

CULTURAL FEAST

Russian poetry

Organisers: Meghdut & Russian Centre of Science & Culture, Dhaka
Venue: The Russian Centre of Science & Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Date: October 25
Time: 5:30 pm

Kozmo (A) Live

Troupe: Yaatri
Venue: Kozmo Lounge, Bikalpa Tower, Plot 74, Road 5/A, Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi
Date: October 26
Time: 8 pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Life and Nature
Artist: Raghunath Chakraborty
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: October 21-27
Time: 9 pm to 8 pm

Art Exhibition

Title: Shades of Life
Artists: 12 women artists of Shaka
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: October 17-26
Time: 12 pm to 8 pm

Three Short Plays

Plays: Sanki, Jantob and Platform
Organisers: Space and Acting Research Centre
Venue: Goethe Institut Bangladesh
Date: October 26 & 28
Time: 7 pm

Theatre



Title: Shikha
Troupe: Prachinatal
Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium
Date: October 25
Time: 6:30 pm

Film Screening

Title: Documentary for Life
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Goethe Institut Bangladesh, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Date: October 29 & 30
Time: 3:00 pm onwards

Title: Puja Special
Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-2
Time: 6 pm

Date: October 25
Film: Bihar
Date: October 26
Film: Sweet Patharar Thela
Date: October 29
Film: Ek Mutho Chhahi

The changing Santal music scene and more

In conversation with Rathin Kisku



PHOTO COURTESY: THE TELEGRAPH

AHASAN HABIB

RATHIN Kisku is a representative of new generation Santal singers who are shaping the Santal music scene today. Kisku has made an innovative introduction of 'Santali baul' songs, inspired by the Bangali tradition, while keeping himself rooted in Santali culture.

Recently, Kisku from Birbhum, India was on a visit to Dhaka to perform at the "Mother Language Festival" on the Santal life and culture at Goethe Institut.

"Traditionally Santals used to render songs on themes including harvesting, marriage, love, mourning and creation, accompanied with madol, flute and other traditional instruments. Now many western, electronic instruments are being used in these performances. Though the songs are close to the roots and perhaps superior in terms of artistic achievement, the audience seems to appreciate music that is very much contemporary and responsive to the need of the hour. That's why, I believe, new genres of songs are being introduced in recent years," Kisku says, commenting on the changing pattern of Santal songs.

In his artistic pursuit he has combined the distinct styles of Bangla and Santal songs to produce 'Santali folk' (baul songs in Santali language). For some time now, he has been working on this genre and the result, says Kisku, has been appreciated by the Santali audience. "Though the Santals are not used to hearing baul songs being rendered in their language, they have welcomed my effort," he says.

He started training under Monjit Das Baul. He participated in a number of baul song contests and the outcome was quite impressive. "Soon I

came to realise that I have to go beyond that and so we formed a group," Kisku says. German scholar Martin Kampchen's support came in handy to achieve Kisku's ambition.

At present the musician is studying Hindustani classical music in Shantiniketan and receiving further lessons on baul music from master singer Nital Das Baul.

Well aware of the distinct culture of the Santals and its strength, Kisku sought inspirations in his roots and started performing in the Santal language, though in the beginning he used to sing only Bangla songs. He sets forth to popularise Santal songs. In this connection he has released an album of Santal songs titled *Siring Santiniketan* (Santali Songs of Shantiniketan). His other album *Pran Bhore Gai*, produced by HMV, is a collection of Bangla baul songs.

He has travelled to Kolkata, Delhi, and different parts of Jharkhand, Bihar and all across the Santal Parganas. He has achieved the distinction of being the only 'Adivasi baul'. His growing reputation as a Santal singer made way for him to represent his culture in Germany and Austria in 2005. He is receiving a scholarship now for 3 years to continue his endeavours in music.

Whether his practice of Bangla songs would potentially be a threat to his mother tongue, he replies in the negative, "I am singing in both Santal and Bangla. Considering the mixed cultures of Bengalis and Santals we are living through in our locality, I feel there is no harm in exchanging different expressive resources that can be beneficial for both the cultures."

"I wish to try out more innovative ideas on music to gain greater acceptance without forgetting my roots," says Kisku.

ALL TIME GREATS

MS Subbulakshmi: The Nightingale of India

Sarojini Naidu, child prodigy, freedom fighter and poet, described her as the 'Nightingale of India', while Lata Mangeshkar labeled her 'Tapaswini' (The Renunciate). Ustad Bade Gulam Ali Khan termed her 'Suswaralakshmi' (the goddess of musical notes) and Kishori Amonkar called her the 'ultimate eighth note' or 'Aathavaan Sur', which is above the seven notes basic to all music. These well-deserved plaudits go to Carnatic vocalist MS Subbulakshmi (September 16, 1916-December 11, 2004).

The singer's many famous renditions of bhajans include the chanting of *Bhaja Govindam*, *Vishnu sahasranama* (1000 names of Vishnu) and the *Venkateswara Suprabhatam* (musical hymns to awaken Lord Balaji early in the morning).

Many honours and awards came her way. Some of them included Padma Bhushan in 1954, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1956 and Sangeet Kalanidhi in 1968 (literally, Treasure Chest of Music, and she was the first female recipient of the title). Ramon Magsaysay award in 1974, the Padma Vibhushan in 1975, the Kalidas Samman in 1988, the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration in 1990 and the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 1998 (the first musician to receive the award). She was also honoured as the court-



singer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

Subbulakshmi's music gave expression to her deeply spiritual personality and immensely moved her listeners. She sang in eight languages and even today many households begin their day with *Suprabhatam*, her Meera bhajans. What's more is that though several prestigious awards bestowed her with huge amounts of prize money, she donated most of it to charity.

Subbulakshmi earned fame as a film actress also. Her most memorable role was Bhaktha Meera in *Meera* (1945). For this film she sang Meera bhajans with Dilipkumar Roy as the music director. These

renditions have lost none of their appeal even today. Despite the success of the films, she quit film and devoted herself to music. All together in the course of a decade she acted in films including *Savasadanam*, *Savitri*, *Meera* (Tamil) and *Bhakta Meera* (Hindi).

The superb singer's talent took her all over the world: as India's cultural ambassador she journeyed to London, New York, Canada and the Far East, among other places. Among the major landmarks in her career were concerts at Carnegie Hall, New York; the UN General Assembly on UN day in 1966 (while U Thant was secretary general); the Royal Albert Hall,

London in 1982; and at the Festival of India in Moscow in 1987. Much praise came her way: one first-time foreign listener said, "MS does not sing. She makes divinity manifest."

Her fans also included the likes of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru who were greatly impressed by Subbulakshmi's role in the film *Meera* both as an actor and a singer. Apparently Gandhi was so enthralled by her Meera bhajans that he requested Subbulakshmi to sing the song *Hari tum haro jan ki bheer* (Lord, please dispel the fear in mankind). The artist answered that she had not practiced the song. Gandhi replied that he would rather hear her speak the words than hear someone else sing it. Feeling obliged, Subbulakshmi recorded the song and had the record delivered to Gandhi on his 78th birthday. After announcing the death of Gandhi, radio stations played Subbulakshmi's recording of *Hari tum haro* repeatedly.

India's first Prime Minister Nehru who was in the audience in the late 1950s when Subbulakshmi sang at the Ramakrishna Ashram in Delhi. "What am I, a mere prime minister before a queen of music," he asserted -- a statement he would repeat in every speech praising her.

Following the death of her freedom fighter husband Sadasivam in 1997, 'the Nightingale' called a halt to her public performances. She passed away on December 11, 2004.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Shamsur Rahman's birth anniversary observed

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 78th birth anniversary of poet Shamsur Rahman, several organisations arranged special programmes at different venues on October 23.

A programme was held at the poet's residence at Shyamoli in the morning, where the poet's widow Zohra Rahman and granddaughter opened the celebration.

Shamsur Rahman Janmodin Ujjapour Parshod, a committee to celebrate the poet's birth anniversary, arranged a special programme at the TSC Auditorium, University Of Dhaka. National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, chairperson of the committee, inaugurated the programme, where eminent cultural personalities including Syed Shamsul Haque, Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Selina Hosain, Nasiruddin Yousuff and Belal Chowdhury delivered speeches. Golam Kuddus was the host of the programme.

Eminent singers -- Ajit Roy, Subir Nandi and Kanak Chandra rendered songs based on Shamsur Rahman's poems at the



Zohra Rahman places a wreath at the poet's portrait

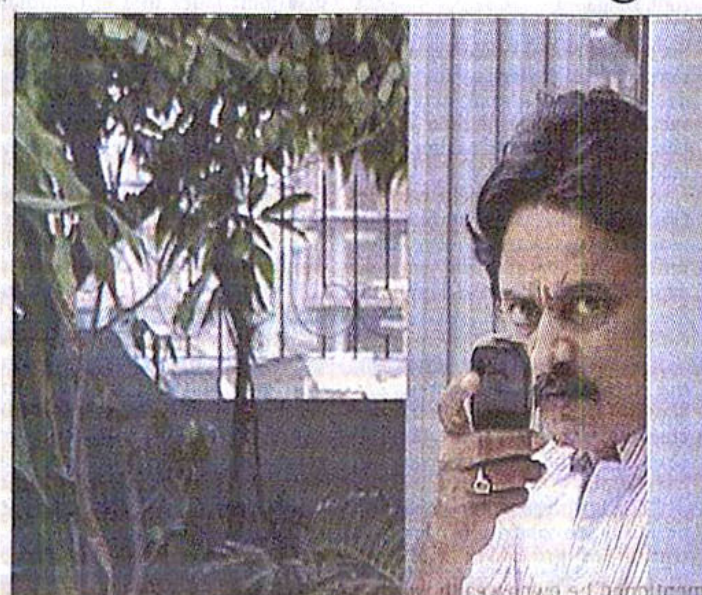
programme. Moreover, renowned poets -- Rafiq Azad, Rabiul Hassan, Samudra Gupta and others recited poetry written by them on Shamsur Rahman.

Jatiyo Kabita Parishad arranged a discussion and recitation programme at the Central Public

Library Auditorium. Cultural organisation Kabayamalanjoli arranged a programme at Bhasa Prokash premises at Kantabon.

Discussions at the programme urged the government to celebrate the birth and death anniversaries of the poet at national level.

New drama serial "Mouchakey Dhil" to be aired from tonight



Salauddin Lavlu in Mouchakey Dhil

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Starting from tomorrow, a new drama serial *Mouchakey Dhil* will be aired on ATN Bangla. Scripted by Abu Sufian and co-directed by Abu Sufian and Sabrina, the serial will be aired every Thursday at 8 pm.

The plot of the serial is interwoven around a middle class family. The family represents a beehive or nest. Several incidents, both blissful and sad, occur one after another in the family and stir the lives of its members. It symbolises a hive that often receives blows and the inhabitants are seen fuming. The story is a blend of everyday incidents and humour that reflect the life of a middle class family.

ATM Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Hakim, Deepa Khan and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.

New drama serial "Silvia March 16" on Banglavisision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Banglavisision will telecast the first episode of the new drama serial *Silvia March 16* tonight at 9:45pm. Written by Manik Manobik and directed by Golam Sohrab Daul, the 52-episode drama serial will be aired every Thursday.

The plot of the serial thickens following the murder of Silvia. Silvia had an affair in university but later got married to Sobuj. After marriage, she conceives and gives birth on March 15, the very next day, on March 16, she mysteriously gets killed. The police immediately start an investigation of the crime, opening a file 'Silvia March 16'. As the investigation progresses, many secrets surface.

Naznin Hassan Chumki, Mamunur Rashid, Jayanto Chattopadhyay, Dolly Zahur, Tomalika Karmakar, Tazin Ahmed, Chanchal Chowdhury and Agun play the lead roles in the serial.



Mamunur Rashid in Silvia March 16

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Ochinpakhi

On ATN Bangla at 8:40pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Dilara Zaman, Sumaiya Shimu



Little Manhattan

On Star Movies at 7:00pm

Genre: Drama

Cast: Josh Hutcherson, Charlie Ray

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-1
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 8:00 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

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

BTV

Musical Programme

Bishwa Bichitra

Deshar Gaan

Ma o Shilshi Kotla

Bhabbar Bishoy

Nithar Toley Toley

Shukhi Ponbar

Echo Gaan Shilshi

Carobon

Mithash Kila

Saarigeeta

Swadesh Bhabna

Stimpur

Uddhid O Jibon

Boi Potro

Dharmo O Jibon

Computer

Drama Serial: Meera

Phool

Proidin Bangladesh

Drama: Snriti

Shorania

Shur Shorbar

ATN BANGLA

Akar Shongbadpota

Drama Serial: Monir

Janela

Musical Programme

AKTEL Onmodish

Drama: Mohanayya

Musical Programme

Shodapali

Nari

Drama Serial: Dola's

House

Shundor Jibon

Jono

Educational

Programme

Gram Borjar Khabor

Islamic Programme

Mugly

Mowchakey Dhi

Drama Serial: Ochin

Pakhi

Drama Serial: Amader

Nurul Huda

Drama Serial: Dola's

House

GreenPhone Lead

News

CHANNEL-1

Shangbadpota

Bangladesh

Tele Helpline

Citycell Tarokakathan

Tax Helpline

Ebong Cinema Gaan

Shangbadpota

Bangladesh

Public Reaction

GreenPhone

Tritomastay Apni

Hidoye Meti O

Manusher Dak

Computer

Drama Serial: Meera

Phool

Proidin Bangladesh

Drama: Snriti

Shorania

Shur Shorbar

ATN BANGLA

Akar Shongbadpota

Drama Serial: Monir

Janela

Musical Programme

AKTEL Onmodish

Drama: Mohanayya

Musical Programme

Shodapali

Nari

Drama Serial: Dola's

House

Shundor Jibon

Jono

Educational

Programme

Gram Borjar Khabor

Islamic Programme

Mugly

Mowchakey Dhi

Drama Serial: Ochin

Pakhi

Drama Serial: Amader

Nurul Huda

Drama Serial: Dola's

House

GreenPhone Lead

News

CHANNEL-1

Shangbadpota

Bangladesh

Tele Helpline

Citycell Tarokakathan

Tax Helpline

Ebong Cinema Gaan

Shangbadpota

Bangladesh

Public Reaction

GreenPhone

Tritomastay Apni

Hidoye Meti O

Manusher Dak

Computer

Drama Serial: Meera

Phool

Proidin Bangladesh

Drama: Snriti

Shorania

Shur Shorbar

ATN BANGLA

Akar Shongbadpota

Drama Serial: Monir

Janela

Musical Programme

AKTEL Onmodish

Drama: Mohanayya