

CULTURAL FEAS

Bengal Bikash Finals
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
September 3 5:00 pm Nazrul Songs
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

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Excavating Time
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya
Date: September 04-17
Time: 12:00 pm- 8:00 pm
Artist: Syed Mohammad Shamim
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road-36, House-16, Gulshan
Date: September 01-14
Time: 11:00 am- 8:00 pm

Musical Soiree
Title: Songs of Kanai Lal Sheel, Montaj Ali Khan and Abdul Alim
Organiser: Bangladesh Loko Sangeet Porishad
Date: September 04
Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendro Auditorium
Time: 5:00 pm

Theatre
Play: Mandar
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan
Date: September 9
Time: 7:00 pm

Harold Pinter Week
Organisers: Theatre and Music Department, Dhaka University and British Council
Venue: British Council Auditorium
Play: The Caretaker
Date: September 4
Starts: 6:30pm

Plays: Betrayal
Date: September 5
Starts: 7:00pm

Plays: Old Times & Night
Date: September 6
Starts: 6:00pm

Plays: The Lover & The Dumb Waiter
Date: September 7
Starts: 6:00pm

Plays: Monologue & The Dwarfs
Date: September 7
Starts: 6:00pm

Film Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Short Film Forum
September 4 5:00 pm Pick-pocket (directed by Robert Bresson) 7:00 pm In the Mood for Love (directed by Wong Kar-wai)
September 5 5:00 pm What Time is it There (directed by Tsai Ming-Liang) 7:00 pm Fast Runner (directed by Zacharias Kunuk)
September 6 5:00 pm Claire's Knee (directed by Eric Rohmer) 7:00 pm Wind Will Carry Us (directed by Abbas Kiarostami)
September 7 5:00 pm Broken Flower (directed by Jim Jarmusch) 7:00 pm Ontorjatra (directed by Tarek Masud)
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre Auditorium, 110-112 Aziz Super Market, Shahbag

Talent hunt

'Bengal Bikash' final round begins

AHSAN HABIB

THE final round of Bengal Bikash, Bengal Foundation's talent hunt in creative songs, is underway. The finals began with the competition of Tagore songs on September 2 at the National Museum Auditorium. The final saw 20 contestants attempt to distil months of hard work and years of ambition into just two three/four-minute performances: one of the contestant's choice and the other that of the judges.

The day began with all the competitors performing the song *Banglar mati banglar jol purno hobe je dharae*. In a crowded auditorium, the audience was treated to an array of diverse Tagore songs.

Farzana Aktar Popy from Feni kicked off with *Prane khuisir tufan utheche* and *Hridoy nondono bone nibhito a nicketone*. Next, it was the turn of Sirajgonj's Shimu Rani Dey. She rendered *Keno amay pagol kore jau* and *Deep nibhe gechhe mor nishito shameere*.

The other competitors heightened the tempo further with their songs. Saikat Mukherjee from Dhaka sang *Amar matha noto kore dao and pagla hawar badol dine*.

Ummul Wara sang *Borisho dhara majhe santiro bari* and *Patar bhela bhasai neele*. And she certainly gave her all. On the heels of Wara, came Chittagong's Monalisa Borua with *Ekhono ki holo tomar jabar bela and Dao he hridoy bore*. The songs were ideal for Monalisa to showcase her voice.



One of the participants at the programme

Next came Zakir Hossain, who rendered *Bipul taranga re* and *shunyo hate firichho*. Debosri Antora Das performed the songs *bohe nironor anato ananddhara and amar ja achhe ami shokol dite pari ni*. Abhoya Dutt rendered *Na go tomar dhoyar and o he shundoro momo*.

Then Ahmed Newaz, Paromita Dey, Sukanto Chakraborty, Dibakar Biswas, Khaled ibn Akhter, Farhin Nusrat, Aja Hossain Khan, Shuma Rani Roy, Anima Roy, Tanusri Dev, Adrita Anwar and Bishwajit

Sengupta took the stage in turn with powerful renderings.

Some of the competitors said that the talent hunt programme had created an opportunity for young artistes to extend their horizons beyond narrow regional boundaries. They have continued practicing throughout the competition and learned a great deal from the judges' comments, which will ultimately shape them into 'true' artistes. The initiative renewed the creative energy of the artistes, who strive to uphold human values through

Tagore songs. Wahidul Haque, Iffat Ara Dewan, Mihir Nondi, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury and Papiya Sarwar were the judges in the day's competition. Judges expressed their contentment with the standard of the contestants.

All that remains now is the announcement of the results. The winners will be announced on September 6, after the competition in all five categories ends.

In conversation with Fakir Bazlu Shah

Lives of fakirs through the eyes of a Lalon devotee

ERSHAD KAMOL, back from Kushtia

With the death of most Lalon maestros in the country, Fakir Bazlu Shah stands apart as one of the few singers who render authentic Lalon songs. With his stentorian voice modulation he can move the audience. For the last 38 years he has been regularly performing Lalon songs at the *akhra* (shrine).

Like other fakirs living in the congested areas of the weavers' village at Chhewria, Kushtia, Bazlu Shah's typical day is spent rendering songs and practicing some secret devotional rites. Both he and his wife have gained *Khelefaf* many years back. Whenever local and foreign visitors come to the Lalon Academy Complex, Fakir Bazlu Shah along with other Bauls perform Lalon songs playing *ektara*.

To quote him, "I get a share of about Taka 80 for my performances, though the visitors give thousands of Taka to the committee members of Lalon Academy Complex. This complex is run by the people who are not fakirs or Bauls, rather middlemen who make a living out of it. With the exception of Fakir Nizamuddin Shah, the current *Kahdem*, none of the people involved with the shrine are fakirs."

Initially Bazlu was a *jatra* (folk theatre) artiste, from where he learnt music. Being attracted by the mysticism of Lalon songs, he became a Lalon devotee. Lalon song exponent, late Fakir Khodaboksha Shah was his guru



Fakir Bazlu Shah

PHOTO: STAR

from whom he learnt Lalon songs and devotional rites of the cult. Fakir Bazlu Shah said, "We regard Lalon songs as a spiritual expression, which is more than mere music practice. In fact, Lalon songs are the doctrines of the devotional rites of the cult. If someone practices Lalon songs like the other genres of music she or he will miss the essence of the songs.

As a result, the audience will miss the real philosophy of the songs which deliver wonderful messages."

At present he is one of the instructors of the Lalon Academy Complex. He is one of the 25 fakirs who get government support. Fakir Bazlu Shah has performed in different areas of Bangladesh and India.

Photography Exhibition
Beauty in simple things of life

FAYZA HAQ

Bakin Rabbi, whose exhibition of photography was recently held in Gallery Zoom, at Alliance Francaise, learnt his skill from his father, who was the editor of the weekly *Amod* at Comilla. When his

father went for reporting, Bakin tagged along and tried his hand at photography. He did a course in photography from Lille, France and at the Bangladesh Press Institute. He enjoys working in particular on nature and toiling people. He is inspired by Rashid Talukdar, AKM

Mohsin and Powell Rahman.

Bakin regards photography as an expensive medium, especially the developing of the films. He uses both the digital and optical camera. He washes the black and white pictures himself but gets the coloured done professionally. "Nowadays coloured pictures are in demand and I prefer the coloured ones," he says. He adds that there is a shortage of labs for the processing of the films. He earns his livelihood by working for *Amod*.

In *Friendship* we see a child playing with a pigeon, with a large pigeon resting on his head. All around are trees. The photo has been taken in Comilla and the cute little child is the photographer's son. The red stripes of the child's T-shirt stand out against the grays and browns of the backdrop. This is a happy image of a relationship between human beings and birds. *Valentine's day* brings in two crows sitting close to one another, on top of a truck, and rubbing their bills in admirable companionship.

Another picture depicts women breaking and collecting stones in Jaflong. The woman in front has her sari hitched up and she is toiling with her spade. In the backdrop one can see hills and boats in a hazy composition. A Rangamati woman is seen in the next photo and she is seen

busily weaving with threads. At the back are a pile of finished products lined up in a neat row. In *Ambulance* we see a sick cow being carried for treatment by a young man in a cart. *Look at us* shows two little girls peeping through a broken slit on the walls of a mud hut. The happy girls are smiling widely despite their poverty.

Beauty sleep shows a tired rickshaw-puller who is resting. This picture is taken in Kolkata. The playing of *danguli*, a game of sticks, is brought in *Childhood*. A woman rickshaw-puller called Rokeya is shown in another picture and this too is a simple but moving photograph. A picture from Cox's Bazaar shows a chair with a sunshade on the sand with a crow resting on top. The holiday makers on the sea beach have also been included in the focus. The only coloured item in the picture is the umbrella.

An old woman, washing grass to feed her cow is shown in the next picture. *Acrobats* brings in three urchins balancing themselves on a cycle. In the background are trees that appear to be whizzing by.

Bakin's pictures, though simple, stir up the mind, and make one realise the beauty around us in everyday life.



A weaver at work

Theatre
Generating social awareness



Children artistes performing in the play *Ekti Shiter Ratri*

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Peoples' Theatre Association (PTA) in association with Rakhal, Swedish ITI and Swedish SIDA have embarked on a school theatre programme. Under their current project PTA held two theatre performances: *Mushkil Ashan* and *Ekti Shiter Ratri* at Herbarium auditorium Mirpur recently.

The children of Mirpur Annesha Multimedia school staged *Mushkil Ashan*. The play, directed by Diraj Mahmud, focused on the problems that can arise in rural Bangladesh from malnutrition and the importance of a balanced diet and healthy living. This work also aimed at informing the people about the causes of water borne diseases and how they can be

prevented. The story was based on a king and his kingdom. The people of the kingdom suffered from bad health and malnutrition. They had no idea of cleanliness or a healthy lifestyle. The central character of the drama was played by the royal physician. He gave proper medicine and explained the importance of vitamins, balanced diet and cleanliness. By following the advice of the royal physician, there was a dramatic improvement in the lives of the kingdom's inhabitants.

Explaining his motivation in directing this play, Diraj Mahmud said "Every year many children die because of improper knowledge of their parents. We shall continue staging such plays to raise social awareness," he added.

The second play, *Ekti Shiter Ratri* was staged by Peoples' Reparatory Association and directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky. The playwright is Staffan Gothe and the translator is Kristiti Hefaz. The focus is on the adverse consequences of rigid discipline on a child.

Such plays can go a long way in understanding and dealing with the delicate parent-child relationship.

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) at 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL-i
 News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.
 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) at 8:20am, 7:00pm
 Telecast of BTv News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
 Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
ntv
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
 News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 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 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
 Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
 Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
BBC WORLD
 Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL-i
 09:30 *Shangbad Potrey* Bangladesh Public Reaction
 09:45 *Grameenphone* Tritymatra Education
 11:05 Programme (Live)
 12:30 *Citycell Taroka* Kathon (Live)
 01:10 *Ebong Cinemar* Gaan
 01:30 *Bangbadpotre* Bangladesh Public Reaction
 01:45 Selected Drama of Humayun Ahmed
 04:05 *Amader Gaan* Sa Re Ga Ma
 04:45 *Banjijo O Orthonti* Star Gate SG One
 06:00 *Chiro Notun Harano Gaan*
 06:20 BBC Bangladesh Shinglap
 08:50 Drama Serial: *Nirob Shemana*
 10:00 *Ebong Shomachar*
 12:00 *Ajker Shangbadpotro*
ATN BANGLA
 10:30 *Annodrishti* Jol Pore Pata Nore
 11:05 *Ek Jonome*
 11:35 *Cholochitr Golpo*
 12:15 *Cholochitr Golpo*
 02:30 Drama Serial: *Nirob Koshto*
 03:10 Drama Serial: *O Amar Chokkhu Nai Shustho Thakan*
 03:45 *Chhotoder Prithibi*
 05:10 *Matir Shubatash Islami Sawaal O*

Jobab
 06:20 BSB Education Zone
 07:50 Musical Programme
 08:20 Drama Serial: *Malyadan*
 08:50 Drama: *Bap Beta Sarneside Kothamala*
 10:35 **ntv**
 10:05 *Zoo Adventure*
 10:30 *Dhakar Cinema* Muktangon
 01:05 *Romijer Aaina*
 02:35 *Closeup1 Tomakai*
 03:15 *Kujchhey Bangladesh*
 04:25 *Bhinyo Swader* Khobor
 05:10 *Din Darpan/ Iltihasher Ei Diney*
 05:20 *Apnar Jigyasha*
 06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
 06:45 Crime Watch
 07:20 Tele Quiz
 08:15 *Labonyo Probha*
 09:00 Music Express
 09:50 *Bibarno Bhalobasha*
 11:25 *Dindarpan*
Rtv
 09:05 *Aj Poltrikay*
 12:05 *Bishwa Jurey*
 01:00 Human Nature
 02:30 Islamic Programme: *Shoto Proshno Agantuk*
 03:40 *Prachir Ghera China*
 04:20 *Path Chaoatei*
 05:10 *Anandyo*
 06:00 *Ajker Bangladesh*
 06:30 Rtv Exclusive
 06:35 *lct Today or Tomorrow*
 08:00 Drama Serial: *Agontuk*
 08:50 *Matir Shubatash*
 05:45 *Islami Sawaal O*

PICK OF THE DAY

Malyadan
 On ATN Bangla at 8:20pm
 Drama Serial
 Cast: Aruna Bishwas, Shoeb

Terror Strikes
 On Discovery Channel at 9:30pm
 Documentary on Black September and Lockerbie bombings

09:20 Drama Serial: *Boroddi*
 10:45 Rtv Exclusive
 10:50 Heart Beat
CHANNEL 1
 08:40 *Shuprobhat* Bangladesh
 10:30 *Bangla Feature Film*
 02:00 *Padmo Raag*
 04:30 Musical Programme
 05:15 Small Ville
 06:00 *Saaj Bela*
 06:30 Top News
 06:45 *Jonotar Ishtihar*
 07:00 *Shuk Tara*
 08:15 Drama Serial: *Daar Kaak*
 09:00 *Gaaner Khata*

09:30 Bioscope
 11:00 Music Music
BANGLAVISION
 10:00 *Apnar Agami*
 10:30 *Amar Ami*
 11:00 Drama Serial: *Shukher Kanta*
 11:30 Article Thirty-nine
 02:30 Drama Serial: *Krishno Pokkho*
 03:00 *Jibon Dhara*
 04:00 *Ebong Classer*
 04:30 *Raat Beraate*
 05:00 *Shukhu Gaan*
 05:30 *Cookery Show*
 06:25 *Diner Sheshe*
 08:10 *Rashtro Bonam Eka*

09:20 Cine Bit
 09:50 *Deshar Pathay*
SONY
 09:00 Telebrands Tele Shopping
 09:30 Chartbusters Music
 10:00 Music Mantra Music
 11:00 Vaidehi Drama
 12:00 *Kaisa Ye Pyar Hai* Drama
 12:30 *Ek Ladki Anjaani Si* Drama
 01:00 *Thodi Khushi Thode* Gham Drama
 01:30 *Kabhi To Nazar Milao* Drama
 02:00 *Rishton Ki Dor* Drama
 02:30 *Aisa Des Hai Mera*

03:00 *Matinee Movie - Zamana Movie* Contd. Movie
 06:00 Music Beats Music
 06:30 Music Mantra Music
 07:00 Chart Busters Movie Based
 08:00 *Thode Khushi Thode* Gum Drama
 08:30 *Kaisa Ye Pyar Hai* Drama
 09:00 *Ek Ladki Anjaani Si* Drama
 12:00 *The Bourne Supremacy*
 09:30 *Aisa Des Hai Mera* Drama
 10:00 *hodi Khushi Thode* Gham Drama
 10:30 *Vaidehi* Drama

11:30 *Khauffnaak Thriller/ Horror*
STAR PLUS
 09:00 *V First Day First Show- Starplu*
 09:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa* Bandhan
 10:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
 10:30 *Shaka Laka Boom Boom*
 11:30 *Des Mein Niklla Hoga Chan*
 01:00 *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*
 02:00 *Bhabhi*
 02:30 *Kesar*
 03:00 *Saarthi*
 04:00 *Kahiin To Hoga*
 04:30 *Pyar Ke Do Naam*
 05:00 *Prithviraj Chauhan*
 05:30 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
 06:00 *Mum Tum Aur Hum*
 06:30 *Brandy and Mr. Whiskers*
 07:00 *Buzz Light Year of StarCommand*
 07:30 *Hyam*
 08:30 *Pyar Ke Do Naam* EkRadhaEkShyam
 09:00 *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*
 09:30 *Viraasat*
 10:00 *Karm Apna Apna*
 10:30 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii*
 11:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*
 11:30 *Kahiin To Hoga*
 12:00 *K.Street Pali Hill*
HBO
 10:00 *The Nutty Professor*
 12:00 *The Bourne Supremacy*
 02:15 *Judas*
 04:00 *Universal Soldier: The Return*
 05:45 *The Making of the Life*

and Death Peter Sellers
 06:00 National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 2: Cousin Eddie's Island Adventure
 07:45 *The Brady Bunch* Movie
 09:30 *13 Going on 30*
 11:30 *The Craft*
 01:30 *The Chronicles of Riddick*
STAR MOVIES
 08:30 *The Triangle - Ep. 01*
 10:00 *From Justin To Kelly*
 11:30 *Object Of My Affection*
 01:30 *Employee Of The Month*
 03:15 *Bram Stoker's Dracula*
 05:20 *Noel*
 07:00 *The Librarian*
 08:35 *Fascination*
STAR WORLD
 09:30 *The Drew Carey Show*
 09:00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*
 10:30 *Ncis*
 11:30 *J.A.G.*
 12:30 *Rendezvous With Simi Garewal*
 01:30 *Criminal Minds*
 02:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*
 03:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*
 04:30 *General Hospital*
 05:30 *Monk*
 06:30 *The Simpsons*
 07:00 *Cheers*
 07:30 *Friends*
 08:00 *Seinfeld*
 08:30 *My Wife And Kids*
 09:00 *Still Standing*
 09:30 *Yes Dear*
 10:00 *Becker*
 10:30 *Wild Card*

11:30 *Seinfeld*
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 09:00 *Snakes*
 09:30 *Nat Geo Junior*
 10:30 *The Living Edens*
 11:30 *Frontline Of Construction*
 12:30 *Sunday Night Special*
 02:30 *Nat Geo Encores*
 03:30 *No Borders*
 04:30 *Nat Geo Junior*
 05:00 *Snakes*
 05:30 *Nat Geo Junior*
 06:00 *No Borders*
 07:30 *Miracle in the Pacific*
 08:30 *Nat Geo Investigates*
 09:30 *Air Crash Investigation*
 10:30 *Catastrophe*
 11:30 *Night On The Wild*
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
 08:30 *Wild Discovery*
 09:30 *Discovery's Biggest Shows*
 11:30 *Need for Speed*
 12:30 *Body Story*
 01:30 *Wild Discovery*
 02:30 *Detective Stories*
 03:00 *Mystery Hunters*
 04:00 *Energy in Action*
 04:30 *Wild Discovery*
 05:30 *Mythbusters*
 06:30 *Extreme Machines*
 07:30 *Wild Discovery*
 08:30 *History in Colour*
 09:30 *Terror Strikes*
 10:30 *Extreme Engineering*
 11:30 *FBI Files*