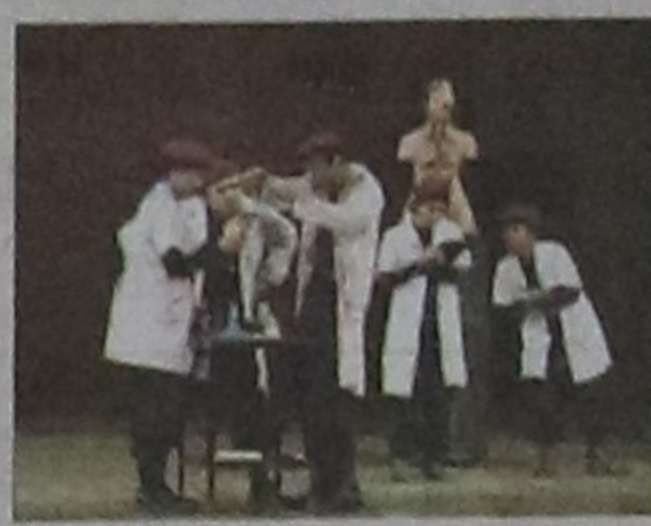


**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**

**127th Birth Anniversary of Gurusaday Dutta**  
Organiser: Bratachari Samiti, Bangladesh  
Venue: Dhaka University Premises  
Date: May 29  
Time: 4pm



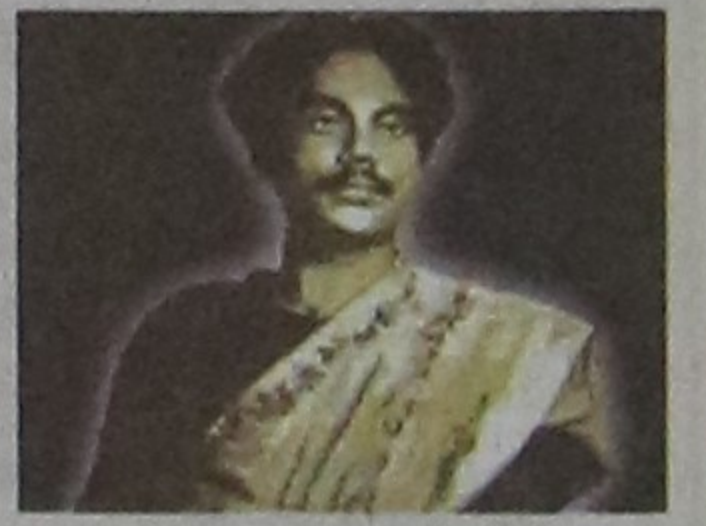
**Theatre**  
Play: Amputation  
Troupe: Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT)  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA  
Date: May 31 & June 1  
Time: 7pm



**Film Screening**  
Film: Rabeya by Tanvir Mokammel  
Organiser: Bangladesh Film Centre  
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre, 160, Lake Circus, Kalabagan  
Date: May 28  
Time: 6pm



**Recitation**  
Celebrating Nazrul Birth Anniversary  
Title: Swagato Shangaap  
Organiser: Kanthasheelan  
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library  
Date: May 29  
Time: 7pm



## Zainul Abedin: Remembering the artist extraordinaire



Zainul Abedin's particular brand of realism combined social awareness with higher aesthetics.

Today marks the 33rd death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin (1914-1976), the leading figure in the history of modern art movement in Bangladesh.

Born in Mymensingh, Zainul grew up in the serene landscape by the river Brahmaputra -- the river being a source of inspiration to the artist from an early childhood. He got admitted in Calcutta Government Art School in 1933. After graduation he became a teacher at art school. A series of watercolours that Zainul did as his tribute to the Brahmaputra River earned him the Governor's Gold Medal in an all-India exhibition in 1938.

Dissatisfied with the stereotypes of Oriental style, Zainul moved on towards Realism and created his own style. He made a versatile use of lines in his interpretation of the everyday people. His "Famine Sketches," a series of paintings Zainul made in 1943, addressed the dearth of food created by the Raj. Bengal was affected the most by the famine. That series earned Zainul international acclaim. Drawn in Chinese ink and brush on cheap packing paper, the series is a compilation of haunting images of intolerable cruelty and the utter helplessness of the masses dying slowly of hunger. His lines are very evocative and sensual.



"The Angry Cow" (watercolour, 1951) marks a high point of that style. This particular brand of realism that combined social awareness and protest with higher aesthetics was to prove useful to him in different moments of history such as 1969 and 1971 when Zainul executed a few of his masterpieces.

Zainul is also famous for his landscapes, which mainly delve into scenic and panoramic beauty of rural Bengal. The works were mainly watercolours.

A well-known figure for his leadership qualities in organising artists and art movements, Zainul took the initiative to found the Government Institute of Arts and Crafts (now Faculty of Fine Arts) in 1948 on Dhaka University campus, of which he was the founding principal.

In 1975, Zainul Abedin set up a folk museum at Sonargaon, and a permanent gallery in Mymensingh (Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala) to display some of his works. He became actively involved in a movement to preserve the cultural heritage of Bengal.

The maestro's health began to deteriorate however, as he developed lung cancer. He died in 1976 in Dhaka.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

## Life and music of Shah Abdul Karim

Documentary on the living legend launched

JAMIL MAHMUD

The life and works of legendary 'baul' artiste Shah Abdul Karim unfolded in Shakur Majid's documentary "Bhatir Purush." The DVD was at the main auditorium of the National Museum on May 26. Laser Vision, distributor of the DVD, arranged the programme.

Abdul Karim was born in a low land area (locally known as 'Bhati anchal') called Ujandhol in Sunamganj district nearly hundred years ago. The place remains submerged almost eight months of the year. Karim never had a chance to attend school. But the gifted rhymester learnt from his surroundings, the people and nature and in time, he turned into a living legend.

Karim has earned hundreds of awards including 'Ekushey Padak,' the highest national award in Bangladesh. "Bhatir Purush" features the life and music of Shah Abdul Karim.

The approximately 50-minute documentary narrates many untold aspects of Karim's life through others. Majid started shooting the documentary back in 2002, when Karim was still active. Majid was lucky enough to interview Karim himself, which will remain a priceless document on the maestro.

Throughout the documentary, the 'baul samrat' (King of bauls) speaks on various facets of his music and life, including the approximate number of his songs, his 'murshid' (mentor),

his second wife Sarala (whose inspiration was remarkable on his music) and many other aspects. Throughout the documentary, Karim also renders lines from his songs.

Alongside Shah Abdul Karim, Majid also interviewed noted personalities from different fields like noted music researcher Professor Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty; litterateur Humayun Ahmed; former British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Anwar Chowdhury; Karim's direct disciples -- the late Ruhil Thakur and Ranesh Thakur as well as noted folk singer of the Sylhet region, Jamaluddin Hasan Banna.

The film also features interviews of Kalika Prasad Bhattacharjee of the Kolkata-based musical troupe 'Dohar Shilpi Goshthi,' the late Sanjib Chowdhury and singer-composer Habib -- all of whom popularised Karim's songs and philosophy among the urbanites.

The personalities interviewed, made in-depth observations on Karim's music and philosophy of mysticism that lies beneath the lyrics.

"Bhatir Purush" has been produced by Britannia Media Communications.

Chief guest, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid unveiled the DVD. Professor Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty, theatre personality Mamunur Rashid and Laser Vision Chairman A.K.M. Arifur Rahman, among others, spoke at the programme.

Shakur Majid gave the welcome speech at the programme.



The documentary narrates many untold aspects of Shah Abdul Karim's life.

## Controversy over Michelangelo sculpture

The Italian art world is in a messy "is it or isn't it" debate over a wooden sculpture that may or may not have been made by Michelangelo.

Standing just 40cm (16 inches) high, it depicts Christ on the Cross, but leading art experts simply cannot agree who made it.

This is not a tale about fakery or imitation -- everyone says the statue is a Renaissance piece of art from around 1495, when Michelangelo would have been 20.

But who actually crafted it? That is the question.

The controversy has been rekindled because of a new exhibition in Naples to display the cross, which incidentally has itself disappeared somewhere in antiquity, leaving the figure of Christ these days hanging mid-air connected to a sheet of transparent plastic.

Amid the splendid grandeur of a former cathedral, the cross takes centre stage among a series of paintings, tapestries and other works, including a golden sculpture that is said to contain a splinter of the True Cross,

upon which Jesus was said to be crucified.

And for critics, it is the association with religion that is part of the problem.

They say the government has endorsed the wooden cross as a work by Michelangelo to boost its standing with the Catholic Church, and to burnish its credentials with the electorate as a government of conservative beliefs.

In other words, say the doubters, the cross is being used for political, even propaganda, uses by a government intent on spending taxpayers money to pursue dubious quasi-artistic ends.

In fact, the bill was just over \$4m (£2.5m).

Those who believe it to be by Michelangelo say it is money well spent saving it for the nation. Those who do not say the money has, at best, been squandered on a piece of dubious provenance.

They add that had it been a genuine Michelangelo it would have sold for 10 times the amount, so rarely do his works come to market.

"Even major works of art rarely have supportive documents," said Cristina Acidini Luchinat, the superintendent of Florence's state museum and a renowned expert on Renaissance art.

Acidini has lent her support and considerable authority to the exhibition. "These pieces don't come with a written guarantee," she said.

She said that she was impressed by the anatomical accuracy and portrayal of the human body found in the sculpture.

"It is of the highest quality, way above that of other artists at the time," she said. "You can attribute it to Michelangelo, certainly," she said.

"To survive, a young artist would have had to do small works of this sort," says Giancarlo Gentilini, a Renaissance art expert. "We can't only associate Michelangelo with masterpieces."

Source: BBC

## Farida Parveen on Rtv

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Noted Lalon artiste Farida Parveen will perform live on the musical show "Bashudha Tomar Jonnyo Amar E Gaan" on Rtv tonight. Produced by Tanif Mahmud, the show will be aired live at 11 pm.

Starting with Nazrul Sangeet, Farida Parveen eventually became an authority in rendition of Lalon Geeti. Crossing boundaries, her fame has spread far and wide. The artiste will present some of her favourite songs on the show including "Satya bol sat pothey chal," Kha(n)char bhitor achin pakhi," "Ami apaar hoye boshey achhi," "Barir kachhey aarshi nagar,"



"Nindar ka(n)ta jodi na bidhilo paye" and more. She will also perform songs on audiences' request through live telephone conversation.

## Sohana Saba and Murad Parvez on Priyojon

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Celebrity talk show "Priyojon" will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 6:20 pm. Popular TV and film actress Sohana Saba and her husband, film director Murad Parvez are the guests on tonight's episode. The couple will share their personal experiences, recent activities and more with the audience on the show.

Directed by Fakhru Abedin and hosted by Karavi Mizan, this is the 53rd episode of the show.



Murad and Saba on tonight's episode of "Priyojon."

THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIVATE & RATED  
#1 FM RADIO STATION

radio  
**TODAY**  
fm 89.6  
The Station of the Nation

RADIO LISTENERSHIP SURVEY REPORT 2009  
BY Nielsen Bangladesh nielsen