

CULTURAL FEAS

Display

Painting & Drawing
Exhibition of Quamrul Hassan

Title: Quamrul Hassan in Line and Colour
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpala, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Date: September 20-October 4
Time: 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Painting Exhibition

Title: Conventional Abstract
Artist: Abdus Salam
Venue: Dots Contemporary Art Centre, 191/A, Haque Tower, Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road, Tejgaon
Date: September 16-30
Time: 11:00 am to 8:00 pm

Musical Soiree

Title: "Gaaner Jharna Tolae
Artistes: Adil Mohsin (Tagore songs), Ferdous Ara (Nazrul songs), Ashit Dey (Classical vocal) and Shantanu (Santoor)
Organised by: UNESCO & Sadhona
Venue: Experimental Theatre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date & Time: September 19 at 7:00 pm

Orchids of exquisite beauty

MAHMUDA AFROZ

No cultural event, marriage or ceremony is complete without flowers in Bangladesh. The culture of growing flowers for commercial purposes has been around for quite some time not to mention the culture of nurturing them purely for pleasure and delight. Keeping this in mind



An array of orchids on display

the Orchid Society of Bangladesh recently organised a 3 day long orchid exhibition at the front lawns of the residence of Naseem Iqbal, president of the society.

A walk around the garden saw an array of 20 different species of orchids which in turn had several hundred varieties each. The wild

splashes of magenta, blue, red, pink, yellow and violet was refresh-

ing for the mind and made one

wonder about the abundant splendor of God's creation. According to Iqbal Ali, member of the orchid society there were over a thousand varieties on display.

Vanda Rothchildiana, Vanda Tesselata, Vanda Thananchai, Aerides Lawrenceae, Oncidium Taka, Vanda Sanderiana are to name but a few. The plants, which live merely on air and water and special fertilizers, were hung from a height and the roots were left to dangle above the ground. The price of the plants started at taka 200 and went up to taka 2000. But the customers were more than willing to give the money for such beauty. Says Yasmin Azad, teacher, Maple Leaves School. "This is a yearly affair and I come each year. The collection from abroad is unique. The prices are so reasonable that I couldn't help

but indulge myself and buy a whole lot."

The society's motto is to promote and motivate the members as well as the public in general towards orchid cultivation and its culture. According to Naseem Iqbal, president of the society, "Orchids are relatively new in comparison to roses and marigolds and other local flowers, but are gaining momentum. I would like to share the joy, inspiration, knowledge and the love for orchid with the rest of the world. I thank the participants, the enthusiasts, and the whole team for making this show a success."

Latif's profession of choice was not preferable in the then conservative Muslim society. However, he braved the social hurdles.

"I was born at Ghaterkona, a remote village in Gouripur Upazila. Though there was no lack of devotion, I didn't have the opportunity to learn music at an institution. I could play tunes quite freely on my flute," says a smiling Latif, a father of eleven.

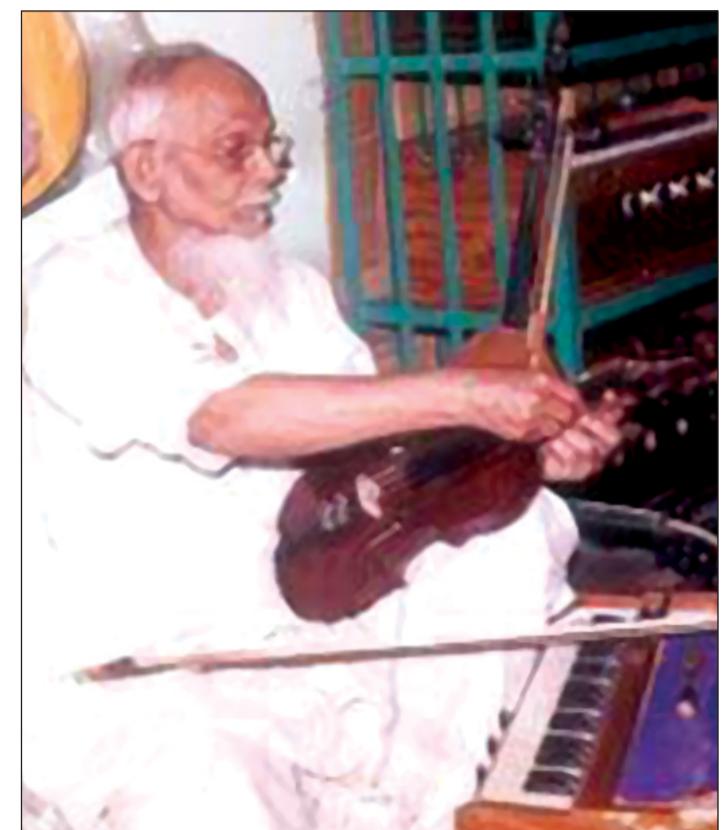
Latif was born in 1940 and studied up to class eight at Dekurhati High School. He moved to Mymensingh town before partition (1947) in search of work and got admitted at Kashikishore Technical School. There he received vocational training on various trades including carpentry. The woodwork inspired me to make musical instruments and thus entertain my passion for music," Latif says.

Latif can make several instruments such as harmonium, tabla, sitar, esraj, flute, violin, sarod, tanpura, ekta, dotara, guitar and more. He is also a skilled tuner of these instruments.

After starting his shop, he along with other artistes formed an orchestra to support the local cultural organisations. Says Latif, "I along with classical musicians -- Bijoy Bhattacharya, Jamini Pal, Naren Mondol and Montu Babu -- formed 'Sastayon' which earned name and fame in the local cultural arena for its performances. I used to play the flute and violin."

Narayanganj, Jessore, Santahar and Kushtia for tuning.

Now, due to ill-health, Latif cannot put as much effort into his work as he used to. One of his sons, Sharif, a diploma engineer, helps Latif. Sharif seems quite eager to carry on his father's profession. He feels, it is not "just another profession" but one that is essential for the music and musicians. One needs skills to establish himself in the field.



Muhammad Abdul Latif at work

PHOTO: STAR

In focus

Abdul Latif: A seasoned instrumentalist and tuner

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Muhammad Abdul Latif has been working with traditional musical instruments for over 50 years. Latif is also known as a skilled instrument tuner. Locally known as 'Latif Chacha', Abdul Latif started his career at a shop in Boro Bazar, Mymensingh town in 1957.

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Channel Click



Ruba Khan and Monir Khan in Dorphoron, a two-episode play in Robindranather Golpoguchchho series. The first episode of the play will be aired today at 8:20 pm on ATN Bangla



Ahmed Rubel and Kushum Sikder in drama serial Ebong Somachar to be aired today at 10:00 pm on Channel i. The play is written by Jamal Reza and produced by Fariduzzaman Sabron

First Kochi Memorial Award for Ferdausi Majumdar

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The first Kochi Memorial Award was given to eminent theatre personality Ferdausi Majumdar.



Ferdausi Majumdar receives the award from Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam

Majumdar for her outstanding contribution to Bangla-deshi theatre.

The award was introduced by Padatik Natty Sangsad,

in memory of late theatre activist Abu Mohammad Murtaysh Kochi. Kochi was one of the founding members of the troupe.

The ceremony was held at the Liberation War Museum on September 16.

In her speech Ferdausi said, "The award evoked mixed feelings in me. Every award is pleasing, but Kochi was younger to me that's why, the award is painful as he has passed away so early."

Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam was the chief guest while Selim Chowdhury, chief of Padatik Natty Sangsad, chaired the programme.

The other discussants at the event were Rameendu Majumdar, M Hamid, Golam Kuddus, and AM Mofazzal Hossain.

Channel i rated top in an opinion poll

Channel i topped the list of an online opinion poll conducted by Bangladesh Cable TV Viewers Forum, says a press release. The poll's main focus was on the channels people watch the most. Channel i secured 1340 votes while ntv came second with 1337 votes and ATN Bangla was placed third with 1202 votes. The poll was conducted from May 15 to September 14.

People were also asked about their favourite programmes and opinions were sought on issues like nonbiased news, quality entertainment and the introduction of new channels. The Forum hopes to conduct polls from December 2006 through sms and other means to ensure more participation of people.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Boro Didi
On Rtv at 9:20pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Alamgir, Tarin



The Woodsman
On Star Movies at 8:45pm
Genre: Drama
Cast: Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick, David Alan Grier

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

BTV

08:30 Open University
11:15 Laal Golap
12:05 Songbad Poter Pata

Shanglap

Drama Serial:
Shemana

ATN BANGLA

10:00 Drama Serial: Ebong

Shomachar

Thake

12:30 Maa O Shishur

Kotha

01:00 Shukhi Poribar

01:30 Mati O Manush

02:15 Sisimpur

02:40 Children's

Programme

04:00 Onu Poromana

04:30 Desh O Bigyan

05:05 National TV Debate

06:10 Apon Bhumi

06:40 Dolon Chapa

07:00 Shafolla Gatha

07:30 Jhil Mil

08:35 Protidin Bangladesh

08:45 Drama Serial: Neel

Joler Bhalobasha

09:25 Drama Serial: Shath

Jon Jatri

10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia

08:20 Drama Serial:
Dorphoron

08:20 Educational

Programme

08:20 Drama Serial:
Koyer Chobi

08:20 Drama Serial:
Dorphoron

08:20 Drama Serial:
Dorphoron