

RECOMMENDATIONS

Solo art exhibition

October 29 November 07
Painter Javed Jalil hosts a 10-day solo exhibition titled, 'BLACK LINE', at Shilpangan gallery (R # 5, Hse # 25, Dhanmondi R/A.) in the city that is to be inaugurated by Andre Raynouard, Cultural Counsellor of French Embassy in Bangladesh. Special guests cartoonist Shishir Bhattacharya and noted art and drama critic, also an internationally reputed playwright, Syed Ahmed are to speak on the inaugural ceremony to be held at the venue at 5:00 p.m. on October 29. The exhibition will remain open to the visitors from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. everyday.

Group art exhibition

October 24-31
Entitled, 'Third Group Art Exhibition of Young Artists of Bangladesh', a group show goes on at the Russian Cultural Center at Dhanmondi in the city and is open daily from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Group painting show

October 25 November 03
A group art exhibition of 18 young female artists of Nandan continues at the DRIK gallery at Dhanmondi in the city.

Solo art show

Oct. 15-29
Artist Banizul Haq holds a solo art exhibition at the gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at Shegunbagicha in the city. The show remains open everyday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and is open to all.

Japanese Doll exhibition

October 29 November 9
A Japanese doll show takes place at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises in observance of the ongoing Japan month in Bangladesh. The exhibition remains open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day while during the Ramadan till 4:00 p.m.

Event

Lalon mela -- rendezvous of folk mystics

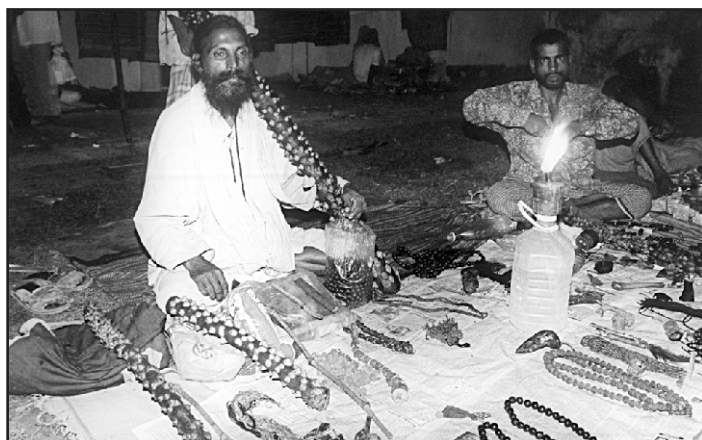
The recent Lalon mela at Kushtia and a summing up of the lyric poet's life

ARHAM-UL-HUQ CHOWDHURY

LALON Shah was a Baul, "Baul" being the local name for Bengali folk mystics. He was an icon among the Bauls. He attained a very high level of enlightenment and has always had a high stature not only among the Bauls but also among the common rural people of Bengal. In Lalon Shah's sayings and songs people have always found comfort and meaning.

Bauls' culture is not very easy to understand, as it has rather complex levels of philosophy and understanding. Though a few basic traits are common among the Bauls, they leave the regular life and embrace and live a life of harsh situations and detachments. They lead a life of self and soul searching in the mystic realm of Baul philosophy.

Bauls usually roam around like free spirits, not restricting themselves to any one particular order. Though there are many sub-disciplines or orders, but on the whole, they are neither Hindu nor Muslim. They belong to the wider spectrum of the Bauls, unlike the Sufi order, where there are only the Islamic mystics. Legend has it that Lalon was Hindu. Once he was traveling to a distance, and on his way he became sick with small pox. He was looked after by an elderly Muslim couple. Instead of deserting him they took care of him. On the other side, not seeing any sign of his return, his Hindu family observed his *shadha* (last rites). But when Lalon returned home he was denounced even by his own family, as they feared punishment of getting outcast by the society if they had accepted Lalon. The community people said as the last rite had been observed they could not accept Lalon as a living being even if he was one. Later the elderly couple recovered Lalon and adopted him, the adopted father later became Lalon's disciple and was known as Malam Shah, while the adopted mother is buried next to



Time to quickly pick up a few things: A kabiraj is among the many who take the opportunity to sell a few Baul necessities at the mela

Lalon in his tomb in Kushtia. This is the whole situation that moulded Lalon's life, later to influence many others.

Every year people from various monastic order and the common folk alike get together in Lalon's

akhra or shrine for three days starting from the day of his death anniversary. The gathering begins to start a few days earlier than that, and stay much after the three-day event. This year it has been the 112th anniversary of Lalon's death and the



Always at ease: The Bauls are always at ease. Here a small group of Bauls is seen relaxing, keeping their instruments aside

main event stretched from 16th (Lalon's death anniversary) to 18th of October. This is an important event in the Baul calendar, when countless number of mystics team the ground. Coming from distant places they get together, to sing, chat, exchange views to celebrate and to honour some one whom they have very high regard for.

This is among the very few and rare occasions when so many Bauls are seen together. One could actually feel their eccentric and trounced life style. With brisk movements and sudden singing it seems to have a language of its own. The mystics carry an aura of their own but they are extremely respectful and polite to each other and everyone. This courtesy reaches its peak in the Lalon mela, but otherwise, being lonely souls, they usually don't like coming in each other's way. Though it is a huge gathering but each one has his own temperament and chemistry that gives this mela its unique flavour.

This union has its own mechanism and dynamics, the movements of these components makes the whole system very moving. Coming to the mela the Bauls settle and start doing their own thing, as they are always at ease, away from modern and mechanical lives. Not all Bauls live a life of seclusion some are married and have children, some give treatment, some sell inexpensive things to make a living. In the grounds few Bauls are seen giving other Bauls some sort of service or another, where a very wide and frequent exchange of small notes and coins are seen. With a very deep and due respect towards each other, though the service is given voluntarily and the payment is also optional, not the slightest tension is seen, like one Baul carrying a big fan made of palm leaf and waving at a gathering. Then again another Baul is seen going from one pilgrim to another with the *shanda bati*, or evening light, with fumes coming from a big incense burner. He does not seem to bother to wait to collect

a small coin that he is given with a *namasker*. Some *sadhus* are seen deeply busy in their elaborate *pujas*, with bells and blows.

In the outer circuit of the *akhra* or shrine, an abundant and excessive use of hashish is the norm. This is often the quick way to reach trance, one can confront the various ways of hashish making. As it is widely sold, this is yet another thing that attracts the youngsters. In a contrast, no voices are brought inside the gate, and conditions here are a little sober. Singing goes on everywhere, inside as well as outside. There is a small enclosure of concrete fencing, where many of Lalon's close aides are buried and crossing that with in the enclosure is the very small tomb of Lalon Shah. As one enters, on the left, there is the grave of Lalon's adopted mother and on the right lies Lalon. With a small dome on top and all the walls with latticework around, it is an impressive piece of architecture. This harmonises well with the mountain high arched gate that one has to cross to come to Lalon's main premises. But a serious eye sore is the ugly four storied modern structure of auditorium and dormitory for the Bauls which seem not only ugly but also ironic as the place where the structure now stands had huge trees under which Bauls used to gather in the past. The closed erected building seems to choke the shrine. The protest from the civilian society seems to have fallen on deaf ears. Again, a huge stage is erected just outside the *akhra*, at the entrance by the government where in very loud speakers "lectures" and "singings" are organised in the evenings.

But as adaptation is the order of the day, and the whole event coming up organically one can never tarnish the great spirit and enthusiasm of the Bauls and the common folk alike. The impulses of the Bauls can only be felt by those who like to match with the rhythm -- with who they have come for the rendezvous.

Bangladesh in ITI World Congress

A nine-member Bangladesh ITI delegation attends 29th World Congress



Bangladesh delegates Ataur Rahman, Aly Zaker and Ramendu Majumdar at the general assembly of ITI World Congress

CULTURE DESK

THE activities of the Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) was highly acclaimed in the 29th World Congress of ITI held from 14 to 19 October in Athens. Three hundred and sixty-eight delegates from 50 countries attended the biennial meet.

Two books 'The World on Theatre' and 'World Theatre Day Messages' published by Bangladesh ITI on the eve of the Congress received wide appreciation from the delegates. A motion was also adopted in the General Assembly of the Congress felicitating Bangladesh Centre for these publications.

The elections of the new Worldwide Executive Council and the Executive Board of the seven permanent committees for the next two years were held during the Congress. Eminent German Director Manfred Beilharz was elected President while Ramendu Majumdar of Bangladesh and Jean Pierre Guingane of Burkina Faso were elected unanimously vice-presidents of the Worldwide Executive Council.

Bangladesh ITI General Secretary Ataur Rahman was elected a

member of the New Project Group which initiates multicultural theatre productions. Ramendu Majumdar and Nasiruddin Yousoff were elected President of the Communication Committee and the Cultural Identity and Development Committee respectively.

Mofidul Hoque became the Secretary of the ITI Editorial Board while Sara Zaker was assigned the responsibility of the Secretary of the Dramatic Theatre Committee. Liqat Ali Lucky was elected the Assistant Secretary of the Music Theatre Committee.

Aly Zaker and Prof. Shafi Ahmed were elected to the Board of the Playwrights Forum and Theatre Education Committee respectively.

Activities of different committees for the next two years were planned and adopted in the Congress. Bangladesh ITI will organise an International Theatre Festival and Seminar at the end of 2003.

A nine-member delegation of Bangladesh ITI headed by its President Ramendu Majumdar attended the Congress. The other members of the delegation were Ataur Rahman, Aly Zaker, Mofidul Hoque, Nasiruddin Yousoff, Sara Zaker, Shafi Ahmed, Liqat Ali Lucky and Humayun Kabir Himu.

TV GUIDE

BTV

12:10p.m. News headline
12:15 Patriotic songs
12:20 Selected program
12:45 Azan
1:00 News
2:00 News headline
3:00 News
4:00 News
4:30 Ajker shongbadpotro
4:35 Debate
5:00 News
6:00 News
7:00 News headline
7:05 Weather
8:00 News
8:30 Drama serial
9:00 News headline
10:00 News at ten
11:30 Khabar / News

CHANNEL-i

2:00 Bangla feature film
5:05 Documentary
5:35 Goto saatdeen
6:10 Music Plus
6:45 I Sports
7:15 Channel I News
7:45 Telequiz
7:55 Drama serial
8:25 Drama serial
9:00 Channel I News
9:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh
9:40 Telequiz
9:50 Drama serial
10:25 Channel I Mobile quiz
11:30 Channel I News
11:15 Songs
12:00a.m. Closing

ATN BANGLA

5:30 Islamic Prog
7:00 Children Prog: ATN Sapla Saluk Gold Medal Protejugeta
8:00 ATN Bangla News
8:25 Reporting Prog: Ghotonar Napathee
9:00 Magazine Prog: Sutorang
9:35 Musical Prog: Music Time
10:10 Drama Serial: Brether Balobasa
12:00 ATN Bangla News
12:00 Film Sprog: Surchobi
2:30 ATN Bangla News Headlines
2:45 Bengali Feature Film: Sukher Gare Dukher Agun
5:50 Musical Prog: Music Time
6:25 Drama Serial: Kakhono Jante Chayo Na
7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
7:25 Magazine: Audio Mela
8:00 Computer Based Prog: ATN Computer Projekte
8:35 Film Magazine: Henolux Benudon Bichitra
9:00 ATN Bangla News
9:15 Drama Serial: Ey Karecho Balo
10:00 ATN Bangla News
10:50 Drama Serial: Sathek Pather Sandane
11:10 Musical Prog:
11:30 ATN Bangla News
12:00 Bengali Film: Aalor Mechil

BBC WORLD

00:00 BBC News Followed By Weather
00:30 World Business Report
00:45 Sport Today
01:30 Hardtalk (R)
02:30 Fast Track
02:45 Holiday
04:30 Asia Business Report
05:45 Asia Today
10:30 Hardtalk
13:45 Sport Today
15:30 Earth Report (R)
19:30 Fast Track (R)
22:30 Wheels
23:30 Back To The Floor (R)

HBO

07:00a.m. Cinema Secrets II Ep 3: Fantasy Worlds
07:30 Midnight Run
10:00 Crash point Zero
12:00p.m. Dark Asylum
02:00 Harriet the Spy
04:00 Dead Man on Campus
06:00 Jade
07:45 Life
10:00 Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan
12:00a.m. Night Visions Ep 05: If A Tree Falls... / the Occupant

HALLMARK

01:00a.m. Black Fox
03:00 Dalva
05:00 Ses E Street - Episode # 27
06:00 A Mother's Gift
08:00 They Call Me Sirr
10:00 Young Riders, The Gathering Clouds I
11:00 Incident In A Small Town
01:00p.m. Touched By An Angel V - Episode # 9
02:00 Ses E Street - Episode # 27
03:00 Scholastic Clifford - Good-Bye T Bone/The Truth About Dogs & C
03:30 Caillou - Episode # 35
04:00 Flipper (66 Episodes X 1hr) - On The Ropes
05:00 Early Edition (Episodes 24-46x1hr) Seaso - Show Me The Monet
06:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 10 Prime

07:00 Factors Stranded (2 Parts) - Part # 1
09:00 Early Edition (Episodes 24-46x1hr) Seaso - Hot Time In Old Town
10:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 11 State Of Flux
11:00 On Golden Pond
STAR MOVIES
12:30a.m. Red Snow
02:15 Brainsmasher
04:15 Before And After
06:15 3 Strikes
8:00 One Good Cop
9:45 Raising Cain
11:30 Brainsmasher
1:00p.m. Living In Peril
2:45 Shining Through
3:00 Billy Elliot
7:00 The Mirror Has Two Faces
9:15 The Dish
ESPN
(+ 30 mins)
00:15 Bloopers (T)
00:30 Uefa Champions League 2002/03
01:00 Uefa Champions League Moscow, RUSSIA Spartak Moscow Vs Liverpool Group Phase 1, Matchday 4(R)
02:30 Sportscenter Hindi (R)
03:00 Motoworld (T)
03:30 Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour Professional Women'S Bowling Association Pasadena, TX USA (T)
04:30 Sportscenter Bristol, CT USA (L)
06:00 Sportscenter Hindi (R)
06:30 Championship 2002 World Aerobics Championships Miami, FL USA (R)
07:30 NFL Football (I) Philadelphia, PA USA New York Giants Vs Philadelphia Eagles (L)
11:00 English Premier League Highlights English Premier League Highlights 2002/03 (R)
12:00 Xbs (T)
12:30 Sportscenter Bristol, CT USA (L)
13:30 Motorsport Asia (T)
14:00 English Premier

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

HBO: 7:45 p.m. Life. The plot marks a reunion for the team of Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence, who last headlined the hit comedy Boomerang, as well as its producer Brian Grazer. Spanning the greater part of the 20th century, it is a whimsical comedy about a story that may not appear immediately funny.

HALLMARK: 11:00 p.m. On golden pond. Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer are reunited for the first time since they starred opposite each other in "The Sound of Music," in this drama about a dysfunctional family finally coming together while on vacation at their traditional summer retreat.

STAR MOVIES: 9:15 p.m. The Dish. In July 1969, the eyes of the world were on the Apollo 11 moon landing—but the world would have watched blank television screens if not for the hard work of a group of Australians manning the Parkes Radio Telescope, one of the largest dishes in the world.

Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Southampton, ENGLAND Bolton, ENGLAND Bolton Wanderers Vs Sunderland (S)
16:00 Wrestling Apple Crush (T)
17:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Bolton, ENGLAND Bolton Wanderers Vs Sunderland (S)
19:00 Football Focus (S)
20:00 Sportscenter Hindi (L)
20:30 Cricket Programming Legends Of Cricket (T)
21:15 Sportscenter Hindi (S)
21:30 Bloopers (R)
22:00 Wrestling Apple Crush (R)
23:00 Sportscenter Hindi (T)
23:30 Cricket Programming Legends Of Cricket (R)

2002 (R)
01:00 Football Asia (R)
01:25 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Bolton, ENGLAND Bolton Wanderers Vs Sunderland (S)
03:30 Rowing Fisa World Rowing Championships 2002 Highlights(R)
04:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (R)
05:00 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (R)
05:30 Golf Programming Buy.Com Championship 2002 Final Round(R)
07:30 Tennis Asian Tennis Championships 2002 Tashkent, UZBEKISTAN Event Highlights(R)
08:00 Cricket Talk Show Best Of Harsha Online (R)
09:00 Futbol Mundial (R)
09:30 Yachting World Yachting Series 2002 Ford Cork Week(R)
10:00 Windsurfing Pwa World Tour 2002 Magdalen Islands, CANADA Grand Slam Freestyle & Race(T)

STAR SPORTS
(+30 mins)
00:00 International Motorsports News International Motorsports News
01:00 International Motorsports News International Motorsports News

PICK OF THE DAY

Jade
On HBO at 6:00 p.m. Assistant District Attorney investigates the murder of a prominent man, who is found brutally murdered in his luxurious mansion. The only lead for the DA is a roll of film revealing the Governor's underground sex life, and the key to finding the murderer is a prostitute named Jade.

11:28 Star Asia Travel
11:30 World's Wildest Police Videos
12:30 Suddenly Susan
13:00 The Bold & The Beautiful
13:30 Hollywood Squares
14:00 The Brady Bunch
14:30 Baywatch
15:30 The Simpsons
16:00 Cheers
16:30 Starnews Asia
17:00 Frasier
17:30 That 70s Show
18:00 Everybody Loves Raymond
18:25 Starnews Upd
18:30 Grounded For Life
19:00 Becker
19:30 Boston Public
20:28 Star Asia Travel
20:30 Frasier
21:00 That 70s Show
21:30 Grounded For Life
22:00 Everybody Loves Raymond
22:30 Becker
23:00 Boston Public

STAR PLUS
(+30 mins)
07:30 Aatma
08:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
09:00 Fox Kids
09:40 Hit Geet
09:55 Kya Film Kya Geet
10:00 Small Wonder
10:30 Telebrands 101 - 150
11:00 Meri Saheli
11:30 Shanti
12:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
12:30 Kaahin Kissi Roz
12:55 Film Toppers
13:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
13:30 Bhabhi
14:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
14:30 Shagun
15:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
15:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
16:00 Kabhii Sauntan Kabhii Saheli
16:30 Kora Kagaz
17:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
17:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
18:00 Fox Kids
18:40 Aaj Ki Baat
18:55 Kya Film Kya Geet
19:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
19:25 Film Toppers
19:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
20:00 Khichdi
20:30 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
21:00 Kehta Hai Dil
22:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
23:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

STAR WORLD
(+ 30 mins)
00:00 Star News Focus Asia
00:30 Iht World
01:00 The X Files
02:00 Cheers
02:30 Crefo Dollar Daily
03:00 Kenneth Copeland Ministries
03:30 Life In The Word W Joyce Meyer
04:00 World News
04:30 Suddenly Susan
05:00 Hollywood Squares
05:30 The Brady Bunch
06:00 Cheers
06:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
07:30 Bugs
08:30 Nash Bridges
09:30 Traders
10:30 Oprah Winfrey Show

10:30 International Triathlon Union (Iuu) Iuu World Cup 2002 Makuhari, JAPAN Event Highlights(T)
11:30 Formula One Boat Racing Uim F1 Powerboat Championships 2002 Budapest, HUNGARY Highlights #4(T)
12:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Bolton, ENGLAND Arsenal Vs Blackburn Rovers (R)
14:00 Cricket Talk Show Best Of Harsha Online (R)
15:00 Class 1 Uim World Powerboat C'Ships 2002 Budapest, UAE Fujairah Grand Prix(T)
15:30 Offshore Powerboat C'Ships 2002 Fujairah, UAE Fujairah Grand Prix(T)
16:00 Soccer Afc U-17 Championship 2002 Abu Dhabi, UAE Yemen Vs Korea Final(T)
17:30 Spanish Football League 2002/03 Spanish Football League Madrid, SPAIN Real Madrid Vs Villareal (T)
19:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (L)
20:00 English Premier

23:00 Bahu Thi
23:30 Kaahin Kissi Roz
23:30 Aaj Ki Baat

ADVENTURE ONE
(+ 30 mins)
00:30 The Hunt For Amazing Treasures
01:00 India Diaries
01:30 Different Ball Game, A
02:00 Surfer's Journal
02:30 Explorer's Journal
03:30 Out There
04:00 Next Wave
04:30 On Assignment
05:00 On Assignment
05:30 Danger Diaries
06:30 On Assignment
07:00 India Diaries
07:30 Different Ball Game, A
08:00 Surfer's Journal
08:30 Explorer's Journal
09:30 Out There
10:00 Next Wave
10:30 Great White, Deep Trouble
11:30 Danger Diaries
12:30 Pharaohs & Filmmakers
13:00 India Diaries
13:30 Different Ball Game, A
14:00 Surfer's Journal
14:30 Explorer's Journal
15:30 India Diaries
16:00 Different Ball Game, A
16:30 Surfer's Journal
17:00 Explorer's Journal
18:00 Out There
18:30 Next Wave
19:30 On Assignment
20:00 On Assignment
21:00 On Assignment
22:30 Next Wave
23:00 On Assignment
23:30 Danger Diaries

14:00 Curse Of The Methuselah Tree
15:00 Scientific American Frontiers
16:00 Truth Files
17:00 Croc Chronicles
17:30 Return To The Wild
18:00 Dogs With Jobs
18:30 Tomorrow's World
19:00 Condition Black
20:00 Talon: An Eagles Story
21:00 Chimpantees:Rtn To The Forest
22:00 Scientific American Frontiers
23:00 Truth Files

STAR GOLD
(+ 30 mins)
02:15 Hit Geet
02:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
03:00 Patang
06:15 Hit Geet
06:30 Geet Bahar
07:00 Sahib Bahadur
10:00 Telebrands 51 - 100
10:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
11:00 Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron
14:00 Geet Bahar
14:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
15:00 Daag
18:15 Hit Geet
18:30 Bollywood Beats
19:00 Do Aur Do Paanch
22:15 Hit Geet
22:30 Pyaara Dushman

CHANNEL [V]
(+ 30 mins)
00:00 [V] Hit Machine
01:00 [V] Hit Machine
03:30 [V] Hit Machine
07:00 [V] Hit Machine
07:30 [V] Back To Back
08:00 [V] Jumpstart
09:00 [V] Hit Machine
09:30 [V] Back To Back
10:00 [V] Hit Machine
10:30 [V] Back To Back
11:00 [V] Hit Machine
11:30 [V] Zabarast Hits
12:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox
12:30 [V] Fdfs
13:00 [V] Hit Machine
13:30 [V] Zabarast Hits
14:00 [V] Back To Back
14:30 [V] Zabarast Hits
15:00 [V] Back To Back
15:30 [V] Hit Machine
16:00 [V] Hotline
17:00 Vtop5@5
17:30 [V]Jdeo War
17:45 [V] Hit Machine
18:00 Very V
19:00 Ctrf [V]
19:30 [V] Zabarast Hits
20:00 [V] Back To Back
20:30 [V] Zabarast Hits
21:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox
21:30 [V] Fdfs