

RECOMMENDATIONS

Theatre

**January 28**  
Vision Theatre premieres its third production Chourasta on January 28 at the Central Shahid Minar premises at 6 pm. The drama is written by Moloy Bhowmik and directed by Rehana Yasmin. Liyakat Ali Lucky and Akteruzzaman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation will be present at the opening show of Chourasta.

Exhibitions

**January 15-31**  
The 11th Asian Art Biennale is being held at Osmani Memorial Hall, Shilpa Kala Academy and National Museum. The show will remain open for all from 11 am to 7 pm everyday.

**January 13-February 12**  
Saju Art Gallery is holding the 50th Grand Group Art Exhibition of reputed Bangladeshi artists with 128 art works by 87 artists at the gallery premises (F/40-41, DCC, North Super Market 2nd Circle, Gulshan). The display will remain open for all from 10 am to 8:30 pm everyday except Fridays.

**January 07-29**  
DRIK Gallery is holding prestigious photojournalistic exhibition titled *World Press Photo* from January 4. The display remains open for all from 3 to 8 pm everyday.

**January 18-27**  
Dhrupad Gallery holds an exhibition titled *Solo Oriental Painting Exhibition* by Cacoly at the gallery premises (House-36, Road-5, Block- G, Banani). The display will remain open for all from 10 am to 8 pm everyday.

**January 19-29**  
Goethe-Institut holds an exhibition titled *Along the Rivers* by German artist Hans Benda at the exhibition hall. The display will remain open from 2pm to 8pm everyday except Fridays and Saturdays.

**January 23-30**  
Mokhlesur Rahman's solo art exhibition is being held at Shilpangan Art Gallery (Road 5 House 25, Dhanmondi) from January 23. Titled *Ruposhi Bangla*, the exhibition is open for all from 10 am to 9 pm.

Folk Festival

**January 20-26**  
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged a weeklong folk festival at the academy's National Natyashala at 6:00 pm everyday. The schedules are as below:

**January 26**  
*Shujan Beder Ghat* by Bhodra Jatra Unit of Shatkthira

CD Launching

**January 26**  
Shaheen Samad: *Abhisaar*

**January 27**  
Meeta Haque: *Chirobondhu Chironirbhor*

**Venue:** Bengal Foundation  
**Time:** 6:00 pm

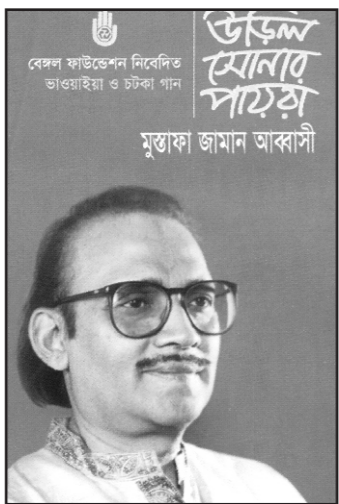
Music

# Our inherent treasure: the folk songs

Mustafa Zaman Abbasi's CD, Urilo Shonaar Payra launched

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

IMAGINE on a lazy afternoon, sailing gently down the river, on a village boat or a *Bojra* with hundreds of kilometers of virgin uninhibited forests on either side and the warm sun on your back... all you need then is the melodious and passionate folk songs which bring back memories



Cover jacket of the CD

of lost love.

'Why are folk songs so appealing?' I ask Mustafa Zaman Abbasi. 'The answer is simple,' he replies. 'Firstly, the melody, its rhythm, lyrics and techniques are very close to one's heart. The story of a village belle drawing water from the river, and looking far beyond, for her lost love, or the boatman travelling to far away lands yearning for his

sweetheart--all these common sentiments centre around the folk songs.

'Folk songs are a part of our rural culture and surely arouse sentiments of the commoners with its in-depth message. The lyrics are simple, yet powerful, in its content', said Abbasi during the launching of his CD titled *Urilo Shonar Payra* at the Bengal Foundation. Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of Privatisation Commission, unveiled the CD.

A live presentation by Abbasi enchanted the select audience and fans who flocked in to listen to a truly gifted and dedicated artiste.

Abbasi is full of enthusiasm, wit and passion even at 66. His evergreen voice speaks of his affinity with a culturally weathered family. His father, the celebrated folk singer of the country, Abbassuddin Ahmed surely instilled the passion for music in him.

Abbasi is himself a collector of folk songs and has been dominating the cultural field for more than half a century. He has been hosting several popular TV shows on folk songs for the past 20 years, titled *Amar Thikana*, *Amar Bhubon*, *Loukik Bangla* and *Bhora Nodir Bankey*. Abbasi has been travelling from place to place in search of his lost treasure.

In the CD *Urilo Shonar Payra*, MZ Abbasi presents his *Bhawaiya* and *Chatka* songs--songs of the northern Bangladesh.

The famous Chatka *Abo Nao Darita Maria* is about a young man lamenting over the death of his

wife. The frustrated man gives an account to his grandmother (Abo) about the sound and echoes which his sweetheart has taken away from his life.

In English, this is onomatopoeia, sound echoing the sense. George Gearson, D.C. of Rangpur during the British rule and a famous folklorist, first collected the two-hundred-year-old song. The song was later printed in the *Linguistic Survey of India*, Volume XIII and was first recorded some 70 years from now by Abbasi's father late Abbassuddin Ahmed.

Similarly *Nak Dengaran Betata*, a comical song, narrates how a lady, married to an imposter, later on realises that she is deceived by false promises.

'This album,' says Abbasi, 'not only comprises authentic folk songs of Bengal but is also a verbal documentation of the relevant



Mustafa Zaman Abbasi performing in front of an august audience at the Bengal Foundation

songs'.

Abbasi presents the famous lyricists of *Bhawaiya* namely Abdul Karim (his paternal uncle, who composed the best *Bhawaiya* songs of Abbassuddin Ahmed), Mahesh Chandra Roy of Rangpur, Rafiqul Huq and others. His artistic skill in voice modulation and *Bhawaiya* songs were a treat to the listeners.

Many countries put in rigorous work to preserve their national treasure of music. Bengal Gallery has similarly taken initiatives to preserve the golden voices of eminent artistes. MZ Abbasi regretted that the album could have been recorded at least twenty years ago, which could have helped in spreading our cultural heritage. More albums of such nature and other folk songs could be preserved for posterity by Bengal Foundation as well as other sponsors.'

Campus chronicles

# Anushilon Natyadal

Continuing theatrical activities despite hindrances

ERSHAD KAMOL

ANUSHILON Natyadal from Rajshahi is a theatrical group, which has been working on the Rajshahi University campus for many years. For their remarkable contribution in theatre, the campus group has earned the membership of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) in 1984.

To speak of its glorious past, Moloy Bhaumik, the chief of the group who is the Vice President of BGTF as well, says, 'Though I teach Management at the University, my involvement with the group has often given me moments of happiness.' Some of the active students namely TM Jahid Hossen, Shamsul Alam Bakul, Moloy Bhowmik and others founded the group in 1979. The members of Anushilon Natyadal are basically students.

A big problem, however, for the campus-based groups is, when every year the old students leave the campus and the freshers enter. 'Ex-students are always welcome if they can manage time', says Moloy. 'Even then each year we have to prepare new performers.'

Moreover, unstable political crisis is another threat that the group is facing now. Moloy informs, 'Last year, the dominating political cadres of Chhatra Shibir assaulted us for staging a show on campus. But it never happened in the earlier days, specifically when



Anushilon Natyadal performing in a play Bohe Prantojan

quite a large number of cultural organisations were active during the early 80s. We believe that theatre movement is a part of social change.'

This campus-based group is the most prominent cultural organisation in the northern part of the country having staged many plays at the Mahila Shomity Mancha in the capital. Anushilon has taken part in the festivals arranged by International Theatre Institute (ITI) in February 2001 and in December 2003. It has held the top most posts of the Sammillito Shanskritik Jote's northern branch for consecutive seven years. 'We also took part in the National Drama Festival in 1991,' says Moloy. Moreover, one of its productions--*Shob Babochhedh*, written and directed by Moloy

Bhaumik--was telecast on BTV in 2001.

MR Islam, the General Secretary of Aushilon Natyadal, says, 'We have produced 44 plays of which nine are stage plays and others are *Pothonatak* [street drama]. *Bohe Prantojan* is our current production, which we have displayed as part of the ITI festival in Dhaka last December. We are keeping touch with many renowned drama personalities of the country like Ramendu Majumdar, Mamunur Rashid, Liakat Ali Lucky, Fayez Jahir and others. Although there are a lot of obstacles in continuing theatrical activities, we have often held and participated in festivals and other cultural activities. We can boast that we have taken strong steps whenever the nation has initiated any movement.'

Getting together

# Cultural organisation Nandan celebrates their first anniversary

NOVERA DEEPTA

A group of students of Rajshahi University formed a cultural organisation called *Nandan* back in the year 1989, which lost its pace when they left the university. But promising young artistes of that time did not forget about the organisation. As a result after a long gap they reorganised *Nandan*. With the programme titled *Chole Esho Ghore Porobashi* last year, they started their journey once again. *Nandan* celebrated their first

anniversary at the Bishwa Shahitya Kendra auditorium on January 24.

The programme titled *Ke abar bajay bashi* was a musical programme where songs of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Atul Proshad, D L Roy and Rajanikanto were rendered. While present as the chief guest, drama activist Ataur Rahman said, 'The young people behind such organisations will undoubtedly be the future nurturers of the world. The songs of the five Bangali poets, *Panchakobi* always remain in the

hearts of the Bangalis.'

Singers Tanzila Parvin Tama, Anjuman Ferdousi Kakoli, Mamun Zahid Khan, Tasnima Begum Eli, Saiful Islam Khan and Jannat E Ferdousi Lucky performed eighteen songs of the five timeless poets of Bengal. Sunil Kumar Sarkar was on the keyboard, Rajib on the Tabla, Giasuddin played the violin and Biswajit Sen played the Mandira. The programme was hosted by Moni Khondokar. The whole programme was dedicated to *Amarkantho* Subinoy Roy.

Event

# Khulna division children drama festival-2004 observed

IN co-operation with People's Theatre Association, a theatrical organisation, Biborton Jessore, arranged a drama festival for the children at BD Hall recently, says a press

release. Liakat Ali Lucky, the General Secretary of People's Theatre Association, inaugurated the show. Sajedul Alam Dalim, the co-ordinator of People's Theatre Association, was the chief guest of

the closing ceremony. The press release also adds that People's Theatre Association is looking for new talents.

Toon special

# Blow me down! Popeye turns 75

Maybe Popeye owes his longevity to all that vitamin-rich spinach

AB, Los Angeles

THE 'Ugg, ugg, ugg'-ing cartoon sailorman who gets his superior punching power by guzzling greens from a tin can is celebrating his 75th anniversary this month.

King Features Syndicate, which owns the rights to Popeye, is planning a yearlong series of events to relaunch interest in the pipe-tooting mariner with the outsized forearms, including a new 3-D animated TV special written by *Mad About You* comedian Paul Reiser. That special is set for broadcast next holiday season.

Meanwhile, this weekend in New York City, the Empire State Building plans to shine its tower lights green from sundown to midnight 'in honor of Popeye's

enormous love of spinach,' according to King Features.

Popeye began life in 1929 in Elzie Segar's popular *Thimble Theatre* comic strip as a limited story line guest. Within a year he'd replaced one of *Thimble Theatre's* original characters, Ham Gravy, and become central to the strip. He graduated to movie shorts, many by the renowned animator Max Fleischer.

Popeye battled everything from sassy goats to the bloated bad-guy Bluto while pursuing the affection of girlfriend Olive Oyl. He even appeared in a video game in the 1980s, collecting falling hearts from his rail-shaped love.

Robin Williams played the bulging-armed character in Robert Altman's 1980 musical movie *Popeye*.



Popeye has been in comic strips, movies, merchandise and--soon--a 3-D TV special

# 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 9:40 am.12:10 pm. 2:00 p.m 3:10 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) 11:30 pm.  
**CHANNEL-i**  
Breakfast News 07:15 am. 9:00am  
News(Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.  
Telecast of BTV news(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**ATN BANGLA**  
News(Bangla) at 8:00 am. 12:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
Telecast of BTV News(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**n tv**  
News Headlines(Bangla) at 5:02 pm. 6:30 pm. 9:45 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 pm.10:30 pm.  
**TARA BANGLA**  
News-Headline(Bangla) at 5:30 pm. 7:30 pm. 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

CHANNEL-i

09:45 *Tritia Matra*  
12:00 *Chithi Pelam*  
12:30 *Ekanyaborti*  
02:00 Feature Film: *Chader Hashi* (Nowshin, Omar Sanni)  
05:45 *Chitra Mela*  
06:10 *Music Plus*  
06:45 *Dhanger*  
08:25 Drama Serial: *Shunya Theke Shomudre*  
Drama Serial: *Boomerang*  
09:35 Drama Serial: *Kachher Manush*  
10:00  
**ntv**  
08:00 *Ajker Sakal*  
08:00 *Kabitalap*  
09:30 *Ei Shomoy*  
10:02 *Dhakar Cinema: Shadhona*  
02:30 *Ke korbey Bajimaath*  
03:00 Drama Serial: *Teen Purush*  
03:30 Fashion Talkies  
04:00 Right Click  
04:30 Drama Serial: *E Shomoy Ashomoy*  
06:00 *Apar Jigyasha*  
06:35 *Shubho Shondhya*  
06:55 Gallery  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Ebong Ami*  
08:35 *Sharar Khutinati*  
09:10 *Natoker Gaan*  
09:47 Drama Serial: *Amader Golpo*  
11:20 *Dindarpan*  
**HBO**  
8:45 Casualties of War  
10:45 High Desert Kill  
12:45 Dennis the Menace Strikes Again!  
2:15 Dragonheart: A New beginning  
4:00 The Blue Lagoon

6:15 Batman  
9:30 Rumble in the Bronx  
11:45 Pressure  
**ZEE CINEMA**  
10:30 Leader (Dilip Kumar, Vivyanimala)  
1:30 Mr and Mrs Khiladi (Akshay Kumar, Juhi Chawla)  
5:30 Raja Babu (Govinda, Karisma Kapoor)  
9:30 Mast (Aftab Shivadasami, Urmila Matondkar)  
**MGM**  
9:00 Skin Deep  
11:30 Red Letters  
2:00 The Music of Chance  
4:30 The Shrink is In  
7:00 Incognito  
9:30 Romantic Mondays: Romantic Monday: The Serents Kiss (Ewan Megregor)  
ZMS 2  
11:30  
**DISCOVERY**  
12:30 Great Romances of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Charlie Chaplin & Oona  
1:00 Great Country Inns: The Stewart House  
1:30 Baby Story: Baby Nolin  
2:00 Diet Busters  
2:30 New Detectives: Texas Rangers  
3:30 Wild Discovery: A Lemur's Tale  
4:30 Let's Dance and Eat: Nalle in Senegal  
5:00 Popular Mechanics for Kids: In Deep Water  
5:30 Travellers: Onam & the Snakeboat Races: Kerala, India  
6:00

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



**MGM:** 9:30 pm: *The Serpent's Kiss*. Drama. Ewan McGregor, Greta Scacchi, Pete Postlethwaite. Young Dutch architect Meneer Chrome comes to a remote English estate where Thomas Smithers lives with his wife, Juliana. Smithers is determined to leave as his legacy a fabulous garden, to be carved from a wild patch of land beside his home. Chrome receives written instructions from his unseen master via a secretary, and the master is Juliana's cousin, Fitzmaurice, who had romance with Juliana when they were young and plans to make Thomas bankrupt via setting up extravagant garden and to make Juliana come back to him.



**Star Movies:** 7:00 pm: *Bridget Jones's Diary*. Comedy/Romance. Renée Zellweger, Hugh Grant. Bridget Jones is an average woman struggling against her age, her weight, her job, her lack of a man, and her many imperfections. As a New Year's Resolution, Bridget decides to take control of her life, starting by keeping a diary in which she will always tell the complete truth. The fireworks begin when her charming though disreputable boss takes an interest in the quirky Miss Jones and the ups and downs of their ill-fated relationship prove hilarious and touching at once.

PICK OF THE DAY



**Batman**  
On HBO at 6:15 pm  
Genre: Action / Thriller / Crime / Fantasy  
Michael Keaton, Jack Nicholson, Kim Basinger  
Gotham City: dark, dangerous, 'protected' only by a mostly corrupt police department. Despite the best efforts of D.A. Harvey Dent and police commissioner Jim Gordon, the city becomes increasingly unsafe...until a Dark Knight arises. We all know criminals are a superstitious, cowardly lot...so his disguise must be able to strike terror into their hearts.

STAR PLUS

2:00 Bhabhi  
2:30 Shagun  
3:00 Kabhi Aaye Na Judai  
3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi B  
4:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii  
4:30 Kahiin To Hoga  
5:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz  
6:00 Hum Saath Saath Hain  
6:30 Fox Kids  
7:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Ban  
8:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom  
8:30 Krishna Arjun  
9:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay  
9:30 Des Mein Niklla Hoga C  
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii  
11:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi B  
12:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz

STAR WORLD

1:30 Mac Gyver  
2:28 Star Asia Travel  
2:30 Oprah Winfrey  
3:30 Bold And Beautiful  
4:30 Hollywood Squares  
5:00 Two Guys And A Girl  
5:30 Knight Rider  
6:30 The Simpsons  
7:00 Home Improvement  
7:30 Friends  
8:00 Just Shoot Me  
8:30 Golden Globe  
11:30 Baywatch

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

12:30 National Geographic Spec  
1:30 Crittercam-Wildtech Adv  
2:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife  
2:30 Built For The Kill  
3:30 On Assignment  
4:30 National Geographic Spec  
5:30 Return To The Wild  
6:00 Animal Edens  
6:30 Dogs With Jobs

7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife  
7:30 Monkey Business  
8:00 Taiwan Wild  
8:30 Different Ball Game A  
9:00 Different Ball Game A  
9:30 National Geographic Spec  
10:30 National Geographic Spec  
11:30 Self-Portrait  
**ESPN**  
7:00 West Indies Tour Of South Africa Standard Bank One Day  
9:00 International Series  
9:30 Des Mein Niklla Hoga C  
10:30 India's 1st Odi  
11:30 Australia Cricket Vb Series Australia Vs Zimbabwe 9th Odi Preview(L)  
9:15 Australia Cricket Vb Series Australia Vs Zimbabwe 9th Odi 1st Session(L)  
12:45 Australia Cricket Vb Series Australia Vs Zimbabwe 9th Odi Lunchtime Show(L)  
1:30 Australia Cricket Vb Series Australia Vs Zimbabwe 9th Odi 2nd Session(L)  
5:00 Australia Cricket Vb Series Australia Vs Zimbabwe 9th Odi Review(L)  
5:30 Cricket Gold (T)  
8:30 Sportscenter India (L)  
9:00 Sunny Programming  
9:30 Sunny By Night  
11:00 English Premier League Archive Programming  
Ten Seasons - A Decade Of Great Matches Highlights(T)

11:30 Sportscenter India (R)  
12:00 Sunny Programming  
Sunny By Night  
Australia Vs Zimbabwe 9th Odi Highlights(R)  
**STAR SPORTS**  
1:30 International Motorsports News 2004 (T)  
2:30 Australian Open Presented By Kia Melbourne Australia Men's/Women's Fourth Round  
6:00 Adventure X Terra European Championships 2003 Highlights(T)  
7:00 Australian Open Presented By Kia Melbourne Australia Day #8 Highlights(S)  
8:00 Sportsline (L)  
8:30 Spanish Football League (R)  
10:30 Sportsline (R)  
11:00 Australian Open Presented By Kia Melbourne Australia Night #8 Highlights(S)  
12:00 Cricket Talk Show Best Of Harsha Online (R)  
**TEN SPORTS**  
12:00 Gamer TV  
1:00 Legends  
2:00 Pick of the Week  
2:30 Speed  
3:30 History of Football  
4:00 Gamer TV  
4:30 Fitness Beach  
5:30 Extreme Sports  
7:30 Smackdown (1): Ep 229  
8:00 Gamer TV  
8:30 Gillette World Sport (1): Ep 56  
9:00 World Football News  
11:00 India v England Nat West Trophy  
1:00 Smackdown (1): Ep 229