

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Master Painters
Artists: Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan, SM Sultan
Venue: Art Gallery, National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: October 8- November 6
Time: 10am-8pm



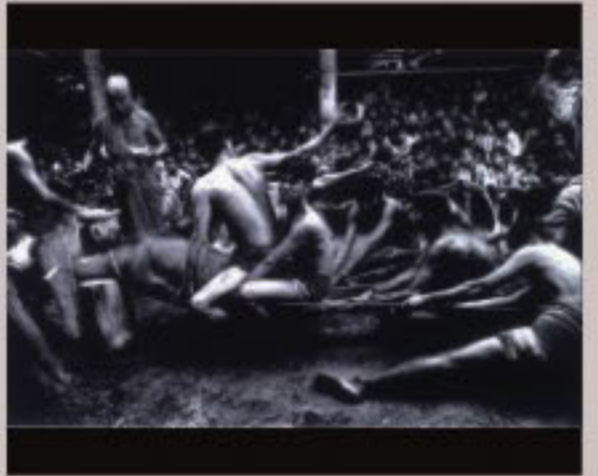
14th Asian Art Biennale 2010
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery (BSA) and Osmani Memorial Hall
Date: October 8- November 6
Time: 11am-7pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: Solidarities
International: Restoring Lives
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: October 2-15
Time: 3-9pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Sacrificing Lives to Debi Durga
Photographer: Saikat Mojumder
Venue: Malni Road, besides the river Mogra, Netrakona
Date: October 14-17
Time: 6:30pm



Fakir Lalon Shai ... 120 years on

The news of Fakir Lalon Shai's death was first published in the newspaper Grambartta Prakashika, run by Kanganal Harinath. The newspaper noted that Lalon died on October 14, 1890 at the age of 116. Based on that article, researchers point that Lalon was born in 1774. According to Bangla Calendar the day was Pahela Kartik.

Like many other traditional festivals and anniversaries, Lalon's death anniversary has also been observed according to Bangla Calendar, on Pahela Kartik. There are controversies about his birthplace but it is certain that he was buried at Chheuria, where the present-day Lalon Mela is held.

Born just 17 years after the Battle of Plassey, Lalon lived over a century under British rule. Though it is not apparent how the British Raj impacted Lalon's life and works, Lalon had a definite vision of major social reform. Apart from his mystic attributes, one of his main goals was to change a society riddled with religious bigotry.

Throughout his life, Lalon sang of a society where all religions and beliefs are in harmony.

Though Lalon is primarily identified as a mystic, philosopher, songwriter and composer, it wouldn't be an overstatement to term him a social reformer.

During Lalon's lifetime, undivided Bengal went through several historic events like the 'Chirashayi Bandobasto,' 'Titumir's Rebellion, and the Indigo Revolt. Some feel that Lalon, who didn't receive formal education, was not aware of those social changes. But there is a question mark on this theory. It would definitely make more sense for contemporary Lalon researchers to pursue this subject rather



than attempt to trace his religious background.

One of Lalon's contemporary social reformers was Kanganal Harinath (1833-1896). Researchers note that Lalon was a close friend of Harinath. Lalon also regularly visited the zamindar family of Shilaidaha. It is said that zamindar Jyotirindranath Tagore (elder brother of Rabindranath Tagore) sketched Lalon's portrait, which remains the only authentic document of Lalon's visage.

Lalon's philosophical expression, based on oral and textual traditions, was expressed in songs and musical compositions. The lyrics of his songs were explicitly meant to engage in the philosophical discourses of Bengal. He critically re-appropriated the various philosophical positions emanating from the legacies of Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Islamic

traditions, developing them into a coherent school of thought.

Lalon's songs have attracted widespread attention for their mystical approach to humanism as well as their melodious tunes. But even after 120 years of his death, we are yet to preserve all of his songs appropriately, though the government, corporate, NGOs and many individual researchers have been taking initiatives since the 1960s.

A common problem that arises during the documentation of any orally transmitted art form from the primary source is that nobody can claim his or her work to be absolutely authentic, since words change when it is transmitted from one singer to another. Lalon Geeti is no exception to the trend. According to his followers, Fakir Maniruddin Shah, a direct disciple of Lalon, used to note down the verses.

According to the experts and true bearers of Lalon's spirit, Lalon composed about 2,000 verses. However, many rural Bauls claim that Lalon composed over 10,000 songs. The problem is that years after Lalon's death, many pseudo Bauls have labelled songs composed by other Baul gurus as Lalon's.

There are different aspects of Lalon's personality and philosophy, but it would be easier to know him through his songs. If we do so it would be a true tribute to the great mystic Baul.

Lalon proclaimed that he was beyond caste. Yet some people have persisted in confining him to a particular faith.

Compiled by Staff Correspondent

Rooted Creativity-5 begins at Bengal Gallery



The participating painters at the press conference at Bengal Café.

A CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts has planned a yearlong programme that includes a series of 10 group art exhibitions. The fifth exhibition of this series titled "Rooted Creativity-5, began yesterday at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi. The exhibition will continue till October 26. The participating painters are Syed Abdullah Khalid, Biren Shome, Ifikhar Uddin Ahmed, Hashi Chakraborty, Tarun Kumar Ghosh, Ahmed Nazir, Rafi Haque, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Rezaul Karim and Tasadduk Hossain Dulu. About 40 artworks are on display at the exhibition.

Syed Abdullah Khalid is simultaneously a sculptor and painter. His paintings plunge deep into the magnificence of nature. Biren Shome's main concern is the Liberation War, Language Movement and the eternal beauty of Bangladesh. Ahmed Nazir's printmaking highlights the brutality of war.

Rafi Haque loves to explore the rich and symbolic world of colours and study the changeable nature of forms. He uses many geometrical forms and shapes in his works. Tarun Kumar Ghosh's paintings highlight folk and mythological stories of our subcontinent.

On the occasion of the exhibition, Bengal Gallery organised a press conference at Bengal Café. Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, artists Syed Abdullah Khalid, Biren Shome, Ahmed Nazir, Rafi Haq, among others, spoke on the occasion. Sarwar Jahan (assistant manager of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts) read out an essay on artworks of the participating painters.

Professor Nazrul Islam, chairman, University Grants Commission inaugurated the exhibition. Noted poet and critic Rabiul Hussain was present as the special guest and Muhammad Mamdudur Rashid, deputy managing director of BRAC Bank Ltd was present as guest of honour.

Remembering the mystic

Programme to observe the 120th death anniversary of Lalon

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A five-day programme has been chalked out to observe the 120th death anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shai at Chheuria Lalon Akhra in Kushtia. The programme starts from today.

Lalon Academy, an organisation consisting of elected people to oversee Lalon's shrine, is organising the programme in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Banglalink is the sponsor of the programme.

Kushtia district administration is supervising the event.

The programme includes a 'Lalon Mela,' discussion and rendition of songs by artistes of Lalon Academy and Bauls from across the country.

Information and Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad will inaugurate the programme. Abdul Mannan, Deputy



Lalon's shrine at Chheuria, the venue of the present-day Lalon Mela.

Commissioner of Kushtia, will preside over it.

Other valued guests to take part in the programmes

include State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Munnunjan Sufian; lawmaker of Kushtia-4, Begum Sultana Tarun; Director General of Bangla Academy Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan;

Kushtia Islamic University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. M. Alauddin and Secretary at the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Hedayatullah Al-Mamun, ndc.

For the Lalon Mela, the akhra has been colourfully decorated with thousands of stalls dotting the venue. Lalon Academy has organised food and lodging for the Bauls.

Several local organisations have also taken initiatives including free water supply and treatment for the Bauls. Taizal Ali Khan, general secretary of the Academy expressed the hope that the programme will run smoothly. Meanwhile, local law enforcement agencies have tightened up security arrangements.

Bauls and Lalon enthusiasts from the region and around the country have already reached the Lalon Akhra to attend the devotional event.

Cultural events in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Manikganj Sahitya O Sangskritik Sangsad arranged a cultural function at the Captain Abdul Halim Chowdhury auditorium in Manikganj Thursday evening.

Artistes of the organisation gave song and dance performances, among others. A major attraction was Close up-1 star Siddik who rendered several songs.

Earlier a discussion was held at the stage. Mahub Ahmed, Secretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports, was present as chief guest while Munshi Shahabuddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj, Mohammad

Masud Karim, Police Superintendent of Manikganj, Naimur Rahman Durjoy, former national cricketer and Azaharul Islam, writer, were the special guests.

Mohammad Romzan Ali, Mayor of Manikganj Municipality and advisor of the organisation, presided over the discussion while Nina Rahman, cultural personality, Romeza Akhter Khan Mahin, cultural personality, Professor Alamgir Hossain, president and Awlad Hossain, secretary of the organisation addressed the gathering.

They urged the public to come forward and build a society with strong foundations by participating in cultural events and sports.

| All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme. | | 10:10 Drama: Shoudamini | | Salma O Beauty | | 05:00 The House Bunny | | National Geographic | | Talk Show | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 12:02 Phone O Live Studio Concert | | 12:02 Phone O Live Studio Concert | | 02:35 Bangla Feature Film | 05:15 Boishakhi-CNN Shara Bishwa | 07:30 Scooby-Doo | 09:30 The Rise of The Lycans | 12:30 Nat Geo Women's Hour | 02:30 Nat Geo Specials | 09:20am Asian City | Tritomatra |
| RTV | | 02:30 Drama Series: Tourist | 04:30 Prithibir Pothey Pothey | 08:00 Documentary on Liberation War: Jagroto Ohongkar | 08:40 Drama | 09:30 The Rise of The Lycans | 11:00 Fast & Furious | 05:30 Monkey Thieves | 07:30 Most Amazing Moments | 11:05am Amader Aayna | |
| 12:05 Protidin-er Gaan | | 05:00 Cinema R Gaan | 06:00 Shustha Thakun Protidin | 10:45 Nirapod Shorok Chai | 11:45 Jegey Acho Ki | 09:30 The Chronicles of Narnia | | 08:30 Nat Geo Weekends | 10:30 India: Hostage To Terror | 12:30pm Citycell Taroka | |
| 02:30 Drama Series: Tourist | | 09:45 Look @ Me | 11:45 Jegey Acho Ki | ATN NEWS | | 06:05 Pirates of the Caribbean | | 09:30 India: Hostage To Terror | 10:30 Warrior Road Trip | | |
| 04:30 Prithibir Pothey Pothey | | BANGLAVISION | | 11:30 Sports Insight | | 09:30 Toy Story | | Discovery Channel | | Channel i | ntv |
| 05:00 Cinema R Gaan | | 12:05 Style File | | 02:15 Amader Katha | | 11:45 Friday the 13th Part VI | | 10:30 Building The Future | | 09:45am Grameenphone | 12:30am Ei Shomoy |
| 06:00 Shustha Thakun Protidin | | 03:00 Bangla Feature Film | | 05:15 Pramanno Shomoy | | Star Movies | | 11:30 Destroyed In Seconds | | | |
| 09:00 Golden Ratio | | 06:10 Gaan Ebong Fun | | 07:30 Saat Rang (Live) | | 11:40 Los Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs | | 03:30 Extreme Engineering | | | |
| 11:30 Rangoshala | | 11:30 Art Show: Laal Golap | | 08:30 Ei Banglaay | | 03:05 Keeping The Faith | | 06:30 Meerkats With Nigel Marven | | | |
| DESH TV | | 12:30 Boshudha Cinemar Gaan | | Diganta TV | | 07:00 Signs | | 08:30 Big Cats: Secret Lives | | | |
| 10:30 Khelar Shokal | | Drama: Golden Ratio | | 12:30 Score Cards | | 08:55 Poltergeist Iii | | 10:30 Man vs. Wild | | | |
| 12:00 Okal Bodhon | | Rangoshala | | 05:30 School Angina | | 10:40 Killshot | | BBC World | | | |
| 02:30 Bangla Feature Film | | ETV | | 06:30 Aparajita | | Star World | | 12:00 BBC World News | | | |
| 07:45 Durga Utshab-er Ananda Ayojon | | 11:30 Mukto Khobor | | 11:05 Desh Mahadesh | | 12:30 The Simpsons | | 12:30 Click | | | |
| HBO | | 01:30 Bangla Feature Film: Biraj Bou | | 11:30 Shindhu Hindol | | 01:30 How I Met Your Mother | | 02:10 Reporters | | | |
| 11:00 Beauty And Integrity | | 05:25 The Aim | | HBO | | 02:30 Friends | | 04:10 This Week | | | |
| 12:30 Jackie Chan's First Strike | | 06:30 Best of Dhum Ta Na | | 11:00 Beauty And Integrity | | 04:30 Best Of Koffee With Karan | | 05:30 Our World: Joining the Club | | | |
| 03:00 The Ugly Truth | | 07:50 CJAB Award | | 12:30 Jackie Chan's First Strike | | 06:30 The Simpsons | | 06:30 Fast Track | | | |
| | | | | 03:00 The Ugly Truth | | 08:30 VIP | | 07:30 Start Up Stories | | | |
| | | | | | | 09:30 Moment Of Truth | | 09:10 UK Report | | | |
| | | | | | | 10:30 Ugly Betty | | 11:00 Final Score | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

| News Bulletin | | 1:30pm. 5:00pm. 7:15pm. | | 7:30pm. 10:30pm. | | 09:00 Raat-er Akashay | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| BTB | | 1:30pm. 5:00pm. 7:15pm. | | 7:30pm. 10:30pm. | | 11:00 Golper Shesh Nei | |
| 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am | | 10:30pm. | | 1:00am | | RADIO FOORTI | |
| ATN BANGLA | | NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am | | NEWS (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm | | 08:00 Addabazi | |
| NEWS (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm. | | NEWS (English) at 6:00pm | | abc radio | | 02:00 Foorti Unlimited | |
| Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels). | | NEWS (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm. | | 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 | | 06:00 Bumper to Bumper | |
| CHANNEL-i | | BANGLAVISION | | | | 10:00 Back to Back music | |
| NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am, | | NEWS (Bangla) at 7:30am. | | | | RADIO TODAY | |
| | | | | | | 07:15 Good Morning Dhaka | |
| | | | | | | 11:00 Musti Unlimited | |
| | | | | | | 01:00 Today's World Music | |
| | | | | | | 04:00 U Turn | |
| | | | | | | 08:00 Tobey Tai Hok | |
| | | | | | | 11:00 Raat Bhor Gaan | |