

Baikuntho Recitation Academy

Promoting an art form

NOVERA DEEPIITA

BAIKUNTHO Recitation Academy ranks among the old and prominent recitation groups of the city. The head of the academy Shimul Mustafa recalls the history of the group. When we formed Baikuntho in 1986, there were very few other recitation groups. We felt the necessity to unite against the autocratic government and protest culturally against the military rule. So looking at from a socio-political perspective, it was essential for us to form a group,' says Shimul.

In order to popularise recitation as an art form throughout the country, Baikuntho members travel around the country. The group has a regular programme titled *Shakorer Shandhaney Baikunthor Proyash* (The attempt of Baikuntho in search of roots). This group has toured many places such as Comilla, Sylhet, Chittagong, Naogaon, Bogra, Mymensingh and Meherpur.

The architects of Baikuntho were Shimul Mustafa and Nasirul Haque Khokon. Soon they were joined by 15 youngsters. Prominent among them were Deen Muhammad, Tutul, Farhad and Atiqullah Majumdar. Later in the mid-1980s, Baikuntho organised a workshop



Reciters presenting *Bish Brikhker Bee*: One of their successful productions

and a recitation performance an official start for the group. The started 10 years later and soon other

Baikuntho arranges special recitation training workshops twice a year. These four-month workshops serve as training platforms for the young generation. After evaluating their performance, the participants are included as members. Baikuntho has arranged 15 such workshops from 1996 and 40 students are being trained in each workshop.

The most noteworthy performances of Baikuntho are *Bende Kahini*, *Shotykarer Rupkatha*, *Roudro Jaler Khelaj*, *Bishbrikhker Bij*, *Anirdisto Upakhyan*, *Kono Dakghar Nei* and *Rushprint*. Among the flourishing artists are Mehedi Hassan Chanda, Barkat Ali Dhruva, Meher Nigar June, Debabrata Sarkar, Sabir Al Harun and Khaleda Shapla.

About the new productions of the group, Shimul Mustafa said regretfully, 'We are not allowed to practice inside the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) as before. It is, therefore, difficult for us to work for new productions.' He also regretted the idea of allocating places for the new groups instead of old ones by the authority of TSC. However, Shimul said that it is a positive sign that many groups are formed and people are getting interested in recitation.

Shahnaz Beli's solo Lalon album

Kothai Achhey Din Darodi Shain

AFSAR AHMED



Zeenaat Rehana, Dr K. R. Huque, Shahnaz and Azad Rahman at the ceremony

FAKIR Lalon Shah-- some brand him as a humanist because of his revolt against the bindings of caste and religion. Moreover the depth of his lyrics is akin to Sufism, which caters for universal peace and love. Kolotan Audio Vision has recently released Shahnaz Beli's first solo Lalon CD to capture the essence of Lalon's music and to spread his views among the audience and especially the next generation.

Lalon exponent, Dr Khondokar Reazul Haq unwrapped the cover in the launching ceremony and wished Shahnaz good luck in her endeavours. Eminent singer, composer Azad Rahman, singer Zeenaat Rehana, Khondokar Nazrul Islam, Bari Siddiqui were also present on the occasion.

Shahnaz grew up in the village of Kusthila-- the place where the creator of mystical songs Lalon Shah once began his voyage. Shahnaz's early days were punctuated by the tune of the *ektara* and *dotara* (stringed instruments) played by her father. This musical environment had a tremendous impact on her during her childhood. These cultural influences paved the way for the emergence of a new generation of Lalon singers.

In her newly launched CD Shahnaz sang 10 songs-- mostly with unfamiliar tunes. So, in this

respect the CD is a great addition to our music industry.

The songs-- *Kothai achhey shai din dorodi shain*, *Mukhey porrey shodai ta itaha illallah*, *Keye dekharey mon dibbo nojorey*, *Ke tomarey e besh bhushon* and *Adi mokka ei manob dehey*-- will definitely win appreciation, though they are not Lalon's popular numbers. After the successful launch of her first folk CD, an improvement in her singing style is noticeable.

Along with these unexplored Lalon songs, she also sang a few popular tunes like *Key banalo emon rongmahalkhan*, *Jao hey shyam rai kunjey*, *Prem roshik hobo kemoney*.

Shei Kala Chand nody eshechey and Dekh na mon jhakmari.

Almas Ali, the music composer of the CD, seems to have set his sights on attracting the next generation. Probably the director and the producer were influenced by the maxim that music-based songs are more popular than mystical songs.

The positive feature of the CD is that the original flavour of Lalon songs can be maintained with the tunes of *ektara* and *dotara*. Overall the CD is well recorded and the songs are well selected. Shahnaz's latest venture should stand her on solid ground in the music firmament.

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

47th Solo Exhibition
Artist: Jamal Ahmed
Venue: Jamal's Gallery, Husain Plaza, Dhanmondi 15 (New)
Time: July 09-30, 11am to 08pm

5th Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Ifrat Ara Dewan
Venue: Shilpangan, Road 5, House 25, Dhanmondi
Time: July 23-August 01, From 10 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 8 pm

Abhijit 6th solo Exhibition
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Time: July 30- August 15, From 9 am-4 pm, 5 pm-8 pm

Premiere Show
Title: Bikolar Megh
Writer: Mahbub Aziz
Director: Gazi Rakayet
Venue: Spectra Convention House-19, Road-7, Gulshan-1
Time: July 26, at 6:45 pm

Musical Soiree
Title: Achin Pakhi
Performer: Farida parvin
Organiser: Orchestra
Venue: All Community Club, Gulshan 2, Dhaka
Time: July 30, at 6:00 pm

Bristi Nesha Bhora
Shondhyabela
Organiser: Nandan, a cultural group
Venue: Bangladesh YWCA Bhaban, 3/23, Iqbal Road, Muhamadpur
Time: July 30, at 6:00 pm

Music Night
Organiser: Srijan
Artists: Shaily Rouf, Nabeela Fariz Rahman, Masud Ahmed, Suhaili Parveen, Ruma and Prakash Kumar Banik
Venue: Bisho Shahitto Kendro
Date: July 27
Time: 06:30 pm

Hollywood actresses as activists

Do films and social causes go together? The answer would definitely be yes if one looks at the persona of highflying Hollywood actresses of yore. Take Elizabeth Taylor. The stunner, who took the world by storm, is also dedicated to the global battle against AIDS. While Brigitte Bardot promotes animal rights and Jane Fonda is a well-known social activist.

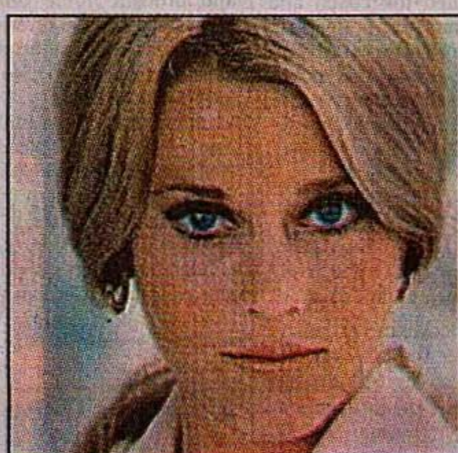
Here, The Culture Desk profiles these three film stars who have ventured out to champion causes dear to them. In the process they have made ripples in areas outside filmdom.



Elizabeth Taylor: The light-eyed septuagenarian is perhaps as well known for her films as her numerous marriages. Her memorable roles are in films such as *National Velvet*, *Cleopatra*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (for which she won a best actress Oscar nomination) and *Suddenly Last Summer*. Describing her, Tennessee Williams screen playwight of the last two films, said: 'Liz Taylor is one of the great phenomena and symptoms of our time in America.'

After eight marriages-- she divorced and remarried Richard Burton twice over-- she immersed herself in the global battle against AIDS. In 1985 she co-founded the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) with Dr Mathilde Krim-- the same year that her dear friend and former co-star Rock Hudson died from the deadly disease. In 1991, the actress founded the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, which has distributed over US \$8 million to AIDS organisations around the world.

Her famous name helps support AIDS research. Summing up her life, Taylor, says: 'I have had everything. I've had my share of joy, pain, luck and rough times. I've been back and forth like a yo-yo. I hope I've learned from all the experiences I've had.'



Jane Fonda: The former wife of media mogul Ted Turner and the daughter of famous film actor Henry Fonda, Jane is a well known political activist. Her films include *Cat Ballou* (1965), *Barefoot in the Park* (1967), *KLuge* (1974, for which she won an Oscar), *A Doll's House* (1973) and *Canning Home* (1976, for which she won a second Oscar). Her more recent works were the thriller *The Morning After* (1986) and *Starly and Iris* (1990) with Robert De Niro. Her most recent project is 2004's *Monster-in-law* with Jennifer Lopez.

She took on the role of an outspoken political activist in 1967, during the Vietnam War. After visits with several French Communists and underground revolutionaries, she decided to speak out against the war. In 1970, she spoke to Duke University students: 'If you understood what Communism was, you would hope and pray on your knees that we would someday become Communist.' Fonda's controversial role in the Vietnam war, earned her the sobriquet of *Hanoi Jane*.

In 1982 Fonda launched a hugely successful workout book and video, called Jane Fonda's *Workout*. The video spurred an aerobic craze and she kept pace with numerous exercise videos through-

out the 1980s and 1990s. In 2002, she joined the pacifists demonstrating against the occupation of Jerusalem. She paid a visit to Israel and Jerusalem on a mission for the organisation V-Day, which fights violence against women worldwide.

She continues in her role as an activist. She is a globetrotter who travels afar to voice the concerns of minority groups such as children and women in politically occupied countries.



Brigitte Bardot: This actress, best known for her kitchiness appeal, was the first foreign-language star to attain success comparable to America's indigenous talents. While the vast majority of her pictures failed to rank even remotely close to the best of her native France's New Wave-era output, her films made a mark in English-speaking countries.

As a young girl of 15, Brigitte came into the public eye when she appeared on the cover of *Elle* magazine. Among her popular films are *Le Trou Normand*, *Helen of Troy*, *Cette Sacree Gamine* and *En Efficace*. The last two films positioned her as France's sexsymbol by 1957.

Today Brigitte is better known as a champion of animal rights. Her organisation, the Foundation Brigitte Bardot, is dedicated to the cause of animals and is perhaps more significant than any other films.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Titanic film director honoured

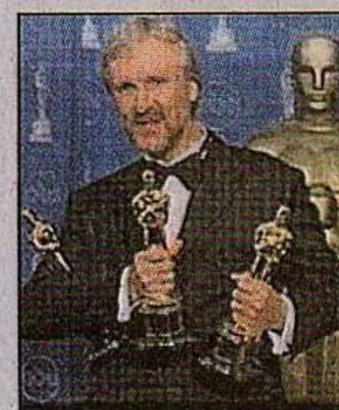
The director of the film *Titanic* - which won 11 Oscars - was acclaimed by a university in recognition of his contribution to marine science and maritime archaeology.

James Cameron was presented with the honorary degree of doctor of The University of Southampton - home port of the ill-fated liner which sank on its maiden passenger voyage across the Atlantic.

Cameron first visited the wreck of the ship in 1995 after developing a fascination for White Star vessel which left Southampton on April 10, 1912 before hitting an iceberg five days later. More than 1,500 people died.

His epic 1997 feature film, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, included real footage of the wreck on the ocean floor. Among its 11 Academy Awards were those for Best Director and Best Film.

In a later project, Cameron returned to the *Titanic* to direct the



James Cameron

3-D motion picture *Ghosts of the Abyss*, documenting the wreck on the seabed in greater detail.

Commenting on his award, Cameron said: 'I am deeply gratified to be receiving an honorary degree

from a university that is so distinguished in the research of ocean sciences.'

The degree reflects Cameron's work in developing new underwater film and remote vehicle technology to view down and explore the sunken vessel.

Manned submersibles were used to reach the depths of the Atlantic from where mini-Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs) were released.

Cameron's crew then unleashed two mini-robotic cameras to investigate the nooks and crannies of the ship, producing hundreds of hours of footage.

A spokesman for the university said: 'In the documentary, the *Titanic* appears from the murky gloom like an eerie vision and the cameras tour the interior of the ship revealing views which have not been witnessed since 1912.'

Source: Internet

Magazine programme *Probash Mela*



Probash Mela, a magazine show, will be telecast on BT and BT World tomorrow at 05:00 pm. This programme revolves around the lives of the expatriate Bangladeshis who have built a home away from home. The show, written, planned and presented by Mamun Imtiaz, will have Bangladeshis expatriates singing popular numbers, presenting a small skit about money laundering, an over-all display of life in Chicago and also a description about student life in a foreign land. Writer Anis Haque will also speak to the Bangladeshis living overseas to extend help to the flood affected people. The show has been produced by Rafiq Uddin Ahmed.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTB
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:30 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:30 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News-headlines(Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i	08:45	11:30	12:00	12:30	01:00	01:30	02:00	04:00	05:00	05:35	05:45	06:10	06:45	07:50	08:25	09:35	10:00	10:30	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	09:00	09:30	09:00	09:30	09:00	09:30	09:00	09:30	09:00	09:30	09:00		
	Tritiya Melha	Jibon Dekhane Jemon	Chitti Pelam	Aj Dupurey	Ebhong Cinemar	Sangbadpatrey	Bangladesh and Public Reaction	Bangla Feature Film: Lokki Badhu	Banglar Gaan	Sa Re Ga Ma	Janapoder Khobor	Ganatantra	MUSIC Plus	Banjio o Arthonli	Drama Serial: Ruposhi	Drama Serial: Biji Boarding	Film Show: Beast Master	Drama Serial: Amador Chhoto Nodi		Ajiker Shakal	Gombhira	Khabor Deshay	Deshey	Images of Lights	Neel Paharor Gaan	Dhaka Cinema	Drama Serial: Teen Purush	Right Click	Medhabi	Putul Naach	Apnar Jigyasha	Shubho Shondhya	Khoborer	Shondhaney	Drama Serial: Boy Meets Girl

PICK OF THE DAY

Katha Mala
On ATN Bangla at 10:35 pm
Talk Show
Hosted by Mustafa Nurul Islam

The Mask
On HBO at 9:30 pm
Genre: Fantasy / Action / Comedy / Crime
Jim Carrey, Peter Riegert, Cameron Diaz

11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00																															
Beyond Films	Agency-Season II	Bewitched	Mad About You	Verdict in Blood	Sesame	Sesame Street	Bewitched	The Guardian-Season II	Agency-Season II	They Shoot Divas, Don't They	Judging Amy-Season I	The Guardian-Season II	Agency-Season II	They Shoot Divas, Don't They	Secret World of Gardens: Ants	Animal Planet Showcase: The Beauty of Snakes	Pet Nation: Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs	Pet Nation: Dalmatians	The Most Extreme	On the Edge: South Pacific Croc Rescue	On the Edge: Croc Busting	On the Edge: Terror in the Outback	Animal Planet Showcase: Gorilla	The Most Extreme: Swarms	The Most Extreme Disguise	On the Edge: South Pacific Croc Rescue	On the Edge: Croc Busting	On the Edge: Terror in the Outback	Animal Planet Showcase: Gorilla	The Most Extreme: Swarms	Wild Discovery: Silhouettes of the Desert	Mystery Hunters: New England Van-pires/Aurora Borealis	Truth or Scare	Bazaar: Shopping in Vienna	Great Castles of Europe	Chenonoeu Ushuaia Nature: Memories of the Earth	Wild Discovery: Menacing Waters	Will Discovery: Menacing Baby Videos	Amazing Baby Videos	Monster House: Old West House	Unsolved History: Death of Marilyn Monroe	New Detectives: The New Detectives: Case	Wild Discovery: Silhouettes of the Desert	Mystery Hunters: New England Van-pires/Aurora Borealis	Truth or Scare	Bazaar: Shopping in Vienna	Great Castles of Europe	Chenonoeu Ushuaia Nature: Memories of the Earth	Wild Discovery: Menacing Waters	Will Discovery: Menacing Baby Videos	Amazing Baby Videos	Monster House: Old West House	Unsolved History: Death of Marilyn Monroe	New Detectives: The New Detectives: Case

9:30	1:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:30	11:00	11:30														
Parvarish	Shradhanjali	Hit Film: Hit Sangeet	Sultaan	Kroadh	Hit Film: Hit Sangeet	Kabhi Aaye Na Judai	Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	Kaahin To Hoga	Kaahin Kissi Roz	Tedhe Medhe Sapney	Hit Film: Hit Sangeet- 20 M	Ufo Nahin Hai Ladoo	Fox Kids	Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan	Shaka Laka Boom Boom	Dekho Magar Pyaar Se	Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	Kaahin To Hoga	Kaahin Kissi Roz	Mac Gyer	Oprah Winfrey	Bold And Beautiful	Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Miami Vice	The Simpsons	Home Improvement	Friends

8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00																																	
Just Shoot Me	The King Of Queens	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Becker	Boston Public	Star Asia Travel	Baywatch	Chronicles	Wildlife Diary	Built For The Kill	Korea's Forbidden Zone	Marco Polo	Young Global Hot Shots	Africa From The Ground Up	Sea Stories	Dogs With Jobs S3	Toyota World Of Wildlife	National Geographic Special	Croc Chronicles	Wildlife Diary	Built For The Kill	Secret Life Of Stella	The Stone Martin	Marco Polo	On Assignment	Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 (Hindi) 10th Odi 2nd Session(R)	Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Miami Vice	The Simpsons	Home Improvement	Friends	Grand Prix(R)	Sportsline (L)	Atp Tennis Rca Championships Indianapolis In USA (Final)(S) 10:00	Hitz (T)	Sportsline (R)	Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 10th Odi Highlights(S)	ESPN	Motorsport Asia (R)	Tour De France 2004 Highlights Stage #20(S)	West Indies Tour Of England 1st Test Da Y 4 Highlights(R)	West Indies Tour Of England 1st Test Da Y 5 1 Session(L)	Cheerleading & Dance Division 1-A Orlando FI US (T)	West Indies Tour Of England 1st Test Da Y 5 2nd & 3rd Session(L)	Sportscenter India (L)	Nba Anthology 1994 Houston Rockets : Clutch City (R)	Sportscenter India (R)	WWE Specials: Vengeance	Tour De France	Gamer TV	Legends: Murali	Copa America: Final Raw	ICC Cricket World Legends: Murali	Copa America: Final

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Grand Prix(R)	Sportsline (L)	Atp Tennis Rca Championships Indianapolis In USA (Final)(S) 10:00	Hitz (T)	Sportsline (R)	Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 10th Odi Highlights(S)	ESPN	Motorsport Asia (R)	Tour De France 2004 Highlights Stage #20(S)	West Indies Tour Of England 1st Test Da Y 4 Highlights(R)	West Indies Tour Of England 1st Test Da Y 5 1 Session(L)	Cheerleading & Dance Division 1-A Orlando FI US (T)	West Indies Tour Of England 1st Test Da Y 5 2nd & 3rd Session(L)	Sportscenter India (L)	Nba Anthology 1994 Houston Rockets : Clutch City (R)	Sportscenter India (R)	WWE Specials: Vengeance	Tour De France	Gamer TV	Legends: Murali	Copa America: Final Raw	ICC Cricket World Legends: Murali	Copa America: Final