

CULTURALFEAST

- Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Selected Graphics and Drawings 1949-2007
Artist: Murtaja Baseer
Venue: Galleri Kaya, House 20, Road 16, Sector 4, Uttara
Date: August 17 to August 31
Time: 11am to 8pm
Title: Extension of the Self
Artist: Aminul Haque Shanto
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15/A (New), 26 Old Dhanmondi, Dhaka.
Date: August 16 to August 20
Time: 3pm-8pm
Artist: Wakana Yamauchi
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.
Date: August 12 to August 18
Time: 2pm-8pm
Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: Chattagram Charushilpi Parishad and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: August 3-August 27 from 10 am 7 pm
Solo Sculpture Exhibition
Title: Dual Contraction
Artist: Tejosh Haldar Josh
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: August 17 to August 28
Time: 12pm-8pm

A once celebrated artiste in need of compassion

Abdul Ali Lalu in critical state

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
ABDUL Ali Lalu, once a hugely popular actor better known to a generation of TV and film audience as 'Lalu Bhai', now lives his life in obscurity.
Lalu, now 75 years old, is virtually penniless. He has no source of income. Feeble with heart disease, high blood pressure and other old age related complications, he still flashes that famous naive smile when talking to people visiting him. The individual, who through his jokes and acting once entertained millions, is now in desperate need of assistance.
Son of Wajed Ali and Zobeda Khatun, Lalu was born at Charpara Sehara in Mymensingh town in 1932. Lalu's introduction to acting happened in his childhood with a drama titled Palli Samaj. His father directed the play.
After that young Lalu became an inseparable part of the Mymensingh cultural arena. In 1960 he moved from Mymensingh, seeking bigger and better opportunities. His aspirations brought him to Dhaka. He made his first appearance on the silver screen with the film Shurjo Snan in 1962. Soon, filmmakers took notice and Lalu became busy in films. Throughout his career, he has acted in over 100 films. According to Lalu, he had worked with Abdul Jabbar Khan, who made the first Bangla feature film in the then East

Pakistan -- Mukh O Mukhosh.
Lalu also attained popularity among the TV and radio audiences. "Koinchen Dehi", a catchphrase Lalu often used in the much admired TV show Jodi Kichhu Mon-e Naa Koren, hosted by Fazle Lohani, was repeated by many.
Despite, his volume of work, Lalu never became financially solvent as he had to maintain a family of eight in Mymensingh. He was also an employee of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board and he went on retirement in 1989. Now he depends on his pension -- Tk 1646, which is basically nothing in this day and age. There are times when the family cannot manage to put food on the table. The family has yet to receive any kind of financial aid from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs or Film Development Corporation.
Out of his five sons, four are married and can hardly make ends meet. Lalu lives with his wife Halima Khatun and their youngest son who is differently abled. The once well-loved artiste now lives in a shabby house with bamboo fence at Brahmapally in Mymensingh town.
An ailing Lalu now cannot even remember most of films. According to his family members, films Lalu had worked in include Shurjo Snan, Dui Diganto, Raja Elo Shahorey, Shat Rang, Chena Ochena, Abanchhito, Dharapat, Shonali Akash, Ka Kha Ga Gha Uma, Protikar, Bodhu Bidhay, Nachghar,



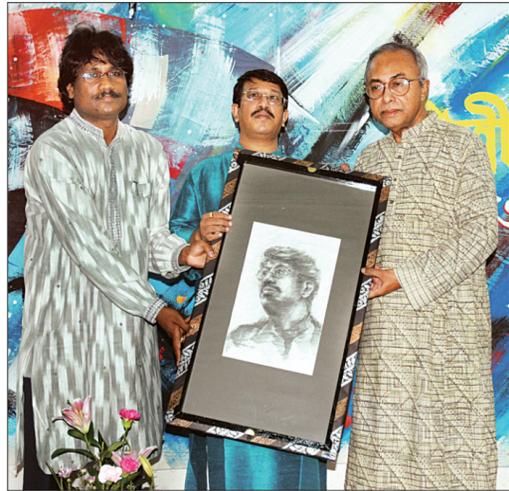
Abdul Ali Lalu

Janajani, Matir Pahar, Nabab Siraj-ud-Dowlah, Kotha Dilam, Abirhab, Achena Athithi and more.
After some TV channels featured the artiste's current condition, Brigade Commander Brigadier General Anwarul Azim of Mymensingh Cantonment and Chairman of Mymensingh Municipality, Advocate Mahmud Al Noor Tareq came forward in Lalu's aid. Anwarul Azim donated Tk 10,000 in cash, a sewing machine and a hearing aid while Mahmud Al Noor donated Tk 5000 in cash and another hearing aid.
In a desolate tone, the once celebrated actor told The Daily Star, "I want to live. I want to survive."

Musical soiree Shumon Chowdhury honoured

AHSAN HABIB

Enthusiastic students and friends gathered to celebrate the 53rd birthday of singer Shumon Chowdhury on August 13 at the WVVA Auditorium.
On the occasion, students of the artiste presented him with a portrait of the artiste, flowers and gifts. Eminent Nazrul exponent Dr. Rafiqul Islam gifted him an anthology of the recently published Hajar Bochorer Bangla Sahitya. The programme also included a musical soiree by the students, guest artistes -- Sujit Mustafa and Shelu Borua and Shumon himself.
In his speech Dr. Rafiqul Islam said as an artiste Shumon has reached a considerable height. Pointing out that devotion to the art is a pre-requisite for a musician, he said that Shumon had amply imbibed this quality. "At the time when we are at an all time low in our cultural history, when art has become so acutely commercialised, the need of the hour is that committed and talented artistes get their due recognition." Dr. Islam thus rationalised the significance of the programme.
Singers Sujit Mustafa, Shelu Borua and two of Shumon's students also gave accolades to their guru for his high musical standard.
The musical soiree began with Amar aponar cheye apon je jon rendered by one of Shumon's students. Sujit Mustafa rendered Aji gaane gaane dhakbo tomar obhiman. Shumon rendered Sure-o banir mala diye tumi, Aji e



Dr. Rafiqul Islam (R) gives a portrait to Shumon Chowdhury (C)

anondoshondhai and many more.
Born in Dhaka in 1954, Shumon Chowdhury's guiding force in the sphere of musical world was his mother. In 1971, he started taking musical lessons under the tutelage of Sheikh Zamiruddin. He was enrolled in Chhayanat in 1974 where he received training from Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan, Sohrab Hossain, Ustad Phool Mohammad, Narayan Chandra Bosak, Anjoli Roy, Ahsan Murshed, Waheedul Haque and Sanjida Khatun. Later, he took lessons in classical music from Pandit Mithun Dey, Ustad Sagor Uddin Khan and Ustad Mashkur Ali Khan. In 1979, he joined Charu Shilpa Niketan as a music teacher and next year he joined Chhayanat. He also taught music in Sangeetbhaban and Anandadhoni. He established Shrutinandan Sangeet Bidyaton in 1993. Chiro Sudur Priyotomo (1995), Kuhu Kuhu Koyelia (1997) and Akasher Moto Ekela (2005) are Shumon's three albums released so far.

The Indian nightingale In conversation with Shanti Sharma

KAVITA CHARANJI

Music can be a great healer for the spirited or grieving. Almost five years since she lost her well loved daughter Saumya in a senseless accident, Indian classical singer Shanti Sharma has discovered the therapeutic qualities of her medium. "I see my daughter everywhere. My art has pulled me out of the morass of despair and given me solace. I have also learnt that though women are outwardly fragile, they possess great inner strength."
Shanti's vocal skills were much in evidence sometime back at a concert in New Delhi. The singer captivated the audience with her rendering of the traditional Raga Marwa and Raga Madhukauns. The evening was dedicated to her late guru Amarnath ji on the occasion of his 86th birth anniversary. Shanta's depth and intensity was remarkable as she paid homage to her guru with the lyric Guru bin gyan na pawe.
A long standing teacher of Hindustani classical music at the Delhi-based cultural organisation Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra, Shanti's first visit to Bangladesh was organised by Chhayanat in 1993. Since then she has made three stopovers in Dhaka, once under the aegis of the Indian High Commission and twice at the invitation of the Bengal Foundation. The latter also released two of Shanti's CDs, titled Contemplation and Celebration respectively. Her last visit to Dhaka was in August 2002 when she conducted a three-week workshop. Recalling her Dhaka sojourns, Shanti



Shanti Sharma

says, "Dhaka has so many talented classical singers and students who were keen to learn classical music from me. I really admire the versatility of Bangladeshi singers who can sing Tagore, Nazrul and classical equally well. One promising classical singer in my view is Khairul Anam Shakil."
Going down memory lane, she says that

in 2002 she discovered that while many Bangladeshis were enthusiastic as listeners, the concert scene was not particularly lively. "This could be due to government policies. In India the government plays a big role in promoting classical music. Also there are numerous organisations which are key instruments in boosting this genre," says Shanti.
She adds, "The Bangladeshi students have a very respectful attitude to their guru and are dedicated to their art."
Acknowledged as one of the finest vocalists in India, Shanti is a classical singer from the Kirana and Indore gharanas. Blessed with a mellifluous voice and sensitivity, she has received intensive talim from master vocalists such as Shri Sangameshwar, Pandit Amarnath and Ustad Mashkoor Ali Khan. Over the years she has frequently performed in music festivals in India. She is also the recipient of the Indira Gandhi Priydarshini Award. A great support to her musical career, she says, is her husband Dinesh Sharma who runs a real estate business.
Lastly, Shanti hopes to make visits to California to conduct workshops, teach students and also give performances. Through her links with Sufi music, Shanti has attained equilibrium in her personal life. "The Sufi philosophy propagates harmony and how to accept sorrow, grief and look at new possibilities of using one's gifts," she concludes.

Cultural show: Towards peace and harmony

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Dance, drama, song and the other arts are an integral part of our cultural life. In many societies, cultural programmes serve as the platform for creative exchange and the development of artistic potential. Besides these, the programmes can promote peace and harmony amidst nations. Exchange of views enhances inter cultural dialogue.
This was the overwhelming view of speakers at a "fresher reception" organised by Hill Moon Star Magazine Media (HMSMM) at the hall room of Zila Shilpakala Academy recently.
District Shilpakala Academy Secretary Jiten Barua presided over the function, while Hill District Council Chairman (KHDC) Monindra Lal Tripura was present as chief guest.
Among others, additional deputy commissioner (Rev) Tapon Kanti Gosh, Khagrachhari municipality chairman Joyal Abedin, Hill Moon Star Magazine media advisor Jasim Uddin, Hill Moon Star Magazine Media's managing director Abul Kashem Saju were present and spoke on the occasion.
A cultural function was held, where the members of Hill Moon Star Magazine Media staged songs, plays and dances. The turnout of a few hundred people gave a boost to the fun-filled show.

Car rally on "Banglalink Desh Music Fest 2007"



Participants of the car rally

Carnival Event Management organised a car rally consisting of the leading and popular solo singers and musical bands of our country on August 13 as part of the Banglalink Desh Music Fest 2007, says a press release. The rally marched through the busy streets and gathered at different universities, to ensure the mass participation in the music fest to

raise funds for flood-victims and create awareness through music. All major bands, music icons and label companies of Bangladesh have come forward to participate in this two day long event, which will be held at Fantasy Kingdom on August 17 and 18.
Mr. Solaiman Alam, senior manager, PR and Communication, Banglalink and Sheikh Monirul

Alam, CEO, Carnival Event Management were present at the car rally.
Leading bands and solo artistes like Nagarbaul, Miles, Aurthohin, Warfaze, Ornob and friends, Kamal with his Guitar Solo, Shironamin, Artcell, Lalon, Hyder Hussain, Club IF, Mohakaal, Mehreen and others will perform on August 17 while LRB, Azam Khan, Souls, Feedback, Prometheus, Asif, Bangladesh, Black, Ajob, Yaatri, The Trap, Shahed, Metal Maze, Nemesis, Pentagon, Kaniz Suborna, Tomosh, Scarecrow, Club IF, Digital and others will perform on August 18.
Big label companies like G-series, Sangeeta, Laser Vision, Sound Machine, Gaancheel, Impress Audio Vision Ltd. and Bengal Music will also participate in the festival.
The regular visitors at the park can enjoy the concert free of extra charges and two rides are free for anyone who purchases a ticket.
Concord Group, Channel-i, Radio Foorti, Carnival Event Management, SAS and amadegaan.com have joined Banglalink as partners.

ON AIR

- All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.
News Bulletin
BTW
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 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm 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
ntv
News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
ETV
News (Bangla): 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

- BTW
11:15 Drama Serial: Shangshoptak
12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha
12:30 Bulbul
01:30 Hijol Tomal
02:15 Golpo Theke Natak
03:05 Cartoon
03:30 Shukhi Poribar
04:00 Computer
04:30 Amader Ranna
05:05 Sisimpur
05:30 Mithoskria
06:10 Shapholyo Gatha
06:50 Mati O Manush
07:20 Shobar Jonyo Cinema
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh
08:35 Drama Serial: Alo Amar Alo
09:05 Drama Serial: Swapno Loker Chabi
09:30 Talk Show
10:30 ProthomAntara
11:00 ShurLohori
ATN Bangla
10:30 Talk show: Aktel Onyodisti
11:05 Meet the Press
12:15 Amar Computer
01:30 Gane Shure Taruney
02:30 Notun Chhobir Gaan
03:10 Drama Serial: Bhalobashar Rang
03:45 Children's Programme
04:20 Islamic Programme
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khobor
05:20 Islamic Programme
06:20 Thakur Mar Jhuli
08:00 Drama Serial: Jeye Theko
08:45 Drama Serial: Bohemian
09:20 Drama Serial: Chhayamukh Shekhorer Shondhaney
12:00 GrameenPhone Lead News
CHANNEL-i
09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 GrameenPhone Tritiyomatra
11:05 Sports Time
12:30 Citycell Tarokathan
01:05 Eborng Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shanghadpotrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Mega Serial: Prio Bash
03:05 Talk show: Microcredit Agrogotitey Bangladesh
03:30 D-Rockstar 2
04:05 Music Club
05:30 Mukti Judho Protidin
06:00 Drama Serial: Shat Goenda
06:20 Desh Bideshey

PICK OF THE DAY
Aloye Bhubon Bhora On Channel-i at 9:35 pm Talk Show
Tonight's Guest: Muntasir Mamun
Daily Planet Goes to India On Discovery Channel at 08:30pm
Premiere show
Stories about Science, technology and culture of India
Ranna Special Programme
07:50 Mega Serial: Adbhutire
09:35 Talk Show: Aloye Bhubon Bhora
10:00 Drama Serial: Shoroshi Ekanyo Barti
11:30 Ekusher Shokal
12:00 GrameenPhone Ajker Shanghadpotro
03:30 Baul Baul Mon
04:00 Pathay Prantorey
04:30 Drama Serial: Biprotip
05:15 Ta Na Na Na
05:45 Ekusher Shondha
08:00 Kalo Raater Shokho Gatha
08:30 Drama Serial: Dibidho
09:30 Ekusher Shomoy
10:30 Tungipara Theke
11:45 Reporter's File
12:00 Ekusher Raat
09:00 Rtv Exclusive

- 08:15 Drama Serial: Rokhakoti
08:55 Media Bhubon
09:30 Drama Serial: Chitthi
11:30 Amar Ami
12:00 Shangbadprotidin
STAR MOVIES
09:30 On The Lot
10:30 Alexander
01:20 The Nightmare Before Christmas
02:40 Airheads
04:15 Derailed
06:00 On The Lot
07:00 Nixon
10:15 Bone Collector, The
12:15 Derailed
02:00 Mechanik
HISTORY CHANNEL
09:30 Hell Over Hanoi
10:30 Tactical to Practical
11:30 Wonder Brand
12:00 Brahmagyan
12:30 Haven
01:30 Reilly: Ace of Spies
02:30 UFO Files
03:30 Casanova
04:30 Lost Evidence
05:30 Ultimate Cars
06:30 Haven
07:30 Da Vinci Code
08:30 Hunt for the Bismarck
09:30 Jewel in the crown
10:30 Lost Evidence
11:30 Nickel/Taylor
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
09:30 Naked Science
10:30 Sauna Belt
11:00 Nazar Pendant
11:15 Global Pendant
11:30 Tsunami Warning
12:30 Jack The Ripper
01:30 Dangerous Company
02:30 EarthPulse
03:00 Coral Reef Spawning
04:30 Mad Labs
05:00 Africa's Viper Giant
05:30 Backyard Science
06:00 Mudder Madness
07:30 The Dark Side Of Chimps
08:30 NG's Amazing Moments
FM radio
Radio Foorti
07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)
11:00am Amar 98.4 (Nusrat)
03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib)
07:00pm Seven Eleven (Sadia)
11:00pm Late Night Show (Shuvo)
09:30 Megabridges
10:30 Naked Science
11:30 Tsunami Warning
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 Independence Day: Journey to India
10:00 Benares: Soul of the Ganges
11:30 Joining the Tribe
12:30 Celebrating the Tribe
01:00 In The Wild
01:30 King Cobra and I
02:30 Weekend in the Rambagh Palace
03:30 Uttaranchal
04:30 Top Ten Indian Animals
05:30 Northern India
06:30 Southern India
07:30 Forest Tigers Sita's Story
08:30 Daily Planet Goes to India
09:30 Looking for India
10:30 Thomas L Friedman Reporting: The other Side of Outsourcing