CULTURE

CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre

Title: Jalbalika Group: Padadik Nattya Sangsad Venue: National Theatre Stage, Shilapkala Academy Date: July 26-28, at 7pm

Film Screening

Title: African Film Festiva Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society in cooperation with Alliance Française Venue: Alliance Française, Dhanmondi Date: July 24-27

Theme: Contemporary Russian Films Organiser: Russian Cultural Centre in cooperation with Stamford University Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House 510, Road 7, Dhaka-1205 Date: August 01-02

Exhibition

Title: Imaginings Artist: Abu Taher Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi Date: July 27-August 09, from 12pm to

T-shirt Exhibition

Title: Abar Elo Borsha Organiser: Nittopohar Artists: Qyyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Abul Barok Alvi, Sheikh Afzal, Chandra Shekhor Shaha, Dhruba Esh Venue: Nittopohar, 118/A, Aziz Super Market (2nd floor), Shahbagh Date: July 23- August 10

Sculpture **Exhibition**

Artist: Maynul Islam Paul Venue: La Gallery, Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Date: July 22-31, from 9am to 12am and 5pm to 9pm

Photography Exhibition

Title: Impressions 0505 Artist: Kashef Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi Date: July 25-August 3, from 3pm to

Classical Music

Organiser: Shuddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi Participants: Nazira Faruq. Malobika Das, Mukul Dutta Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendra Date: July 28, at 7pm

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Occasion: Monthly programme of the organisation Venue: Nazrul Institute, Dhanmondi Date: July 27, at 6pm

Organiser: Chhayanaut Artiste: Fatema Tuz Zohra, Khavrul Anam Shakil Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: July 29, at 7pm

Title: Gaaner Shondha Organiser: Amra Shurjomukhi Artiste: Farida Parveen Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Date: July 29, at 6pm

Title: Songs of Yesteryears Organiser: Sriion Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendra Auditorium Date: July 30, at 6:05pm

Lalon singer Farida Parveen is a class apart



Farida Parveen

ERSHAD KAMOL

He who is for man On this earth he who is for man Achieves success in every endeavour He who is for man.

-- (Lalon Shah's verses) Lalon Shah, the 18th century mystic poet was influenced by Sufism, a spiritual philosophy. For many years Lalon's mystic songs have been rendered by singers in metros as well as by the fakhirs in aakhra (Lalon's followers living in the

However, widely recognised Lalon singer Farida Parveen is a class apart. As part of its Sufism research project, the French government will work on Farida and Lalon Shah's songs from 2006. Before Farida, French government has done similar work with Pakistani Sufi singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.

What is the secret behind her success? Farida has a ready answer, "Theoretical knowledge is not enough for rendering a song. The melody has to be in perfect accordance with the singer's voice and rendition. This is particularly true of Lalon songs; just music sense cannot create a quality Lalon singer. Rather, one has to imbibe Lalon's philosophy and Sufism. One has to love human beings and other living beings and overcome all kinds of desire. This does not mean that one has to live like fakhirs at the aakhra.

"Obviously, I have respect for those who have made an immense contribution in preserving Lalon songs. However, some of them are not torchbearers of the spirit of Sufism. Some of them have addictions and some are responsible for blending the doctrine of Vaisnavism in Sufism. For instance, the practice of gerua attire and bearing a few musical instruments by the Bauls at the aakhra have come from Vaisnavism. But, a true devotee of Lalon is not supposed to do so.

Like my guru Moksed Ali Shah, true Sufists at the aakhra do not use gerua attire. Instead, they wear

What is her reaction to the building of a complex on Lalon's mazhar at Kushtia? Farida savs. "I do not support the idea and I have pointed this out to the authorities several times. The Sufis should be allowed to live in the midst of nature, not under artificial building structures. A complex could have been built near Lalon's mazhar, but definitely not at

Interestingly, in her early days Farida had no passion for Lalon songs. She was trained as a Nazrul singer. In 1968 she enlisted with Rajshahi Betar as a Nazrul singer. Moksed Ali Shah, a Lalon devotee who spent 60 years at Lalon's aakhra, guided her in Lalon songs. Farida recalls, "In the early days I did not like Lalon songs, specially those rendered by the fakhirs at the aakhra. Guru Moksed Ali Shah was acquainted with my father. He insisted that I become a devotee of Lalon. After the Liberation, I first rendered Lalon song Satya bal shupathe chal at the Dol Purnima celebration (Lalon followers celebrate the full moon of Chaitra, the last month of Bangla calendar). From then onwards I have become an exponent of Lalon songs. It is the will of Allah that I have earned a name as a Lalon singer. I do not want anything more on this earth. To this day, I render songs at the three-day Dol Pumima celebration."

Talking about the difference between her style and that of the fakhirs in their dens, Farida says, "Fakhirs at the aakhra sing Lalon songs in their own style. My emphasis is on the classical aspect to give it a more polished form.'

Farida has formed a trust for the preservation of Lalon songs. This is funded by the Japanese government. Farida says, "Japanese government has been working on foreign singers. Our aim is to preserve the authentic tunes and lyrics of Lalon songs. For the lyrics we are using two reference books-- Banglar Baul by Upendranath Bhattachariee and Haramoni by Monsur Uddin. We will record 800 songs in CD format. Besides, we will preserve the works of other mystic bards such as Hasan Raja, Dudu Shah, Pantha Shah, Radha Raman, Jalal Shah, Pagla Kanai and others. Moreover, through an annual festival on the mystic bards of the country our trust will help popularise folksongs worldwide.

Farida Parveen has rendered Lalon songs almost throughout the world. She was the recipient of the prestigious Ekushey Padak in 1987.

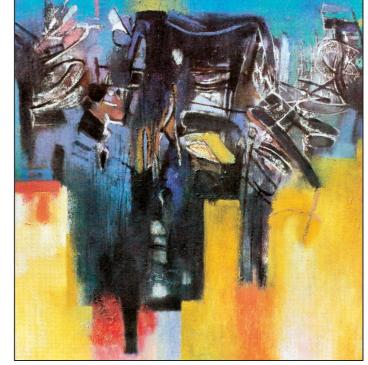
Profile

Mahmudul Haq draws inspiration from nature

Mahmudul Haque, sitting poised in his office, at the National Museum, said that in reaching out for progress and dynamism, the Bangladeshi artists had seldom lost track of their roots; and had never solely looked to the West for inspiration. Once head of the Department of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, he has held a series of mind-whirling exhibitions -at home and abroad -- since 1976. According to this teacher and administrator, we don't have to bring in obvious and apparent images -such as boats, water lilies and ektaras in saris -- to depict Bangladesh.

Since the late 1970s, claims Mahmudul Haque, he has drawn his inspiration from nature and there is no semi-abstract element in his work. There are simplifications of images from nature around like the skies, water, trees, flowers, and other local flora and fauna. Undoubtedly, he acknowledged there was the impact of the overseas artists who have taught him, guided him, and with whom he has exchanged views. These artists were from countries such as Pakistan, Japan, Europe and most recently Germany. His overseas exhibitions began in his student days in the Far East and brought him in proximity to foreign artists and their views. Consequently, he has always been outward looking. without losing sight of his own origin, of which he is fiercely proud.

Touching on his belief that we in the East, are in no way lagging behind the West in fine arts, he said, that his teachers like M Kibria, Aminul Islam, Kazi Abdul Baset and Safiuddin naturally influenced artists like himself. Since these professors had been to Europe, Japan and USA, they drew their inspiration from all over the world. Consequently, their students too kept international values and con-



An art work by Mahmudul Haque

cepts in mind, while speeding ahead to portray life around them. He earnt printmaking in Japan, with the hope of returning to Bangladesh, after having culled more knowledge in fine arts. He selected the best from what he could envisage from his studies and his experiences.

Dwelling on why he chose the stream of semi-abstract in his vibrant oil compositions, he explained that the departure from realism was a natural consequence of his development of style. "Colour photography replaced realism and my Impressionistic and Cubist style of simplifying forms. The value of

since the 20th century. Since Francisco Goya and El Greco, the professional artist has combined his emotions and thoughts in his paintings. Why say only that. Cave painting, which is the origin of modern European art -- thousands of years ago -- reflected mankind's personal expression of feelings and views. Again, ancient art considering the subcontinent, China, Japan Egypt and Babylon -- has always linked up individual perceptions of the artists." The reality in the artist's work should reflect the artist's imagination, experience, fears hopes and dreams, he insisted.

Nepal-Bangladesh art exhibition in Kathmandu

A week-long painting exhibition opens in Kathmandu. Nepal on July 29. The paintings, produced by the artists in a previous workshop (from July 22-24), will be displayed at the painting exhibition. The objective of the display is to bring together the works of artists from Bangladesh and Nepal. The exhibition is to be inaugurated by Humayun Kabir, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal, says a press release.

The artists from Bangladesh are Golam Faruque Sarker, Md Azizul Islam, Md Monirul Islam, Anindita Datta, Syed Abu Md Zakir, Ashit Kumar Mitra, Fahmida Khatun, Salina Ferdous and and Razzaque Prodhan Liton.

Among the Nepali artists are Govida Azad, Sangee Shrestha and Shyam Krishna

UK channel to air Bangla movies



Two much acclaimed films. Humayun Ahmed's Shyamal Chhaya and Morshedul Islam's Duratta, will be telecast on Channel 4 (UK) soon, says a press release. Made under the banner of Impress Telefilm, both the films are based on novels by popular writer-director

Humayun Ahmed

Shyamal Chhaya, directed and written by Humayun Ahmed, subtly delineates the ethos of our Liberation War. Riaz, Shaon, Tanya, Shimul and other noted actors portray different roles. Through their sorrows and happi-

Chhaya ness, the characters make the film credible.

Humayun

Faridee (c)

scene from

Shyamal

and co-

Duratta, Morshedul Islam's film on children, depicts different classes in our society. Humayun Faridee, Shuborna Mustafa and talented child artistes act in the

branch general meeting

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The triennial general meeting of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) Bangladesh branch was held on July 25 at Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum.

Presided over by Ramendu Majumdar, the president of ITI Bangladesh branch,

Abdullah Al Mamun, Nasiruddin Yousuff. Bhaswar Bandvopadhvav and others discussed the reports which were approved in the meeting The present committee was re-elected in the meeting. Three new members are also included in ITI Bangladesh branch committee.

committee of ITI, will also be held.

ITI Bangladesh | UN goodwill ambassador Ricky Martin in Amman

Ataur Rahman, general secretary, and Deboprashad Devnath, finance secretary, of ITI Bangladesh branch presented their Professor Kabir Chowdhury,

The committee has decided to arrange an international theatre festival and seminar in February 2006 in Dhaka. Moreover, a general meeting of different international committees, including the central executive

On his first visit to the Middle East, Ricky Martin declared he will try to change the negative perceptions of Arab youth in the West. "I promise I will become a

spokesperson, if you allow me to, a spokesperson on your behalf. I will defend you and try to get rid of any stereotypes," the 33-year-old singer told youngsters from 16 Arab countries at a youth conference on Monday last in Amman.

"I have been a victim of stereotypes. I come from Latin America and to some countries, we are considered 'losers', drug traffickers, and that is not fair because that is generalising," said Martin, who was born in Puerto Rico "Those comments are borne out

of ignorance. Sometimes we have to ignore the ignorant, but we also have to educate the ignorant. You have me here as a friend," he said. Martin, who is a United Nations

Children's Fund goodwill ambassador, said he wanted to get to know the youth and their cultures

He said he planned to do a concert tour of the Middle East and

6:00

11:30



North Africa, including Jordan and the Palestinian territories, tentatively scheduled for May 2006.

Martin, whose hits include Maria, She Bangs and Livin' La Vida Loca, posed for photos with fans, at one point draping over his shoulders a raditional Arab kaffiyeh

Basketball Phoeniaz

Usa Los Angeles Sparks

Vs Phoenix Mercury (L)

Malaysian Field Hockey

14th Sultan Azlan Shah

Cup Kuala Lumpur

I'd Do Anything (R)

The Senior Open

Diving Fina Grand Prix

Diving 2005 Electrostal

Championships 2005

Championship Portrush

Senior British Open

Pakistan

Russia (R)

Malaysia Malaysia Vs

Source: CNN Online

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

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)

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am. 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm,

Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

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. Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m,10:00

am 11:00 am.1:00pm.3:00 pm.

4:00pm.6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv

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.7:30 pm.10:30 pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

News Headlines (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

BTV Shubhechha Nin Smritimoy Archives 09:25 Shasshwato Jibon 09:35 Satellite Programmes

12:30 Shastho Tathya 02:05 Children's Programme: Sisimpu 02:30 Hiiol Tomal 03:05 Selected Programme 03:35 Geeto Bitan 04:05 Prottyashar Alo 04:30 Angikaar Mati O Manush 05:30 Lekhapoda

Malancha 06:10 06:55 News Headlines Share Market, Weather Forecast 07:00 Shastha Kotha 07:30 Amra Shobai Jantev 08:25 Protidin Bangladesh Drama Serial: Golap 08:30 Kano Kalo

10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia 11:00 Anandadhara **CHANNEL** i Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and

Drama Serial:

Shantikunjo

Public Reaction 09:45 Tritiyo Matra 10:45 Sports Time (Live) 12:00 TVC Sky Shop 12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citicell Tarokakothon (live) 01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 02:40 Special Programme Agora Shopping Guide 04:20 04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma 05:15 Janapader Khobor 05:30 Gaan-er Oparey

06:00

07:55 RC Travel On 08:25 Akasher Tara 09:35 Choley Jay

ATN

10:00

Onnodrishti 11:05 Kothamala 11:35 12:15 Cinema Cinema 12:50 Band Show: Ganey Shurey Tarunnye Motamot 01:25 02:27 Muktijuddher Ei Diney Drama Serial: Kanch Drama Serial: Nana Ronger Din Drama Serial: New

04:20 Islam Ki Boley Amra Ki Kori 04:45 Quiz Time 05:10 05:45

Islami Sawal O Jawab 06:20 The Sword of Tipu Sultan 08:00 Drama Serial Tanaporen Drama Serial: Shukher Lagiya Drama Serial Bavoscope 09:30 Drama Serial

Shadakalo

Air America

HBO Sneak Peek:

HBO

9:15

11:30

Campus Campus Drama Serial: Ek Drama Serial: Din

Drama Serial: Mega

BANGLA

Bond

Drama Serial: Flat No.

Ispahani Pure Snax **BSB** Education Zone 4:45 7:15 9:30

Life 11:45 GIA STAR MOVIES 10:00 Bringing Down The House 11:50 Underworld 1:55 Cube 2: Hypercube 3:30 Try 17

5:10

Shukher Lagiya

Lara Croft: The Cradle

Necessary Roughness

Life as a House

White Oleander

Lara Croft: Tomb

Raider: The Cradle of

On ATN at 8:30pm

Genre: Drama

of Life

Disclosure

Daredevil

Master And Com

mander: The Far Side

Cast: Azizul Hakim, Moushumi, Sohail Arman, Shumi Of The World

Rocky STAR GOLD 10:05 Gold Preview - Paheli 10:35

5:20 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit Hatya Kachche Dhaage STAR PLUS

Kya Masti Kya Dhuum 11:30 Shararat-Thoda Jaadu Thodi Naz 12:00 Karisham Kaa Karishma 12:30 Hit Filmein Hit

Yatra On Discovery at 8:30pm Programme featuring the beauty of Ancient Indian architecture, arts and crafts Under The Tuscan 2:00 2:30

5:00 5:55 Mahaveera 6:30 7:00 7:30

8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

Bhu Thi Bhabhi Kahiin To Hoga K.Street Pali Hill Kesar 12:00 Saarrthi STAR WORLD Telebrands 10:30 Ed Film Topper 11:30 Rockstar Taaza Hits

The Simple Life Tedhe Medhe Sapney 12:30 Tru Calling Aladdin 1:30 Desperate Housewives Hercules 2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show Kumkum - Pyara Sa 4:30 Hollywood Squares Bandhan 5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway Princess 5:30 Buffy The Vampire Dollieauruskamagicbag Slayer Dekhmagapyase 6:30 The Simpsons Kasautii Zindagii Kay 7:00 That 70s Show Miilee 7:30 Kavyanjali 8:00 Newsradio

The Practice

10:30 J.A.G. 11:28 Star Asia Trave **DISCOVERY** 10:30 Wild Discovery Ten Years Younger Judgement Day Classic Discovery

Rockstar

9:30

9:30

1:30 Extreme Machines 2:30 **New Detectives** 3:30 Livina Pulse 4:00 Baby It's You 5:30 Truth or Scare 6:00 Mystery Hunters 7:00 Adventure Crazy 8:30 Yatra 9:00 Amazing Baby Videos

Hidden History of Egypt

10:30 **Great Cars** 11:00 One Step Beyond Horror Stories ANIMAL

Battlefield Detectives

PLANET 9:30 Animal Miracles Biyou' Icy Rescue 4:30 Growing Up Wild Lynx 5:30 The Jeff Corwin Experience

The Planet's Funniest English Big Cats 7:30 8:30 King of the Jungle 9:30 Pet Star 10:30 Growing Up Wild Wolves

11:30 Monkey Business Chimpanzee Diary 12:00 NATIONAL **GEOGRAPHIC** Mysteries Of Mankind

Taboo

Running For Freedom

12:30

2:00

Seconds From Disaster 2:30 3:30 National Geographic Special 4:30 **Backvard Science** 4:45 Doc Eureka 5:00 Serious: Jungle Snake Wranglers 5:30

6:30 Ng Explore 7:30 National Geographic Special 8:30 **Cheating Death** 9:30 Expeditions To The Edge 10:30 Interpol Investigates

Spine Chillers

Planet Wild

STAR SPORTS Asian Festival Of Spee Formula Bmw Asia Round 5(T) 12:30 World Pool Champion-

ships 2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championsh Kaohsiung City Chinese Taipei Day 6 1st Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling (T) Samsung Nations Cup

Samsung Super League 2005 Falsterbo Sweden Highlights(T) 8:00 Super Centuries (R) 9:00 Inside The Pga Tour (T 9:30 Classic Boxing Classic Boxing - Foreman V

Chuvalo (R) 10:30 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling (R) Cricket Classics Super Doubles (R) Golf Focus (T)

Women's Professional

Basketball 2005 Wnba

ESPN

Northern Ireland Second Round(T) School Quiz Show Espn School Quiz 2005 Pga Tour Highlights (T) Sportscenter Sportscenter India (L) 9:00 Cricket Gold (R) U.S. Senior Open Golf 11:00 Championship Kettering Oh Usa Preview(L) **TEN SPORTS** Gillette World Sport 7:00 Golf Highlights WWE Smackdown Tour De France, Day 21 This Week in Review World Rally Battle at the Bridges 05

8:00 10:00 2:30 3:00

5:30 WWE After Burn 7:00 World Rally Grand Prix of Hungary 8:00 **Great Centuries** MotoGP: British Grand Prix H/Ls Legends: Lewis v Tyson