

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Jai Bangla
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 27-Oct 10
Time: 12-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Kantha Kahani
Artist: Fahmida Enam
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: October 1-14
Time: 10am-12pm & 5pm-8:30pm



Baul Songs

Artists: Darbesh Shadhon Fakir and his troupe
Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: India Cultural Centre, H35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
Date: October 8
Time: 7pm



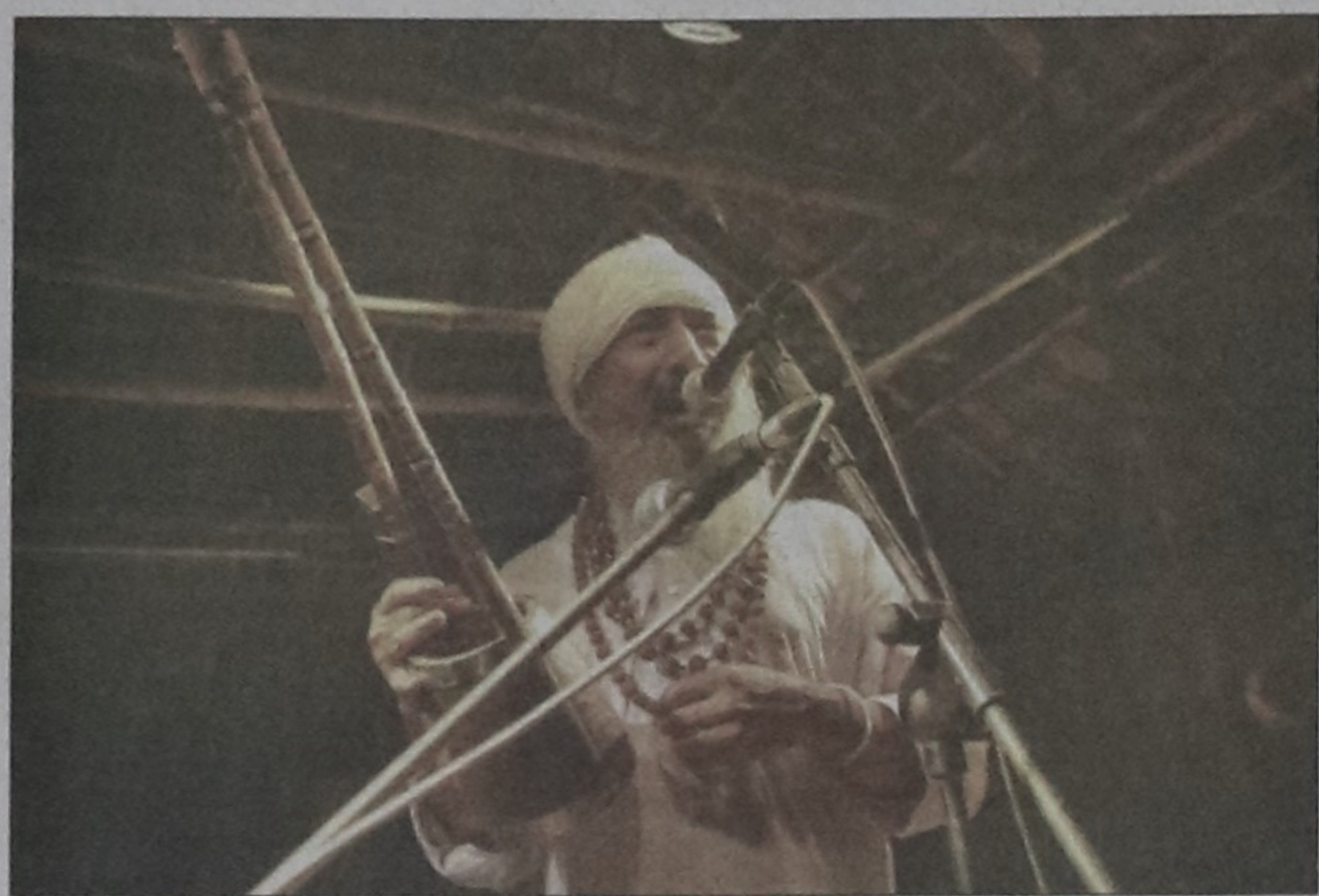
Solo Musical Performance

Artist: Pervin Sultana
Organiser: Amra Shurjomukhi
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum
Date: October 10
Time: 7:00pm



Lalon songs, under the banyan canopy

Two-day Shadhu Shango at Munshiganj ends



Tuntun Baul performs at the 'Shadhu Shango' in Munshiganj.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To uphold Fakir Lalon Shai's philosophy, programmes -- formally known as 'Shadhu Shango' -- take place all over the country round the year. Recently, such a programme was held at Tekernaat, Shirajdikhan under Munshiganj district.

The programme was titled 'Lalon Shai Bat-tala Madhu Purnima Shadhu Shango 1416'.

The main objective of a 'Shadhu Shango' is discussion of Lalon's 'tatwa' (philosophy) and exchange of views among his disciples; highlight remains the timeless songs composed by the bard. According to different

researches, Lalon himself used to arrange such congregations every year during his lifetime. Disciples from all over the country including Kushtia and Meherpur as well as from India took part at the Munshiganj programme this year.

The two-day programme started on October 5 through arrival of shadhus from different parts of the country. A

music institution, named Lalon Sangeet School was also inaugurated on the first day of the event. Among others, renowned folk researcher Abul Ahsan Chowdhury, beautician Kaniz Almas Khan, and Darbesh Nazir Shah were present at the inauguration of the school.

Usually a 'Shadhu Shango' comprises several sessions such as 'adhibash,' 'guru-karmo,' renditions of 'guru dainya gaan' and renditions of 'goshthyagaan'.

At the programme in Munshiganj, bauls followed these traditions to attain mysticism.

Darbesh Nazir Shah, Razzaq Baul, Tuntun Baul, Taqbir Hossain, Rob Fakir, Shamir Baul, Ramzan Fakir, Buri Fakirani, Aklima Fakirani, Pagla Babul and young singer Rinku, among others, sang and discussed the philosophy of Lalon Shai at the programme.

Darbesh Shadhon Fakir and his troupe from India also took part in the programme and rendered Lalon's songs.

This is the fourth time that 'Shadhu Shango' was held at the venue.

Shadhona does Bangladesh proud in Delhi

KAVITA, New Delhi

Delhiites had a touch of Bangladesh at the recent Puja celebrations. The city came alive as a troupe of Bangladeshi artistes arrived in the capital to stage performances at several Puja mandaps. Well known cultural organisation Shadhona was in the thick of the festivities as it coordinated the various performances with the Dhriti group. Finally the curtains came down with exclusive Shadhona events spread over two days -- at the residence of the Bangladesh High Commissioner and the cultural hub, India International Centre respectively.

For Manipuri dancer Warda Rihab, head of the Dhriti delegation, the performances at the mandaps were an eye opener. To quote her, "I was told that nothing much happens at Puja in Delhi. Quite the contrary, our performances received a tremendous response. Some people in the audience even cried because many had their roots in Bangladesh and our shows revived old memories."

Meanwhile the performance, entitled "Season of Festivities," at the residence of the Bangladesh High Commissioner, too effectively showcased the magic of Bangladeshi dance and music. "The programme, with about 16 performers, was a fusion of different styles. There was music, dance, singing -- folk, Nazrul and Rabindra Sangeet. It was a fusion in the sense of featuring different styles of classical dance and our own folk dances. The theme was the six seasons, of course," said Dr. Naila Khan, trustee, Shadhona.

The curtains came down the following day with a Shadhona-IIC programme, "A recital of Indian Classical Dances by Bangladeshi Dancers". Beginning with two superb solo Manipuri dances by Warda Rihab and Samina Hussain respectively, the programme also encased a Bharatnatyam performance (by Arpita Shom and Amit Chowdhury)



Samina Hussain and co-artists perform in Delhi.

and ended with a Kathak recital by Tahmina Anwar Anika.

A brief rundown of the star performers of the evening: Warda Rihab and Samina Hussain are both disciples of Smt Kalavati Devi, the foremost disciple and wife of the late Guru Bipin Singh, who is acknowledged to have brought Manipuri dance from the ritualistic *mandapa* to the proscenium. Both have also studied and performed extensively under the well-known Sharmila Banerjee, a leading exponent of dance in Bangladesh, at Chhayanaut. While both are recipients of various awards, Warda is an Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholar, and Samina has trained at the ICCR Dance Academy in Dhaka.

The other dancers too have impeccable credentials. Arpita was awarded an ICCR scholarship and completed her graduation and post-graduation in Bharatnatyam at the Rabindra Bharati University of Kolkata under the guidance

of Guru Khogendra and Guru Rajdeep Bannerjee.

Amit Chowdhury has trained under several leading Bharatnatyam exponents. Currently he is undergoing a special training on Creative Dance and Tagore Dance from Rabindra Bharati University.

Kathak danseuse Tahmina Anwar, a disciple of Munmun Ahmed (student of Pandit Birju Maharaj), is presently training under Pandit Krishan Mohan Misra of Delhi. To Tahmina goes the credit of receiving several awards, both as a child prodigy and now as an upcoming dancer. Tahmina has trained at the ICCR Dance Academy in Dhaka.

What made these dancers' Delhi recitals the more remarkable was that they are all young and upcoming artistes. They may have a long way to go in the dance firmament but they certainly reveal the makings of artistes to watch out for in the future.

Encouraging creativity in children

Film festival for youngsters begins in Bogra



Aly Zaker (centre) inaugurates the film festival.

The six-day long 2nd International Children's Film Festival began at Aminul Haque Dulal Auditorium of Bogra Zila School on October 5, says a press release. Children's Film Society (CFS), Bogra and Chhotoder Jonno Foundation have

jointly arranged the festival.

Eminent cultural personality and adviser, CFS, Aly Zaker inaugurated the festival on October 5. At a discussion presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Md. Iftekharul Islam Khan, Aly

Zaker said, "Cinema is a powerful media and films made for children represent their world. Children's Film Society works to nurture creativity among the youngsters."

Coordinator of CFS, Sheikh Sajid; teacher of Bogra Zilla School, Aftab Ahmed; chairman of Progress Group, Mostafizur Rahman and director of CFS, Ahmed Sabbir spoke at the programme.

Ahmed Sabbir informed, "Film screening will continue from 10am to 9pm everyday."

On the inaugural day two films -- "Lilliput-ra Boro Hobey" and "T-Rex-er Shondhaney" -- were screened.

Apart from film screening, a roundtable meeting on children's films, workshop and painting competition are part of the festival. Three eminent personalities -- Mustafa Monwar, chairman of Shishu Academy; Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Channel i and filmmaker Morshedul Islam -- will be honoured on the occasion for their outstanding contributions to children's cinema and entertainment.

The art of rhyme

'Kabigaan' in Magura



A duel of words between two rival bards.

PHOTO: STAR

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

A musical soiree featuring 'Kabigaan' (light songs in the form of questions and answers between duelling bards) was held on the night of October 6 at Botiakhali bazaar premises under Sreepur upazila of Magura district.

Botiakhali Puja Celebration Committee arranged the event. The programme was arranged on the occasion of Lakshmi Puja. "Celebrating this occasion with Kabigaan has been a longstanding tradition (for the last 67 years) in this area," said Shushanto Kumar, one of the organisers of the event.

A team led by Shyamol Kumar Mondal from Hurka village of Bagerhat district and another from Kotalipara village of Gopalganj district took part in the event which continued well into the midnight.

The performance, in the form questions and counter-questions with answers, went down exceedingly well with the audience, which had turned out in hundreds for the event.

A star in the making

Khudey Gaanraj finalist Asha performs in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Asha, one of the finalists of the musical talent hunt for children, 'Meridian Channel i Khudey Gaanraj,' entertained throngs of music lovers at Tunirhat Shahid Ziaur Rahman Degree College premises, under Sadar upazila in Panchagarh last Sunday evening.

Gaangriha Coaching Centre organised the programme on the occasion of a debate competition finale.

A discussion was part of the programme, where Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Nazrul Islam was chief guest. Principal of Tunirhat Shahid Ziaur Rahman Degree College, Muhammad Selim and general secretary of the district Krishak League, Md. Amirul Islam were special guests.

Tunirhat Union Parishad chairman Mozahar Ali presided over the programme.

After the discussion the young artiste Asha came up on stage. The huge crowd greeted the little performer with rounds of applause.

Viewers, who were seated far from the

stage, complained loudly that they could not see the artiste. The organisers then decided to have Asha sit on a chair on the stage, so everyone could see her.

The 'star in the making' started her performance with the classic, "Shudhu gaan geye porichoy".

Her repertoire also included "O pakhi

tor jantrona," "Panjabiwala," "Nani go nani" and others. She concluded her performance with "Amar ghum bhangaigelo".

Bangladesh Television and Radio artiste Rakhi Bhoomik, Puja Chowdhury and local artiste Majeda also sang at the programme.



Child artiste Asha sings at the musical programme in Panchagarh.

PHOTO: STAR

Novel about Henry VIII wins Booker Prize

Hilary Mantel won the 41st annual Man Booker Prize on Tuesday night for "Wolf Hall," a historical novel about Henry VIII's court centred on the king's adviser, Thomas Cromwell.

In the run-up to Tuesday's ceremony at the Guildhall in London, Mantel, 57, was the overwhelming favourite, with the bookmakers William Hill giving "Wolf Hall" odds of 10-11, the shortest odds ever for a nominee.

Mantel beat out the literary lions J. M. Coetzee and A.S. Byatt, both previous winners of the prize, and deprived Coetzee of the chance to become a three-time winner of the award. She was the first favourite to win since Yann Martel won for "Life of Pi" in 2002.

Accepting the award, Mantel said, "I had to interest the historians, I had to amuse the jaded palate of the critical establishment and most of all I had to capture the imagination

tion of the general reader."

James Naughtie, a BBC broadcaster who led the panel of judges, described "Wolf Hall" as "a thoroughly modern novel set in the 16th century," praising it for the way it "probes the mysteries of power by examining and describing the meticulous dealings in Henry VIII's court, revealing in thrilling prose how politics and history is

made by men and women."

The Man Booker Prize, Britain's most prestigious literary award, is conferred every year to a novel written by an author from Britain, Ireland or the Commonwealth nations. The award comes with a cheque for about \$80,000 and usually results in a bump in sales.

Mantel, who has written 10 novels, a collection of short

stories and a memoir, spent five years writing "Wolf Hall" and is already working on a sequel. This was her first time being nominated for the Booker Prize.

"Wolf Hall," published by Fourth Estate in Britain and Henry Holt & Company in the United States, was widely praised among reviewers. Writing in The New York Times on Monday, Janet Maslin said the book's "main characters are scorchingly well rendered," adding that "their sharp-clawed machinations are presented with nonstop verve in a book that can compress a wealth of incisiveness into a very few well-chosen words."

The shortlist of finalists for the award were Byatt for "The Children's Book," Coetzee for "Summertime," Adam Foulds for "The Quickening Maze," Simon Mawer for "The Glass Room," and Sarah Waters for "The Little Stranger."

Source: Internet



British author Hilary Mantel, winner of the 2009 Man Booker prize.