

In conversation with Azam Khan

Rock guru on his musical career and more

ERSHAD KAMOL

YOUNGER people still hum several evergreen rock n' roll numbers of the 1970s such as Ami jare chai re, Ashi ashi bole tumi...

In the mid-1960s Azam, along with Fakir Alamgir, Fuad and Sabu used to perform Gano Sangeet with the popular troupes...

On the genesis of his band Uchcharan, Azam said, "Since my boyhood, I had a passion for music. I listened to a tune and used to render it closely to the original."



Azam Khan

guitars and Sadek was on drums. Then we performed two songs Eto shundar dunia and Char kalema shakki. Both the songs, written and composed by me, received huge popularity.

In his long music career Azam and his band have so far released only 16 albums, most of which are popular. Azam said, "I always try to touch the rhythm of the people of my time."

Azam believes that band music in Bangladesh has not reached its full potential. Rather, he thinks that because of poor handling of the genre, band music in Bangladesh has been marginalised and appeals only to the younger generation of the fashionable elite class.

Recently Azam Khan has released a new album titled Saleka Maleka, which is a remix of his old popular tracks. He is the recipient of a life time achievement award for his contribution to music in Bangladesh.

In Focus

Reviving the dying tradition of 'pala'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

To revive a virtually extinct culture, important palas from Mymensingh Geetika are being staged. Notable palas from Mymensingh Geetika include Mahua Shundari, Malua Shundari, Dewana Modina, Chandraboti, Kajol Rekha, Bhehua Shundari, Shonai Madhob and Kamola Ranir Shagordighi.

A cultural organisation named Mahua Shilpi Ghosthi, spearheaded by Mrinal Datta, is playing a significant role in staging the palas at different places in and outside the district.

The chief artiste (palaker) of the organisation, Mrinal is an enlisted drama artiste and scriptwriter of Bangladesh Betar. He asserted that the organisation performs the palas on various occasions including celebration of Pahela Baishakh.

"The significance of palas is that they depict the lives of common people through allegories," said Mrinal. He also pointed out that they perform palas on different social



Mrinal Datta performing a pala

PHOTO: STAR

occasions including marriage ceremonies. "In old Dhaka such palas also have also a special attraction, especially in marriage programmes," said Mrinal.

Regular artistes of the organisation are Shampa, Mukta, Chaiti, and Shohani, who sing as dohar (chorus) with palaker Mrinal while Shaheen plays the flute, Tamal the harmonium and Sumon performs on drums.

A hurdle, Mrinal said, is the onslaught of the satellite dish culture at the expense of the country's

heritage. He called on decision makers to restore the traditional Bangladeshi culture, which goes centuries. Some non-government organisations (NGOs) help stage the palas, added Mrinal.

"Mymensingh Geetika is based on the lives and times of the haor (wet land) inhabitants of Mymensingh region which differed dramatically from the rest of the country because it could not be brought under direct control by any ruler," said Mohammed Anis-uz-Zaman, a cultural enthusiast.

CULTURAL FEAST

Jean-Claude Carrière Retrospective

Organisers: Zahir Raihan Film Society & The Alliance Française of Dhaka

- October 8: 5:00pm The Mahabharata (Part I), 7:00pm The Mahabharata (Part II), October 10: 5:00pm The Mahabharata (Part III), 7:00pm The Swann in Love, October 11: 5:00pm The Return of Martin Guerre, 7:00pm Passion, October 12: 5:00pm La Nuit Bengali, 7:30pm Slow Motion, Venue: Alliance Française de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dharmondi

Painting Exhibition

Title: The Story of modern myth, Artist: Roknuzzaman Murshed, Venue: Alliance Française de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dharmondi, Date: September 28-October 7, Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 9 pm

Memshaheb Nimai Bhattacharya's novel adapted for movie



Moushumi to play the lead role in the film

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Seasoned actor turned director Ahmed Sharif is all set to start his new telefilm Memshaheb. The film will be based on the much-acclaimed novel with the same title by Nimai Bhattacharya.

film's success. The author is expected to attend the launching of the film.

According to sources, the selection process of actors is almost over and the shooting for the film will start before Eid. Popular actress Moushumi will be doing the central role in the film.

The film will be made under the banner of SF Distributors and will be aired on Stv US.

Fashion show by Anyadin

Anyadin, a magazine, recently held an Eid Fashion Show at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre, says a press release. Besides awarding the winners of Bexifabrics Anyadin Eid Fashion Contest, the event included models displaying the designs and performances by popular artistes -- Shakila Zafar, Selim Chowdhury, Momotaj, Mehreen and Si Tutul's band. A special attraction was a Qawwali from Humayun Ahmed's upcoming film Noi Number Bipod Shanket.

Among others, noted litterateur

Syed Shamsul Haque, illusionist Jewel Aich, fashion designer Bibi Russell, actors Kabori, Pijush Bandyopadhyay, Shanta Islam, Riaz, Mahfuz, cricketer Habibul Bashar, dancers Shamim Ara Neepa, Shibli Muhammad and singer Samina Chowdhury attended the event. Lifetime Achieve Award went to Shahadat Chowdhury (posthumous), former editor of Weekly 2000.

The programme was aired on Channel i yesterday.



Models display Eid designs at the fashion show

World's biggest book fair kicks off

AFP, Frankfurt

The world's biggest book fair opened Last Wednesday, with Indian authors taking center stage and a new scheme to protect writers' copyrights from Internet piracy creating a buzz.

The 58th Frankfurt Book Fair has brought together a record 7,272 exhibitors from more than 100 countries. It is spotlighting India this year as its guest country with a packed programme of readings and debates.

More than 70 authors from India have arrived in the German financial capital for a broad cultural showcase that also features concerts, dance recitals, films and live yoga demonstrations. Even the left-leaning national daily Tageszeitung got into the mood, printing its masthead Wednesday in Hindi.

Amitav Ghosh, the best-selling author of "The Glass Palace" and a professor of comparative literature at City University of New York, said Asian novelists often offered an international perspective that Western writers often could not, or did not.

"Every single well-known Indian writer has been steeped in European literature," he said. "When I talk to British or American writers I'm amazed how provincial they are. They only read British or American writers."

Mahasweta Devi, an 80-year-old grande dame of Indian literature,

said the fair would have to struggle to capture the endless contradictions and breathtaking pace of change in her country.

"Culture is what will take us into the future yet keep us in close contact with our roots, our history, our tradition, our heritage," she said at the gala opening ceremony.

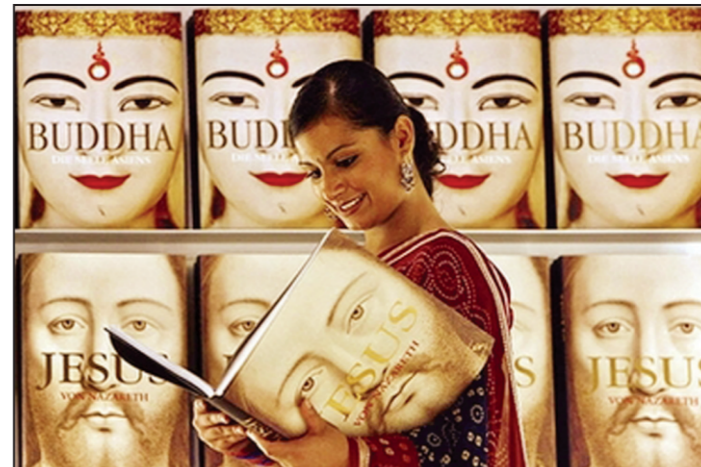
Zadie Smith, Donna Leon, Ken Follet and German Nobel laureate Guenter Grass -- fresh from a scandal over his late revelation that he served in the Nazis' Waffen SS force during World War II -- are among other writers holding forth in Frankfurt.

The boom in electronic publish-

ing is also in focus this year, as well as concerns posed by Internet search engine Google's practice of posting scanned pages from books online. The practise has landed Google in hot water with publishers and authors.

A new system is set to be unveiled at the event that would allow publishing houses to safeguard their copyrights by attaching conditions to reproduce content found online.

And a literacy campaign is being launched in partnership with UNESCO to aid the 700 million adults worldwide who are unable to read.



A visitor takes a look at a book at the Frankfurt Book Fair

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm, Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am, Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm, News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm, Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm, Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

TARA BANGLA News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm, Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL i

- 09:45 Public Reaction, 09:50 Grameenphone Tritio Matra, 11:05 Naa Bola, 11:30 Mukto Bazar, 12:30 Citycell Taroka, 01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan, 01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh, 02:40 Music Plus, 03:40 Shothyer Shondhane, 05:00 Ramjanur Mubarak, 06:00 Vim Monohar Ittar, 06:20 Shorstar Shakhor, 06:35 Shath Goenda, 07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat, 09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush, 10:00 Jhora Patar Kabyo, 12:00 Grameenphone Ajker Shangbadpotro

ATN BANGLA

- 10:30 Anyodrishti, 12:15 Bangla Feature Film, 03:45 Islamic Programme, 04:15 Mubarak Ho Mahe Ramjan, 06:20 Pura Kirtir Bangladesh, 08:00 Drama Serial: Jol Pore Pata Nore, 08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shobuj Opera

ntv

- 09:45 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Bagune, 09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Jonome, 10:40 Shushtho Thakun, 08:35 Ajker Shokal, 09:00 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhe Jabo Jabo, 10:05 Magic Magic, 10:30 Hip Hip Hurray, 12:05 Apnar Jigyasa, 01:05 Mukttangan, 02:35 Closeup 1 Tomakei, 03:50 Kujchhey Bangladesh, 03:50 Alokapat, 04:25 Hridoye Ramjan, 05:10 Din Darpan/ Itthasher Ei Diney, 05:45 Jibon Gorar Ashor, 06:20 Shubho Shondhya, 06:50 Cookery Show, 08:25 Ramizer Aaina, 09:10 Drama, 11:25 Dindarpan

Rtv

- 08:00 Ei Shokal, 09:05 Aj Potrikay, 09:30 Sa Sa Dhin Tai, 10:00 Ami, Tumi, R..., 02:30 Islamic Programme, 05:10 Oisharjomoy Mahey Ramjan, 06:00 Ajker Bangladesh, 06:35 Talk Show, 06:40 Wide Angle, 08:00 Aktel Gopsop, 08:50 R-music

CHANNEL 1

- 08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh, 09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi, 10:00 Shoptaho Sheshey, 10:30 Talk Show, 11:30 Tele Film, 01:00 Drama, 03:30 Drama: Lost Project, 04:30 Drama Serial: Ghor Phera, 05:10 Magferater Mash Ramjan, 06:10 Saaj Bela, 06:45 Jnotar Isthihar

BANGLAVISIO N

- 08:35 Shubho Shokal, 09:05 Eid Er Haowa, 09:30 Drama Serial: Tanik Ali Hadari, 10:00 Shomoy Ashomoy, 11:30 Cine Bit, 12:00 Media Bhuvan, 02:30 Drama Serial: Gouro Chandrika

PICK OF THE DAY



Ramizer Aaina On ntv at 8:25pm Drama Serial Cast: Pran Roy, Apurbo, Lara Lotus



Robbie Williams On Star World at 9:30pm An exhilarating presentation of Robbie Williams' 'Close Encounters' tour.

STAR PLUS

- 08:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain, 09:00 V First Day First Show- Starplu, 09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus, 09:30 V Trailers - Star Plus, 10:30 Kyaa Hoga Nimmo Kaa, 12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus, 12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus, 12:55 V First Day First Show- Starplu, 01:00 Mirch Masala, 01:30 Antarksh, 02:00 V First Day First Show- Starplu, 02:05 V Trailers - Star Plus, 02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus, 02:30 Kora Kagaz, 03:30 Kam Apna Apna, 05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus, 05:25 V First Day First Show- Starplu, 05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen, 06:30 Buzz On Maggie, 07:00 Timon And Pumbaa, 07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus, 07:30 Shararat - Thoda Jadu, 08:00 Antarksh, 08:30 Jodee Kamaal Ki, 09:30 Pritviraj Chauhan, 10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby, 10:30 Nach Baliye 2, 08:15 3 Ninjas, 09:45 Wicker Park, 11:45 Arrangement, The, 01:30 Finding Forrester, 03:45 Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle

STAR WORLD

- 09:30 Wonderfalls, 10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

DISCOVERY

- 08:30 Wild Discovery, 09:30 Life Unlimited, 11:30 Honey We're Killing the Kids, 12:30 StuntDawgs, 01:00 Discovery Week, 01:30 Wild Discovery, 02:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows, 04:30 Wild Discovery, 05:30 Discovery Marquee, 07:30 Wild Discovery, 08:30 Discover India, 09:30 Destination India, 10:30 Discovery Week, 11:00 Finest Hotels In The World, 11:30 Deadliest Catch, 01:00 Travel Asia, 01:30 My Wife And Kids, 02:00 Yes Dear, 02:30 Wild Card, 03:30 The Simpsons, 04:00 Life Isn't All Ha Ha He He, 05:30 Criminal Minds, 06:30 Ghost Whisperer, 07:30 Philly, 08:30 Tna Xplosion, 09:30 Robbie Williams, 12:00 Cops, 08:30 Shree Ganesh Spiritual, 09:00 Telebrands, 09:30 Chart Busters Movie Based, 10:00 Music Mantra Music, 10:30 Music Beats Music, 11:00 Cadburys Boummita Quiz Contest Drama, 11:30 Ji Bhengi Contd., 12:00 Akela Thriller/ Horror, 12:30 Contd. Contd., 01:00 Jhalak Dikhhila Jaa - Gala 5 Dance, 02:00 Boogie Woogie Dance, 03:00 Mainline - Sanam, 06:30 Bewafa Movie, 07:00 Music Mantra Music, 07:30 Chart Busters Others, 08:00 Khushi Ki Duniya Drama, 08:30 Kal Ho Na Ho Movie

SONY

- 08:30 Shree Ganesh Spiritual, 09:00 Telebrands, 09:30 Chart Busters Movie Based, 10:00 Music Mantra Music, 10:30 Music Beats Music, 11:00 Cadburys Boummita Quiz Contest Drama, 11:30 Ji Bhengi Contd., 12:00 Akela Thriller/ Horror, 12:30 Contd. Contd., 01:00 Jhalak Dikhhila Jaa - Gala 5 Dance, 02:00 Boogie Woogie Dance, 03:00 Mainline - Sanam, 06:30 Bewafa Movie, 07:00 Music Mantra Music, 07:30 Chart Busters Others, 08:00 Khushi Ki Duniya Drama, 08:30 Kal Ho Na Ho Movie

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

- 08:30 Wild, 09:30 Untamed, 10:30 Quest for Dragons, 12:00 Nat Geo Junior, 12:30 Seconds From Disaster, 01:30 Air Crash Investigation, 02:30 Naked Science, 03:30 Nat Geo Encores, 04:30 MegaStructures, 05:30 Frontline Of Construction, 06:30 Monkey Business, 07:00 Wild Safari, 07:30 Monkey Prince, 09:30 Twisters