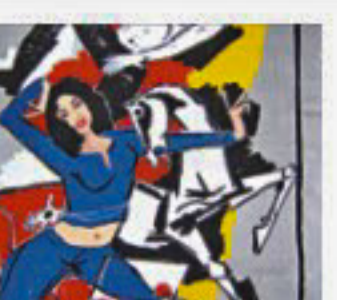


**WHAT'S ON**

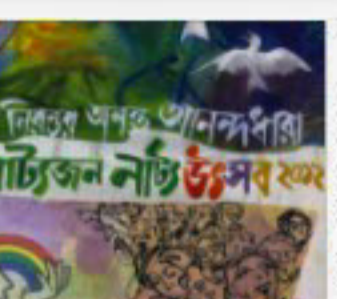
**Solo Print Exhibition**  
Artist: MF Husain  
Venue: Gallery Basilio, New DOTS, Mohakhali  
Date: Jan 7-22



**Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Shobaboli, Barial  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Jan 8-12  
Time: 6:30pm



**Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Natyajan  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Jan 14-21  
Time: 5pm



**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Nadia Begum  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan  
Date: Jan 14  
Time: 6:30pm



**Wall Magazine Festival**  
Organiser: Bangladesh Wall Magazine Parishad  
Venue: Bangla Academy  
Date: Jan 13-15  
Time: 10am-5pm



**Film Festival**  
Organiser: Sachin Sain Smriti Shongkhon Pathak, Palna  
Venue: Multi-jyoti Rafiqul Islam Baka Auditorium, Palna  
Date: Jan 10-16  
Time: 5pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Silent Spaces  
Artist: Md Tokon  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmashila  
Date: January 6-14  
Time: 12pm-5pm



**12th DHAKA INT'L FILM FEST BEGINS TODAY**

# GUERRILLA, MONER MANUSH COMPETE FOR TOP PRIZE

JAMIL MAHMUD

Nasiruddin Yousuff's "Guerrilla" and Gautam Ghosh's "Moner Manush" are among 17 films competing for the top honour at the 12th Dhaka International Film Festival, which begins today in the city.

The competition segment features four Iranian, three each from India and Turkey, and two Bangladeshi films. They are: Tahmineh Milani's "Principles" (Iran), Bappadiya Bandopadhyay's "Kagojer Bou" (India), Lin Hao's "Addicted to Love" (China) and Umur Hazati's "Lost Freedom" (Turkey).

Kazi Hayat's adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's "Shasti" will be the opening film. The film, along with eight more, will be screened as a tribute to the Nobel Laureate poet, marking his 150th anniversary.

Featuring over 200 films from 55 nations (covering six continents), the festival is an opportunity for the Dhaka audience to enjoy movies from major as well as some little known countries.

The itinerary includes films from Iran, India, China, Japan, France, Serbia, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Russia, UK, USA, Argentina and Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Tanzania, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Palestine, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and UAE.

The organisers have selected the Central Public Library premises as the main venue, while films will also be screened at both the auditoriums of National Museum and at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in Dhanmondi. Everyday shows will be start at 10am. Five sessions will take place on each day.

The nine-day festival will continue till January 20.

As in previous years, this instalment of the festival will feature regular segments such as Competition, Retrospective, Tributes, Cinema of the World, Children's Films, Focus and Bangladesh Panorama.

Eight contemporary Bangladeshi feature films including "Doobshatar", "Nijhum Oronye", "Aaina", "Chandragrahan" and "Ebong Kanna" will be screened in the Bangladesh Panorama segment.

Retrospective will showcase films of pioneering Iranian filmmaker Dariush Mehrjui and French filmmaker Pierre Coulibeuf. The Tribute segment will feature the recently deceased Bangladeshi filmmaker Tareque Masud's films. Eight films will be screened as part of the Bangladesh Panorama section.

The inaugural programme will be held today at 4pm at the main auditorium of the National Museum.

Several local and international organisations including Dhaka Club, Alliance Francaise, Amsterdam Documentary Film Festival, Swiss Embassy in Dhaka, SIGNIS and Religion Today Film Festival are associated with the eagerly awaited event.



"Guerrilla" (top) and "Moner Manush" (below-right) are two Bangladeshi submissions. Dariush Mehrjui's "Santoori" will be screened in Retrospective section.

**MEMORABLE MELODY**

# Ram Kanai Das' rendition of folk songs

JAMIL MAHMUD

Nowadays launch of a music albums invariably include live renditions by respective artists. Sometimes these live performances stand out and become the main attraction at these events.

Ram Kanai Das is not a "hit" artist, at least not to the young, urban listeners. His accomplishments as a khyal singer have been lauded by the critics and connoisseurs. Prior to the launch of his latest folk album, "Oshomoye Dhorlam Pari", on January 10, noted cultural personality Kamal Lohani asserted that he is well aware of Das' achievements as a classical singer but had never heard the artist's rendition of folk songs before.

The launch and a musical programme featuring Das took place at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Bengal Foundation has produced the album, which is the third folk album by the octogenarian artist. His other albums are: "Shurdhunir Kinara" (also from Bengal) and "Pagla Majhi" (Laser Vision).

The audience was modest at a venue that usually gets packed during Rabindra Sangeet performances.

Folk music flows in Das' blood. The veteran artist's parents -- Rashik Lal Das and Dibyamoji Das -- were well known rural bards of the greater Sylhet region. Like previous albums, the latest project also features some numbers composed by his parents. They are: the title track "Oshomoye Dhorlam Pari", "Guru Bina Hoy Na", "Monchora Kaliare" and "Ailare Nua Jama". It also features compositions by other reputed bards such as Hasan Raja, Radharamon Dutta and Shitalong Fakir.

Das has a unique style that combines elements of both classical and folk music. Classical music -- to him -- is passion, and folk, his identity. Perhaps because of this rare combination of interests, his singing invokes divinity.

For example, when he was rendering the song "E Bhabo Shangsharey Rey" [from "Pagla Majhi"], he was pronouncing the words "Oh Monore... Injala Pingala Ghar..." convincingly. His voice floated somewhere between the intensity of a rural bard and a polished urban-folk singer. It was in between these two styles that could be labelled as his signature, and a gift to Bangla folk music.

As a hardcore exponent of folk music, Das tried to introduce the genre's different aspects at the



Das has a unique style that combines elements of both classical and folk music.

programme. Starting with a *toppa* of Hari Acharya, "Aae Shon Shojoni", he further sang his father's *bichchhedi*, "Shokoler Shakoli Achhey Go", and Azim Fakir's *marefati*, "Amar Mon Mojo Rey" and "Allah Sabur Korlam".

Perhaps to further demonstrate the uniqueness of his style, Das introduced his younger brother Sudhir Lal Das -- an amateur singer from Sumanganj -- to the audience. The rural singer sang a couple of Radharamon Dutta numbers, "Amar Bairam Bairam Korey" and "Shona Bondhure Tor Shone".

Sudhir's raw vocal styling went down well with the instrumentalists Gazi Abdul Hakim (on flute), Pinu Sen Das (table), Babu (dhol), Almas Ali (violin) and Iftekhar Hossain (keys). However, at times the instrumentalists almost paused during Sudhir's performance, as they didn't want to hamper a rendering that could only be achieved by staying true to the roots.

# Tagore as a beacon for the young

## 31st convention of Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad



Artists perform at the programme. PHOTO: STAR

AMINUL ISLAM, *Mymensingh*

Marking the 31st convention of Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad, the artists of the Parishad's central and local units rendered Tagore songs at Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium on January 7.

The artists entertained the audience with their moving performances of popular Tagore songs.

The Parishad has been working since 1981 to generate interest in Bengali culture and tradition in and outside the country.

The leaders of the Parishad said that the national conference of the Parishad will be held at Shilpakarya Zainul Abedin Auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and at Shilpakarya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) in the town on March 8, 9 and 10 this year.

The representatives of 80 branches of the Parishad, from different districts of the country and the capital city, will join the programme scheduled to be held here in March.

A 20-member group for Uddjapon

# Of cakes and conservation

## Lokayan Pitha Utshab held in Thakurgaon

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, *Thakurgaon*

Amidst huge festivity the 3rd Lokayan Pitha Utshab was held on Tuesday morning at Lokayan Museum premises at Akcha village in Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila, defying the bone chilling cold.

The presence of several eminent literary persons of the country including Syed Shamsul Haq, Asad Chowdhury, Anwara Syed Haque, Jharna Rahman, Jahanara Nowshin lent additional fervour to the festival.

The festival included a vibrant cultural programme featuring renditions of songs, recitation and dances that captivated the audience.

The soiree began with a choral rendition of "Dhono Dhano Pushpo Bhora". The cultural team of Eco-Social Development Organisation (ESDO) rendered "Poush Toder Daak Diyech Aaire Chhute Aye".

Dr. Muhammad Shahiduzzaman, executive director of ESDO and also

Chairman of Lokayan Museum, recited the poem "Mofassal, Hai Duo Rani" of Asad Chowdhury and lecturer of Ranishankoil Degree College, Proshanto Boshak, recited the poem "Nurul Diner Shara Jibon" written by Syed Shamsul Haq.

After the recitation, a group of child artists of Eco Pathshala performed dances to patriotic music.

The programme ended with a choral song "Abar Jombe Mela, Bottola Hattola". The guests and audience were treated to delicious traditional pitha as well.

After the cultural programme, Syed Shamsul Haq, Asad Chowdhury, Anwara Syed Haque, Jharna Rahman, Jahanara Nowshin, and poets and litterateurs from 16 northern districts were honoured.

Syed Shamsul Haq said, "I am pleasantly surprised by Lokayan Museum that preserves common people's heritage. The initiatives of this organisation help promote our cultural heritage among the younger generation."



Visitors enjoy pitha at the festival. PHOTO: STAR

Lokayan Chairman Muhammad Shahid Uz Zaman said in his speech, "Usually museums preserve objects and memorabilia related to empires, rulers and other renowned persons. We have taken a different initiative to preserve objects that represent the lifestyle of our common people, as for instance farmer's hat, fishing materials, different types of ploughs,

indigenous weapons used for hunting, local musical instruments, documents of agreements between landowners and farmers, rural attire etc."

"We want to promote and preserve our traditions and heritage for the coming generations," he added.

He also pointed out that the museum has received a good response from people across the country and several items have been donated to the organisation.

District and Sessions Judge, Md. Habibur Rahman; Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Shahiduzzaman and others were present at the festival.

Several stalls were set up at the museum premises to showcase the culinary delights including bhapa, dudh-chitoti, pakon, pantua, andosh, bhajapuli, prem puli, semeyo pitha and others. Enthusiastic visitors thronged the festival. Prizes and gifts were handed to the winners and participants at the pitha utshab.

# Universal Studios unveils 100th anniversary plans

Universal Studios will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year in large part by restoring and reissuing some of the studio's classic films, including "To Kill a Mockingbird", "Jaws", "All Quiet on the Western Front" and "The Birds."

As part of its centennial, the former studio home of filmmakers Steven Spielberg and Alfred Hitchcock will unveil a new movie logo that will debut on "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax" on March 2 and be shown at the start of all Universal films thereafter.

One of the most tangible aspects of the anniversary, outside of the logo and a new historical focus on the tram tour attraction at Universal Studios Hollywood, will be the studio's efforts to restore 13 films and introduce a 100th anniversary collector's series on DVD. It is unclear if some, or any, of the restored films will be released theatrically.

The slate of restored films is rounded out by "Dracula," "Dracula Spanish," "Frankenstein," "Schindler's List," "Out of Africa," "Pillow Talk," "Bride of Frankenstein" and "The Sting."

The studio's 2012 line-up features several ambitious, expensive productions, including " Battleship," "Snow White and the Huntsman" and "47 Ronin."

"I have four kids," said Ron Meyer, Universal's president and chief operating officer, "and they haven't seen 'All Quiet on the Western Front' or 'Pillow Talk.'" He is hopeful that the centenary work will "reintroduce our audience to films they wouldn't know."

At the studio's theme parks, 100th anniversary materials will be highlighted in a new "entertainment experience" in Orlando, Florida, and a new focus on the studio's filmmaking legacy at Universal City.

Universal Film Manufacturing Co. was incorporated on April 30, 1912. The studio has passed through several owners over the last few years and is now controlled by Comcast Corp. as a majority holder and General Electric as a minority owner.

The studio's 2012 line-up features several ambitious, expensive productions, including " Battleship," "Snow White and the Huntsman" and "47 Ronin."



Gregory Peck stars as small-town Southern attorney Atticus Finch, who defends a black man accused of rape, in 1962's "To Kill a Mockingbird," which is to be restored and reissued on DVD as part of Universal's centenary celebration.



Dan W. Mozena (2-L), the US Ambassador to Bangladesh, and Paul Sabatine (C), Deputy Missions Director, visited the Sisimpur Studio recently. Mozena spoke to the staff and exchanged views on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of USAID. Sisimpur, a popular educational TV show for children, is now in its 7th year.

# Drama "Monu Miah'r Swapno Kotha" staged in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Drama "Monu Miah'r Swapno Kotha" was staged in Moulvibazar on December 9 at the Bijoy Moncho set up at Moulvibazar Government High School playground to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Independence.

Sabuj Bangla Theatre staged the play. Written by Ishtiaque Toru, "Monu Miah'r Shopno Kotha" was directed by Hasanur Rahman Nannu.

The theme of the drama is the nefarious activities of razzakars (collaborators of the Pakistani Army) after the 1975 killing of the father of the nation,

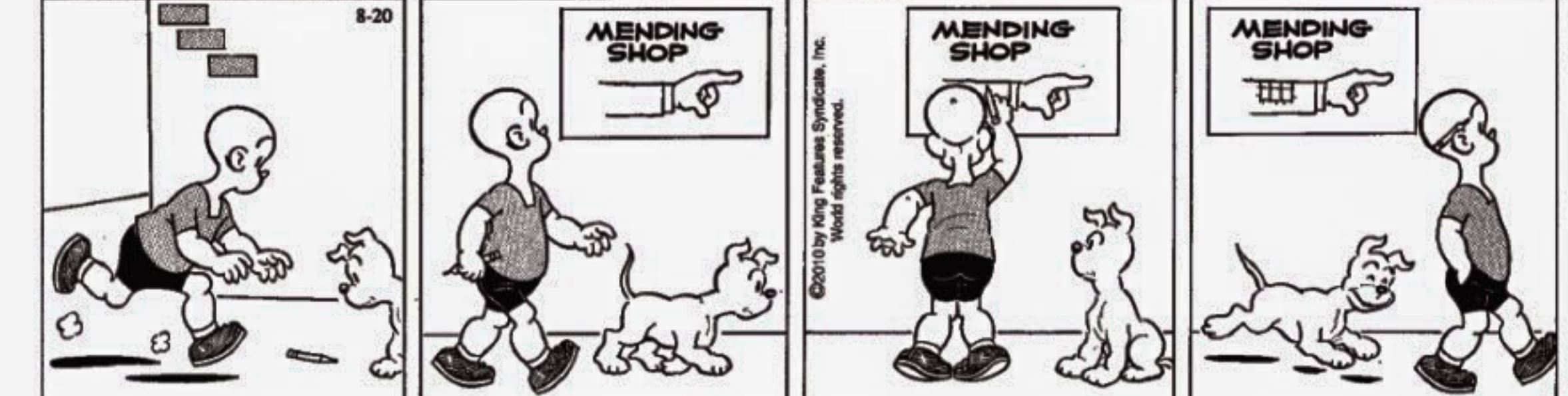


A scene from the play. PHOTO: STAR

**Beetle Baily** by Mort Walker



**Henry** by Don Trachte



ATN BANGLA	05:00	Cinema R Gaan
11:20	05:30	Ananda Dhara
12:10	06:30	Drama: Bodhu Rag Korona
06:15	12:05	Music Fest
08:00	04:30	Desh TV
11:00	06:30	Dur Durantey
CHANNEL I	07:45	Drama Serial: Ichhey Holo
01:05	09:45	Style & Fashion
01:30	11:55	Drama: Bish
02:40		Diganta TV
03:30	11:30	Diganta Onushadhan
09:35	03:30	Gaaner Prohor
nTV	06:30	Karmophul Teere
10:05	09:40	Drama Serial: Chos Motin
04:10	11:05	Diganta Music Hour (Live)
06:15		Maasranga Television

**RADIO**

abcr radio FM 89.2	10:00	Morning Express
06:00	12:00	My Time
09:00	01:00	No Lesson
12:00	06:00	Dhaka Calling
05:00	09:00	Night Rider
05:00	01:00	Back to Back music
07:00	09:00	Green FM
09:00	06:00	Good Morning Dhaka
11:00	12:00	Today's Adda
Radio Footi	04:00	U Turn

**Bipashar Oitthi on BANGLAVISION at 09:30pm**  
Celebrity Talk Show  
Guest: Siddika Kabir



**Gamer on HBO at 09:30pm**  
Genre: Action/Thriller  
Cast: Gerard Butler, Michael C. Hall



**Motijheel C/A on ATN BANGLA at 09:20pm**  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Syed Hassan Imam, Shahiduzzaman Selim



09:00	Amara Gaite Ichkhe	10:02	Bangla Feature Film
	Holo	05:30	Amazing Animals
11:30	Shur Bhora Nilima	06:30	Char Deyal-er Khela
		08:00	Tele-film
ETV			Z Studio
11:30	Ekushey-er Business	01:30	The Hot Chick
05:40	Sports Plus	03:50	The Animal
07:50	Neel Paerai Gaan	08:00	Closure
09:30	Ekushey-er Chokh	09:30	Shanghai Noon
10:10	Drama	12:00	Veronica Klee
Boishakhi TV			HBO
10:30	Bangla Feature Film	11:40	Good Will Hunting
04:15	Shawshank Doctor	12:00	2 Fast 2 Furious
06:10	Drama in Fur Dot Com	04:30	Pacific Heights
09:20	Music Serial:	06:45	The Living Daylights
	Grihodaha	09:30	Gamer
10:50	Reporters Diary	11:25	Snakes on a Plane
12:30	Tara O Jyotsnar Golpo		Star World
BANGLAVISION		03:30	Charlie's Angels
11:05	Shakal Betar Roddur	09:30	Supernatural
02:20	Cinehit	10:30	The Shield
05:20	Porkhika-Prostuti	11:30	The Big Bang Theory
06:05	Shyamol Bangla		Discovery Channel
09:05	Bipashar Oitthi	11:30	Gold Rush
Rtv		03:30	Rampage
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	08:30	Dinosaur Revolution

**DRAMA SERIAL**

ATN BANGLA	09:45pm	Shobokhokhoro
08:00pm	Chand Phul	Boishakhi TV
	Amalochya	08:10pm
	Motijheel C/A	04:30pm
09:20pm		Fourth Class Society
CHANNEL I		BANGLAVISION
07:50pm		08:15pm
08:25pm		No Problem
08:55pm		Rtv
08:15pm		09:50pm
		Dhan Shaliker Gaan
		Desh TV
		08:15pm
		Sat Kahon

**NEWS BULLETIN**

BTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 10:00 am, 10:30 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 4:00 am, 4:00 am, 11:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 4:00 am, 4:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30pm, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 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): 7:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 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
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**TALK SHOW**

ATN BANGLA	05:30pm	Amader Shanyo
12:30am	Lead News	Sharkar
CHANNEL I	12:00am	Zero Hour
09:45am	Teljo Matra	BANGLAVISION
12:30pm	Tanika Kothon	11:25pm
11:30pm	Swapno Otar Dita	Rtv
ntv		07:40pm
12:10pm	Ei Showoy	Our Democracy
Boishakhi TV		10:30pm
		Desh E Golpo