

WHAT'S ON

Zainul Quamrul Exhibition

Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, National Museum

Date: Dec 22-Jan 18

Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre

Play: The Trial of Mallam Ilyia

Troupe: BotTala

Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Jan 10

Time: 6:30pm



Group Art Exhibition

Title: Shilpacharya and his Outer World of Art

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 28-Jan 8

Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Bahram

Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi

Date: Jan 10-22

Time: 3pm-8pm



Film Festival

Title: Tribute to Suchitra Sen

Venue: International Digital Cultural Archive, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Jan 8-17

Time: 6:00pm



## NEWS bytes

### Frozen on top of US film chart

Disney animation "Frozen" has returned to the top of the North American film chart in its seventh week of release, according to early estimates. The Scandinavian-themed movie knocked "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" off the top spot and into third place. It is unusual for a film to go back to number one seven weeks after its release. The last film to do so, according to box office tracker Rentrak, was "The Passion of the Christ" in 2004. The next biggest film on the chart was horror offering, "Paranormal Activity:



The Marked One", which debuted at number two with \$18.2m (£11.1m). Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street", a possible Oscar contender, was at four. Another awards hopeful, David O Russell's crime caper "American Hustle", rounded out the top five. "Frozen, very loosely based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen", has now made more than \$600m (£366.8m) worldwide, making it the second-biggest Disney animation release after "The Lion King".

Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!

US actor, TV host and stand-up comedian Ellen DeGeneres lent her voice to the role of Dory, a fish with short-term memory loss, in the summer 2003 hit animated Disney/Pixar film "Finding Nemo". The film's director, Andrew Stanton, claimed that he chose Ellen because she "changed the subject five times before one sentence had finished" on her show. For her performance as Dory, DeGeneres won the Saturn Award from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror



Films for "Best Supporting Actress"; "Favorite Voice from an Animated Movie" from the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards; and the Annie Award from the International Animated Film Association for "Outstanding Voice Acting". She was also nominated for a Chicago Film Critics Association Award in the "Best Supporting Actress" category. She also provided the voice of the dog in the prologue of the Eddie Murphy feature film Dr. Dolittle. Her win of the Saturn Award marked the first and only time the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films has given the acting award for a voice performance.

# Papia and Jisha's musical venture

## Mother and daughter's new album in the offing



Imran Aziz and Jisha Sarwar



Papia Sarwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An audio album titled "Chokher Dekha Praner Katha", featuring nine Tagore tracks by noted artiste Papia Sarwar and her daughter Jisha Sarwar, is in the offing. The album, under the label of G-Series, will be available later this month. The artiste duo has lent their

voices to two duets -- "Purano Shei Din-er Kotha" and "Nuton Pran Dao" while Jisha Sarwar recorded three popular Tagore songs "Sukhoheen Nishidin", "Aha Aji E Boshonte", and "Amar Nishitho Raat-er Badol Dhara" for the album. Promising singer Jisha Sarwar is a public executive of the Finance Ministry of Canada. Of late, Papia has lent her voice to four master records of Tagore numbers including "Aguner Poroshmoni" and "Majhey Majhey Tabo Dekha Pai" for the album. "After completing her O levels, my daughter went to study abroad. From her childhood, Jisha trained on classical music under Barkat Hossain and Rabindra Sangeet under my tutelage," says Papia. Jisha's husband Imran Aziz on guitar along with RJ Sakib [of Radio Foorti] on keyboard, Daniel on bass guitar and Nidhi and Kirty [of Studio 58] arranged and directed music for the album.

# The mysteries of Kaliganj

Telefilm set to hit the small screen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular TV model and actress Sadia Islam Mou recently appeared in the telefilm "Kaliganjer Audbhut Bari", based on a horror story. She played a double role in the project. One of her characters was titled Tisha while another was unnamed. "The telefilm was shot at Taota in an ancient Zaminder Bari, around 20km from Aricha where the entire troupe reached there by an ambulance amid hartal and blockade. The shooting continued for about three days. Surprisingly some mysterious incidents took place at the location," said director Arun Chowdhury. The telefilm also featured Irfan Sajjad, singer Agun and Golam Farida Chanda. Agun also portrays a ghost while Chanda is a housewife. "Kaliganjer Audbhut Bari", which happens to be Chowdhury's 200th directorial work, will air on Channel i on January 10.



Sadia Islam Mou

# Spreading Positivity through Art

## In conversation with Chris Dyer

Chris Dyer, a Peruvian artist living in Montreal, Canada, is better known for recycling old skateboards into paintings for over 10 years. Although his spiritual art transcends just skateboards, he hopes to pass on a positive message with these expressions. His goal is to use his inner soul expressions to help other people with their own struggles and evolution into light. Your art is heavily influenced by your Peruvian roots, were you living in Peru or how did it manifest itself?

Chris: Yes, I grew up in Lima Peru till age 17, before I moved to Canada where I live now. This upbringing definitely formed much of who I am today and this filters and influences my art as well. As soon as I can remember, I was creating something. Of course drawings and finger paintings and later junk robots, zines, club houses, mix tape covers, skate graphics, etc.

There has to be a connection between you and a skateboard, what is it and we also believe you started out with skateboard art?

Chris: I've been skating since I was eight years old in 1987, and still do it today. Though I never gained much skating skills, I love doing it. It is my fun, my exercise, my freedom and physical expression. As a kid I would do my own graphics (imitating the greats we had in the '80s) or do finger boards and cardboard vert ramps and stuff like that. Then in the late '90s, I drew my own graphics on the blank boards I rode. Only in the year 2000, I started to paint my old broken boards and have been doing it since. Now it's also a dream come true to do over 100 commercial skate graphics for the skate industry over the last 10 years.

Have you had an entheogen/psychedelic experience and has this influenced you or your work in a positive way?

Chris: Well, I used to experiment much in my 20s. I learned quite a bit from them and once I got the message and saw I was risking burn out, I stopped and moved on. So yes, I'd say those psychedelic experiences (as any other) have helped shape my art, but I don't really need them anymore.



Which is your favorite creation and why?

Chris: I don't have one. Each piece is a different expression, with its own subject matter and intention. I can't really pick what is better or worse, it is just all different and all good in one way or another. Then I just leave it up to my followers to pick what they prefer, if they feel like that.

What is the message you would like to communicate with your art?

Chris: Many things, I guess. Oneness of spirit and cultures; healing the psychological wounds of our past; bridging the very grounded street culture with the very airy hippie culture; duality and its dance; imagination creatures, etc.

What are your views of the time we are living in?

Chris: I think it's really special with potential for it all! I really enjoy the extent technology helps us and know it will only get better, as humanity keep evolving out of its adolescence. I like to keep it optimistic, so even with all the problems we face, I got to focus on how blessed we are at the same time.

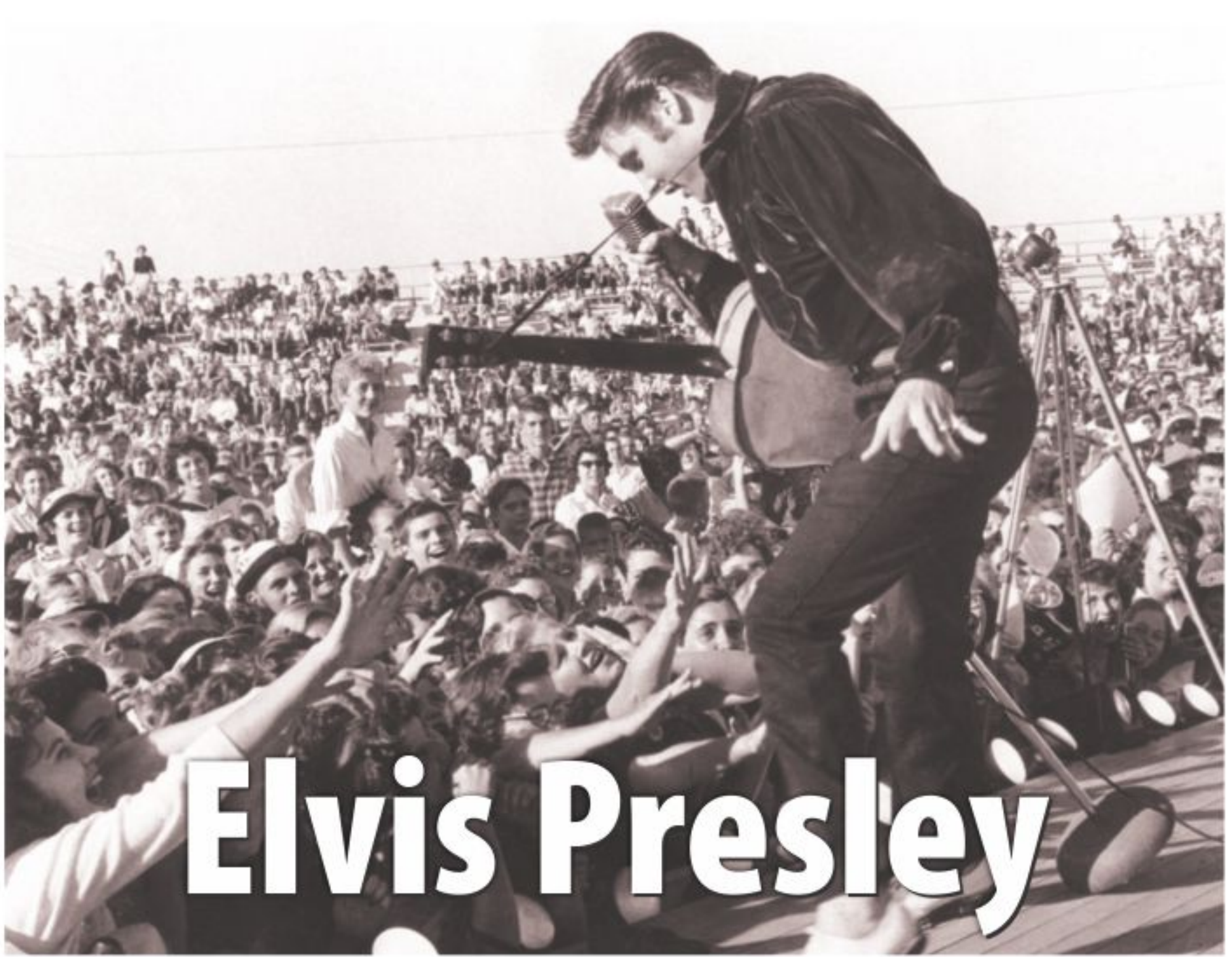
Source: Internet



# "Khudey Rashikraj" on Banglavisision today

A CORRESPONDENT

"Mirakkel Akkel" Champion Abu Hena Rony will today host "Khudey Rashikraj", a talent hunt programme of young stand-up comedians, set to air on Banglavisision at 5:25pm. Produced by Rafiqul Islam Faruki, children will present amusing skits in the form of stories on the show.



# Elvis Presley

## The Rise and Fall of the King

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Elvis Presley was the King of Rock & Roll. The craze his songs, his style, and on a lesser scale -- his movies created was the wonder of the time he lived. The adulation is still alive. His large following visiting Graceland -- his Memphis, Tennessee mansion -- and his lookalike contest is an interesting pageant.

Elvis would have been 79 today. He was born Elvis Aaron Presley on January 8, 1935 to Vernon Presley and Gladys Love Smith in Tupelo, Lee County, Mississippi.

The Presleys were sharecroppers. Vernon Presley was 18 and Gladys Smith was 21 when they married in 1933. Gladys was working in a garments factory and Vernon was a truck driver. Gladys became pregnant in 1934. She was with twins. Elvis first came out and next to follow was a still born boy Jessie Garon.

Elvis was blessed to have a fine mother in Gladys. He was spoilt to that degree that an only child and the meager income of the family budget could afford.

His parents took him to the church, where the services opened with songs. Elvis was very enthusiastic in joining the chorus. The only thing was that whenever he sang his legs would wiggle -- something that would ultimately become his style of singing.

In Tupelo schools he was a sweet and average student. Once when Elvis and his mother were at the tornado shelter they were singing to drive away fear. Elvis asked for a cycle and a guitar. His father told him that it would be beyond the reach of the family. He managed to get a guitar anyway, and started taking lessons from his uncles.

They ultimately moved to Memphis, Tennessee. His mother walked him to school till he was 15 and he carried his guitar. He also developed a fancy for garish clothes. Although his family was not economically well-off, they provided Elvis as much as they could.

His classmates prodded him into the variety show. There he performed very well, and it brought him out of his timidity. Meantime he graduated from school

and began working for an Electric Company driving a truck. He caught the attention of the chief of Sun Record Company while he was getting two of his songs recorded on acetate disc for 2 dollars each at Sun's recording subsidiary Memphis Recording Service. Sun Record Company recorded two of his songs "That's All Right (Mama) and Blue Moon of Kentucky." The boss of Sun helped him in getting on two nationally reputed Radio programmes of Nashville's Grand Ol Opry and Louisiana Hayride of Shreveport. He and two other music pals got into the business of holding outdoor concerts at different places of South. Elvis was already wearing his hair long got it dyed black and kept a sideburn. He was famous. Young music lovers became avid fan of his songs and singing style.

To add to his rise was the rivalry between NBC's Steve Allen Show and CBS's Ed Sullivan's Show. It sky-rocketed his fame and demand.

When Elvis got into movie, his manager Colonel saw to it that movies are completed in two to three weeks in place of more than a month, and that it contained as many Elvis songs as possible.

The movies -- as respected magazines observed -- were nothing but operas. Movies like King Creole and Jailhouse Rock were rare. He kept Elvis busy surrounded by his large retinue of cronies and flunkies, with his fleet of Cadillac, Rolls-Royces and Harley-Davidson. He threw money like a profligate. He had his horses, a sprawling mansion in Graceland. But he had his good sides. He gave his taxes most honourably. He helped his employees. He wrecked his cars but also gave away his Cadillac as gift even to strangers. He married Priscilla Beaulieu -- a blossoming daughter of an air force officer -- on May 1, 1967 and was soon blessed with daughter Lisa Marie on Feb 1, 1968.

But Elvis was going downhill. He was on drugs, putting on weight and his health was declining. His marriage ended in divorce in 1973. He became a hulk and was hospitalized in semi-comatose condition. His health did not improve. The king ultimately died on August 16, 1977.

# Khorshed Alom

## Master of Lalon and Palagan songs

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidaha

Veteran Baul singer-- Lalon devotee, Khorshed Alom is well known for Palagan in both Bangladesh and India. An enlisted artiste of BTV, Khorshed captivates audience with his rendition of Lalon songs.

As a young man, Alom was attracted to Lalon songs rendered by Motleb Ali Shah of Chuadanga district. Later, he learnt Lalon songs and discovered a spiritual teacher in Fakir Aziz Shah of Hari nakundo upazila in Jhenidaha. In 1988 he was enlisted in BTV. He has so far composed around 10,500 spiritual songs that include Shariat and Marofat, Nabuat Bilaiyat, Hashor Keamot, Jib prem, Kam prem, Radha-Krishna, Nabi Tatya and Meraj tatya.



Besides, he claims to have memorised around 5,000 songs by Lalon, Pagla Kanai, Siraj Shai and others. He has published 30 solo albums and 50 mixed albums with noted artistes such as Momotaj, Latif Sarkar, Aynal Bayati, Chand Mia, Matal Razzak, Rashid Sarkar Malek Sarkar and Maya Rani.

Alom has also rendered Palagan with noted Indian artistes like Purna Das Baul, Biren Das, Janif Sarkar, Joynal Sarkar, Al-Mohammad and Sadhan Shah.

Alom told The Daily Star that he has taken part in Palagan with reputed artistes of the country such as Jharu Shah, Azahar Biswas, Khodabouh Shai, Karim Shah Neamot Ali, Kanai Shah, Mohendranath Goswami and renowned folk researcher and singer Mostafa Zaman Abbasi. His earnings, he says, are higher during the dry season when he can travel more

easily. The slot for two programmes a month on BTV, gets him a meagre sum. He hopes to conduct more research on Lalon songs in the near future.

Among his many disciples are Jamirul Islam, Minara Begum Hiraj Tulla, Atiar Rahman, Rezaul Karim, Hashira Begum and Aroj Ali.