

CULTURAL FEAST

Lure of Lalou songs

Farida Parveen makes waves in Paris

KARIM WAHEED

Noted Lalou artiste Farida Parveen has performed at the esteemed Théâtre de la Ville, Paris on January 14. The theatre with a capacity to accommodate 1000 people was filled to the brim; some enthusiasts were even waiting outside hoping to hear the idyllic songs of Lalou, made memorable by Parveen.

This was the first time a Bangladeshi artiste received the rare opportunity to perform at Théâtre de la Ville. Legendary artistes such as Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan had performed at the theatre. Regarding her experience, Parveen says, "It was amazing. I was astounded particularly by the fact that I didn't have to narrate the meaning or the mystic aspect of Lalou's songs to the audience. They had done their homework. They are aware of Sufism, Lalou's message of peace and divine love; they've even read about my background prior to attending the



Farida Parveen performing to an audience of 1000 who don't speak Bangla, yet apparently can grasp the blissful

mysticism Lalou's songs exude, was a dream come true."

Pierre-Alain Baud, a French researcher deserves applause for his endeavors to familiarise subcontinental Sufi music to the sophisticated French music aficionados. Baud has travelled to the mazaars and shrines in distant corners of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and has been spellbound by the songs (mainly Sufi music) the *faqirs* and devotees at the sites sing with innate ardor.

Baud has been corresponding with Parveen for over a year and was eager to arrange a live performance by the Lalou singer in Paris. Eventually with the help of the French government, the concert was organised.

Along with Parveen, noted flutist Gazi Abdul Hakim, Tabla player Bishwajit Sarkar, Dotara artiste Sheikh Jalaluddin and Dhol player ASM Reza performed at the concert.

Ustad Shafi Mohammad Faqir of Pakistan will perform Sufi music of Sindh at Théâtre de la Ville in the next few days, following Parveen's concert.

Cultural Programme

Title: Muktiuddho O Nari
Organiser: Woman Studies
Department
Venue: Liberation War Museum
Date: January 13-31 at 4:30 pm

Kathak Dance

Troupe: Shobhana Narayan and her troupe
Organiser: High Commission on India
Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall
Date: January 31 at 7:00 pm

Theatre Festival

Venue: National Theatre Stage, Shilpakala Academy
Schedule:
Play Troupe
Date

Binodini	Dhaka Theatre
February 1	
Nityapuram	Desh Natok
February 2	
Chhoy Beharar Palki Theatre	
February 3	
Konjush	Loko Natyadal
February 4	
Shyamapram	Prangone Mor
February 5	
Samayer Projogone	Theatre Art Unit
February 6	
Raarang	Aranyak
Natyadal February 7	
Projopati	Natyakendra
February 8	
Circus Circus	Prachyanaut
February 9	
Chhayanaout	Nagonk
February 10	

Film Screening

Organiser: Indian Cultural Centre
Schedule: January 23 Bose the Forgotten Hero
January 25 Aandhi
Venue: Auditorium of the Indian Cultural Centre, House#2, Road# 142, Gulshan-1

Exhibition

Title: Antorbikkhon
Artist: Swapan Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: January 22- February 5

Jazz Music

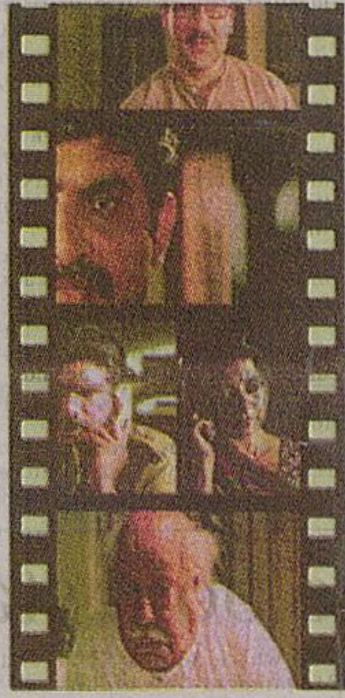
Band: Le Quartet
Venue: Alliance Francaise, Dhaka
Date: January 24

Photography

Title: A look through the crow's eyes
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Gallery of Ward's n Pages, Café Insomnia, 125, Gulshan
Venue Avenue, Gulshan-2
Date: December 25, 2005- January 27, 2006

Of sub continental sentiments and values

Sekhar Das speaks about his controversial films



FAYZA HAQ

Sekhar Das's entry in the 9th Dhaka International Film Festival is his second film, *Krantikaal* (A time of crisis), which deals with the universal theme of separatism. "Certain states may have their own logic -- their own state or their own country -- they want to split from their motherland," he said. Das sought to delve into the mind of the separatists, as in



(Left) Stills from *Krantikaal*, (Right) Rupa Ganguli in a scene from the film

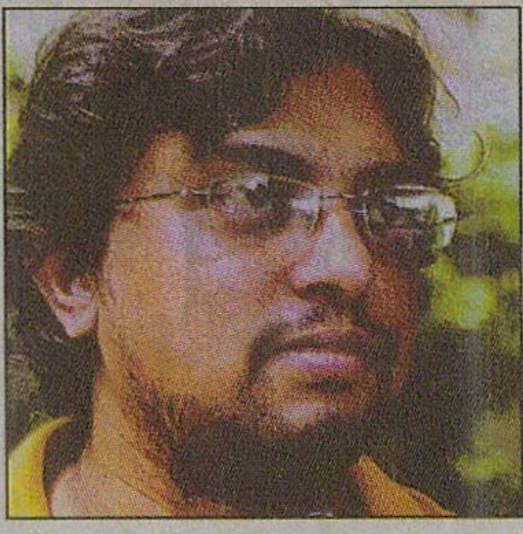
India, a nation of about 64 languages with distinct different cultures all over. In his words, "For 30 years there has been strong dissension from sectors who felt isolated." Das took up the story of a man (Rajib) from north-eastern India, Tripura. The protagonist was depicted as being involved in separatist activities. While running away from the police he enters a palace in Bengal, taking the people hostage. There he met interesting people, as the story-line goes, and gradually he rediscovered his country with a different concepta country which believes in non-violence, tolerance of the neighbour and its culture." The Indian culture has been there for 1000 years, and this is what Rajib (Shilajit) slowly discovered. "There is a chink in his armour," Das said, and he realised that there was an alternative line of thinking and thus he was

inspired by his new encounter. He mingled his ideology with that of the royalty (Rupa Ganguli). If there is an equal distribution of wealth, why did 16 of the Indian states fail to agree with this concept of democracy, is the burning question, said Das. Thus we get the political scenario along with the socio-economic theme of different sense of values. The message was that one can win over the world with patience.

The film won an award on the national level for the best Bengali film, best supporting actor (Aragon Banerji) at the national level, and special jury award. The film is entered for the Australasia Competition. Das's other films include *Songs of Muhulbani* which deals with the romantic and traditional songs, dances and artwork as well as crafts of the Santals of India. As he says, "The Santals are fighting for three decades for their own state. To conduct research, I had to visit the places very often. I've made many more films on them and hope to visit them on January 31." Five years back, he said, he made the film *The Poet and the King*, which was based on Rabindranath Tagore, who had a strong connection with the Tripura royal family for over 50 years. He worked with theatre personalities like Peter Brook, Jerzy Grotowski and Habib Tanvir.

Das studied in Kolkata where he got his taste for art, films and writing. He learnt screenplay writing from Jean Claude Carrier and Niroth Mahapatra. He was a jury of the Brisbane International Film Festival.

Theatre festival for a cause



ERSHAD KAMOL
On February 1, a theatre festival will be held at the

National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The aim is to garner support for young Theatre activist Jagjuli Alam, who is in a critical condition at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai.

The festival will see popular as well as new theatre productions such as *Binodini*, *Nityapuram*, *Chhoy Beharar Palki*, *Konjush*, *Shyama Prem*, *Samayer Projogone*, *Raarang*, *Projapoti*, *Circus Circus* and *Chhayanaout*.

The slogan of the fundraiser festival is 'Watch theatre and save the life of a young theatre talent.' Eminent cultural personality Mostafa Monwar will inaugurate the festival.

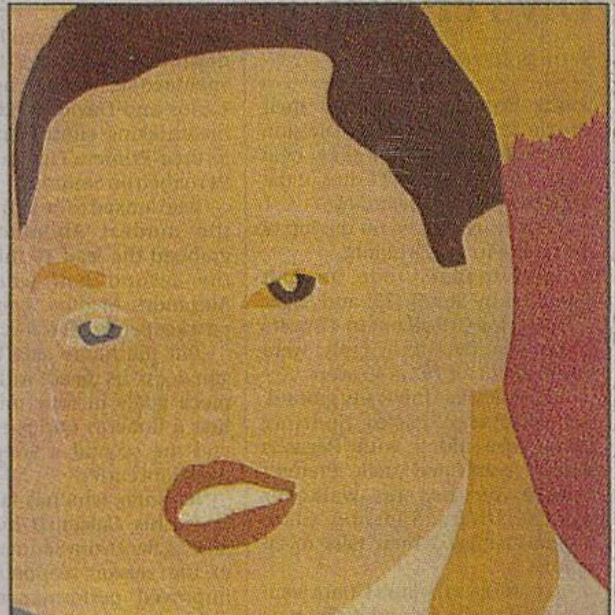
For the last few months Jagjuli has been suffering from cancer. He is a man of diverse talents--he wears the hats of actor, director, playwright and music composer. He is the playwright-director of the play *Chhoy Beharar Palki*, a Theatre production, which will also be staged in the forthcoming theatre festival. He has won popularity for his performance in plays such as *Meraj Fakir Maa*, *Madhobi*, *Golapagan* and others. He has composed music for the stage play *Mukti*. Jagjuli has worked with other theatre groups as well.

Besides his theatre activities, Jagjuli is a backstage worker in the puppet shows staged by Mostafa Monwar.

British Council's latest art documentary

Spotlight on Gary Hume

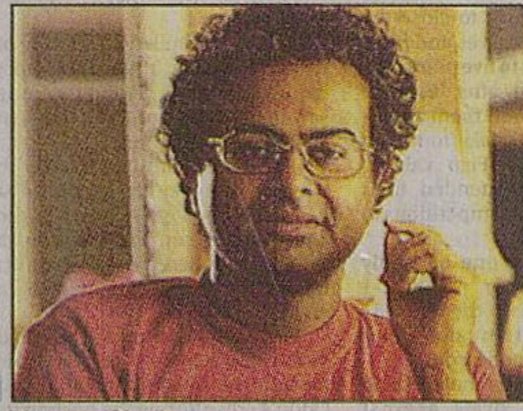
After screening documentaries on four contemporary British artists, the British Council turned the spotlight on Gary Hume on January 22. The objective of the monthly art documentaries is to encourage students to think and share ideas about the contemporary works. With this end in view, the British Council invites renowned Bangladeshi artists to introduce the British artists and their work to its students.



An artwork by Hume

Says a press release, "Gary Hume is an artist globally known for both of his metaphorical and abstract arts. He exhibited his projects as a group artist in various locations throughout the 1990s and earned a reputation internationally. He uses glossy paints, aluminum, bright colours and pop imagery to create colourful and vibrant artworks of flora, fauna and portraits. His paintings are about feelings, but not paled by reliance on self-expressionism."

Rituparno Ghosh set to resurrect "Draupadi"



Rituparno Ghosh

Relationship issues being his forte, Ghosh could not have settled for a better theme than the *Mahabharata's* Draupadi. The intriguing bond the Pandava queen shared with her five husbands is a welcome plot for any director to base his film on.

The grapevine has it that Ghosh's film will revolve round characters like Kunti, Draupadi and Gandhari, who represent "women power". He is to lend them a contemporary flavour. According to the director, "It is absolutely essential to explore Draupadi, an extension of Kunti, a pivot which perhaps integrates the entire epic."

Set to be a Hindi-English bilingual, the film will have a pan-Asian cast and will roll this year.

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTV
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.

CHANNEL-1
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:40pm
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:20 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV

10:00	Satellite Programme
12:30	Shasthya Talithya
01:00	Laal Golap
02:40	Lekha Pora
03:05	Anu Peromanu
04:00	Nitol Teta National Football League 2005 Live Broadcast
06:10	Apon Bhumi
06:35	Nitayer Teley Talay
07:00	Programme on Liberation War
08:45	Drama Serial: Enechhi Shurjer Hashi
09:25	Drama Serial: Alopur Nuri Huda
10:35	Shindhu Hillol
09:45	Tritiya Maitra
10:45	Uchchya Shikhhaye Desh Bidosh (live)
12:30	Aaj Dupurey O Citycal Tarokakothon
01:05	Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:25	Public Reaction
01:30	Shangbadporey Bangladesh
03:00	Chena Mukh Oghena Chobi
03:05	Special Programme Arer Channel-1
03:40	Darshok Forum
04:05	Bashundhara Amader Gaan
04:45	Sa Re Ga Ma
06:00	Musik Plus
06:30	Special Programme
06:50	Business Show
07:50	Drama Serial: Halya
08:25	Drama Serial: Shimana
09:35	Drama Serial: Shamouma Rangin
10:00	Drama Serial: Pothe Jeto Jeto
07:30	Hidyoye Shur Ashe Shukhi Thakun Deho Mona
09:30	Apon Aloy

ATN BANGLA

10:00	Grammen Phone Shiranam
10:05	Zoo Adventure
10:30	Dhakar Cinema
01:05	Muktangan
02:35	Drama Serial: Ramizer Aaina
03:15	Musical Programme
03:50	Drama Serial: Chithi
04:25	Bhinn Swader Khobar
05:20	Apar Jigyasha
06:20	Shubho Shondhya
06:50	Crime Watch
07:20	ntv Dekhe Bolun
08:25	Drama serial: Labonya Probha
09:10	Bari Ghar Thik Thak
09:50	Drama Serial: Akash Choya
11:25	Dindapan
10:30	Annodrishti
11:05	Drama: Shundor Sholta
11:40	Obocheta
02:30	Musical Programme
03:15	Drama Serial: O Amar Chokhu Nai
03:45	Musical Programme
04:25	Chhotoder Pritthibi
04:45	Ispahani Pure Soax Quiz Time
05:10	Shonali Din
05:45	Islami Sawaal O Jobab (live)
06:20	BSS Education Zone
06:50	Drama Serial: Shukhnagar Apartment
08:30	Drama Serial: Flat No. 40
09:00	ATN Taroka (Music)
10:35	Kothamala
12:20	Musical Programme
08:15	Fugitives run
10:00	The lost boys
12:00	The secret of my success
02:15	Saints and Soldiers

PICK OF THE DAY



Flat no 40
On ATN Bangla at 08:30 pm
Genre: Drama Serial
Cast: Shahiduzzaman Selim, Simla, Tony Dayas



Gothika
On HBO at 09:30 pm
Genre: Horror/Thriller
Cast: Halle Berry, Robert Downey Jr, Penelope Cruz

STAR MOVIES

10:20	I Robot
12:15	Avatar
02:00	Dark Harvest
03:25	K-111
05:00	Raising Helen
07:00	A Murder Of Crows
08:45	Commando
10:15	Guy Thing A
12:00	Raising Helen
02:00	Vera Drake

STAR PLUS

10:30	Meri Saheli
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STAR WORLD

11:00	Shagun
11:30	Shanti
12:00	Maan
01:30	Kasauti Zindagii Kay
02:00	Bhabhi
02:30	Kesar
03:00	Saanthi
03:30	Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
04:00	Kahin To Hoga
04:30	K-Street Pall Hill
05:00	Shagun
06:00	Maan
06:30	House Of Mouse
07:00	Hercules
07:30	Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
08:00	Akkaad Bakkaad Bambeey Bo
08:30	Mum Tum Aur Hum
09:00	Kasauti Zindagii Kay
09:30	Milee
10:00	Kavyanjali
11:30	Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
09:30	Oprah Winfrey Show
10:00	Monk
11:30	Charmed
12:30	Parkinson
01:30	The A Team
03:30	Bold And Beautiful
04:30	Hollywood Squares
05:30	Angel
06:30	The Simpsons
07:30	Friends
08:00	Seinfeld
08:30	My Wife And Kids
09:00	Everybody Loves Raymond
09:30	King Of Queens
10:00	Becker

DISCOVERY

09:30	Discovery's Biggest Shows International Sub Rescue: Special Investigation
10:00	Discovery's Biggest Shows Escape From Berlin
11:30	Night Safari Carnivorous Ants
12:30	Triumph Of Life: The Eternal Arms Race
01:30	Wild Discovery Untamed Earth
02:30	Detective Stories Absent Witness
03:30	Medical Diary Steve's Story: Straining To Hear
04:00	Operation Junkyard Baseball Pitcher
04:30	Wild Discovery Untamed Earth
05:30	Junkyard Wars Power Pullers
06:30	Man And Machine Aerobatics World Championship
07:30	Wild India Week The Snow Leopard - In The Lap Of The Gods
08:30	Zero Hour The King Of Cocaine
09:30	War Zone Alexander
10:30	Wild Europe Genesis
11:30	FBI Files No place to hide

ANIMAL PLANET

09:30	Indian Safari Tigers Of The Emerald Forest
10:30	Crocodile Hunter Diaries Bundle Of Ivory
11:30	Unexplained, Unexplored Lynn Rogers: Man Who Walks With Bears
12:30	Fun Zone The Planet's Funniest Animals

ESPN

09:30	Indian Premier Hockey League
11:30	Final Score (R)
12:00	Nba Action (R)
12:30	Nba Basketball
01:00	Bull Riding
04:00	English Premier League Highlight
05:00	Indian Premier Hockey League
06:30	Sportscenter India
10:00	Cricket Classics Great Indian Partnerships (R)
10:30	Crickel Classics Dravid: The Wall
11:00	Sportscenter Sportscenter Asia
08:00	Super Centuries (R)
06:30	Gillette World Sports
07:00	Australian Open Highlights
08:00	A1 Grand Prix Highlights
09:00	Sportscenter India (L)
09:30	Australian Open
10:00	Australian Open 2006 (L)
08:00	Super Centuries (R)
06:30	Gillette World Sports
07:00	Australian Open Highlights
08:00	A1 Grand Prix Highlights
09:00	Sportscenter India (L)
09:30	Australian Open
10:00	Australian Open 2006 (L)
09:45	WWE: Heat
10:45	Pakistan v India O6 (3 test, 5 ODIs) - Straight Drive
12:45	Pakistan v India 2nd Test, Day 3 (L)
09:30	WWE: Raw
12:00	Pakistan v India 2nd Test, Day 3 H/Ls

STAR SPORTS

12:30	Fifa World Cup Programming
02:30	Australian Open 2006 (L)
08:00	Super Centuries (R)
06:30	Gillette World Sports
07:00	Australian Open Highlights
08:00	A1 Grand Prix Highlights
09:00	Sportscenter India (L)
09:30	Australian Open
10:00	Australian Open 2006 (L)

TEN SPORTS

09:45	WWE: Heat
10:45	Pakistan v India O6 (3 test, 5 ODIs) - Straight Drive
12:45	Pakistan v India 2nd Test, Day 3 (L)
09:30	WWE: Raw
12:00	Pakistan v India 2nd Test, Day 3 H/Ls