

I was a chill somewhere. The hatral and the strike that was going on in the capital was as well, my trip to Kushiya was delayed by one day...

We came out of the house around 7:30 p.m. and by that time most people were back home after litar or praying or just trying to stay warm in their home. We took a rickshaw and started for Laloni's house...

My cousin and me went inside the mazra of Laloni Shah; a baal (known as followers of Laloni) was there. At first he seemed reluctant to talk to us but soon after he began to talk when we learned that we went there all the way from the capital...

ready to go and I continued to talk to the baal. There is a saying that if you want to talk to them just give them a packet of cigarette and they would talk to you the whole night along with long if you wanted to.

After visiting the tomb we sat outside in the verandah. I asked the baal to tell me something about Laloni 'the man' and he said what is that I wanted to know. I told him that I wanted to know everything about him his life, his work etc. The baal kept quiet for a few seconds and then he started talking. Laloni was the name given to him by the parents who adopted him. He was a boy of 17 years...

LALONI FAKIR

A day in mystery and myth

By Shahed Latif

When one day his father (who adopted him) saw that a boy was floating in the river Padma in a Banyan tree. He saw that the boy was down with chicken pox and there was not a single tree space in his body. He came back home and informed his brothers that he saw a boy floating in the Banyan tree in the Padma. He told his brothers that he wanted to bring in the boy because he did not have any children of his own. His wife begged the family to bring in the child and she promised that she would cure him. After they got the permission from others he and his wife went to the river Padma and brought the boy home. They began to take care of him, and look after him and slowly the boy was cured. The parents named the boy Laloni and from then on he was known as Laloni. For three long years Laloni was looked after by his adopted parents. Laloni was not an educated person but people felt that there was something in him, something that drove others to listen and whatever he said or did was followed very carefully by everyone. His adopted father was a learned man and he used to recite...

Interested in the idea because I like Laloni songs. So, around 8:30 p.m. we started listening to the songs. It is so very different from the ones aired on the television. You can really differentiate it then and there. It sounds so beautiful and mystifying in that surrounding that it almost when it is sung in a complete artificial surrounding.

The songs continued for about an hour and the night was becoming even colder. I thanked the baal and his singer for the songs and started to move on with my journey, even though I really did not feel like doing so, but I had to, because life goes on. When we left for home it was quite late and we could hear the howling of the fox in the far away foggy night. We could also hear some music coming from one of the houses where they were singing Laloni songs. I wanted to go in there and listen to them but was skeptical that may be my cousin brother would leave me there and go home.

We came back home around 10:30 p.m. In the night. By the time we were home we were half frozen, we would have reached home much earlier but instead we took a rickshaw ride around Kushiya town in the dead of the night. Really it looked so beautiful; it was so quiet from the hassle and bustle of the day. The next day I had other plans but I promised to myself that I would visit Laloni's Akhra sometime in October when the melas is organized.

Bangladesh is our land. It is a country where people with different religion or culture are welcome to live in peace and harmony: the Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Jews. Together we make Bangladesh and we are all Bangladeshis in spite of our cultural differences and we should stay like that. We should never allow religion to come between us and break the golden bond among all of us. I may sound like those politicians of our country but I am not alone, all I want is to see my Sonar Bangla at its best and the people live happily. I strongly believe that we have the thing in us we have the thing in me, you and everyone else. All it takes is the right person at the right moment and given that my Sonar Bangla will definitely be a joy to be reckoned with in this millennium both economically, politically, culturally and socially.



She was a very friendly and helpful woman. She said that there are a lot of risks in her job. But it's really exciting she said. She never got married and there she stays with her niece. I liked her very much. We crossed the border on the very night at 8 o'clock (risky time). Now I'm going to tell you the horrible part. Everything went on good for us but it didn't end like that. We crossed the border and the only way to reach Dhaka was by bus. As we didn't book any sit for us we were given seats but in the back. That means we had to sit in the last seat of the bus. I could feel the horrible jerking very comfortably. One jerk and I'm not in my seat but three inches above then when it stopped I was back on my seat (half dead). We reached home (guess when?) to 3:30am on the 7th of November. I was totally exhausted and (guess what) no rickshaws were to be found and we had to walk for a mile to reach home (home sweet home).

Rokunuzzaman Khan Dadabhai

an incomparable person

By Sumaiya Zabeen



December '99 filling our hearts with a pall of gloom. Children, mourning for their Dadabhai, were present during his funeral. This was the saddest day. Dadabhai, who used to come and love the children, won't come anymore. The children are still walking for their beloved Dadabhai and expecting him to come again to his own Kachi Kachari Melas. But who will make them understand?

Again it was Dadabhai who himself selected my painting which was to be given to the Minister of Environment and Forest, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury. It was one of the happiest occasion of my life. One night, Dadabhai himself called me up and gave me the information that my painting had been selected for presenting it to the Minister of Environment and Forest on the occasion of Kachi Kachari Melas' 43rd anniversary. It was a great honor for me and a memorable one too. But now we don't see our Dadabhai anymore. He is resting in peace within the premises of Kachi Kachari Melas. Dadabhai's sweet memories exist in our mind and will exist forever.

VERY HIGH STAKES

By Netcracker Saleheen

No, this is not the newer version of NFS I'm talking about. AMD I'm talking about is the ongoing battle between Intel and AMD (American Micro Devices) for producing the best and the fastest processor the world has ever seen. Well, the name AMD may seem familiar to many of you, because for some unknown reason, the local computer vendors are obsessed with the name 'Intel' and so they are putting an Intel processor inside every computer they assemble. They tell you that Intel makes the best and the fastest processors. But, actually, the fastest processor in the world market is NOT Intel's Pentium III, but AMD's Athlon! Yes! AMD has finally snatched the top place in the market from Intel.

Well, enough of that intro. Now to get to the point. What makes Athlon better than Pentium III? Well, we all have heard of MMX and 3DNow! technology called '3D Now!'. But, the Athlon has both MMX and 3DNow! including 19 new instructions. This enables the Athlon to improve integer calculations and so, to enhance multimedia and voice-recognition process. It has a L1 cache of 128 KB while the Pentium III has only 32 KB. And the L2 cache, running at half processor speed, can go up to 8 MB. It does not sit in a Slot 1, but in Slot A. The front-side bus (FSB) speed is 200 Mhz. The chipset and bus design is EV6, which is licensed from Digital's Alpha Processor Division. Though the fastest memory chips in the market has a speed of 100 Mhz, upcoming versions of them will be faster, making the performance go over the moon with AMD's new FSB. That means a whole new motherboard designed specifically for the Athlon. It is needed. And moreover, it has built-in multi-processor support. And multi-processor systems will be in the market in early 2000.

And if you find all that into a little too complicated, here's something you will love to know. The Athlon 600 MHz beats the Pentium III 600 Mhz in every benchmark tests. In the Winbench CPUmark tests, the Athlon was 25 percent faster. And in FPUMark tests (Used by Computer Gaming World), it was 10 percent faster. In real-world tests, it performed 2 per cent faster on business applications and 4 percent faster on 3D applications. And, with the upping of the very good, you may say. But there lies one question. Which processor shall I buy for my new PC?

That's a tough question for you, then go for Athlon. Though Intel has launched its new Pentium III with the Coppermine chip running at 733 Mhz, AMD did not lag behind. They have also launched their 700 Mhz K7 Athlon and the new Coppermine cannot operate at its optimum capability without the 810 chip set. Intel As Intel has delayed the launch of this new chipset, Athlon still reigns supreme. And because you are reading the Rising Star, I believe you are one, too, and you love playing with Lara Croft, or to defend your motherboard, Terra Nova, in Heavy Gear II. And with all that statistics above, I'm sure that you will love to have that performance at your desktop. These games will allow you to team with Athlon on your system. AMD offers a little short on money, then do not fear. No, not Intel, but AMD offers a little more. They have launched the K6-III with improved 3DNow! and MMX instructions that enables it to compete even with a Pentium III and a K6-III running at 450 Mhz. So, be wise and choose your similar to that of a Celeron running at 500 Mhz. But still, if you are an Intel fan, you should go for the Celeron.

Waltz Up This Week

answer the phone...and forget your meals as well.

Book of the week

As The Crow Flies — Jeffrey Archer...

Oh, how now! Don't tell me you haven't read this one? If you have—well a thumbs up to you...if not...a better...OR ELSE!!! No! It's not about courtrooms, politics, fictional evil or anything of the sort. It starts off as a quest of a young boy, brought up with his Grandfather & his costermonger's barrow, to follow in his Grandfather's footsteps & to own a shop that will sell everything. "The Biggest Barrow in the World" The story weaves into a marvellous epic through 7 decades & two generations. But I won't give away any more of the story, you find out for yourself. I was bored to death on a long car journey, when I finally picked up this book, expecting it to be a boring novel, on busmusing & finances & trade & etc, etc. I should've known better. Jeffrey Archer isn't one of my favorite authors for nothing. The car trip had ended, & even then I couldn't leave the paperback novel that my eyes were glued to. By the time I finished I had the uncontrollable feeling of satisfaction. I thought, still dumbfounded, by the creativity of the story itself "DAMI" That was a helluva good book. Don't be discouraged by the summary at the back of the book because I still haven't changed my mind about the novel. "As the Crow Flies" can be found in just about any bookstore, so grab it as soon as possible!

Every generation needs, or should I say, craves its musical rebels. Those manly-haired rock icons who weave a seductive thread of anti-establishment anarchism into their fiery vocal hooks. And if Marilyn Manson is too steeped in occult innuendoes for your stomach, then a walk on the seedy side of town with new musical phenomenon, Michigan homeboy Bob Ritchie a.k.a. Kid Rock, may prove to be right up your alley. You sense the power of his music as Kid Rock serves up an unremitting barrage of songs with "spiritual" titles like the spellbinding "Bawdibada," the insidious "Devil Without A Cause," the hyperboic "Am The Bullog," and the meditative "Only God Knows Why." This penchant for singing about both the good and evil of life is what differentiates Kid Rock from other run-of-the-mill rappers. Although this is the "sanitized" version of the album (the censors' unique audio cover-ups, which consist of unconventional beeps and other funny sounds, make some tracks unwittingly comical), it is still filled with vulgarly blatant sexuality and verbal vulgarity to make conservatives take offence. But look beyond the angry lyrics and the defiant image and you discover that Kid Rock is a punk philosopher as well. The fact that his lyrics are intelligible creates space for empathy—a definite edge over those who rant and rave in gibberish over those who rant and rave in gibberish. His dictum on the CD sleeve ("If it looks good, you'll see it / If it sounds good, you'll hear it / If it's marketed right, you'll buy it / But if it's real, you'll feel it.") vividly sums up the theme of this album. A guilty pleasure if ever there was one, Kid Rock is an artist who clearly has his finger on the most sensitive vein that throbs with the current vibe of contemporary street music.

Things to do for the week

Sorry, guys, we couldn't find out about concerts & stuff as promised. But here's what you might do to keep yourself busy. There is Music, or those 8 in the TV & computer, but for those who are of the creative type. Here's something I did last week: - Re-model your old clothes. I went out, bought beads, cloth-paints, & beads of material that I liked. I also collected all my old clothes, did my own designing & painting & handed them over to the tailor. I was almost sure of a disastrous product, but guess what? They turned out ultra-cool. You could also do something I did about a month back. I'm not sure whether your parents will approve. Mine didn't, but they stuck with it anyway. PAINT YOUR WINDOWS & WALLS!!!!!! But be careful that you get it right...you might have to live with it for a long, long time. No more details here. I don't want to be responsible for the murders of teenagers throughout the country.

Literature throughout the week

There was in him a vital scum

As if the worst had fallen Which could befall, He stood a stranger in this Breathing world, An entring spirit from another Hurled: A thing of dark imaginings, That shaped By choice the perils he By chance escaped.

Lord Byron, 1814 - Yup, he's definitely our poet of the week... Dark, brooding, lascivious poems to engulf yourself in the winter holidays... if you've got a thing for poetry you'll find his works deliciously depressing—read for food for thought. I love his works so far—but like the poem these lines have been extracted from different sources and all his poems are extremely long.... So if you're a real fan, then curl up with his famous works, nice & cozy under your heavy blankets & absorb each word in complete bliss. Don't

Movie of the week

Michael Collins This is about the famous Irish historian & the independence & civil war of Ireland. Starring Liam Neeson, Julia Roberts & Aidan Quinn, it's probably my all time favorite historic movie. You'll also get to hear "He Moves Through the Fair" a famous Irish ballad, which was re-edited & sung by Boyzone in "A Different Beat". I hate to admit it, but this was the only movie that almost brought me to tears. It was made around the early 90's. I think. Take it from me, this one's got enough material to win a whole lot of awards. It's an excellent movie filled with vigor, patriotism, and a touch of romance and violence. I'd give it a 4.75 out of 5! Enjoy the movie, guys.

Writer's Note—HELLO! We definitely need some help with this column; we can't get enough news in one week. We're not super heroes & we're more than glad if we got a head start from our readers.