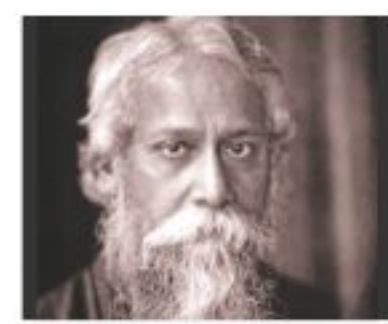


WHAT'S ON



Tagore Musical Soiree
Title: Phool-er Prem-e-Rabindranath
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, Shalibagh
Date: June 21
Time: 6:30pm



Borsha Utshab
Marking Poet Sufia Kamal's Birth Anniversary
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dharmadadi
Date: June 21



Group Exhibition
Marking 100-Year Journey of Galleri Kaya
Title: Glimpses
Venue: H-35, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: June 21-July 20



Tagore Dance Show
Troupe: Nriya Nandan
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dharmadadi
Date: June 22
Time: 7pm



World Music Day
Organiser: Bangladesh Sangeet Shomontony Parishad & Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy



Musical Soiree
Artist: Kumar Bhowti
Venue: Indra Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1
Date: June 21
Time: 6:30pm



Painting Exhibition
Title: Book is Light
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
Venue: Cafe Gallery, R-72, H-3A, Gulshan-2
Date: June 1-July 24
Time: 10am-10pm



Life and times of Jaya Ahsan

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Jaya Ahsan has been one of the busiest actors in Bangladesh over the last few years. Known for being versatile, she has skillfully portrayed a wide array of characters. Her work has taken her to places and introduced her to people from all strata of life, and the artiste spoke about that in an interview to The Daily Star.

"During my years as an actress, I've garnered experiences of many kinds while gaining perspectives to play different roles. All actors have their own bag of stories to tell. I'm no different; and I want to share some memories that are permanently etched in my mind.

"A few years back, I worked in a tele-film titled 'Panjabiwala' where I played a jatra group princess. We shot the scenes all through night for two straight nights at a house named Shyamoli in Gazipur's Hotapara. I had swollen feet at the end of shooting due to continuous Jatra dance performances which demand rigorous movements.

"Before we began shooting, I went to meet with real life Jatra princesses and saw their sufferings and pain up close.

The princesses travel around with the troupe and live in tents. We went to one such place, where we saw them living in small curtain-partitioned rooms devoid of any privacy. They have to eat in cramped tiny spaces, and also do their makeup. They lead an appalling life. The same people, who seem so flamboyant and colourful during the night-time shows, have to live in inhuman conditions.

"I spent nights talking to several Jatra princesses and learned much from them before acting in 'Panjabiwala'. I also watched and learned their dancing techniques. Learning from them was a great experience for me.

"I had a different kind of experience while shooting 'Tajpur o Angurilota Nondoke Bhalobashe'. It was shot in Rajbari's red light district – home to over 2500 prostitutes, and we stayed at a rest house near the place. Some of the girls I met there still call me. I was overwhelmed when they all broke into tears when we wrapped up the shooting and were leaving the place.

"When we were shooting, a girl came up to me and told me that we had met before. I was surprised and asked her where. She answered, 'I met you near the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. You were shooting there and I was with my newlywed husband. You even gave me your autograph.' I was

shocked when she told me that it was her husband who had sold her to the brothels. "My work as an actress has allowed me to have these experiences with people in different places, and I feel blessed for that.

"Another heartbreaking thing happened while I was over there. A girl approached me teary eyed, bringing her little daughter along. She pleaded, 'Please take my daughter away from me. You can take care of her yourself,' or give her to someone else. I don't want my girl to have a cursed life like me.' I was shocked and saddened to hear a mother wanting to give her daughter away. I become emotional when I revive these memories. Life sometimes seems very cruel and heartless.

"Being an artiste has been very rewarding for me. The shooting of 'Chota Pagol' was done at the Holudia village in Munshiganj's Loubhoganj thana. Being a city girl, the drama gave me a chance to become one with the rural atmosphere and the village people. On the closing day of our shooting, the entire unit wrote me a letter. They all expressed their admiration and love for me, and made me realise how close we had all become over the course of the shooting. These are memories which will always remain with me."

Celebrating ten years of Galleri Kaya

Group art exhibition begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

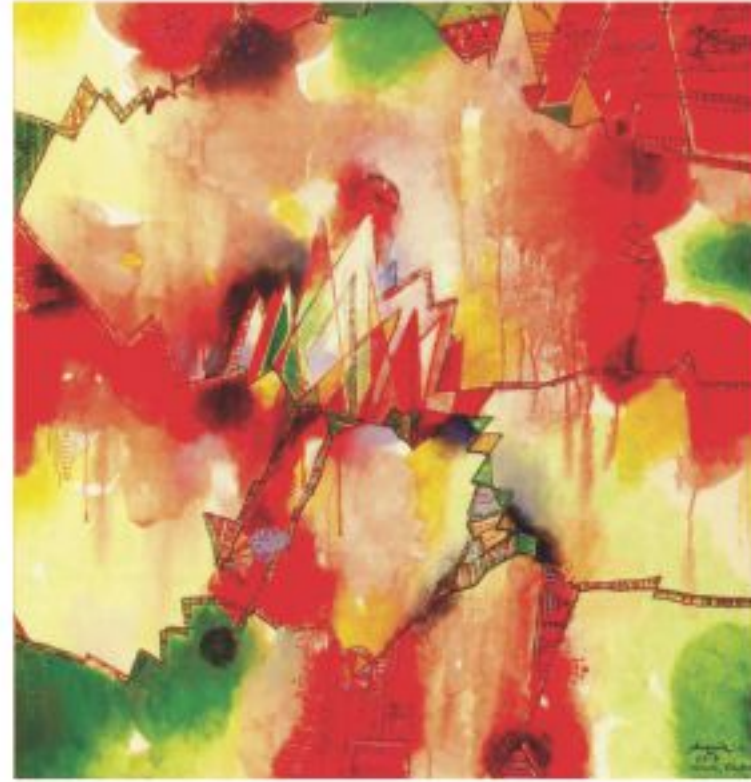
Galleri Kaya, one of the leading art galleries in Bangladesh, in the last 10 years has arranged 65 art exhibitions of which 45 were solos and 20 group art expositions. The gallery also arranged four art camps and two workshops. A number of veteran Bangladeshi artists and internationally acclaimed artists conducted the workshops. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Galleri Kaya in Uttara will organise to display a number of selected artworks of Bangladeshi renowned and promising painters. The exhibition – titled "Glimpses" – begins today, and has been dedicated to late painters Aminul Islam and Nitun Kundu.

Featured artists are Aminul Islam, Murtaja Baser, Qayyum Chowdhury, Nitun Kundu, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Kalidas Karmakar, Monsur-ul-Karim, Chandra Shekhor Dey, Tarun Ghosh, Ranjit Das, Golam Faruque Bebul, Samiran Chowdhury, Anisuzzaman, Nagarbashi Barman, Shohag Parvez and others.

As part of the gallery's activities, the gallery has always invited well-known critics, historians, curators and painters from different countries in the world. As a gallerist, Gautam Chakraborty (director of gallery) has always stressed the importance of maintaining close personal ties with the artist community. In his love for the arts, he is particularly motivated by his determination to bring more prominence and recognition to the ever-growing community of established and upcoming Bangladeshi artists.

Gautam says, "Since the inception of the gallery, my aim is to create a cultural hub where art enthusiasts, aficionados and artists of varied generations alike can appreciate and interchange or learn of the exciting novel trends. I feel that the country's long and rich tradition of fine art is unique and unparalleled in the sub-continent."

The exhibition will continue till July 20.



Artworks by Samarjit Roy Chowdhury (top) and Shohag Parvez.



WEEKENDER

Badhon takes a break

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lux superstar Badhon has carved a niche for herself in the media with her acting skills. Although she took a brief break from it all, Badhon has made her return in full throttle. She still manages to make time for herself though.

How do you spend your weekend breaks?

Badhon: Weekends are fun days, as there is no work. I get the chance to dedicate the entire day to my daughter. Sometimes I take her to the park, or to eat something, or even shopping. I try to do something different on weekends.

Is there anyone whose house you visit on weekends?

Badhon: I like to take my daughter to my friend Suraiya's house in Baridhara. Suraiya has two kids of her own, and all the children have a great time together.

Do you have relatives over on weekends?

Badhon: Yes, they do; special dishes are cooked on such occasions. Adda and good food with relatives – are recipes for

a fun weekend.

So, do you like spending time in the kitchen?

Badhon: Definitely; especially items that are served after a heavy meal. I can also make great beef dishes, porridge and halwa. I also like to cook various other special dishes on weekends.

Do you watch movies or listen to songs?

Badhon: I hardly watch movies, but listen to a lot of music. My daughter also loves music and we enjoy the songs together.

What would constitute an ideal holiday for you?

Badhon: It will be a day without any work or tension. I would wake up late, and then head out to travel and dine out. There wouldn't be any hassles throughout the day.

What is your favourite vacation destination?

Badhon: If it's within the country, I like Cox's Bazar. When going abroad, my favorite destination is Malaysia. My husband and my daughter Saira will obviously accompany me.

NEWS bytes

Nriya Nandan organises Tagore dance show

Nriya Nandan, a reputed dance institution of Bangladesh, is organising a dance programme tomorrow at the Chhayanaut Auditorium, titled "Badol Meghe Madol Baje", based on Tagore's songs and verses of monsoon. Choreographed and directed by Sharmila Banerjee, in light of Tagorean dance style, the dances have been composed with the touch of both classical and contemporary dance forms to offer the audience with variety and exquisiteness.

Artists and students of Nriya Nandan will be performing in the show, and narration and recitation will be done by Bhaswar Banerjee, says a press release.

Maasranga Television is the media partner of the event.

It's True!



The permanent link between cricket and film industry is Sachin Tendulkar and Sachin Dev Burman. Sachin (Tendulkar) was named by his grandfather as a tribute to Sachin Dev Burman's phenomenal scores in Hindi films hoping that his grandson would be someone unique like Sachin Karta!

Take a look at Sachin's scores in cricket and Karta's innings in film music and you will find that both would be almost impossible to beat in their respective grounds.

A Dream Date for You

Episode 5 of Pond's Age Miracle My 2nd Honeymoon will have the couples step into a world of dreams, as they give one another the date of their fantasies. Couples will express their love for one another in a candid manner that they never believed possible and one that has never been shown in Bangladeshi TV.

The theme for this week's episode is Dream Date, in which the husbands received the name of an exotic beach from a random draw, based on which they planned the entire date with a single-mindedness to give their partner a date they have always only dreamt of. With help, the husbands created just the perfect ambience with a beach setting, and just to produce the dreamlike state of the date further, the wives were given different romantic female characters to play from history, picked by the previous week's judge Sharmin Lucky.

Among the acclaimed judges this week will be favourite TV personality Asaduzzaman Noor, fashion icon plus actor M.Afzal Hossain and popular actress Shompa Reza. The dream dates took place beforehand and were played on video for the judges and participants to watch and review.

This week, five of the ten couples will have their dream dates, the remaining five to have them the following week.

The couples to watch out for in this week's episode are Ishrat and Osman in Koh Samui, with Ishrat dressed as the fabled Anarkali; Erfana and Zahir will be in a fairytale set up with Erfana dressed as the legendary Cleopatra wowing not just her husband but the entire studio; MS Kabir and Monowara will be having their date of dreams in Bali with Monowara portraying Bonolota Sen; Faiza and Mahfuzur are fated for a dreamy boat ride and Sumyira, dressed as Juliet, and Asif will have the whole package, with dining, dancing, a video from him about how much he loves her and fireworks!

What will the couples do on their dream dates? What lengths will they go to, to make sure that it is memorable for the rest of their lives?



Find out tonight at 9.45pm on Desh TV

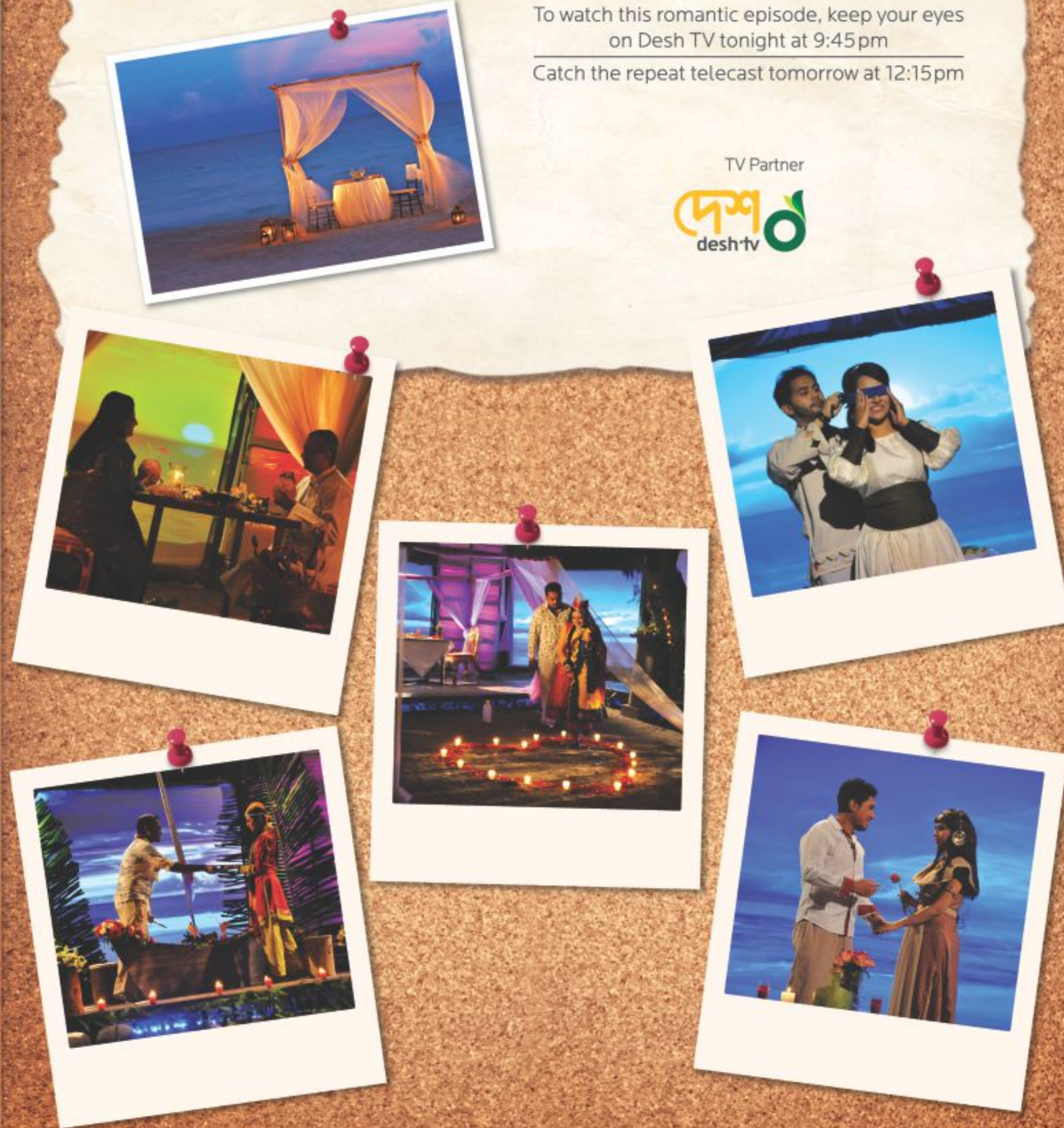
POND'S
age miracle™

My 2nd Honeymoon
Come fall in love again

How did the husbands design the perfect dream date for their wives?

To watch this romantic episode, keep your eyes on Desh TV tonight at 9:45pm
Catch the repeat telecast tomorrow at 12:15pm

TV Partner
deshtv



(From left) Abdul Kader, Ferdausi Majumdar, Professor Anisuzzaman, Liaquat Ali Lucky and Tropa Majumdar unveil a photo album on the life and works of Ferdausi Majumdar, to celebrate the thespian's birthday (June 18). The programme was held at the National Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Wednesday.

Grooving to the blues

An evening of jazz at Red Shift

NEO G MENDES

Last Friday night at the Red Shift Coffee Lounge saw a talented group of musicians rev up to present a night of mixed jazz and blues music.

This is the story of five guys and their love affair that takes you on a journey to the music closest to them, as they borrow and flavour their brand of music with which excites them the most.

Pandu, Chotu, Juha, Saad, Buno and Jibon moved a full house with their renditions of jazz and blues covers and interpretations of other popular numbers.

With the history and background of the practice and performance of western music in Bangladesh largely of the rock genre in its various forms, this was a fresh sounding entry and transition to jazz.

The gig opened with Miles Davis' "So What", a somewhat complex piece.

Buno featured on electric bass guitar and Juha on saxophone. Pandu's vocals accompanied on his guitar with Gil Evans' composition of "Strange Fruit" laid the predictable and intended eclectic tone for the evening.

The audience became even more enthusiastic to the easy swing of "Fever", the free-flow of "Mack the Knife" and the 'seasonally appropriate' "Summertime" –

loved by all.

Chotu's gift for crooning and wide note range showed off in many of his vocals, particularly the Nat King Cole songs that were mellow and mellifluous, while the rendering of Van Morrison's "Moondance" brought in the anticipated groove followed with Sting's "Roxanne". To some of the more lively compositions, Chotu brought in the requisite edge too. The aching vocal effect on the Billie Holiday song was tempered sensitively.

Pandu, a celebrated American singer-guitarist – who commands respect from his fellow musicians, and led the audience to finger click, hand clap, and foot stomp – brought in the groove and grit with "Route 66" – a

blues/rock piece in quick tempo. Pandu also excelled at several other technically challenging and complex vocal and guitar arrangements with characteristic ease. His singing and guitar competence and playing manifests a deep Southern influence and orientation of the Delta blues. Pandu is most comfortable and at his creative best in this genre.

Saad is certainly among the finest keyboard players in the country, being perhaps the only one who brings his formal music training to create as well as emulate the original pieces as closely as possible. Saad

James Gandolfoni passes away

James Gandolfoni, the US actor best known for his role as a therapy-seeking mob boss in TV's "The Sopranos", has died at the age of 51.

Gandolfoni suffered a possible heart attack while on holiday in Rome, the US HBO TV network told the BBC. The New Jersey-born star had been in Italy to attend the Taormina film festival in Sicily.

He won three Emmy awards for his role as Tony Soprano, a mafia boss juggling his criminal career and family life.

Gandolfoni's acting career took off in 1992 when he landed a part in a Broadway production of "A Streetcar Named Desire". His breakthrough role came a year later playing a mobster in the movie "True Romance".

His more recent film credits



included "In The Loop", "Zero Dark Thirty" and "Killing Them Softly".

Source: BBC



Jazz in motion: Artistes perform at the programme.

fills to make the band sound complete. It was a pity that the piano volume on his solos did not do justice to his merit.

The audience easily recognized Juha's happy delivery of Coltrane's version of Julie Andrews' "All of my Favourite Things" from "The Sound of Music". Paul Desmond's sweet and melodious "Take 5" from the Dave Brubeck Quartet of the "50's in a 5/4 beat defined Jibon's drum dexterity in camaraderie with Buno's electric bass guitar – who seemed to have no difficulty handling the complex timing.

The audience seemed familiar with most of the numbers played by this motley crew and loved and sang along with guest

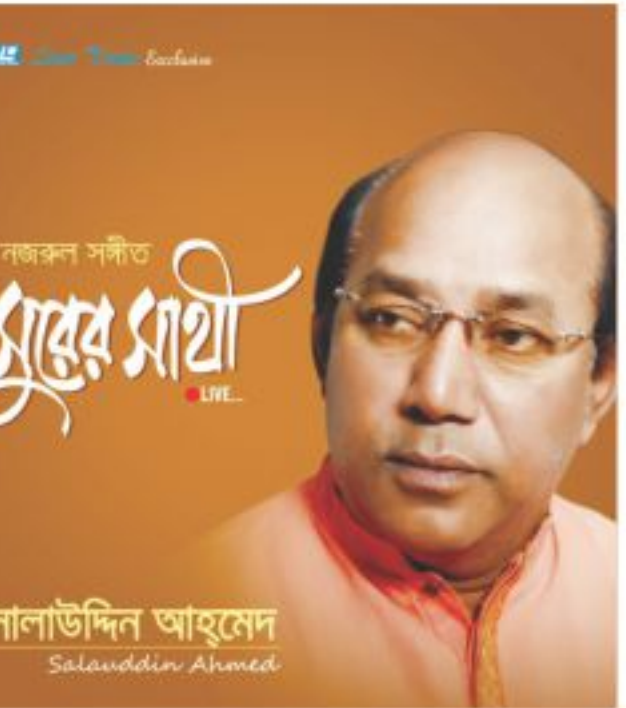
artiste Kaiser Kabir in his raspy imitation of Louis Armstrong's "Wonderful World".

It was interesting to note that despite the many twists and turns in the musical styles they work with, sometimes experimenting with melodic changes, the band was able to make it sound like their own signature musical voice. It also must be rewarding for them as musicians to be able to work with each other successfully.

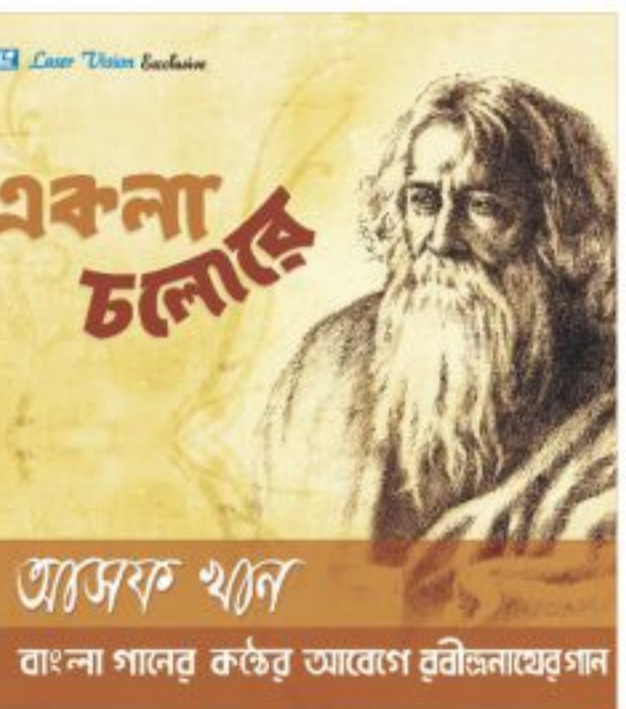
The Red Shift Lounge has announced a repeat concert on July 7.

Neo G Mendes is a founder of "The Lightnings", the first musical band in the country.

NEW RELEASES



Shurur Shathi
Solo album of Nazrul Sangeet by Salauddin Ahmed
Source: Laser Vision



Akla Cholor
Solo album of Rabindra Sangeet by Asaf Khan
Source: Laser Vision



Shudur Parey
Solo album of Nazrul Sangeet by Kaberi Das
Source: Laser Vision



Ojanare Khuji
Solo album of Rabindra Sangeet by Animesh Bijoy Chowdhury
Source: Laser Vision