

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

Title: Boichiti
Artist: Ferdousy Priyobhansini, Ra Kajol, Tayabuzzaman Topu
Venue: British Council, 5, Fuller Road
Time: April 13-30, 10am to 7pm

Artist: Babul Mahmood
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Time: April 24-30

Title: Rejection
Artist: Abdus Salam
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Time: April 22-30, from 9am to 12pm, 5pm to 9pm

Artist: Biren Shome
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi
Time: April 28-May 12, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

Title: Eiffel Tower
Photographer: Proshanto Karmakar Buddha
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Time: April 15-30, from 9am to 12pm and 5pm to 8pm

Title: Charon
Artists: Mazarul Islam Khan, Sudipta Mallick and Subir Obayed
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15/A, Dhanmondi
Time: April 26-May 05, from 10am to 8pm

Play

Title: Raaraang
Group: Aranyak Nitya Dal
Venue: Zilla Porshad Auditorium, Monibazar, Rajshahi
Time: April 30, at 7pm

Title: Melamorphosis
Group: Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT)
Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Time: June 9, 18, 23, 30, at 7pm

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Parapar
Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road
Time: May 2-3, at 7pm

Baishakhi Mela 1412

Organiser: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industry Corporation
Venue: the regular venue of International Trade Fair at Sher-e-Banglanagar
Time: April 28-May 05, from 10am to 8pm everyday

Annual Dance

Programme
Group: Nityanchal Performing Arts Academy
Venue: Shishu Academy Auditorium
Time: April 30, at 7pm

Dewans: Musicians linking man with nature's mysteries



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

THEY are modest men with little demands in life. They are enlightened with nature's gifts and they gather knowledge through the songs they sing all their lives; the songs they have learnt from their ancestors and songs that link man with God and the mysteries of nature. There are many among them, who write their own songs and sing them at village parties.

They are often called the *dewans* and the *sarkars*, meaning their *gurus* were called under the same titles. Their linguistic abilities bear the distinct accent of the region they come from. And the *dewans* usually cater for the village folks in long sessions of parties centering a tomb of a music loving pious man. And centering this tomb men and women gather in faith. An unknown force generates a fear, highly superstitious in

nature though, among the rural men and women and that greatly helps keeping all troubles at bay during the musical events.

In Kharakandi area, by the river Kaliganga in Keraniganj, Hafiz Dewan plays his violin while singing. He has written over 300 songs and devoted his life to singing. Most of his songs involve the creator and the creation. The drum beats, the *mandira*, the violin, the *ektara* and the voice of Hafiz Dewan entrance the audience.

Hafiz's singing sessions where often men and women dance till morning, has nothing to do with vulgarity or western type free mixing. The listeners converge for the pure love for the creator and his creations. At times when there are two *dewans* attending a single party, they throw puzzling

questions at each other within the songs and answer them. Most questions are about life and nature. There are instances where a panel distributes cash to the winner whose one question has dumbfounded the opponent. Sometimes audiences offer money to the *dewans* or similar traditional singers.

In every locality throughout the country, there are *dewans* or traditional singers and *dhulis* (drummers). They make a living out of singing and are widely respected in the communities. After the deaths of Razzab Dewan and Razzak Dewan their tombs have become a place of worship for thousands of followers, who come throughout the year and sing songs by the tombs.



Hafiz Dewan (above) and his associates (left) present a wide variety of the traditional mystic songs

Exhibition

Admirable display of Islamic calligraphy

FAYZA HAQ

If one wanted to whet one's appetite on Islamic calligraphy one had only to sail forth to National Museum's Sufia Kamal section. Here was a grand display of calligraphy on canvas, cloth and paper by Bangladeshi (self-taught and BAFA trained) and Iranian experts. Along with these calligraphy works was the display of the *Quran* from 40 different countries, published in places like USSR, USA, Europe, Middle East, the Indian subcontinent and the Far East. This was indeed a recent, ambitious project and won the appreciation of a flood of visitors.

The Bangladeshi artists spoke with confidence

and sensitivity, explaining the details of their work -- as regards colour, line, content, theme. They explained the verses, words and images on the painting without a pause, and with considerable poise and emotion. Mansoor, who organised the exhibit, also held forth, ad lib, explaining each Bangladeshi display with meticulous care.

The visitors appeared to take great interest in the different entries and asked the organisers a series of relevant questions, which spoke of their intense interest and curiosity. This was despite the compelling afternoon heat that gripped the city this month. Sure, this exhibit was not as interesting as the early ones at the National Museum, such as the one by Murtaja Baseer, and the one

held two years back. Yet, since numerous samples of the *Quran* had been included, the number of visitors far surpassed the turnouts on other occasions of Islamic calligraphy exhibits in the city.

The lines were positively lyrical: this was one of the necessary ingredients of Islamic calligraphy, which replaces flora and fauna for many of original Islamic art. There was a departure in presenting human hands and figures, in representing the five pillars of Islam, and the concept that Islamic faith ruled the world. Words and *Quranic* verses were repeated in manifold ways (in the Bangladeshi canvases). The colours used were subtle yet eye-catching and dramatic. The lines were vertical, horizontal and diagonal. These were amalgamated with curls, sweeps and dots. Driven by passionate beliefs and brave in their skilled work, the artists had carried on with their work with admirable mastery.

The Iranian calligraphy was more conventional and done on more minute perspective. The lines of the lettering and the space of the frames were much smaller. However, the foreign entry too was interesting. It included figurative images and fine calligraphy, arranged in geometrical symmetry -- specially the one that appeared like Queen Nefertite's necklace -- with the row of gold chains with delicate, enamel work, seen from some distance.

Considerable effort must have gone into acquiring the different types of *Quran* -- with their varied types of lettering, languages, origin, shapes and sizes. As one examined each, one found that translations had been given in most of them, along with the original text in Arabic. What was mind-boggling were the Hindi, Tamil and Coptic tomes. Many were illustrated around the borders and eye-rests had been provided too.

One came away from the veritable treasure trove of Islamic art, surfeit with gain in knowledge.



Two calligraphy works from the display



Tomay Jante Chai Litu Sakhawat draws attention with his maiden album

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Litu Sakhawat is not a very known face in Dhaka's music scene. But after the recent release of his maiden album *Tomay Jante Chai*, named after its title song, he is gaining ground gradually among the music aficionados.

Music comes to Litu, also an active theatre artiste, naturally. As he says, "I can't recall how and when songs were created at many of our friendly *addas*, but of course I never thought of releasing a CD."

The 11 tracks of the youth's debut album present variety of tunes and most of the songs are written and tuned by the singer himself.

The title song *Tomay jante chai* is of course the best song -- the lyric is romantic and sweetly tuned. And Litu renders the song nicely. Being the first track of the album, it essentially adds to the over-all impression of the listener. *Tomay jante chai*... *Tomar bhitir bahr moner gothoni* *Shob-jante chai* will undoubtedly enamor one.

The tracks *Nodi*, *Konrya* and *Nayon jualey* are also good creations with catchy folk flavour fused with contemporary music. The song *Swayambora* is a musical rendition of a poem by famous poet Nirmolendu Goon and has a little faster tune than the others. The singing style is also different.

The track *Chandey chandey bela jaayre* gives a very traditional folk essence with a nice lyric while *Jatobar tumi* testifies to the influence of Sumon Chattapadhyay (now Kabir Sumon) in both the lyric and tune. Interestingly, the song *Hey bondhu* has the typical flavour of



The cover jacket of the album

film-songs.

The last song *Pahela Baishakhi*, written and tuned by Diljit Shajal, has some experimentation, but however does not have the appeal of the previous tracks.

Ali Akbar Rupu, Salahuddin Shantonu and Diljit Shajal worked as the music directors of the album. Surer Mela released the CD and cassettes.

Films to celebrate birth anniversary of Satyajit Ray and Rabindranath Tagore

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The High Commission of India will screen the popular films of Satyajit Ray and two other films based on stories of Rabindranath Tagore by contemporary directors next month.

Starting from May 2, the Satyajit Ray Film Festival marks the birth anniversary of the legendary personalities -- filmmaker Satyajit Ray and Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore.

The showcase includes Satyajit

Ray's famous 'movies' such as *Kanchenjunga*, *Jana Aranya*, *Nayak*, *Sonar Kella* and *Charulata*, while it also has Rituparno Ghosh's *Chokher Bali*, Tapan Sinha's *Atithi* -- both based on stories of Rabindranath Tagore.



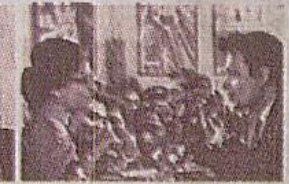
Sonar Kella



Charulata



Ghare Baire



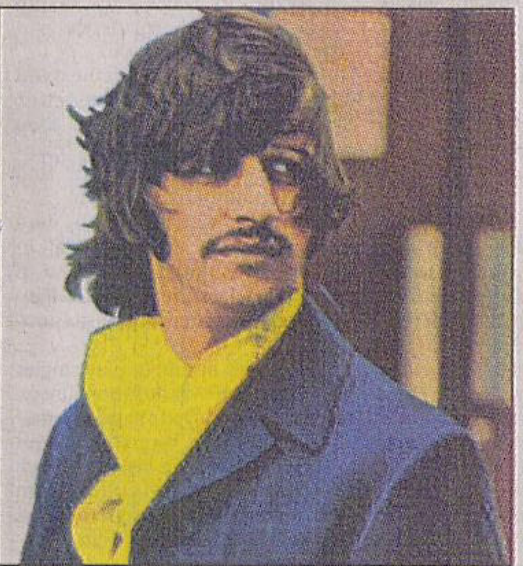
Nayak

Hynde, Preston sit in on new Ringo Starr album

BILLBOARD, New York

In crafting his latest album, Ringo Starr once, again, sought a little help from his friends.

On *Choose Love*, the former Beatles drummer utilises the talents of the Pretenders' Chrissie Hynde, Robert Randolph, Billy Preston and the loose-knit collective the Roundheads, which has assisted on a few of his recent projects. The album is due June 7 via Koch Records.



"It takes a band -- even more than it takes a village -- to make music like this," Starr says of working with producer/multi-instrumentalist Mark Hudson, guitarist Steve Rodas, guitarist Gary Burr and keyboardist/arranger Jim Cox -- the Roundheads. "By now, we feel like we know each other's minds, we know where we're going."

Hudson has been with Starr since playing on 1992's *Time Takes Time* (Private Music), while the rest of the Roundheads have been built through the making of 1998's *Vertical Man* (Mercury), the following year's *I Want To Be Santa Claus* (Mercury) and 2003's *Ringorama* (Koch).

"This has been a joy in my life working with the guys," Starr says. "You can have fun and you can even have that bad day with each other and it's not held against you. So you have the freedom to be who you are and still be together."

The All-Star Band leader frequently has peppered his full-length recordings with guests, and *Choose Love* is no exception. Of her work on *Don't Hang Up*, Starr says Hynde "made her part her own. She changed it and made it better."

Meanwhile, Family Band leader Randolph appears on *Fading In, Fading Out* and *Oh My Lord*, the latter of which also features Preston. "When I wrote *Photograph* and *Back off Boogaloo* I had George [Harrison] to produce me, and George was always trying to get into them the words 'God' and 'Krishna' and I fought it," Starr says of that song. "And now just with the growth within myself, I have no problem with that now. George, bless him, has his 'Sweet Lord' -- this is mine."

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time.
The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTB
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, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Teletext of BTB 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, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Teletext of BTB 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 Triljo Matra
10:45 Na Bola Kotha
12:00 Chitli Pelam
12:20 Dhaka Guide
12:30 A J Dupurey O Chitell
12:30 Taroka Kothan
01:00 Ebong Chinarar Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
01:30 Sherbadporey Bangladesh
02:30 Special Programme
03:50 Bangla Gagan
04:20 DVC Music Cafe Shiner Mela
04:45 Sa Ro Ga Ma
05:15 Janopader Khabor
05:30 Sangeetmala
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Drama Serial: Ebong Ekjon Nari
07:50 Let's Move
08:25 Drama Serial: Nona Joler Kalya
09:35 Hindoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Drama Serial: Pothey Pothey Cholley Cholley

ntv
08:30 Ajiker Shakal
08:00 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush
09:30 Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri
10:30 Bangla Feature Film: Dui Rangobaz
02:35 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush
03:15 Pepsi Music Express
03:50 Drama: Kono Ek Chhotter Dupure Film
04:25 Shubho Shondhya
05:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Shonikinty Ei
08:15 Special
08:00 Bhalachho Mor Gaan
11:25 Dindarpan

ATN BANGLA
10:30 Anandishte

11:30 Char Deyaler Kabya
12:15 Bangla Film: Shadharon Maye
03:45 Musical Programme
04:20 Chalo Gaan Gai
05:10 Ameder Joto Kotha
05:45 Jibon digyasha
06:20 Danish Pothey Pothey
08:00 Drama Serial: Jol Porey
08:30 Pata Noroy
09:00 Drama Serial: The New Shabuj Opera
09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Begum
09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Janomey
10:35 Musical Programme: Leopard Agent of Rock & Rhythm
12:10 Bengla Feature Film
HBO
9:00 Saint Sinner
10:45 The Guys
12:30 I Love You to Death
2:30 BAL To 2: The Wolf Quest
4:00 The One
5:45 Pinata: Survival Island
7:30 Tremors II Aftershocks
9:30 The Big Saturday
11:45 Hollywood Homicide
Terrorism 3: Rise of the Machines
2:00 Red Dragon

ANIMAL PLANET
9:30 Animal X Elephant
10:00 Monkey Business
10:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals
11:00 Amazing Animal Videos
11:30 Ultimate Killers Deadly Defenders
12:00 Predators Mass Attack
12:30 Growing up Wild... Waves
1:30 King of the Jungle Day 4
2:30 Attenborough Presents Animals A-Z Osprey
3:00 Fish Hawks
Attenborough Presents Wildlife Specials Polar Bear Arctic Warrior
Animals A-Z Eagle

PICK OF THE DAY



Let's Move
On Channel i at 7:50pm
Magazine Programme
Hosted by Farzana Brownia



Amader Joto Kotha
On ATN Bangla at 5:10pm
Talk Show
Today's Guest: Sara Zaker

3:30 Empire
Attenborough Presents Wildlife Specials
6:00 Beyond the Unexplored
6:30 Forgotten River
4:30 Animal Planet Reveals Asia Jungle Orphans
5:30 The Most Extreme, The Killers
6:30 Animal Miracles
7:30 Blyou's Ice Rescue
On The Edge Mad Mike and Mark 2 Predator's Ball
11:30 Spy Stories Why Intelligence Falls
Unreliable Sources
12:30 Wild Discovery Home Over Africa
1:30 Future Perfect Understanding Future Wars
2:30 Unexplored History Plots of Lincoln
3:30 Discovery Showcase Moon Power

4:30 Spy Stories CIA Secrets
Escape From Terror
6:00 Truth or Scare
6:30 Living Pulse 2
7:30 Junkyard Wars Power Rank
8:30 Wild Discovery Lemur's Tale
Discover India Great Moghuls, The Akbar, The Jahangir
9:30 Conspiracies on Trial
Conspiracies on Trial Da Vinci Code: Cracked!
10:00 Great Romances of the 20th Century
10:30 Discovery Wings Elite Choppers Birds of Prey Part 2
11:30 Supernatural Science
Mysteries Open to Suggestion

STAR PLUS

7:00 Geet Bahar
7:30 Aasma
8:30 Chupa Rulam
9:00 Taaza Hits
9:05 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M
9:30 Kahani Jurm Ki
10:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M
10:30 Dharam Aur Hum
11:25 Film Topper
11:30 Jai Ganga Maiya
12:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M
12:55 Taaza Hits
1:00 Star Bestsellers
2:00 Taaza Hits
2:05 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M
2:30 Tea Time Cine
5:30 Mirch Masala
6:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron
6:30 Disney's Mickey Mouse Works
7:00 Marsuplami
7:25 Film Topper
7:30 Piya Bina
8:00 Parody Ka Peechey
8:30 Supersthit
12:00 Yatra

STAR MOVIES

8:20 Home Alone 4
9:45 Company
11:35 Van Wilder: Party Liaison
1:05 Alex & Emma
2:45 Opening Night
3:15 K-911
4:45 Terminator 2: Judgment Day
7:00 Jeepers Creepers 2
STAR GOLD
9:00 Maya
9:30 Love Love Love
4:00 Cops
4:30 Coffee With K
5:30 Bhanu India's Child Genius
6:30 The X Files
7:30 Totally Outrageous Behavior Ca

STAR WORLD

7:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway?
7:30 Charmed
8:30 Wild Card
9:30 Fashion TV
10:00 Top Drive Getaway
10:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
12:30 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
1:00 Travel Asia
1:30 Haunted Houses Road Trip
2:30 Boston Public
3:30 The Kumars At No. 42
4:00 Cops
4:30 Coffee With K
5:30 Bhanu India's Child Genius
6:30 The X Files
7:30 Totally Outrageous Behavior Ca

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

6:30 Seconds From Disaster
7:30 National Geographic Special
8:30 Fall Plague
9:30 Mountains Of Fire
10:30 Fbi
11:30 Pests From Hell
11:30 Icc Cricket World (T)
7:00 English Premier League Preview (R)
8:00 Football Crazy (R)
9:00 ATP Tennis U.S. Men's Clay Court Finals 2005
Houston Tx. U.S. Men's Final (R)
10:30 Icc Cricket World (R)
11:00 Cricket Classics Super Doubles (R)
11:30 Football Locker Room (T)
12:00 Nba Inside Stuff (R)
12:30 Football Asia (T)
1:00 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball
Tour Kaohsiung Quarterfinal #1 (L)
2:30 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball
Tour Kaohsiung Quarterfinal #2 (L)
4:00 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball
Tour Kaohsiung Quarterfinal #3 (L)
5:30 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball
Tour Kaohsiung Quarterfinal #4 (L)
7:00 Magazine Show Asian
Tour Weekly 2005 (T)
7:24 Cricket Classics Super Doubles (T)
7:54 English Premier Football
League 2004/05

STAR SPORTS

7:00 Icc Cricket World (T)
7:30 English Premier League Preview (R)
8:00 Football Crazy (R)
9:00 ATP Tennis U.S. Men's Clay Court Finals 2005
Houston Tx. U.S. Men's Final (R)
10:30 Icc Cricket World (R)
11:00 Cricket Classics Super Doubles (R)
11:30 Football Locker Room (T)
12:00 Nba Inside Stuff (R)
12:30 Football Asia (T)
1:00 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball
Tour Kaohsiung Quarterfinal #1 (L)
2:30 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball
Tour Kaohsiung Quarterfinal #2 (L)
4:00 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball
Tour Kaohsiung Quarterfinal #3 (L)
5:30 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball
Tour Kaohsiung Quarterfinal #4 (L)
7:00 Magazine Show Asian
Tour Weekly 2005 (T)
7:24 Cricket Classics Super Doubles (T)
7:54 English Premier Football
League 2004/05

ESPN

7:00 Sportscenter Asia (R)
7:30 Sportscenter Week In Review (T)
8:00 Nba Action (T)
8:30 Nba Playoffs (L)
11:00 Asian Tour: Brm Asian Open Day Three (L)
2:00 Here We Go (R)
3:00 Football Locker Room (T)
3:30 Uefa Champions League Magazine Shows (T)
4:00 Brazilian Goal (R)
4:30 Sportscenter Week In Review (R)
5:00 Icc Cricket World (R)
5:30 Australia Cricket Down Under - India's Tour Of Australia 2003/04 Part II (R)
6:00 Australia Cricket Down Under - India's Tour Of Australia 2003/04 Part II (R)
6:30 Here We Go (R)
7:30 Sportscenter Weekend (T)
7:55 Epi Saturday Premiership Doubles (L)
English Premier Football League 2004/05 Liverpool Vs Middlesbrough (L)

TEN SPORTS

7:30 Trans World Sports
8:00 World Rally
8:00 WWE Velocity
11:00 WI v SA: 4th Test, Day 1 Highlights
11:30 Indian Golf Show
3:30 European PGA Golf/BMW Asian Open Day 3
4:00 Indian Golf Show
5:00 WWE Velocity
6:00 WWE Experience
WI v SA: 4th Test, Day 1 Highlights
10:05 WI v SA: 4th Test, Day 2 (1st Session)
10:45 WI v SA: 4th Test, Day 2 (Interval)