

heritage

Desecration of Lalon's Shrine

Three-member probe committee, comprised of Vice presidents and General secretary of Samilito Sangskritik Jote, visits Kushtia and prepares its report

By Ziaul Karim

It all started with the weird construction plan in front of Lalon's shrine at Cheuria, Kushtia. The greatest mystic poet and song-writer of Bengal who

meditation to seek the union of the Divine. Recently the decision by the state-run Lalon Academy to establish two structures to provide space for an auditorium and a rest house for foreign visitors and Lalon researchers nest-

because Lalon's philosophy of life has always been anti-establishment and always emphasized the enlightenment of soul through self-knowledge. The Bauls, who gather at the shrine and pay their homage to the great mystic composer by singing his immortal compositions, engage themselves in a journey to discover the self, to them the centre of all mystery and the prime source of knowledge. The philosophy of the Bauls has striking resemblance to that of Greek philosopher Socrates and his famous axiom 'Know Thyself'.

What lies at the core of all misunderstanding is the academy's attempt to explain the ideas and spirit of the Bauls in terms of the academia which is ultimately against the free spirit of the Bauls.

The Bauls who felt threatened that once the huge structures are constructed they would be robbed of the serenity of the place and objected against the establishment of the structures. To protect the dignity and the spiritual ambience of the shrine, Lalon Shrine Protection Committee was formed on November, 2000 led by front-ranking poet of the country Shamsur Rahman and leading intellectual and essayist Serajul Islam Choudhury. The committee voiced their concern at press conferences and by publishing bulletins. Poet Shamsur Rahman



The milk-white Lalon shrine will be engulfed once the new structure is completed.



A Baul gives a vacant look. Will he be able to sing and seek the union of the divine again in the comfort of his natural habitat?

lived through the later part of the nineteenth century and the earlier part of twentieth century is revered as a cult figure by the Bauls or the mystics of Bengal. Cheuria, the birth place of Lalon Shah or the king of Bauls, has turned into a sacred shrine for the Bauls of the country. The trees at Cheuria forming a magnificent canopy provided an excellent setting until recently for the Bauls to concentrate in their

ling the original structure of the shrine caused indignation and hurt the feelings of Bauls of the shrine and the country's intelligentsia.

The idea of constructing the structures at the premises of the shrine felling the trees that provide shade and spiritual support to the Bauls has been viewed by the cultural activists and intellectuals as insensitive on the part of the Lalon Academy mainly



The emerging structure threatens to rob the peace of the Bauls who desert family life to seek the transcendental bliss of mind.

wrote an emotional poem titled 'Sometimes Tears will be Shed, Sometimes Fire'.

To resolve the crisis of Lalon shrine and propose a practical solution to the problem a three-member probe team went to Kushtia at the behest of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs on December 2. Vice Presidents of Samilito Sangskritik Jote, Nasiruddin Yusuf and Mamunur Rashid, and General Secretary of the Jote Golam Kuddus were in the probe committee.

What the team had observed was a strong vested interest in the construction of the structure at Cheuria which would house an auditorium, a library, and accommodation for the foreign tourists and researchers. The whole idea of the construction of the proposed structures sounds weird to

the probe committee, for Bauls are not performers, they seek the truth of life through their songs. So the idea of an auditorium is simply nonsense and then the shrine is not a resort where the foreign tourists need for a better accommodation and that is also within the premises of the shrine.

The committee has four specific recommendations to make. These are a) The rest house has to be afar from the shrine, b) The proposed auditorium can be built out side the main area of the shrine, c) Ban on construction of any multi-storied building within one kilometre of a historical relic, d) If any authority feels a new structure needs to be built within the restricted area of any historical site the architectural pattern has to uphold the traditional design.

Recommendations



Shatabdi's Eid collection

Shatabdi's eid collection will be put on display at a four-day show beginning on December 7 at Atrial Centre at Dhanmandi. Designer Nadira, well known for her creative design, will bring her latest sari and salwar-kameez ensemble to the show. The show will remain open from 11 in the morning to 9 in the evening until December 10.

Bangla Faces

The Goethe Institut, Dhaka and Drik gallery have jointly organised a workshop on photography with renowned German photographer Thomas Lütge at the Goethe Institut.

This is the second workshop of this kind by Lütge in Dhaka. This year he will be conducting the workshop within the framework of the 'Chobi Mela', the first photography festival in Asia. The workshop will come to an end on December 11.

Exhibition on Liberation

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Liberation War, the Liberation War Museum has put up a month long exhibition titled 'Gourabmoay Amadan Chiro-Jagonuk'.

The remains found in the killing fields of Jalladkhana and Nuri Masjid and some photographs are being exhibited.

Eid Collection

Organised by fashion house Altamira, a fashion exhibition titled Eid Collection will be inaugurated today at 12.00pm by singer Shumona Haque and model Tania.

The exhibition will be held at House No 1, Road No 2, Dhanmandi and will be open everyday from 11.00am till 10.00pm everyday.

150 designed Saris and 200 Salwar Kameezes will be displayed at the exhibition.

The exhibition will run till December 28.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Excalibur

Tonight on HBO at 7 pm.

Based on the Thomas Malory novel Le Morte d'Arthur, this stunning epic is dark yet compelling. King Arthur's rule has brought peace and prosperity to Camelot. However, the betrayal of Guinevere and Lancelot, Arthur's best friend and knight, and the treachery of Morgana, Arthur's half sister may bring about the demise of Arthur and Camelot. Starring Nigel Terry, Helen Mirren, and Nicholas Clay.

AXN

6:00 You're Under Arrest/Who Dares Wins 7:00 PSI Factor IV/Force Majeur 8:00 Boardwild/Space Warship Yamamoto Yoko 9:00 Curious Play/Shadow Skills 10:00 You're Under Arrest/Who Dares Wins 11:00 PSI Factor IV/Force Majeur 12:00 Pacific Blue III/Matters of the Heart 1:00 Movie: Timescape 3:00 Who Dares Wins/Space Warship Yamamoto Yoko 4:00 Curious Play/Shadow Skills 5:00 You're Under Arrest/Who Dares Wins 6:00 PSI Factor IV/Stone Dream 7:00 Earth Final Conflict III/Abduction 8:00 Movie: Joan of Arc Pt 10:00 Earth Final Conflict III/Abduction 11:00 Movie: Joan of Arc Pt 1:00 Silk Stalkings

V/Family Values 2:00 Nightman II/Enemy Within 3:00 Highlander VI/Tow of Hearts 4:00 Boardwild/Space Warship Yamamoto Yoko 5:00 Curious Play/Shadow Skills 6:00 You're Under Arrest/Who Dares Wins 7:00 PSI Factor IV/Force Majeur 8:00 Boardwild/Space Warship Yamamoto Yoko 9:00 Curious Play/Shadow Skills 10:00 You're Under Arrest/Who Dares Wins 11:00 PSI Factor IV/Force Majeur 12:00 Pacific Blue III/Matters of the Heart 1:00 Movie: Timescape 3:00 Who Dares Wins/Space Warship Yamamoto Yoko 4:00 Curious Play/Shadow Skills 5:00 You're Under Arrest/Who Dares Wins 6:00 PSI Factor IV/Stone Dream 7:00 Earth Final Conflict III/Abduction 8:00 Movie: Joan of Arc Pt 10:00 Earth Final Conflict III/Abduction 11:00 Movie: Joan of Arc Pt 1:00 Silk Stalkings

STAR GOLD

8:30 Bollywood News 9:00 Ram Bharose (Randir Kapoor, Rekha) 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 Azaad (Dharmendra, Hema Malini) 3:30 Bollywood News 4:00 Singaar (Madhubala, Suraiya) 7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Rang Birangi Faraar (Dev Anand, Geeta Bali) 10:30 Bollywood News 11:00 Do Aur Do Paanch (Amitabh Bachchan, Shashi Kapoor, Parveen Babi) 12:30 Do Aur Do Paanch (contd) 2:00 Geet Bahar 2:30 Singaar (Madhubala, Suraiya) 5:30 Aur

Do Paanch

(Amitabh Bachchan, Shashi Kapoor, Parveen Babi)

STAR PLUS

6:30 STAR Geetmala 7:30 Good Morning India 8:30 Cine Jharokha 9:00 Hit Ya Fit

STAR WORLD

6:00 Hollywood Squares 6:30 The New WKRP in Cincinnati 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 JAG 10:00 The Pretender 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 NYPD Blue 1:00 Media TV 1:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 2:00 Mork & Mindy 2:30 Happy Days 3:00 Baywatch 4:00 Hollywood Squares 4:30 Home Improvement 5:00 Star News Asia 5:30 Friends 6:00 2 Guys A Girl And A Pizza Place 6:30 Maggie Winters 6:55 Star News Asia (5 mins) 7:00 Ally McBeal 8:00 The Practice 9:00 Friends 9:30 Star News 10:00 2 Guys A Girl And A Pizza Place 10:30 Maggie Winters 11:00 Ally McBeal 12:00 The Practice 1:00 2 Guys A Girl And A Pizza Place 1:30 Maggie Winters 2:00 Ally McBeal 3:00 Creflo Dollar Daily 3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries 4:00 Life In The World With Joyce Meyer 4:30 World News 5:00 The Prefect Days

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Saans 2:00 Meri Saheli 2:30 Tanha 3:00 Tu Tu Main Main 3:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 4:00 Gharwali

cover Magazine 3:30 Go For It! 4:30 Ushuaia 5:30 Lonely Planet IV 6:30 Popular Mechanics for Kids III 7:00 Pop Sci 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 India Week 9:00 India Week 9:30 Discover Magazine 10:00 Popular Science 10:30 Lands of Legends 11:00 Sea Legends 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 India Week 2:00 India Week 2:30 Discover Magazine 3:00 Popular Science 3:30 Lands of Legends 4:00 Sea Legends 4:30 Discovery Profile Series 5:30 Discover Magazine

6:00 CNN This Morning 6:15 Asia Business Morning 6:30 Asian Edition 6:45 Asia Business Morning 7:00 CNN This Morning 7:30 Moneyline 8:00 Larry King Live 9:00 World News 9:30 CNN

6:00 CNN This Morning 6:15 Asia Business Morning 6:30 Asian Edition 6:45 Asia Business Morning 7:00 CNN This Morning 7:30 Moneyline 8:00 Larry King Live 9:00 World News 9:30 CNN

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6:00 CNN This Morning 6:15 Asia Business Morning 6:30 Asian Edition 6:45 Asia Business Morning 7:00 CNN This Morning 7:30 Moneyline 8:00 Larry King Live 9:00 World News 9:30 CNN

BTB
3:00 Opening announcement 3:20 Open University 4:00 Khabar 4:05 Programme on mother

Rezar Boithok 4:00 Bauliana 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Religious Musical Program 5:30 Drishti 5:50

1:30 Ek Akasher Niche 2:00 Nayantara 2:30 Feature Film 5:00 Football 5:30 Apna Der Janya 6:00 Arghya 6:30 Din Protidin 7:30 News

Din 10:00 News/Shyaola 10:30 Football 11:00 Din Protidin 12:00 Arghya 12:30 Bharat Bhromon 1:00 Jhara Samayer Up Akatha 2:00 Feature Film 4:00 Ek Akasher Niche 4:30 Grihasajja 5:00 Shyaola 5:30 Kichu Smriti Kichu Gaan

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC News 6:30 World Business Report 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 10:00 BBC News 10:30 HARDtalk 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Talking Movies 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Wheels 1:00 BBC News 1:30 HARDtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Reporters ex World Review 3:00 BBC News 3:30 HARDtalk 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Asia Business Report/World Business Report 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Asia Business Report/Asia Today

HBO

7:00 Flipper 9:00 The Bonfire of the Vanities 11:45 Dark City 2:00 US Marshals 4:45 Mean Streets 7:00 Excalibur 10:00 With Honors 12:15 Honkytonk Man 2:45 Flipper 4:45 Dark City



Drama Thikana on channel i at 9:15 in the evening.

and child healthcare 4:20 Cartoon film: Casper 4:45 Mahe Ramadan 5:20 Educational programme for college and university students 5:45 Information on nutritional facts 6:00 Khabar 6:10 Programme on science projects 6:30 Programme of Chittagong 7:00 Session of Tagore songs 8:00 New in Bangla 8:20 Special programme on Victory Day 8:30 Drama serial: Abar Asiba Phire 9:00 Film show: Young Hercules 9:30 Drama serial: Baishakhi Jhar 10:00 New in English 11:15 Khabar/ The News 11:30 Closing

EXKUSHEY TV

2:30 Ajker Potrikay 2:40 Drishti 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Drama Series: Choto Choto Dheu 3:30 Shampa

Ajker Potrikay 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:05 Classic Cartoons 6:30 Life on the Land 7:00 Bolte Chai 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 Drama Series: Chokh 8:30 Pother Paychali 9:00 Drama: Othocho Ekhon Dushhomoy 10:00 BTV News 10:20 Chitrogeeti 11:15 Ekushey Late Night News 11:30 Ekushey News Headlines

ALPHA BANGLA TV

6:00 Alaap 7:00 Grihasajja 7:30 News/Arghya 8:00 Din Protidin 9:00 News/Bharat Bhromon 9:30 Bahari Aahaar 10:00 Grihasajja 10:30 Kichu Smriti Kichu Gaan 11:00 Tritto Porush Chai 12:00 Bahari Aahaar 12:30 Amra Probasi 1:00 Shyaola

8:00 Nayantara 8:30 Ek Akasher Niche 9:00 Chena Mukh Achena Manush 9:30 Kono Ek



Drama Athacha Ekhon Dusamaya on Ekushey TV at 9 in the evening. Starring Azizul Hakim, Tania and Alea Ferdous.



The third episode of drama serial Chokh will be aired tonight at 8 on Ekushey TV.

Maggie Winters on Star World at 10:30 pm. In, Maggie's Master Plan, tonight Maggie's in for a rude awakening when her old high school plans - get a job in fashion, find bliss with Bobby, buy a pony - inspire her to pick up right where she left off.