# CULTURE

## The Daily Star

"ghazals" which are gaining a

foothold in Dhaka and Chittagong,

Kalpana said, "It is a love song,

which is one sided, as it comes

from the man and is very poignant

most often. The words have depth

as they are based on poetry of

famous poets. Fifty years back it

was still a semi-classical form but

today, the way it is often rendered,

it is no more so. If you listen to

Begum Akhter, Farida Khanum and

Jagjit Singh you will realize its

importance and changes within its

renderings. Unfortunately, the

'ghazal' now is turning into a 'geet'

or folk form: There is not the depth

Giving her impression of Ban-

gladesh, Kalpana concluded her

in it as there used to be."

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Exhibition

January 21 - February 10 Renowned German photographer Andreas Herzau recently conducted a workshop titled Foreigners in Bangladesh last year. The outcome of the workshop, a collection of photographs by fifteen photographers and students is on display at the Goethe Institut Dhaka. The exhibition will continue till February 21 everyday from 2 pm to 8 pm, except weekends and

#### Exhibition February 1-March 2

holidavs

Saju Art Gallery will hold a painting exhibition, Grand Group Art Exhibition, displaying works of more than a hundred artists of the country from February 1. All senior and young genration artists will participate in this 47th event of Group Art Exhibition. The exhibition will run through March 2 from 10 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. everyday except Friday.

#### Music

February 2 Reputed musical group Shannoya is going to present its 23rd music evening at Viswa Shahitya Kendra. In this two-and-a-half hour long programme, Shannoya will render a selection of melodious old Bangla songs used in the theatre including those requested by the audience The programme will start at 6.30

#### Theatre February 2

Theatre group Natyajan will hold the maiden show of its new production Bhuban-er Ghateywritten by Dr. Syed Manjurul Islam and directed by Munira Yusuf Memi--at the Mohila Samity Auditorium. Chairperson o Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Mamunur Rashid, and Secretary General of the Federation Liyakat Ali Laki will be present at the show that will start at 6.30

#### Dance February 2

BTV

08.40 amShubhechha Nin

09.45 Selected Programme

08.50 Alor Pathey

09.20 Kheladhula

10.00 The News

09.00 Khabar

Nrityanchal -- a leading dance institute of the country, will conduct an all-Bangladesh dance competition titled Nrityanchal Protibha Shandhan 2003, in order to pick new dancing talents. Sponsored by the Standard Chartered Bank, this competition will be inaugurated at the Shilpakala Academy Auditorium in Chittagong on February 2 at 10.30 a.m. The competition will run through whole February and March at eleven centres in the six divisions of the country.

# A rage for classical notes

### Kalpana Bhattacharya talks about her penchant for "Uchanga Sangeet"

#### FAYZA HAQ

Music

ALPANA Bhattacharya, who performed with flamboyance and finesse, brave in her green and beige sari, in the packed and overflowing large hall, "La Galerie", at the Alliance Francaise recently, said that she had gone into music in a big way as she came from a musical family. This was although none of her parents performed professionally. Her training took place after her marriage, and her husband was the one who encouraged her to take up music seriously and learn under various "ustads" in India. Kalpana said, "It was after all my children were born, when I was about twenty-one, that I went into music with the aim to perform professionally. My gurus included

Nolinaksa Datta, Kalidas Dey, and later Ata Hussain Khan who was Datta's guru too. Later I learnt from Khadim Hussain Khan, who, incidentally, was related to Ata Hussain Khan, and with Latafat Hussain Khan (who belonged to the Agra "Atroli gharana)."

Talking about why she had gone into "Uchanga Sangeet" rather than any other genre of eastern music, Kalpana said, "It is difficult but its form and tunes appeal to me more than any other types of songs. Songs like 'Rabindrasangeet' and 'Nazrulgeeti' are based on words whereas classical music depends on the tune. The manner in which the tunes of 'Uchanga Sangeet' move me the other genres of eastern music such as 'Rabindrasangeet' do not stir me. I feel that the singer's or listener's personal contact with eastern classical music is enormous: when you hear it you are moved to cry or smile, which is not necessarily the case of our other eastern songs of the subcontinent. Incidentally, 'Uchanga Sangeet' is the base of all eastern music. in the Subcontinent. There is strong link between the classical eastern music notes and the minds of the listeners. There are definitely notes for 'Uchanga Sangeet' which are

variations of 'Sa-ray-ga-ma-padha-ni'. I play on the 'tanpura' which you automatically learn to play as you learn to sing with the 'ustad'. The 'tanpura' helps me balance the tunes of my songs." Talking about the sate of "Uchanga Sangeet" Kalpana said, quage or our rhythm of life. Stu-"I'm sure people enjoy eastern classical music although it may not dents like Suranjana will tell you be as popular here in the radio and that they come to learn as they are attracted to it for a reason that they

TV as it is in India and Pakistan. Even though you may not understand the words yet you are attracted to it by the tune, which has a language of its own, as every 'raag' has its 'roop' as there are 'raags' to match every time of the

cannot put into words. The appeal has to be cultivated and one has to be exposed to it. There is a 'bandish' which contains a few words with which the singer plays and modulates her/his voice. In

day such as the morning or the 'raags' you get nine 'rosh' such as 'sringer', 'korun', 'shanto', 'bhokti', evening. The tunes attract you 'darsho' and 'batshollo'. Only those whether or not you understand the language of the songs. Ones who can sing well will be able to attracted to the tunes will remain express the 'rosh'. Thus the their ardent admirers, and this 'bandish' (basic binding) contains a includes foreigners, who don't few words, and this 'bandish' has necessarily understand our lancome down for centuries."

Asked if she practiced daily and to elaborate about her training and practice, Kalpana said," It is essential that you practice for two hours every day and I prefer to sing in the mornings, after which I do my housework. During my performances, I practice a little more, and my entire family sees to it that I find the time for that, as they are very accommodating. I've been

singing since 1960, first learning from Bengali gurus and then from the 'ustads', till 1980. I would still like to learn, if I could find more ustads'. I teach and perform now, preferring to teach rather than perform, which I do in private homes too, at personal requests. I have come to Bangladesh many times for three years now, to conduct the workshops that I hold regularly. I was first invited in 1995 by Alimur Rahman Khan, who is well-known in Dhaka himself for his mastery over the 'sitar' and interest in eastern classical music. I taught a few students at his home over a period of time.

"Later, I was invited by the Indian High Commission in 2000, seeing the demand of the students to be guided in eastern classical music. I now have a contract and I've now moved to Dhanmandi, Road 2, and my old students flock here to learn and improve their knowledge of pure classical music. Those who have a talent for it and can spare the time, they come only too eagerly, although eastern classical singing is not easy by any yardstick. My workshops consist of six weeks of vigorous training, twice a year; I come in summer and winter. It is not adequate for my students, as they will tell you. The contract, due to the demands of the students . has been extended for a year more. I used to sing in the radio myself in my youth but don't care

for it any more and have no desire to make albums or CDs. When I practice myself I don't have a 'tablchi' all the time and resort to the electronics media for the 'tabla' backup."

Dwelling on her teaching experience in Bangladesh, Kalpana said, "They always practice with the 'harmonium', 'tanpura' and the 'tabla'. With me they rehearse for about three hours, and I believe that they practice more when they go home. They include students from the Dhaka University and others who are doing their Ph.D in Baroda, India, with scholarships and come here for holidays and

her music as they did that evening at "La Galerie", Kalpana and the presentation of her music, Kalpana said, "It gives me great pleasure: it s through music that we reach out to one another even though we do not understand each other's languages. I performed 'khayal', which are a presentation of notes based on a single thought." Elaborating on the difference between "khayal" and "thumri", Kalpana said," In 'khaval' there is a rule by which you are told that you can use some particular notes. In 'thumri' I'm not that bound by a structure and the latter is semi- classical.

about foreigners crowding to hear

breaks. Some go to Bombay for 'Khayal', 'dhrupod' and 'dhamar' their viva, but come back to Dhaka are purely classical on the other from time to time. My present hand. First comes 'dhrupod' and students include Rizvan Ali, Moidul then comes 'dhamar' which has Islam, Suranjana Bhattacharya, more sweetness and later on Rafiqul Islam, Siddiqur Rahaman comes 'khayal in the repertoire of Mojumdar, Zahirul Hug and classical music." Badruzzaman. Nilufer Yasmeen, who is now unwell, also studied the other genres of eastern music under me at one time.

in Bengal, Kalpana said," I love and respect the renderings of Dwelling on her own favourites 'Rabindrasangeet'. 'Nazrulgeeti' of eastern classical music in India, and 'Palligeeti' as people in Ban-Kalpana said, "I like Ullash gladesh put their heart and soul Kousholkar, Rashid Khan, Sharafat Khan, Latafat Khan, Eunus Hussain into them. I did not branch out into these genres because I liked to Khan Wilayat Hussain Khan and limit myself to what I know I'm good Bhimsen Joshi although many of at and preferred to ponder and them are not there any more. I don't meditate as I sang along. go out to that many soirces myself." Asked to talk about how she felt

conversation by saying, "I enjoyed every bit of the atmosphere here where there is not question of displeasure or discomfort. My students are like my children although I insist that they should practice more. I don't think that Dhaka is that different from Kolkata the food, clothes and language are the same. At one time we were all together: it is now that there is a division in Bengal. Everyone here is warm and helpful. I don't have any problem of transport as my students come to me, and if I've to go anywhere someone or the other provides the transport only too willingly, so what is there to stop me from feeling at home here?"

Kalpana Bhattacharya had been accompanied by Madan Gopal Das, on the "tabla". He too has been performing for 40 years now, beginning after his Metric examinations, and is about as old as Kalpana. He learnt from "ustads" like Bhagirat Chandra Speaking of how she felt about Das, Sakhawat Hosssain Khan (from Rampur), Pandit Mitan Dey (from Mymensing). He helps Kalpana regularly during her workshops but plays for other people too and performs regularly in "Surolahari" programmes on BTV and works for "Chayanot" and teaches at the "Nazrul Academy." His students perform on the radio. TV and the stage.

Asked to say a few words about

TV GUIDE 15:00 Secret Life Of The **ATN BANGLA** 6:30 Flashdance 20:30 Frasier Seattle, WA USA PICK OF THE DAY **TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS** 21:00 World's Wildest 8:30 ATF Crash Test Sacramento 6:00 Islamic Prog Kings Vs Seattle 10:15 Risk Police Videos Dummy, The ATN Bangla 8:00 HBO: 10.00 p.m. Last Action Hero 16:00 Gene Hunters Supersonics (R) 12:00 Superstition **STAR SPORTS** News Young Danny Madigan is a big fan of 2:00 Dark Asylum 16:30 Extreme Science 19:00 Here We Go! Jack Slater, a larger-than-life action 8:25 Film Magazine: (Thirty minutes plus) 4:00 Practical Magic hero played by Arnold 17:00 Mixed Strand **English Premier** A Santeher 00:00 Australian Open

Schwarzenegger. When his best

10.00	Documentary:		ŀ
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10.35	Selected Programme		ł
11.00	News Headlines		ſ
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	Headlines	12:30	
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10.25	News Report		I
10.30 11.00	Selected Programme Believe It Or Not		(
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11.00	Headlines`		(
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09.30	Music Plus	7.05	
10.00	Drama: Pagol Chiney	7:25	\ _
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11.00	English Drama		ſ
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03.00	Channel-i Priyo	0.45	[
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05.35	Janopad-er Khabar		ſ
05.45 06.10	Tom and Jerry Show Music Plus	10:00	ŀ
06.45	Kathay Kathay		ſ
07.15	Channel-i News	10:35	ſ
07.45	Ispahani-i Tele Quiz	10.00	5
07 55	(Questions)	11:30	À
07.55	Fashion Magazine: Shajai Swapner Ghar	11:50	
08.25	Drama Serial: Harek		[
20.20	Rakom Jibon	12:00	E
09.00	Channel-i News		F
09.31	Ispahani-i Tele Quiz		ŝ
10.00	(Answers) Drama Serial: Shei	нво	
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	Kun Semanay	8:00	Enter The
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5	Film Magazine:	10:00	Last Action
•	Henolux		Hero
	Benudon	12:45	Mercy
	Bichitra	2:30	Practical Magic
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05		6:30	Movie: U-571
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30	Islamic Prog:		Pacific Blue Earth Final
0	ATN Bangla	10:50	
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5	Bengali Feature Film : Nure		Now See This
~		1:30	Pacific Blue
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	Newspaper	4:30	High Action
	Discussing		Adrenalin
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~	Sangbadpotro	6:30	CSI
0	Islamic prog:	7:30	Motorworld
	Islamee Sawal	8:30	Seven Days
	O Jawab	9:30	Who Dares
5	Children prog :		Wins
	Cholo Gan Gai	10:30	Movie: Cruel
0	ATN Bangla		Intentions
	Evening News		Profiler
5	Viewers Opinion	SON	Y
	Prog: Motamot	6:00	Music Mantra
0	Drama Serial:	6:30	Just Mohabbat
	Nessobdo	7:00	Dil Ka Dwar
	Sanget		Khol
5	Spcial Prog:	7:30	Amrit Varsha
	Banejja Mela	8:00	Sant Asaram
0	ATN Bangla		Vani
	News	8:30	Charbusters
5	Drama Serial:	9:00	Good Morning
	Manchetro		Disney
00	ATN Bangla	10:00	Music Mantra
	News		Bournvita Quiz
35	Musical prog.:		Contest
	Saat Rang	11:00	Shree Ganesh
30	ATN Bangla		Hum Sab Ek
	News	12.00	Hain
00	Bengali Feature	12:30	Kya Haadsa Kya
	Film: Preamer	12.00	Haqeeqat
	Samade	1:30	Kabhi Biwi
30		2.00	Kabhi Jasoos
5U			



2:30 Boogie Woogie

Shivay

4:00 Just Mohabbat

4:30 Chhoti Si Asha

5:30 Shri Krishna

6:30 Disney Hour

7:30 Chartbusters

8:00 Music Mantra

8:30 Kya Haadsa Kya

Hageegat

Miss India

Miss India

2003 (Contd)

9:30 Sunsilk Femina

2003

**STAR MOVIES** 

8:30 Monkeybone

12:00 Tigerland The

Legend of

Bagger Vance

10:15 Replicant

3:30 Bedazzled

7:00 Brotherhood of

CHANNEL [V]

(Thirty minutes plus)

00:00 [V] Hit Machine

1:00 [V] Hit Machine

3:30 [V] Hit Machine

The Wolf

5:15 Antitrust

10:00 Sunsilk Femina

5:00 CATS

3:00 Om Namay

friend. Nick the projectionist, gives him a magic ticket to the new Jack Noon

A 19th century Western directed by Tom Dey, Shanghai Noon stars Jackie Chan as Chon Wang, a clumsy Imperial Guard to the Emperor of China. When Princess Pei Pei (Lucy Liu) is kidnapped from the Forbidden City, Wang feels personally responsible and insists on joining the guards sent to rescue the Princess, who has been whisked away to the United States. In Nevada and hot on SUID



Cruel Intentions On AXN at 10.30 p.m.

Kathryn makes a bet that her stepbrother, Sebastia won't be able to bed Annette--a virgin, who wants wait until

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(Thirty	minutes plus)	2:00	Talons Of Terror
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3:00	•	1.00	The Andes
	Sg0530n	4:00	Sipdan : Secret Of The Turtle
	Geet Bahar		Tomb
	Sg0930n Kuch Hit Kuch	5:00	Truth Files
10:25	Superhit	6:00	White Shark:
10.30	Hit Filmein Hit		Outside Of The
10.00	Sangeet		Cage
11:00	Sg1330n	7:00	Talons Of Terror
	Kuch Hit Kuch	8:00	Spitting Mad
	Superhit		Wild Camel Of
14:00	Geet Bahar	0.00	The Andes
14:30	Hit Filmein Hit	9:00	Sipdan : Secret Of The Turtle
	Sangeet		Tomb
14:55	Kuch Hit Kuch	10.00	Truth Files
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10.25	Superhit	11:30	Earth Pulse
18:30	Hit Filmein Hit	12:00	Shores Of
	Sangeet		Silence-Whale
19:00	Friday Gold		Shark In India
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-	My Backyard	14:00	Oceans Boiled
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Cage Talons Of Terror Spitting Mad Wild Camel Of The Andes Sipdan : Secrets	4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30	Suddenly Susan Hollywood Squares The Brady Bunch Cheers Oprah Winfrey	8:00 8:30	Sahara Cu Odi H/Ls(F Inside The Tour (T) Nba Baske Seattle, W/
Of The Turtle Tomb Truth Files White Shark: Outside Of The Cage	7:30 8:30 9:30 10:30	Show Bugs Roswell Dark Angel Oprah Winfrey Star Asia Travel	11:00	Sacrament Kings Vs S Supersonic World'S Str Man World Strongest I
Talons Of Terror Spitting Mad Wild Camel Of The Andes Sipdan : Secrets Of The Turtle Tomb	11:30 12:30 13:00 13:30	Special Suddenly Susan The Bold And The Beautiful Hollywood Squares The Brady Bunch	11:30	2002 Kua Lumpur, MALAYSIA Qualifier(T English Pre English Pre
Truth Files Dogs With Jobs S3 Earth Pulse Shores Of Silence-Whale Shark In India Wildlife Detectivies Science Of Sport The Day The Oceans Boiled	14:30 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:25 18:30 19:30	Baywatch The Simpsons Cheers Starnews Asia Frasier Tna Wrestling Starnews Asia World's Wildest Police Videos Nash Bridges Star Asia Travel		Football Le 2002/03 I pool, ENG Liverpool V Arsenal (T Heineken Golf Heine Classic Go 2003, AUSTRALI Second Ro Nba Baske
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eken	10:00	Star Trek: Voyager -
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		Upon A Time
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7:00 [V] Hit Machine

9:00 [V] Hit Machine

10:00 [V] Hit Machine

[V] Jumpstart

7:30 [V] Back To

Back

9:30 [V] Back To

Back

10:30 [V] Back To

Back

11:00 [V] Hit Machine

Jukebox

13:00 [V] Hit Machine

13:30 [V] Zabardast

Hits

14:00 [V] Back To

Back

14:30 [V] Zabardast

Hits

15:00 [V] Back To

Back

16:00 [V] Hotline

17:00 Vitop5@5

17:30 [V]Ideo War

18:00 Very V

19:00 Ctrl [V]

17:45 [V] Hit Machine

19:30 [V] Zabardast

Hits

15:30 [V] Hit Machine

11:30 [V] Zabardast

Hits

12:00 [V] Jungli

12:30 [V] Fdfs

8:00