

CULTURALFEAST

**Jasim Uddin Utshab**  
**Organiser:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Venue:** National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** June 3-5  
**Time:** 7:00pm



**Ikebana Exhibition**  
**Organiser:** Embassy of Japan & Japan Foundation  
**Title:** Ikebana Demonstration and Seminar 2007  
**Venue:** Main Auditorium & Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Hall, National Museum  
**Date:** June 4-5  
**Time:** 5:30pm

**Art Exhibition**  
**Title:** Lines of Madness  
**Venue:** Goethe Institute Gallery  
**Date:** June 4-14  
**Time:** 10am-8pm (closed Friday and Saturday)

**Group Art Exhibition**  
**Title:** Chitra Mela: Art Fair 2007  
**Venue:** Shilpangan, Road 3, House 26, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** May 31-June 14  
**Time:** 10am-8pm

**Title:** Chitral Varendra  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old) Dhanmondi  
**Date:** May 30-June 10  
**Time:** 12pm-8pm

**Theatre**  
**Troupe:** Bongorongo Natyadol  
**Title:** Unmochon  
**Venue:** Mahila Shomity Auditorium  
**Date:** June 3  
**Time:** 7:00pm

**Dilip kumar Retrospective**  
**Organiser:** The High Commission of India in Dhaka  
**June 7 Mazdoor**  
**June 9 Mashaal**  
**June 10 Dunia**  
**Time:** 6pm  
**Venue:** Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-2  
Complementary passes can be collected from the High Commission of India, House 2 Road 142 Gulshan 1 & the Indian Cultural Centre House 25 Road 96, Gulshan 2

# Creating a niche in Lalon songs

## In conversation with Chandana Majumdar

AHSAN HABIB

FOLK artiste Chandana Majumdar has received much acclaim for her passionate performances over the years. She is among the few urban singers known for singing the immortal tunes of Lalon with utmost conviction.

Chandana started off as a Nazrul singer. Her father Nirmol Chandra Majumdar, a well-known Lalon singer, wanted her to be a Nazrul or classical singer. "He devoted his life to Lalon songs and wanted me to hone my skills in a different genre," says Chandana. She received five years of training in classical and Nazrul songs at Nazrul Parishad. Yakub Ali Khan was her instructor for a couple of years. She eventually shifted to Lalon songs.

Chandana remembers how she was inspired by the lyrics and tunes of Lalon. "At our home we used to



Chandana Majumdar (L) renders a song at a programme

At that age I could not fully understand the meaning of the songs, the exquisite rhythm and melody, but the songs moved me greatly anyway

have regular gatherings of *bauls* who would sing all night long. Renowned Lalon singer Moksed Ali Shai visited our home frequently as he was a close friend of my father. As a child I used to attend these soirees as a curious listener. These *ashors* and *bauls* awakened a certain thirst in me for Lalon songs. At that age I could not fully understand the meaning of the songs, the exquisite rhythm and melody, but

the songs moved me greatly anyway. Whenever I listened to the tunes, I used to feel that I was not within me any more," Chandana says. Farida Parveen's rendition of Lalon's songs also inspired her greatly.

The first song she mastered, under the guidance of Moksed Ali Shai, was *Ami porechhi okul patharey*. Moksed Ali then called her up to perform in different programmes. She was enlisted as a Lalon singer in TV in 1979 and in radio in 1980. Moksed Ali's death in the mid-eighties saddened her greatly. At that time she had the chance to attend a 5-year diploma course conducted by Khoda Baksh Shai. The course was arranged by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

In 1979, she got married to

Kiran Chandra Roy, a reputed singer of folk songs.

Chandana believes that our musical heritage is deeply rooted in folk songs. She welcomes the current generation's growing interest for these songs. Her suggestion to aspiring folk singers is to delve deep into these songs before working on them.

Since Lalon songs had no original notations and were handed down from one generation of *bauls* to another, Chandana has plans to establish a platform for the practitioners of Lalon songs. "Artists practicing Lalon songs outside *akhras* are doing it individually -- we lack coordination. Many of us have thought of it but none has come up with a solution so far," she observes.

"We have a few Shais left who can provide proper training to aspiring Lalon singers. Currently very few can receive training at their homes, which may not be enough to carry on the legacy of the genre," says Chandana. She believes that initiatives concerning this should be taken immediately.

Chandana currently teaches at the department of folk songs at Chhayanat Sangeet Bidyayatan. Besides Lalon songs she also performs songs of Radharaman Dutt, Bijoy Sarkar, Shah Abdul Karim and Rajab Ali Dewan. So far over 20 albums featuring different types of folk songs rendered by her have been released. Apart from Kiran Chandra Roy, she is the only singer who has released an album of Bijoy Sarkar's songs.

# An evening of classic film songs

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Nibedan, a cultural organisation, held their 14th production -- a musical programme -- at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum on June 1. Throughout the evening, artistes of Nibedan rendered songs from Bangladeshi films that have stood the test of time.

The programme was dedicated to the memory of noted cultural personality and Tagore exponent Waheedul Haque, who according to members of the organisation inspired them to continue their efforts in promoting and upholding our music.

Chief guest at the programme, veteran media personality, Ashrafuzzaman Khan unveiled a publication by Nibedan on Khondokar Nurul Alam. The man in his mid 90s, who introduced many established artistes to the radio audience recalled a time when "songs of Tagore and Nazrul were not yet known as 'Rabindra Sangeet' and 'Nazrul Sangeet'."

Mohammad Rafiquzzaman,

presenter and narrator, said, "In the '60s, around 20 movies would be released each year and virtually all songs from those films became popular. This trend continued throughout the '70s. However, our films and film-music took a nose-dive starting from '80s. Today around 80/90 films are released every year. Not even five songs from all these movies enjoy the popularity of cines-tunes from '60s or '70s."

First song of the programme was "Ek nodi rokto periyee" from the film "Abar Tora Manush Haw" (1973). Written and composed by Khan Atatur Rahman and originally recorded by Shahnaz Rahmatullah, the evergreen song is a moving homage to all the unsung Freedom Fighters. The choral rendition received a warm response from the audience.

One after another, artistes of Nibedan -- Shukla Dey, Shaheed Kabir, Shutopa Roy, Mohua Rahman, Rajat Dutta, Partha Haldar and others -- rendered classics including "Ei prithibir porey"

(from "Alor Michhil"; written by Mostafizur Rahman, composed by Satya Shaha and originally recorded by Sabina Yasmin), "Tumi arekbar ashiya" (from "Nagardola"; written by Gazi Mazharul Anwar, composed by Alauddin Ali and originally recorded by Rathindranath Roy), "Bimooro ei ratri amar" (from "Shimani Periyee"; written by Shivas Bandyopadhyay, composed by Bhupen Hazarika and originally recorded by Abida Sultana) and more.

The initiative was undoubtedly commendable. However, there were few discrepancies. Given, the artistes performing at the programme still have a long way to go, there was noticeable lack of coordination. Back up vocals at times seemed to override the main vocal. Certain singers seemed to be struggling with the tunes. Hopefully, the organisers would put more efforts in their arrangements in future.



Artistes of Nibedan perform at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

# Rokeya exhibits in Oman

FAYZA HAQ

Rokeya Sultana had her exhibition of her work at Oman recently, along with that of Mahmudul Haque, and a local artist Abdullah al Maimani. The exhibition had been arranged through the Bangladeshi embassy. Rokeya took some of her "Relation" series, along with her landscapes, 17 paintings in all. These were in tempera. The exhibit was called "Omani-Bangla joint art expo."

"This was a totally new experience for me. I had not been to the Middle East except for a trip to Teheran in 1998. I had met many Middle Eastern artists during the Asian Art Biennales and longed to see their homes and witness their lifestyle. Maimani too had come to Dhaka in the last Biennale. Muscat has deserts along with mountains containing waterfall, and all of it being surrounded by the sea. This fascinated me and opened my eyes to more aspects of nature than I had witnessed before. Muscat, incidentally, is the home of the legendary Sinbad."

During her stay, Rokeya had the opportunity to exchange ideas and share experiences with the guests who came to the gallery.

One of the paintings is splashed with blue and orange, with a mermaid-like creature resting among the coral beaches of Inani. The sunset is brought in to add warmth and scenic beauty. The white lines bring in the waves. The next landscape brings in masses of greens and blacks to depict the meeting of the sea with rivers. There is one that depicted the polo game with players and horses in black against an indigo backdrop. Rokeya had



Rokeya Sultana (L) seen with dignitaries at the art gallery at Muscat

come back from Pakistan when she did the painting and was then inspired by the traditional game.

"All my paintings are like my personal diary," says Rokeya. "Through my canvas I express my innermost feelings, hopes and dreams, my fears and doubts, almost anything and everything," she

says. Her paintings have a unique brilliance with a translucent effect.

Rokeya is an associate professor at the Institute of Fine Arts, DU and has many national and international awards and recognitions.

# 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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

### CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.

### 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  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00 pm.

### CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am

### BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.  
News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

### Rtv

News (Bangla) at 10:15pm. and 12:15am

## BTV

08:15 Prothom Prohor  
08:45 Bishwa Bichitra  
11:15 Drama  
12:30 Selected Programme  
01:00 Maa O Shishur Kotha  
01:30 Mati O Manush  
02:40 Cartoon  
03:05 Educational Programme  
03:30 Shilpo O Shahityo  
04:00 Shotorupa  
04:30 Khela Dhula  
05:05 Debate  
06:40 Musical Programme  
07:00 Shomoyer Shonglap  
07:30 Nritter Taley Taley  
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh  
08:35 Drama Serial: Shukh Shur  
09:00 Talk show  
10:30 Talk Show: Onnodiristi  
11:05 Drama: Biroho Kaal  
12:15 Shushtho Thakun  
01:30 Shornali Shadakalo  
02:40 ATN Shapla Shaluk Gold Medal Award  
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khobor  
05:10 Documentary Programme: Prapok  
05:45 The Sword of Tipu Sultan  
06:25 Three Stooges

## ATN Bangla

10:30 Talk Show: Onnodiristi  
11:05 Drama: Biroho Kaal  
12:15 Shushtho Thakun  
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05:45 The Sword of Tipu Sultan  
06:25 Three Stooges

08:00 Drama Serial: Outdoor  
08:40 Drama Serial: Nir-e Taar Nil Dheu  
09:20 Drama Serial: Pichhutan  
12:00 GrameenPhone Lead News  
08:30 Shokaler Gaan  
09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Grameenphone Tritiomatra  
11:05 Apollo Tele Prescription  
11:30 Hridoye Mati O Manush  
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan  
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh  
01:45 Public Reaction  
02:40 Drama: Priobash Budget Bhabna 2007  
03:30 BBC Bangladesh Shonglap  
04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma  
05:30 Muktijudho Protidin  
06:00 Ochina Adhar  
06:20 South Asian Film  
07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat  
09:35 Drama Serial: Mon Chhut-e Jay  
10:00 Drama Serial: Shada Ranger Swapno  
11:30 Drama Serial:

## Channel i

08:30 Shokaler Gaan  
09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Grameenphone Tritiomatra  
11:05 Apollo Tele Prescription  
11:30 Hridoye Mati O Manush  
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07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat  
09:35 Drama Serial: Mon Chhut-e Jay  
10:00 Drama Serial: Shada Ranger Swapno  
11:30 Drama Serial:

PICK OF THE DAY

**Bhober Haat**  
On Channel-i at 7:50pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Salauddin Lavlu, Fazlur Rahman Babu

**The Mistress of Spices**  
On Star Movies at 7:00pm  
Genre: Drama  
Cast: Aishwarya Rai, Dylan McDermott

Ekanyobarti	06:45	Ilthasher Path Dhoirey	08:15	Golpo	08:00
Grameenphone Ajker Shangbad Potro	07:00	Ekti Tara Duiti Tara	Drama Serial: Shantokutir	Drama Serial: Biyer Golpo	Drama Serial: Biyer Golpo
	08:15	Drama: The Fly	Shomporko	Wide Angle	Wide Angle
	09:30	Cine tune	Drama Serial: Bhalobasha Mondobasha	Drama Serial: Raat Jaga Pakhi	Drama Serial: Raat Jaga Pakhi
	11:00	Music Music	Ei Shomoy	Prio Mukh	Prio Mukh
	12:10	Talkshow			
	01:05	Japan Video Topic			
	02:30	Shonkhobash			
	03:15	Drama: Kotipoy Swapno			
	04:50	Apon Alo-e			
	06:00	Tepantorer Mathey			
	06:25	Shubho			
	05:15	Expression			
	06:00	Saaj Bela			

08:15 Drama Serial: Projapoti Din  
08:55 Apnar Agami  
09:30 Drama Serial: Swapnochura  
08:45 Star Wars: Ep. V - The Empire Strikes Back  
11:00 Star Wars: Ep. Vi - Return Of The Jedi  
01:15 Star Wars: Ep. Iv - A New Hope  
03:30 On The Lot  
04:30 The Ticket  
05:00 The 6th Day  
07:00 The Mistress Of Spices  
08:40 Mafia  
10:10 Rollerball  
11:45 Rebound  
01:15 Mating Habits Of The Earthbound  
02:45 The Ticket  
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02:45 The Ticket

## STAR MOVIES

08:45 Star Wars: Ep. V - The Empire Strikes Back  
11:00 Star Wars: Ep. Vi - Return Of The Jedi  
01:15 Star Wars: Ep. Iv - A New Hope  
03:30 On The Lot  
04:30 The Ticket  
05:00 The 6th Day  
07:00 The Mistress Of Spices  
08:40 Mafia  
10:10 Rollerball  
11:45 Rebound  
01:15 Mating Habits Of The Earthbound  
02:45 The Ticket

## STAR PLUS

09:30 Krishna Kathaiyen  
10:30 Khichdi  
11:30 The Great Indian Laughter Challenge  
12:30 Ji Pradhan Mantriji  
01:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron  
01:30 Bolly V - Star Plus  
01:35 V Trailers - Star Plus  
02:00 Hulchul  
05:00 Chup Chup Ke  
08:30 Don  
12:30 Bolly V - Star Plus

## STAR WORLD

09:30 Desperate Housewives  
10:30 Prison Break

11:30 Heroes  
12:30 On The Lot  
03:30 2007 Miss Universe  
05:30 Hollywood Shootout  
06:00 Travel Asia  
06:30 Koffee With Karan  
07:30 The Simpsons  
08:00 Malcolm In The Middle  
08:30 Wills India Fashion Week  
09:30 Koffee With Karan  
10:30 Law & Order: S.V.U.  
11:30 Third Watch  
12:30 Psych

## DISCOVERY CHANNEL

08:30 Wild Discovery  
09:30 Discover India  
10:30 Everest: Beyond the Limit  
11:30 Baby Story  
12:00 Equator  
12:30 Wild Discovery  
2:30 Zero Hour  
3:30 Everest: Beyond the Limit  
04:30 Wild Discovery  
05:30 How do they do it?  
06:30 Equator  
07:30 Wild Discovery  
08:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows  
10:30 Night Safari  
11:30 Risk Takers

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 At Close Range With NG  
10:30 Monsoon Railway  
12:30 Seconds From

01:30 Disaster  
02:30 Chicago Air Crash  
03:30 Bhutan: Last Shangri-La  
04:30 Unlocking Disaster  
06:30 Penguins, A love story  
07:30 Tanks  
08:30 Artic Kingdom  
09:30 Robo Human  
10:30 Deadly Design  
11:30 Lost Fighter Planes  
12:30 Interpol Investigates

## STAR SPORTS

09:00 Roland Garros Highlights  
10:00 India Down Under  
10:30 Road To Beijing  
11:00 Asian Tour Weekly 2007  
11:30 The Ubs Golf Club  
12:00 Fa Cup End Of Season Review Show  
13:00 Wrc Magazine Show  
13:30 Roland Garros Highlights  
14:30 Roland Garros Hitz  
22:30 Hitz  
23:00 Lockdown  
10:00 Friends Provident Trophy  
12:00 Friends Provident Trophy  
02:00 Sportscenter Week In Review  
02:30 Best Of Hitz  
02:57 Motogp World Championship 2007  
07:00 U.S. Open Golf C'ship '01 Official  
08:00 Sportscenter Week-end