

CULTURAL FEAST

Musical Soiree

Title: Classical Vocal Recital
Organiser: High Commission of India
Artist: Begum Sipra Khan
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-2
Date: July 20 at 7pm

Title: Jahan Brishiti Namlo
Organiser: Nandan
Artists: Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Tanjina Parveen, Nilopaul Shadhy, Anjuman Ferdousi, Mahmudul Rahman Tuhi, Neelanjana Chowdhury, Saiful Islam, Tasnim Begum, Salma Akbar
Venue: Bangladesh YWCA Bhavan, 3/23, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur
Date: July 22, at 6:30pm

Exhibition

Title: 4th solo sculpture exhibition
Artist: Maynul Islam Paul
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi-3, Dhaka
Date: July 12-31, everyday from 5pm to 8pm

Title: Painting & Photography
Artist: Aminul Haque Shanto
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: July 22 at 4pm

Title: Quest for Harmony
Artist: Noaresh Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi
Date: July 11-24, from 12pm to 8pm

Title: Kaghachari through the eye of an artist
Artist: 12 artists who participated in Watercolour Artist Camp held at Kaghachari
Venue: Shilpkala Academy, Shegun Bagicha
Date: July 12-21, from 11am to 7pm on weekdays and 3pm to 8pm on Fridays

Poem Recitation

Title: Amar Porichoy
Organiser: Muktabok
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, Shegun Bagicha
Date: July 21 at 7pm

Film Screening

Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-2
Date: July 4-22

Schedule

July 22 Zeher

Title: German Feature Film
Organiser: Goethe-Institute in co-operation with Zahir Raihan Film Festival
Venue: Goethe-Institute, Dhanmondi
Date: July 17-21, at 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm
Schedule

July 20

4:00pm Short Sharp Shock
5:45pm July
7:30pm Goodbye, Lenin

July 21

3:30pm Trains N Roses

5:00pm Anansi

6:30pm Enlightenment Guaranteed

8:15pm The Farewell

Condolence
Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (FDC) condoles the demise of renowned actor, director and producer Abdul Rahman, popularly known as Rahman, says a press release. He passed away on July 18. Late Rahman was a very popular name in the '60s. He had demonstrated his skills as an actor in numerous Bangla and Urdu films. Among his films *Edesh Tomar Amar, Rajhanir Bukey, Harano Din, Chanda, Talaash, Bahaana, Dena Paona* are memorable.

Interview with Kiran Chandra Roy

Living and breathing folk songs

ERSHAD KAMOL

KIRAN Chandra Roy has firmly established himself as a popular folk singer. Clad in the typical attire of Bauls— a gerua coloured costume with *ektaara* and *baya* in hands— his songs such as *Ei prithibi jemon chilo, Jante chai doyaal, Nim titi nishinda titi* and others have earned plaudits from the audience.

Kiran Chandra Roy enjoys the *Bichhedi* songs of Bijoy Sarkar. In his words, "I grew up surrounded by folk music such as *Bhatiali, Bichhedi* songs by Bijoy Sarkar, different types of *Jatra* songs and others. In the Manikganj, Faridpur and Pabna belt, well-known 20th century bard Bijoy Sarkar's songs are the most popular in the folk song genre. In my early days I used to sing Bijoy's songs in programmes such as *Baithaki* and *Trinath Mela*. Bijoy Sarkar's lengthy songs are barrier to the release of albums or renditions on radio or TV. I have however, released one Bijoy Sarkar album called *Bijoy Bichhedi*, which has songs of a short duration. Bijoy's songs appeal to my soul. I have received the National Award as the best playback singer for rendering Bijoy's song *Jante Chai Daya* in the film *Dukhai*."

"To earn recognition in the music arena, a singer must be trained in a particular genre. That is why I follow the Baul trend. The mystic Baul songs are popular. And I am fortunate to earn recognition as a Baul singer," adds Kiran.

What is the difference between the folk singers who live in the *akhras* (dens) and those who sing in the metros? Kiran says, "The folk singers from the *akhras* are the *Mohajan* (true devotees of the bards) whereas we are the representatives of the bards. We present the folk songs in a polished form before the metro audience and the folk singers carry on the tradition of folk music."

Kiran Chandra Roy does not sing regional songs

and says, "Dialect is an important factor in rendering folk songs. I cannot aptly pronounce the dialect of North Bengal or that of greater Sylhet or Chittagong region. I always sing folk songs that are similar to standard Bangla. That is why I have never sung *Bhaoya*, Hasan Raja or others."

What is the current scenario of folk songs?

To quote Kiran, "Folk songs are an all time favourite in Bangladesh. Even



Kiran Chandra Roy

the modern singers of the country have earned recognition by rendering folk songs. If we analyse a list of hit film songs, we find that folk-based songs are the most popular. The younger generation is doing a remix of Abdul Jabbar's song *Ore Nil Doria*. However, it is unfortunate that the government and production companies have not taken adequate initiatives for the preservation of this genre."

Kiran sang a good number of Sachin Dev Burman's songs. As he says, "Burman has shown how to fuse classical music with modern and folk songs. His songs are well crafted. I follow him and try to apply his style in my presentation. To learn classical music I trained under my mentor Khondokar Nurul Alam for 14 years."

So far Kiran has released 15 solo albums and has rendered playback in over 20 films. He is also a lyricist and music composer. Kiran won the National Award in 1997 as the best playback singer and Bachas best singer award.

What can be labelled as "true to the core" Bangla songs? Artist Mita Haque said, "Songs that are deeply rooted in our tradition and reflect our

identity are authentic Bangla songs."

Luva Nahid Chowdhury added, "These songs inspire and comfort us."

Artist Yasmine Mushtari said, "I've been singing *Nazrul Geeti* since I was a child. I never get tired of the songs. I feel, a nation that has been blessed with such immortal music, doesn't have to look anywhere else."

Is the current generation committed to our traditional music? Artist Mita Haque said, "I give music lessons at Chayyanaat and I'm hopeful about my students. However, there is a temptation to move away from the right track."

On the role of media in promoting

Talent Hunt

Bengal Bikash seeks to uphold traditional Bangla songs

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A discussion session was held at Bengal Shipay, Dhanmondi recently to express views on *Bengal Bikash*, Bengal Foundation's talent hunt. Artists, music teachers, students and journalists participated at the discussion. Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director of the Foundation, said, "Bangladeshi culture has never had a shortage of songs. In the last part of the 19th century, Bangla music went through a major metamorphosis. Rabindranath, Nazrul, Atul Prasad, DL Roy and Rajinikant revolutionised the way emotions are expressed through songs. For ages these songs as well as our folk tunes and in the last few decades *Adhunik* songs have inspired the masses. Yet, unfortunately today Bangla songs are losing ground."

What triggered this phenomenon? Artist Kharal Anam Shakil said, "The family is the prime source of learning. Sadly, even in well to do families, parents don't encourage their children to learn our traditional music. Schools don't have music as a subject or any provision for basic training in music. This is why nowadays we are blindly imitating music that does not belong to our culture."

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eloquent songs that reflect reality, Shaheen Reza Noor from Daily Ittefaq said, "An effective news medium can play a key role in promoting and upholding meaningful Bangla songs. We are going through an unfortunate phase right now but we shouldn't just give up. The French and the Russians went through worse prior to their revolution. We can hope one day we'll relish memorable Bangla songs, plays and other art forms."

Bengal Foundation hopes that other organisations and individuals will join hands to promote high calibre Bangla music.

Photography Exhibition

Pristine panoramas

FAYZA HAQ

The recent exhibition of photographs at the Alliance Francaise showcased the promising works of students. The display of the panoramic pictures was the quarterly exhibition of the Ecole de Cinema. Such displays are seen every three months.

The course fee that the students pay covers the cost of the camera. After the training at the school the students decide what camera to buy. "I give them a theory class and based on that I take them for a practical class outside Dhaka, such as to Keraniganj, Savar, Mirpur, Chittagong, Narayanganj. The choice of the places we go to naturally depends on the subject we aim to cover. Sometimes we go in for the environmental portrait, sometimes nature. For the present exhibition we had to go to places in Chittagong and Narayanganj. For instance we visited the zamindar house of

Shibaly in Aricha," says the teacher Mujibur Rahman.

He decides his subjects on the basis of the techniques that he teaches. The cost of the trip is borne by the students. At times they do face difficulties while they are outdoors for their work. The school has a camera and all the students work on this in turn. So far they have taken pictures of street scenes, tombs, railway stations, riversides, landscapes, portraits and other subjects.

In *Village side* by Saif, we saw covered boats in brown and black. We see silhouettes of people, haystacks, houses and trees in the distance. The camera had been panned 180 degrees. The camera was set up on a certain point. The picture was taken on 10 shots that divided the scene into 10 sections. As the camera moved the exposure variation had to be kept in mind.

Riverside by Sulaiman brought in once again boats with a large machine in the distance. It was gray, green and brown in colour. It brought into focus a woman returning home from her daily bath in the river. Clusters of homes along the waterway were seen in the *Sulaiman's Char*. There is a marvellous feeling of open space in the picture.

There was, alongside, *Chandalekhya* which depicted a Hindu shrine, where devotees collected from India. This was in Shitakundo and it took hours to climb the steps that led to the temple. This picture was taken by Mujibur Rahman.

Sunset by Maruf captured men in boats.

The water appeared gold while the men appeared dark brown. Sixty domed

mosques by Imroze brought in innumerable red walls and gray domes. *Rani Bhabani* House also represented a historical place.

The exhibit was a good display of promising photography among amateurs.

The matinee idol of the '60s Abdul Rahman, popularly known as Rahman, died on Monday at the Central Hospital Dhaka. He was 68. A few years ago he suffered a stroke.

Rahman was born to a zamindar family in Panchagachhi, Dinajpur.

Due to irreconcilable differences with his parents, he moved to Dhaka

and started working for his uncle in Shahbagh.

According to renowned film personality Subhash Dutta, "Rahman and I started our film careers at the same time.

Through his death, the film industry has lost one of its pioneers."

Veteran actor Khalil reminisced, "While returning from Sylhet, Rahman suffered a major accident and lost a leg. I gave him blood and from then on I became his 'blood brother.'

The immense loss didn't deter him from acting. In fact, he remained one of the leading actors of that time.

A few months ago his wife Bilquis Rahman passed away. From then on he had been living with his younger daughter at Gulshan.

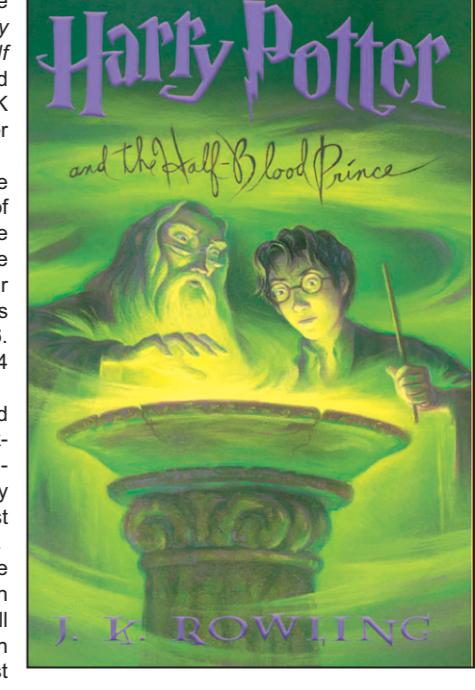
He is survived by his daughters, grandchildren, a host of relatives and admirers. His first namaz-e-janaza was held at the premises of FDC. He was buried at his family graveyard in Dinajpur, according to family sources.

His death marks the end of an era.

In remembrance of Rahman



Half-Blood Prince makes 1 million pounds per hour



The sixth book in the Harry Potter series *Harry Potter And The Half Blood Prince* has earned Scottish author J K Rowling £1 million per hour.

According to the Telegraph, thousands of readers made a beeline to bookstores all over the world to secure their copy when the book was launched on July 16. Rowling made £24 million in just 24 hours.

The author unveiled the book during a weekend of wizardry at Edinburgh Castle, in the city where she wrote her first novel as a single mother.

Sales of the book are expected to top 10 million worldwide, breaking all records -- most of which were set by the last installment in the series, *Harry Potter and the Order Of The Phoenix*.

Rowling said she has fears about what she will do after the final Harry Potter book is completed. She has mixed feelings about the seventh installment of the series, as on one hand it would give her a sense of achievement, but on the other, she'll miss creating new adventures for kids.

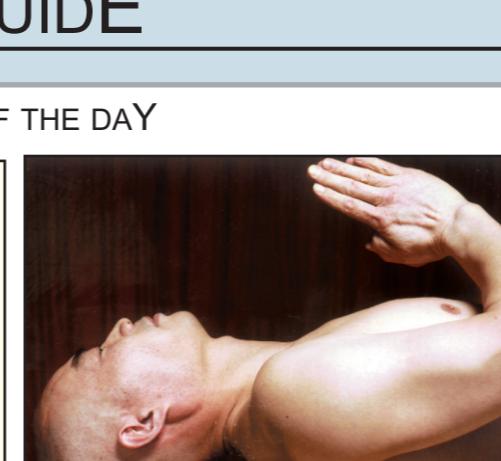
"Even though I have known it is coming for the past 15 years -- I have known that the series would end -- I think it will still be a shock. Obviously there will be a sense of achievement. I suppose there will be some benefits to not writing Harry Potter books any more. So it is about 50-50," said Rowling.

Source: Internet

TV GUIDE



Rangchhut
On ntv at 9:40pm
Genre: Drama
Cast: Subarna, Srabonti, Pijush Bandyopadhyay



One Step Beyond-Mind Power
On Discovery at 11pm
Programme on chilling and heart felt real life stories of individuals

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) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

News Headlines (Bangla) at 7:15 am; 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm; 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am; 10:00am, 2:00 pm; 7:00 pm; 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am; 7:00pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am; 12:00 am; 6:15 pm; 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am; 2:00 pm; 5:00 pm; 7:30pm; 10:30pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.