

WHAT'S ON

Theatre Festival
 Title: BotTala Rongomela
 Organiser: BotTala
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Oct 24-31
 Time: 6:30pm

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

Spanish Week 2014
Photography Competition and Exhibition
 Theme: Inspiration

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Known Unknown
 Artist: Farzana Ahmed Ummi
 Venue: Dhaka Art Center
 Date: Oct 16-23
 Time: 3pm-8pm

Shorot Utsab
 Organiser: Moner Khorak
 Venue: Aftab Nagar
 Date: October 24
 Time: 3pm-9:30pm

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

NEWS bytes

Saxophone player Raphael Ravenscroft dies

Raphael Ravenscroft, the musician behind one of the most recognisable saxophone solos - on Gerry Rafferty's hit Baker Street - has died.

Raphael Ravenscroft who found fame almost overnight following the release of the 1978 track, died following a suspected heart attack early on Sunday.

He appeared on one disco album by Maxine



Nightingale, Right Back Where We Started From, in 1976, as an arranger but later emerged as one of pop-rock's most prominent saxophonists.

Ravenscroft worked with music icons such as Pink Floyd, Abba and Marvin Gaye, and more recently worked as a session musician for pop artists Daft Punk and Duffy.

Source: BBC

Call for end to raging debates 124th death anniversary of Lalon



AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A five-day programme to mark the 124th death anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shah wrapped up at Chheuria Lalon Akhra in Kushtia last Monday.

Thousands of bauls, devotees and Lalon enthusiasts of the region and different corners of the country observed the solemn occasion with a reiteration of their demand that the authorities take immediate steps to preserve the authentic tunes and lyrics of Lalon songs. They also called for the dissemination of the bard's philosophy of peace and harmony so that global community could follow his doctrine of non-violence.

Devotees spent their time paying homage to Lalon and engaging in introspection, while others stopped by to enjoy live renditions of Lalon songs. The crowd also saw a turnout of foreigners and researchers.

Lalon Academy, an organisation consisting of elected individuals to oversee Lalon's shrine, organised the main programme in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Banglalink was the sponsor of the programme. The local administration

supervised the event.

Professor Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Advisor to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, inaugurated the event as chief guest. With Kushtia Deputy Commissioner (DC) Syed Bealal Hossain in the chair, the programme was addressed by, among others, lawmaker of Kushtia-4 (Khoksa-Kumarkhali) Abdur Rouf, Kushtia Islamic University Vice-Chancellor Abdul Hakim Sarker, Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Shahinoor Rahman, Kushtia Government College principal Professor Badruddoza and Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdus Samad.

Lalon exponents, devotees, singers and laypersons urged the authorities to take immediate steps to preserve the authentic tunes and lyrics of Lalon songs as there is rampant distortion of his works.

Today there are three categories of Lalon songs that are popular in the country: Akhrai tradition, a blend of Akhrai tradition and classical music and fusion of western music with Akhrai tradition. "This admixture is creating controversy about the originality of Lalon's song specially

among the new generation and even foreigners as well as first time listeners of Lalon songs," Professor Dr. Shahinoor Rahman, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Professor of English at Islamic University also an exponent of mystic poems and songs told The Daily Star.

There is also a raging debate on the accurate number of Lalon's songs. While some claim a figure of 6,000 to 8,000 songs, others prefer to peg them at around 2,000. In fact, many songs composed by the growing number of pseudo bauls in the country and in India too-like Gopal Shah or Adam Chan, are labelled as songs of Lalon.

"Many songs labelled as songs of Lalon are in fact not composed by our musical messiah Lalon Shah," said Dr. Rahid Askari, writer, columnist and teacher at Islamic University. Kiran Shah, a follower of Lalon who had come from India for the event also expressed dejection over the distortion of Lalon's tunes.

The five-day programme included a 'Lalon Mela', discussion and rendition of songs by artistes of Lalon Academy and bauls from all over the country.

60th death anniversary of Jibanananda Das today

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

Jibanananda Das was born at Sarbananda Bhavan on February 17, 1899 in Barisal. His family came from Gaodia Village of Bikrampur region of Dhaka district. Jibanananda's father Satyananda Das was a teacher of Brajamohan School, essayist and a publisher. His mother Kusumkumari Das was also a poet. Jibanananda was the eldest son of his parents, and was called by the nickname Milu.

His school life passed by relatively uneventfully. In 1915, he completed his Matriculation exams from Brajamohan School and completed Intermediate from Brajamohan College in 1917 with first class.

Later he enrolled in Presidency College, Calcutta and graduated with a BA (Honours) in English Literature in 1919 and MA in 1921. That same year, his first poem appeared in print in the Baishakh issue of Brahmobadi journal.

Jibanananda worked first at City College as a lecturer. After that he worked at Ramjosh College. He was in Brajamohan College 1935 to 1947.

When Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das died in June 1925, Jibanananda wrote a poem called "Deshbandhu'r Prayan-e", which was published in Bangabani magazine. This poem would later take its place in the collection called "Jhora Palok" (1927). His poetry began to be widely published in various literary journals and little magazines in Kolkata, Dhaka and elsewhere. These included Kallol, perhaps the most famous literary magazine of the era, Kalikalam, Progoti and others.

At this time, he occasionally used the surname Dasgupta as opposed to Das.

In 1935, Jibanananda, by now familiar with professional disappointment and poverty, returned to his alma mater Brajamohan College. He joined as a lecturer in the English department. In Calcutta, Buddhadeb Bose, Premendra Mitra and Samar were starting a brand new poetry magazine called Kobita. Jibanananda's work featured in the first issue of the magazine, a poem called "Mrittur'Agey".

The poet, however, married Labanyaprabha in 1930. A clash of personalities erupted and Jibanananda gave up hope of a happy married life. The gap with his wife never narrowed.

On October 14, 1954, he was un mindfully crossing a street near Calcutta's Deshapriya Park, when he was hit by a tram; Jibanananda was returning home after his routine evening walk. At that time, he used to reside in a rented apartment on the Lansdowne Road. Seriously injured, he was taken to Shambhunath Pundit Hospital. Poet-writer Sajanikanta Das, who had been one of Jibanananda's fiercest critics, was tireless in his efforts to secure the best treatment for the poet. Nonetheless, the injury was too fatal to redress. Jibanananda died in hospital on October 22, 1954 after eight days of struggle with death. He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter, and the ever-growing band of readers.

His notable poetic works are "Jhora Palok", "Dhushor Pandulipi", "Bonolota Sen", "Mohapritibi", "Shaat-ti Tarar Timir", "Shrestho Kobita" and "Ruposhi Bangla".



Hard days for harmonium makers

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Noted harmonium maker from Mymensingh, Abdul Quddus, 55, has been in the profession for around four decades. But Quddus hasn't remained unaffected by the slump in the market for musical instruments in Mymensingh. Once the town was famous for selling musical instruments in the region, and buyers from adjacent Jamalpur, Tangail, Sehpur and Netrokona would come to Mymensingh to pick up quality musical instruments.

But now, shops dealing in musical instruments have opened in adjacent districts, badly hitting business in Mymensingh.

Md. Shafi Miah, 50, a co-worker of Quddus, has been in this profession since he was eight years old. He was a young boy when his father, a prominent harmonium maker and tuner of Mymensingh region, died in 1978.

"Later, to support my family, I had to assist my elder brother, and thus gradually became a harmonium maker and tuner," said Shafi, a father of two children.

"Our lives are becoming miserable as we get a



scarcity of income," added Shafi Miah. "We do not recommend that the new generation become harmonium makers," said Shafi.

"Harmonium making is not a mere profession, it is also rooted to our traditional classical music and culture," said Shafi. There are some 50 harmonium makers in Mymensingh district, he said.

But both Quddus and Shafi said businessmen who deal in musical instruments in Mymensingh town mostly depend on readymade harmoniums collected from Dhaka to meet demand and rake in hefty returns. Now harmonium makers mainly depend on repair work and the earning is very poor in many cases, they added. The saving grace is that in winter, the rush of customers for repair work increases as cultural functions, jatra pala and staging of dramas begin in the rural areas.

Ustad Sunil Dhar, a classical artiste of greater Mymensingh said, "Mymensingh town used to be famous for its high quality musical instruments such as harmoniums and other rhythmic instruments. At that time harmonium makers were flourishing."

"The problems of such artisans should be addressed properly so that they can continue in their professions with dignity and pride," the maestro said.



Understanding Classical Dance is a monthly programme of lectures and demonstrations at Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, with celebrated artiste, choreographer and mentor Sharmila Banerjee who heads the dance department of Chhayanaut and runs the school of dance Nritya Nandan. The first chapter of this series - on Manipuri dance was held on October 21, at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct.

TV WATCH

Drama serial Dhonni Meye on Channel 9



A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Dhonni Meye" will air tonight at 8:45pm on Channel 9.

Written and directed by Matiya Banu Shuku, the story surrounds a government employee Anwar and his three daughters Bipasha, Manisha and Tanisha with vastly different temperaments. Their father cannot afford to fulfill their needs so they decide to live independently. Meanwhile, their father dies leading to a familial crisis.

Abul Hayat, Dolly Zahur, Dipanwita Halder, Swagata, Intekhab Dinar and others are in the cast.

Berklee to confer honorary doctorate on AR Rahman Indian Ensemble pays tribute with cover of "Jiya Jale"



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Berklee College of Music, one of the most renowned colleges of music, is set to confer a honorary doctorate to AR Rahman, a stalwart of Indian music and a globally-renowned composer.

Berklee Faculty and students from the Berklee Indian Ensemble will pay tribute to the living legend, who will join them on select pieces in a concert

celebrating his music and life at Boston's Symphony Hall.

The Berklee Indian Ensemble, one of the largest and most diverse ensembles at the college with members representing 37 countries (including Bangladesh, through vocalist Armeen Musa), has had at least one composition by AR Rahman featured in their repertoire since founding in 2011, and as a tribute to Rahman, have recorded a cover of his ever-

recognisable song "Jiya Jale" (from the film "Dil Se"), combining traditional instruments like the sarod to oriental sounds like the dizi (Chinese transverse flute) to eclectic ones like morsing (an Indian variant of the Jew's Harp), in a jazzy, interesting arrangement.

The video, posted on YouTube, has gained considerable attention, with social blogging sites like BuzzFeed and Scribbler commending it.

LAILA SHARMEEN to showcase works at Carrousel du Louvre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi artist Laila Sharmeen will showcase her recent works in Paris, the art capital of the world. The two-day prestigious art fair, titled Art Shopping, opens at the Carrousel du Louvre on October 25, 2014. Laila last displayed her works at this global forum in 2013.

Leading art galleries from around the world will be representing about 450 artists at the art fair, an annual rendezvous of artists at this epicenter of world art. Laila has been selected for this mega show by Museum of the Americas and represented by Argentine gallery LOFT ESPACIO ALFA.

She will exhibit two of her latest works in mixed media on paper.

Laila has 11 solos and over 50 international shows to her credit. In 2011, she won a Purchase Prize at the prestigious 16th Space International Print Biennial held at OCI Museum of Art in Seoul, Korea.

Laila's works demonstrate an artist whose sole concern is to



devise playful cultural codes that are intrinsically related to the stories emanating from essential Bengali hearts and psyche. Moreover, through many paintings the insightful artist also expresses her frustration and agony about the anomalies that have been engulfing the world in recent