

CULTURAL FEAST

Bengal Baishakhi Utshab

Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Gulshan Youth Club Field (Behind Wonderland)
Date: April 13-15
Schedule:
 April 13
 5:30pm Lathkhela
 6:00pm Flute evening with Sazi Abdul Hakim
 6:10pm Poem recitation
 6:30pm Solo musical recital
 6:40pm Dance performance by Nityadhara
 9:20pm Lalon Geeti by Farida Parveen
 April 14
 8:30am Barsho Bandona by Dhak-Dhol
 9:00am Musical recital by Shurotinho and Geetanjali
 10:30am Play: Kamola Ranir Sagar Dighi
 12:30pm Folk song by Ektar
 5:30pm Kissa Bala
 6:30pm Classical music by Parampara
 7:00pm Solo musical recital by popular Tagore singers
 8:50pm Dance drama Chitrangada
 April 15
 9:30am Panchokabir Gaan by Anandadwani and Jalyo Rabindra Sangeet Shamilon Parishad
 11:30am Folk song recital by Ajob
 4:00pm Folk song recital by Ektar
 5:30pm Folk song recital by Kanon Bala Sarkar
 5:40pm Folk song recital by Anil Kumar
 6:30pm Solo flute recital by Bari Siddiqui
 7:00pm Musical recital by Mita Huq, Shama Rahman, Sharmin Shathi Islam, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonriya
 9:00pm Mon Kanti Sarkar

Celebrating Bangla

New Year

Occasion: Celebrating Nababarsho and Chaitra Shankranti
Organiser: Padatik Nitya Shangshad
Venue: Rabindra Sharobar, Dhanmondi
Time: April 13, at 5pm

Chaitra Shankranti

Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
Venue: Mahila Shamiti Auditorium, Bally Road
Time: April 13, at 7pm

Baul Festival

Occasion: Celebrating Chaitra Shankranti
Organiser: Pelli Baul Shamaj Unnayan Shangstha
Venue: Engineer's Institution, Ramna
Time: April 13 (6pm) and April 14 (from 10am onwards)

Exhibitions

Title: Searching Peace
Artist: Syed Mohammad Shamim
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi
Time: April 08-15, From 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm
Title: My Country
Artist: Rafique Ahmed
Venue: Divine Art Gallery, Shopping Arcade Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel
Time: April 09-15, From 9am to 9pm
Title: A Kaleidoscopic Journey
Artist: Mohammad Fakruzzaman
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Time: April 11-25, From 12pm to 8pm

Coming out of the shadows

Time out with Keramat Moula

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

CHARACTER artistes are often left in the shadows of the mainstream lead actors. What we forget is that these actors have devoted their lives to the craft of acting and it is they who fortify the intricate strings of the story of a play or a movie. Keramat Moula is an actor who belongs to this category of artistes.

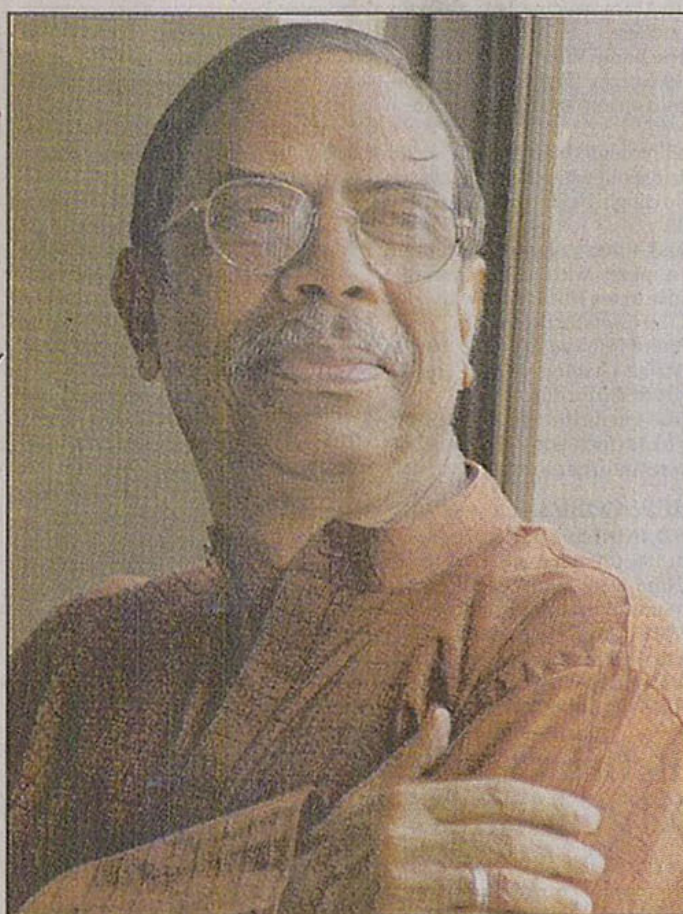
After a long hibernation, Moula has recently returned to the mainstream films in the role of a villain. In this work he enacts the role of a treacherous teacher in Humayun Ahmed's much talked about novel *Nandito Noroke*. "The character has been developed vividly. Hopefully, it will leave an impression among the viewers," says Moula. The film is in its final stage of editing.

Another contemporary film, *Molla Bari Meye*, directed by Salauddin Lavu, will be released soon, says Moula. Here, Moula dons the role of a spiritual healer.

Incidentally, Moula has been consistently chosen to play negative roles in numerous memorable films. For instance, in the feature film, *Shurjo Dighol Bari*, produced years back, he essays the role of Karim Baksh, a mischievous peasant. The struggle for existence of the landless has been depicted explicitly in the film. "Dolly Anwar, my co-actress, depicts the ill-fated wife, who has to leave her young son and husband in search of food and clothing. She did a marvellous job in the film," adds Moula.

"To give it a realistic touch, while shooting for the film, we had to sit on a dingy for two whole days till it finally rained. Nowadays, it is next to impossible for artistes to spend so much time for that one perfect shot."

"People often inquire why I portray characters that hardly resemble my real self. Well, that's what quality actors are meant to do," states a smiling Moula.



Keramat Moula

PHOTO: STAR

To give it a realistic touch, while shooting for the film, we had to sit on a dingy for two whole days till it finally rained.

How did it all begin? I ask. "While still a student of college we arranged a play at our local Shantinagar Club. Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin was the president of the club then. The play was titled *Bharatey Chai* (Tenant Wanted). I directed as well as acted in the play," reminisces Moula.

After graduating from the Institute Of Fine Arts, Moula joined the design section (of the then PTV) as

staff artist and retired recently as the Controller of Designs from the BTV.

He recalls taking part in the second play telecast on BTV, which was sometime around 1964. Eminent playwright Nurul Momen wrote the play. However, as Moula puts it, "I hardly remember the name of the play since it happened ages ago."

A unique blend of a painter and an actor, Moula is involved with the group Theatre (Natak Sarani). *Charidikey Judhaho*, *Onk Tarar Haik Chani*, *Jamidar Darpan*, *Dui Bon*, *Rakkhushi*, are a few of his notable theatrical works. *Surjo Dighol Bari* directed by Mohiuddin Shaker and Sheikh Neyamat Ali, *Padma Nadir Majhi* a joint venture film with India, directed by Gautam Ghosh, *Tanvir Mokammel's Nadir Naam Modhumoti*, *Rajlokkhi Srikant* are a few of his memorable films.

Moula is the vice-president of the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, ex-vice-president of Charushilpi Sangstha, executive member of Theatre and the vice-president of Wari Club.

Explaining his philosophy, Moula says, "I have never tried to run away from life; rather I have tried to confront it with a positive attitude. I have found out that instead of running after particular events or precious moments it is preferable to seek happiness from life itself. Life gives you immensely but takes away most of it if you are negligent."

The fundamental qualities of an actor should be to have an open mind towards society at large, so that one can depict the roles that are required. Actors must have dedication, intellect and most importantly be in touch with reality.

"An actor must observe society through a magnifying glass so that he is able to portray the roles with ease," concludes Moula.

Traditional Chaitra Shangkranti to be observed in the city

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Today, *Chaitra Shangkranti*, is the last day of the Bangla year. Though it is not widely celebrated through colourful events like *Pahela Baishakh*, the first day of Bangla year in Dhaka or other cities, *Chaitra Shangkranti* is a very popular cul-

lured by former Chief Justice Habibur Rahman. Besides, participation of the theatre workers, traditional and classical oriental events are included in the programme.

"Shahadat Hossain will play the *sarod*, while Bari Siddiqui and Abdul Hakim on flute, Nusrat Momotaz Rupashi 'on violin' will perform.

The State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman will attend a special programme organised by Jatityo Granthakendra at the Central Public Library auditorium. She will present books to the publishers, literary personalities and also people from different walks of life to promote the trend of pre-



Lighting traditional clay lamps in the hope of a brighter tomorrow

tural trend, particularly in the rural areas of Bangladesh. Melas and social gatherings are arranged to celebrate the day. *Halkhata*, (opening of new account books) related to the economy and culture of rural life, is a very popular ritual.

The Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) has been celebrating the day over the last three years. Their quest is to fuse the materialistic urban life with tradition. Mamunur Rashid, Chairman of BGTF, says, "*Chaitra Shangkranti* is a traditional festival related to our roots. In rural Bangla people celebrate the date by lighting *Akash Pradip*, a kind of flare, with the hope of better days in the coming year. In keeping with tradition, we will celebrate *Chaitra Shangkranti* with enthusiasm and celebration."

This evening, BGTF will hold cultural programmes at the Mahila Samiti Mancha to observe *Chaitra Shangkranti*. As in the previous two years, Keramat Moula, the Vice President of BGTF, has been selected as the convener of the arrangement. He says, "In the last date of Bangla 1411, we have organised a colourful evening to observe *Chaitra Shangkranti*. The programme will be

Abinash Shil will play *dotara*. Acclaimed Lalon singer Farida Parvin and modern singer Syed Abdul Hadi will perform. Shiblee-Nipa duo will present dance."

The other attraction of the function is the enthusiastic presentation of *dhol*, *kansh* and *jhanjhor* by the theatre workers.

Liaquat Ali Lucky, Secretary General of BGTF, says, "In the Bangla year 1411, we expect to introduce professionalism in our theatre. If the patronage at the private level increases in the coming year, we expect that we will be able to reach the target."

Theatre activists of the country also hope for greater peace in the country so that they can give their optimum to this performing art and also preserve diversified indigenous art forms in this era of globalisation.

Pelli Baul Shamaj Unnayan Shangstha, a Baul singers' organisation will stage a Baul Festival at the Engineers' Institution today. Baul singers from all over the country will participate at the programme.

Nazrul Institute will also hold a children's art and Nazrul song competition, at the Institute's premises.

senting books as gifts on the occasion of *Chaitra Shangkranti* and *Nababarsha*.

Cultural organisation, Shurer Dhara will stage a dance drama, *Tasher Desh*, at the Lalmatia Girls School.

Padatik Nitya Sangsad will celebrate *Chaitra Shangkranti* for the third time at the Rabindra Sarovar. The dance troupes of Sharmila Bandyopadhyay, Tamanna Rahman, Nityam and Nityanandan will perform dance pieces while Tagore singers Tapan Mahmud, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Nayma Ali, Nahar Jamil, Salma Akbar, Sajed Akbar, Nargis Chowdhury, Lilly Islam and Mita Haq will render songs along with different musical groups such as Geetanjali, Kranti, Nibedon, Padatik Sangeet Sangsad. Folk singers Biswajit Ray, Bilman Chandra Biswas and Bijon Misra will perform different genres of songs. The play *Jalbalika* will be staged at the end of the programme.

Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology will also stage a fashion show today at the university premises.

Bangladeshi cuisine in Kolkata



Shawkat and Nahid cook up a treat at the Bangladesh Food Festival

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

What better way to observe *Pahela Baishakh* than a treat for the taste buds? Yes, the husband-wife duo of Nahid and Shawkat Osman have brought a touch of Bangladeshi food to Kolkata. The occasion: the second 10-day Bangladesh Food Festival in Taj Bengal, Kolkata, which concludes on April 17.

To whet the appetite of food buffs, the cooking couple offer a variety of delectable dishes. For starters there's *borhani* and potato cheese chops. Those who relish rustic Bangladeshi fare can go for fried bamboo shrubs or pumpkin leaves along with steamed rice. Other attractions are fried lobsters, *Padmar Hilsa*, mushroom curry spiced with capsicum, tomato and fenugreek, Bangladeshi *dal*, to mention just a few.

The first Bangladesh Food Festival was held in Mumbai Hillton and Mumbai Tea Centre for 15 days.

Reminiscing on the Mumbai festival held in September last year, Shawkat says, "The success of the Mumbai event has brought in awareness among the Indian gourmets that Bangladeshi food is definitely different from what they know as 'Bangla food'. In addition, their appreciation of these dishes was reflected in at least six Hindi TV channels and two English TV channels."

Mumbai is not the only stop for Shawkat and Nahid. They have received invitations to continue the Bangladesh Food Festival in Kerala, New Delhi and Shantiniketan. Going westwards, the duo looks forward to a mini-version of the festival to be held in New York on April 23.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Snyaola
 On ntv at 9:40pm
 Drama Serial
 Cast: Tarin, Hakim, Shahed, Asad, Jeetu, Sumaiya
 Script & Direction: Ferdous Hassan

American Idol
 On StarWorld at 8:30pm
 Talent Hunt
 Judges: Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson and Paula Abdul

03:15 Sporsher Baiyey
03:30 Nupur
03:50 Drama Serial: Sheela
04:25 Cartoon: Fardi
04:50 Apnar Jigyasha
05:20 Shubho Shondhya
05:50 Nari Gharay Baiyey
06:15 Siddika Kabir's Recipe
06:50 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan
07:40 Drama Serial: Snyola
11:25 Dindarpan

6:00 Phantom Force
7:45 The Glimmer Man
9:30 Bad Boys II
12:15 Willard
2:00 Sneakers
8:30 Movie: Moon
10:15 Home Alone 4
11:45 Fear
1:30 Captain Corelli's Mandolin
3:45 Gone Fishin'
5:25 Marines
7:00 Storm Catcher
8:40 28 Days Later
10:35 Moonlight Mile
12:30 Hollywood One On One
1:00 Estival In Carnes

9:30 Philly Gardens
10:30 J.A.G.
11:30 Newsradio
12:00 Cover Story

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

12:00 Serious: Desert
12:30 Storm Stories
1:00 The Last Voices From Heaven
2:00 Running For Freedom
2:30 From The Heart
3:00 On Assignment
4:00 Dogs With Jobs
4:30 Backyard Science
4:45 Doc Eureka
5:00 Serious: Desert
5:30 Ng Explorer
6:30 Interpol Investigates
7:30 National Geographic Special
8:30 See Hunters The
9:30 Cheating Death
10:30 Interpol Investigates
11:30 National Geographic's Taboo

ANIMAL PLANET

12:00 Wild and Dangerous
12:30 Lion Country
1:30 Pet Nation Breed All
2:30 About It Bichon Frise
3:30 Pet Nation
4:30 Animal Planet
5:30 Animal Miracles II: All Gator Aid
6:00 Twisted Tales 2 fish
6:30 The Planet's Funniest
7:00 Monkey Business
7:30 The Planet's Funniest
8:00 Animal Planet
8:30 Animal Planet Reveals Asia
9:30 Supernatural Hidden Forces

11:00 Secret World of Gardens
11:30 Wild Encounters Big Five

DISCOVERY

12:30 Wild Discovery
1:30 Science Frontiers
2:30 Classic Discovery
3:30 Hollywood Superstars
4:30 Prosecutors
5:30 Mystery Hunters
6:00 Living Pulse 2
6:30 Great Cars
7:00 Massive Engines
7:30 Wild Discovery
8:30 Extreme Machines
9:30 Days That Shook
10:30 Pest Is Wild
11:30 New Detectives

STAR SPORTS

11:30 Hit (R)
12:00 Asian Tour Weekly 2005 (R)
12:30 Mottog World Championship 2005
1:30 Jerez Spain 250cc (L)
2:30 Sri Lanka Tour Of New Zealand 2nd Test Day 3
3:30 The Masters 2005
4:30 Augusta Ga Usa Day Two (R)
5:30 Sportsline (L)
6:30 Golf Focus (T)
7:30 Sri Lanka Tour Of New Zealand 2nd Test Day 3
8:30 Sportsline (R)
9:30 Sportsline (R)
10:30 Sportsline (R)
11:00 Sportsline (R)

11:30 West Bromwich Albion (R)
12:30 Beach Soccer
1:30 Mundialito Figueira De Foz Beach Portugal (R)
2:30 Masters Series Monte-Carlo Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo
3:30 Monaco 1st Round (S)
4:30 Masters Series Monte-Carlo Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo
5:30 Monaco 1st Round (S)
6:30 Toyota Football Cup Close (R)
7:30 Uefa Champions League 2004/05
8:30 Quarterfinal #2 Leg #2 (S)
9:30 Hit (T)
10:30 Sportscenter India (L)
11:30 Goals! (T)
12:30 Uefa Champions League 2004/05
1:30 Quarterfinal #1 Leg #2 (R)
2:30 Sportscenter India (R)

11:30 West Bromwich Albion (R)
12:30 Beach Soccer
1:30 Mundialito Figueira De Foz Beach Portugal (R)
2:30 Masters Series Monte-Carlo Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo
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9:30 Hit (T)
10:30 Sportscenter India (L)
11:30 Goals! (T)
12:30 Uefa Champions League 2004/05
1:30 Quarterfinal #1 Leg #2 (R)
2:30 Sportscenter India (R)

TEN SPORTS

10:30 Garner TV
11:00 World Rally
12:00 History of Football
2:00 W v SA: 2nd Test, Day 5
3:00 Highlights
4:00 WWE Smackdown
4:30 Gillette World Sport
5:30 Italian Serie A - Highlights
6:30 WWE After Burn
7:30 German League
8:30 Gillette World Sport
9:30 W v SA: 2nd Test, Day 5
10:30 Highlights
11:00 Portuguese League H.L.: Ep 28
12:00 WWE After Burn
1:00 German League
2:00 Highlights

ESPN

9:30 English Premier Football League
2004/05 Astonvilla Vs