

CULTURAL FEAST

Folk Music Festival

Songs from the soul

Musical Evening

Artist: Samina Chowdhury
Organiser: Fusion
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpa Academy Auditorium
Time: April 08, at 5:30pm

Artistes: Kiran Chandra Roy, Chandana Majumdar
Organiser: Orchestra
Venue: All Community Club Hall, House 40, Road 35, Gulshan 2, Dhaka
Time: April 14, at 7:00pm

Exhibitions

Artist: Aminul Islam
Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi
Date: March 18- April 10, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

16th National Art Exhibition

Artists: Eminent and promising artists of the country
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 12-April 11, 11am to 7pm and 3pm to 8pm on weekends

Bangladesh Denmark Cultural Exchange

Organiser: Royal Danish Embassy, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Occasion: Birth Bicentennial of Hans Christian Andersen
Date: March 17- April 12, at 7pm everyday
Schedule: April 07-08

Programme: Staging of the play The Emperor's New Clothes by Theatre
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, National Theatre
April 09-10

Programme: Staging of the play Nightingale and Ugly Duckling by Puppet Theatre
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Experimental Theatre
April 12

Programme: Screening of the movie Move Me
Venue: The British Council

Yuri Gagarin Science Fest-2005

Programme: Photo exhibition and quiz competition in cooperation with Bangladesh Astronomical Association
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Time: April 06-12

For TV guide see page 15

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Folksongs are the true tune of a nation's heart and soul. Folksongs are our identity. The folk artists are an inextricable part of the cultural scenario of Bengal. Through the songs, the singers give vent to their emotions, feelings, dreams and aspirations. It is, therefore, necessary to keep the trend of our folk music alive. Without our rich heritage of folk music, we as Bangladeshis would be incomplete.

To encourage the folk musicians and the practice of folk songs, Shilpakala Academy echoed with a five-day long Folk Music Festival at its Chitrashala Plaza beginning on April 6. The State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Salima Rahman, inaugurated the event. The programme was presided over by Ahmed Nazir, director of Shilpakala Academy.

The musical soiree began with artist Latifa Chowdhury's rendition of Jodi Asha Thakey Bondhu. 20 artists, including

Dilruba Khan, Nashid Kamal, Beena Majumdar, Nadira Begum, Abu Bakar Siddique, Aroti Dhar, Chandana Majumdar, Sufia Manowar, Selina Akhter, Azgar Aleem, MA Khaleq, Syed Golam Ambia performed at the programme.

Besides solo performances, Motaleb Dewan, Arif Dewan, Chittaranjan Modak Dewan, Manzila Akhter, Abdul Khaleq Dewan and their groups, as well as Kanailal Shilpigoshthi and Surma Ancholik Shilpigoshthi performed chorus numbers.



Aroti Dhar (L) and Dilruba Khan performing at the festival

TV attraction

American Idol--Season 4 heats up

KARIM WAHEED

With just seven more weeks to go, American Idol's 4th season is heating up. As the nine finalists duke it out to win the audiences' hearts, America is getting ready to hail its new idol.

The show that originated in U.K as Pop Idol became not only an instant hit in 2002, but one of the most watched shows in American television history. Last year, over 340 million viewers voted throughout the contest to select their American Idol, Fantasia Barrino. This year, over 100,000 optimistic singers auditioned in seven cities in the US.

The three judges of the show Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson are all renowned in their fields. Simon Cowell, infamous for reducing a line of wannabe singers to tears with his brutally honest remarks, is one of the creators of the show. Surprisingly enough, the contestants say that Simon is their favourite judge. Who doesn't know Paula Abdul, the vivacious, beautiful pop-star who is rightfully America's sweetheart? The third judge Randy Jackson is an eminent music producer who has worked with big names like Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston and such. Lastly, we cannot forget the host of the show, Ryan Seacrest, who has become a household name now, all thanks to the huge success of the show.

The theme of this week's episode was classic show tunes and 28-year-old Scott Savol from Ohio commenced the show with a rendition of The Impossible. Randy remarked that Scott had problems with the pitch. Paula said that the performance was heartfelt, while Simon in his jaded style said that it was more of a 'tap than a bang'.

Vonzell Solomon, 21, from Florida performed a very charged People, made famous by none other than Barbra Streisand. An exhilarated Randy said "You just keep getting better every week." Paula praised Vonzell saying "Even Barbra never tries to hit the high note that you successfully executed." Simon said "The performance was very clinical, cold and mechanical."

The youngest finalist of all, 19-year-old Anthony Fedorov from Pennsylvania, sang Climb Every Mountain. A disappointed Randy remarked "Not good, flat all around", Paula as usual didn't



The nine finalists of American Idol 4

have anything negative to say and commented "It was different, sounds like a pop song" and Simon bluntly disapproved of the performance, saying "Hideous, everything about the song was horrible."

22-year-old Nikko Smith from Missouri rendered One Hand, One Heart and somehow managed to give it a flair of R&B. Randy said, "You keep it contemporary." Paula remarked, "You are a true R&B singer", while an eternally bored Simon said, "The first part of the song was boring."

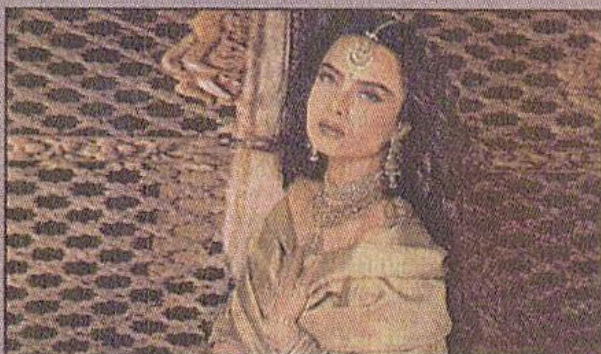
The last performer, 28-year-old Nadia Turner from Florida, sang As Long As He Needs Me. One could see the reflections of a certain Miss Ross in Nadia's performance. This diva in the making, managed to charm both the judges and the audience present at the set.

So, can this year's American Idol present an artist that can match the superlative skills of last year's Idol, Fantasia Barrino? You'll have to watch the show on Star World, every Wednesday and Thursday at 8:30 pm to get that answer.

NEWS MAKERS

Rekha in limelight once again

Move over Ishas, Yanas and make way for the ultimate diva of Bollywood for an Item Number. According to the buzz Vidhu Vinod Chopra has signed none other than Rekha herself for a 'vintage item number' in his upcoming magnum opus Parineeta. Reportedly Chopra tested Rekha for over three days for the item number, the first in her career. "I love her but needed to get the best out of her and give her my best," says Chopra.



Rekha has found yet another new role for herself. The graceful actress who was last seen in films like Koi Mil Gaya and Bhoot will feature in a film co-starring the current Bollywood seductress Mallika Sherawat. The film titled Bachke Rehna Re Babais being directed by Govind Menon.

Rekha has got a new role through this film - that of a singer. She has actually recorded a song for the film in her own voice. The song, Eiffel Tower - I'm the Power, composed by ace music director Anu Malik, features in a situation when Rekha is caught in a club.

Prior to this, Rekha had faced the microphone years back for small time numbers in films like Khoobsurat (1980) and Agar Tum Na Hote (1983).

Supermodel Heidi Klum and singer Seal to marry

AFP

German supermodel Heidi Klum and British-born singer Seal are set to marry this summer, Seal told German newspaper Bild.



"We will marry before the birth of our child," Seal, 42, said recently.

Klum, 31, is five months pregnant with her second child. The first, a daughter called Leni, was born last May after a relationship with Renault Formula One team boss Flavio Briatore.

Seal, who begins the German leg of his tour this week, also revealed he is struggling to learn German.

"It's really difficult. I am learning slowly," he said.

Seal's first chart success came in April 1990 when he added the vocals for the dance hit Killer.

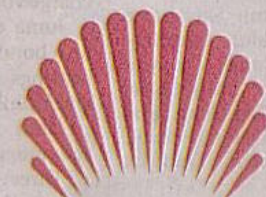
His solo career has produced international hits including Crazy, Future Love Paradise and Kiss from a Rose.

A moment to be remembered

Welcome His Excellency Honorable Prime Minister of People's Republic of China Mr. Wen Jiabao



We are proud to have our Prime Minister among us. Huawei is here by the blessing of his government policy. He has made China to be the fastest growing country in the world. Today China is influencing the world economy and it is not very far to dominate it. We pay our whole hearted gratefulness to our Prime Minister to make Huawei feel proud as a Chinese company.



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