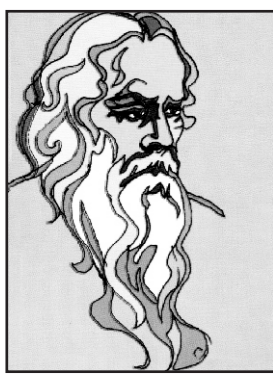


RECOMMENDATIONS



Rabindra anniversary celebration

May 08-10
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organises a three-day programme to celebrate the 143rd birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. The programmes include book fair, discussion and cultural functions. The celebration will be inaugurated at the Osmani Memorial Hall. The book fair will be open from 3pm to 6pm at the exhibition hall of the National Museum. The discussions will take place at the Seminar Hall of Bangla Academy at 4pm on May 9. In the evening of May 10 at 6pm a cultural function will end the celebration.

Exhibition

April 26-May 08
A 12-day long painting exhibition of five renowned contemporary artists is going on at Haque Art Gallery, Gulshan from April 26. Thirty five paintings on oil, tempera, acrylic and mixed media by Mahmudul Haque, Abdus Sakur Shah, Rokeya Sultana, Kanak Chandra Chakma and Khalid Mahmood Mithu are on the display.

Virtual painting

May 06
Alliance Francaise will arrange the first ever virtual painting exhibition in Bangladesh by Nazia Andaleeb at the centre's gallery (26, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1205, Dhanmondi) on May 6.

Photography

May 06-31
Alliance Francaise (26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205) holds a photography exhibition of four amateur artists like Laura, Rumi, Mushtaque and Naser at the centre's exhibition hall, starting from May 6.

T-shirt exhibition

May 04-18
On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Nitya Upahar has arranged a t-shirt exhibition designed by three artists Dhruva Esh, Nazib Tareq and Shobayshachi Hazra at Nitya Upahar, Aziz Super Market.

Film show

May 03-31
Indian Cultural Centre will screen nine Indian movies at the centre's auditorium (House-25, Road-96, Gulshan-2) at 6:00 pm on every Monday and Thursday. The schedule is: **May 06 Zubeida** **May 10 Pardes** **May 13 Saathiya** **May 17 Sangam** **May 20 Mr. & Mrs. Iyer** **May 24 Namak Halal** **May 27 Dil Chahata Hai** **May 31 Ranggeela**. For complimentary tickets contact Rajib Bhattacharya (8820243-7, 9888789-91).

Musing

There is a close kinship between festivals and music in Bangladesh. Witness the celebrations that are held to mark birth and death anniversaries of poets, musicians and saints. Then there are important national days, Pehla Baisakh and changing seasons and folk songs that celebrate the hopes and aspirations of the rural folk. Now as the Nazrul and Tagore birth anniversaries loom

melody of Tagore songs has a transcendental appeal for its spiritual content, be it life, death, creation and nature.

Nazrul songs, composed by the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, are even more popular in Bangladesh. To mark his life and contribution to literature and music, a year-long Nazrul Centenary celebration was held recently. The key elements of

devotional songs celebrate the mystery of life and universe and the glory of God's creation.

Every year a Lalon festival is held at his birth place in Kushtia, a city in northern Bangladesh. On this day, an elaborate programme with discussions and musical performances of his songs are rendered by the Bauls (mystic singers) from different parts of the country.

Likewise, Hasan Raja's mystical songs festivals are held every year to celebrate the birth and death anniversaries of this composer of devotional and mystic songs of Sylhet.

Another evergreen theme is the folk songs which revolve around the simple life, hopes and aspirations and hardship of rural folk. Among others, the compositions of Poet Jasimuddin and songs of Abbasuddin and Abdul Alim are very popular in every part of the country. Their birth and death anniversaries are commemorated by performances of their songs in different cultural organisations, radio and television.

Besides, the general category of music prevalent in Bangladesh, classical music—both vocal and instrumental—has a rich tradition. Among the well-known names are Ustad Alauddin Khan, Ustad Ayet Ali Khan, Dr Ali Akbar Khan, and Ustad Bahadur Khan of Brahmanbaria. Commemorative musical functions are held every year in their honour. Moreover, the religious festivals of communities like Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Buddhists are also marked by their respective devotional songs.

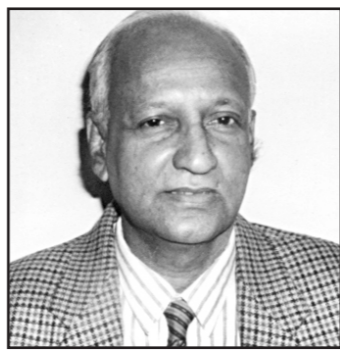
Lastly, there are the Independence and Victory Days which are celebrated with patriotic fervour in cultural functions.

Lalon Geeti is another genre of famous commemorative song in Bangladesh, named after the mystic poet and singer Lalon Shah. The

Commemorative

music

Celebrating special days



MOBARAK HOSSAIN KHAN

near, it is a good time to look back at the role played by commemorative music in the cultural life of the country.

Tagore songs, composed by Rabindranath Tagore, are an integral part of the Bengali culture. The songs of the famous poet and Nobel Laureate for Literature are sung in every house and cultural functions, particularly on the occasion of his birth and death anniversary, national days and the Bengali New Year festival. The soft

the function were songs, drama and discussions on his work.

His birth and death anniversaries are celebrated with fanfare. He is a household name, particularly his patriotic, devotional and romantic songs. Some of his songs on the distinctive beauty of each Bengali season, particularly spring and rainy seasons, have a lasting appeal.

Lalon Geeti is another genre of famous commemorative song in Bangladesh, named after the mystic poet and singer Lalon Shah. The

Poetry matte

Little magazine 'Daanrkaak' turns two

CULTURAL REPORTER

'AN imaginary red raven (daanrkaak) is flying, bearing seeds of the Peepul tree to germinate greenery all over the world', with this slogan a number of young poetry lovers have been publishing a little magazine entitled *Daanrkaak* for two years. On May 1, the second birth anniversary of the magazine was observed. Renowned poet Shamsur

Rahman inaugurated the party. The other participants of the arrangement were Poet Rafiq Azad, Poet M Rafiq, Poet Shumudra Gupta, Ahmed Reza and others.

In the discussion session Ahmed Reza, Professor of English of Jahangirnagar University said, 'I hope that *Daanrkaak* becomes a popular little magazine in the coming days.'

Professor Sonia Nishat Amin also gave her felicitation to the magazine.

Poet M Rafiq said, 'It is really tough to continue a magazine on poetry in our country. The publishers of *Daanrkaak* have chosen the difficult task. Now, poets of the country should support them so that they can continue the publication.'

Poet Rafiq Azad said, 'I hope that *Daanrkaak* will become the bridge between the popular poets and upcoming talents. Moreover, I hope that it will play a vital role in our cultural arena to give exposure to the scattered poets all over the country.'

In his speech Shamsur Rahman said, 'It is very important at present to develop the interest of the young poets.'

After the speech, a part of a play *Eke Dhorie Din* by Dulal Jubaer was staged.



Upcoming talen

Accepting change

Going back to their roots

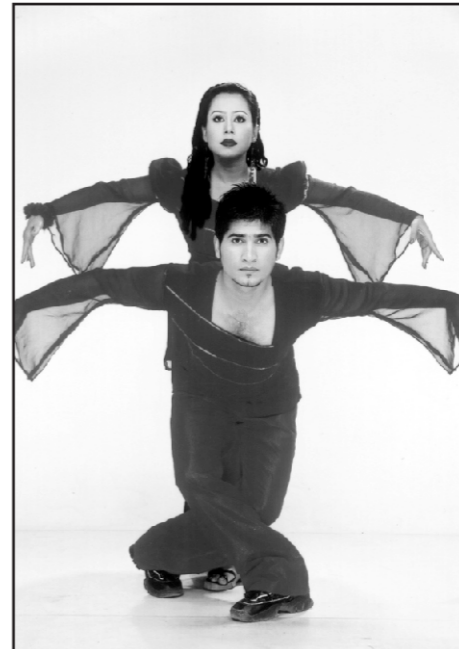
ELITA KARIM

THIS country is a country of ethnicity, dating back to over hundreds of years. The tremendous amount of knowledge dispersed in the fields of music, dance and the many different art forms is beyond general comprehension. Today, young cultural activists have grown an urge to move towards a different approach to learning and developing the various forms of art.

For instance, the growing generation has a diversified taste in music in, the country today. Listening to musicians like Azam Khan was probably a huge step several years ago, in terms of change in the musical scenario. Today, however, young musicians like to deal with the underground, grunge, alternative not to mention fusion and jazz. They have actually built a niche for themselves, where they give birth to their expression resulting from true passion. In spite of this huge change, these young musicians have not forgotten their identity. They still hold on to their roots and try to stem out yet another path to reach out to their peers.



Sabbir Ahmed Khan Biju



Farzana Khan Ela and Sabbir Ahmed Khan Biju

While talking to three young dancers Farzana Khan Ela, Sabbir Ahmed Khan Biju and Syed Md Talut Sunan, one will definitely feel the strong urge within them to build a diversified road towards learning and developing the art of dancing. They have a desire to go back to the root and interpret it in unique ways to have the new generation be acquainted with culture. 'There are still people who dance the traditional *Lathi* dance in the original style,' exclaimed Biju. 'I am working with a few of these dancers and trying to develop a form which could be easily accepted by the younger generation.'

Today, these young dancers want to move from the traditional ways of expressing their art, and merge into contemporary dance. Both Biju and Sunan, who have had a chance to meet the talented British born dancer Akram Khan, and attend

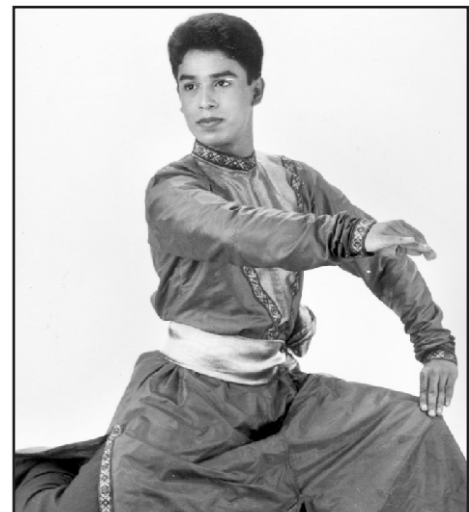
his workshops in the UK, now practice at least two hours a day, trying to come up with a different taste for the young generation to appreciate.

'Based on our classical knowledge, we are trying to develop this contemporary form of dance,' Sunan remarked. 'Many fail to realise that our culture is extremely rich. I am, in a way, exploring its flexible features to develop an art form, which will be acceptable today.'

'It's a shame when the promoters look for female dancers in a show, and can't seem to accept the fact that a group of boys can also be involved in choreography and classical dances,' Sunan continued.

'We still don't get appreciation in this country,' Ela pointed out. 'The media has this in-built notion, that if you are not a model, not a usual face on every other television ad, don't have any face value, you are not fit to be considered in the cultural field of Bangladesh.'

Sometimes, it is simply refreshing to come across such promising artists who want to create yet another dimension in their respective fields for diversification.



Syed Md Talut Sunan

Obituary

Jumbo passes away

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular actor-fight director of many Bangla films Jumbo died on May 3.

The veteran actor acted in around 350 films during his film-career spanning about two decades. His debut film was *Banduk*. A few films in which he acted are still to be released.



PHOTO:AFP

Chinese terracotta warriors from Xian stand in an exhibition space in Barcelona, on May 3. The warriors from the Qin and Han dynasties are in Barcelona as a temporary exhibition to coincide with the Barcelona Forum 2004.

Filmdor



PHOTO:AFP

A scene from the Oscar nominated movie *Whale Rider*, featuring Keisha Castle-Hughes, and the beach at Whangara. New Zealand is caught up in a fierce debate after the government has moved to nationalise the seabed and foreshore of the nation, including at Whangara. The indigenous Maori tribe who starred in the movie -- a real tribe -- had believed that by customary right they owned the beach.

Rani in Karan's next

Rani Mukherjee, Karan Johar's muse and great buddy is reportedly going to play the lead role in Karan Johar's next film to be directed by his former assistant Soham. In fact Rani has already been sent a copy of the script and date details are being discussed. Rani has always been lucky for Karan right from his Kuch Kuch Hota Hai days. Having agreed to do walk-in roles for Karan in Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham and Kal Ho Naa Ho, if any one deserves a good role in Karan's next then it's Rani.



Internet

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 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) 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL-i
Breakfast News 7:15 am, 9:00 am
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.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 5:00 pm, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
TARA BANGLA
NewsHeadlines(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

PICK OF THE DAY

