

WHAT'S
ON THIS
WEEKSolo Art
Exhibition

**Abdur Razzaque
Retrospective**
Title: Rhythms of Figures,
Forms and Nature
Venue: Bengal Gallery of
Fine Arts, H 27/F, Rd 27
(old), Dhanmondi
Date: October 10-29
Time: 12pm-8pm

13th Asian Art
Biennale '08

Organiser: Bangladesh
Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala
Academy, Osmani Memorial
Hall and National Museum
Date: October 21-
November 19
Time: 11am-7pm (Fridays
3pm-8pm)



Musical Soiree

On Lalou and Abbas
Uddin death anniversary
Organiser: Bangladesh
Loko Sangeet Parishad
Venue: Shawkat Osman
Auditorium, Central Public
Library, Shahbag
Date: October 28
Time: 4:30pm

Group Art
Exhibition

Artists: Mahmudur Rahman
Dipon, Shahnaz Sultana and
Aowlad Hossain
Organiser: Kamranga
Venue: Kamranga, H 30, Rd
42, Gulshan 2
Date: October 25-November 1
Time: 10am-7pm



Remains of Gaur

Yet another archaeological treasure fading away

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Gaur, the capital of Sultanate Bengal is about 35 kms away from Chapainawabganj town. Remnants of the ancient city are scattered within five square kms area. However, the Department of Archaeology has not taken any initiative to preserve the site.

It's the same old story: the Department of Archaeology does not have the funds or manpower necessary to conserve and carry out necessary restorations of the edifices that are gradually wearing away. These structures built between 1494 and 1519 AD include Sona Masjid (mosque), Tahkhana, Kotwali Darwaza (main gate to the ancient capital) and many more. There are a few others mosques in the area and some are decked with exquisite terracotta plaques, though most have lost their gleam-

ing glory.

According to a Department of Archaeology official, there are only three permanent staff and five guards to look after the sites.

The last time the department carried out renovation on some of the mosques and other structures was in 2004.

According to locals, the passage to Dhanaichawk Masjid is now occupied by some influential individuals. A house now blocks the way to Tahakhana.

The Department of Archaeology has repeatedly urged the local administration to remove the illegally placed houses and structures blocking the ways to the mosques, but in vain, says the official.

Daroshbari Masjid is famous for its artistic terracotta designs. The mosque is around 99 ft high and 34 ft wide. The old mosque at



PHOTO: STAR

Daroshbari Mosque, a 14th century structure in Chapainawabganj, decaying through relentless neglect.

Omarpur village is now on the verge of ruin after years of negligence. Deep cracks have developed on the walls of the 15th century structure; weeds now cover most of its exterior. Most of the terracotta tiles have eroded. Others have been stolen.

Others make good use of the mosque as a resting place for cattle, as its abandoned.

Dr. Mazharul Islam, a local historian and associate professor at the Chapainawabganj Govt. College said that, one Elahi Bakhsh discovered a mosque in the nearby jungle where he found a stone

inscription (11ftx2 ft), which was later taken to the Calcutta Museum in 1876. According to the inscription, the mosque was built during the reign of Sultan Shamsuddin Yousuf Shah in 1479.

Dr. Islam and other locals urge the government to take immediate steps for the preservation of these archaeological treasures.

Badrul Alam, field officer, Department of Archaeology, Rajshahi Division, said, "We have sent several letters to the concerned ministry, requesting for appointment of guards to the sites. We have also requested the con-

cerned authorities to link the sites with roads but no initiative has been taken yet.

The department claims that if the Deputy Commissioner of Chapainawabganj takes active interest in preserving and protecting these sites, these edifices from the Sultanate period have a shot at existence.

When contacted, the Deputy Commissioner of Chapainawabganj, Sirajul Haque Khan said that if the roads to these sites are occupied and blocked, he would take necessary steps to be vacate them.



Daroshbari Madrasa - harkening back to the 14th century.

Lalon's death anniversary observed in Chapainawabganj

A CORRESPONDENT,
Chapainawabganj

Speakers at a recent discussion asserted that Fakir Lalou Shah was one of the greatest Bengali philosophers. They demanded a re-installation of his sculpture at its original place and steps against those who are conspiring against Bangla culture and heritage.

On the occasion of the 118th death anniversary of Fakir Lalou

Shah, a discussion and cultural programme was held at Pathan Para mango orchard in Chapainawabganj town.

Chapai Gambhira and Mohananda Sangeet Niketan jointly organised the programme.

Professor Sirajul Islam, folk researcher Dr. Mazharul Islam, Konok Ranjan Das, Azizur Rahman, Enamul Haque and Faizur Rahman spoke on the occasion.

Speakers at the programme

discussed the works and philosophy of Lalou. They criticised the role of the government vis-a-vis the fundamentalists and vowed to resist any kind of conspiracy against the country and national culture by the extremists.

After the discussion, a cultural programme was held. Artists of Mohananda Sangeet Niketan and Chapai Gambhira performed at the programme. Hundreds of Lalou enthusiasts turned out for the programme.

Jennifer Hudson family in fatal shooting



Jennifer Hudson (right) with her mother Darnell Hudson at the 'Dreamgirls' premiere, '06.

The mother and brother of Oscar-winning American actress Jennifer Hudson have been shot dead and her seven-year-old nephew is missing, police said.

The bodies of Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson, and her brother, Jason Hudson, were found at their family home in Chicago on Friday.

Police are searching for the actress' nephew, but a suspect thought to have abducted him was arrested, reports say.

Hudson's whereabouts are unknown but her publicist confirmed the incident. "We can confirm that there is an ongoing investigation concerning the deaths of Jennifer Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson, and her brother, Jason Hudson," Lisa Kasteler, Hudson's personal publicist, said in a statement.

Deputy police chief Joseph Patterson said Ms Donerson's body was found on the living room floor of her home in the south side of Chicago. Jason Hudson's body was discovered in the bedroom.

Both had "fatal gunshot wounds", he added. Investigators say there did not

appear to be any sign of forced entry.

Police have cordoned off access to the large white house.

"Currently we're looking for a 1994 white suburban vehicle that's missing from the location as well as a seven-year-old African-American child," said deputy chief Patterson.

Authorities have issued an Amber Alert for Julian King.

Police said in a statement that he might be in the company of a suspect in the murder investigation, but later local media reports said that the suspect had been taken into custody and did not have the child with him.

Hudson, 27, a singer-turned-actress who shot to fame on American Idol in 2005, won an Oscar for best supporting actress in the hit-film "Dreamgirls" in 2006 and starred in the film "Sex and the City".

She is currently starring in "The Secret Life of Bees".

Source: BBC



RJ's of Radio Today pose for a snap

Roadside Romeo: Bollywood often energetic, now animated

With the animated dog's-life feature Roadside Romeo, Bollywood continues its technological juggernaut. A co-production of Yash Raj Films and Walt Disney Pictures, "Romeo" is something new under the Indian sun: sophisticated computer-generated animation that uses stars to voice the characters. But craftsmanship and Disney aside, "Romeo" is very much a conventional Hindi movie with a small-guys-versus-gangsters plot, song-and-dance sequences and film references galore.

Romeo, a honey-coloured pup living on the Mumbai streets, has the voice of Saif Ali Khan, and he's a typical Khan character, a Westernised sweet-talker with a propensity to start every sentence

with "Dude" and "O.K. guys." His idea for financial uplift? Open a hair salon, which he does with his crew of Bollywood-savvy mutts. (The uninitiated needn't worry; the subtitles let no reference go unparsed, as in "Imitating Shah Rukh Khan" after a line of dialogue.) Trouble occurs when the gang runs afoul of Charlie Anna (Jaaved Jaaferi), the big dog, who loves Laila (Kareena Kapoor), the same fluffy white creature with dreadful pink eye shadow that Romeo adores.

Written and directed by Jugal Hansraj, "Roadside Romeo" may have its stars' voices, but what it needs is their bodies. Perhaps Bollywood's most ingratiating quality is how hard the actors work to entertain you: they dance, they

cry, they risk appearing silly. The animated dogs in "Romeo" aren't particularly appealing. They mostly walk on two legs and, unlike Disney characters, don't wear anything beyond neck gear. They look oddly naked and move awkwardly, which flattens the dance sequences and keeps the film earthbound.

And for all the movie-making know-how on display, "Romeo" isn't visually attractive, though there are some nice touches: a dingy, spit-splattered "No spitting sign"; a beautifully detailed train; and peeling movie posters with images of larger-than-life stars, reminding us of Bollywood's true glory.

Source: The New York Times



A scene from "Roadside Romeo," a Hindi-language animated film produced with Disney.



Bauls perform at a programme demanding a free atmosphere for the arts.

PHOTO: STAR