

CULTURALFEAST

Jasim Uddin

Utshab

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala

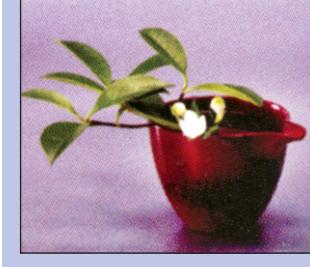
Academy

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

Bhattacharji 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: Chitra Varendra

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts,

House 275/F, Road 27 (old) Dhanmondi

Date: May 30-June 10

Time: 12pm-8pm

Theatre

Troupe: Bongorong 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

OLK 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

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 Bakhsh 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.

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

99

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

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 dairy," 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.

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 tunes from '60s or '70s."

First song of the programme was "Ek nodi rokti periy" 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 Halder 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 Alaudin Ali and originally recorded by Rathindranath Roy), "Bimoorti ei ratri amar" (from "Shimana Periye"; written by Shivdas Bandyopadhyay, composed by Bhupen Hazarika and originally recorded by Abida Sultan) 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

French honour for Lata Mangeshkar

Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar has been chosen for the French government's highest civilian honour, the Knight of the Legion of Honour, for her contribution to the world of cinema.

The award, instituted by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, will be presented in mid-December at a grand ceremony in Mumbai, said a French Embassy official.

French Ambassador Dominique Gerard, a winner of the Knight of the Legion of Honour himself, will travel to Mumbai for the award presentation.

Traditionally, the award is given away only by a winner of the same honour.

Last month, Bollywood mega star Amitabh Bachchan had been named winner of the Officer of the Legion of Honour by the French government.

The late film maestro Satyajit Ray is the only recipient of the highest award in the Legion of Honour category. President Francois Mitterrand had personally presented the 'Commander of the Legion of Honour' to Ray during his visit to India.

Source: Internet



Lata Mangeshkar

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) at 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 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00pm.

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.

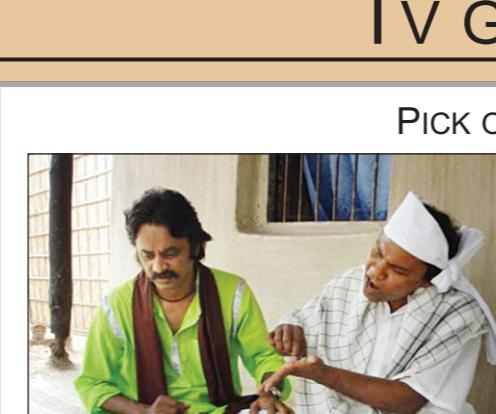
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.

News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm.

Rtv

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

PICK OF THE DAY



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