

WHAT'S ON

Documentary Screening
Documentary: The Speech
Venue: SUST Auditorium,
Sylhet
Date: April 26
Time: 5:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Symphony of Colours
Artist: Syed Abdullah Khalid
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20,
R-16, S-4, Uttara
Date: April 12-29
Time: 1am-7:30pm

Grand Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, DCC
Market, Gulshan-2
Date: April 1-30
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Photo Exhibition
Title: A Dream of Venice
Photographer: Stephan Rabold
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10,
Rd 9, Dharmadoli
Date: April 15-May 10
Time: 10am-8pm

Dhaka Street Theatre Fest
Organiser: Patho Natak
Parishad
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: April 19-25
Time: 4pm onwards

Baishakhi Mela
Organiser: BSCIC
Venue: Bangla Academy
premises
Date: April 14-24
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Laisa Ahmed Lisa
Venue: IGCC, H-24, R-2,
Dharmadoli
Date: April 22
Time: 6:30pm

Solo Photo Exhibition
Photographer: Bishu Nandi
Venue: Creative Destination,
H 20, Rd 1, Sec 3, Uttara
Date: April 16-20
Time: 3-8pm

Parvathy Baul: Meditation in Motion

KAVITA, New Delhi

At a recent concert in New Delhi, Parvathy Baul sang and danced with the minimal folk instruments -- ektara, duggi (a clay drum) and nupur (anklets). Though Bangladesh and West Bengal are well acquainted with Bauls like Parvathy, her performance in New Delhi left the audience somewhat mystified. While droves of people were seen leaving the auditorium, Parvathy managed to keep the rest in thrall despite the language barrier.

"Bauls do not perform so much as make a journey. I call it meditation in motion because while it looks like a lot of movement, the process of all the singing is to arrive at the point of stillness," says the 34-year-old Parvathy.

On the heels of her Delhi performance, Parvathy was to wing her way for a concert in Singapore. As for the future, she plans to travel a little in the villages of Madhya Pradesh in central India to learn about the music traditions of the Naths (closely associated with Kabir, the ancient mystic poet-saint of India). Later she is to perform in Pondicherry in South India, before going on to distant Canada and Switzerland.

Parvathy -- singer, painter and storyteller -- calls herself a wanderer on a never ending road. For her it has been a doubly pitted road because she is one of the few women to adopt the Baul way of life and style of singing. "I wanted to take the path of 'sadhana', the world of expression," she explains.

Based in the Nedumangad village in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, South India, where she lives with her puppeteer husband, she spent her early years in West Bengal. Though Mousumi Parial, as she was then known could have lived a cushy existence, 12 years ago she decided to travel to meet masters of Bengali music traditions as part of her search for Baul songs and its practice. She had two main guides or what she calls 'vidya' (knowledge) guru: Santanan Das Bau from Bankura district in West Bengal and Shashank Goswami who left his earthly body at the age of 100.

The conversation switches to a comparison of the Baul songs in West Bengal and Bangladesh. While Baul music in West Bengal and Bangladesh has similarities, she says, there is a point of departure. A West Bengal Baul song, she points out, has a lot of 'prabhav' or influence of Bhairavi and the dance is much more active because the Bauls have a strong tradition of the devotional Padabali Kirtan. On the other hand, Baul songs in Bangladesh trace their origin to Bhatiali (boat-man's songs), she says.

"Baul music requires a lot of hard work. Finally you arrive at a point when everything becomes simple and as natural as drinking water," she concludes.



PROMOTING RURAL CRAFTSMANSHIP

BSCIC Baishakhi Fair at Bangla Academy



JAMIL MAHMUD

On the occasion of Pahela Baishakh, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) arranges a fair every year. The fair has no particular assigned venue; this year it is being held at the Bangla Academy premises in

Dhaka. The fair started on Pahela Baishakh (April 14) and will continue till April 24. It includes nearly 100 stalls, featuring rural, traditional items as well as everyday knick-knacks. The fair is seemingly popular with the urban consumers as evident from the

impressive turnout everyday. Metal craftsman Manik Sarkar, who is participating at the fair for the first time, said that the turnout is more than his expectation but sales are not satisfactory. Sarkar said the reason behind this might be the prices of his items. He sells bronze and copper items -- prices of which range from Tk 100 to 30,000. Metal jugs, mugs, plates, showpieces, miniature statues are main attractions at Sarkar's stall.

"The prices of raw materials have gone up so much that sometimes I think I should quit this profession," said Sarkar, who has a shop at Mahakhali, Dhaka. Sarkar said that authorities should take necessary steps immediately to save this craft.

To encourage the rural artisans, every year the mela authority sets apart a space for them. This year, 10 such stalls have been allocated. The stalls feature artisans' works

involving bamboo, wood, shola, jute, cotton etc.

Amal Malakar of Magura is one of the artisans who work on shola (cork). Malakar said that he has been attending the fair every year since its beginning. His items include handmade fans, artificial flowers, necklace, birds etc. Malakar has a retail and wholesale business in Magura that run quite well. This is his ancestral profession.

Beauty Begum from Pirgachha, Rangpur is another rural artisan who produces jute and cotton-based items. She offers everyday household objects such as tablecloth and floor mat. Beauty said that nearly 200 artisans work at her small industry, most of whom are rural women. Like Malakar, she also has a wholesale and retail business in Pirgachha.

Traditional Baishakhi food items such as batasha, kodma,

jilapi, shondesh are also available at the fair. A stall is selling these delicious sweet treats, priced at Tk 160-200 per kg.

A couple of stalls also feature items from the sea -- shell necklaces, showpieces made of coral etc. The artisans are from Cox's Bazar.

Apart from the beautiful handicrafts, bonus attractions are daily cultural programmes (at the Nazrul Mancha); puppet show; nagor dola and merry-go-round. A ticket to the puppet show costs Tk 20; the show runs for 30 minutes.

BSCIC's initiative of promoting these traditional items at the heart of the metropolis is commendable. But many of the artisans feel that the authorities should be more sincere and committed to them.

The mela is open everyday from 10am to 8pm.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Nobo Gaane Nobo Praane

Rediscovering Rabindra Sangeet

RAISAA TASHINOVA

As a part of the 'Rediscovering Tagore' Festival, celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, a talent hunt, titled "Nobo Gaane Nobo Praane" is now being aired on Channel i. This music show, conceptualised and created by British Council (with Grameenphone as the principle partner), is a step towards introducing Tagore and his compositions in a new light to the younger generation. Apart from this TV show, the 'Rediscovering Tagore' festival also includes a creative writing workshop showcase, a poetry competition (in association with The Daily Star), a dance drama and a fashion show. The Daily Star is the communication partner of the festival.

With endorsements by renowned Rabindra Sangeet singers such as Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnyia, Bulbul Islam and Papia Sarwar -- as judges on the show -- in addition to up and coming British sarod player Shoumik Datta, this music competition aims to highlight the timeless, universal appeal of Tagore's music with a contemporary twist.

"Tagore's music has been confined to a certain era. The clothes, the posture, the instruments used, are often considered 'out of date' (in some cases) by the young music enthusiasts, causing them to lose interest in this unique and beautiful art form," says Eeshita Azad, project manager, Arts and Skills, British Council.

"Interestingly, Tagore, himself, was a man who wanted his work to remain contemporary," she adds.

The top music schools from all over the country were invited to the show and 40 aspiring singers were selected to battle it out on screen. The reality show, consisting of 10 episodes, will go on till the end of July and within this period these singers will entertain the TV audience with renditions of Rabindra Sangeet in a more contemporary style, keeping the original lyrics and tunes intact.

"I imagine that the show might generate some controversy and spark debates as to where Tagore and his work fit in today's world," says Shoumik Datta. "In this age of Hip Hop and RnB music where mp3 downloads have taken over the music industry, Rabindra Sangeet, if it has to survive and thrive, must move ahead with the times. And indeed the bard wanted this -- for his work to constantly evolve and adapt to the times," he adds.

Rabindranath Tagore was renowned for his liberal views and open mindedness. He was known for his revolutionary ideas which sparked many controversies at the time. He was a man who disregarded boundaries, having created the national anthems of two nations, and had said that in art there stands no barrier.

The show is British Council's effort to rekindle interest in Tagore's remarkable lyrics among the young. "Many establishments have sadly stagnated the evolution of Tagore's work, making it appear backdated," Shoumik Datta regretfully says, "but I believe through initiatives like this, the bard's songs will find new audiences for centuries to come."



(Top) Judges on the show; contestants with Eeshita Azad (front row-2nd from left).

Manoj Murali and Santanu Bandopadhyay to perform at IGCC



A CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), High Commission of India, Dhaka is holding a musical soiree featuring Rabindra Sangeet by Manoj Murali Nair and Hindustani classical vocal music by Santanu Bandopadhyay today at 6:30pm. The programme will be held at IGCC in Gulshan.

Manoj Murali Nair has established himself as an exponent of Rabindra Sangeet. Originally from

South India, Manoj has earned a reputation for moving his audience through his soulful renditions of Rabindra Sangeet. The artist spent his early years in Shantiniketan and graduated in Indian classical music from Visva Bharati University.

Santanu Bandopadhyay received primary training in Hindustani classical music from his late grandfather and father. He studied vocal music (particularly Khayal) from the Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata.



A Tradition Losing Popularity

Bull-fight by the Brahmaputra river

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A bull-fight held by the Brahmaputra river near Mymensingh town on April 16 created much excitement among the huge audience. Barsho Boron Udjappon Parishad organised the programme.

A total of 16 bulls were brought for the fight from Durgapur and Kendua (in Netrokona), Iswarganj, Nandail, Gouripur, and Phulpur (in Mymensingh).

People in thousands, including a good number of women, thronged the venue to enjoy the bull-fight, a traditional form of entertainment -- now not getting much exposure.

Fazlu from Nandail, owner of a winning bull said, "We actually participate in various occasions. Prizes do not matter."

Habu Miah from Kendua (Netrokona), another bull owner said,



PHOTO: STAR

"Once village fairs were inconceivable without bull-fights but now the scenario has changed totally. We want to preserve this tradition for the next generation."

Mahmud Anis, a college teacher who had arrived at the venue with his family

members to enjoy the fight said, "We must return to our roots by reviving our virtually lost traditions."

Traditions and heritage form the identity of a nation, opined Rifat Morshed, another college teacher. Advocate Nazrul Islam Chumnu and

Fayzur Rahman Fakir were the judges of the event.

A discussion was held on the occasion. State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Advocate Promod Mankin was the chief guest. Principal Motiur Rahman MP was the special guest.

The speakers told the audience that bull-fighting, a common source of entertainment in the past, is rapidly heading towards oblivion. There was a time when people used to lean towards fights, cock-fights, kabi gaan, jari gaan but now the interest in such entertainment has declined due to the aggression of satellite TV culture, they pointed out, asserting that the younger generation should come forward to help revive the traditions that bear our identity as Bengalis.

The Daily Star

Celebrating Life 2011

Film Making Workshop

Celebrating Life 2011 has been launched again in all three categories: Film, Photography and Lyrics. But, this year, the competition has transcended its definition to include capacity building to elevate the quality of participation and production under the banner of Celebrating Life. Celebrating Life is in its 4th year, and over the last three, the organizers have come to realize that despite an immense interest in film making, there exists a tremendous lack of capacity in film making. Therefore, in 2011, the film and the lyrics components will include workshops prior to the contest in order to enable creative minds to be able to produce better and more professional films and songs.

The three resource persons for the Celebrating Life 2011 Film Making Workshops are Amitabh Reza, Nurul Alam Aliq and Mesba Ur Rahman Sumon.

The overarching theme for Celebrating Life 2011 is 'Celebrate the Gifts of Nature and the Rivers of Bangladesh'.

About the film workshop

For three months, July to September 2011, three media personalities will serve as the resource persons for film making workshops. The workshops will not only be theoretical, but will also include actual productions in the last month. Three groups will produce three films, under the closer supervision and direction of the resource persons themselves. The workshops represent a tremendous opportunity for budding film makers and freshers who are interested in film making to learn the process of professional film making step by step.

The three resource persons for the Celebrating Life 2011 Film Making Workshops are Amitabh Reza, Nurul Alam Aliq and Mesba Ur Rahman Sumon.

The three productions of the three workshops will be broadcasted on television, and viewers will vote to rank them. The participants of each workshop will become part of the production team behind each film. Furthermore, these three films will be showcased next to the winning films of Celebrating Life 2011.

The participants of this workshop may participate in the film contest on their own accord, meaning their output within the workshop cannot be used as their own entry into the contest since the workshop will create space for a team production. The film contest of Celebrating Life, however, is still open to the general public meaning those that do not participate in the workshop are free to submit their own work to the Film Contest of 2011.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Rules

- Applicants of 30 years of age or less can apply
- Applicants with experience in the field will have to submit a show-reel in DVD, no longer than 5 minutes, of their previous works.
- Applicants without previous experience can apply with a reference letter from renowned directors or anyone renowned in the media sector saying that they are capable of taking up the workshop while citing types of works done with them, or have assisted them with their works.
- Applicants have to submit a script based on their own original idea they have conceptualized of showcasing on the screen. The script has to be shortened so that it can be screened in no more than 10 minutes and typed within 1000 words in one A4 page. Note: The idea has to be the applicant's own original idea and not based on existing literature and/or productions.
- Applicants have to submit an essay saying why they want to become a film director, and their views on Bangladesh's cinema within 1000 words in one A4 page.
- Application Deadline: 30th June, 2011

Other important Information

- A total of 30 participants will be selected based on show reel/ recommendation/ essay.
- Workshop will be held for 3 months starting in July and ending in September, 2011.
- 8 most underachieving participants will not be allowed to continue in the workshop after the first month of the workshop.
- 8 most underachieving participants from the remaining 21 participants will not be allowed to continue in the workshop after the second month.
- The remaining 15 participants will go on to finish the workshop with accomplished directors Amitabh Reza, Nurul Alam Aliq, and Mesba Ur Rahman Sumon.
- The three directors will choose their own team of 5 from the 15 remaining participants to create a film depending on the director's choice of format from each team.
- The whole workshop will be conducted by the three directors, with visiting lecturers chosen by them. The last month of the workshop will be used to produce the films, each under one of the conducting directors.
- Application for participating in the workshop cannot be emailed; it has to be sent to the address below.
- Interested applicants can apply to the following address with FULL NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, MOBILE PHONE NUMBER, OTHER CONTACT NUMBER, EMAIL, SHOW REEL/RECOMMENDATION & ESSAY:

Partners:

ETV	10:02 The Aim	03:20 Toy Soldiers
	04:30 Elating Belating	07:30 Pope Joan
	05:30 Binodener Bishwa	09:50 Hunt For Eagle One
	05:50 Sports Plus	11:20 Anascondas
	07:50 Neel Parat Gaan	01:00 The Spirit
	11:40 Janoter Kotha	Star World
Rtv	10:40 Taroklap	11:00 Cougar Town
	01:10 Bangladesh Feature Film	11:50 Australia's Next Top Model
	05:00 Protidin Gaan	01:10 How I Met Your Mother
	06:00 Shuborno Shat Din	04:35 Melissa & Joey
	12:05 Come Focus	07:30 Castle
BANGLAVISION		08:45 Canada's Next Top Model
	09:05 Shudha Gaan	10:35 Parenthood
	01:05 Bangladesh Feature Film	11:25 Glee
	06:05 Sports Time	12:15 Masterchef US
	06:30 Style File	HBO
	09:05 Gorbet Dosh Jon	11:30 Spiders 2
	11:25 Raat Biratey	01:30 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
Desh TV		04:30 State of Play
	04:00 Desh Janopad	07:15 Case 39
	04:30 Durapath	09:30 Final Destination 3
	06:30 Okak Pothiki	11:30 Zombieland
	07:45 Binodon Durya	Discovery Channel
	12:30 Total Sports	04:30 American Chopper
Boishakhi TV		05:30 Man, Woman, Wild
	10:30 Bangladesh Feature Film	07:30 Cash Cab
	05:15 Boishakhi-CNN	10:30 Hogs Gone Wild
	Sharabishwa	11:30 Deadliest Catch
	The Music Train	
08:15		

ATN BANGLA	ETV
08:00pm Meghal	08:20pm Shalpo Gaan
09:20pm Boush Phaguner Pala	09:30pm Ghazal Bhai
10:55pm Anna Ghar	
CHANNEL 1	08:20pm Bagh Pitul
05:30pm Jato Durey Jai	09:05pm Boya Paribar
ntv	BANGLAVISION
08:00pm Manabzamin	08:15pm Mad Bhai
09:45pm Darshok-e Galpo: Chiruk	Desh TV
	09:45pm Saakhon

ATN BANGLA	ETV
10:30am Lead News	10:10pm Galpo Shalpo Gaan
11:10am Vision 2020	Rtv
06:20pm Kotha Mala	07:40pm Our Democracy
CHANNEL 1	BANGLAVISION
09:45am Trinito Matra	10:10am FrontLine
12:30pm Taraka Kathon	11:45pm Shoa Kotha
ntv	Boishakhi TV
12:30am Ei Shomoy	12:00am Zero Hour

TALK SHOW

ATN BANGLA	ETV
10:30am Lead News	10:10pm Galpo Shalpo Gaan
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