

WHAT'S ON

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Gopal Ghose  
Venue: Bengal Gallery  
Date: Sep 26 - Oct 18  
Time: 12-8pm



**Photography Exhibition**  
Theme: Inspiration  
Organiser: Drik  
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi  
Date: Oct 16-22  
Time: 3pm-8pm



**Album Launch**  
Album: Momo Rupee Beshe  
Artist: Aditi Mohsin  
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi  
Date: Oct 17  
Time: 6pm



**Unmad Cover Exhibition**  
Organiser: Unmad  
Venue: Drik Gallery  
Date: Oct 16-18  
Time: 12-8pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: The Macabre World  
Artist: Subrata Das  
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi  
Date: Oct 12-23  
Time: 9:30am-8pm



# Five-day Lalon festival begins today

## Twang of the dotara rings in the air of Kushtia



PHOTO: STAR



Musical instrument makers are passing busy days leading to the festival, and the shops are filling up with newly-made accompaniments of baul music.

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Traditional Baul musical instrument makers in Kushtia and adjacent districts of Meherpur, Chuadanga and Jhenidah have their hands full, meeting orders ahead of the five-day memorial festival marking the 124th death anniversary of Baul Lalon Shah.

The festival begins today and will run till October 20.

The Baul musical tradition incorporates a number of musical instruments that are in great demand at such festivals. The instruments include ektara, dotara, dhol, mandira, banshi, khol, khamak and dung.

Of these instruments, Bauls frequently use the ektara (a one-stringed instrument) and dotara, which is a multi stringed (usually 4 stringed) lute instrument, used for accompaniments.

Other percussion instruments include the baya or khol drum, and small cymbals called kartal and manjira. The dugi is a small handheld earthen drum.

An Akhra bari market with some 50 shops for the sale of such instruments has been set up in front of the main gate of Lalon's shrine.

Azhar, has been in the business for 25 years. He has set up a small factory where he produces four varieties of instruments. This is among 35 such small factories in several villages surrounding the Lalon shrine.

The instrument-makers are reaping in good

returns this year—a jump from previous years.

Although bauls never believed in any prescribed musical form of instruments, inclusion of various instruments were the need and demands of times. These gradually have taken a place in Baul traditions, and through practice and persuasion of the divine songs and incorporation of newer instruments, the tradition is just not alive but is flourishing.

Historical records suggest that the ektara was the only musical instruments used inside the akhra from the times of Lalon, and that tradition continues even today.

Other percussion instruments include the baya or khol drum, and small cymbals called kartal and manjira. The dugi is a small handheld earthen drum.

Initially, it was the bamboo flute, the ektara and dotara that were used, but then progressively rhythm instruments such as mandira, kartal, jhuri, and later drums such as dhol, khol and naal made their steady entry into the baul trend.

It was in fact about two decades after the transition of Lalon that the baya or small drum slung to the waist and played with the left hand was included into this form of folk music.

According to instrument-makers, this is one of the two peak times of two festivals in the year to produce and sell the items that they look forward to.

"We make all of the instruments in our factory and supply these to the Akhra market and to different parts of the country as per the demand of buyers," said Azhar Uddin alias Pillad Mistri of Cheuria village, the village where the Lalon shrine is located.

Azhar, also a baul philosophy lover, has been in the business for last 25 years. He established a small factory where he produces 4 types of instruments, he said.

"Business this year is good and we are happy with the number of orders," said Kanu Sarder of Char Milpara, who runs a small instrument-making factory.

Prices of these items are also reasonable. Wood, bamboo, wire is needed to make the musical instruments.

Buyers from different parts of the country come to the shrine during the occasion, and collect such musical instruments, some makers said.

An ektara can cost from Tk. 50 to Tk.1000, while a dotara goes for 150 to 1500 and a khol at 2,500-2,700.

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## Bauls assemble in huge numbers

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

The mystic songs of Baul king Fakir Lalon Shah reverberate at his den on the occasion of a five-day memorial festival dedicated to the bard at Cheuria in Kushtia.

The festival, also known as Dol Purnima, will start this evening.

The festival is one of the largest annual congregations of Bauls and devotees of Lalon at his den where around 1.5 lakh Bauls, shai and other devotees from within and outside the country are present.

Professor Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Advisor of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is likely to inaugurate the event.

Kushtia Deputy Commissioner (DC), Syed Bealal Hossain will preside over the programme.

Lalon Academy that oversees the Lalon shrine has organised the programmes.

Among others, Professor Abdul Hakim Sarkar, vice-



chancellor of Islamic University (IU) and Professor Dr. Shaheenor Rahman, pro-VC of IU, will speak at the programmes.

The shrine has been decorated beautifully for the festival.

One of the main attractions of the event is a Baul Mela (fair).

The festival is held annually, highlighting the philosophy of Lalon. The celebration was introduced by Lalon Shah, the great mystic singer, himself. After his demise, the festival turned into a tradition.

During the festivals, Bauls pay homage to their spiritual leader and render impassioned Lalon songs.

Baul Lalon, king of the Bauls is known as a classical Bengali poet and philosopher who raised some universal questions in the simplest of ways.

According to experts, he composed around 2,000 verses which were then articulated through songs and philosophical thought.

## NEWS bytes

### Get Lucky named song of the year



The Daft Punk hit "Get Lucky" has been named song of the year at an awards event celebrating songwriters who get the most airplay on US radio and TV. Co-written by Nile Rodgers, Pharrell Williams and Daft Punk duo Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, it was honoured by licensing body Broadcast Music Inc (BMI).

Lyricist Sir Tim Rice received the Icon award for his contribution to music.

Van Morrison, meanwhile, was honoured for his classic track "Brown Eyed Girl". First released in 1967, the veteran musician's signature song has now notched up more than 11 million plays in the US.

"Every Breath You Take", written by Sting for The Police, was honoured for notching up 12 million plays.

The ceremony took place at the Dorchester hotel in London on Monday.

There were multiple awards too for Ellie Goulding, whose songs "Anything Could Happen", "Burn" and "I Need Your Love" were all saluted at the black-tie event.

Source: BBC

## Mayar Khela on Rtv



A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Mayar Khela" will air tonight at 9:50pm on Rtv. Written and directed by Rulin Rahman, the drama encircles conflicts, love and sorrow—the everyday tales in a family.

Jitu Ahsan, Richi Solaiman, Intekhab Dinar, Diti, Shampa Reza, Tania Hossain, Nisham, Munia, Shams Sumon and others are in the cast.

## Photography exhibition "Inspiration" begins today

A CORRESPONDENT

As a part of Spanish Week 2014, the Embassy of Spain, in cooperation with Drik, is organising a weeklong photography exhibition at Drik Gallery. The organisers had called for photographs based on the theme "Inspiration" that drew over 4,000 submissions. A jury panel selected 57 photos, which will be exhibited at the gallery.

Today's inauguration ceremony, to be held at 6pm, will see the declaration of the three best photographs. Awards will go to the winners and a photo-book will be launched.

The exhibition remains open till October 22 from 3-8pm every day.

## Programme in memory of Nazrul



KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

In memory of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, a colourful cultural programme and discussion were held on Monday evening.

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad's (JRSSP) Dinajpur unit organised the evening at Dinajpur Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

The cultural programme featured songs, poetry recitation and a play based

on a short story.

Before the programme, a discussion was held, chaired by Azadi Hye, President of Dinajpur unit of JRSSP. The speakers were Mirza Anwarul Islam, convener of Dinajpur unit Sammiloto Sangskritik Jote, eminent singer Ostad Saimud Ali Khan, AK Azad and Md. Shafiqul Islam.

At the discussion, the speakers observed that Nazrul's literary creations remain unsurpassed and he was an epitome of humanity.

## IT'S TRUE!

In 1937, Alice Brady was unable to attend the Academy Awards ceremony to claim her prize for Best Supporting Actress for "In Old Chicago". A mysterious, unidentified man took to the stage to apparently accept the award, but instead stole it. The statuette was never recovered and the Academy later issued Brady with a replacement.



## Tele-film Goom on Maasranga



A CORRESPONDENT

Tele-film "Goom" will air tonight at 7:50pm on Maasranga Television. Written and directed by Mahmud Dinar, the tele-film's central figure is Nawshad returns home from a performance wearing the costume of Tipu Sultan, he is accosted and abducted by a group of people who demand a huge sum of money. Nawshad tries to convince them that he is not wealthy but they call his wife Poroma and demand a heavy ransom to set him free.

Shotabdi Wadud and Mou are the lead cast.



## A small change in habit can help a child reach the age of 5

Every year in Bangladesh thousands of children under the age of 5 die from diarrhea and other diseases. A small change in the habit of washing hands regularly with soap can reduce this mortality rate. You can bring in a change by adapting this habit and inspiring others.

Not as difficult as becoming a litterateur, a simple habit can reduce unwanted death.

- Anisul Hoque



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