

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photography Workshop

Organiser: Gothe-Institut Bangladesh
Conductor: Roman Bezak
Venue: Gothe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, R 9 (new), Dhanmondi
Date: February 1-5



Bangladesh-India Friendship Art Exhibition '09

Title: Friendship
Organiser: Gallery Chitrah
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, H 21, Rd 4, Dhanmondi
Date: January 23-27
Time: 11am-8pm



Pitha Utsab

Organiser: Coffee House, BSA
Venue: Coffee House premises, BSA
Date: January 23-31
Time: 3pm-9pm



Modhu Mela '09

Celebrating 185th birth anniversary of Michael Madhusudan Dutt
Organiser: DC Office, Jessore
Venue: Sagardari, Jessore
Date: January 25-31
Time: 2pm onwards



Jasim Polli Mela opens in Faridpur



D Jamal Anwar (right), son of poet Jasimuddin, shows copies of literary works by the poet to a young visitor at an exhibition.



Entrance to Jasimuddin's home at Ambikapur in Faridpur.

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

To commemorate the 106th birth anniversary of 'Polli-kobi' Jasimuddin a fortnight-long fair -- 'Jasim Polli Mela' -- began yesterday at Govindapur village in Faridpur amidst much enthusiasm. A lively cultural programme was part of the inaugural session.

Around two hundred stalls have been set up at the premises of the poet's home by the river Kumar.

Handicrafts, everyday items used by the rural folk, tools and other items used in agricultural, literary works of Jasimuddin and more are on display at the fair.

Other attractions include puppet show; circus; live performance of 'jari', 'shari', 'bhawaiya' and 'murshidi' songs; dance and recitation.

On January 24, Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury 'Birbikram', adviser to the Prime Minister, inaugurated the fair. Advocate Shamsul Haque, newly elected Sadar Upazila chairman; Aktaruzzaman Mohammad Mostafa Kamal, deputy commissioner of Faridpur; Police Superintendent Kusum Dewan; Afsana Yasmin, chief executive of Faridpur Zila Parishad and the poet's son D Jamal Anwar attended the inauguration of the fair on Saturday.

Enthusiastic visitors from different parts of the country are converging at the fair; some enthused by the pastoral beauty epitomised by Jasimuddin in his poetry: "Tumi jabe bhai, jabe more shathe amdar chhoto gaye?" Or "Amar bari jaiyo bharar boshte dibo pirem."

Now hip-hop, too, is made in China

Yesterday more than half a billion people in China were expected to watch the annual Chinese Lunar New Year gala. Organised by the state-owned China Central Television, the marathon event showcases the country's musical diversity with an extensive line-up of Chinese pop stars performing hit songs. But one genre audiences are unlikely to see is Chinese hip-hop, despite its growing popularity among the country's urban youth.

Over the last decade many students and working-class Chinese have been writing rap as a form of self-expression. Rougher and more rebellious than the well-scrubbed pop that floods the airwaves in the country, this kind of hip-hop is not sanctioned by broadcast media producers or state censors but has managed to attract a grass-roots fan base.

"Hip-hop is free, like rock 'n' roll -- we can talk about our lives, what we're thinking about, what we feel," said Wang Liang, 25, a popular hip-hop DJ in China who is known as 'Wordy'. "The Chinese education system doesn't encourage you to express your own character. They feed you stale rules developed from books passed down over thousands of years. There's not much opportunity for personal expression or thought; difference is discouraged."

While American rappers like Eminem and Q-Tip have been popular in China since the 1990s, homegrown rap didn't start gaining momentum until a decade later. The group Yin Ts'ang (its name means "hidden"), one of the pioneers of Chinese rap, is made up of global nomads: a Beijinger, a Chinese-Canadian and two Americans.

"The big change was when rappers started writing verse in Chinese, so people could understand," said Zhong Cheng, 27, a member of the group who was raised in Canada but born in Beijing, where he returned in 1997. "Before that, kids listened to hip-hop in English but maybe less than 1 percent could actually begin to understand."

Yin Ts'ang's first hit was "In Beijing," from the band's 2003 debut album, "Serve the People" (Scream Records); the title is a twist on an old political slogan. It sets a melody played on a thousand-year-old Chinese fiddle called the 'Erhu' against a hip-hop beat that brings Run D.M.C. to mind. The song, an insider's look at Beijing's sights and sounds, took the underground music scene by storm, finding its way into karaoke parlours, the Internet and even the playlist of a radio station in Beijing.

"There's a lot of cats that can rap back home," said Jeremy Johnston, a member of the group and the son of a United

States Air Force captain. "But there's not a lot of cats that can rap in Chinese." Johnston, 33, moved to Beijing in the late '90s because, he said, it was "the thing nobody else was doing."

Since "In Beijing," the Chinese hip-hop scene has quickly grown. HipHop.cn, a Web site listing events and links to songs, started with just a few hundred members in 2007; in 2008 it received millions of views, according to one of the site's directors.

Dozens of hip-hop clubs have opened up in cities across the country, and thousands of raps and music videos by Chinese MC's are spreading over the Internet. But making Chinese hip-hop is still a relatively profitless -- and often subversive -- activity. Some Chinese rappers address what they see as the country's most glaring injustices. As Wong Li, a 24-year-old from Dongbei, says in one of his freestyle raps:

"Don't you know China is only a heaven for rich old men
You know this world is full of corruption
Babies die from drinking milk..."

Wong, who became interested in hip-hop when he heard Public Enemy in the mid-'90s, said rapping helps him deal with bitterness that comes with realising he is one of the millions left out of China's economic boom.

"All people care about is money," he said. "If you don't have money, you're treated like garbage. And if you're not local to the city you live in, people discriminate against you; they give you the worst jobs to do."

While Beijing's underground music scene is generally under the authorities' radar -- hip-hop, indie rock and reggae groups perform regularly at nightclubs -- the producers representing broadcast media in China avoid musicians perceived as threatening.

"There are pockets of freedom here," said Wong Miao, 24, the director of Acupuncture Records, which doubles as a collective of DJ's. "Anyone can play what they want in clubs, and as long as you aren't insulting the party, generally you'll be left alone. But if you want to take the next step to becoming mainstream, you hit a wall. If you aren't singing their type of stuff or aren't incredibly rich, they won't sign you."

After seven years together, Zhong and Johnston of Yin Ts'ang still struggle to pay the bills, but they haven't stopped making hip-hop, which they now do under their own independent label, YinEnt.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



The rap group Yin Ts'ang, made up of a Beijinger, a Chinese-Canadian and two Americans. The name means "hidden."



All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

On Air

BTv

08:45 World Roundup
09:05 Selected Programme
09:30 Musical Programme: Shashito Shur
10:05 Open University
10:55 Selected Programme
11:30 Drama Serial: Shesh Shomuddur

12:10

Ei Amar Bangladesh
12:30 Shukhi Poribar
01:00 Selected Programme
02:15 Prangon
02:40 Kriya Diganto
03:05 Cartoon
03:30 Jiboner Jonjo
04:05 Amrao Pari
04:30 Drama Serial: Baanshuri
05:00 Debate
06:15 Matri Bhasha
07:25 Nriyer Taley Taley
08:35 Drama
09:00 Drama Serial: Shubho Raatri
10:30 Musical Programme: Gaaner Jhoramatplaye

ATN BANGLA

08:15 Aiker Shanbadpotro
08:30 Drama Serial: Eka
09:15 Drama Serial: Sagai
10:30 Hello Bangladesh
11:15 Notun Chhobir Gaan
12:15 Motamot
01:25 Cholochitr Golpo
02:30 Drama Serial: Ghar Jamai
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai
03:45 Children's Programme: Chhotoder Pritibi
04:20 Agricultural Programme
05:10 Banijyomela Prolidin
05:40 Business Week
06:20 Rajniti O Shushashoney Nari
06:45 Projomno Katha
08:00 Drama Serial: Shoppomongol
08:40 Style Icon 2009

11:30 Jey Katha Keu Boleni
12:00 Grameenphone Lead News
CHANNEL i
08:05 Tagore Song
09:30 Shangbadpotrey Bangladesh Public Reaction
09:45 Grameenphone Tritomatra
11:05 Education Programme
11:30 Amar Chhobi
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Sa Re Ga Ma
02:30 Hridoyer Gaan
03:05 Baniyo O Orthoniti
04:05 Study @ UK
04:30 FCT Business Talk
05:30 Special Programme

10:02 Total Music
10:30 Ekushey Business
02:30 Drama Serial: Tuntuni Bhila
03:10 Ei Shoptazer Bishwa
03:30 Spondon
04:05 Drama Serial: Ghatak Ebong Arma
04:30 Desh Jurey Oporadh
05:30 Sports Plus
07:45 Cookery Show: Tomi Mian Recipe
08:30 Drama Serial: Tuntuni Bhila
09:30 Drama Serial: Ghatak Ebong Arma
11:50 Financial Bulletin
BANGLAVISION

08:15 Daily Soap: Mohanagar
09:05 Amader Rannaghar
09:45 Drama Serial: Swapnochura
11:15 Onno Noyon
DIGANTO TELEVISION
08:30 Shindhu Hillol
12:30 Chitro Bichitro
03:05 Roots
03:50 Science Dot Com
04:30 Diganto Sports
05:30 Oporajita
06:30 Chena Ochina
07:00 News Hours
08:05 Paathshala
08:30 Rojoni Gondha
09:30 Chitro Bichitro
10:00 Prime Time

09:00 Drama Serial: Meyeti Ekhon Kothaye Jabey
10:00 Drama Serial: Pridorshini
HBO
10:30 The Peacemaker
01:00 Chill Factor
03:00 Daddy Day Camp
04:45 The Making Of Knocked Up
05:00 Hindi Version: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider
07:00 The Making Of Happy Feet
07:15 Hollywood One On One 23
07:45 Smokin' Aces
09:30 Mission Impossible
11:45 Mission: Impossible II
ZEE STUDIO

12:05 Moulin Rouge
02:15 Babe
04:00 Titanic
07:00 Die Hard 4.0
09:10 Rocky Balboa
11:00 Premonition

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

09:30 Built For The Kill
11:00 Creative Vision
11:30 Fight Science
12:30 Hollywood Science
01:30 Built For The Kill
02:30 The Real Serengeti
03:30 Warplanes
04:30 Planet Carnivore
06:00 Big Bang
06:30 Dream Machines: China
07:30 Triumph Of Life
08:30 Hunter Hunted
09:30 Against All Odds
10:30 Air Crash Investigation
11:30 Against All Odds

STAR WORLD

09:00 Friends
09:30 Carpoolers
10:00 The Knights Of Prosperity
10:30 La Femme Nikita
11:30 90210
12:30 Psych
01:30 Boston Legal
02:30 The Ellen Degeneres
03:30 Murder She Wrote
04:30 Ghost Whisperer
05:30 La Femme Nikita
06:30 October Road
07:30 Friends
08:30 According To Jim
09:00 Scrubs
09:30 The Moment Of Truth
10:30 Monk
11:30 Most Shocking

FOX HISTORY & ENTERTAINMENT CHANNEL

09:15 Creative Vision
09:30 Bollywood Mein Hindi
10:30 The British Empire In Colour
01:00 Indian Journeys
02:00 The Future
04:30 Rang De Basanti- FHE
06:30 The Future
07:00 The British Empire In Colour
10:30 Rang De Basanti- FHE



Meyeti Ekhon Kothaye Jabey
On Rtv at 9:00 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Kushum Shikdar, Shahed

06:20 Selected Programme
07:50 Drama: Ekti Onyorkom Rohoshyo
09:35 Drama Serial: Central Mental Hospital
10:00 Drama Serial: Monorama Aroyo Niketon
11:30 First Minister
12:00 Grameenphone Tritomatra
ETV
08:30 Ekush-er Shokal
09:35 Drama Serial: Ghatak Ebong Arma
08:00 Nana Ranger Dinguli
09:00 Bhalo Thakun
10:10 Drama Serial: Bijji Moholla
10:40 Cinebit
11:03 Sports Vision
11:35 Law Chamber
12:30 X Crime
02:00 Daily Soap: Mohangar
02:30 Talk Show: Aamar Ami
03:30 Drama Serial: Shomudro Jaal
04:20 Drama Serial: Ontyorkhyo
05:45 Citycell Din-er Sheshey
06:20 Telepress Business
06:50 Shamol Bangla

08:00 Diganto Shonglap
Rtv
09:30 Cinema Ar Gaan
10:03 Drama Serial: Priyo Dorshini
11:03 Taroka Alap
11:30 Drama Serial: Meyeti Ekhon Kothaye Jabey
01:30 Documentary
03:00 Bangla Feature
05:30 Ei Aamar Bangladesh Prolidin
07:00 Selected Programme
07:30 Road To Democracy

abc radio 89.2 FM
09:00 Mukhollilo Jiboney
12:00 Dasun Dupurey
03:00 Duranto Bhalley
05:00 Shashito Taley
07:00 Shashito Taley
11:30 Jey Golper Shashito
Radio Foorti 88.0 FM
07:30am Hello Dhaka
10:00am Music Junction
12:00pm My Time
01:00pm No Tension
04:00pm Dhaka Calling
09:30pm Night Rider
Radio Today 89.6 FM
07:15am Good Morning Dhaka
11:00am Maati Unshiled
01:00pm Today's Adice
04:00pm U-Jam
08:00pm Tobe Tai Hok
11:00pm Roal Vor Gin

She brought a small town to the city and a huge company to the screen.
Julia Roberts in Erin Brockovich
Based on a true story.
On Zee Studio at 11:00 pm
Genre: Drama

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-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.
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 a.m., 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 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
News (English) at 6:00pm
Rtv
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
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
abc radio
News: 08:00 am, 12:00 pm, 03:00 pm, 06:00 pm, 09:00 pm, 12:00 am