

CULTURAL FEAS

CD Release

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

Premiere

Title: Enechhi Shurjer 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: Zahir Imam Khan Shahi and Karim Shahabuddin
Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendra
Date: August 25, 7 pm

Film Festival

Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Auditorium, High Commission of India, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan 2
Date: August 12-29, at 6pm everyday
Schedule
August 26 Roja
August 29 Bariwali
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, Dhanmondi
Date: August 17-31

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

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

Solo Musical Evening

Artite: Zannat-E-Ferdousi
Occasion: The death anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Raod, 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: Natoker 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

FOLK 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 Itihash*. *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, Shadidul 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



Mostafa Zaman Abbasi

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 meaningssurface 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 Style* has illustrated this fact. Dividing the world into eight parts, Alan in his book described the folksongs in our

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 million 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.

Bangladesh Loko Shankskritik Parishod's 60th folk music evening

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of its monthly programme, Bangladesh Loko Shankskritik Parishod (BLSP) recently organised a folk musical soiree of Hafizur Rahman's songs. This was BLSP's 60th folk music evening at Biswa Shahitya Kendra.

Indra Mohan Rajbongshi, the president of BLPS, said, "Today, we are celebrating the book launching ceremony of eminent folk lyricist Hafizur Rahman's book *Jiboner Gaan*, which is a collection of folk songs written by him.

"In September, we will arrange a programme focusing on the death anniversaries of Abdul Alim, Kanai Lal Shil and Mumtaz Ali Khan, three folk personalities of the country."

M Abdul Hai critically analysed *Jiboner Gaan* by Hafizur Rahman in the book-launching programme. Presided over by acclaimed folk singer Akramul Islam, mystic lyricist Sabir Ahmed Chaudhury was the chief guest while AKM Jamal and Ashfakur Rahman Khan were the special guests.

On his book, *Jiboner Gaan*, eminent lyricist, composer and



Discussants at the programme

singer Hafizur Rahman said, "It is my first book on lyrics featuring *Hamd* (songs glorifying God), *Naat* (songs glorifying the Prophet) and different types of folk genres like *Bhawaiya*, *Dehotatta*, *Murshidi* and others. Written in folk form some of the lyrics in the book are a satire on

the social milieu. I have composed most of the songs, while Indra Mohan Rajbongshi has composed the rest."

After the speeches, the singers of BLSP presented 22 songs from *Jiboner Gaan*.

Da Vinci Code filming divisive



The front view of Lincoln's Anglican cathedral

Westminster Abbey said no, but Lincoln Cathedral was happy to oblige as was a small Scottish chapel.

British churches are divided over whether to allow filming of *The Da Vinci Code*, an adaptation of Dan Brown's biblically revisionist megaseller.

The novel has drawn strong protests from the Roman Catholic Church, and the movie version has fanned whispers of discontent in Lincoln, where Tom Hanks and the crew were filming Tuesday last.

The head of Lincoln's Anglican cathedral, Rev. Alec Knight, conceded that the novel was "far-fetched and heretical" and defended the decision to allow filming. The cathedral in central England accepted a reported \$180,000 to double as Westminster Abbey in the Ron Howard-directed film.

"It has clearly touched the public imagination, and the church needs to open up a debate about it rather than throw one's hands up and walk away from it," Knight said.

Brown's fictional thriller follows professor Robert Langdon as he investigates the murder of an elderly member of an ancient society that guards dark secrets about the quest for the Holy Grail and the story of Jesus Christ. The book's mix of code-breaking, art history, religion and mystical lore has helped it sell 25 million copies since it was published two years ago.

Westminster Abbey, the 1,000-year-old London edifice where British monarchs are crowned and buried -- and whose Chapter House is featured in the book -- turned down an approach from producers earlier this year, saying it would be "inappropriate" to allow filming.

Other Anglican institutions have been more welcoming. Winchester Cathedral in Southern England has given permission for filming to take place later this year, as has Rosslyn Chapel near Edinburgh.

Source: AP

Sonu gives Devdas another try



song will be Uttam Singh of *Dil To Pagal Hai* and *Gadar* fame. Recording will start on August 23.

Source: Internet



Celebrated artiste Samina Chowdhury, Tanjida Nabi, owner of Then-Fashion, fashion designer Shahrulkh Amin and singer Fahmida Nabi are seen (L-R) at a recent press conference prior to the talent hunt programme titled Style Challenge at Lalmatia

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Shukher Lagiya
On ATN Bangla at 8:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Azizul Hakim, Ilora Gawhar, Maushumi



One Step Beyond
On Discovery Channel at 11pm
A programme that takes viewers to the strange phenomenon that happen to real people

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, 12:15 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.

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

BTV

08:15 Smritimoy Archives
08:40 Biswa Protidin
09:00 Satellite Programmes
12:30 Shashtho Tathya
01:05 Kathamala
02:05 Sisimpur
02:30 Hijol Tomal
03:05 Selected Programme
03:35 Geeto Bitan
04:05 Prottyashar Alo
04:30 Angikar
05:05 Mati O Manush
05:30 Lekhapoda
06:10 Malancha
06:55 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast
07:00 Shashthyakatha
07:30 Amra Shobai Jantey Chai
08:25 Protidin Bangladesh
08:30 Drama Serial: Golap Kano Kalo
09:25 Drama Serial: Abodh
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
10:35 Kemon Achhen
11:00 Anandadhara

CHANNEL i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction
09:45 Trityo Matra
10:45 Sports Time (Live)
12:00 TVC Sky Shop
12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citicell Tarakakotho (live)
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
02:40 Special Programme
04:00 Bansundhara Amader Gaan
04:20 Akasher Onek Rong Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Alokitto Bangladesh
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Campus
07:55 RC Travel On
08:25 Drama Serial: Ek

09:35

Akasher Tara
Drama Serial: Din Choley Jay

10:00

Drama Serial: Mega Bond

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Onnodrishti
11:05 Poraner Gaan
12:15 Cinema Cinema
12:50 Band Show: Ganey Shurey Tarunnye
01:25 Motamot
02:30 Drama Serial: Kanch Ketey Karukaaj
03:15 Drama Serial: Nana Ronger Din
03:45 Drama Serial: New Files
04:15 Islam Ki Boley Amra Ki Kori
04:45 Ispahani Pure Snax Quiz Time
05:10 Shobar Jonnyo
05:45 Islami Sawal O Jawab (live)
06:20 The Sword of Tipu Sultan
08:00 Drama Serial: Tanaporen
08:30 Drama Serial: Shukher Lagiya
09:00 Drama Serial: Bayoscope
09:30 Drama Serial: Shadskalo

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08:35 Aajker Shokal
09:30 Shirae Shonitay
10:05 Images of Lights
11:00 Circus Lights
12:05 Shurer Jolsha
01:00 Muktagon
01:25 TVC
02:35 Drama Serial: Belabhumii
03:15 Dance Programme: Nupoor
04:25 Cholochochitro Kotha

05:15

Din Darpan
Shubho Shondha

06:50

Nari Ghore Bairey
Drama Serial: Titumir Basher Kella

08:25

Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan

09:20

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Drama Serial: Nana Ronger Din

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