. Later on his health started failing. His voice choking with emotion, he would tearfully glance at the harmonium, unable to sing his favourite songs.

On the whole, however, Latif bhai was a content man. He was bestowed with numerous awards for his outstanding contribution to music, but through it all, he managed to secure the most prized award of all--a place in the hearts of his countrymen.

Shilu Abed Karushilpa Purushkar '05 Golden fibre shines brighter

AFSAR AHMED

In a world slowly being choked by artificial products, the nature's "golden fibre"--jute--brings the breath of pure freshness. Its silky lustre, high tensile strength, 100 percent biodegradability and environment friendliness make it one of the most useful natural fibres of not only Bangladesh but also globally.

The jute industry is one of the oldest in Bangladesh. Now the time has come for this fibre to be adapted in innovative product lines. As in previous years, to recognise the masters of jute crafts, Shilu Abed Karushilpa Awards 2005 were given to four craftspeople on March 5 at the Brac Centre. Instituted in the memory of Shilu Abed, the founder of Aarong, the programme was organised by the National Craft Council of Bangladesh (NCCB).

NCCB in association with the Shilu Abed Trust has been awarding the craftspeople of the country since 1998.

Fazle Hasan Abed, chairperson



Fazle Hasan Abed (2nd-L) and Ruby Ghuznavi (4th-L) seen with the recipients of the awards

of Brac, handed over the awards to the winners. This year's best craft-artist award was given to Tangail's Jahanara Akhter, who makes

beautiful Shika (pot hanger made of plaited jute fibre). Special accolades went to Sava's Ali Akbar for his exquisite jute floor rugs with

ethnic blend, Satkheera's Sakhina Begum for the fusion of trendy traditional bags and Tangail's Maleka Begum for Shika.

However, the artists' path to success was not easy. Take the case of Jahanara, a widow with two infants, who has put in years of struggle to attain today's position. "Now around 40 other women are working with me. And I really want to do something for the distressed rural women who are in a vulnerable condition," said Jahanara.

"There was a time when the jute artisans had to struggle a great deal, but through perseverance and dedication their aesthetic sense has created these success stories," said Ruby Ghuznavi, president of NCCB.

Needless to say, jute handicraft items are very much in vogue now. A luxurious range of home decor products made of jute was displayed after the award ceremony.

NCCB announced that the next year's awards will be given for excellence in jewellery craftsmanship.

India ushers in its first Idol

Abhijeet takes the laurels

KARIM WAHEED

After almost five months of drama, emotional outbursts and nail-biting suspense, India has its first ever Indian Idol. On Saturday night with millions of viewers glued to the TV, Abhijeet Sawant was crowned Indian Idol after he fought it out with Amit Sana to end a countrywide search for a singing sensation.

Modelled after the popular show American Idol, the show was judged by renowned choreographer and film director Farah Khan, music director Anu Malik and playback singer Sonu Nigam.

Hours before the big night, both Indian Idol finalists Amit Sana and Abhijeet Sawant had no time to ponder about their fate. They just wanted to get some rest. Sawant has been extremely unwell and in pain. He has been diagnosed with a stone in his kidney. Popping painkillers, he was determined to flash his hall-mark smile.

The treatment is on hold till next week.

Sana, on the other hand, was struggling to keep his eyes open. The last few days before the grand finale had been an arduous journey for both - travelling, round-the-clock rehearsals for the finale besides the music sessions.

The grand finale was held at the Famous Studio in south Mumbai and telecast on Sony Entertainment Television. All 11 finalists reunited for the final two-hour show of the talent hunt that began in October 2004 with over 21,000 aspirants.

After a number of performances from both finalists, Abhijeet was declared the winner. Abhijeet, a local of Mumbai, bagged a Rs 1 crore (\$29,000) contract with Sony Entertainment TV. He also won a luxury car and a weeklong holiday with his family in Switzerland. The son of a Mumbai civil officer, Abhijeet, used to sing in an orchestra to supplement his family's income. A simple boy with a disarming smile had transformed into a



Abhijeet Sawant

sizzling performer. Amit seemed to accept his defeat graciously and applauded Abhijeet's triumph.

In this most entertaining of clashes, clinched by the whims of millions of viewers who watched the performances on TV and then dialled in or sent SMSs to vote, both the finalists brought their own armory of songs.

Over 30 million SMSs were sent in the run-up to the final, the organisers said. The program got an unprecedented viewership for Sony Entertainment Television.

Abhijeet is now looking forward to participate in the World Idol contest. This Idol expects to keep his fans entranced with his remarkable vocal skills.

Theatre personalities meet the audience Crosscurrents on theatre

ERSHAD KAMOL

On February 4, Theatrewala, a magazine on the theatre, organised a gathering of acclaimed stage playwrights and directors of the country - Abdullah Al Mamun, Mamunur Rashid, Ataur Rahman, Aly Zaker, Selim Al Deen, Nasiruddin Yousuff and Syed Jamil Ahmed at the Experimental Theatre. However, playwright Syed Shamsul Haq, could not attend the meeting. After an introduction of the neo-theatre movement in post-Independence Bangladesh, the veteran theatre personalities had a dialogue with theatre goers.

The meeting began with Abdullah Al Mamun's response to a question posed by a member of the audience. Later, Nasiruddin Yousuff turned the session to a new discussion-- the social, political and economical impact on theatre. Mamunur Rashid, Syed Jamil Ahmed, Ataur Rahman and Aly Zaker expressed their own views on this subject.

The renowned theatre personalities enthusiastically discussed the various aspects of theatre-- crises, form of theatre, current trend of our theatre



and others. In an interesting three-hour long discussion session, the directors and playwrights evaluated each other's views and gave counter argument to each views.

However there were some drawbacks. For instance, in the discussion session the participants focused on so many aspects that it was impossible to arrive at a solution in a short span of time. Theatrewala could have arranged such

programmes in at least three sessions so that these renowned personalities could come to a consensus on theatre issues. Moreover, it would make sense for Theatrewala to include designers in these types of sessions.

In coming August, Theatrewala is set to arrange another session, including the playwrights, directors and designers of the new productions.

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-i

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

CHANNEL i

09:45 Tritiyo Matra
10:45 Live Educational Programme
11:30 TVC Sky Shop
12:00 Chithi Pelam
12:20 Dhaka Guide
12:30 Aj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon
01:00 Ebong Cenemar Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
01:30 Shangbadpotrey Bangladesh
01:35 Bangla Feature Film: Aan (Sohel Rana, Lily)
03:50 Banglar Gaan
04:20 Special Programme
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 X-Music
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Banijjo O Aurthoniti
07:50 Drama Serial: Porbar O Ekti Company
09:35 Drama Serial: Shampurna Rangeen
10:00 Special Programme
10:00 ntv
09:30 Ain O Jibon
10:05 Animal Kingdom
10:30 Dhakar Cinema
10:35 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamela
03:15 Right Click
03:40 Drama Serial: Akashey Anek Raat
04:25 Khorob Deshey Deshey
05:20 Aapnar Jigyasha
06:00 Dester Khabar
06:20 Shubho Shondhaya
06:50 Crime Watch
08:15 Drama Serial: Sporsher Bairey
08:50 Alochan
09:40 Drama Serial:

Anyarakom Dindarpan

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Annordrishti
11:05 Drama Serial: Ek Janamey
11:35 Pepsil Rock & Rhythm
12:15 Dekhi Nayan Melia
02:30 Drama Serial: Ghunpoka
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokhok Nai
04:25 Amar Chokhok Nai
05:10 Musical Programme
05:45 Children's Programme
06:20 Matir Shubhash
06:50 Islami Sawaal O Jawab
08:00 Shobar Jonno
08:00 Drama Serial: Shukhnagar Apartment
08:30 Drama Serial: Shimahin Shimanay
09:00 Sushtha Thekun Live
10:35 Katha Mala
12:20 Adibashi Janapad

HBO

9:30 Man on the Moon
12:00 Rush Hour
2:00 The Infiltrator
4:00 Scooby-Doo & The Cyber Chase
5:30 John Carpenter Presents Vampires: Los Muertos
7:30 Intolerable Cruelty
9:30 Spy Kids 3: Game Over
11:15 And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself
1:30 Rush Hour
STAR MOVIES
9:15 Green Card
11:15 First \$20 Million Is

STAR PLUS

1:15 Always The Hardest
The Poltergeist II: The Other Side
3:15 Preacher's Wife
5:25 Dick
7:00 Arachnophobia
8:55 Random Hearts
11:15 Hollywood One On One.
11:45 Check Out
1:20 Dick
STAR GOLD
9:50 Parvarish
1:30 Satta - The Game Of Power
4:55 Kacheche Dhaage
8:30 Dulaara
12:15 Aar Paar

STAR PLUS

1:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
1:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
2:00 Bhabhi
2:30 Kesar
3:00 Saarthi
3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi
4:00 Kahiin To Hoga K.Street Pali Hill
4:30 Maan
5:00 Hit Filmein Hit
5:30 Sangeet- 20 M Nargis
6:00 Adventures Of Mickey Anndonald
6:30 Disney's The Weekenders
7:00 Mickey Anndonald
7:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa

PICK OF THE DAY



Shukhnagar Apartment
On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Tauquir Ahmed, Aupee Karim, Nadia, Tisha and Tania Ahmed
Directed by Arun Chowdhury
Synopsis: Today's episode is titled Bibaho. In today's episode, Tania Ahmed comes to the apartment of Tauquir Ahmed and Aupee Karim where they run a matchmaker's office. Tania is looking for a suitable groom, but her choosy attitude confuses the couple. The matchmaker couple runs into several problems in the course of finding the perfect man for Tania.

STAR PLUS

8:00 Bandhan
8:30 Hello Dollie
9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
9:30 Des Mein Nikkila Hog Chand
10:00 Kkavyanjali
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi
11:30 Kahiin To Hoga K.Street Pali Hill
12:00 K.Street Pali Hill
12:30 Parkinson
1:30 Magnum P.I.
2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
3:30 Hit And Beautiful
4:30 Hollywood Squares
5:00 Whose Line Is It

STAR PLUS

2:30 Built For Destruction
3:30 Mountain Rescuers
4:30 Backyard Science
4:45 Doc Eureka
5:00 Serious: Arctic
5:30 Ng Explorer
6:30 Explorations
7:30 Life With Bears A
8:30 Microlight Odyssey
10:30 Tales Of The Living Dead
11:00 Mummy Road Show
11:30 National Geographic's Taboo
DISCOVERY
11:30 the Mistress and Her Lover, The
12:30 In The Depths of the Forest
1:30 Trojan Horse Episode 1
3:30 Wild Dogs And Wolves
4:30 The Mistress And The Wife, The
5:30 Truht Or Scare
6:00 Baby It's You Thinker, The
6:30 Africa's Great Rivers
7:00 Amazing baby Videos
7:30 Sexes Ways of Being Male
8:30 21st Century Flight
9:30 Junkyard Wars
10:30 Lost City of China
11:30 FBI Files The Radical Resistance
ANIMAL PLANET
12:30 Breed All About It (III & IV) Mastiff
1:00 K-9 to 5 Therapy Dog, Skjoring, Town Dog
1:30 Emergency Vets (I) Episode 10
2:00 Emergency Vets (II) Episode II
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
12:30 Dogs With Jobs
1:00 Explorations
2:00 Storm Stories

STAR PLUS

2:30 O'Shea's Big Adventure (Season3) In the Python's Grip
3:30 Crocodile Hunter Diaries II, The Devil You Know
4:00 Ultimate Killers Pack Hunters
4:30 The Protectors Miami Animal Police Tiger Trouble
5:30 Vets In The Wild
6:00 Mokoldi Nature Reserve
6:30 Monkey Business
6:00 Monkey Business 6 Episode 6
6:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals Planet's Funniest Animals (III), The Episode 2
7:00 Amazing Animal Videos Amazing Animal Videos 3- (1/2 Hours) Episode 1
7:30 The Blue Planet, Plus Planet : Deep Trouble
8:30 On The Edge
10:30 Animal Planet Showcase
11:30 The Whole Story The Ungulates
TRAVEL & LIVING
1:30 While You Were Out 2
2:30 Thirsty Traveler
3:00 Intimate Escapes
3:30 Borthwick Castle-N. Middleton, Scotland
4:30 Travelers Fiestas
5:30 World poker Tour Paris Jet Set Best Of

STAR PLUS

8:30 Indulgent Vacations, The
9:30 Bunol, Spain
10:00 Cooking for Love Episode II
10:00 Honeymoon Adventures Episode II
10:30 The Billy Lane Vs, Indian Larry
11:30 :On the Beach Image Makers
STAR SPORTS
10:00 Asian Tour Magazine Show Asian Tour Weekly 2005 (R)
10:30 Spanish Football League 2004/05 Spanish Football League (R)
12:30 The Golf Club (R)
1:00 South Africa Vs Zimbabwe 1st Test Day 3 Highlights(R)
2:27 Selected programme
2:30 Sportsline (L)
10:00 Uefa Champions League
10:30 Sportsline (R)
11:00 Hitz (R)
11:30 English Premier League Highlights
ESPN
9:00 English Premier Football League)
3:00 Spanish Football League
5:00 Final Score (R)
5:30 Motorsport Asia (T)
6:00 Asian 9-Ball Tour
7:30 English Premier League Highlights
11:00 Football Up Close Toyota Football Up Close (T)
11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
12:00 Sportscenter Asia (S)