

CULTURAL FEAS

CD Release

Title: Strandhyanjali Manna Dey: Akasher Moto Eka
Artist: Sumon Chowdhury
Organiser: Panchaswar
Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: August 24, at 7pm

Special Programme

Title: Club Fair
Organiser: Students of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
Venue: IUB campus, House 8, Road 10, Baridhara
Date: August 24, from 10am onwards

Theatre Festival

Title: Molire Festival
Venue: Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi
Date: August 24-26, at 7pm everyday
Schedule: August 24 George Dandin
August 25 Pegeen
August 26 Bauder Pathshala

Premiere

Title: Enechi Surjor Hashi
Organiser: NGO Service Delivery Programme
Venue: Ballroom, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel
Date: August 29, at 7pm

Musical Soiree

Title: Classical Music
Organiser: Shuddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi
Artist: Zabir Imam Khan Shahi and Karim Shahabuddin
Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendra
Date: August 25, 7pm

Film Festival

Title: British Animation Awards Film Festival
Organiser: British Council
Venue: British Council, 5, Fuller Road
Date: August 22-26, at 6pm everyday

Exhibition

Artist: Murtaza Basir
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhammondi
Date: August 17-31

Title: Shato Borsher Dhaka
Venue: Gallery Shilpangan
Date: August 11-25, 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

Occasion: 1000th anniversary of the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russia; the city of Kazan
Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhammondi
Date: August 28-September 03

Solo Musical Evening

Artist: Zannat-E-Ferdousi
Occasion: The death anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: August 28, at 7pm

Cultural Programme

Occasion: The death anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam
Organiser: Nazrul Institute
Venue: Nazrul Institute, Kabibhaban, 330-B, Road 28, Dhanmondi
Date: August 27-31

Title: Natober Gaan
Occasion: The death anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam
Organiser: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad
Venue: Nazrul Institute, Dhanmondi
Date: September 01, at 6:30pm

Mostafa Zaman Abbasi

Dedicated to the preservation of folk songs

ERSHAD KAMOL

OLK music may be described as a kind of ancient music, which springs from the heart of a community. It is based on their natural style of expression and uninfluenced by the rules of classical music and modern songs. A few years back, there were hundreds of diversified folk genres written and composed by the rural bards. However, these folk genres, the root of our heritage, are on the verge of extinction.

For four decades eminent singer Mostafa Zaman Abbasi has been working on the preservation and promotion of folk genres in Bangladesh. He has written a documentation on the tradition of folksongs titled *Loko Sangeeter Ithash, Bhora Nadir Banke* and *Loukik Bangla* are the two popular TV shows in which Abbasi has presented different types of folksongs sung by the rural singers living in various corners of the country.

Abbasi was the General Secretary of Folklore Society Bangladesh in 1972. Currently he is vice president of the organisation. Abbasi says, "About 150 documentary books have been published on folk songs by the experts including the lyrics of the bards. Under the supervision of then regional director of Bangladesh Betar, Shadul Islam, the transcription service of Bangladesh Betar has preserved tapes of 50,000 folksongs. Bangladesh Television also has a huge collection of folksongs in its archive. Personally I have collected the tapes of 5,000 diversified folksongs. However, in the absence of logistic support, this rich heritage is in danger of extinction.

"Our traditional folksongs are musically richer than the folk genres of the other cultures. In Bangladesh, folk music has a great variety, with songs being composed on the culture, festivals, views of life, natural beauty, rivers and rural and riverine life. These songs are also about social inequality and poverty, about the material world and the supernatural. The lyrics and tune of the mystic bards like Lalon Shah, Hasan Raja, Radha Raman and others are superb pieces of music.

These songs have two meanings: meaning connotes the love between human beings and the inner meaning refers to the love between man and God.

American folklorist Alan Lomax in his book *Folk Songs and Styles* has illustrated this fact. Dividing the world into eight parts, Alan in his book described the folksongs in our



Mostafa Zaman Abbasi

part of the world as the 'noblest area of folk music'. Smithsonian Institution, a National Museum in Washington DC, has preserved our folksongs sung by Abbasuddin Ahmed, Abdul Alim and others. However, no fruitful initiative has been taken in Bangladesh for the preservation of folk music," adds Abbasi.

What should be done for the proper preservation and the development of folk genres? To quote Abbasi, "The urgent need is money. The budget of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs goes into paying the salaries of the employees. The budget should be

increased, so that the development programmes can run smoothly. The government should immediately take initiatives for the digitalisation of the music tapes preserved in the archives of Bangladesh Betar and BTV as well as from personal collections of the experts.

"I appreciate the initiatives taken by the corporate world to promote Tagore songs, Nazrul songs and others. However, I believe the multinational companies can also undertake initiatives for the preservation of folk music, composed by about 500 bards and performed by millions of singers, which is the root of more than 250 million Bangla-speaking people in the world," adds Abbasi.

Abbasi is far from happy with the current scenario of folk music. In his words, "Not just folksongs, rather all genres of music are in danger of being swamped by western music. In these days anyone can emerge as a singer without knowing much about music. And it is all the more alarming when the multinational companies spend huge sums for such singers. As a result the real taste of music is greatly affected. Immediate steps should be taken to stop this trend to preserve the rich tradition of our music."

However, Abbasi is optimistic about the future of our music. He says, "The current phase of our music cannot last forever." On July 2, 2005, at a recent folk music conference held in New York, where Abbasi was the chief guest, singers from Bangladesh and USA celebrated the songs of the great bards Lalon Shah and Hasan Raja as well as great folk singer of Bangladesh-- Abdul Alim. In 2003, they celebrated yet another programme on Abbasuddin Ahmed, in which folk experts and performers from USA, England, India and Bangladesh participated. Many papers had been read on the occasion. "These are the clear indication of better days of music," concludes Abbasi.

Life but in that of the family as well. Mashuhi Alam has penned the story. Deepankar Deepan has written the scripts and directed the play. Incidentally this is Deepankar's debut drama serial. Actors Tarek Anam Khan, Subarna Mustafa, Arman Parvez Murad and Tazin play the central characters.

According to the director, "The physically challenged are not always dependent on others. The character in the play, Asif, amply demonstrates this truth. The character is extremely powerful and dominating. He seems to overcome his disability through solving the problems his family encounters. Yet, he feels one thing is missing -- the companionship of a special someone. I've tried to depict this complex theme through the play."

Swapnoghudi Communications has produced the serial.

It has been confirmed that Indian pop star Sonu Nigam will make his Pakistani vocal debut for a film titled *Devdas*. The music director of the song will be Uttam Singh of *Dil To Pagal Hai* and *Gadar* fame. Recording will start on August 23.

Source: Internet

Shada Raater Manush

13 -- episode play completed

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT



Subarna Mustafa and Tarek Anam Khan in the play

TV GUIDE

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) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am. 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.
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.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am. 1:00 pm. 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
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm. 7:30pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm. 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

08:15 Smritimoy Archives

08:40 Biswa Protidin

09:00 Satellite Programmes

12:30 Shastho Tathya

01:05 Kathamala

02:05 Sisimpur

02:30 Hijol Tomal

03:05 Selected Programme

03:35 Geeto Bitan

04:05 Protiyashar Alo

04:30 Angkhar

05:00 Malti Manush

05:30 Lekhakopan

06:10 Malancha

06:55 News Headlines,

Share Market,

07:00 Weather Forecast

07:30 Shasthyakatha

07:30 Amra Shobai Jantey

07:45 Chai

08:25 Protidin Bangladesh

08:30 Drama Serial: Golap

09:25 Drama Serial: Abodh

10:25 Teknaf Thelk Tetulia

10:35 Kemon Achhen

11:00 Anandadhar

09:35 Akasher Tara

Drama Serial: Din

Choley Jay

10:00 Drama Serial: Mega

Bond

12:30 Shastho Tathya

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ATN BANGLA

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ATN BANGLA

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BTV