

WHAT'S ON

Folk Festival
Organiser: The Daily Star
Venue: Sakhi Sala, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: January 28
Time: 4pm-9pm

100th Show of 'Raarang'
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadali
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 22-23
Time: 6:30pm

Art Exhibition
Reprint of Rabindra Artworks
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban, Dhammond
Date: January 21-28
Time: 10am-8pm

Retrospective Exhibition
Artist: Mehedi Hassan
Venue: Santo-Marino University, H-18-20, Sector-3
Date: January 19-25
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Salma Akbar
Venue: ICC, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: January 21
Time: 6:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Gallery Basilio, H-300, R-19b, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: January 14-29
Time: 10am-8pm

Aerial Photography
Photographer: Yoni Artsh-Bertrand
Organiser: US Bangladesh Foundation and Newup
Venue: South Plaza, National Parliament
Date: December 19-February 19

Solo Tapestry Exhibition
Artist: Tajul Islam
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhammond
Date: January 3-22
Time: 12pm-8pm

Festival of Colours
Venue: Bengal Shilpala, H-275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhammond
Date: January 14-22
Time: 12-8pm

IN FOCUS



PHOTO COURTESY: G. R. SOHAL

Ramkanai Das is a great singer of our country. Many do not fully comprehend what the words 'great singer' denote... Once I asked some advanced level students of Chhayanaut who they thought was the greatest singer of our musical history. Some mentioned Mehedi Hassan, while some said Abdul Alim. No one referred to Tansen. They were not familiar with Abdul Karim Khan, Faiyaz Khan or Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

-- Waheedul Haque

JAMIL MAHMUD

Haque, considered one of the pioneering music exponents and cultural activists of the country, also expressed his admiration of Das' talent as a Khayal singer. The late exponent also referred to Das' impressive repertoire of folk music that had become a part of his family tradition.

Das affirms that Waheedul Haque, whom he treated as one of his mentors, had a great influence over him.

Pandit Ramkanai Das was born in 1935 in Sunamganj. Das' family has been preserving and practicing folk music for generations. His parents Rashiklal Das and Dibyomoy Das, grandfather Prakash Chandra Talukdar and great grandfather Ramcharan Talukdar were all renowned bards of the greater Sylhet region.

Pandit Das exclusively focused on his family tradition until Kazi Nazrul Islam's raga-based numbers opened a new window to him. Das gradually moved from folk to classical music.

However, he never forgot his roots. Throughout his illustrious life the Pandit has dedicated himself to popularising folk music, especially the treasure trove of traditional Sylheti songs.

Though an ardent follower of both classical and folk music, Pandit Das classifies them with different attributes. He considers folk songs to be the essence of his soul. To him, folk song is the 'language', while classical is the 'grammar'.

"Grammar is essential to learn a language thoroughly but it is not a must, as you can say

RAMKANAI DAS

A Lifelong Devotion to Songs from Sylhet

that before learning grammar a child can speak," said the veteran singer.

He added, "In a greater sense, music has no class limitations. You can choose classical or folk or whatever you want. But first you have to understand what you want. The important thing is to get accustomed to the tune and then you can decide where you want to apply it."

Pandit Das also finds similarities between classical and folk music. In his view similarities between classical Dhrupad and *Ghatu Gaan* are noticeable. He said, "Dhrupad is a polished version of folk songs that were sung in villages near the royal court of Agra."

Pandit Das has collected numerous folk songs, especially of his parents, from his elder sister Sushama Das, who herself is a well-known folk singer.

So far the veteran artiste has released four folk and a classical album. His debut album, titled "Bonder Banshi Baje", was released by Commitment Productions in 2005, at the age of 70. Bengal Foundation has released two of his albums, titled "Shurdhunir Kinarae" and "Oshomoye Dhorlam Pari". The other album, titled "Pagla Majhi", was launched by Laser Vision. The only classical album by Pandit Das was released by Shurer Mela.

The folk albums by Pandit Das feature songs of different bards, including his parents, as well as some anonymous ones. Songs covered by the seasoned artiste are of Radha Ramon Dutta, Rashiklal Das, Dibyomoye, Jogendra, Haricharan, Adharchan and Hason Raja.

"We have a tradition of folk music that dates back thousands of years. We should focus on this, otherwise this tradition will become extinct," he said.

In this connection Pandit Das cited genres

such as *Ghatu Gaan*, *Gazir Gaan*, *Noukbaicher Gaan*, *Kobi Gaan*, *Fakir Gaan* and *Akheri Chetan* as well as bards such as Haricharan, Kamaluddin, Azim Shah, Madhusudan, Shitalgang Fakir, Ramjoy, Lala and Ramcharan.

Pandit Das finds a decline in the practice of traditional songs. He believes that if this situation continues, our culture will suffer an identity crisis. He is less hopeful about the future of present-day folk song traditions in the greater Sylhet region. He finds that banal songs have been produced in a large number instead of quality ones.

He also finds that collective efforts are diminishing and solo performers are coming up in large numbers, which the Pandit regards as a violation of an old tradition. "Baula Gaan (not Baul Gaan) has a great tradition of being performed by a group of people. Nowadays, this tradition is on the wane."

Nevertheless, he is hopeful about the future. "There are still remarkable songs, which are performed across the Sylhet region. We should take necessary steps to preserve them immediately," he said.

The singer is writing his autobiography, which will be published at the forthcoming Ekushey Book Fair. Pandit Ramkanai Das runs a music school named Sangeet Parishad, which has a branch in New York. His daughter runs the school in New York. Das' son, Pinu Sen Das, is an accomplished tabla player and a teacher at Chhayanaut.

N.B. The quote by Waheedul Haque is taken from the flap of Pandit Ramkanai Das' album "Shurdhunir Kinarae". It is a rough translation.

The Voice of the People

Street theatre festival at Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A two-day street theatre festival began in Rajshahi centering on the demand for the trial of war criminals and the necessity of keeping citizens informed about the authentic history of Bengal.

The festival staged two dramas that drew a large audience of young people to the open air stage on the banks of the Padma in the city on Sunday afternoon.

Association for Cultural Education (ACE) staged "Tribunal", a street theatre which portrayed some of the gruesome incidents of murder, torture and rape that occurred during the Liberation War of 1971.

The play is a hard hitting commentary on the plight of families and friends of the 1971 victims who are still grieving the loss of their kinfolk and the failure to try the war criminals even forty years after the Liberation War because of conspiracies by pro-Pakistan forces.

Azmal Huda Mithu of ACE developed the script of the drama based on a theme, conceived by Faruk.

Rajshahi Theater staged "Bono Kyabbo", a drama by young local playwright Ashraf Kabir Liton.

The 32-minute satirical play depicts how the younger generation has failed to know Bangladesh's true history, an outcome of the dearth of resources and apathetic educational policies.



Bangladesh Patha Natok Parishad organised the festival in association with The Daily Star.

PHOTO: STAR

The festival was inaugurated by Fazlul Haque, editor of a local Bengali daily 'Sonar Desh'. Freedom fighter Borjahan Ali and Rajshahi University teacher Moly Bhoumik addressed the inaugural session.

Bangladesh Patha Natok Parishad organised the festival with The Daily Star as a sponsor to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh and the 20th year of the leading English daily.

Rhyme festival ends



Lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor speaks at the Chhorha Utshab

PHOTO: STAR

TAFSILULAZIZ, Kishoreganj

A two-day rhyme festival with the title Kishoreganj Saptam Chhorha Utshab (7th rhyme festival) ended on January 15 at the local Samabay community centre in the town.

The festival began on Friday with the title 'Sundar Agami Lokke Chhorha Hok, Progarit Pokkhe'. The event, inaugurated by reciter Sukumar Barua, ended with a speech by chief guest Asaduzzaman Noor, MP.

Earlier, on Friday, a colourful rally was organised and a drama staged.

With Ahmed Ullah, convener of Kishoreganj 7th Rhyme Festival in the chair, among those who addressed the gathering were Mohammad Siddiqi Rahman, DC of Kishoreganj; Mir Rezaul Alam, SP of Kishoreganj; Mohammad Anisuzzaman and Nora Alam Siddiqui.

Catching the Wind

Kite Festival

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

septuagenarians who had turned out to witness the event. As many as 264 participants from the different areas of the city and around joined the day long event, said Ward Councilor Azadur Raman Azad, who organised the event.

City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran formally inaugurated the programme, while Ward councillors, cultural activists, students and teachers of school and colleges joined in the fun. Starting at 11 am, the event continued till 4 pm.

"We did not anticipate such a huge response and participation," said an elated Azad. "We will now try to organise the event every year," he added.

Paroshi Kumar Dey, Habib Ullah and Jharu Miah won the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively, while 10 others were also given prizes.

The festival drew minors as well as septuagenarians who had turned out in droves to witness the event.

PHOTO: STAR



The festival drew minors as well as septuagenarians who had turned out in droves to witness the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Unforgettable Dramatist

Third death anniversary of Selim Al Deen

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

On the third death anniversary of Selim Al Deen on Friday, theatre artistes recalled the noted dramatist. A discussion was held at Pabna Drama Circle premises on Friday night focusing on the contribution of Selim Al Deen to the theatre arena.

President of the organisation, Pradip Sanyal Gopal chaired the programme. Among the theatre artistes who spoke on the occasion were Firoz Khandaker, Mostafizur Rahman Russell, Bhaskar Chakrabarty, Sarwar Ullash

and Cynthia Rahman. The speakers focused on the contribution of Deen to theatre.

Selim Al Deen introduced modern technology and brought about a revolutionary change in the theatre movement in Bangladesh. Deen brought out the full potential of artists, said the speakers.

Salim Al Deen introduced the Gram Theatre Federation that brought about revolutionary change in the theatre movement. We need more such men like him for the development of our theatre, they added.

Earlier the theater artists paid homage with floral wreaths on portrait of Selim Al Deen.

Slipping into Roles

In conversation with Mir Sabbir



A CORRESPONDENT

The popular serial 'Moqbul' is to be aired tonight at 8 on ATN Bangla. Written by Kamrul Hasan, the serial is directed by Mir Sabbir. The Daily Star (TDS) talked to the well known actor in the phone. Excerpts from the conversation:

TDS: Where are you right now?
Mir Sabbir: I'm in Sylhet for shooting.

TDS: People used to call you Akkaz after your performance in 'Bishkataka'. What do they call you now?
Mir Sabbir: People have been calling me Moqbul ever since the serial went on air. As an artiste, I think it's a great achievement.

TDS: Can you tell us about an incident that occurred while shooting the serial?
Mir Sabbir: There are many stories. Once we were shooting in Agargaon for a scene where I beg on the streets. But no one could recognise me under my makeup. I also earned quite a lot as a beggar.

TDS: You have been recently facing some dental problems?
Mir Sabbir: I have to wear false teeth for the shooting of 'Moqbul'. But it's rather difficult to eat till the shooting is over. This has been causing some problems.

TDS: How will you view yourself as a director?
Mir Sabbir: It is a tough question to answer. Only the viewers and critics can assess my directorial skills.

TDS: Is this a busy time for you?
Mir Sabbir: I have a very busy schedule. Currently, half a dozen of my serials are being aired, while I'm also working in six new serials.

Social Network Big Winner at Golden Globes

AP, Beverly Hills

It seems only fitting that, at a Golden Globes ceremony where the host humorously insulted nearly every A-lister in the room, the big winner was a movie about a guy who rises up everyone on campus with his new and invasive website.

And that's exactly what Ricky Gervais, and "The Social Network" did Sunday night.

Sure, all the winners you expected won all the awards you figured they would. Besides best drama, "The Social Network," about the founding of Facebook, won for David Fincher's direction, Aaron Sorkin's script and the score from Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross. After receiving top honours from critics groups coast to coast, this resounding victory positions the film as the front-runner at the Academy Awards.

Oscar nominations will be announced January 25, with the ceremony itself set for February 27.

But Sunday's show was full of predictable moments, too. The expected winners in the dramatic acting categories all walked away with statues: Colin Firth as the stammering

King George VI in "The King's Speech," Natalie Portman as a ballerina teetering on the brink of madness in "Black Swan," and Christian Bale and Melissa Leo for their supporting roles in the boxing drama "The Fighter." "The King's Speech" went into the night with the most nominations, seven, but only won that one award.

On the musical or comedy side, the top film was "The Kids Are All Right," about a lesbian couple trying to keep their family together, which was also the front-runner in its category. Its star, Annette Bening, won best actress. Best actor in a musical or comedy went to Paul Giamatti as a curmudgeon in "Barney's Version."

Portman thanked the film's choreographer, her fiancé Benjamin Millepied, with whom she's expecting a child.

"Toy Story 3," the top-grossing film released last year and the second sequel to 1995's digital animation pioneer "Toy Story," won the Globe for animated films, making Disney's Pixar Animation unit five-for-five in the category since it was added in 2006. Past Pixar winners are "Up," "WALL-E," "Ratatouille" and "Cars."

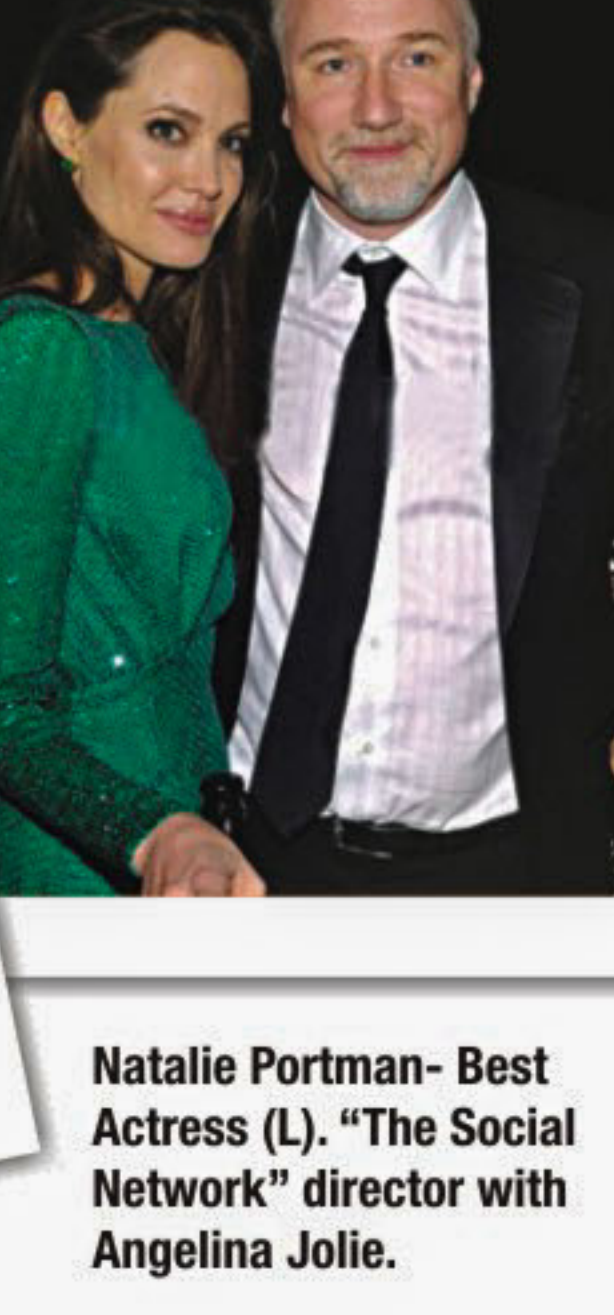
"Wow, were you two even born when the first 'Toy Story' came out?" "Toy Story 3" director Lee Unkrich said to his

award's presenters, 16-year-old pop star Justin Bieber and 14-year-old Hailee Steinfeld, co-star of the hit Western "True Grit."

Among TV winners, "Glee" won three prizes, best comedy and supporting-acting prizes for Jane Lynch and Chris Colfer. "Boardwalk Empire" won two prizes, for best drama and dramatic actor for Steve Buscemi.

The Globe ceremony traditionally had a strong track record as a forecast for what film would win best picture at the Oscars. But the two shows have split in recent times, with only one top Globe recipient--2008's "Slumdog Millionaire"--also winning the main prize at the Oscars over the past six years.

A year ago, the sci-fi sensation "Avatar" won best drama at the Globes, but the Iraq War saga "The Hurt Locker" took best picture at the Oscars.



Natalie Portman- Best Actress (L), "The Social Network" director with Angelina Jolie.



"Glee" team. PHOTO COURTESY: GETTY IMAGES

ATN BANGLA	12:15 Off Time	12:30 Binodon Sangbad
	04:25 Bangjo Mela Protidin (Live)	Shudhu Cnemaar Gaan
	10:45 Bihongo Katha	Diganta TV
	12:30 Gramerphone Lead News	12:30 Score Cards
		03:30 Shahtyalap
		05:30 Shur Shurobhi
		06:05 Dosh Diganta
		08:05 Lime Light
		10:00 Prime Time
CHANNEL i	01:05 Ebong Cnemaar Gaan	Z Studio
	02:30 Bangla Feature Film	
	07:50 Khude Gaanraj	01:30 Pirates of the Caribbean
	Banglalink Jagoronar Gaan	05:35 Sannam Wedding
		07:35 Scorp
	12:00 Gramerphone Aaljer Shanganbotro	09:30 Mission Impossible III
		Breaking and Entering
ntv		Star Movies
	04:10 Janar Achhey Bolbar	12:20 Anacardas
	Achhey	02:05 A Dangerous Man
		03:45 Deal
	05:30 Aaljer Jiggasha	05:30 Janky Promoters
	06:10 Shubho Shondha	08:45 The Spirit
	09:00 Gamar World	11:30 Advocate's Devil
	11:30 Drama	

RADIO	
abc radio FM 89.2	12:00 My Time
96.00 Biner Jangal	01:00 No Tension
99:00 Mukhorho Jibney	04:00 Dhaka Calling
12:00 Daran Dupurey	09:00 Night Rider
05:00 Duranto Bireley	01:00 Back to Back music
05:00 Sheshdharaz	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
09:00 Shajer Maya	11:00 Most Unlimited
09:00 Raat-er Akashy	01:00 Today's Adda
11:00 Goner Shesh Nei	04:00 U Tum
18:00 Morning Express	06:00 Today Talk Hour
	11:00 Raat Bhor Gaan

Khude Gaanraj
ON CHANNEL i at 07:50pm
Musical Talent Hunt
Judges: Ferdous Ara, Samina Chowdhury, Si Tutul

Mission Impossible III
On 2 Studio at 09:30pm
Genre: Action/Adventure
Cast: Tom Cruise, Michelle Monaghan

Raat Biratey
On Bangladeshion at 11:30pm
Street Show
Guest: Fahmida Nabi

ETV
04:30 Elating Belating
05:30 Binodoner Bishwa
06:30 Desh Jurey Shinglap
11:45 Janotar Katha

Desh TV
04:30 Bajary Notun Durgaph
07:45 Binodon Dunya
10:30 Bhojokot
12:30 Total Sports

BANGLAVISION
03:05 Cnebit Shadkalo
06:05 Sports Time
09:10 Garbo: Gao Pran Khuley Gao
11:30 Raat Biratey
12:30 Bashudha Cnemaar Gaan

Boishakhi TV
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
04:15 Shorashori Doctor
05:15 Boishakhi-CNN
Sharakidwa
Boishakhi Shongskriti O

DRAMA SERIAL
ATN BANGLA 09:20pm Air Com
08:00pm Madhobi Wila
10:10pm Shal Pandit
CHANNEL i 10:10pm Desh TV
08:15pm Connet
09:45pm Murti
BANGLAVISION 04:15pm Swapno Chura
08:20pm Ek E Shunno Desh
09:15pm Mad Bhai
Rtv 06:00pm Angshik Shada Kalo
09:15pm Shamporko

NEWS BULLETIN
BTV News (Bangla) at 8:00 am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm,
4:00 pm, 10:00 pm,
News (English) at 10:00am,
10:30pm,
News Headlines (Bangla) at
10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm,
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) 7:00 am,
9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 6:00 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
01:00pm, 2:00pm, 04:00pm
News (English) 9:00 am,
6:00 pm.
BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 7:30am,
10:30am,
News Headlines (Bangla) at
10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
News (English) at 6:00pm
Rtv 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

TALK SHOW
ATN BANGLA 11:10am Asian City Vision
2020
06:20pm Kathamala
CHANNEL i 09:45am Gramerphone
Titto Matza
12:30pm Civeyeli Taraka
Kathon
ETV 10:10pm Galpo Shalpo Gaan
ntv 12:10am Ei Shomoy
Rtv 08:30pm Meet Democracy
Boishakhi TV 10:50pm Saakthon
Desh TV 11:45pm Shuja Katha