be responsible for any

Drama Serial: Kobiraj

Drama Serial: College

11:15 Islamic Jiggasha

Mahey Ramzan

08:30 Drama Serial: Jonani

Nancy: Moving ahead



Artworks by Ifftikhar Uddin Ahmed (left) and Babul Mahmood.

As part of the annual juried exhibition, Papermill

tion featuring the works of several Bangladeshi

Gallery in Toronto has organised a group art exhibi-

expatriate painters. The exhibition was inaugurated

on August 1 and will continue till August 12. Cura-

tors, critics and artists were present at the opening

The featured artists are Iftikhar Uddin Ahmed

(Bangladesh), Babul Mahmood (Bangladesh), Syed

Nazmul Alam (Bangladesh), Shahadat Hossain (Ban-

gladesh), Maria Lucia Amaral, Janice Arnott, Penny

Chown, Molly Crealock, Tiffany Dawe, Susan Eck,

Gordon, Jeanne Isley, Jamil Kalim, J.J. Kirolos, Drew

Karen Evans, Myra Evans, David French, Donna

Barr, Sylvia Chan, Nadra Chapman, Margaret

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

East and West meet

Group art exhibition in Papermill Gallery in Toronto

Klassen, Bernadette Leno, Kimberley Lily White,

Mccolgan, Liz Menard, Michael Monize, Liane Odze-

Lepsi, Ranjit Sidhu, Patricia Stamp, Nicholas Stirling,

Iftikhar Uddin Ahmed and Babul Mahmood are well

Iftikhar Uddin Ahmed began his artistic career as

a semi-abstract painter after the completion of his

believes in symbolism. His forms and motifs have a

specific explanation. From the commencement of

appeared in his works. These elements symbolise

time, history and power. His works also denote prog- azure, black and yellow.

MFA in 1986, from the Institute of Fine Arts (now

Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka). He

his career, wheels, horses and watches have

Silver, Jane Orr Novotny, Leslie Pearson, Rita Ridaz

Among the Bangladeshi expatriate painters,

Michelle Mackinnon, Susan R Makin, Quin

Shelby Taylor, Swapnali Thakar and others.

recognised in the Bangladeshi art scene.

In a short time, Nancy has carved a niche in the music scene with her unique and melodious voice. She has constantly offered fresh tunes to listeners, allowing her to stand way ahead of many of her contemporaries. Nancy recorded the song, "Ami Tomar Moner Bhetor Ekbar Ghure Ashte Chai", two years ago for a movie. Though the film is still in the postproduction stage, the song has found its way into the hearts of the masses. Nancy won this year's Meril Prothom Alo Award, besides releasing a new solo album two months ago. The busy singer recently talked to The Daily Star about her meteoric rise to fame and a wide range of subjects:

Are you enjoying your newfound celebrity status? Nancy: I didn't realise when and how I became a popular singer. In the initial stage, I only used to sing in my own locality. I never imagined heading straight toward a playback career from there. My mother wanted me to be a singer. But it was beyond my imagination that it would happen so quickly. However, I'm enjoy-

What was your mother's dream? Nancy: My mother adores Runa Laila and wanted me to become a popular

singer like her. It's not possible to reach Runa Laila's level of stardom, but to become an artiste whom listeners adore is more than enough for me. Did vou take music lessons?

Nancy: I took basic music lessons in Netrokona, where I grew up. Initially, I learned Nazrul Sangeet under Sujan Poddar. Then Ustad Gopal Dutta taught me

Do you still find time to take music lessons?

Nancy: Of course. I'm still learning from Sujan Poddar.

What preparations do you take before recording a song? Nancy: I don't know about the past, but recent recording procedures depend on the singer's ability to take on new tunes and memorising them. The singer goes to the studio, listens to the tune and delivers it to the microphone. So you could say that the preparation process has gone through a shortcut.

Whose music influences you? Nancy: I'm not particularly influenced by the music of any singer. I sometimes fancy the tunes or vocal styles of a few. But that's it.

What would you say to claims that "Nancy is nothing without Habib"? Nancy: Nancy may very well be out-of-order without Habib. I don't take such

What is the response to your latest solo album, which came out two months Nancy: My songs are usually not entirely commercial in nature, and the recent

album has also maintained that trend. A massive campaign was carried out to spread the news about the album. I've received positive feedback, with many You recently ended your marriage...

Nancy: For a long time we lacked a good understanding. We both took the decision to split up after consulting our families. Are you staying in Netrokona now?

Nancy: Yes. I come to Dhaka only to record songs. It doesn't take much long to commute to and from Netrokona.

When will your next album be released?

Nancy: A duet album, featuring Habib and me, is set to hit the market this Eid. The album is titled "Tumi Shondhar Meghmala". Hopefully this album will also be an audience favourite

ress and prosperity of a time.

prominent aspect in her works.

Babul Mahmood has concentrated on the theme

of childhood and has tried to capture the theme in

different forms, colours and shapes. Spinning tops

and flying kites are recurrent features in his acrylic

curves, round and square forms, and broken lines.

sionism. The artist likes to experiment with figures.

Most of her works are drawing based and lines are a

Jamil Kalim is a figurative painter. Most of his

sions. His paintings are engrossed with scribbles and

works focus on human faces with diverse dimen-

shapes. Some of his works are immersed with rich

textured patterns. The painter has used crimson,

paintings. Clever application of light and shade are

apparent accomplishments. Also visible are restless

Swapnali Thakar has gone with figurative expres-

"Amader Gaan"

Album featuring songs by RMG workers launched



lop ten contestants of "Garbo Gao Pran Khuley Gao" with dignitaries at the album launch.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The launch of an audio album, titled "Amader Gaan", featuring 10 original tracks recorded by the top ten contestants of "Premier Bank Garbo Gao Pran Khuley Gao" [arranged by BGMEA], was held on August 5 at the Grand Ballroom of Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka.

The grand finale of the musical talent hunt -- for RMG workers -- was held on March 19 last year. Roksana Khatu won the title. As part of the prize, she received a cheque worth Taka 10 lakh and a crest. First runner-up Pavel Rahman received Taka 6 lakh, while second runner-up Rajibul Islam got Taka 4 lakh.

The rest of the contestants -- Priya Das, Mejbah Uddin Hiru, Muraduzzaman, Farhad Hossain, Rakibul Hossain, Shaheen and Sagar Roy -- received Taka 1 lakh each, while Abdur Razzak and Rani Das got special awards worth Taka 1.5 lakh. The jury included noted music director Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, and renowned singers Sabina Yasmin and

Finance Minister AMA Muhith attended the event as chief guest. State Minister for Labour and Employment, Munnujan Sufian, was present as a special guest at the album launch. Chief coordinator of Garbo-BGMEA, Atiqul Islam, delivered the welcome speech.

Syrian hip-hop act LaTlateh's lyrics reflect their hopes and fears for their country.

As the conflict in Syria rages, the violence and chaos is

and Fay Rajpar in Beirut.

to be in good company.

person was dancing.

neighbour said.

finding expression among writers and musicians, includ-

ing one hip-hop act from Damascus, write Samer Mohajer

My apparently unenthusiastic neighbour at a concert

given by Syrian hip hop group LaTlateh in Beirut seemed

Crammed into a tiny, smoky concert hall, most of the

unsmiling crowd was sitting at tables, and not a single

A Western observer might put the limp atmosphere

in the Arab world, its development stunted by its incom-

down to the fact that the culture of hip-hop is still fledgling

In fact, hip-hop has never been so popular in the Middle

Music and revolution have always gone hand-in-hand

The Syrian uprising is providing optimum conditions f

"I don't like the music, but I like the words. I am Syrian. I

straight-talking rap to flourish, and one particular Syrian

band, LaTlateh, are articulating the feelings of a nation.

feel the words. The lyrics really express my feelings. We

aren't dancing because we are listening to the lyrics," my

LaTlateh is a Damascus-based three-piece hip-hop

Koulthoum. They perform alongside producer Dab Snakki

"The situation in Syria is what motivates us to write.

In the first few months of the revolution, so much of

regime or in search of better working conditions.

How can we sit by and watch all the pain and suffering that

Syria's cultural elite left the country, either hounded by the

whose music documents the day-to-day struggle of the

outfit comprising Al Sayyed Darwish, Watar and Abu

is going on around us and not speak out?"

This was not a typical hip-hop concert.

patibility with some Arab regimes.

and the Arab Spring is no exception.

"To be honest, I don't really like hip hop. I don't like the

Among others, US Ambassador to Dhaka, Dan W. Mozena; German Deputy Head of Mission, Dr. Ralf Reusch; Israfil Alam, chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee, Ministry of Labour and Employment; FBCCI president AK Azad; former BGMEA president and president of Exporters Association of Bangladesh, Abdus Salam Murshedy; DCCI president Asif Imrani; Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB) chairman Nazrul Islam Majumder; and the champion of "Garbo Gao Pran Khuley Gao", Roksana Khatun, spoke at the event. President of BGMEA, Shafiul Islam, presided over the programme.

AMA Muhith, along with other dignitaries, unveiled the

The album features 10 original songs -- "Mon Diwani", "Piriti Shikhaiya", "Swopno Rongin", "Bangladesh", "Ma", "Prano Bondhua", "Prem Nogor", "Mon Bhalo Nei", "Poraney Hawa" and "Kishori". The top ten contestants of "Garbo Gao Pran Khuley Gao" have recorded the songs. Saifuddin Emon wrote the lyrics while Arman Khan composed all the songs. The album, produced under the label of Swapnosiri, was sponsored by chairman and managing director of Pacific Jeans Group, M. Nasir Uddin.

The event was followed by iftar. Later, the organisers presented gifts to the top ten contestants of the competition. Apu Mahfuz emceed the event.

LaTlateh has garnered a huge following across the

travelling between the embattled capital and Lebanon.

They write lyrics about Syrians, for a Syrian audience.

are contributing peacefully to the popular uprising

through a movement called The Third Line.

the truth and serve Syria's national interests

fiting from its own side," Dab Snakkr said.

that exist in Syrian society.

region because they remained in their base in Damascus,

The boys, along with a wider group of Arab musicians,

The Third Line advocates a third alternative to the exist-

ing pro- and anti-regime dichotomy, and aims to uphold

"Everybody has a view but there is hypocrisy on all

sides. We are trying to find the truth. The third line is about

breaking down divisions because each party is only bene-

democracy and are against President Bashar al-Assad's

The group want to promote freedom of expression and

Each member brings to the table his own interpretation

of the situation in Syria, reflecting the conflicting opinions

The development of hip-hop in Syria has not just been

limited by the political situation. Most Syrians' experience

of rap has been through mainstream US or British artistes.

But there are some aspects of rap which parallel oral

The situation in Syria has forced Syrian hip-hop onto

can no longer perform in Syria and now LaTlateh is forced

the international stage. Political oppression means they

to widen its audience and travels the Middle East to per-

For Dab Snakkr so far the uprising has meant that

served, whatever the future holds for Syria.

SOURCE: BBC

LaTlateh can express itself in a way they hope can be pre-

traditions in the Middle East -- from the 1,000-year old

Levantine tradition of Zajal, semi-sung, semi-spoken

poetry battles akin to modern day rap battles, to the

revered oral story-telling tradition of the Hakawati.

rapping about issues alien to most of Syrian society.

Rapid Fire

"Music runs in my blood" -- Kiron Chandra Roy

Kiron Chandra Roy, a dedicated folk singer of the country, has been performing since 1976 and has contributed immensely in popularising the genre. The virtuoso singer exchanged thoughts with The Daily Star on his musical style and other

How and why did you take up music as your profession?

Kiron: Music runs in my family. My first guru was my uncle. I then took lessons under eminent composer, Khondokar Nurul Alam, for about 14 years in classical music. I also took classical music lessons in Krishnanagar, India. Apart from singing, I also teach at a school.

From classical to folk must have been a great leap?

Kiron: Those who are familiar with light classical music, know that thumri, dadra, or geet, are melodious songs with a folk beginning. This is why the songs are very popular. So with my classical background, I have used the thumri style with ease in folk songs, which my audience admires greatly. I have tried to follow the footsteps of the great musician Sachin Deb Burman.

How do you view fusion music? Kiron: It is totally incomprehensible to me. It is like *khichuri* -- a hotchpotch. Every genre has its own beauty and I prefer the neat variety where one genre is distinguishable from the other. Composers often try to be innovative but such compositions die an early death. What attracts your audience?

Kiron: I prefer singing the "chotul", light folk songs in public My fans, of all ages, love to listen to the timeless songs of Sachin Deb Burman. While presenting his songs, I often use the nasal sound to give it a 'Sachin Karta' touch. Why wear the gerua costume of

the Bauls? Kiron: Swami Akkharanando o Ramkrishna Matth once asked me to wear "gerua" (saffron) which

represents the typical Baul singers It was some time around 1988-89 when I presented Baul songs in front of a huge gathering at a Pahela Boishakh programme at Chhayanaut. I received tremendous

Kiron: Out of many interesting incidents, I would share one during our trip to Moscow at a Bangladesh festival, in 1994. There is a famous park (I can't remember the name though) where every year a musical programme is held during spring. Here people get carried away with music and at times the tradition runs such that people start to bang each other's head with vodka bottles when the listeners reach a certain high. This is exactly what happened while I was presenting the song "Neem Tita Nishinda Tita". It was a strange and unforgettable experi-Want to share a hilarious experience? ence for my teammates and me.



applause and felt that the audience was delighted with my new outfit Attire plays a very important role for performers. Now if I wear Western outfit when performing Bangla foll songs, it would seem peculiar. The typical gerua outfit matches perfectly with the mood and melody of Baul songs.

Snoop Dogg channels 'Marley' for Snoop Lion reggae album

Snoop Dogg has been explaining why he's releasing a reggae album under the name Snoop Lion, saving November. he's "Bob Marley reincarnated" In February this year the 40-year-

old rapper travelled to Jamaica and was inspired to drop rapping altogether for the new release. The album, Reincarnated, will be

released in the autumn. "I don't mean it disrespect but I'm tired of rap," said the star, whose

real name is Calvin Broadus. "I want to do a whole record with out rap. I've been on the top ever since I've been in it. I've got rap

Beetle Baily

COSMO! CLEAN UP YOUR AREA!

Henry

songs that will never die." A documentary film of his visit to

at this year's Toronto film festival in

Snoop confirmed he would return to rap at some point. "It's not like I gave it up, but for

In an interview with Billboard

this particular project, it wasn't necessary," he said. The album is produced in part by Diplo from Major Lazer.

He confirmed track titles on the album, which is yet to have an official release date, included No Guns

SOURCE: INTERNET

And Heartbreaks.

CLEAN ITUP?!



I JUST COLLECTED IT!

by Mort Walker

by Don Tranchte

Bangla Feature Film 10:30 Swamp Brothers DRAMA SERIAL

08:40pm Rupantarer Manush 08:15pm Side Effect

WALL G

Drama Serial

Tarik Swapan

Cast: Arfan Ahmed,

08:20 Drama Serial: Ohongkar

05:15 Qur'an-er Alo

07:00 Style File

Desh TV

11:25 Raat Biratey

Fox Movies

The Back-up Plan

09:30 Death Race 2

11:30 Ocean's Twelve

National Geographic

02:30 Caught in the Act

Discovery Channel

02:30 How Stuff Works

Man vs. Wild

Channel

oishakhi TV ANGLAVISION

Drama Serial: Sat Kaho

Shoja Kotha

Maasranga Television

Desh TV 08:15pm Radio Chocolate Maasranga Television 08:30pm Khonikaloy CHANNEL 9 08:40pm Bachelor the Family CHANNEL 24 09:30pm Jadur Shahar

NEWS BULLETIN

News (Bangla) at 12pm. News (English) at 10am, ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, 2pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm News (English) at 9am, CHANNEL i

News (Bangla) at 2pm. 9pm, 10:30pm.

News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm. News (Bangla) at 1pm,

News (Bangla) at 2pm, News (Bangla) at 7pm,

News (Bangla) at 10am,

News (English) at 9am,

News (Bangla) at 10am,

2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.

News (English) at 1pm,

News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.

3pm, 6pm, 9pm.

TALK SHOW

12:30am Lead Nev

12:00am Zero Hour

CHANNEL 24 oishakhi TV

Bondhuta 12:00am Modhyraater

Muktabak

11:30pm Our Democracy 09:45pm Chaichhi Tomar