

CULTURAL FEAST

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Of River and Earth
Artist: Syed Jahangir
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts,
Bengal Shilpalaya, House 275/F, Road
27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: November 2-15
Time: 12 pm to 8 pm

Art Exhibition

Organiser: Sharobamo
Venue: Zainul Art Gallery, Institute of
Fine Arts, DU
Date: November 01-07
Time: 12 pm to 8 pm

Remembering Kobial

Ramesh Shil
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala
Academy
Venue: National Music & Dance
Centre Auditorium, Bangladesh
Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 31
Time: 6:00 pm

India Bangladesh Festival
of Books and Writers

Organiser: Academic and Creative
Publishers Association of Bangladesh
Venue: Central Public Library
Date: November 5-6
Time: 10 am to 5 pm

Solo Recital Programme

Title: Banshi Baje Oi
Artist: Nasir Uddin
Organiser: Kanthashilan
Venue: National Theatre Stage,
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 3
Time: 7 pm

Film Screening

Title: Father & Son
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society
& Russian Centre of Science and
Culture
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and
Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
October 31
3:00pm A Nest of Gentry
5:00pm Zalovnik
6:30pm Father and Son

Discussion and musical soiree

Remembering the folk maestro
Abdul Alim

Asgar Alim sings at the programme

NADIA SARWAT

DEPARTMENT of Music and Dance of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) arranged a discussion and musical soiree on October 29 at its Auditorium. The programme was a homage to the eminent folk singer Abdul Alim.

Abdul Alim possessed a powerful voice that immortalised Bangladeshi folk songs. His unique

style highlighted the essence of our rural tunes and mesmerised the audience.

Born on July 27, 1931 in Murshidabad, West Bengal, Alim migrated to Dhaka after the Partition and joined the radio as a staff artist. During his illustrious musical career, he performed at a number of music conferences and received several prestigious awards. The

Ekushey Padak and Bangla Academy Award were conferred to him posthumously.

The programme at Shilpakala was presided over by Kamrul Hasan ndc, director general of BSA. Veteran radio artist Ashraf Alim and prominent folk singer Indra Mohon Rajbongshi spoke on Alim.

Sunil Chandra Das, director, Department of Music and Dance, BSA, inaugurated the programme. Indra Mohon Rajbongshi, in his speech, fondly remembered

Abdul Alim as his "guru". "He was an unpretentious man. His personal life was even simpler. But people still remember him for the lengths his powerful voice reached."

"An introvert to the core, he used to practice in the open fields. Maybe that's why his singing truly captures the essence of unadulterated nature of rural Bengal. Those who have not heard his singing should consider themselves 'unfortunate'," Rajbongshi added.

Kamrul Hasan said, "Abdul Alim's songs are extremely popular among the masses of our country. It is alarming that many of his memorable songs are now on the verge of being forgotten. To deprive our young generation of this rich cultural heritage should be considered a crime. It is high time that we do something about this issue."

A lively musical programme followed the discussion featuring performances by Asgar Alim, the maestro's son; Mina Barua, Abdul Karim Khan, Nasrin Ferdous Chaman and Sarder Mohammed Rahmatullah.

Upon request from the audience, Indra Mohon Rajbongshi also performed at the musical programme. The enthusiastic audience was heard singing along with artists, the evergreen Abdul Alim classics including, *Chirodin pushlam ak achin pakhi*, *Ei je dunya kishero lagia*, *Shorbonasha Padma nodi*, *Holudia pakhi* and more.

Udichi celebrates its 39th anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

October 29 marked the founding of the cultural organisation Udichi. One of the leading cultural organisations in the country, Udichi, was formed back in 1968 by writer and journalist Satyen Sen. Sen was the president of the first committee. Other members were Golam Mohammad Edu, vice president; Mustafa Wahid Khan, general secretary; and Ekram Ahmed, joint general secretary.

For its bold stance against social injustice, prejudice and fundamentalism, Udichi has often been targeted by religious extremists. The deadliest one was the bomb attack at Udichi's 12th Conference in Jessore on March 7, 1999, which left 10 people dead and around 150 injured. The attacks did not stop but Udichi's commitment to its causes remains unchanged.

To celebrate the organisations 39th anniversary, members of Udichi held a programme at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on October 29 evening.

The event included a discussion and a cultural programme.

The day's event began at about 4pm with a tea session. The programme turned into a get together for the Udichi activists from all over the country.

The discussion programme



Khairul Anam Shakil speaks at the discussion session

began at 5:35pm. Bulbul Islam, general secretary, Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Shangstha; Mizanur Rahman, general secretary, Bangladesh Pothanotok Parishad; M Hamid, Chairman, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation; Khairul Anam Shakil, general secretary, Chhayana; Golam Kuddus, secretary general, Sammito Sangskritik Jote; Dr Lenin Chowdhury, general secretary, Kendriyo Khela Ghor Ashor; Manzurul Ahsan Khan, co-founder of Udichi and president, Communist Party of Bangladesh

(CPB) participated at the discussion.

In their speeches, the speakers remembered Satyen Sen and discussed Udichi's role in the cultural arena. Discussants also called for a united stance against the fundamentalists and the war criminals.

Professor Jatin Sarkar, president of Udichi, presided over the discussion. The welcome speech was given by Mahmud Selim, general secretary, Udichi.

A cultural programme opened with a group dance presentation by artists of Spondon. Next was a performance by artists of Chhayana, who rendered the song *Pran-o bhorie, trisha horie*. Artists of Udichi sang *Manushere bhalobashi*, *Din-e jodi hosh re kana* and more. Members of Kranti rendered *O moder deshbashirey*, a song by Salil Chowdhury. Wishy Shilpi Gosthi sang *Bhoy ki moroney* and *Manusher majhey boshobash kori*.

The event came to an end with the staging of a play *Bogus Boo* by members of Udichi, Netrokona Zilla Sangsad. The performance was dedicated to the memory of Khwaja Haider Hossain, adapter of the play, who was killed during a bomb attack in front of the Netrokona district Udichi office on December 8, 2005.

Flute for thought

In conversation with flutist Mohammed Hassan Ali

NIVEDITA RAITZ VON FRENTZ

Like many artists, sprightly fifty-one year old Hassan Ali was born into a musical family in Rupshi, Narayanganj. He grew up to the sound of the *shehnai* played by his father and grandfathers, mostly at private concerts, a common practice in days gone by. Hassan remembers being enchanted by the mellifluous flute and was eight or nine when he pestered his father to buy him one. A flute was purchased at the Gausia market Golakandan Mela, held during the end of *Poush*, the first winter month of the Bengali calendar.

Initially self-taught, Hassan learned his scales from an uncle, shyly admitting that his first tune was from the Bengali film *Rupban*, "Dada aar jabo na school-e-te". His talent was encouraged by family and neighbours and he regularly entertained them with his repertoire of film songs. Flute and clarinet maestro, Ustad Shamsul Haq was Hassan's guru, a relationship which lasted seventeen years. Together with him, Hassan's first public performances were for Chittagong and Dhaka radio. In 1979, his career began at Dhaka Betar, the country's state-owned radio broadcasting organisation.

Naturally, Hassan has had plenty of concert experience. "When I

perform, I am transported to some other reality; I am no longer aware of the surroundings. People are lulled by the sound of my music". His first overseas performance, dating back to 1991, was a month-long tour of Pakistan as a member of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy delegation. There, he played

alongside renowned Pakistani singer Mehdi Hassan. "I was overjoyed at the love and respect showered on me".

Many foreign trips followed in the mid '90s, to Korea, Uzbekistan (where he received and had to decline, a proposal of marriage from a local television personality)

and the Netherlands. He also attended a competition in Beijing where Bangladesh was victorious among 52 participating countries. Hassan travelled to Spain for Festival Asia 2006, where he performed at a memorial concert for Bangladeshi folk singer Abdul Alim. Most recently last summer, he was invited to the small Norwegian town of Forde as a delegate of the Centre for Education, Creative and Performing Arts. More than 40 countries made Norway's most popular folk and traditional music festival extremely entertaining.

Having toured India several times, his most memorable concert moment occurred when he accompanied famous Bangladeshi singer Sabina Yasmin almost a decade ago. "My dream is always to make the impossible, possible, through the magic of the flute," Hassan fondly reminisced that noted Bangladeshi singer Bashir Ahmed complimented him, singing only if Hassan accompanied him on the flute.

Indebted to his guru, whom he likens to a parent, Hassan also draws his classical inspiration from within his family including, his Nazrul geeti singer mother and Ustad Gul and Lal Mohammad. It was through radio music director, Ustad Sheikh Sadi Khan that Hassan found his way into the

world of Bangladeshi films. He feels deep gratitude towards film music directors Alauddin Ali and Subal Das, who enabled him to branch out as a film music director in his own right a few years ago.

To Samar Das, alongside whom he played at the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1995 SAARC Games held in Dhaka, Hassan is also thankful. Incidentally, Hassan was presented the President's Award following his contribution to the SAARC Games. Awards also came his way from Uzbekistan, Norway, India and China.

A regular feature on a variety of television and radio channels, Hassan has been a member of the Dhaka Orchestra since 1979. He has provided music for a staggering 1,500 films and has seven CDs to his credit. All Hassan truly wishes for is to keep his classical music career alive -- both as a flutist and a music director.

His wish seems to have been granted, for Hassan remains happily ensconced at Dhaka Betar, now as a music director, completing the circle, which began with his childhood passion for film songs. Unsurprisingly, Hassan's teenage sons, Tansen and Tanbin, are musically inclined, and so the harmonious melody goes on.

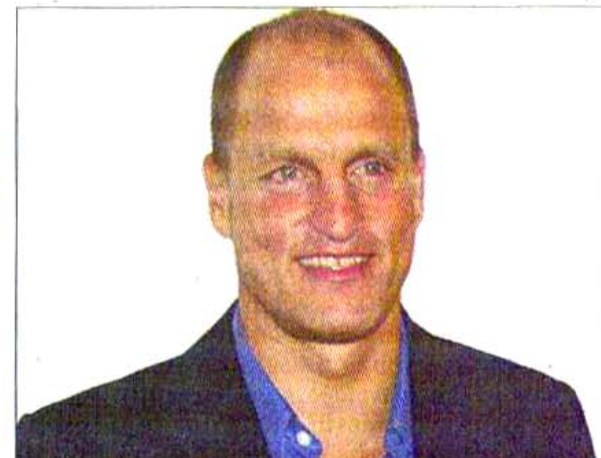
The writer is a freelance contributor

Upcoming
Woody Harrelson and Bruce Willis
in a new Vietnam movie

Woody Harrelson has landed a key role in Oliver Stone's latest Vietnam movie (yes, another one). According to *Hollywood Reporter*, Harrelson will join Bruce Willis and Channing Tatum in *Pinkville*, a drama based around the notorious My Lai massacre of 1968, when US soldiers killed more than 500 people, many of them women and children.

Harrelson is playing the Colonel in charge of the taskforce that committed the atrocity, while Willis is the general who investigated the incident.

Source: Internet



Woody Harrelson

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY

Thakur Maar Jhuli
On ATN Bangla at 6:20 pm
Animation series for children

An American Haunting
On Star Movies at 10:30 pm
Genre: Horror
Cast: Donald Sutherland, Rachel Hurd-Wood

<p>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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).</p> <p>CHANNEL-1 News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.</p> <p>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. Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.</p> <p>CHANNEL 1 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:00 pm, 12:30 am.</p> <p>BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:30 pm. News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 4:00 pm. News Headlines (English) at 8:05 pm</p> <p>Rtv News (Bangla) at 10:15 pm, and 12:15 am</p> <p>ntv News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 12:02 pm, 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 1:00 am</p> <p>ETV News (Bangla) 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 11:00 pm</p>	<p>BTB 11:15 Drama Serial: Shangshtaptak 01:30 Mao O Shishur Kotha 02:15 Hijo Tomal 03:05 Gopo Theke Natak 03:05 Cartoon 03:30 Shukhi Paribar 04:05 Computer 04:30 Selected Programme 05:05 Sisimpur 05:30 Selected Programme 06:40 Shondhamaloti 07:00 Moli O Manush 07:30 Grantho Kothan 08:35 Drama Serial: Alo 09:05 Amar Alo 09:05 Drama Serial: Godhuli Alo 09:30 Selected Programme 10:30 Oitthi Shilpider Ashor</p> <p>ATN Bangla 09:15 Drama Serial: Out Door 10:30 Talk Show: Aktel Onyadosti 11:05 Entertainment Show: Eid Furi Dot Com 12:15 Amar Computer 01:30 Gane-y Shure-y Taruney 02:30 Drama Serial: Doll's House 03:10 Drama Serial: Rupali Manush 03:45 Children's Programme 04:20 Islamic Programme 05:00 Gram: Gonjer Khabar 05:20 Islamic Programme 06:20 Thakur Maar Jhuli 08:00 Drama Serial: Joge 08:35 Drama Serial: Khujje Berai Tarey 09:00 Drama Serial: Chhayamukh</p>	<p>11:30 Talking Point 12:00 Gramophone Lead News</p> <p>CHANNEL-1 09:30 Shongbadpatriy Bangladesh 09:45 Public Reaction 09:50 Gramophone Trilomatra 11:05 Sports Time 12:30 Citycell Tarokathan 01:05 Ebong Cinema Gaan 01:30 Shongbadpatriy Bangladesh 01:45 Public Reaction 02:40 Mega Serial: Piro Bash 03:05 Micro credit 03:40 Qargolitey Bangladesh 03:45 Sa Re Ga Ma Music Club 04:30 Hridoyer Gaan 05:30 Mukhijutho Protidin 06:00 Mega Serial: Shath Goenda 06:20 Cookery Show: Desh Bideshey Ranna 07:50 Selected Programme 08:20 Mega Serial: Adhuthurey 09:35 Aloy-e Bhuvan 10:00 Drama Serial: Darwin 11:30 Ekanyo Bari 12:00 Gramophone Aker Shongbadpatriy</p> <p>Rtv 08:00 Gaanchil Ei Din 09:00 Rtv Exclusive 09:05 Witch Blade 09:35 Documentary Programme 10:00 Kothay Kothay 11:30 Drama Serial: Dohan</p>	<p>12:15 Cookery Show: R Ranna 12:35 Drama Serial: Bhorer Swapno 01:00 Drishwa Kaipo 01:30 Gaanchil Ei Din 02:30 Dhalwood Beats 03:45 Tomar Bina Tarey Geeli 04:20 Prachhir Ghera Chin 05:20 Ei Desh 06:00 Protidin 06:35 Witch Blade 08:00 Drama Serial: Dohan 08:40 Akbar the Great 09:20 Drama Serial: Lukochuri 11:00 Pithibir Pathay 11:30 News Watch</p> <p>CHANNEL 1 08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh 09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi 10:30 Bangla Feature Film 02:00 Music Station 03:30 Drama Serial: Godhuli Belay 04:00 Drama Serial: Gujob 04:30 Style 05:15 Expression 06:30 Top News 06:45 Bak-er Pathay 08:15 Drama Serial: Godhuli Belay 09:00 Drama Serial: Gujob 09:30 Show Case 11:00 Fusion Beats</p>	<p>11:30 Small Ville BANGLAVISION 09:05 Ebong Classer Bairey 09:30 Bangla Feature Film 01:00 Drama Serial: Mohanogor 02:30 Voca 02:40 Conan 04:15 Raal Biraatey 04:45 Citycell Din-er Sheshey 05:30 Special Programme 06:25 Nana Rang-er Dinguli 08:25 Drama Serial: Mohanogor 09:05 Media Bhobon 09:45 Drama Serial: Ei Shob Ondhokar 11:30 Shel Ghan Shel Sur Shongbad Protidin</p> <p>STAR MOVIES 11:00 American Pie 2 12:45 Baywatch: Hawaiian Wedding 02:15 Wildfires 03:45 I'm Gonna Git You Sucka 05:15 16 Blocks 07:00 Screem 2007 08:30 Night Watch 10:30 An American Haunting 12:00 Nixon 03:15 Cyborg 2</p> <p>STAR PLUS 10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus 10:30 American Dragon: Jack Long 11:00 That's So Raven</p>	<p>08:30 Eureka 09:30 Ugly Betty 10:30 Boston Legal 11:30 Most Shocking 12:30 Dirty Jobs 01:30 Kumsam - Pyara Sa Bandhan 02:00 Bhabhi 02:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa 03:00 Saarthi 03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 04:00 Kayamath 04:30 Sangam 05:00 Santaan 05:30 V Trailers - Star Plus 06:00 Kasturi 06:30 Bidaai 07:00 Nb3 Crazy Kiya Re 07:30 Sangam 08:00 Santaan 08:30 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi 09:00 Kaskasi Zindagi Kay 09:30 Bidaai 10:30 Kaskasi 11:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 11:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 12:00 Kayamath 12:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa</p> <p>STAR WORLD 10:30 Beyond The Break 11:30 Brothers & Sisters 12:30 Ghost Whisperer 01:30 Fashion House 02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show 03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 04:00 General Hospital 05:00 Brothers & Sisters 06:00 The Office 06:30 The Simpsons 07:00 My Wife And Kids 07:30 Friends 08:00 Seinfeld</p>	<p>NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 10:30 Sauna Belt 11:00 Vedic Math 11:15 Global Pendant 11:30 The Big Breeze 12:30 Is It Real? 1:30 Missing Link 2:30 Earth Pulse 3:30 Is It Real? S3 4:30 Big Bang 5:00 A Killer Cure 5:30 I Didn't Know That 6:00 Calling All Crows 6:30 Is It Real? S3 7:30 Dark Side of Elephants 8:30 A Different Sport 9:30 Dream Machines 10:30 Is It Real? 11:30 The Big Breeze</p> <p>HISTORY 10:30 Tactical to Practical 11:30 Brahmagyan 12:30 Augustus: First Emperor</p>	<p>Radio Foorti 88.0 FM 07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu) 11:00am Amar 88.0 (Nusrat) 03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib) 07:00pm Seven Eleven (Sadia) Late Night Show (Shuvo) 03:00am Back to Back music Radio Today 89.6 FM 07:15am Good Morning Dhaka (Biplob) 07:45 am Today's Happy Moments 08:45am Shokaler Khabor 12:00pm Today's Adda (Nudrat) 01:45pm Dupurer Khabor 04:00pm U-tum (Kibria & Tania) 06:45pm Shondher Khabor 08:00pm Tobe Tai Hok (Sayam) 09:45pm Raater Khabor 11:45pm Modhro Raater Khabor 12:00am Today's Happy Moments 12:10am Raat Vor Gan (Nirob)</p>
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