

CULTURAL FEAST



Odissi Dance
Artists: Chandana Raul and troupe
Venue: National Museum auditorium
Organiser: High Commission of India
Date: September 1
Time: 7 pm
Complementary passes can be collected from Indian Cultural Centre RD, 142 H No. 2 or High Commission of India RD 96. H no 25 Gulshan 2

Bengal Bikash Finals

Organiser: Bengal Foundation
September 2 5:00 pm Tagore Songs
September 3 10:00 am Songs of Rajanikanta, DL Roy and Atul Prasad
September 4 5:00 pm Folk Songs
September 5 5:00 pm Modern Songs
September 6 6:00 pm Prize Distribution
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum

Film Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Short Film Forum
September 3 5:00 pm Autumn Afternoon (directed by Yasujiro Ozu)
September 4 7:00 pm Sankhona (directed by Abu Sayeed)
September 5 5:00 pm Pick-pocket (directed by Robert Robert Bresson)
September 6 7:00 pm In the Mood for Love (directed by Wong Kar-wai)
September 7 5:00 pm What Time is it There (directed by Tsai Ming-Liang)
September 8 7:00 pm Fast Runner (directed by Zacharias Kunuk)
September 9 6:00 pm Claire's Knee (directed by Eric Rohmer)
September 10 7:00 pm Wind Will Carry Us (directed by Abbas Kiarostami)
September 11 5:00 pm Broken Flower (directed by Jim Jarmusch)
September 12 7:00 pm Ontotjatra (directed by Tarek Masud)
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre Auditorium, 110-112 Aziz Super



Tomorrow's attraction
Heart to heart
Celebrity couples share their interests, pet peeves and more in exclusive interviews with The Daily Star. This time the spotlight is on Bijori and Emon

Fauzia Khan on her documentary 'Amakey Boltey Dao'

Days in the lives of adolescent girls



KAVITA CHARANJI

'Girls should not be hefty and immodest. Girls should not stay out after evening. Girls should not come back from birthday parties late at night. Girls should not raise their voices. Disgusting! Girls and girls!'

From the story: Akasher Rong by Abhijit Tarafdar

This is one of the several stories featured in Fauzia Khan's documentary film Amakey Boltey Dao (I had something to say). The unconventional use of stories to flesh out the hard reality of adolescent girls, particularly in villages, adds appeal to a sensitive subject. Other stories depict a gamut of issues such as rape, desire, misconceptions about childbirth.

Fauzia's research for the film took her to villages in Pirajpur and

Gaibandha districts. In the course of her research, she came across 500 girls and was "haunted" by their stories. As she asserts, they drew upon her own experience of an adolescence marked by poor information on physiological changes that were a natural part of growing up. Also at puberty she chafed at the restrictions on her movements and her pursuit of athletics. In addition, she found a veil of secrecy when it came to discussions on female sexuality.

"My objective was to look into the scenario of reproductive health of adolescent girls in Bangladesh," she asserts, adding that "in one village in Gaibandha, the poorest district, hundreds of adolescent girls (in the age group of 10-15 years) came to meet me. All of them were married and most had children and were in ill health. I couldn't sleep for two nights after this visit." The case studies in the film

reflect the stifling existence of adolescent girls and the tendency of society to view them as mere childbearing and domesticated machines. There is Rehana Aktar, a Class X student from Sarupkathi, Pirojpur. In her words, "I do not get the sort of independence I used to get in my childhood, as for instance, climbing a tree. Neither can I pursue my interest in my favourite pastime of angling."

Life is even worse for Ayesha, a housewife from Gaibandha. "Living with my in-laws is like being in a jail. I can't eat what I want and no importance is given to my opinion on major issues," she says. Though somewhat more privileged, girls from urban areas have their own concerns. Take the case of Kaniz Tarzia, an O level student of Scholastica School, Dhaka. Though she does both dancing and modelling, she prefers the former. For her it is vital that she find a husband who

approves of her dancing. In the villages, the girls variously say that their future lies in "raising children", "marrying an educated boy" and "teaching girls".

Fauzia's film, produced by the NGO Steps Towards Development, has won plaudits. The film is set to go to the Delhi Open Film Festival '06 for screening between September 15-21. Also on the cards is the release of the film in Bangladesh.

Apart from research, script, editing and direction of Amakey Boltey Dao, Fauzia has also done the graphics and sound recording (for the interview part).

Sensitively made films such as Fauzia's can go a long way in generating awareness about women and other social issues. In the process, they can be catalysts for much needed change in society.



Scenes from the documentary

In conversation Abdur Razzak
Lalon Fellow talks on the cult

ERSHAD KAMOL, back from Kushtia

Abdur Razzak is one of the five participants who successfully completed 'Lalon Mentor Fellowship' (1996-98) organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Lalon song maestros Late Fakir Mahim Shah and Fakir Karim Shah conducted the fellowship.

Prior to this fellowship, Razzak had learnt rites and music of the cult from Lalon song exponents such as Fakir Khodabaksha Shah, Fakir Motalib Ali Shah and Mohendra Goswami. And he is in the process of taking Khelafat (highest rank of divine knowledge; according to the belief of the cult after gaining Khelafat one is prepared to absorb the Creator in the soul) from his spiritual mentor Fakir Nizamuddin Shah, the current Khadem (caretaker) of Lalon's shrine.

Razzak said, "I've completed Lalon Mentor Fellowship; however, I'm still in the learning process. I have yet to gain Khelafat. Only after attaining Khelafat can one claim to be a true devotee of Fakir Lalon Shah. In his verses, Lalon has pledged his followers to have a better understanding of 'death' and thereby to taste divine love. That's why after gaining Khelafat one is supposed to give up all earthly matters and take white clothing like Kafon (burial cloth)."

Razzak asserted that Lalon songs are elegiac in tone, reflecting the pain of deprivation or longing. This happens as Lalon followers are inspired by the idea that the human body is the seat of all truth and to reach that level, they are always in search of a guru or moner manusuh. To quote him, "Every song may be interpreted in two ways: in terms of human as well as divine love."

Although Lalon songs come mainly from the region of Kushtia, singers from other regions bring in different influences particularly in tunes and style. At times even the words vary. Explaining this phenomenon, Abdur Razzak said, "It's an ongoing problem. To realise it, we have to know the facts. Fakir Lalon's Kalams (verses) were written by Fakir Maniruddin Shah and were composed by Fakir Manik Shah. The duo were direct disciples

of Lalon. At that stage Kalams were considered simply as the doctrines of Ohedaniat (a belief which glorifies humanism). Subsequently, Fakir Maniruddin Shah, and his disciple, Khoda Baksh, attempted to put these Kalams into a particular frame of music. Khoda Baksh's disciple, Amulya Shah, was a reputed musicologist who set Baul songs, especially Lalon songs, to music. These songs were developed by his disciples. This can be labelled as akhra gharana



Abdur Razzak

(authentic tune). "We, who learn Lalon's verses as rituals from our gurus, don't necessarily learn classical music. And this is the authentic style of Lalon music. This tradition has been distorted in two ways: first are the classical music-based singers who render Lalon songs as a genre of folk music on radio and TV and secondly is the poor handling by

other Bauls claiming to be Lalon's. Secondly, because of typo errors, it's extremely difficult to print the local dialect of Kushtia. And whoever learns the lyrics from any books invariably distorts words. Abdur Razzak said, to avoid controversies regarding distortion of Lalon songs, songs rendered by the seasoned Fakirs should be preserved without further delay.

Bridging cultures with dots

FAYZA HAQ

Nilufar Jehan, whose exhibition began at the Bengal Gallery recently, is both a textile designer and an artist. She combines art with craft, painting and design. Her textile designing is like painting. She learnt painting from her elder brother Anisur Rahman, who is an established artist. She did a three-year draftsman's course from Mirpur and joined Aarong. She specialised in designs for sari weaving, and did reproductions of old saris with new colour combinations. Four years later, she left for Paris. In Paris she learnt textile and fashion designing, working in different fashion houses as a freelance artist, having obtained the membership of the National Art Guild in 2002. She has chosen textile designing as it is more lucrative than fashion designing. She uses both brush and roller for putting on her colours on the fabrics. Her designs arise from a combination of dots, lines and a connection between the two. She was lured into the world of colours on apparel when she was a child visiting her grandfather's house.

There a blackberry fell on her frilly white dress, leaving a stain on it. Nilufar liked the effect so much that she got more berries to stain her dress further. Though she spoilt her dress, she enjoyed the escapade, and developed a fascination for coloured dots and dashes from then on. Nilufar's abstract work, done on paper, canvas and silk, is strongly



Rhythm-3

influenced by the work of abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock. She has also kept in mind the tradition of Dhaka Jamdani. Her work should inspire young fashion designers in Bangladesh.

One of the displays in the gallery is a skirt which has kept in mind the occasion of Holud. Meant for teenagers, the dress material has yellow flowers on silver stems. Another wrap-around, to be worn over a skirt or trousers is a similar garment with a dazzling effect. The silver dots and dashes are seen on a flamingo pink and white background. The hangings sometimes have water colour on the chiffon, with abstract designs of flowers and plants. There are special fabrics for customers such as those who perform on stage and this is with silk, feathers and painted rice grains.

The exhibition, which maybe seen as a bridge between cultures, reveals the heights of a woman's aspiration and achievement.

Masihuddin Shaker in Amar Chhobi



Shaker (L) with the host of the show

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Eminent filmmaker Masihuddin Shaker is the guest speaker in today's episode of Amar Chhobi, a popular cine magazine on Bangladeshi cinema. Shaker will talk about his entry into the film society movement and the

making of the film Surja Deeghol Bari. Clippings from Surja Deeghol Bari will also intersperse with the discussion.

Jointly directed by Shafiuzzaman Khan Lodi and Shamim Alam Dipen and hosted by Shafiuzzaman Khan Lodi, Amar Chhobi will be aired today at 6:20 pm on Channel 1.

Elton John wants to go hip-hop

Goodbye yellow brick road, hello hip hop. Elton John tells Rolling Stone magazine that he wants to record a hip-hop album with Grammy-winning producer Dr. Dre.

"I want to work with Pharrell, Timbaland, Snoop, Kanye, Eminem and just see what happens," John says in the September 7 issue. "It may be a disaster, it could be fantastic, but you don't know until you try."

The 59-year-old says he is a fan of Blackstreet's No Diggity and Tupac Shakur's California Love.

"I want to bring my songs and melodies to hip-hop beats," John says. "I love these beats, but I have no idea how to get them."

John performed Eminem's song Stan with the rapper during the 2001 Grammy awards.

John's new album, The Captain and the Kid, is due in September.

Source: Internet



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-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA

09:15 Drama Serial: Tushar Rohoshyo
10:30 Anyodrishti
12:15 Bangla Feature Film
03:50 ATN Rannaghar
05:10 Amader Joto Kotha
06:20 Prapok
08:00 Drama
Serial:Hortoner Bibi
08:30 Drama Serial: Ferrari Siren
09:00 Drama Serial: Koto Chena Koto Achena
Drama Serial: Mon Tui Badhahin
10:40 Char Deyaler Kabyo

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.

CHANNEL i

09:30 Shangkhabad Potre Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Gramonee Phone
12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citicell Tarokakothon
08:30 Erong Cinemar Gaan
02:40 Tritiyo Matray Apni Hridoye Mati O

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
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

09:15 Satellite Broadcast
12:05 Sangbad Potrer Pata Theke
12:30 Maa O Shisur Kotha
01:00 Shukhi Poribhar
02:15 Children's Drama
03:30 Matri Bhasya
04:30 Nobo Anande Jago
05:30 Selected Programme
07:00 Sangta
07:30 Shromoyer Shonglap
08:35 Protidin Bangladesh
08:45 Weekly Drama
10:25 Tknaf Thekey Tetulia
10:30 Apnar Shawshyho (Live)

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ntv

09:05 Aj Potrikai
09:30 Talk show: Priyomukh Grihoshali
10:30 Drama Serial: Nawab Faizunnesa
11:30 Bishwa Jurey
12:05 Antoronyo Alap: Tritiyo Matray Apni Hridoye Mati O

Manusher Daak

04:05 Amader Gaan
04:25 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 X Music
06:00 Music Plus
06:20 Amar Chhobi
07:50 Citicell Lets Move
09:35 Lux-Channel i Super Star 2006
12:00 Grammephone Aiker Shangkbadpotro

ntv

08:35 Aiker Shokal
09:00 Siddiqua Kabi's Recipe
09:30 Ki Kotha Tahar Shathey
10:05 Chalochchitro Kotha
10:30 Dhakar Cinema
10:05 Mukangan
10:25 Labonyoprobha
03:15 Mega Serial: Ranger Manush
03:50 Amader Anondo Bari
04:25 Mon Amar Shondhan Kori
05:15 Dindarpan
05:20 Mohilangan
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Right Click
08:25 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush
09:00 Glamour World
10:00 Drama Serial: Kuhak Dindarpan

Rtv

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PICK OF THE DAY



The One
On Channel 1 at 9:30 pm
Talk show hosted by Bappa Majumdar
Today's guest: Momotaj

Table with TV program listings for various channels including Heart Beat, Expression, Amader Kanyo, Music Mantra Music, etc.

Table with TV program listings for various channels including Star Command, Pyar Ke Do Naam, The School of Rock, etc.