

CULTURAL FEAST

"Folksongs are our cultural identity" -- Malay

ERSHAD KAMOL

THE musical fortunes of acclaimed folksinger Malay Kumar Ganguly are on the rise. Who hasn't heard and hummed along with catchy folksongs. Guru Upay Balo Na or Rail Line Bohe Shomantora, Bhromor Koioy Giya and many others? All of his so far released albums have attained popularity amongst the audience.

Since 1949, Malay has been rendering folksongs. Malay says, "I was introduced to music at the age of five. Because of my background and cultural milieu I took to folksongs. Later, I received tutelage from Abdul Aziz Khan, Mohammad Osman Khan, Lokman Hossain Fakir and Abdul Halim Chowdhury. I've been singing on the radio since 1965 and on TV since 1967."

Special grade singer of radio and television, Malay has a long innings in our musical arena. He retired as the deputy chief music producer of radio. Moreover, he is a popular music composer of folksongs. Malay says that radio promotes folksongs, our cultural roots, and it has a sizeable audience. According to Malay, radio is well-entrenched in rural areas.

Malay worked in the transcription service of radio, the department responsible for preservation of music. Malay says, "We have been able to preserve a good number of folksongs by prominent singers of the country. However, because of technical glitches, we failed to preserve some songs by the folksingers prior to the '80s."

Malay has some reservations about the television media. He believes that only Bhora Nadir Banke, hosted by Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, could capture audience attention—partly because it was a quality presentation and it was also aired at



Malay Kumar Ganguly

peak hours. Though channels still air folk songs, these programmes are on air in the evenings. Although Bangla Academy is trying to preserve the lyrics as well as the documentation of folk genre, they are not doing it effectively.

Malay does not perform much on stage. In his words, "Cultural diffusion by the satellite channels is changing the audience's taste. As a result,

the presentation of the stage programmes is witnessing a change. Nowadays, the audience expect 'acrobatic' movements by performers on stage and like many it is not possible for me to live up to their expectation. That is why I only perform at selected stage shows."

What is the current scenario in the music industry? "Excessive commercialisation of the production companies is harmful for the development as well as the preservation of folksongs. Sometimes without informing the singer the production companies release cassettes. As a result the singers are deprived of their royalty. And most of time they release folk albums with vulgar lyrics and substandard music. As a result sometimes the city dwellers misinterpret our rich tradition."

Malay Kumar Ganguly does not believe that the thriving trend of fusion and remix will have an impact on folksongs. He is optimistic about the revival of authentic folksongs. To quote Malay, "I am not against the westernised trend of music. It is popular. However, the original composers should get their due. The effort of blending folk music with western instruments is not helpful for authentic folksongs. Modern instruments do not necessarily go with the tune of the folk songs. As a result folk songs are losing their earthiness. Nobody has the right to distort our folksongs. I believe in the revival of folksongs, as it is our cultural identity."

Malay has received plaudits amongst the urban and rural audience in our country. He has also participated in shows in England, USA, France, Germany, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, Malaysia and India.

Chit Chat

Fima: Back with a new image

NOVERA DEEPTA

The stylish girl who hosted a popular fashion programme Fashion Talkies attracted the audience because of her trendy outfits, graceful appearance and amiable personality. The charming host is Fima.

After a long pause, she returned to the spotlight recently with a more mature image in a television commercial of a daily newspaper. Here Fima features as a responsible schoolteacher, who takes home a little girl waiting for her parents at the school gate.

Starting as a model in 1994 with the TV commercial for Lifebuoy Plus soap, Fima has featured in about 12 ads, including household products, toiletries and sarees. "Usually I look for three basic things before signing a commercial: the product, the maker and the script," says Fima. She has also acted in a couple of telefilms and television plays. But it is clearly the fashion programme that has brought her into the limelight.

Fashion Talkies was a joint effort of three people: Shahrulkh Amin Tinku, Syed Gausul Alam and Fima herself. Fima says, "The show comprised a fashion guide and health care tips. There was a huge turnout of the audience."

"The show, a 13-episode programme, was basically improvised," Fima continues, "However, the programme was re-tecast on that particular channel and I have reservations on this score. I believe that fashion is not a constant phenomenon, as it changes with time. Besides that, the producers also wanted us to shoot all the 13 episodes at a stretch."

Fima adds, "Many people asked me to restart the show. However, I could not do it for personal reasons." But she is open to the idea of doing this programme in the near future.

Being a good TV host herself, Fima suggests, "One must be articulate and have the proper accent. Spontaneity is also an important element."



Today many youngsters are interested in modelling and want to take it up as a profession. Fima welcomes this recent trend and says, "A good sense of make up, physical fitness and being very photogenic are equally important for being a good model. The cliché 'The first impression is the lasting impression' definitely holds true for modelling."

Exhibition

Title: Places, spaces
Artist: Kashif Mahboob Chowdhury
Venue: Goethe-Institute, Dhanbmondi
Date: June 29-July 14

CD Release

Title: Patar Bhela Bhashai
Artist: Shahnaz Nasreen Ila
Guest: Professor Anisuzzaman
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, 275/F, Road 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: July 07, at 7pm

Live Concert

Title: Live Now
Organiser: Shabab Murshid Foundation (SMF)
Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh (opposite to Aziz Super Market)
Date: July 7, from 1pm

Film Screening

Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-1
Date: July 4-22
Schedule: July 7 Mausam, July 8 Dadar Kirti (Bangla), July 11 Junoon, July 15 Nazar, July 18 Biyalish, July 22 Zeher

Title: German Feature Film
Venue: Goethe-Institute, Dhanbmondi
Date: July 17-25
Show-times: 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm

Play

Title: Bajao Biswabina and Banglar Mukh
Group: People Theatre Institute
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Baily Road
Date: July 08, 10:30am

Title: Metamorphosis
Group: Centre for Asia Theatre
Venue: Goethe-Institute, Dhanbmondi
Date: July 7, from 7pm

Title: Brand
Group: Centre for Asia Theatre
Venue: Bonomali Theatre Auditorium, Pabna
Date: July 09-10, from 7pm

Title: Binodini
Group: Dhaka Theatre
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 09, from 7pm

Title: Prachya
Group: Dhaka Theatre
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Baily Road
Date: July 16, from 7pm

Gladiator in Dhaka

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

There are some timeless movies that never lose their appeal. The more you watch them the more engrossed you get. A classic case is Gladiator, the 154-minute epic movie directed by the talented Ridley Scott. Although the movie was made in 2000, it remains evergreen in the minds of filmgoers.

Good tidings for the Dhaka audience: Star Cineplex, the only international standard multiplex cinema theatre of the country, is to screen the five Oscar winner (including best picture) blockbuster Gladiator on July 7. In the run up to the screening, a media launch of the movie was held on July 5 at the theatre.

10 lucky winners of the Star Cineplex's special campaigns titled "I know Star Cineplex" and "Gladiator Quiz Contest", conducted at the Bashundhara City Mall and Star Cineplex website, won free tickets to watch Gladiator along with a friend. And one of the winners won a Panasonic mobile set.

Filled with larger-than-life characters, beautiful scenery, impressive set design, and epic storytelling, Gladiator is designed not just to entertain, but to enthral. It draws audiences in and transports them to a new reality. A boisterous reaction is expected every time the protagonist defies the odds and wins a conflict, or changes the tide of battle in his favour. "This is filmmaking on a grand scale. That's why, five long years after its launching, we feel no hesitation in bringing this movie to



Scenes from the movie

our movie buffs. We went through several surveys which ended in a result with the highest vote for Gladiator," said Mahboob Rahman, Chairman Showmotion Limited. "We plan to show the latest movies too. Sahara and The Aviator are on the line for the month of August. We are even thinking of new blockbusters such as Batman Returns," said a smiling Mahboob.

So what explains the popularity of the movie? From the opening battle sequence to the last combat in the Coliseum, it's non-stop action all the way. This is a film about war and combat. The central character Maximus (Russel Crowe) is foremost a Roman general responsible for many great victories. As a great champion of Rome, he can have anything his heart desires. Yet all he wishes is to return home and resume his life as a farmer with his wife and son. The fact that he is denied this wish by a cruel turn of events and is thrust into a life of slavery as a gladiator is the essence of the whole story. When he reluctantly agrees to fight again, it is only because the alternative is death. And the only reason he fights death is because he craves revenge against the man who destroyed his life and career.

The Gladiator will run the whole of July at Star Cineplex at three shows on Thursday and Friday: 2pm, 4:45pm and 7:30pm and three shows on Saturday to Tuesday: 12pm, 4pm and 7pm.

Angelina Jolie adopts Ethiopian orphan

REUTERS

Actress Angelina Jolie has adopted a newborn Ethiopian girl orphaned by AIDS, People magazine reported on Tuesday.

Jolie, who has toured the world as goodwill ambassador for the United Nations' High Commissioner on Refugees, said the baby would be named Zahara Marley Jolie but would not reveal further information on the child.

The magazine had no further information on the baby's health but said she had been left an orphan by AIDS.

Jolie, 30, told People that she and her son Maddox, 3, who she adopted from a Cambodian orphanage, were "very happy to have a new addition to our family." Arrangements for the adoption were expected to be completed Wednesday.

"Angie's over the moon," a source close to the actress told People. "It's a dream come true. She's always wanted to extend her family." Jolie has been romantically linked with Brad Pitt, her Mr & Mrs Smith co-star, but the source denied they were planning a family.

"Angelina's adopting as a single mother and she wants that emphasised," the source told People. The twice-divorced Jolie has often talked of adopting a second child. After a trip to Ethiopia earlier this year, Jolie said of Maddox: "My son is in love with Africa, so he has been asking for an African brother or sister."



A press conference was held at BDS auditorium, Barisal recently to discuss recent plan of actions for Bengal Bikash, the talent hunt by Bengal Foundation, says a press release. Artist Qayyum Chowdhury (C) is speaking at the occasion. Members of Bengal Bikash Porichalona Porshod, Abul Hasnat (R) and Subir Chowdhury are seen next to him.

Jackson to release album

Michael Jackson is planning to release an album comprising his greatest hits. The Essential Michael Jackson will be released on July 18.

It will feature songs from 1969's I Want You Back by the Jackson 5 up to 2001's solo You Rock My World.

Jackson has already released five albums that include his greatest hits. The singer was acquitted on child abuse charges last month.



TV GUIDE

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

BTV

07:30 Shubhechha Nin
09:00 Satellite Programme
12:15 Shongbad Potrer Pata Thekey
12:30 Shastho Tathya
01:05 Selected Programme
02:05 Tathya Parjuki
02:30 Bangla Feature Film
05:05 Shukhi Paribar
05:30 Ityadi
07:00 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast
07:30 Egiye Cholar Pothey
08:30 Drama: Dhushar Jiboner Chhobi
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
10:30 Abchoman Bangla
11:00 Chitayachhando
12:05 Satellite Programme

CHANNEL i

09:45 Shongbad Potrey
2:00 pm: 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm, 11pm. News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Telecst of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
09:45 Trityo Matra
11:00 Agora Shopping Guide
11:30 Drama Serial: Din Choley Jai
12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citicell Tarokakathon (live)
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
02:40 Routiner Bairey
03:10 Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak
04:20 Special Programme
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:15 Janapader Khorob
06:00 Amar Chhobi
06:30 Drama Serial: Fanush
08:25 Drama Serial: Albatross
09:35 Drama Serial:

TARA BANGLA

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.
04:20 Special Programme
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:15 Janapader Khorob
06:00 Amar Chhobi
06:30 Drama Serial: Fanush
08:25 Drama Serial: Albatross
09:35 Drama Serial:

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

ATN BANGLA

10:00 Shompurna Rangin Drama Serial: PI
10:30 Onnodrishti Drama Serial: Shikhor
11:05 Shunte Ki Chao Bangla Feature Film
12:15 Muktiudher Ei Diney
02:27 ATN Rannaghar
03:50 Shundar Jiboner Jonno
04:25 Purakirir Bangladesh Islami Sawal O Jawab (live)
05:45 Mortal Combat Conquest
06:20 Drama Serial: Char Deyaler Chaand
08:00 Drama Serial: Britto
09:30 Drama Serial: Mohona
08:35 Aajker Shokal Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe
09:00 Nari Ghorey Bairey Chalachchitra Katha
10:05 Dhakar Cinema
10:25 Drama Serial: Belabhami
03:15 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan
03:50 Drama Serial: Sheola
04:25 Shapla Kuri
05:15 Din Darpan
06:20 Shubho Shondha
06:50 Biz Week
08:20 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush
08:50 Anniversary Special Programme

ntv

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HBO

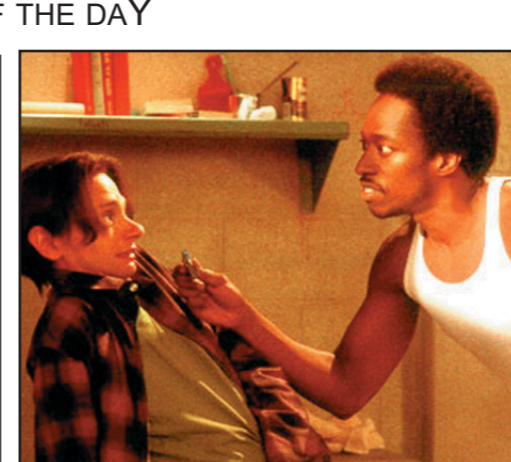
8:15 Delta Force 2: The Colombian Connection
10:30 Hey Arnold! The movie
12:00 Beetle Juice

PICK OF THE DAY



Private Investigative On Channel i at 10:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Bijori Barkatullah, Mahfuz Ahmed, Joy

The New Guy



The New Guy On HBO at 7:45pm
Genre: Comedy
Cast: DJ Qualls, Eliza Dushku, Zooley Deschanel

2:00 Seeing Double
4:00 Juwanna Mann
7:45 The New Guy
9:30 The Hunted
11:45 Urban Legend
1:45 Delata Force 2: The Colombian Connection
4:40 HBO Sneak Peek: XXX
5:20 Juwanna Mann
9:00 Statement The
11:00 Try 17
12:45 Dust Devil
STAR GOLD
10:15 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
10:20 Papa The Great
1:40 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
1:45 Bandhan
5:20 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
5:25 Diljale
9:00 Border
STAR PLUS
8:00 Taaza Hits
8:05 Hit Filmein Hit
1:00 Sangeet- 20 M
8:30 Princess
Dollieaurskamagicbag
9:00 Taaza Hits
9:05 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M
9:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
10:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M
10:30 Kya Masti Kya Dhuum
11:30 Shararat-Thoda Jaadu Thodi Naz
2:00 Karishma Ka Karishma
12:25 Film Topper
12:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M
12:55 Taaza Hits
1:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
1:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
2:00 Kesar Saarrhi
3:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi
4:00 Kahiin To Hoga
4:30 K. Street Pail Hill
5:00 Telebrands
5:25 Film Topper
5:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M
5:55 Taaza Hits
6:00 Tedhe Medhe Sapney
6:30 Hercules
7:00 Film Topper
7:25 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
7:30 Film Topper
7:55 Princess
8:00 Dollieaurskamagicbag

8:30 Dekkho Magar Pyar Se
9:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
9:30 Miliee
10:00 Kavyanjali
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi
11:30 Kahiin To Hoga
12:00 K. Street Pail Hill
STAR WORLD
8:00 Hollywood Squares
8:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway
9:00 The Drew Carey Show
9:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 The Practice
11:30 Breaking The Magicians Code 1
12:30 J.A.G.
1:30 Magnum P.I.
2:28 Star Asia Travel
2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
3:30 Bold And Beautiful
4:30 Hollywood Squares
5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
5:30 Buffy The Vampire Slayer
6:30 The Simpsons
7:00 That 70s Show
7:30 Friends
8:00 News Radio
8:30 Invasion Iowa
9:00 Growing Up Gotti
9:30 Road To Fame
10:30 Police Stop
11:28 Star Asia Travel
11:30 News Radio
12:00 Friends

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
7:30 National Geographic Special
8:30 Cheating Death
9:30 Expeditions To The Edge
10:30 Interpol Investigates
11:30 Ultimate Survivor: Mystery Of Us
1:30 National Geographic Special
2:30 Interpol Investigates
3:30 National Geographic Special
4:30 Backyard Science
4:45 Doc Eureka
5:00 Serious: Jungle
5:30 Snake Wranglers
6:00 Planet Wild
6:30 Ng Explorer
7:30 Tropical Gothic
8:30 Frontlines Of Construction
9:30 Sears Towers
10:30 Air Crash Investigation
11:30 Gonillas From Heart Of Darkness
ESPN
8:00 Hitz (R)
8:29 Sportscenter Update(T)
8:30 Kiana's Flex Appeal (R)
9:00 Fina Grand Prix Diving
2005 Rostock Germany (R)
11:00 UK Domestic Cricket TwentyCup 2005
Leicestershire Vs Nottinghamshire (T)
1:30 The Natwest Challenge
2005(T)
3:00 ESPN School Quiz
2005(T)
3:30 Hitz (R)
3:43 The Natwest Challenge
2005 England Vs Australia 1st ODI (L)
Sportscenter India(R)
12:00 ESPN School Quiz
2005(R)
STAR SPORTS
8:30 Motorcycle Programming

9:00 Icc Cricket World(R)
9:30 Cricket Classics Super Doubles(R)
10:00 Mad About Sport(R)
10:30 International Motorsport News 2005 (R)
11:30 Tna Wrestling(R)
12:30 Max Power 2005(R)
1:30 Extreme Programming Sports Mania(T)
2:30 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship Day 6 1st Session(L)
6:00 World Superbike Championships 2005
Misano San Marino Highlights(R)
6:30 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship Day 6 2nd Session(L)
10:00 Football Asia (R)
10:30 Sportsline(R)
11:00 Tna Impact(R)
12:00 Real Professional Wrestling
2005Highlights(T)

TEN SPORT
8:00 Trans World Sports
9:00 WWE After Burn
10:00 European PGA Golf H/Ls
Smurfit European Open
European Tour Weekly
3:30 Tour De France, Day 5
4:00 World Rally
4:30 ATP Tennis
5:30 Legends: Ali v Frazier
6:30 WWE: The Bottom Line
6:45 Great Centuries
10:00 Tour De France, Day 6
11:00 ATP Tennis
12:00 Transworld Sports
WWE: The Bottom Line