

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Jai Bangla
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhamondi
Date: Sep 27-Oct 18
Time: 12-8pm



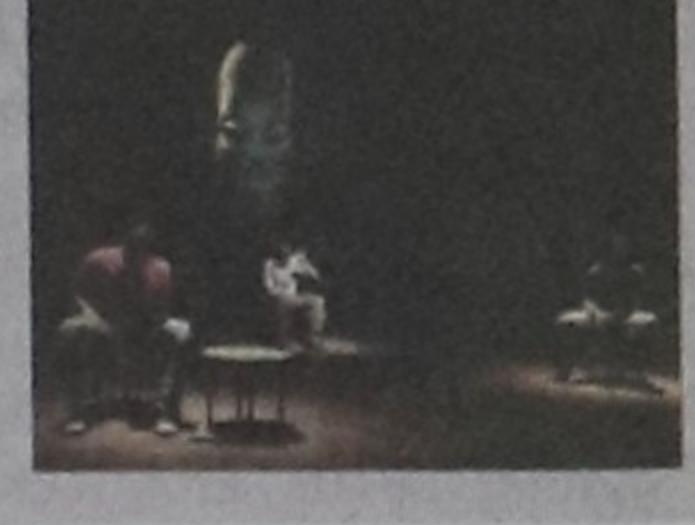
Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Kantha Kahini
Artist: Fahamida Enam
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhamondi
Date: October 1-14
Time: 10am-12pm & 5pm-8:30pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Shells and Souls
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhamondi
Date: October 9-15
Time: 3-9pm



Theatre
Play: Drop Out
Troupe: Aikik Theatre, Narayanganj
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpkala Academy
Date: October 15
Time: 7:30pm



A tribute to Bangladeshi rock music

Artcell plans grand concert



Members of the band -- (from left) Lincoln, Shaju, Cezanne and Ershad.

MAINUL HASSAN

reminisced on the ten-year journey and more.

"Ten years in the music industry is a significant achievement for a band but it wouldn't have been possible without the constant support of our friends, well-wishers and fans. Many leading bands and musicians of our country have always been there for us whenever we needed them," said Cezanne, bassist for the band.

"Through the concert we will pay tribute to the musicians and bands who have

inspired and influenced Artcell," said Shaju, the drummer.

Among the bands to perform on stage with Artcell are: Miles, Feedback, Warfaze, Aarthohin, Rockstrata, Cryptic Fate and X Factor.

"At the concert we will perform one hit track of each band as a tribute to them; we'll be joined on stage by a musician from the band," said Cezanne.

Artcell will also cover Pink Floyd, Metallica and Dream Theater hits.

Upcoming metal bands Mechanix, Powersurge and Reborn are also slated to perform at the concert.

"The concert will be held at Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel," said Shaju.

"How does the band feel about the ten-year journey? 'We consider it a major milestone' -- was the response.

"Artcell is not a band; it's a family," said Cezanne.

"When we formed this band in 1999, we were basically doing covers of Metallica songs. We all shared a common interest in the band," he said. "After some time we started experimenting with original material and soon we came up with our own stuff."

Artcell's first released song "O dekha swango" was released in 2001. The number was featured in a mixed album, titled "Chharpotro". The song received a good response from heavy metal enthusiasts.

Inspired by the success, the next year Artcell released two songs -- "Apshori" and "Dukkhobilash" -- featured in the mixed album "Anushilon".

"This time the response was simply awesome," said Cezanne.

Next came Artcell's solo album "Onno Shomoy," which was released in 2002. The instant success of the album brought Artcell in the limelight.

The second album of the band, "Aniket Prantor" was also a major success. Artcell celebrated the launch of the album through a concert titled 'Live at Aniket Prantor'.

"Our inspiration was Metallica, but we would like to label ourselves as a 'progressive rock band,'" said Cezanne.

"Our third album is around the corner," said Cezanne. "After the tribute concert we will concentrate on the album right away," he added.

Lincoln (vocals and rhythm guitar) and Ershad (lead guitar) also hoped that the concert will be a smashing success.

Sound Bites

Rock 202 and 303: Behind the scenes

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Of all the Eid releases this year, "Rock 202" and "303" were notable studio albums. The dual release comprises of 28 bands' songs and covers all genres associated with rock: thrash, heavy, black, death, funk, ballads, hard and alternate -- making this a must-have for any rock music enthusiast.

Musician Iqbal Asif Jewel told *The Daily Star*: "We started with 110 bands and 160 demos. 'Rock 202' was supposed to be the only release but some demos were so outstanding that we had to include the bands that made them. Basically it went something like this: I found out that there aren't

any band albums around this year from G series; for this reason I asked around if I could contribute one with all the available rock talents.

This was a challenge and I decided that even if it was released on the night before Eid, something should go!"

Luckily and due to all the hard work of Jewel and the bands, it got released much earlier. The albums took four studios -- Green Desk, Red Dragon, Sound Garden and Pebble Studio -- and was recorded and mixed in only 13 days! "Rock 202" covers tracks from Rock House, Urban Fiction, Raat, Beshargo, Overture, Crematic X and Mohakal. There is also Black, Yaatri, Arbovirus, Mechanix, Road

31, The Joint Family and Jewel's own special X factor.

"I tried to put a bit of everything in both albums. So not only heavy metal bands like Mechanix and Urban Fiction feature there but also some soft notes by Yaatri, et al can be found."

So what was the criterion that Jewel was looking for in the selection? "Basically I wanted the bands to be active: that they wouldn't stop after one track but would continue to contribute to the music industry. Some of these youngsters have amazing talent and energy. It was the cooperation of them all that made it possible to bring out the albums at such short notice."

In "Rock 303" there are new and old bands: Artcell, Bhoutian, Afamed, Kral, Phoenix, Gene Split and Eclipse. Artcell was absent initially when I asked them, but they made time. Sumon made a special contribution," said Jewel. Psychopath, Rhee, '71, Bohemian, Groove trap and Breach were some more bands featured in this album.

Jewel also has plans to organise a concert featuring the "Rock 202" and "303" bands.

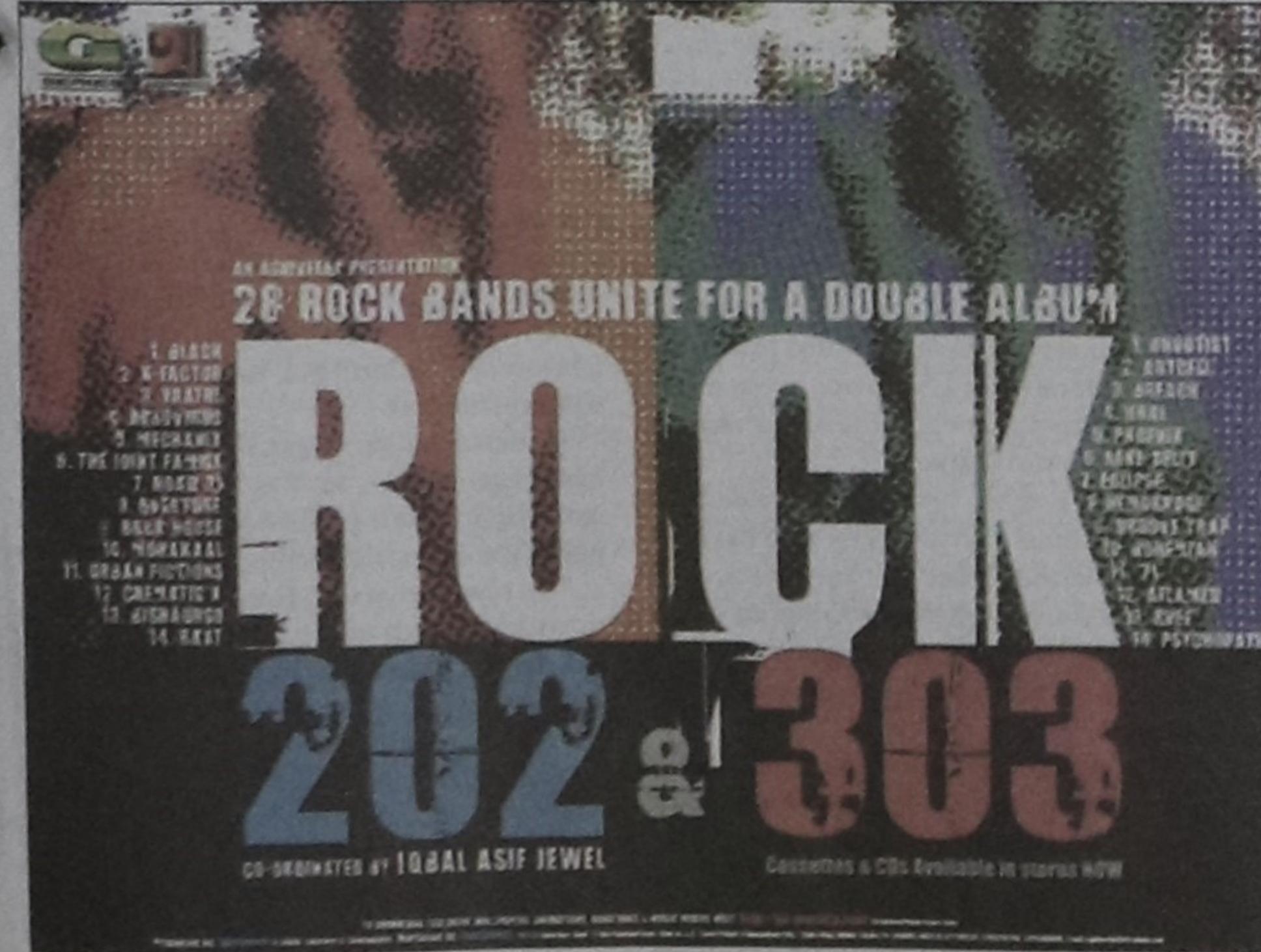
"Location is a problem, not to mention the equipments. Consequently, it might turn out to be a

series of concerts. Perhaps there could be a spot allotted by the government where rock, like many other arts, can be practiced. We need to work together to develop the Bangla rock culture. We have various problems like heavy tax on musical instruments, lack of venues, a traditional mindset that limits the growth of rock... Due to lack of initiatives, most of the rock musicians have been compelled to take up corporate jobs rather than devoting themselves fulltime to their art," Jewel said.

The writer is a freelance contributor



Iqbal Asif Jewel



The dual release comprises of 28 bands' songs and covers all genres associated with rock.

Songs of yesteryears by Ferdous Ara

Two new albums featuring the artiste



Ferdous Ara (3rd from right) with noted cultural personalities at the album launch.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Two new albums featuring popular old songs by noted artiste Ferdous Ara were launched at the Liberation War Museum on October 12. Noted cultural personalities were present at the event.

The albums, titled "Tomarey Legechhe Eto Jey Bhalo" and "Ami Taar Chhalonay Bhalo Na," feature songs and music videos respectively. Both albums include twelve songs each. The artiste has rendered some evergreen songs, including "Tomarey legechhe, eto jey bhalo,

"Ami taar chhalonay bhalo na," "Madhu maloti dakey aye," "Nishi raat banka chand akashey," "Bolchhi tomar kaaney kaaney" and "Amar haar kala korlam rey."

Among the guests were music exponents Sudhin Das, Abdus Shakur, Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and poet Asad Chowdhury. Sudhin Das greeted the singer with a crest on the occasion.

Incidentally, it was also the artiste's 50th birthday. Surrounded by friends, fellow artistes and well-wishers, Ferdous Ara cut a cake to celebrate the special occasion.

Rupayan and National Bank Limited have sponsored the CD and VCD.

Getting along with the in-laws

Drama serial addresses the age-old predicament

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Fifth episode of the drama serial "Dhupchhaya" will be aired tonight on ntv at 9:45pm. The 26-episode serial has been written and directed by Ejaz Munna.

The story revolves around a newly married woman who wants to get along well with all her in-laws. She has to adapt with the new people and environment. But situations don't also remain in her favour. She weaves a dream of keeping the family united. Often she faces hostility but never mentions anything about this to her husband. Her husband understands the situation and wants to move out, but she stops him.

In reality, there are two kinds of women: one that truly cares for her in-laws and



A scene from the serial.

wants to embrace them as her new family, then there's the kind that doesn't really care about them. The serial depicts both kinds of women.

The cast includes Syed Hasan Imam, Sharmili Ahmed, Priscilla Parveen,

Anisur Rahman Milon, Zakia Bari Mamo, Bindu, Shajol and Prova. The serial is aired every Wednesday and Thursday. Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited (BEOL) is the sponsor of the serial.

Auction house all shook up over Elvis hair

AP, Chicago

The King may be dead, but that doesn't mean it's too late to run your fingers through his hair. Elvis Presley's hair, at least a clump of hair that Presley may have lost to an Army barber when he went into the service back in 1958, is going on the auction block on October 18 at Leslie Hindman Auctioneers in Chicago.



What is a lock of Elvis Presley's hair worth?

The hair is part of a collection of more than 200 items that belonged to or are associated with Presley. There are clothes he wore, scarves he threw to screaming fans -- who judging by the yellow sweat stains, never washed them -- and Christmas cards he sent. And there are lots of records, some he kept in his own jukebox, and other sorts of memorabilia ranging from Elvis dolls to Elvis wristwatches to Elvis Peppermint sticks.

All the items belonged to Gary Pepper. Pepper was not only a huge Presley fan and president of a Presley fan club, but a close friend, as many of the photographs of the two together suggest.

Pepper, who had cerebral palsy, died in 1980, three years after Presley, and left his collection to his nurse, and that is who is putting the items up for auction, said the auction house sources.

But it is clearly the hair that has generated the most buzz.

Like a lot of the items in Pepper's collection, the hair was a gift from Presley to Pepper, who in turn sent a strand or two to appreciative Presley fans from time to time but didn't come close to exhausting his supply.

The auction house estimates that the hair is worth \$8,000-\$12,000. But a few years back some of Presley's hair that had been collected by his barber was put up for bid and sold for \$115,000.