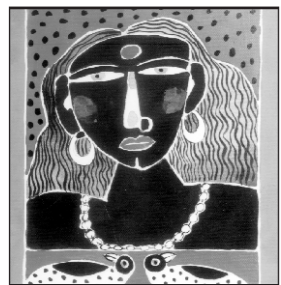


RECOMMENDATIONS



Solo Exhibition

A solo exhibition of the paintings and drawings by Abdus Shakoor is being held at the "Shipangan" gallery.

Concert

Antar Showbiz in collaboration with Close Up has organised a concert titled "Rock Brigade" on January 17 at Army Stadium, Dhaka. Leading bands and solo artists such as LRB, dHAKA, Chime, NOVA, Banglar Baul, Prometheus, Edges, Aurthohin, Pantha Kanai, Conopy, Dalchhut, Tishma, Shumon and Sub Conscious will perform at the concert.

15th National Fine Arts Exhibition 2002

The 15th National Fine Arts Exhibition 2002 is being held at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The exhibition will run through January 27 everyday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays.

Mobile Arts Exhibition

January 10-14 Bangladesh Shilpa Kala Academy has organised a 5-day long mobile art exhibition at various educational institutions since January 10 as part of its "Project for Expansion of Art-activities throughout Country." The present exhibition is going on at Udayan Higher Secondary School. The exhibition continues through January 14.

Children's Film Show

Zahir raihan Film Society in cooperation with the Russian Cultural Centre will screen today three children's films—Aladdin's Magic Lamp, The Arrows of Robin Hood, and The Merry Musketeers at the Russian Cultural Centre. The show times for the three films are 3.30 p.m., 5.00 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. respectively.

Musi

Reving up "ghazals" to drown one's sorrows

Mesbahuddin Ahmed performs at "La Vinci"

FAYZA HAQ

MESBAHUDDIN Ahmed, in his early thirties, is not new to the scene of "ghazals" for he has given about 700 solo stage performances in this genre. Lately, during the last Eid, he brought out an audio album of his Bengali songs too to prove to the world that it is not "ghazals" alone that he has mastered; and most of the 12 compositions in the album content are his own. As he performed recently at "La Vinci", he mingled his songs with extempore repartee, jokes, variations of "Uchanga sangeet" and added suitable accompanying dramatic gestures, while his "tablachi" accompanied him with zest. His pronunciations were immaculate and he performed according to the request of the crowd that had gathered. As a consequence, the crowd, many of them Indians or from Old Dhaka, were heady with the joie de vivre of the high poetry content of the songs and their unparalleled lively renditions.

up in the capital. While doing his Masters in Management, he kept up his passion for singing, so that singing is his "second profession", as he himself puts it. He said, "I love 'ghazals' because when I heard my 'ustads' singing I was totally captivated by its wordings and its fiery and poignant emotional impact. I used to listen to this particular form of singing as a young boy, and since then I've lost my soul to it. I heard

musikura raheho,' Ghulam Ali's 'Chupke chupke' and there were some of my own compositions too. I give a lot of time and effort to compose songs myself."

Touching on how he was pursuing a genre of song which has limited popularity in general in Bangladesh, Mesbah said, "Let me begin by saying that although I had training in Indian classical singing (which is the basis for all eastern music), no one was my 'ghazal' trainer: I concentrated on the songs from CD and cassettes. It is a pity that the people here in our country copy the Indian style in clothes, cosmetics, jewellery, food, watch Zee TV and other Hindi channels ardently, and yet fail to understand that 'ghazals' belong to the entire Subcontinent and Urdu was once our camp language for all types of people coming from the length and breadth of India. We admire Oriental Art and Muslim calligraphy that comes down from the Mogul courts and from on a genre of music which found its heyday in these same courts during the time of Akbar and Jehangir to the time of Bahadur Shah Zafar, who everybody knows composed 'ghazals' himself and it was not just Dagh or Ghalib who composed 'ghazals'.



Mesbahuddin Ahmed

Jagjit Singh, Ahmed Hussain, Mohammed Hussain, Farida Khanum, Ghulam Ali, Begum Akhter etc, and felt this was something I could and should master myself for my own delight and the pleasure of others for whom I could sing. My feelings were that I could best express myself to the rest of the world through these 'ghazals.' I am basically a very emotional person and the passion contained in this particular genre touches my heart, as nothing else does."

Asked to recount the names of the numbers that he had sung that Sunday night, Mesbah said that they included popular 'ghazals' as they best appealed to the people after their hard day's work. He said that the requests for songs by Jagjit Singh were the most. He said, "I love Jagjit's songs enormously myself. That night I sang songs of Anup Jalota, such as 'Tumhara sher ka mausam bahat suhag hai' and 'Lazgaat gham darha dijeye', Jagjit Singh's 'Ye daulat bhi leylo ye shohrat bhi le lo' and 'Tum itna jo



Mesbahuddin Ahmed performing in public with "harmonium" and a flautist to accompany him

"As for myself, I've been awarded the prize as the best 'ghazal' singer from Rotary Club in 1997 by former minister Sajida Chowdhury so it is not something to sing only in a hide-and-seek manner. It is a pity that some people in Bangladesh have the wrong conception that 'ghazals' are a part of Pakistan, who once dominated us: 'ghazals' have global appeal and meaning. The British have ruled us and yet there is no objection to listening to English music or seeing English TV programmes or even seeing English films on the big screen. Music is music and should not be bound by barriers of countries. If the old complexes could be set aside 'ghazals' too would have the patronage that they deserve, as this too is an integral part of our cultural heritage that comes down from centuries. It is not that we don't have talent for 'ghazals' locally but there is not the conducive ambience generally. In India, on the other hand, the patronization in comparison is so large that even the average 'ghazal' singer has a following and he/she does not have to neces-

sarily resort to other means of existence as we have to do here. Take Niaz Mohammed Chowdhury, my own guru, he deserves more recognition than he has got so far. As for myself, I'm now learning with Ustad Mashkoo Ali Khan from India, at workshops arranged by the Bengal Foundation and this is a two-year course. I'm taking training in Indian classical singing even today and will continue till I die."

Asked to name the best exponents of "ghazals", Mesbah said, "Ghazal was once sung in the 'thumri' style as Amanat Ali and Begum Akhter used to sing. Mehdi Hassan modified the style and brought a new arrangement which appeals universally. The composition there is fixed which is different from the 'thumri' or 'khyal'. Next, it is Jagjit Singh who the fans of 'ghazals' should be thankful to as his contribution is enormous. Pankaj Udas too is to be admired greatly."

Giving a brief history of the "ghazal", Mesbah said, "It was a court song sung by private singers as there were the resources and the time for that by the royalty, years

back, in the Indian Subcontinent, and this included exponent and poets like Amir Khusru, Ghalib, Dagh, Hazrat Mohani, Mir Taqi Mir, Momen and of course, Omar Khayyam from ancient Persia. It got its revival in the 20th and 21st century as the songs are ageless and cross barriers of hundreds of years. Like Tagore songs, that began years ago, they will never die out."

Asked if he had any problems while pursuing his passion for "ghazals", Mesbah said, "I don't really care if I get proper remuneration or not for my singing. I sing therefore I am. People coming from the upper echelons of society spend a lot on this and that fancy item, but when it comes to singing or even many other elements of performing or fine arts they complain that they have a tight budget."

Elaborating on who he combined his other work with singing Mesbah said he does business with his father but finds the mood, he locks up his office and comes to practice with his own "tabla" players. He plays the guitar, "tabla" and the

keyboard too himself.

His latest feat is his "G series" which is his first CD/audio cassette album after performing professionally for twelve years. These contain modern Bengali songs which he has sung and composed and put into music himself except for one. The names include "Abar dekha hole", "Ekta coffee house", "Tandra jorano do chokhey shondhar karukaj", "Bhalo bhasha bole kakey bole", "Shondha" which is a pure experiment, based on "raag" "bagesri" where "tabla" is used and is a combination of questions and answers. This is often seen in eastern dancing such as "kathak". Bappa Mojmudar and Manam Ahmed (from "Miles") have arranged the music. Acoustic drums, electric guitar, keyboard, "tabla", acoustic flute etc. have been used in this. The album also contains the famous song "Shono dekbo bole" by Mousumi Bhumi of India.

TV GUIDE

BTV

12.10 pm News Headlines
12.15 Shubhechha Nin
12.20 A j k e r
Shangbadpatro
12.30 Health Bulletin
01.00 Khabar
01.05 Selected programme/ Believe It Or Not
02.00 News Headlines
02.05 Ta Ta Thoi Thoi
02.30 Cartoon Show
03.00 News
03.05 Regional Cultural Programme
03.30 Shukhi Poribar
04.00 News Headlines
04.05 Bhorer pakhi
04.30 Aa-Mori Bangla Bhasha Khabar
05.00 English Debate
06.00 Khabar - Desh Jonopod
06.10 Wrestling
07.00 English News Headlines, Share Market
07.10 Weather Bulletin
07.30 Asia This Week
07.30 Drama Serial: Pherar Path Nei
08.00 Bangla News of 8'o clock
08.30 Ananda Ghonta
09.30 Musical Programme
10.00 English News of 10'o clock
10.25 News Report
10.30 Shomokaleen
10.35 Aurthoneeti
10.35 Ahabaan
11.00 Shur Lohori
11.30 News / News Headlines

CHANNEL-i

07.00 a.m. Prothom Shur
10.00 MusicPlus
10.40 Baro Mash-er Ranna
11.10 Shahjai Swapno Ghar
11.40 Sunlight Favourite Drama: Kokhono ShomoyAshey
12.00 pm Drama Serial: Shei Diner Bhalobasha iFocus
12.30 Bangla Feature Film: Ek Polokey
05.35 Jonopod-er Khabar
05.45 Ek-er Bhetorey Panch
06.10 MusicPlus
06.45 Musical Programme
07.15 Channel-i News
07.45 Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (Questions)
07.50 Randhuni-r Ranna
08.25 Magazine Show: Your Choice Ole Ole
09.00 Channel-i News
09.31 Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (Answers)
10.00 Drama Serial: Noksha
10.25 Channel-i Mobile

ATN BANGLA

6:00 Islamic Prog
8:00 ATN Bangla News
8:25 Viewers opinion prog: Motamot
9:00 Drama: Asto Madol
9:35 Magazine prog: Tasmeri Kechokhon
10:10 Talk Show: Bangladeshher Unnoyon
12:00 ATN Bangla News
2:05 Film song's prog: Surchobi
2:30 ATN Bangla News Headlines
2:45 Bengali feature film: Protesstrute
5:30 Islamic Prog:
6:25 Children prog: Shapla Shaluk
7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
7:25 Puppet Magazine The World of Jonathon Sing
8:00 Reporting prog: Ghotona Probhh
8:35 Musical prog: Suno Pathek
9:00 ATN Bangla News
9:15 Drama Serial: Ghoyenda Kahene
10:00 ATN Bangla News
10:35 Talk Show: Sekal Aekal
11:10 Musical prog: ATN Bangla News
11:30 Bengali feature film: Modupurnema

HBO

6:30 ATF
8:15 Leave it to Veaver
10:00 Contagious
12:00 Darkman II: The Return of Durant
2:00 Picking up the Pieces
3:45 The Base II
5:45 The Hard Way
8:00 Angel Eyes
10:00 The Wedding Singer
12:00 The Relic
2:15 Picking up the Pieces
4:00 One True Thing

AXN

6:30 Ripley's Believe It or Not!
7:30 Relic Hunter Run Sydney Run
8:30 Exploring the Unknown
9:30 Motorworld
10:00 The Right Stuff
10:30 Pacific Blue
11:30 Silver Dollar
12:30 The Agency the Peacemakers
1:30 Now See this
3:30 Movie: Born on the Fourth of July
5:30 Best of Prime Zone Pacific Blue Silver Dollar
6:30 Beastmaster Double Edged
7:30 Best of X Zone Now See This
8:30 Ripley's Believe It or Not!
9:30 Sat Premiere Movie: Nighthawks
10:30 The Hunger
11:30 Pacific Blue
12:30 Relic Hunter Run Sydney Run
2:30 Beastmaster Double Edged

SONY

6:00 Music Mantra
6:30 Just Mohabbat
7:00 Chartbusters
7:30 Sant Asaram Vani
8:00 Saturday Film: Parichay
11:00 Yeh Shaddi Nahin Hosakti
11:30 Good Morning Disney
12:30 Kya Haadsa Kya Haqueeqat
1:30 Cine Matinee: Ankahee
5:30 Chartbusters
6:00 Music Mantra
6:30 Disney Hour
7:30 CID Files
8:30 Kya Haadsa Kya Haqueeqat
9:30 Cine Prime: Moksha

SET MAX

7:30 Mini Movies: Humayun
8:30 Kapil Dil Se
9:00 Hotlist

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

HBO: 12.00 a.m. The Relic
A researcher at Chicago's National History Museum returns from South America with some crates containing his findings. When the crates arrive at the museum without the owner there appears to be very little inside. However, police discover gruesome murders on the cargo ship that brought the crates to the US and then another murder in the museum itself. Investigating the murders is Lt. Vincent D'Agosta who enlists the help of Dr. Margo Green at the museum - she has taken an interest in the contents of her colleague's crates.

Star Movies: 09.00 p.m. Being John Malkovich
A puppeteer discovers a hidden doorway in his office, which turns out to be a portal into John

9:30 Ishk Ishk Ishk
1:00 Current Bollywood
1:30 Kanhaiya
5:00 Hotlist
7:00 Chashme Budder
9:00 Cricket Masters 9
12:00 Zulmi
12:30 Hotlist
1:30 Jantar Mantar

STAR MOVIES

6:00 Taking Care Of Business
7:45 Windfall
9:30 Memory Run
2:00 Being John Malkovich
1:45 Atlantis
2:15 Conspiracy
4:00 Taking Care Of Business
5:25 Amanda And The Alien
7:00 Last Dance
8:45 Psycho li
10:45 Bad Moon
12:15 The Ticket
12:45 Dead Awake
2:30 A Fish Called Wanda
4:15 The Outsiders
5:45 Street Knight

STAR GOLD (Thirty minutes plus)

6:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
7:00 Mirch Masala
13:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
13:55 Mail Milap
14:00 Sundaymatinee
17:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
18:00 Fox Kids Sunday
18:55 Kya Film Kya Geet
19:00 Sonpari
19:30 Jubilee Plus
20:00 Starmastmovie
23:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet

STAR PLUS (Thirty minutes plus)

5:30 Mirch Masala
6:00 Geet Bahar

PICK OF THE DAY

The Wedding Singer
On HBO, 10.00 p.m.
Robbie Hart is singing the hits of the 1980s at weddings and other celebrations. He also can keep the party going in good spirit; he knows what to say and when to say it. Julia is a waitress at the events where Robbie performs. When both of them find someone to marry and prepare for their weddings, it becomes clear that

9:30 Geet Bahar
7:00 Aatma
7:55 Film Topper - 1000 Series
8:00 Gurukul - Ancient Wisdom Of In Budder
9:00 Jai Mata Ki Yatra
10:30 Bol Baby Bol
11:00 Kya Masti Kya Dhuum
11:55 Kya Film Kya Geet
12:00 Chupa Rustam
12:30 Musafir Hoon Yaaron
13:00 Mirch Masala
13:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
13:55 Mail Milap
14:00 Sundaymatinee
17:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
18:00 Fox Kids Sunday
18:55 Kya Film Kya Geet
19:00 Sonpari
19:30 Jubilee Plus
20:00 Starmastmovie
23:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet

11:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
11:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
12:00 Sg1430
14:30 Shri Shri Superstar
14:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
15:00 Yamraaj - Jubilee Film
18:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
18:30 Jubilee Plus
19:00 Ooh La La
19:50 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
20:00 Special Gold
22:30 Flashback
22:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
23:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
23:30 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
23:35 Nazarr

STAR WORLD (Thirty minutes plus)

05:30 Water Rats
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Malcolm In The Middle
07:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
09:30 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
10:00 Travel Asia
10:30 Goosebumps
11:00 Life With Louie
11:30 The Tick

18:30 Chosen One
19:00 Rewind
19:30 [V] Karaoke
20:00 Billboard Us Countdown
21:00 [V] Ticket
21:30 [V] Saturday Stack
22:00 Club [V]
23:00 [V] Weekend Spl

CARTOON NETWORK

(Thirty minutes plus)
6:30 Josie And The Pussycats
7:00 The Cartoon Cartoon Show
8:00 Tom & Jerry Show
9:00 Jackie Chan Adventures
9:30 Hong Kong Phooey
10:00 Superman The Animated Series - Double Eps
10:30 Power Zone
11:00 The Real Adventures Of Jonny Quest

11:30 Swat Kats
12:00 The Mask - Double Episodes
1:00 Richie Rich
1:30 A Pup Named Scooby Doo
2:00 Tom & Jerry Show
3:00 The Flintstones And Jetsons Hour
4:00 The Popeye Show
5:00 The Powerpuff Girls - Double Episodes
5:30 Toonami
6:00 Dan Dare
6:30 Cardcaptors 2
7:00 Samurai Jack
7:30 Hong Kong Phooey
8:00 Superman The Animated Series - Double Eps
8:00 [V] Jumpstart
9:00 [V] Saturday Stack
9:30 [V] Back To Back
10:00 [V] Saturday Stack
10:30 [V] Back To Back
11:00 [V] Saturday Stack
11:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
12:00 [V] Saturday Stack
12:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
13:00 [V] Saturday Stack
13:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
14:00 [V] Back To Back
14:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
15:00 [V] Back To Back
15:30 [V] Saturday Stack
16:00 [V] Zabardast Hits
16:30 [V] Saturday Stack
17:00 [V] Weekend Spl
18:00 [V] Zabardast Hits

20:00 Explorer's Journal
21:00 Surfer's Journal

ESPN (Thirty minutes plus)

5:30 Sportscenter Hindi (R)
6:00 New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series 02/03 Auckland, NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Vs India 6th Odi Preview(L)
6:30 New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series 02/03 Auckland, NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Vs India 6th Odi, 1st Session(L)
10:00 New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series 02/03 Auckland, NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Vs India 6th Odi, Lunchtime Show(L) 00:45:00
10:45 New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series 02/03 Auckland, NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Vs India 6th Odi, 2nd Session(L)
14:1 5New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series 02/03 Auckland, NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Vs India 6th Odi, Review(L)
15:00 Cricket Programming Super Selector (R)
15:30 Nba Action (T)
16:00 Nba Basketball Salt Lake City, UT And Jetsons Heat Vs Utah Jazz (S)
18:30 Pro Billiards 2002 Trickshot Magic Baltimore, MD USA (T)
19:30 Sportscenter Weekend (T)
19:35 Epl Saturday Premiership Preview(L)
20:25 English Premier Football League 2002/03 Liverpool, ENGLAND Liverpool Vs Aston

2002/03 Birmingham, ENGLAND West Bromwich Albion Vs Manchester United (L)
22:30 New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series 02/03 Auckland, NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Vs India 6th Odi, Highlights(S)
STAR SPORTS (Thirty minutes plus)

8:00 Cricket Programming Super Selector (R)
8:30 Australia Cricket Vb Series Hobart, AUSTRALIA Australia Vs England 7th Odi, 2nd Session(L)
12:30 Nba Inside Stuff (R)
13:00 Tennis Adidas International Open 2003 Sydney, AUSTRALIA Semifinals(R)
16:00 Rally Racing Telefonica Dakar 2003 Day 8 Highlights(T)
16:30 Gillette World Sports Special Gillette World Sports (T)
17:00 Spanish League Highlights 2002/03 Spanish League Highlights (T)
17:30 Cricket Programming Super Ratings Year In Review (R)
18:00 Australia Cricket Vb Series Hobart, AUSTRALIA Australia Vs England 7th Odi, Highlights(S)
19:25 Team India Programming India Glorious Mumbai, MA INDIA India Vs South Africa Titan Cup Final H/Ls(T)
20:25 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Liverpool, ENGLAND Liverpool Vs Aston