

CULTURAL FEAST

Bengal Bikash Finals
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
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: Diana Begum Jolly
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya
Date: September 04-17
Time: 12:00 pm-8:00 pm

Theatre
Play: The Metamorphosis
Troupe: Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT)
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Bailey Road (Nalok Shoroni)
Date: September 5
Time: 7:00 pm

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
Date: September 5
Starts: 7:00 pm

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

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

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

Film Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Short Film Forum
September 5: 5:00 pm What Time is it There (directed by Teal 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 Ontonjatra (directed by Tarek Masud)
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre Auditorium, 110-112 Aziz Super Market, Shahbag

Bengal Bikash Finals
Highlighting the opulence of Nazrul songs

KARIM WAHEED

ON the second day (September 3) of Bengal Bikash finals, participants competed in the Nazrul songs category. Naat, shyama sangeet, kirtan, khayal, thumri, ghazal, kaboygeeti, folk -- diverse genres of Nazrul songs -- resonated at the Shaheed Zia Auditorium, National Museum.

The event began with a choral rendition of a patriotic song Jai hok jai hok by all 20 contestants. The panel of judges included Nazrul expert Sudhin Das and seasoned Nazrul artists Shaheen Samad, Sadya Afreen Mallick, Ferdous Ara and Sumon Chowdhury. Each contestant performed two songs (one chosen by the judges).

The first contestant to take the stage, Showbhik Roy from Rajshahi, performed Borosha o elo borosha (Khayal) and Shonar hindoley kishore kishori doley (Jhulon). It is unfortunate that some aspiring Nazrul artists often

get the notion that the more vocal 'twists and turns' one performs, his/her expertise in classical music becomes more apparent. This erroneous concept has started a trend of misplaced or prolonged mudki in Nazrul songs, ruining the mizaj (nuance). This was evident in Showbhik's performance.

Mohammad Arifuzzaman from Khulna, sang E kunjey pothbhuley and Poro poro chaitali shajey. Alif Laila Moushumi, a student of Rajshahi University, performed E kon maya-e-phelley amaye.

Anindita Chowdhury began with Riniki jhiniki bajey payela. It was an immaculate rendition of a naat (judges' choice) -- Aai moru parer haowa that made her performance stand out. The devotion, the fervour of an ummat in the song was aptly delineated.

A K M Shahid Kabir Polish performed a ghazal, Ghumaichhey phool pother dhulaye and Shurey o baanir mala diye. Ifat Tasneem Haq Orin who attained popularity as a child artiste in the early '90s,

sang Na mitrey shadh and a shyama sangeet, Shyama naam-er laglo agun.

Mohammad Anisur Rahman performed a thumri, Porodeshi bondhua and Padmar dheurey (folk). Sarah Naz Billah sang Kano kandey poraan. The contestant showcased her finesse with a rendition of Hridi podmey choron rakho, a kirtan.

Farhana Rahman performed Kano korun shurey and Bolo bondhuarey (kaboygeeti). Sharmin Akter Suma performed Shey choley gechhey boley. The participant, whose nerves didn't seem to cooperate her, fumbled through the song Mon-e-porey aaj. Halfway through the song, she seemed to lose control over the pace.

Dhrubo Biswas from Jessore sang Hey priyo tomar and Phooler jolshaye neerob kano kobi. Purnochandra Karmakar performed Shurey o baanir mala diye. Dolon Das from Noakhali delivered a memorable performance. His skilled vocals and effortless move

through octaves made the songs -- Amar kon kool-e-aaj bhirlo tori and Priyo jai jai bolon na -- enjoyable.

Nandita Dutta rendered Porodeshi megh and mor ghumoghorey eley, overuse of vocal twists was apparent in the artiste's performance. Swarna Naag sang Naiba pelam and Eki ashim piyasha.

The last contestant to perform was Champa Bank. Champa has already become a familiar name to the TV audience thanks to another popular talent hunt last year. The aspiring singer deftly performed a bhaktigeeti, Mago chinmoyi roop dhorey aye and a khayal, Hey priyo amarey debona bhulitey.

Earlier in the morning, final round of another category (songs of DL Roy, Rajnikant Sen and Atul Prasad) was held. Twenty contestants took part in the round judged by Pramila Chakravarty, Mita Haq, Neelopal Sadhya, Parthasarathi Sikdar and Mridulkanti Chakravarty.



Contestants Farhana Rahman and Dolon Das perform at the finals

'Brick Lane' filming finishes amid demonstrations and protests

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, from London

Finally the big screen adaption of Monica Ali's controversial novel titled Brick Lane has finished filming amid protests and demonstrations from some groups of UK Bengali community. The filming of Brick Lane or Seven Seas (working title) has been completed with the company carrying out some small shoots in India.

Christopher Simpson, of mixed Irish-Rwandan-Greek heritage, plays the lead Bengali character. The names of the other protagonists are Satish Kaushik and Tannista Mukherjee from Bollywood. It is expected that the film will be released some time in March next year. Brick Lane is a fictional story about Nazneen, a Bangladeshi woman who is sent to London for an arranged marriage but later cheats on her husband with a younger Muslim man.

During the shooting of the film in Brick Lane, the film making company was forced to reschedule filming after learning that the local community from East London were planning to disrupt filming by staging a protest on particular days.



A scene from Brick Lane

Filming was earlier hit by after some locals from the Brick Lane area who had objections over the book's content. The film adaptation of Monica Ali's Brick Lane ran into trouble when local Bangladeshi businessmen undertook a campaign to halt the production. Abdus Salique, chairperson of the Brick Lane Traders' Association, called the film a "despicable insult" to Bengali community, especially Bengalis from Sylhet region of Bangladesh. The film company, Ruby Films, was threatened with protests and blockades, hinting there may be violence if the filming continued to take place. Abdus Salique was quoted in the Guardian, warning that "nobody can come with a camera and make a film about that book here", adding that Monica Ali was "not one of us" and had "insulted us".

The film is being made by Ruby Films in collaboration with Channel 4. Incidentally Channel 4 is showing a retrospective of Ritwik Ghatak's films. Brick Lane has been translated into Bengali by a Bangladeshi publishing house.

Hiru Shah: A portrait of a Baul

ERSHAD KAMOL, back from Khushtia

Hiru Shah is among the elderly singers who regularly perform at Lalon's shrine. He learnt Lalon music from Motahar Khondokar. Since the early 1970s he has been rendering Lalon songs at a mazar. Though he is not a fakir, the 86-year-old singer has become one of the popular names amongst the urban audience as a follower of akhra gharana of Lalon music.

He has witnessed many changes at Lalon's mazar during the last three decades. Sharing his experience, Hiru said, "Earlier Lalon's shrine was replete with big trees, flora and fauna. This ambience was ideal for the Lalon devotees. After the inception of Lalon Academy Complex, the place is now full of buildings. However, there is a positive element: Lalon devotees can perform under a shelter during rainy days."

Hiru Shah has participated in fusion music with Feedback, one of the most popular bands in the country. He performed with the band in the album titled Baoliana. Hiru said, "In fact, I had no idea actually what we were doing. I met the band while I was frequently visiting fashion designer Bibi Russel's office. The band members requested me to go with them for recordings. After listening to the fusion music I did not like the project.



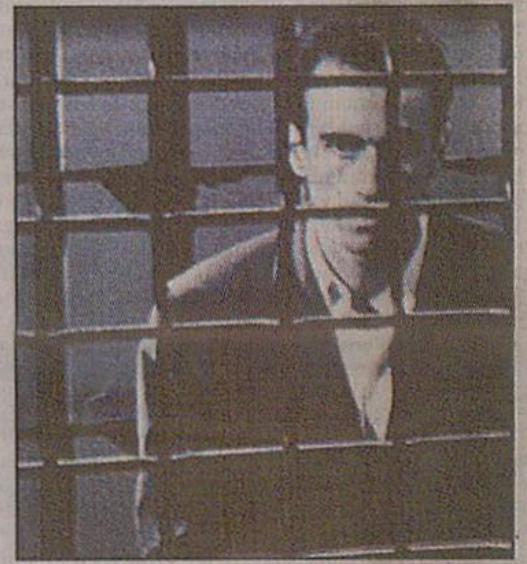
Hiru Shah

PHOTO: STAR

In fact, we are not habituated to listening to Lalon's songs with so many instruments. The other seasoned fakirs of the shrine also became angry with me, claiming I'm distorting Lalon

songs. After this bitter experience I did not venture into this arena again." Hiru Shah is one of the 25 Lalon singers who get government support.

Bangladesh Short Film Forum celebrates 20th anniversary



Scenes from Fast Runner (L) and Pickpocket

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the 20th anniversary, Bangladesh Short Film Forum, an organisation of creative independent filmmakers, launched a six-day film festival on September 2. A total of 12 films from eight countries is being screened at the newly inaugurated Bangladesh Film Centre at Aziz Super Market, Shahbag.

The festival began with two independent films Cousins, one of the films of Coffee and Cigarettes series by US filmmaker Jim Jarmusch and Etee Salma by Bangladeshi filmmaker AKM Zakaria.

In the ongoing festival, films from Bangladesh, United States of America, Japan, France, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Denmark and Iran will be screened.

Earlier the Centre, a long cherished dream of the Forum, was inaugurated. Eminent litterateur Hasnat Abdul Hye presided over the inauguration session, while eminent filmmakers Tanvir Mukammel, Manjare Hasin Murad and Zahidur Rahim Anjon, president of the Forum were present among others. The Forum members strive to screen films at the Centre on more than 20 days a month. Regular screenings will be held there to open the door to the world of short fiction, documentaries, experimental films and films of artistic value, creative expression and social commitment for the local audience. The Centre will be used to uphold the rich culture of Bangladesh as well as to create opportunity for the viewers to enjoy quality films.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



The Life and Death of Peter Sellers
On HBO at 9:30 pm
Genre: Drama
Cast: Geoffrey Rush, Charlize Theron, Emily Watson



Terror Strikes Munich: The Real Assassins
On Discovery Channel at 09:00 pm
Series of documentaries on terrorism
Mossad's mission to hunt down Black September members

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.
Teletext 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, 7:00pm.
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Teletext 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 Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV
08:30 Open University
11:15 Shukhi Poribar
12:05 Songbad Potrer Pata Thake
12:30 Maa O Shishur
01:00 Shobar Jonyo
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Rupkothor Deshe
02:40 Cartoon
04:00 Hater Kachhie
04:30 Computer
05:05 Band Show
05:05 Dorpon
06:40 Tagore Song
07:30 In Remembrance of Abdul Alim
08:35 Protidin Bangladesh
08:45 Drama Serial: Pantho Nibash
09:25 Drama Serial: Potaloka Prem
10:25 Teknal The Tetulia
09:30 Shongbad Potrer
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grampen Phone
11:05 Cricket Online (live)
11:30 Amar Chhobi
12:30 Aaj Dupurey O
01:05 Ebong Cinemar
02:40 Selected Drama
04:05 Amdar Gaan
04:30 Sharif Melamine
05:30 i Sports
06:00 Talk Show on Citycell
06:20 Mirror
07:50 Rup Roshosyo
08:20 Drama: Chhuti

LUX Channel 6
12:00 Superstar 2006
12:00 Grammophone
12:05 Aikar
12:30 Shinghadpotro
ATN BANGLA
10:30 Anyodishit
12:15 Amar Computer
01:30 Cine Gaan
02:30 Drama Serial: Teen Telka
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Hai
04:20 Talk Show: Somosemoyik
05:10 Talk Show: Nari
05:45 Islami Sawal O Jobob
06:20 Aynar Shamney
07:50 Drama Serial: Jollad
08:00 Drama Serial: Ferari Siron
10:35 Mukto Shonglap
ntv
08:35 Aajker Shokal
09:05 Drama Serial: Labonyaprobha
09:30 Crime Watch
10:30 Music Express
11:00 Cine Gaan
11:30 Gambhira
12:02 Single Episode
01:00 Muktagong
02:30 Ramizor Aina
03:50 Drama: Bibarno
05:15 Din Dorpon
05:20 Apar Jigyasha
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Franky Speaking
08:25 Drama Serial: Labonyaprobha
09:00 Talk Show: Joytar Joyjitra
09:50 Anader Anondo Bari

Din Dorpon
CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprobhat
10:00 Bangla Feature Film
10:00 Talk Show.
03:30 Drama Serial: Daar Kaak
04:00 Gaaner Khata
04:30 Bloscope
05:15 Suktara
06:00 Saj Bela
06:45 Jonotar tshthar
07:00 Hongor
08:15 Drama Serial: Daar Kaak
09:00 Rupanbrer Golpo
09:30 Musical Programme: Ekti Tara Dulti Tara

Expression
Rtv
09:30 Talk Show: Khola Chokhe
10:30 Magazine
11:00 Programme: Porush
11:00 Drama Serial: Buro Didi
12:05 ICT Today and Tomorrow
02:30 Islamic Programme
03:30 Drama Serial: Agunlak
04:20 Cinema Ar Gaan
05:05 Children's Programme
05:30 Nazrul Songs
06:00 Aikar Bangladesh
06:35 Amar Dash

Drama Serial: Raja Bhowal Shanyashi
08:50 Char Dewal
09:20 Drama Serial: Akash Ki Chhoa Jay
10:45 Rtv Exclusive
BANGLAVISION
08:00 Drama Serial: Raja Bhowal Shanyashi
08:50 Char Dewal
09:20 Drama Serial: Akash Ki Chhoa Jay
10:45 Rtv Exclusive
09:30 Rastra Bonam Eka
10:00 Raat Birale
10:30 Public Forum
11:30 Jibon Dhara
12:00 Ebong Classer Balroy
12:30 Apnar Agami
03:00 Cine Bit
03:30 Ki Jadu Bangla
04:00 Cine Bit Shada Kalo
04:30 Shudhu Gaan
05:00 Music Rhythm

Gham Drama
01:30 Pabbho To Nazar Mitao
02:00 Pisshton Ki Dor Drama
02:30 Aisa Des Hai Mera
06:00 Conld. Movie
06:30 Music Beats Music
07:30 Chart Busters Others
08:00 Thodi Khushi Thode Gham Drama
08:30 Kaisa Ye Pyar Hai Drama
09:00 Ek Ladki Anjaani Si Drama
09:30 Aisa Des Hai Mera Drama
09:30 Thodi Khushi Thode Gham Drama
10:30 Akela Thriller/Horror
11:30 Khaufnaak Thriller/Horror
STAR PLUS
09:00 V First Day First Show-Startup
10:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
11:30 Des Mein Nikla Hoga Chan
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
01:00 Kasautii Zindagi Kay Bhabhi
02:00 Kesar
03:00 Saarthi
03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
04:00 Kahin 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 Halim

08:30 Pyar Ke Do Naam
09:00 Kasautii Zindagi Kay
09:30 Viraast
10:00 Karm Apna Apna
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kahin To Hoga
12:00 K Street Pali Hall.
HBO
10:15 Death Benefit
12:00 Beyond Borders
02:30 Mickybo & Me
04:30 Contact
07:30 The Time Machine
09:30 The Life and Death of Peter Sellers
12:00 Exorcist: The Beginning
02:30 Enter the Dragon
STAR MOVIES
08:45 Brave New Girl
10:15 The Librarian
10:50 The Fan
11:45 Lass Action
03:45 Wedding Date, The
05:15 Irsi Kid
08:00 Home Alone 2: Lost In New York
STAR WORLD
09:00 The Drew Carey Show
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 My Wife And Kids
11:00 Yes Dear
11:30 Wild Card
12:30 Still Standing
01:30 Becker
01:30 Knight Rider
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 Rockstar: Supernova
09:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak
10:30 One Tree Hill
10:30 Ghost Whisperer
11:30 Seinfeld
12:00 Friends
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 Snakes
09:00 Nat Geo Junior
10:00 Miracle in the Pacific
11:00 Air Crash Investigation
12:00 Capturing Hearts
12:30 People & Places
13:00 F.I.R.
14:00 Be The Creature
15:00 Catastrophe
16:00 Nat Geo Junior
17:30 Croc Chronicles
18:00 Catastrophe
19:00 Golden Baboons
20:00 Nat Geo Encores
22:00 Built for Destruction
23:00 Insects From Hell
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
08:30 Wild Discovery
09:30 History in Colour
10:30 Final 24
11:30 Extreme Machines
12:30 Discovery Health Diary
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Detective Stories
03:30 Truth Or Scare
04:00 Zach's Ultimate Guide
05:30 Extreme Engineering
06:30 Risk Takers
06:30 Sci Zone
09:30 Terror Strikes
10:30 Mega Builders
11:30 Medical Detectives