

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Russian poetry

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

## Kozmo (A) Live

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

## Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Life and Nature  
Artist: Raghunath Chakraborty  
Venue: Dr. K. G. Hall, House 58, Road 15A (New), Dharmoondi  
Date: October 21-27  
Time: 3 pm to 8 pm

## Art Exhibition

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

## Three Short Plays

Play: Sanki, Janlob and Platfrom  
Organisers: Space and Acting Research Centre  
Venue: Goethe Institut Bangladesh  
Date: October 26 & 28  
Time: 7 pm

## Theatre

Title: Koinna  
Troupe: Prachyanat  
Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium  
Date: October 25  
Time: 8:30 pm

## Film Screening

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

Title: Puja Special  
Organiser: High Commission of India  
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 98, Gulshan-2  
Time: 6 pm  
Date: October 25  
Film: Bibar  
Date: October 26  
Film: Swet Pather Thala  
Date: October 29  
Film: Ek Mutho Chhab

# The changing Santal music scene and more

In conversation with Rathin Kisku



AHSAN 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 *maudol*, 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 Monjot 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 Nitai Das Baul.

Well aware of the distinct culture of the Santals and its strength, Kisku sought inspirations in its roots and started performing in the Santal language, though in the beginning he used to sing only Bangali 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 'Adivas 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.

PHOTO COURTESY: THE TELEGRAPH

## ALL TIME GREATS

### MS Subbulakshmi: The Nightingale of India



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 *Suprabhatham*, 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 Bhakta Meera in *Meera* (1945). For this film she sang Meera *bhajans* with Dilip Kumar Roy as the music director. These

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

## ON AIR



Ochinpakh  
On ATN Bagla 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

BTV	08:15 Musical Programme Bishwa Bichitra	12:00 House Grameenphone Lead News	08:15 Praner Gaan	04:15 Sports Vision	03:15 Odhoy
	08:45 Dasher Gaan	09:30 Shyambadporey Bangladesh	04:45 Citycell Dim-er Shashay	05:30 Ichchhey Ghun	11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi
	11:15 Ma o Shamsur Kotha	11:05 Nafit Toley Toley	06:25 Musical Programme	06:25 Drama Serial: Mohangor	11:30 Bahu Tri
	12:05 Bhabbar Bishoy	12:30 Shukhi Porbaj	07:00 Zohra Rahman	09:05 X.Crime	Kayamat
	01:00 Nafit Toley Toley	12:30 Citycell Terakakathen	07:30	09:45 Drama Serial: Shilvya	
	01:30 Shukhi Porbaj	01:05 Tax Helpline	08:00	March 16	
	02:40 Esho Gean Shishi	01:15 Tax Helpline	08:30	12:00 Shangbad Prolain	
	03:05 Carbon	01:15 Ebong Cinepoli Gaan	09:00	12:30	
	03:30 Mithosh Kria	01:30 Shabnabpadporey	09:30	12:45 The Cutting Edge	
	04:05 Saarigeta	01:45 Saarigeta	10:00	02:05 The All-Together	
	04:30 Swadesh Bhabra	01:45 Public Reaction	10:30	02:30 The Big Fat Liar	
	05:05 Srimpu	02:40 Grameenphone	11:00	03:45 Meteor Man	
	05:30 Utdib O Jibon	03:00 Tirthomotri April	11:30	05:30 Eureka	
	06:10 Boi Potro	03:05 Hridoy Mati O	12:00	06:00 Goldeneye	
	06:40 Dhromon O Jibon	03:10 Manusher Daak	12:30	06:30 The All-Togther	
	07:00 Computer	04:05 Sa Re Ga Ma	01:30	07:00 The Cutting Edge	
	07:30 Drama Serial: Heera	04:30 Shreemoti	01:45	07:30 Seven Eleven (Sadia)	
	08:00 Phool	04:30	02:00	08:00 Golam Kuddus	
	08:30 Pratidin Bangladesh	05:30 Mukti Juddho Pratidin	02:30	08:30 Shoheler Khabar	
	09:00 Drama: Smiti	06:00 Tazmin	03:00	12:00 Big Order	
	09:30 Shoroni	06:30 Amer Chobi	03:30	12:30 Today's Happy	
	10:00 Shoromber	07:00 Selected Programme	04:00	04:00 Moments	
	10:30	07:20 Adishoboley	04:30	04:30 Prokash	
ATN BANGLA	11:00 Akter Shongbadporey	08:00 Aikter Shokal	05:00	05:00 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	11:30 Drama Serial: Mon-er Jana	08:30 Siddiqui Kabir's Recipe	05:30	05:30 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	12:00 Musical Programme	11:30 El Shomoy	06:00	06:00 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	12:30 AKTEL Ommadshi	09:30 Ki Kotha Taher	06:30	06:30 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	11:05 Drama: Mohanay	10:05 Gaaner Shomoy	07:00	07:00 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	12:15 Musical Programme Shodipati	10:30 Drama: Shodipati	07:30	07:30 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	12:45 Nari	02:00 Drama Serial: Bondhon	08:00	08:00 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	01:30 Drama Serial: Doll's House	02:30 Chokkor	08:30	08:30 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	02:30 Shoromber	03:00 One Hits	09:00	09:00 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	03:10 Shundor Jibonter	03:30 Dhoron	09:30	09:30 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	04:10 Educational Programme	04:00 Rangor Manush	10:00	10:00 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	05:00 Gram Gorjer Khabor	04:30 Dinhak Dinhak Te	10:30	10:30 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	05:20 Islamic Programme	04:30 Shomoy Serial: Biprolip	11:00	11:00 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	06:20 Mugly	05:15 Shomoy Serial: Shafidin	11:30	11:30 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	06:30 Mowchakey Dhl	06:30 Deshory	12:00	12:00 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	06:40 Drama Serial: Ochhin	06:30 Mohilangon	12:30	12:30 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	06:50 Padhi	06:30 Shubho Shomoy	01:00	01:00 Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu, Enamul Haque, Dolly Zahur, Azizul Haque, Deepa Karmakar, and Hridi Haque play the lead roles in the serial.	
	06:20 Drama Serial: Amader Nuru Huda	06:45 Horlick			