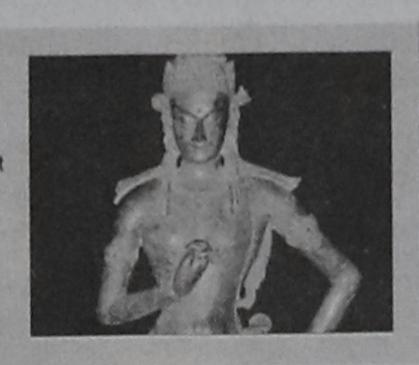
**ON THIS** WEEK

Classical Music Artiste: Nirmalya Dey Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi Date: November 14 Time: 6:30pm



Exhibition Title: Sculptures of Bangladesh Organiser: Goethe-Institut Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi Date: November 2-6



13th Asian Art Biennale '08 Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

& Entertainment

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



Film Screening Title: Maestro: Tarkovsky Organiser: DUFS Venue: Auditorium, Russian

Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi Date: November 5-6 Time: 3pm onwards November 5 "The Steamroller and the Violin" and "Nostalgia"



In Focus

# A clarion call to preserve songs of

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Mystic bard Pagla Kanai was born to Messer Ali and Momena Khatun in Labutala Madhabpur village under Ihenidah district on March 18, 1809. Kanai became renowned for his folk songs. He composed a good number of devotional songs but a large number of these have not been preserved. An auditorium and library named after him now stand near the 'mazaar' (shrine) of Pagla Kanai, but the area often becomes a grazing space for cattle.

Pagla Kanai's passion and intense spirituality was evident at an early age, hence the locals started calling him "pagla" (crazy).

Pagla Kanai left his village to evade the oppression of the British rulers who forced the farmers to cultivate indigo. Dirt-poor Kanai became a drifter after his father's death. He became a cowherd. Many were and "dhua jaari." His spiritual inclination put him in touch with the bauls and fakirs of the complex yet. the area.

listened to his songs for hours. And gradually his fame extended throughout the

According to Reverend Satish Chandra Mitra, Pagla Kanai's verses are intensely poetic and replete with spiritual energy and enchanting tunes.

Pagla Kanai's songs can be classified into "jari," dhua," "pala gaan," "kobi gaan," "murshidi," "marfati," Islamic and more.

Of his disciples, Edu Biswas, Sultan Mollah, Amed Ali, Saber Ali Samir Uddin are worth mentioning.

Scholars such as Mohammad Mansur Uddin, Dr. Mazharul Islam, Abu Talib, Amin Uddin Shah, Durga Das Lahiri and Upendranath Bhattacharya collected Pagla Kanai's songs and conducted researches on the bard.

The legendary baul passed away in July,

Ali Haider of Berbari village, where Kanai stayed for years, said that the 'mazaar,' auditorium and library are situtaken aback by his eclectic spiritual songs ated on one acre and 60 decimal area. However, no wall has been erected around

Abdul Gafur, of the same village, said that People from all walks of life used to on the 25th of Bangla month Phalgun every throng his "ashore" (performance) and year. A 'Pagla Kanai fair' is held here where



The 'mazaar' of Pagla Kanai.

PHOTO: STAR

thousands of people come together. The authorities, he added, could fill the big ditch close to the 'mazaar,' which would provide more space for the fair.

Abu Musa, in-charge of Pagla Kanai Library, said that if philanthropists provided more books on the legendary bard, local students and public would greatly to preserve them.

benefit from it.

Pagla Kanai Shilpi Goshthi President Abdur Rashid said that musical instruments are necessary to retain the tradition of the great baul singer. He added that 419 songs of Pagla Kanai have been recovered from different locations and it is necessary

## Bannya enthrals Melbourne

Dhaka.

GITEE ABEDIN, writes from

Renowned Tagore artiste Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, performed at a sold out concert at Melba Hall, Melbourne University on November 1. The programme was organised by the Melbourne-based cultural group 'Srotar Ashor.'

Bannya enthralled the audience with her rendition of Tagore songs. Considered to be one of the foremost exponents of this genre in

Bangladesh and India, there are very few who elicit as much passion, sensibility and melody as Bannya does.

She was the recipient of a scholarship provided by the Indian Government to pursue a master's degree at Visva Bharati University at Shantiniketan, established by Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Bannya performs regularly around the globe. She is also featured on TV shows and performs live frequently in Bangladesh. In addition to her distinguished career as a performer, Bannya is also committed to passing on her rich musical legacy to the young --

tion while working with call

she is the founder of a music sored by Dr. school called 'Shurer Dhara' in

During her performance in Melbourne, Bannya was accompanied by a number of talented musicians, which included local performers as well as a pair of highly accomplished artistes from Bangladesh. The local performers included Swati on the 'tanpura,' Polash on 'mandira,'

Sanjay on the octapad and Gourav on keyboard. The artistes were spon-

Babar and Lucy Ahad. The visiting artistes from

Bangladesh who performed alongside Bannya were Bimal Howlader on percussion and Mohammed Maniruzzaman on the flute.

Bannya and the visiting musicians will complete their Australian tour by performing at a much-anticipated show in Sydney on November 8 before flying back to Ban-



Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya (centre) sings accompanied by other musicians at the programme in Melbourne.

TV Watch

#### New talk show "Business Blog" on Rtv



Sufi Faruq Ibne Abu Bakar (right) hosts "Business Blog."

**CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT** 

First episode of "Business Blog," a new talk show, will be aired tonight on Rtv at 11:30 pm. The show highlights latest business issues and methods implemented in various sectors. Produced jointly by Rtv and Sufi &

Associates, the show is directed by Shabab Arzoo. Sufi Faruq Ibne Abu Bakar hosts the show con-

ceptualised by Paula Aziz Faruq. With a view to encourage the youngsters into business and corporate culture, the show will feature several corporate leaders who will share their experiences with the audience. In the coming

Jane Fonda returns to Broadway

12 episodes of the show, personalities from renowned organisations such as Rubaba Daula, Emad Ul Amin, Aminul Haque, Naquib Khan, Asif Iqbal and

others will be featured. Starting from tonight, the show will be aired on every other Wednesday at the same time.

#### Children took part in an art competition on the theme of Liberation War last Friday at Rajshahi District Council Auditorium premises. Mugdho, Nafisa Anjum and Abdullah Al Habib came first, second and third in the 'Ka' group respectively, while Mridu, Fariha and

Poet Mohammad Kamal recited poems at the programme.

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman was the chief guest. Eminent citizens and freedom fighters including Salam's widow Suraiya Salam; former Rajshahi University Vice Chancellors, Saidur Rahman

rity, commitment to the society and above all his sacrifice for the nation.

The speakers termed his death (on December 21, 2006) an "irreparable loss" for Rajshahi.

### Painting competition for children in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajeswari were chosen for the positions in the same order in 'Kha'

Organised by 'Remembrance Preparatory Committee,' the event was a homage to the late Abdus Salam, who had made a great contribution to the Liberation War.

Khan and Abdul Khaleque and others spoke on the occasion. Abdus Salam, a prominent lawyer, was remembered for his integ-

Pakistani army and their local collaborators killed five members of Salam's family including his two sons. Instead of breaking down, Salam was resolute. He went to India and returned reorganising a huge group of freedom fighters.

### TV show on Bangladesh vs South Africa series



Dr. Anupam Hossain hosts the show

**CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT** 

The cricket series between the Bangladesh national team and South Africa starts today. ATN Bangla is airing a special programme on the series titled "Ashiyan City Top Spin." The second episode of the show will be aired today at 11:15 pm.

Hosted by Dr. Anupam Hossain and directed by Biplab Rahman, the show features highlights of each match, latest updates and interviews of cricketers, coaches and sports experts.

Starting from today, the cricket series includes a Twenty-20 match, three ODIs and two test matches and will continue till November 29. "Ashiyan City Top Spin" will be aired every day during the series.

### Aishwarya and Abhishek in their second Mani Ratnam film



Abhishek and Aishwarya

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

For Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, celebrating 35th birthday was not an occasion to let her hairs down. Instead, accompanied by her husband Abhishek, she was busy shooting for Mani Ratnam's next film in the woods in Kerala on November 1.

The shooting of Ratnam's multi-lingual "Ravana," which stars both Aishwarya and Abhishek, would continue non-stop for a month. This is the second time that the couple is being featured in a Mani Ratnam movie. Abhishek has earlier acted in Ratnam's "Yuva" which, along with "Guru," brought the actor critical acclaim at a time when he was strug-

gling for box office success. Tamil film "Iruvar" in 1997 opposite leading Malayalam actor Mohan Lal, has risen to Bollywood and found time to act in some art house films like "Raincoat" and "Chokher Bali"

by director Rituparno Ghosh. However, it's not that it was all work and no of stardom in Bollywood in 2002.

fun for Aishwarya and Abhishek on the former's birthday. Reports said a birthday bash was held on the night of November 1 at the hotel where the star couple were staying and it included staging of Kerala's traditional dance "Mohiniattam," South Indian cuisine, North Indian dishes and tribal delicacies.

Professionally, Aishwarya can look back at the year 2008 with considerable satisfaction as her movies "Jodha Akbar" and "Sarkar Raj" have been appreciated and did fairly good business.

She has retained her international appeal not only through acting but also by turning up at the Cannes Film Festival and endorsing some global brands. Among the international films she has done are "Bride and Prejudice," "Pro-Aishwarya, who made her debut in Ratnam's voked," "Mistress of Spices" and "The Last

Legion" -- all between 2003 and 2007. In a career spanning more than a decade, become one of the most bankable stars of Aishwarya has acted in over 40 movies including in Hindi, Tamil, Bengali and English. Her performance in Sanjay Leela Bhansali-directed "Devdas" catapulted the actress to the pinnacle

#### after four decades

REUTERS, New York

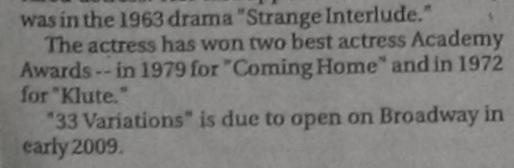
Oscar-winning actress Jane Fonda will return to Broadway after a 46-year absence to perform in "33 Variations" in 2009.

The play written and directed by Moises Kaufman tells the story of Beethoven's fascination with a trivial waltz and the modern-day musicologist Katherine Brandt (Fonda) who sets out to discover the root of his obsession.

"I am very excited about being in Moises' new play. I can't wait to get back on stage with him in this role that I understand so well. It's been 40some years!" Fonda said in a statement.

Fonda, 70, made her Broadway debut in the 1960 play "There Was a Little Girl" for which she earned a Tony Award nomination for Best Featured actress. Her last appearance on Broadway

Awards -- in 1979 for "Coming Home" and in 1972 for "Klute."





Jane Fonda