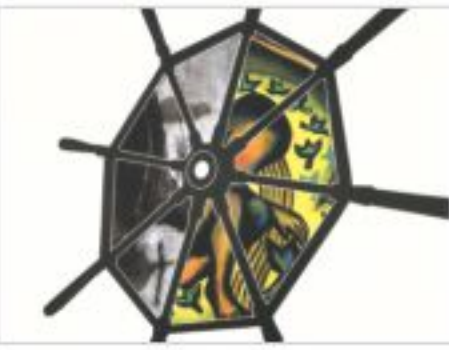


WHAT'S ON

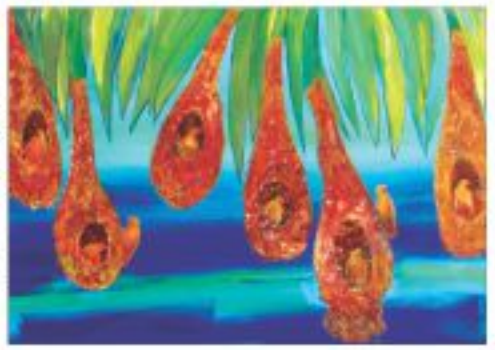
Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Abdur Razzaque
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-4, Rd-6, Dhanmondi
Date: Oct 31-Nov 15
Time: 10am-8pm



Group Print Exhibition
Title: Nature Quest
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, H-115, L-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Nov 10-23
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Painting exhibition
Title: Memories Beyond Time
Artist: Syed Jahangir
Venue: Abinta Gallery of fine arts
Date: Nov 11-Dec 01
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Jungle of Humanity by Mahbub Zamil Shamim
Venue: Gallery-2, (2nd floor), National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: Nov 10-24
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Layers
Artist: Fahad Hasan Kazmee
Venue: Kala Kendra
Date: Oct 27-Nov 22
Time: 5-8pm



"Nature shines through folk music"

BAUL SHAFI MONDOL SPEAKS TO THE DAILY STAR



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

NAZIBA BASHER

Seasoned Lalon singer Baul Shafi Mondol is one who needs no introduction. Carrying Lalon's message of peace across the country, Baul Shafi Mondol has been successfully spreading the love for folk and Lalon music since his journey as a Lalon singer began.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, Baul Shafi speaks about the current state of folk music in the country and abroad.

What year-long activities related to Lok Sangeet do you take part in?

Baul Shafi: I spend most of my time in the villages. There are many festivals that take place throughout the year, especially Baul festivals that I generally take part in. There is a special group I have formed with Sadhus called the 'Sadhu sanga'. We usually do events and programmes involving Sadhus. When a Sadhu passes away, we usually hold funeral programmes from the Sadhu sanga. The festivals that Sadhus take part in usually follow the lunar calendar, and we always hold events during the special lunar months or dates. But whatever I am doing, I am involved with music. I go wherever the music goes.

To what extent has folk music caught on in Dhaka?

Baul Shafi: Dhaka is a place of institutions. Of course, it is practiced here, like it is out of Dhaka. But the difference is that folk and Lok

sangeet is something you have to experience, not just learn. And it is difficult to embrace the beauty of folk without the presence of nature. Dhaka is a concrete jungle, where everything--the air, the water--are all contaminated. It is easier for one to stay connected to Mother Nature and the Earth out of the capital, and that helps with the practice of Lalon's philosophy and music.

Is folk music just as popular outside of Dhaka as it used to be amongst the newer generation?

Baul Shafi: The popularity is always increasing, and especially among the newer generation. It is something I really enjoy watching, because the children of the newer generation are so intelligent and knowledgeable. They don't look at Lalon music as just another genre, but they research on it, they embrace it from the inside out, they understand the historical significance, they are mixing with nature to love understand music more. When two different generations work together, a lot of great things happen. If I say something, a child from this generation can say it better. So, I believe if we combine our efforts, we can uplift the art from better. The fusion of two generations together is what will take Lok Sangeet further.

What can we do to bring children of Dhaka to love this art form more?

Baul Shafi: It is the responsibility of the institutions and the families. At least once in a month, they need to take their children outside of the shell that is Dhaka city. They need to go out, see

and feel nature; they need to listen to the wonders of the music and find the connection between it and Mother Earth. We need children to love nature, because nature is Lok Sangeet. The problem is that children nowadays crumble under the pressure of education. I feel the pressure is a tad too much. Their minds need to be free of such pressure, their minds need to wander and imagine. The only thing children think about nowadays is how to get that degree, but there is so much more to life that they need to see, love and embrace. They don't get time to love the country, to love our culture, or nature.

What about the love for folk outside the country?

Baul Shafi: No matter who is taking folk music where, folk is the most popular genre of Bangladesh being celebrated outside.

Are folk instruments still being used to their fullest potential even after the intervention of electronic instruments?

Baul Shafi: Of course they are being used! There are now many more new instruments being used as well, but that hasn't made the previous ones obsolete. With the inclusion of newer instruments, Lok Sangeet is only becoming richer and more diverse. But our Bangla dhol, flute, ektara, dotara are still widely used. With time, many things develop, and we must allow it to. New instruments, whether electronic or not, are only an addition, a good addition. There is nothing wrong with them.

"Portraits of Lima" to open at BSA

A CORRESPONDENT

To showcase the cultural diversity of Peru, Sarah Ali, the Consul of Peru in Bangladesh is organising a photography exhibition titled "Portraits of Lima", in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The event will be inaugurated on November 17 at 4pm at BSA, where Minister of Cultural Affairs Asaduzzaman Noor will attend as chief guest.

The exhibition features collected works of Eugene Courret, a French photographer who was based in Lima during the mid-19th century. Sarah Ali informed The Daily Star that "Portraits of Lima" is a visiting exhibition that is slated to go through India next. The 42 photographs on display were obtained by the Embassy of Peru in India, which were collected from the National Archive of Lima.

"The award winning photographer's work features the racial diversity in Lima. When one thinks of Peru, the Inca Empire is foremost on our minds, but the country's cultural diversity goes much beyond that. Numerous immigrations throughout history have resulted in Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and African influences in their collective culture, which the portraits effectively illustrate," stated Sarah Ali.

The five-day exhibition concludes on November 21.



Cultural organisation "Uttarayan" recently held a programme titled "Amader Rabindranath" at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's National Theatre Hall. Planned by Lily Islam and Himadri Shekhor, with Subhrata Mukhopadhyay as music director and Nasirul Haque Khokon as artistic director, the evening included musical performances by artistes from Uttarayan and Kolkata, as well as recitations by elocutionists from Badrul Abritti Charcha Kendra, from Chittagong.

Celebrating the bounties of Nabanna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nabanna Utshab will be held today at Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University and at Rabindra Sarabar, Dhanmondi. Nabanna, the harvest festival is celebrated by rural people across the country during the Bangla month of Agrahayan (November-December) Jatiyo Nabanna Utshab Uddipan Parshad has been the organiser of the festival in Dhaka since 1999.

Traditionally poets, painters, musicians, bauls and people from all walks of life come together at the festival. A big attraction of the celebration is a variety of handmade pitha made from the fresh harvest.

Nabanna Mela (fair) is generally held in the countryside. The festival cuts across communities and is cause for celebration by farmers in Bangladesh.

Nabanna Utshab in Dhaka is traditionally celebrated in a big way in Dhaka. The programmes usually features solo and group renditions of folk songs, baul gaan, dance performances, recitation, and more.



"Can't wait for 'Padmavati' to release"

... Deepika Padukone

Leading Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone says that she can't wait for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's directorial "Padmavati" to release.

She graced the event in Mumbai and during the media interaction, the actress said: "I will only say that the love we all are getting, whether it is for posters or trailer or song. I think we all are very excited and overwhelmed by the response and we can't wait to share this film with everyone."

"It has been an incredible journey and we are literally counting the days. We can't wait for the film to release and we can't wait to share this experience with everyone," added the actress.

"Padmavati" is caught in the eye of the storm with Karni Sena and other caste and religious bodies protesting against the film, reports IANS.

Last week, filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali released a video clarifying about the rumoured dream sequences in the film, but protests continue to grow and Deepika said she has nothing to comment about that.

The movie also stars Shahid Kapoor and Ranveer Singh in the lead role and is slated to release on December 1.

Source: TOI

"Lord of the Rings" series moving forward

A "Lord of the Rings" TV series is moving forward at Amazon with the streaming service giving the series a multi-season production commitment, Amazon announced Monday.

As Variety exclusively reported, a series adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's world-renowned fantasy novels has been in development at Amazon after being shopped by the Tolkien estate and Warner Bros. Television.

Set in Middle Earth, the television adaptation will explore new storylines preceding "The Fellowship of the Ring." The deal also includes a potential additional spin-off series. The series will be produced by Amazon Studios in cooperation with the Tolkien Estate and Trust, HarperCollins and New Line Cinema, a division of Warner Bros. Entertainment.

"The Lord of the Rings" is a cultural phenomenon that has captured the imagination of generations of fans through literature and the big screen," said Sharon Tal Yguado, head of scripted series for Amazon Studios. "We are honored to be working with the Tolkien Estate and Trust, HarperCollins and New Line on



this exciting collaboration for television and are thrilled to be taking 'The Lord of the Rings' fans on a new epic journey in Middle Earth."

The Amazon deal does not cover "The Silmarillion," the third major work taking place in Tolkien's Middle Earth and adjacent worlds, published after the author's death.

The three film adaptations of "The Lord of the Rings," from New Line Cinema and

director Peter Jackson, earned a combined gross of nearly \$6 billion worldwide. The cast included Elijah Wood, Viggo Mortensen, Ian McKellen, Liv Tyler, Sean Astin and Orlando Bloom. The film trilogy also garnered a combined 17 Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

The development of the "Lord of the Rings" series comes as Amazon is set to pursue a new programming mandate dictated by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. The streamer is looking for a "Game of Thrones"-esque genre programming with broad international appeal.

Source: Variety