

WHAT'S ON

Musical Soiree
Organisers: Simantic Creative Concern and The Daily Star
Artist: Jattleshwar Mukhopadhyay
Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Hall, The Daily Star Centre
Date: Sep 20
Time: 6:30pm



Classical Music
Artist: Gauri Guha
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1
Date: Sep 20
Time: 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Neuralgic Window
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
Venue: Athena Gallery, Badda
Date: Sep 13-26
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Banglar Rup
Artist: Shohag Parvez
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 13-26
Time: 3-8pm



Theatre
Play: Khona
Troup: Bot Tola
Venue: Edward M. Kennedy Center, R-27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 18-20
Time: 7pm



Fame theatre festival concludes on a high note



PHOTO: STAR

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

A five-day theatre festival featuring dance-drama, recitation and drama concluded in the port city on Monday on a high note. On the occasion of its 15th anniversary, Fame School of Dance Drama and Music organised the festival at the auditorium of District Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong in association with Indian Assistant High Commissioner, Chittagong. Established in 1998 by Chittagong's noted theatre personality Ashim Das and dance artiste Tilottoma Sengupta, Fame School of Dance Drama and Music has staged over 300 shows of its 21 productions in its 15-year journey. The concluding day of the festival featured the play "Manoshi", staged by Kalyani Kalamandalam, a prominent theatre troupe of West Bengal. The play drew a full house in the evening. "Manoshi" is an adaptation by noted director Ashim Das of the play "A woman alone and Others", penned by Noble laureate Italian playwright Dario

Fo, and directed by Santanu Das. Ananya Das and Santanu Das enacted the main roles in the play. Nine plays were staged at the auditorium and open stage of District Shilpakala Academy in the course of the festival. On the first day, students from Dramatics Department of Chittagong University (CU) staged "Mohabidya", written by Manoj Mitra. The second day of the festival featured the play "Aurangzeb" staged by Prangane Mor of Dhaka and the play "Pagal", presented by CU Dramatics Department. Two dance dramas - "Drohakal" and Rabindranath Tagore's "Kalmrigaya" were staged in the third day of the festival. Fame staged the play "Baandh" on the fifth day. Directed by Ashim Das, the play narrated the story of a prosperous region threatened by a huge flood. Japanese "Kabuki" theatre style was introduced successfully in the play in terms of costumes, settings and acting styles. Tilottoma Sengupta choreographed the drama. Sujat, Taposh Chakraborty and Orchy enacted the major roles in the play.

Return to roots Clay art exhibition at Drik Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla Terracotta has organised a clay art exhibition at Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi in the city. Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice chancellor of Dhaka University recently inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Designer Chandrashekhar Saha and artist Sukumar Paul were also present as special guests at the inaugural session. A number of artists, cultural and social activists were present. The exhibition presents a unique collection of terracotta art that carries our tradition. This genre of art is the earliest form of art in which the Bengal artists excelled. The art products in terracotta or burnt clay satisfied the creative impulse of the artists and also met the domestic and ritual needs of ordinary people. The art was practised in Bengal from the earliest through early medieval to medieval times and even continued to Hindu monuments till the mid-19th century. The exhibition features about 50 terracotta artworks and colourful pottery. Among the clay pottery, plates, glasses, vases, jugs and other daily utensils are on display. Birds, fish, cats, tigers, deer, trees and varied animated and inanimate objects have appeared with all their beauty in the clay artworks at the exhibition. The daily lives of commoners of different occupations, rural women and their varied moods, peasants, fishermen and villagers' daily chores have also been highlighted at the exhibition. The exhibition will continue till September 21.



NEWSbytes DICAPRIO to play Woodrow Wilson



Leonardo DiCaprio is to star as 28th US president Woodrow Wilson in a film that he will also produce, according to the Hollywood Reporter. Warner Bros are in early negotiations to pick up the rights to Wilson, the presidential biography written by A. Scott Berg. The book was published last week to positive reviews. Berg's biography is a heroic portrayal of Wilson, whose time in office ran from 1913 to 1921. In 1919, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace for his efforts to create the League of Nations. DiCaprio will produce the film with his company, the Appian Way, along with writer Berg and Jennifer Davisson Killoran. He can next be seen in Martin Scorsese's "Wolf of Wall Street" as a risk-taking investment banker. It is the actor's fifth collaboration with the revered director.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

Apart from being one of the top heavy metal vocalists of all time, Bruce Dickinson's interests include literature, writing, fencing (at which he has competed internationally, placing 7th in Great Britain, and has founded a fencing equipment company), railway technology and aviation. Due to the wide variety of Dickinson's pursuits, Intelligent Life Magazine in 2009 named him as a living example of a polymath. He also hosted "Bruce Dickinson's Friday Rock Show" on BBC radio station 6 Music from 2002-2010, and hosted a 5-part historical TV series about aviation, "Flying Heavy Metal", which was shown on the Discovery Channel. Dickinson holds an airline transport pilot's license, and regularly flew Boeing 757s in his role as captain for the now-defunct UK charter airline Astraesus.



PHOTO: REDWAN ADID RUPON

BEAUTY Nurturing the artiste within

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Beauty came into the limelight through the Close-Up 1 competition in 2005. From then on, she has never looked back. Today, she is a popular name not only in Bangladesh to Bangla music lovers abroad as well.

Recently, Beauty spoke to The Daily Star about various aspects of her career and more.

What are you currently busy with?

Beauty: I am busy with both music and my studies. I have just completed honors final on music from UODA. Due to the upcoming Eid-Ul Azha, I am also loaded with work for TV channels and stage shows.

Tell us about your stage shows in USA ...

Beauty: I was in the US for a little over a month, this one being my sixth visits to the country for stage shows. I performed in 10 shows across seven states. The first show was in Michigan. Three of them were in New York.

Who taught you singing?

Beauty: At first, it was my father. After that, I received training from Ustad Amannullah Khan Keru. Later, Ustad Rezaul from the local thana, taught me. Before participating in Close-Up 1, I used to take lessons from an Ustad named Akkas. I am still learning singing -- classical in UODA and folk from Shafi Mandol.

How did you acquire the title of 'Lalon

Konya'?

Beauty: Music director and Close-Up 1 judge Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul gave me the title during my participation in the show. After that, many people began to address me by that name. However, to be honest, it is a very heavy tag, and I don't think I deserve such a title.

What are your dreams and aspirations as a singer?

Beauty: I want to fulfill my father's dream through my singing. My father dreamt that I would become a popular singer. I am trying to inch towards that goal. As for aspirations, I want to keep on singing the songs of Lalon for the rest of my life. There are keen admirers of Lalon's music all over the country and overseas. But I also want to sing other genres.

But you are a very popular singer. How do you feel about it?

Beauty: I am grateful to the Almighty and my fans for my popularity. I really want to hold on to it for the rest of my life. And that is why I request all artistes to be modest. Popularity may be here today but it may vanish tomorrow, so it depends on the artiste to keep hold of it.

How supportive is your husband of your passion and career?

Beauty: He gives me 100 percent support in my singing career, be it stage or TV shows. He even pressures me into practicing singing and I consider myself very lucky on this front.

What is Nirvana's legacy?

A look back on 20 years of "In Utero"

A lot was at stake when Nirvana went into Pachyderm Studio in Cannon Falls, Minnesota, in 1993 to record their third album, "In Utero". The Seattle band had stormed the pop charts, toppling even Michael Jackson from his usual number 1 spot, when they released "Nevermind" two years earlier. Since then, singer Kurt Cobain had become the poster child for conflicted rock stars, a songwriter who coveted fame even as he embraced the noisy, underground sound of the indie '80s. "In Utero" was the album that tried to bring those two worlds together. The cynical punk rocker had crashed the MTV party, and now what? Cobain kicked off his most scrutinised album with the words "Teenage angst has paid off well/Now I'm bored and old."

Twenty years later, those lyrics have proven at least partially prophetic. Cobain never got old; he killed himself in April 1994 at the age of 27. Nirvana imploded and the 'alternative rock' era started coming undone almost as quickly as it began. But the business of Nirvana continues to pay off. Nirvana represented the leading edge of a movement born in the sub-basement

of '70s punk and the '80s underground. Nirvana sold tens of millions of albums. Most of their primary influences and predecessors were lucky to sell a few thousand. Most toured in battered vans, played shows in ratty bars and released records on independent labels that depended on college radio and fanzines run by hardcore followers for exposure. Within that universe, a radical set of guiding principles emerged: a distrust of corporate dollars and mainstream values; an appreciation for outsiders, especially women and gays; an embrace of stylistic and musical 'authenticity'; and an idea of punk as a type of folk music, with a nastier guitar tone.

To those who tracked key bands and artists on the punk and post-punk timeline - the Ramones, The Clash, The Replacements, Fugazi, Dinosaur Jr., the Pixies - the arrival of "Nevermind" and its 30 million-selling ascent to world domination represented a triumph of these values. The 'good guys' won, but it didn't last. After "Nevermind", there was a rush of hits by bands and artists with underground pedigrees: Pearl Jam,

Soundgarden, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Green Day, The Flaming Lips, The Breeders, The Offspring. And a bunch of veteran indie bands that didn't sound like anyone's idea of pop acts improbably signed major-label deals, including the Butthole Surfers, Ween, the Melvins and The Jesus Lizard.

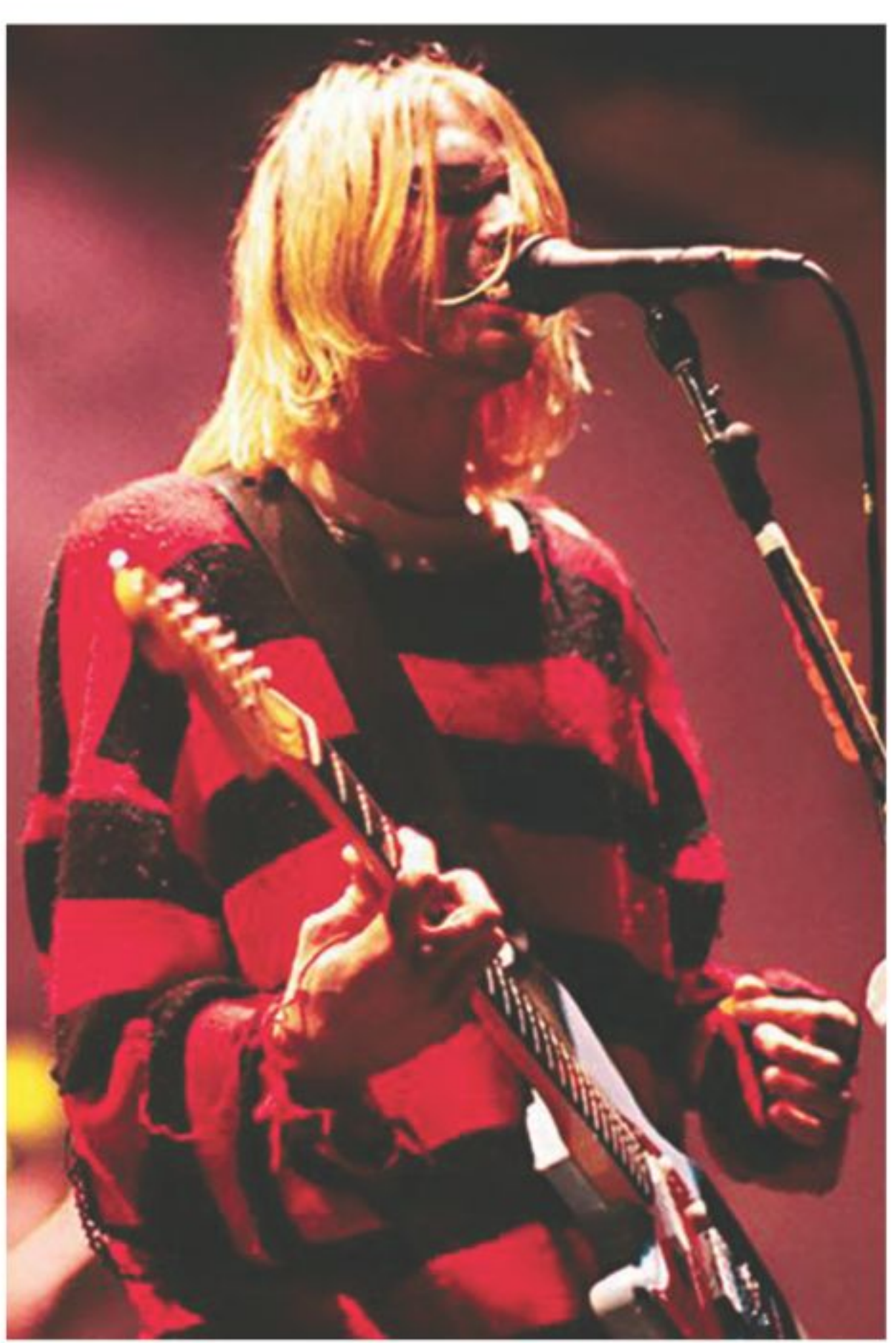
But when 'alternative' turned into a commercial radio format and a gaggle of cookie-cutter bands emerged with a sound tailored for it - Seven Mary Three, Bush, Candlebox, the Stone Temple Pilots - its days as a vital movement ended. Cobain sensed how the music he loved was being co-opted in the songs he wrote for "In Utero".

With one of Cobain's heroes, Steve Albini, doing the production, "In Utero" blew out the edges of Nirvana's sound, giving Dave Grohl's drums and Krist Novoselic's bass more presence and letting Cobain's guitar swim in feedback. The singer's voice was tucked deeper inside the maelstrom rather than out front as most radio-friendly songs demanded. Albini said the corporate suits were out to quash the record. Cobain lashed out at journalists for reporting the story for fear

that his punk-rock cred would be tarnished. In the end, the album sold spectacularly well, and still holds up as a volatile merger of melody and mayhem.

What to make of the trio's legacy? Cobain felt a constant tension between his desire to be heard and to remain true to his punk ideals. He sought not just to become part of the mainstream conversation but to elevate it. With each album, he proved more adept at answering that challenge. Yet through no fault of his own, the excess of the new box set, "In Utero: 20th Anniversary Deluxe Reissue" set to release this year -- continues a troubling pattern of cash-ins. It's the third Nirvana box set to land in the last decade, in addition to three single-disc compilations and a live album, plus a volume of the singer's Journals. Cobain wanted his music to endure, but the notion of repackaging his past over and over again surely wasn't part of his agenda. In death, Cobain has become exactly the type of commodity he spent his life fighting not to become.

Source: BBC



"Here we are now, entertain us": Kurt Cobain doing what he did best.