

CULTURAL FEAST

Cultural Programme

Title: Shahosher Pochish Bocchor
Organiser: Nijera Kori
Featuring Patho Natak, Gono Sangeet and Pater Gaan
Venue: Rabindra Sarobar (near Dhanmondi Lake)
Date: January 27-28 from 3 pm

Photo Exhibition

Title: Visible
Organiser: Bangladeshi Street Children
Venue: National Museum
Date: January 22- February 4

Exhibition



Title: The Language of Joy
Organiser: Bangal Gallery of Fine Arts
Venue: Royal Orchid, H# 60, R# 131, Gulshan 1
Date: January 25- 27

Cultural Programme

Title: Mukjuddho O Nari
Organiser: Woman Studies Department
Venue: Liberation War Museum
Date: January 13-31 at 4:30 pm

Theatre Festival

Venue: National Theatre Stage, Shipakala Academy
Schedule:

Play	Troupe	Date
Birodini	Dhaka Theatre	February 1
Nityaparan	Desh Natak	February 2
Chhoy	Theatre	February 3
Behar		
Pakir		
Konjish	Loko Natyadal	February 4
Shyamaprom	Prangona Mor	Feb 5
Samsayer	Theatre Art Unit	February 8
Projection		
Rasjane	Aranyak	Feb 7
	Natyadal	
Projapoti	Natyakendra	February 8
Circus Circus	Prachyanaut	February 9
Chhayanaul	nagorik	Feb 10

Kathak Dance

Troupe: Shobhana Narayan and her troupe
Organiser: High Commission on India
Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall
Date: January 31 at 7:00 pm

Exhibition

Title: Antorbikkhon
Artist: Swapan Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: January 22- February 5

Bauls songs

A dilemma in the authentic preservation of Baul songs

ERSHAD KAMOL

BAUL songs have attracted widespread attention for their mystic approach to humanism as well as their marvelous tunes. Nowadays preservation of the authentic tunes and lyrics of the folk songs has become an oft-discussed topic; quite a few of the urban singers are accused of distorting the folk genres in the name of fusion.

However, a large number of researchers face major obstacles in the course of preserving Baul songs, especially in relation to

compositions are undoubtedly authentic. I have doubts as to whether many of the 'claimed' Lalon songs were composed by Lalon or his devotees."

One of the common problems in the preservation of the oral literature is the lack of written texts of the bards or direct followers. In the case of Lalon Shah's songs -- Kanganal Harinath Majumdar (1833-1896), Lalon's direct disciple, inspired Rabindranath Tagore to publish 285 Lalon songs in the monthly *Prabasi* of Kolkata. The rest of the documentation is based on the rendition of Lalon devotees.

example, there is a predominance of *Sufism*, *Tantric* beliefs and *Sahajiyi* rituals, while in the Panju Shah tradition, *Tantric* beliefs and *Sahajiyi* practices are absent.

But, for hundreds of years, the followers of these traditions have interwoven the philosophy and music of the principal gurus. Professor Mridul says, "The alarming factor is that many of the rural Bauls deliberately or unwittingly blended the genres. And documentation from these sources can easily misguide people."

Professor Mridul's observation

it is an authentic Lalon composition."

However, Professor Mridul differs. As he says, "Many songs that conclude with *Lalon bole* are not essentially composed by Lalon Shah. The diction and philosophy delivered in these songs are totally different from that of Lalon's composition published in monthly *Probashi*. Many Bauls have added *Lalon bole* at the end of their own compositions to popularise the song, which has made the documentation of authentic Lalon songs more difficult."

Subsequently, Lalon's disciple, Maniruddin Fakir, and his disciple, Khoda Baksh, attempted to put these songs into a particular frame. Khoda Baksh's disciple, Amulya Shah, was a reputed musicologist who set Baul songs, especially Lalon songs, to music. These songs were developed by his disciples: Behal Shah, Shukchand, Dasi Fakirani, Chandar Gauhar, Nimai Shah, Mahendra, Kanai Kshyapa and Modi Fakirani. Mahim Shah, Khoda Baksh Shah, Jhadu Shah, Khoda, Bella, Fakirchand, Jomela, Khorshed Fakir, Laily and Yasin Shah further developed these in later years.

Shudhin Das has done the notation of the songs rendered by Khoda Baksh Shain, a disciple of Maniruddin Fakir; the latter was the direct disciple of Lalon Shah. Professor Mridul says, "The tune of the songs rendered by Khoda Baksha is different from that of songs rendered by many rural Bauls as well as Lalon singers, who render for metro audience like Farida Parveen, Kiron Chandra Roy and others."

Farida Parveen claims that her presentation style is different from that of the Bauls at Lalon's *akhra*. She says, "Fakirs at the *akhra* sing Lalon songs in their own style. My emphasis is on the classical aspect to give it a more polished form."

The ongoing process of blending of the oral compositions by Lalon Shah and other prominent Bauls has emerged as a dilemma for the authentic preservation of Baul songs.

Of these documentations -- *Banglar Baul* by Upendranath Bhattacharjee and *Haramoni* by Monsur Uddin are the most popular.

In the Baul tradition are many principal gurus such as Lalon Shah, Panju Shah, Delbar Shah, Panchu Shah, and others. Moreover a special section of the Bauls known as *Kartabhaja*, follow *Vaishnava* traditions. And each of these traditions is different in devotional rites and music.

In the Lalon Shah tradition, for

has been reflected at the recent 'Baul Council' arranged by Tariqat-e Ahle Bayeet, an alliance of different organisations of Sufis and Vaisnavas, where the Bauls from different *aakhra*s and *mazaars* presented mystic songs as well as traditional *kirtans* as Lalon songs.

Questioned as to how Lalon compositions can be considered authentic, Babul Khan, who sings in an *akhra* in Faridpur, says "If any song includes the lyric *Lalon bole* -- (Lalon says), it is enough proof that



Bauls perform at a recent festival

Lalon's songs because of the continuous blending process of oral folk genres at the grassroots level. It is for this reason that questions arise about the authenticity of numerous songs preserved as "Lalon's compositions".

Mridul Kanti Chakroborti, professor of the Department of Theatre and Music, Dhaka University, has conducted research at the grassroots level. He says, "Two hundred and eighty-five of the 2000 (approximately) Lalon

Govinda in Aparna's Jewellery Box

A hard-to-conceive combination indeed: Govinda, prince of "B" *masala* movies, is to be directed by India's most acclaimed female director, Aparna Sen in her forthcoming project, *Jewellery Box*.

Confirming the news that he'll star opposite Aparna's daughter Konkona Sen Sharma, Govinda says, "When Aparna Sen came to me with the part, I was thrilled. I have never worked with a female director. That too someone who has made such beautiful films. I loved *Mr & Mrs Iyer*.

"Secondly, I have never shot in Kolkata and that's another high for me. Because I love the city and Bangali culture."

Tight-lipped as always, Aparna

doesn't disclose much more than the fact that Govinda will indeed star in her first Hindi film. "I'm very reluctant to talk about my films in

advance. But yes, Govinda is to play a central role in *The Jewellery Box*. Govinda can be extremely funny and that's the quality I'm going to



Aparna Sen



Govinda

tap in my film. I can see him and Konkona giving each other perfect comic timing," says Sen, fresh from applause for *15 Park Avenue*.

The Jewellery Box is the story of three generations of women. Govinda plays the hedonistic son of a zamindar's family who turns a blind eye as the family crumbles to bankruptcy. Interestingly, Sharmila Tagore will star as a ghost in the film.

As is standard practice for her films, the actors will have to undergo a rigorous bout of workshops before facing the camera.

"At this point in my career, I need this challenge," says Govinda.

Source: Internet

Nondito Norok-e
Of shattered bliss...Shoma (L) and Shimul in *Nondito Norok-e*

KARIM WAHEED

Based on the first work of fiction by noted author Humayun Ahmed, *Nondito Norok-e*, directed by Belal Ahmed opens on the big screen today.

The movie follows the fortunes of a suburban middle class family. The parents along with their two sons and daughters (Rabeya, Khoka, Montu and Runu) live a quiet life. They are not affluent but glimpses of joy create an illusion of bliss. A friend of the father, fondly known as "Master Chacha" to the children, lives with them.

As the siblings grow up, the mother realises that her eldest daughter Rabeya is mentally challenged. Although way past adolescence, Rabeya has not grown out of her playful, naive years of childhood. Unaware of the social norms, she is often reproached by her concerned mother. Khoka excels in academics.

A well off family moves into the house across the road. Rabeya soon gets acquainted with her neighbour, Haroon. However, Haroon's

mother sees an ulterior motive and accuses Rabeya's mother of trying to fix a match between Haroon and her "deranged" daughter. The consequence: Rabeya is locked in a room for days.

Haroon gets married to a bride chosen by his mother. Meanwhile, it becomes apparent that Rabeya has conceived. Afraid of the stigma attached to unwed motherhood, Rabeya's parents call in a local midwife. Rabeya dies from excessive bleeding in the process of an abortion. Montu realises who has taken advantage of his mentally challenged sister, kills the culprit and is sentenced to death by the court. Thus the illusion of "bliss" of an average family is shattered.

The plot and perspective of the movie are stimulating. The set, attire and props suggest that the movie is set in the late '70s or early '80s, when Ahmed wrote the story. However, there were some contradictory elements, such as the house that Haroon's family moves into. Some scenes were executed impressively; like the court scene beginning and ending with a noisy

old fan.

The high point of the movie newcomer Shoma. This debutant shows promise in the role of Rabeya. Her portrayal of the mentally challenged character is not so subtle at times; regardless she has done a splendid job. Ferdous did not have much to do. Litu Anam does a commendable job at underplaying the character of an enraged young man. Seasoned actor, Afroza Banu as Rabeya's mother fits the bill to the hilt.

The background music by Emon Shaha is impressive. The Nazrul song *Hey Madinabashi* by Sadya Aftreen Mallick, Tagore song *Aji jhorajhoro mukhoro badoro din-e* and songs by Hemanta Mukhopadhyay have certainly added flair to the movie. However, Rabeya belting out a complex ghazal by Nazrul after hearing it just once was not digestible.

All in all, the movie has the potential to attract a "thinking" audience and should be considered as a breath of fresh air in the barrage of movies that fail to make the grade.

Tune to Sisimpur
this Friday

Sisimpur is a Bangla adaptation of the popular children's television programme called *Sesame Street*. Named after a fictitious countryside place, *Sisimpur* is aired Friday mornings on BTV.

Synopsis of the new episode: Tukuki and Ikri play with the picture of an iguana and are soon joined by their good friend Shiku who tells them more about iguanas. Children learn the concepts of up and down with the help of a nut eating fox and a cunning bird. After that they get a bird's eye view of the world with the help of a wonderful song, during which a bird flies up across rooftops, car parks, railways, schools, roads, playgrounds and many other places. All this and more for viewers.



Moss spills all in memoir

The only lines ex-

supermodel Kate Moss is concerned with are the ones appearing in her new book. The scandal-plagued supermodel has inked a deal with Virgin magazine and close pal Richard Branson to pen a tell-all memoir of her turbulent year.

"Richard and Kate have agreed to bring out her autobiography," a spokesman for the media mogul told *British Vogue*. "It's a chance for her to put across her side of the story."

The autobiography will allow Moss, 32, to tell her side of the drug scandal that led to her fall from grace and subsequent comeback. Last September, Britain's *Daily Mirror* tabloid published front-page photos of the runway veteran snorting what appeared to be large amounts of cocaine.

The photos prompted Burberry and H&M to drop the supermodel from their planned campaigns and led to Moss' stint in an Arizona rehab clinic last fall.

Source: Internet



TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Urey Jai Bokpokkhi

On ntv at 09:10 pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Shaon, Swadhin Khasru, Masum Aziz



Spider Man-2

On HBO at 09:30 pm

Genre: Action

Cast: Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, James Franco

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, 11pm.

News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm

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

CHANNEL-i

09:45 *Tithiya Matra*
10:30 *Tela Shomoy*
11:30 *Islam Ki Boley*
12:10 *Talk Show: Kora Alaap*
01:10 *Bashundhara Amader Gaan*

01:30 *Public Reaction*
02:30 *Lux-Channel-i Performance*
Award-2004

04:45 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
05:15 *Janapader Khorob*
05:30 *Shamolik*
06:00 *Music Plus*
06:20 *Kothae Kothae*
07:50 *Weekly Drama:*

Upolobdhi
09:35 *D/Rockstar*
10:00 *Drama Serial: Shei Tum Ei Tum*

ATN BANGLA
10:30 *Islam Ki Boley Amra Ki Kori*
11:05 *Islamic Programma*
03:40 *Binodon Jummabar*
04:45 *Isphani Pura Snax Quiz Time*

05:00 *Gram Ganjer Khabor*
05:10 *Shesh Akkhor*
06:20 *Amra Korbo Joi*
08:00 *Drama Serial: Choturbij*
09:00 *Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni*
09:30 *Drama Serial: Ek Jonomey*
10:35 *Gondhoraj Samsung Cine Aha*
12:10 *Talk Show: Nari*

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

12:05

Drama Serial: *Chithi Muktagan*
12:30 *Durga Hadees*
01:30 *Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe*
03:15 *Music Express*
04:25 *Cartoon: Fandi*
05:20 *Tittner Phankay*
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:50 *Ki Kolha Tahar Shatrey*

Drama Serial: *Kachhar Manush*
08:10 *Drama Serial: Uray Jai Bokpokkhi*
11:25 *Dindarpan*

Rtv
07:45 *Shukhi Thakun Deho Money*
03:30 *Islamic Programme*
05:00 *Human Nature*
05:30 *Sindbad O Tsar Bandhura*

06:00 *Ajker Bangladesh Swapnodiner Gaan*
07:45 *Drama Serial: Bori Bori: Babi Bahk*
08:15 *Talk Show: Gopshop*
10:40 *Rtv Exclusive Sonali Rupail*

09:15 *Van Helsing*
12:00 *Daddy Day Care*
02:00 *Vera drake*
04:30 *Sunshine State*
07:15 *Lethal Weapon*
09:30 *BHO Blockbuster of the Month: Spider-Man 2*
12:00 *HBO Full Access: Spider-Man 2 The Next Generation*
12:15 *Philadelphia*

STAR MOVIES
09:45 *Runaway Jury*
11:50 *Bringing Out The Dead*
01:50 *Dorian*

03:20

All The Pretty Horses
05:15 *Home Alone 3*
07:00 *Glass House The*
08:50 *Nine Lives*
10:30 *Heaven's Pond*
12:10 *Home Alone 3*

STAR PLUS
09:00 *Taaza Hits*
09:05 *Hit Film: Hit Sangeet- 20 M*
09:30 *Pardey Ka Peechay*
10:30 *Meri Saheli*
11:00 *Shagun*
11:30 *Shanti*
12:00 *Maan*
01:00 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*
01:30 *Dhamakeshukra*
04:00 *Kahin To Hoga*
05:00 *Shagun*

06:00 *Maan*
06:30 *House Of Mouse*
07:00 *Hercules*
07:30 *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi*
08:00 *Dhoom*
08:30 *Sonpari*
08:30 *Shararat - Thoda Jadu*
09:00 *Todi Naz*
09:00 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*
09:30 *Kaun Banega Crorepati 2*
10:30 *Baa Bahoo Aur Baby*
11:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi*
11:30 *Kabhi Bahu Thi*
11:30 *Kahin To Hoga*

STAR WORLD
08:30 *Whose Line Is It Anyway*

09:30

Air Crash Investigation
11:30 *Insects From Hell*
ANIMAL PLANET
08:30 *Fun Zone*
09:30 *Natural World*
10:30 *Bugging With RUDD*
11:30 *Animal X*
12:00 *Twisted Tales*
12:30 *Fun Zone*
01:30 *Keepers Of The Forest*
02:00 *Meerkat Manor*
02:30 *Crocodile Hunter*
03:30 *Fun Zone*
04:30 *Natural World*
05:30 *Bugging With RUDD*
06:30 *Animal X*
7:00 *Twisted Tales*
07:30 *Keepers Of The Forest*
8:00 *Meerkat Manor*
08:30 *Fun Zone*
09:30 *Indian Safari*
10:30 *Crocodile Hunter Diaries*
11:30 *Unexplained, Unexplored*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 *Frontlines Of Construction*
10:30 *Seconds From Disaster*
11:30 *No Border*
12:30 *Running For Freedom*
01:30 *Extreme Latitude*
02:30 *Totally Wild*
03:30 *Animal Nightmares*
04:00 *Backyard Science*
04:45 *Doc Eureka*
05:00 *Serious Arctic*
05:30 *Mission Udaan*
06:30 *Explorations*
07:00 *Human Edge*
07:30 *National Geographic Special*
08:30 *When Nature Strikes Back*

09:00 *The Drew Carey Show*
09:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*
10:30 *American Idol*
11:30 *Less Than Perfect*
12:00 *Arrested Development*
12:30 *Nash Bridges*
01:30 *The A Team*
03:30 *Bold And Beautiful*
04:30 *Hollywood Squares*
05:30 *Angel*
06:30 *The Simpsons*
07:00 *King Of Queens*
07:30 *Friends*
08:00 *Seinfeld*
08:30 *Tna Wrestling*
09: