CULTURAL FEAST

Nazrul Sangeet Soiree & Recitation Programme

Organiser: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad
Date: August 27-29
Venue: Nazrul Institute, Road no-28, Dhanmondi
Time: **6:00pm**

Classical Musical Soiree

Artist: Shaheenur Reza and Rezwan Ali
Organiser: Shuddha Sangeet Prosar Goshthi
Venue: Bishwa Shahittya Kendra, Dhaka
Date: August 31

Solo Photography Exhibition

Photographer: Bakin Rabbi
Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dacca
Venue: Zoom Gallery, Alliance Francaise
Date: August 24-September 06

Film Screening

Title: Raise the Red Lantern (1991)
Director: Yimou Zhang
Organiser: Ananya Film Club
Venue: Ananya Auditorium, 10/14 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur
Date & Time: August 26, at 4:00 pm

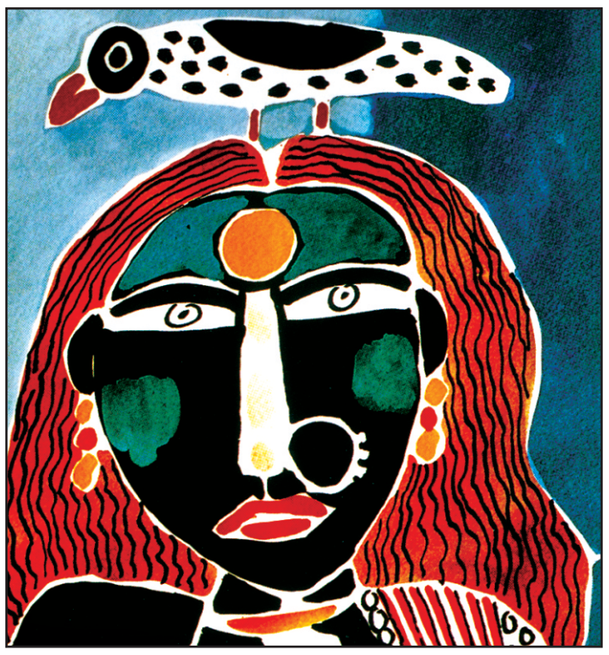
Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Nilufar Jahan
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya
Date: August 23-29
Time: 10:00 am- 1:00 pm

Artist: Abdus Shakoor
Venue: Shilpangan, Road 3, House 13/A, Dhanmondi
Date: August 24-September 07
Time: 10:00 am- 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

Exhibition

Shakoor's blending of the modern with folk



Artworks by Abdus Shakoor

FAYZA HAQ

Abdus Shakoor, in his ongoing 14th solo exhibit at Shilpangan, bases his work on Jasimuddin's *Nakshikanthar Maat*. He had attempted this theme before when he went on a trip to Italy in June this year. Along with this are the paintings on the famous Mymnsingh ballads of *Mahua* and *Malua*. Shakoor is famed at home and abroad for his dark damsels who are presented with their family and friends along with the exotic birds, animals and reptiles of the countryside.

He is inspired by folk art such as *Gazir pat*, *Laxmi shora*, *Alpana*, *Shital pati*, *Nakshi kantha* and wood work. He is also influenced by the paintings of Jamini Roy. As a student of Fine Arts in Chittagong, he was guided and encouraged by Rashid Chowdhury. Along with the portraits, are the accompanying calligraphy which elaborates on the paintings of young lovers draped with the birds and animals of the countryside. The paintings, although folk in nature, are modern in presentation. He uses ink-drawing, water colour, acrylic and oil.

In one of his recent paintings he has a love story where the protagonist Shaju is seen with her confidante. One of the figures is in blue, while the other is black. The artist uses dark colours as he depicts the damsels with typical sultry complexions of our villages where the sun beats over most of the year. A bird is included in the composition to heighten the romantic and idyllic impact. Rupa, the hero, in turn, is seen confiding in his aunt in another painting. The women are done simply with dramatic lines to include clothes, jewellery and hairstyle.

There is then the depiction of Shaju revelling in the prospects of marriage . In the next few pictures Shakoor has brought in the village on both sides of the canvas. Thus we have houses, river, trees and sky instead of the intricate motifs of birds and animals, seen before in the artist's works. A bird is included to heighten the poetic effect.

When Shakoor began his artistic career, he experimented with the themes of Liberation War and other international problems. Doing research on Bangladeshi traditional forms he came across the book on Mymensingh ballads and so began his course through folk portraits and forms in dark and vibrant colours. "I love my country, its culture and language and these are the elements I want to heighten in my work. The presentation of my compositions, however, are of a modern nature," he says.

Dwelling on his student days, Shakoor says that he was lucky enough to get Zainul Abedin so that even now he soaks himself in his ideology. There were other dedicated teachers too like Qayyum Chowdhury, Anwarul Huq and Abul Bassat . His guide in Baroda, KG Subramanyam, was also an important factor in forming his style. Shakoor has been painting in the folk style since 1991.

Shakoor has won many awards such as the ones from India and Japan as well as a gold medal at the 15th Nation Art Exhibition, Dhaka. He has exhibited in India, Japan, Canada, Europe and the Middle East.

In focus

'Ghatu Gaan': In dire need of preservation

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Mymensingh

Ghatu Gaan (folk song) an element of traditional Bengali culture has almost gone into oblivion. Once it was popular in Mymensingh region, especially in Mymensingh, Netrokona and Kishoreganj districts. Now it is an antiquated art form for the younger generation though the nostalgic elders cling to its memory.

Ghatu gaan depicts various aspects of life of the common people. The chorus, led by a young boy dressed up as a teen-aged girl called 'Ghatu', homes in on the sorrows and happiness of the masses.

The *Ghatu Gaan,* like other indigenous sources of entertainment such as *Kabi gaan, Jari gaan*, *Shari gaan, Pala gaan*, *Baul* songs and *jatra pala,* used to draw a large audience. It was performed widely in Trishal, Bhaluka, Gouripur and Iswarganj of Mymensingh; Khaliajuri, Mohanganj and Madan of Netrokona; Mithamoin of Kishoreganj and the *haor* areas of the two latter districts.

In Mymensingh, *Ghatu Gaan* was performed mainly in the winter season while in *haor* areas the rainy season was an opportune time as the *haor* people were out of work, being inundated by flood water.

From a book written by Mohammed Abdus Sattar, titled *Folklore and Culture of Greater Mymensingh*, it is learnt that *Ghatu Gaan* is performed by a group accompanied by instruments like drum, *mandira*, khanjani*,* bamboo flute, *wooden chatti* and harmonium. A young man, dressed as a girl with long hair, wearing string of bells (*ghungroo*) round the ankles and a coloured handkerchief in hand performs the lead role.

The senior artiste who plays the commanding role is called 'Shakhin' in Mymensingh, Bayati in Netrokona and 'Sarker' in Kishoreganj. The artistes in the chorus are called 'Pail', 'Dohar' and 'Bahari' in different areas of this region.

The zamindars of this region, aficionados of the local culture, extended patronage to *Ghatu Gaan* and such programmes were held round the year especially in the moonlit nights of *Bhadro* when the people in remote areas enjoyed a respite from the floods.

However, such performances are very rare now. In recent years the *Ghatu* chorus is seen only on the completion of construction work of the buildings' roofs in the district town and other places of the district.

"Once *Ghat Gaan* was the main source of entertainment for village dwellers and even townspeople. Today the cable TV has invaded our traditional culture and pushed it on the road to extinction," said 85-year-old Sohrab Hossain, of village Char Gobindapur in Sadar upazila.

Another fan of this art form is Patit Paban Saha, a small vendor in the district town. "In my youth I enjoyed *Ghatu Gaan*. It was a good source of entertainment and even the village women enjoyed it. We should preserve this rich cultural heritage for our future generations," said Patit.

Likewise, Afzalur Rahman Bhuiyan, a professor of Bengali Department, Government Ananda Mohan College, told The Daily Star that while Bengalis are getting westernised and reeling from the assault on their traditional culture, we should keep in mind, a civilised nation always remember its roots.

A rural audience enjoys *Ghatu Gaan*

Nazrul's 30th Death Anniversary

Special programmes on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The 30th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed across the country on Auguest 27. ATN Bangla has chalked out a daylong special TV programme to mark the day. The focus will be on Nazrul's work and life.

***Chaiti Raater Chandni*:** Special musical programme scheduled to telecast at 8:30am. Zillur Rahman is the director of the programme.

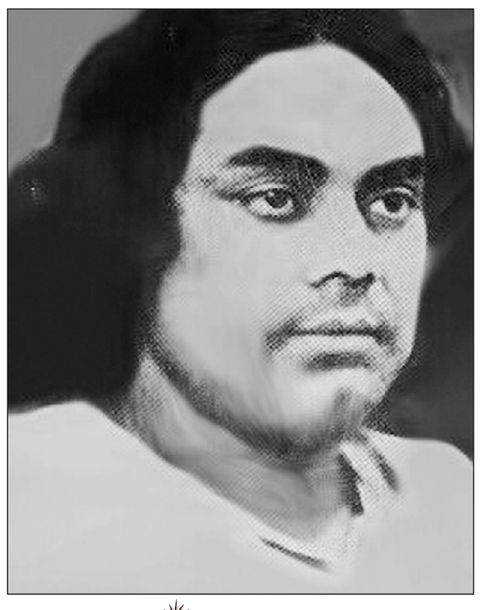
***Smritir Monikothay*:** Directed by Nasim Ahmed a special talk show based on Nazrul's work and life will be aired 12:15pm

***Amarey Debo Na Bhulitey*:** Documentary programme directed by Zamiur Rahman scheduled to telecast 12:45pm

***Khuki O Kathbirali*:** Stage play based on a poem by Kazi Nazrul Islam will be aired at 1:30pm. Abdus Sattar directs the play.

***Udashi Benu*:** Directed by Kabir Kakoli, the special musical programme will be telecast at 2:30pm. Nazrul artiste Yasmin Mushtari will perform in the show.

***Boner Papia*:** Special TV Play based on a story by Nazrul will be aired at 3:10pm. Adapted by Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqui, the play features Tony Dayes, Deepa Khondakar and others in different roles.



Montreal film festival '06 begins

The Montreal World Film Festival returned for its 30th edition Thursday, triumphant after withstanding a rival event's bid for the title of Montreal's premiere film event.

Serge Losique, who has headed Montreal's World Film Festival since founding it 30 years ago, says his event is not focused on Hollywood blockbusters.

The annual festival kicked off Thursday night with the premiere of *Nos amis les terriens* (Our Earthmen Friends), the directorial debut of French science-fiction writer Bernard Werber.

Altogether, the festival will screen 215 feature-length and 194 short- and medium-length movies from 76 countries before closing with Canadian filmmaker Stéphane Lapointe's The Secret Life of Happy People on Sept. 4.

As in recent years, the lineup is largely skewed towards films from around the world and has a notable lack of Hollywood blockbusters.

"It's difficult to please everyone at the same time, but we shouldn't try to," Daniele Cauchard, the festival's vice-president, said Wednesday.

Quebec producer Rock Demers, who has been involved with the World Film Festival for several years, said the original event fulfils a need in the community.

"For Quebec, the World Film Festival succeeded in creating and maintaining an enthusiasm from the public for films other than American," he said.

"That gives Quebecers the ability to compare our works to those of screenwriters of many regions."

There will be 22 films mostly from Europe, Asia and Latin America competing for the festival's top award, the Grand Prize of the Americas.

The jury selecting the winner of the Grand Prize and other awards includes Canadian director Marc-André Forcier, US actress Kathy Bates, Danish producer Vibeke Windelov, Argentinian actor Federico Luppi and French screenwriter Guillaume Laurant.

The festival will also include retrospective tributes to actors Bulle Ogier, Bruno Ganz, Kiyoshi Atsumi and Rémy Girard.

Source: Internet

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, 12:15 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.**
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
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 pm.**

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV

09:15 Satellite Broadcast
12:05 *Shangbad Potrer Pata Thekey*
12:30 *Maa O Shishur Kotha*
01:00 *Nibedon*
01:30 *Mati O Manush*
02:15 *Sisimpur*
02:40 Bangla Feature Film
05:05 English TV debate
07:00 *Shei Shur Shei Gaan*
07:30 Musical Programme: *Prio Sur Prio Gaan*
08:30 *Protidin Bangladesh*
08:35 *Anando Ayojon*
10:25 *Teknaf Thekey Tetulia*

CHANNEL i

09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 *Grameenphone Tritiyo Matra*
11:05 *Na Bola Kotha*
11:30 *Mukto Bazar*
12:30 *Citycell Tarokakothon (Live)*
01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 *Shanghbadpotre Bangladesh*
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 *Shath Rang*
04:05 Educational Programme
04:25 *Shotyer Shondhaney*
06:00 Music Plus
06:20 *Shath Goyenda*
07:50 *Bhober Haat*
09:35 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*
10:00 *Jhora Patar Kabyo*
12:00 *Grameenphone Ajkeer Shongbad Potro*

ATN BANGLA

10:30 *Onyodrishti*
11:05 Drama Serial: *Hortoner Bibi*
12:15 *Bangla Feature Film*
03:45 *Shurer Madhuri*
04:20 Special Programme
05:10 Job Vacancy
05:45 Islamic Programme
06:20 *Purakirtir Bangladesh Bangla*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Jol Pore Pata Nore*
08:30 Drama Serial: *The New Shabuj Opera*
09:00 Drama Serial: *Lal Neel Bagune*
09:30 Drama Serial: *Ek Jonome*
10:40 *Shustho Thakun*(Live)

CHANNEL 1

08:40 *Shuprobhat Bangladesh*
09:30 *Chokh Maley Dekhi*
10:00 Cartoon
11:30 Tele Film
03:30 Drama Serial: *Taxi Driver*
04:30 Drama Serial: *Dui Dugune Panch*
05:15 *Shoptaho Sheshey*
06:00 *Saaj Bela*
06:30 Top News
06:45 *Jonotar Ishtihar*
07:00 *Bishwa Jurey Shath Din*
08:15 Musical Programme
09:00 *Shondhi Khoney*
09:30 Drama Serial: *Dui Duguney Panch*

Rtv
09:30 *Sa Sa Dhin Tai*
10:00 *Antorango Alap*
02:00 *Aj Potrikai*
02:30 Islamic Programme
03:40 Bangla Feature Film
06:00 *Ajker Bangladesh*
06:35 Talk Show
08:00 *Gopshop*
08:50 R Music
10:50 Drama Serial: *Modhyoborti*

BANGLAVISION

08:35 *Shuvo Shokal*
09:00 *Ichchhey Ghuri*
10:00 Talk Show: *Shomoy Ashomoy*
10.30 Drama Serial: *Projapoti Din*
11:00 *Dana Kanta Shaeri*
11:30 Cine Bit
02:30 Drama Serial: *Gouro Chondrika*
03:00 *Desher Pothey*
03:30 *Cine Bit Shada Kalo*
04:00 Music Rhythm
04:30 *Amader Atithi*
05:00 *Jibondhara*
05:30 *Ebong Classer Bairey*
08:10 Drama Serial: *Krishno Pokkho*
09:20 Talk Show: *Amar Ami*
09:50 Drama Serial: *Sukher Kanta*

HBO

09:30 Spanglish
12:15 Connie and Carla
02:15 New on the Big Schreen In August
02:45 Kull the Conqueror
04:45 Blue Demon
06:45 The Matrix
09:30 Exorcist: The Beginning
11:45 Wild Things 2: The Glades
01:30 Gothika

STAR MOVIES

09:15 The Next Karate Kid
11:00 Hostage
12:55 The Touch
02:45 The Ticket
03:15 I, Robot
05:10 Shall We Dance
07:00 Noel
08:40 Sweetest Thing, The

STAR PLUS

08:30 Maal Hai To Taal Hai
02:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Maal Hai To Taal Hai
03:00 Star Bestsellers
04:00 Ssshhhh...Koi Hai...
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:25 V First Day First Show-Starplu
05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen
06:30 American Dragon: Jack Long
07:00 Buzz Light Year Of Starcommand
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
07:30 Shararat - Thoda Jadu Todi Naz
08:00 Pardey Ke Peechey
08:30 Jodee Kamaal Ki
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Shanno Ki Shaadi
11:00 Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Sa Aasma
11:30 Thegreatindialaughterchampion2

STAR WORLD

08:30 Smallville
09:30 Wonderfalls
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
12:30 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
01:00 Travel Asia
01:30 My Wife And Kids
02:00 Yes Dear
02:30 Wild Card
03:30 The Simpsons
04:00 Growing Up Gotti
04:30 Smallville
05:30 Desperate Housewives
06:30 Michael Buble
07:30 Philly
08:30 Tna Xplosion
09:30 David Beckham
10:30 Little Britain
11:00 According To Bex
11:30 Cops
12:00 Cops

SONY

08:30 Shree Ganesh Spiritual
09:00 Telebrands Teleshopping
09:30 Chart Busters Movie Based
10:00 Music Mantra Music
10:30 Music Beats Music
11:00 Current Bollywood Movie Based
11:30 Akela Thriller/ Horror
12:00 Akela Thriller/Horror
12:30 Ji Bhengi Comedy
01:00 Party Comedy
01:30 Fir Comedy
02:00 Ishq Ki Ghanti Comedy
02:30 Boogie Woogie Dance
03:00 Boogie Woogie Dance
03:30 Maitnee - Agneepath Movie
04:00 Contd. Contd.
07:00 Music Mantra Music
07:30 Chart Busters Others
08:00 Khushi Ki Duniya Drama
08:30 Cine Prime - Humko Tumse Pyar Hai Movie
09:00 Contd. Contd.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

08:30 NG's Most Amazing Moments
09:30 A Life With Bears
10:30 Dogs With Jobs
11:00 Nat Geo Wild
11:30 Nat Geo Junior
11:45 Nat Geo Junior
12:00 Nat Geo Junior
12:30 Nat Geo Investigates
01:30 Air Crash Investigations
02:30 Naked Science
03:30 Is It Real?
04:30 MegaStructures
05:30 Megastructures
06:30 Be The Creature
07:30 Realm of Mugger Crocodile
08:30 Emerging India
10:00 Egypt's Hidden Treasure
10:30 Megacities
11:30 Nat Geo Investigates

DISCOVERY

08:30 Wild India Week
09:30 Life Unlimited
10:30 Discovery Spotlight
11:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive
12:30 Feast India
01:00 Yatra-Indian Travels
01:30 Tiger Week
02:30 Discovery' Biggest Shows
03:30 Discovery's Biggest shows
04:30 Wild India Week
05:30 Beyond Tomorrow
06:30 Stung Junkies
07:00 Great Cars
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Discover India
09:30 Himalayan With Michael Plain
10:30 How Do They Do It?
11:30 World's Strangest UFO Stories

PICK OF THE DAY

The New Sabuj Opera
On ATN Bangla at 8:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Tomalika Karmokar, Jayonto Chattyopadhyay

Caught in the act: Michael Buble
On Star World at 6:30pm
Michael Buble puts his own take on pop hits and classic American tunes