

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

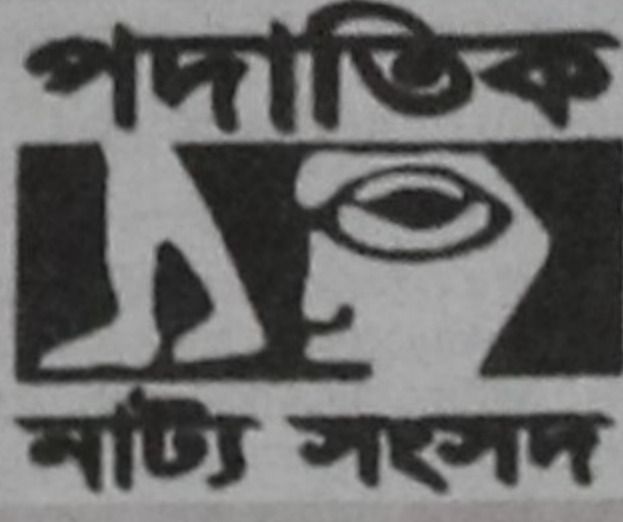
Photo Exhibition

On the occasion of 60th birth anniversary of Werner Herzog
Title: Film Must be Physical
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 16- Oct 8



Street Theatre

Organiser: Padatic
Nattya Sangsad
Venue: Shoparjita Shadinota premises, DU
Date: September 13
Time: 4pm



Photography Exhibition

Title: Heritage Inspiration
Photographer: M. Shamsuzzaman
Venue: Dnk Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: September 15-19
Time: 3-9pm



Iranian Film Festival

Film: The Circle
Director: Jafar Panahi
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62 Science Laboratory Road
Date: September 18
Time: 5pm



Bangla folk music loses a true son of the soil

'Baul Samrat' Shah Abdul Karim no more

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Known nationwide as 'Baul Samrat,' mystic bard Shah Abdul Karim died of age related ailments at a Sylhet hospital yesterday morning. He was 93.

Nurjahan General Hospital authorities confirmed that Karim breathed his last at 7:58am.

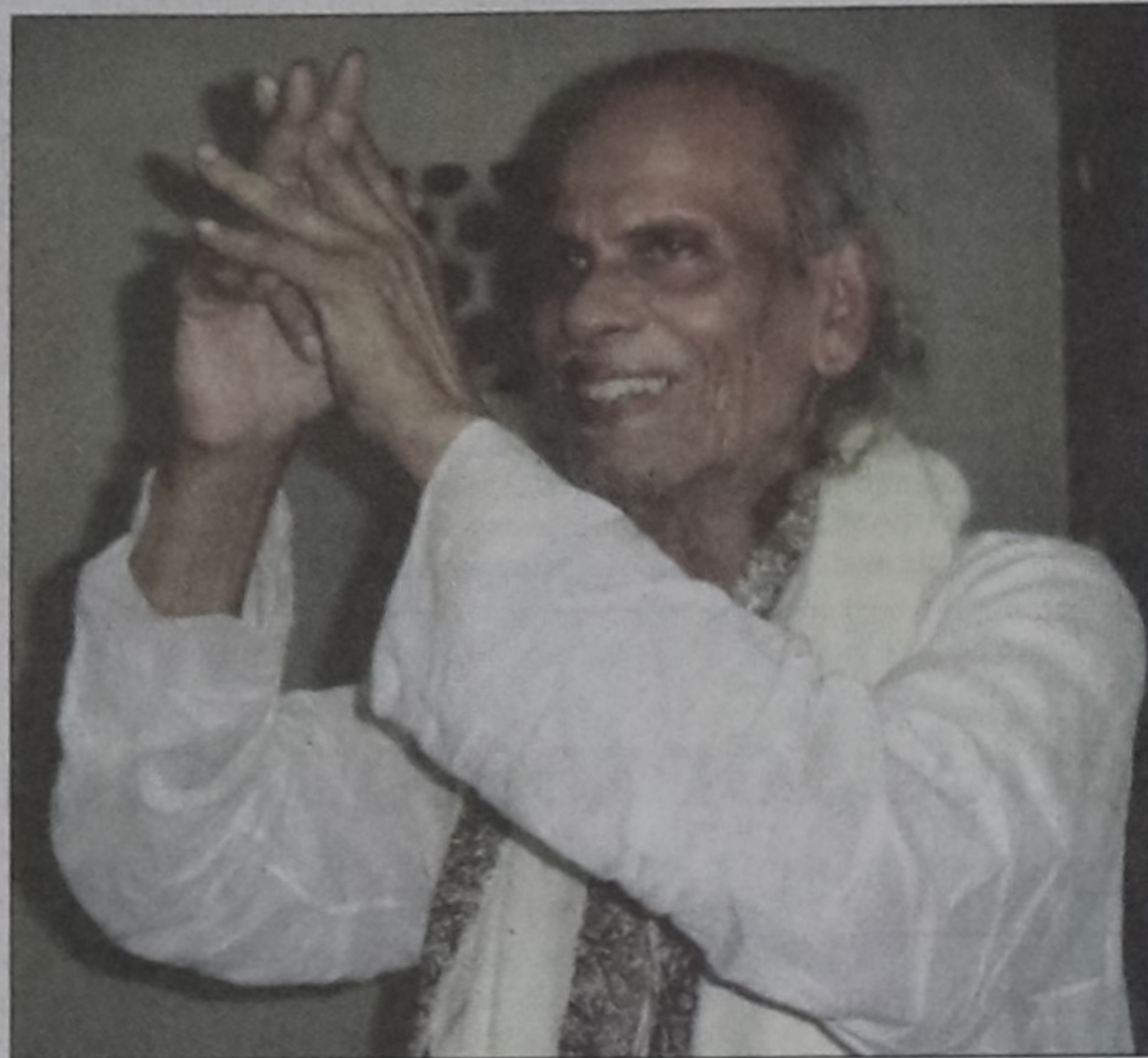
The coffin of the 'Baul Samrat' was taken to the Sylhet Shaheed Minar at 1:00pm yesterday. People from all walks of life paid homage to the bard.

The legendary poet-lyricist was kept on life-support at the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital after his condition deteriorated on Friday. Karim was taken to the hospital from his village home in Ujandhol, under Deraipur upazila of Sunamganj district on September 3.

Abdul Karim was born nearly hundred years ago. Karim never had a chance to attend school. But the gifted rhymester learnt from and was inspired by his surroundings, the people and nature and in time turned into a living legend.

The river Kalni, which flows very near to Karim's home, was a muse to the bard. Many of his songs articulate the riverine lifestyle. His songs metaphorically speak of the unsolved riddle of creation.

Some of his popular numbers are, "Agey ki shundor din kaitam," "Kon mestori nau banaisay," "Bashonto batashay," "Ami tomar koler gari," "Bondhey maya lagaisay," "Tomra kunjo shajao go"



Shah Abdul Karim

PHOTO: STAR

and "Gari choley na".

Karim's songs were published in six books: "Aftab Sangeet," "Gano Sangeet," "Kalni Dheu," "Dholmela," "Bhatir Chithi" and "Kalni Kookey." Bangla Academy translated ten of his songs into English.

The life and works of Karim have been featured in Shakur Majid's documentary "Bhatir Purush". Journalist Faruk Mehedy also made a documentary on the leg-

end, titled "Shikor".

The late Ruhi Thakur and Ranesh Thakur are widely known as Karim's direct disciples. Karim's only son, Shah Nur Jalal, is also a folk singer.

The band Dolchhut and singer-composer Habib Wahid have widely popularised Karim's songs among the young urban music enthusiasts.

Habib, who is currently in London, couldn't be contacted. His father, renowned singer Ferdaus Wahid, said, "With the demise of Shah Abul

Karim, we have lost a legend who could be considered a pillar of Bangla folk music. The divine bond between the creator and his creation has been defined in an uncomplicated, yet profound way in his compositions."

"Habib is what he is today, thanks to Shah Abdul Karim's incomparable songs," Ferdaus Wahid added.

It was in 2003, when Habib, a student of London University, came across the Shah Abdul Karim song, "Bondhey maya lagaisay". The song had an indelible impact on the young musician. For the next one and half years, Habib researched on Shah Abdul Karim's music. The result was Habib's debut album "Krishno".

Seasoned folk artiste Kiran Chandra Roy said, "If the contemporary Bangla folk music is compared to the solar system, Shah Abdul Karim was definitely at the centre. We have lost one of the greatest artistes and our folk music has lost a true 'son of the soil'."

"We had performed together at several programmes. In 1997/98, he asked me to tune one of his songs 'Pran kande mon kande'. It was a great honour for me," reminisced Roy.

Karim was awarded the 'Ekushey Padak' in 2001. In 2005, he received the 'Meril-Prothom Alo' Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 'Baul Samrat' will be buried next to his wife Sarala in his yard today.

Rang Mistiri Show

An encouragement for promising directors

MAINUL HASSAN

With an aim to provide quality entertainment, Desh TV is introducing a new programme, titled "Rang Mistiri Show," scheduled to begin from the fifth day of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The programme will feature single-episode TV plays directed by talented, up and coming directors.

'Rang Mistiri' is an organisation of emerging film and TV play directors, most of whom are or have been students of the Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), Dhaka University. The organisation was founded in 2007.

Animesh Aich, Matia Banu Shuku, Mezbaur Rahman Sumon, Tokon Thakur, Shibu Kumar Shil and Shah Newaz Kakoli are among the founding members of the group.

"In 2007 we arranged a four day festival, titled 'Rangmistiri Uthob' at FFA premises. At the event, 12 productions by upcoming directors were screened," said director Animesh Aich, one of the founding members. Aich has attained much acclaim for his works, in particular the telefilm "Garam Bhat Othoba



Nichhak Bhut-er Galpo".

"The event received a positive response; the turnout was surprising. It was basically the success of that event which inspired us to move forward," Aich added.

"Six months ago we were contacted by Desh TV to make single-episode plays for the channel," he said.

The premiere of the "Rang Mistiri Show" was held at Star Cineplex, Bashundhara City Mall recently. At the show, the play "Agantuk" was screened.

The play, directed by Junaid Mustafa Chowdhury, features Aupi Karim, Agun and Monowar Kabir in lead roles.

"Under the current agreement with Desh TV, members of 'Rang Mistiri' will be making a total of 26 single episode plays," said Aich.

So far, seven plays are ready to air: "Agantuk," "Taal Mistri" directed by Shafiqul Faruk Ujjal, "Gugli" directed by Khairul Huda Khan, "Shangshar" directed by Matia Banu Shuku, "Era Ora O Jadukar" directed by Mahmudul Hassan Babu, "Dhonesh Pakhir Thor" directed by Habib and "Football" directed by Animesh Aich.

Animesh Aich and Mezbaur Rahman Sumon are the executive producers of the show.

Ayub Bachchu on Musik Jams hot seat tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Music Jams" will be aired tonight at 9:45pm on ntv. Hosted by VJ Sajji, the show provides all the hot and happening music and music related news. What's new in the music scene, album releases, and saucy tidbits on favourite artists make this show entertaining. Added attraction tonight is rock star Ayub Bachchu on the hot seat.

As Eid is almost knocking on the door, viewers will be getting a sneak peak at all the Eid-special albums. There will also be a studio session by Nomon on his new mixed project.

And to finish off, a brand



Ayub Bachchu on the show

new video by singer-composer Rajib will be aired.

Raahat Alam is producer of the show.

Gauripur House: Old glory trapped in disrepair and neglect

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The exquisitely designed two-storied Gauripur House continues to be a reminder of the zamindars of the locality. Located by the banks of the Old Brahmaputra river, on Jubilee Road in the district town, the ground floor of the house is now being used as the supporting office of the Sonali Bank Principal Office, Mymensingh, while the first floor is used as a guest house for the bank's higher ups.

The wooden house, surrounded by a beautiful garden, was built some 90 years ago but the actual date of construction remains unknown. However, it is known that Zamindar Sri Brajendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury commissioned the construction.

Brajendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury (1281-1364 Bengali Year) was a sophisti-

cated elite, known for his command over and passion for classical music. The zamindar invited and had



Gauripur House

PHOTO: STAR

master classical artistes of the subcontinent such as Enayat Khan (father of Ustad Bilayet Khan), Mohammad

nessed many unforgettable nights of music.

Birendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury, son of

classical music and instruments like *sur bahar*, *sur sringar*, *esraj* and *beena*. Birendra also published a

Brajendra Kishore, had his *taalim* (lessons) under Enayat Khan and Mohammad Ali Khan in

monthly newspaper called *Sangeet Bigyan Probeshika* from Kolkata. In addition, he wrote books on classical music like "The Status of Tansen in Hindustan Music and Raaga Sangeet".

Sohrab Hossain Sarker who witnessed the building of the house told this correspondent that he could not remember the actual date of its construction. "However, the Chinese workers' relentless labour remains etched in my memory," said Sarker.

Sri Derish Chandra Dev, 90, who came to Mymensingh in 1932 at the age of 12 said that during the British Raj, the house was enchanting and it should be preserved as a heritage site.

Unfortunately, add sources, the Archaeological Department never took adequate steps to bring the house under its authority and preserve it.

Early honorary Oscars announced



Lauren Bacall

AP, Beverly Hills

Actress Lauren Bacall, producer-director Roger Corman and cinematographer Gordon Willis are the first Oscar winners of the season.

The Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Thursday that the three will receive honorary Oscar statuettes.

Bacall made her screen debut with Humphrey Bogart in "To Have and Have Not" in 1944. She went on to star in more than 30 films, including such classics as "The Big Sleep" and "Key Largo." Corman has directed more than 50 films and pro-

duced more than 300 during his five-decade career, including "It Conquered the World" and "The Little Shop of Horrors" (1960). Willis is a two-time Academy Award nominee for "Zelig" and "The Godfather, Part III."

The board also voted to present the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award to producer-executive John Calley. His producing credits include "Postcards from the Edge," "The Remains of the Day," for which he earned a Best Picture Oscar nomination, "Closer" and "The Da Vinci Code."

All four awards will be presented at the Academy's inaugural Governors Awards gala event on November 14 in Hollywood.

Protest over Israel roils Toronto Film Festival

Artistes and politics always make for a combustible mix, so it's no surprise that the Toronto International Film Festival -- starting on September 10 -- has suddenly become embroiled in a volatile uproar over whether the festival should be spotlighting Tel Aviv in its new City to City Spotlight programme designed to celebrate international film culture. In today's divided universe, anything involving Israel and Middle East politics is bound to provoke a storm of controversy.

The latest tizzy began when John Greyson, a little-known Canadian documentary filmmaker, withdrew his documentary short "Covered" from the festival to protest the fest's showcase of Israeli filmmaking. He contends that the festival's celebration of Israeli cinema is a tacit endorsement of the country's Brand Israel campaign, which is designed to improve Israel's tattered international image.

Greyson views that as a travesty, especially at a time when much of the world has been vocal in its opposition to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements and a Gaza massacre that resulted in a large number of civilian deaths.

Coming on the eve of the TIFF, Greyson's beef with Israel has spread like a prairie fire.

Seemingly overnight, a protest group materialised, drafting a letter titled: "The Toronto Declaration -- No Celebration of Occupation." Signed by Jane Fonda, Harry Belafonte and Noam Chomsky, along with such well-known artistes as David Byrne, Julie Christie, Viggo Mortensen, Wallace Shawn and British director Ken Loach, the letter claimed that the festival, "whether intentionally or not, has become complicit in the Israeli propaganda machine."

The protests, of course, have been met by

counter protests. Simon Wiesenthal Center founder Marvin Hier has weighed in, telling a hastily arranged news conference that "Tel Aviv is one of the freest cities in the world, wars and all: a model city of diversity, freedom of expression and tolerance, for Arabs and Jews," He added: "It is the height of hypocrisy to single out Tel Aviv. These protesters cannot masquerade their hatred toward Israel."

Whatever your viewpoint, the protests are a bracing reminder that America is not always in sync or even in touch with the rest of the world, even when it comes to film culture. In today's Hollywood, signs of Jewish ethnic pride are everywhere. Judd Apatow's recent "Funny People" was populated with a host of openly Jewish comic characters, as is the new Coen brothers film, "A Serious Man," a drama (premiering this weekend in Toronto, of all places) that is, in part, about a troubled Jewish man who looks to his rabbi for guidance. And, of course, one of the biggest hit films of the summer was Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds," which features as its heroes a scrum of tough-talking, baseball-bat wielding, Nazi-scalp-taking World War II-era Jewish soldiers.

So it may come as a surprise to Americans, who have been steady supporters of Israel since its birth as a country in 1948, that the Jewish state has been treated as something of a pariah in international circles. Earlier this year, for example, Loach, one of England's most venerated filmmakers, urged a boycott of the Edinburgh International Film Festival because it was slated to premiere a movie by an Israeli filmmaker and was paying his way to the festival.

Source: Internet