

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Film Screening

Film: You Are So Beautiful
Filmmaker: Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: July 9
Time: 6pm



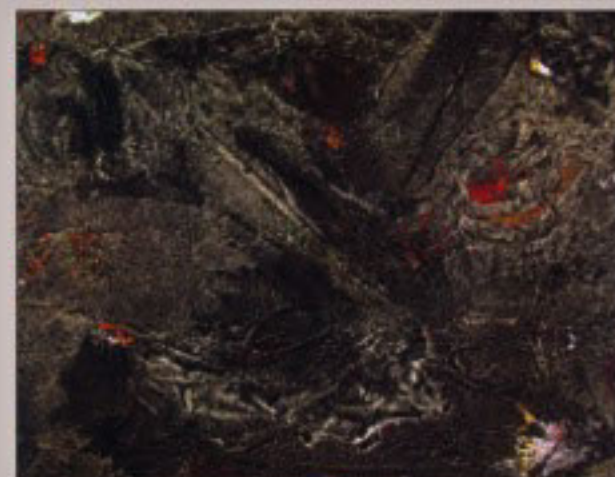
Theatre

Play: Norar Tin Konna
Troupe: Palakar
Venue: Experimental Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 4
Time: 7pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Painter: Niamul Bari
Title: Journey of the No
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: July 2-15
Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Immersed in Nature
Artist: Rezaun Nabi
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: July 2-13
Time: 12-8pm



Hason Raja---in his mystical element

In conversation with Akramul Islam

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

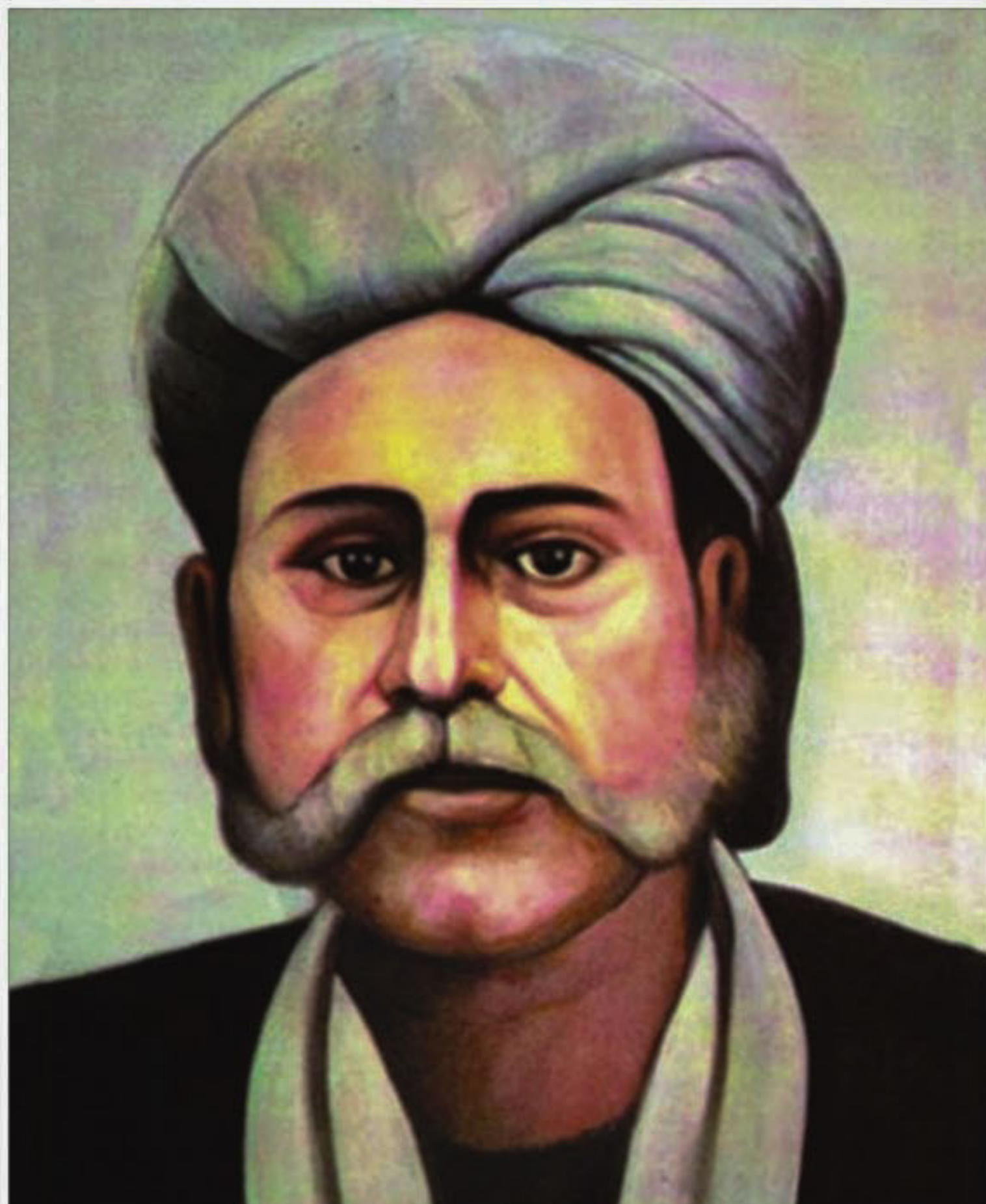
Akramul Islam stepped into the spotlight at the age of 22 with the famous song "Shona bondhey amarey deewana korilo, Na jani ki monro poru jadu korilo," written by the mystic poet Hason Raja. It was Islam who had composed the tune for the song and it has stuck to the listener's heart ever since.

Islam had been involved in music even prior to his prominence. He was a regular performer of *adhunik* songs on radio from the late '60s, even though it was not secret that his heart was set on taking the stage through the rich melodious folk music that seemed to have cast a spell on him ever since he first came across to the deeply philosophical lyrics of Hason Raja.

Hason Raja, was born in 1854 into a Zamindar family near Sunamganj, Sylhet. History suggests that much of his youth was spent in materialistic pursuits. After the death of his father Dewan Ali Raja, Hason became responsible for overseeing his family's vast property at an early age. Despite his age, he proved to be a very successful Zamindar, not only in administering the estate but also setting up a number of local schools, religious organisations, and providing for the needy in his community. At this stage, Hason Raja started to shun his worldly pleasures and went into a soul-searching phase. He started to question and search for answers to deeply rooted spiritual ideology. It was this mental awakening that drove him to compose philosophical works of literature that opened a whole new dimension in contemporary thinking.

Akramul Islam stumbled upon Hason Raja's work almost by fate. It was during the Liberation War in 1971, when Islam met Taimur Raja, the grandson of Hason Raja. The timing coincided with Islam's search for a new dimension in music that he could perform on the radio. Islam's encounter with Taimur Raja seemed almost heaven sent. The mutual respect for folk songs brought the two together, and at one point Taimur Raja lent Islam a book, which contained 191 rare songs written by his grandfather. It was no surprise that Islam found the kind of expressionism he was long searching for and in the time that followed, Islam found his new dimension in music through the works of Hason Raja.

Armed with Hason Raja's literature, Islam wholeheartedly started working to popularise this form of music. He



used his new position as programme producer at the Sylhet radio station in 1974 as a launch pad for his work. The songs, including *Lokey boley boley rey ghor bari balana amar*; *Shona*

bondhey amare deewana korilo; *Ankhi mudia dekho roop*; *Nesha lagilo rer banka dui noyone nesha lagilo rey*, quickly became very popular across the country even though they were

composed in traditional Sylheti dialect. These and many more of the works based on mysticism and spiritual romanticism came to form the bedrock of Hason Raja's folk songs and were subsequently published in his book *Hason Udas*.

Later, when Islam joined the Transcription Service of Radio Bangladesh Dhaka, the erstwhile Director, Shahidul Islam, also a great enthusiast of folk melodies, took interest in collecting the original songs that were fading fast. Akramul Islam in the latter part of his career also travelled to several countries in Europe and UAE singing his favourite Hason Raja songs. But all the effort to recover and preserve the songs went in vain since the spools simply decayed over the years due to negligence by the authority at the radio stations.

"It's a pity that Hason Raja's work was allowed to deteriorate from the heights in the early '70s when it seemed the songs were on everyone's lips. However we must credit the performers who helped spread Hason Raja's work such as noted singers Ujir Mian, Bidit Lal Das and Aarati Dhar.

"Bangladesh Loko Sangeet Parishad, established a decade ago, has been relentlessly carrying out programmes to draw the enthusiasts towards the folk genre. Under the able leadership of Indramohon Rajbonshi, (the founding president), several programmes such as songs of 100 poets, participated by 80 folk artists was held recently," he adds.

Despite the success of several programmes, Islam is frustrated at the lack of sponsorship needed to fully support the work of Hason Raja. "As our media sector continues to flourish both nationally and internationally, now is the opportune time to dedicate time and resources into reviving the work of the great poet," according to Islam.

"It's a matter of concern for me that currently in the name of popularising the traditional songs, the use of contemporary beat and orchestration has modified the melody and taken away the original essence of Hason Raja's work. This not only detracts the audience but also weakens the original feel of the songs. Similarly, of the several books published so far on the great poet, not all appear authentic," says Islam.

Hason Raja died in 1922, years before his contribution to the Bengali poetry was mentioned in lectures at Oxford University by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

In this age of global media, if we want Hason Raja to be once more the topic of discussions, it is up to the current generation of artists and patrons to respect the work of the legendary poet and properly nurture it for posterity.

The article is a reprint.



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--Akramul Islam

TV Watch

"Shimanto" on Desh TV tonight



Suborna Mostafa and Wahida Mallick Jolly in a scene from the TV play.

A CORRESPONDENT

TV serial "Shimanto" will be aired tonight on Desh TV at 8:15pm. The serial is written and directed by Badrul Anam Soud.

The story of the serial revolves around a merchant's family in a village. A gypsy (Bedey) mistakenly murders Azmat, a merchant, as he seeks his sister's killers. After his death, Azmat's younger brother comes forward to look after

the family.

The story takes a twist when the merchant's in-laws come to the younger brother's house. They want to bring back their daughter Rupa, so that they can marry her off again. Thinking about the family's future, Azmat's mother wants to marry off Rupa with Azmat's younger brother.

The cast includes Suborna Mostafa, Saberi Alam, Mamunur Rashid, Shams Sumon, Jitu Ahsan, Intekhab Dinar and Bonna Mirza.

"Jamai Mela" on Banglavisision

A CORRESPONDENT

TV serial "Jamai Mela" will be aired tonight on Banglavisision at 8:15pm. Written by Brindaban Das, the serial has been directed by Azharul Karim.

The story of the serial revolves around a village. Most of the males from the village live

abroad. As a result, the villager elders often marry off their daughters and keep the in-laws at their house. The story takes a twist, when one day the in-laws want to arrange a 'jamai mela'.

Mosharrar Karim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Shamim Zaman, Azizul Haque, Dr. Enamul Haque, Nova, Alvi, Dihan, Shahnaz Khushi and Putul are the lead characters in the serial.



Dihan as she appears in the serial.



ON AIR

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

ATN BANGLA

01:25 Musical Programme: Shurer Madhuri
02:30 Business Week
03:10 Sports Programme
03:45 Chardeyal-er Kabbo
05:30 Musical Programme
06:15 Law & Order
10:45 Documentary Programme
12:30 Grameenphone Lead News
CHANNEL i
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma
04:05 Muktijuddho Protidin

04:30 Amar Chhobi
05:30 Fan Club Tournament
06:20 Rangrup
12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shangbadpotro
ntv
12:50 Shastho Protidin
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey
05:30 Apnaar Jigyasha
06:10 Shubho Shondha
06:45 Ainer Chokhey
07:20 Sholo Ana Bangali Ana
09:00 Drama: Shada Rupkotha
ETV
02:02 Market Trend

02:30 Ekushey Business
03:30 Shonamoni Shukhey Ashukhey
04:30 Worldcup Mania
05:25 Sports Plus
05:45 Ei Shoptaheer Bishwa
06:30 Deshjurey Oporadh Porikroma
07:50 Musical Programme: Ta Na Na
10:10 Media Gossip
RTV
02:30 Bangla Feature Film
05:00 Bishwa Kaapey Football-ey
05:30 Prithibir Pathey Pathey Protidin
06:30 Musical Programme
07:00 Road to Democracy
11:10 Trade Talk
BANGLAVISION
10:10 Lal Golap
02:30 Bangla Feature Film
06:30 Selected Programme
11:25 Bishwacup Protidin

DESH TV
05:30 Durpaath
06:25 Shangkriti Protidin
07:45 Amra Dujon Dekhley Kemon
08:15 Drama: Jao Pakhi
11:45 Total Sports
HBO
09:30 Dennis The Menace Strikes Again!
11:00 Copperhead
12:30 The Mirror Has Two Faces
03:30 Most Wanted
05:30 Bats: Human Harvest
07:00 The Making Of Yes Man
07:30 Daddy Day Care
09:30 Yes Man
11:30 The Pacific S106: Part Six
STAR MOVIES
10:50 Phenomenon
01:00 Dunston Checks In
02:35 Meet Dave
04:10 Con Air
06:10 Zack & Miri Make A Porno
07:50 Ruslan
09:30 Nothing To Lose

11:15 Bangkok Dangerous
BBC WORLD
11:30 India Business Report
01:00 BBC World News
01:20 Spirit Of Yachting
02:00 BBC World News
02:30 Dateline London
03:30 Earth Report - Gambling On Laos
04:10 My Country: Greece
05:00 BBC World News
05:30 Newsnight
07:00 BBC World News
07:15 Sport Today
08:30 Heritage Heroes
09:10 Intelligence Squared Debate
10:00 BBC World News
10:30 India Business Report
11:00 BBC World News
11:30 Our World: Anti-gay in Uganda
12:00
BBC World News
ESPN
09:30 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa: Denmark vs. Japan

11:30 Indonesian Open Day 4
03:00 MotoGP World Championship 2010 - Main Race
07:00 2010 FIFA World Cup Review 5
08:00 2010 FIFA World Cup Magazine Show
08:30 Sportcenter Weekend
08:32 2010 FIFA World Cup Matchday Highlights
09:30 2010 FIFA World Cup Review 5
10:30 Sportcenter Weekend
10:32 2010 FIFA World Cup Matchday Highlights
12:30 Indonesian Open Day 4 H/Hs
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
07:30 Time Warp
11:30 Stunt Junkies
12:00 Operation Junkyard
02:30 Animal Face-Off
03:30 Dirty Jobs
05:30 My Shocking Story 5
06:30 Rampage!
10:30 The Greatest Ever

Talk show
ATN BANGLA
04:25pm Proshongo
Channel i
09:50am Grameenphone Tritiomatra
ntv
12:10am Talk Show: Ei Shomoy
DESH TV
12:00pm Shoja Katha
Drama Serial
ATN BANGLA
08:00pm Kagojer Ghor
08:40pm No Problem
09:20pm Leelaboti
11:30pm Amader Shangshar
ETV
08:20pm Gunin
09:30pm Lolita
RTV
09:00pm Briddhashrom
10:20pm Porshi Bari
BANGLAVISION
08:15pm Jamai Mela
09:45pm Hoi Hoi Roi Roi
CHANNEL i
07:50pm Choita Pagol
11:30pm Chandramagnon
DESH TV
08:15pm Shimanto
10:30pm Bhajokat

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 am.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).
CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN BANGLA
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am
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): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 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;
English Bulletin: 1:30pm, 7:30pm



Chaita Pagol
On Channel i at 7:50pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Mahfuz, Joya Ahsan, Badhon



Nothing To Lose
On Star Movies at 09:30pm
Cast: Martin Lawrence, Tim Robbins



Leelaboti
On ATN Bangla at 9:20pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Bindu, Shahiduzzaman Selim

10:00am Morning Express
12:30pm No Tension
04:00pm Dhaka Calling
09:00pm Full Volume
11:00pm Back to Back music
abc radio fm 89.2
06:00am Bhorer Janalay
09:00am Mokhurilo Jiboney
12:00pm Darun Dupurey
03:00pm Duranto Bikelley
05:00pm Shondha Tara
07:00pm Shajer Maya
09:00pm Raat-er Akashey
11:00pm Golper Shesh Nei
RADIO TODAY
07:15am Good Morning Dhaka
11:00am Musti Unlimited
01:00pm Today's Adda
04:00pm U Turn
08:00pm Tabey Tai Hok
RADIO FOORTI
07:30am Hello Dhaka
12:00am Today's Happy Moments