

Musings with Khurshid Alam

Veteran artiste on the transition of music scene

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

THE recent talent hunt shows in the country are doing a great job, reinforcing the revival of songs many thought were long lost. The revival began, I believe, with young composers tinkering with the folk songs, and soon there were music lovers across the country once more humming the classics. It seems the worldwide telecast of the talent shows, where performers are singing not only folk, but also erstwhile-adhunik songs, have once more brought to light, not only the tremendous talent pool that we have but also the rich archive of songs," says popular adhunik singer of the '70s and '80s Khurshid Alam.

The discussion rapidly shifted to a range of topics during a short break at a concert held recently.

"Very few people know that my initial



Khurshid Alam

"Songs can live on forever when they find a home in the hearts of the young generation"

training was in Tagore songs," he said. "Born and brought up in old Dhaka, I come from an area where SM Parvez, popular singer Moslehuddin and other prominent people used to live.

"At the weekly rehearsals held at Dhaka Shilpi Sangha headed by my uncle eminent lyricist Dr Abu Hyder Sajedur Rahman AKA Dr Mastana, I remember film actress Joharat Ara, dancer Rosy Imam and others would join in regularly," remembers Alam.

"Adhunik song is the soul of my being....

and fittingly, my entrance to this world was almost by fate," he says. At the national level competitions of Education Week in 1961-62 in the erstwhile East Pakistan, Alam had won the first prize in Tagore songs, and was keenly looking forward to making his mark on the stage. However, at that time in 1965, Rabindra Sangeet was banned from the radio almost overnight. Considering his options, Alam decided to audition for adhunik (modern Bangla songs). And as the music world watched, Alam rose step by step to become one of the popular artistes of his

time. It was a golden era in Bangla music, when a flurry of artistes Syed Abdul Hadi, MA Hamid, Md Ali Siddiqui, Khondokar Faruq Ahmed, Mahmud u Nabi, Abdul Jabbar, Anwaruddin Khan, Najmul Huda Bachchu, Anjumara Ara Begum, Ferdousi Rahman, Sabina Yasmin and Shahnaz Rahmatullah were household names.

Alam says, "I was fortunate enough to have done more than 300 playbacks under the guidance of celebrated composers Subal Das, Ali Hossain, Azad Rahman and Satya

Shaha." "The music sessions with the music directors usually continued for hours. The studios at the radio office at Shahbagh and much later at Agargaon were the cultural hubs for the musicians. During this time the committed directors would sit together and discuss the latest compositions," he says. Competition amongst artistes and composers was intense, but 'healthy', according to Alam. "There was mutual respect all around, and in general, people were supportive of each other," he adds.

He remembers one incident that highlighted this feeling more than anything else. At that time Alam bagged a contract to sing the playback for *Agantuk*, the first of his countless playbacks in 1969. Such was the bond between artistes and directors that several directors turned up at the recording simply because as they said "It was our Khurshid's debut!"

"With such wholehearted support, I readily felt motivated to give my utmost effort in every song I recorded," he says. One of the songs in that film, *Bondi pakhir moton* is written by Dr AH Sajedur Rahman and composed by Azad Rahman. Among other songs such as *Chonchol du noyonay bolona ki khujchho*, *Tomar du hath chhuye sopoth nilam* and *Pitch dhala eyi path tarey* in the film *Shadharan meye* (composed by Robin Ghosh and written by Gazi Mazharul Anwar) were on everybody's lips before long.

Coming back to talent hunts he observes, "Listening to many such songs that were recorded ages ago with so much emotion, brings back memories. Songs can live on forever when they find a home in the hearts of the young generation. I only hope the young talents continue to practice their art no matter what the results of the talent shows. Only then, instead of having one winner at the end, you will have 140 million winners across the country and beyond."

'Ghar Phera': TV serial on drug rehab

Life in a drug rehabilitation and addiction treatment centre is the subject of the ongoing TV serial *Ghar Phera*, aired on Channel 1.

'Ghar Phera' is the name of a drug rehab started by Mr Chowdhury. After his only son, Shajal committed suicide under the influence of drugs, Mr Chowdhury decided to start working on a drug rehab. Neel is a druggie admitted in the centre against his will. Abid is a staff member at the centre and Ifti is a cadre at a university. They are both infatuated with the same girl. To Ifti's dismay, the girl starts frequenting the centre while working on a research. The series proceeds to depict little incidents, success stories and major despairs in the lives of people at the centre.

Director of the series Deepankar Dipon says, "The medical treatment of drug addicts at the rehabs is a complicated process. I had to do my research before I started working on the serial. I want this TV play to have an impact and I've tried to keep things real but to the point that it looks more like a documentary." Lead roles in the series are played



Arman Parvez and Bonya Mirza in the TV play

by Arman Parvez Murad, Bonya Mirza, Hillol, Apurbo and Nazneen Chumki. *Ghar Phera* is aired every

Alpana makes waves in Berlin



Alpana (R) and an artwork by her



Internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi artist Murshida Arzu Alpana displays her works at a three week-long solo exhibition, at the gallery Nering and Stern in Berlin, Germany. The exhibition, titled 'The North meets the South' which began on November 5, displays a range of 40 works in different media such as oil on canvas, mixed media on canvas and papers and drawings.

The press release adds that prior to this exhibition, Alpana participated at The London Art Fair, Chelsea, London, from October 5-10. She is the first Bangladeshi whose paintings were exhibited at the famous London Art Fair and her works were appreciated by art lovers and critics.

CULTURAL FEAS

- Swiss Festival**  
Concert by Swiss Band 'Sonalp'  
Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre  
Date: November 8  
Time: 8:00 pm
- Solo Exhibition**  
Title: In Colours, In Letters  
Artist: Najma Akhter  
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Road 3, House 13/A, Dhanmardi  
Date: November 10-18  
Time: 10:00pm-1:00pm & 5:00pm-8:00pm
- Film Screening**  
Title: Ontoratra  
Director: Tareque and Catherine Masud  
Organiser: Laser Vision  
Venue: BIAM Multipurpose Auditorium  
63, New Eskaton  
Date & Time: November 8, at 5:00 pm
- Hrishikesh Mukherjee Retrospective**  
Organiser: The High Commission of India in Dhaka  
November 10  
6:00pm Anupama  
November 11  
6:00pm Anand  
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-2

Swiss festival Swinging to indigenous tunes begins today

A three-day Swiss festival starts today celebrating 35 years of friendship between Bangladesh and Switzerland, says a press release. The festival encompasses a rich variety of programmes related to trade and investment, development cooperation and cultural relations. The cultural programmes include a concert by Swiss music group 'Sonalp' at the inaugural tonight at 7pm. Popular Bangladeshi musician Habib will perform along with 'Sonalp' at a concert on November 9. The venue of the cultural programmes is the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre.

Embassy of Switzerland, in collaboration with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Switzerland-Bangladesh Business Forum (SBBF) is organising the festival. The Daily Star is the media partner of the festival.

EMRAN HOSSAIN, JU

A group of six music lovers belonging to the indigenous Garo community, living in the forests of Modhupur, Tangail have formed a music troupe. Now the band, called 'Ring Cheng A', is set to rock the music world with its debut album.

The group aims to compose songs in its original language known as 'Achik' (the language of Garo

people), which has survived the onslaught of a cultural and social conflict between them and Bangalees. The title of the group stands for 'beginning with the songs.'

The songs composed for the new album titled *Achikni Rasong* (glory of the nation) are unique in expression, representation of thought of indigenous individuals and truly simple in age old traditional tune.



Artistes of 'Ring Cheng A' during a practice session

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Bohemian On ATN Bangla at 9:00pm Drama Serial Cast: Apurba, Chandni



Open Water On Star Movies at 8:50pm Genre: Thriller Cast: Blanchard Ryan, Daniel Travis, Saul Stein

- 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.  
Teletext 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  
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
- TARA BANGLA**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.  
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

- BTV**  
08:30 Open University  
09:15 Satellite Broadcast  
12:05 *Shanghad Potrer*  
12:30 *Pata Thekey*  
01:00 *Maa O Shishur Kotha*  
01:30 *Shukhi Porbar*  
01:30 *Hijol Tomal*  
02:15 *Sisimpur*  
02:40 Computer Programme  
03:05 Cartoon  
03:30 *Crickit Shekha*  
04:00 *Esho Computer Shikhi*  
04:30 Quiz Quiz  
05:30 Cartoon  
06:40 *Shondha Maloti*  
07:00 *Mati O Manush*  
08:35 *Protidin Bangladesh*  
08:45 Drama  
09:25 Drama  
10:25 *Teknaf Thekey Tetulia*
- CHANNEL-i**  
09:30 *Shonghad Potrey Bangladesh*  
Public Reaction  
09:45 *Triloyamatra*  
11:05 Sports Time (Live)  
12:30 *Aj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokalkothon*  
01:05 *Ebong Chinar Gaan*  
01:30 *Shanghad Potrey Bangladesh*  
Public Reaction  
01:45 Selected Drama  
02:40 *Amader Gaan*  
04:25 *Sa Re Ga Ma*  
05:30 *Alkito Bangladesh Music Plus*  
06:00 Music Club  
06:20 *Hallo Minister*  
07:50 Talk Show: *Aloy Bhuban Bhora*  
09:35 *Mega Serial: Jog Beog*  
12:00 *Grameenphone Ajker*

- Shanghadpotro*
- ATN BANGLA**  
10:30 *Anyodrishti*  
12:15 Cinema Cinema  
01:30 *Gaane Surey Tarunna*  
02:30 Musical Programme  
03:10 Drama Serial: *Bhalo Bashhar Rang*  
04:20 Islamic Programme  
05:10 Job Vacancy  
05:45 Islamic Programme  
06:20 The Sword of Tipu Sultan  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Sharabela Pothochola*  
08:30 Drama Serial: *Shukher Lagiya*  
09:00 Drama Serial: *Bohemian*  
09:30 Drama Serial: *Tushar Rohosyo*  
10:40 Talk Show: Face to Face
- ntv**  
08:30 *Ajker Shokal K Tahare Chinite Parey*  
09:30 Colour Gallery  
10:05 Circus Lights  
11:00 *Shiray Shonite Muktagon*  
12:30 Drama: *Rang Er Manush*  
04:25 *Joyitar Joyjatra*  
05:10 *Din Dorpor/Itihasher Ei Diney*  
05:20 *Apnar Jigyasha*  
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya Ki Kotha Tahar Sathey*  
08:25 *Siddiga Kabir's Recipe*  
09:10 Musical Programme: *Kichhu Kotha Kichhu*

- CHANNEL 1**  
08:40 *Shuprovat Bangladesh*  
09:30 *Chokh Mele Dekhi*  
10:00 Cartoon  
10:30 Bangla Feature Film  
02:00 *Nongor*  
03:30 Drama Serial: *Daar Kaek*  
04:00 *Rupantorer Golpo*  
04:30 Expression  
05:15 Music Net  
06:00 *Saaj Bela*  
06:30 Top News
- Rtv**  
09:30 Talk Show: *Ei mon*  
10:30 *Char Deyal*  
12:05 *Amar Desh*  
02:30 *Shoto Proshno*  
03:40 *Tele Film: Doita Monohar Ittar*  
05:00 *Ajker Bangladesh*  
06:35 *Drishwa Kalpo*  
08:00 *Tele Film: Paap Konna*

- Gham Drama**  
10:30 *Bigg Boss Reality Based*  
11:00 *Vaidehi Drama*  
11:30 *CID Thriller/ Horror*
- STAR PLUS**  
09:00 *V First Day First Show- Starplu*  
09:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*  
10:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*  
10:30 *Shaka Laka Boom Boom*  
11:30 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*  
12:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*  
12:30 *Resham Dankh*  
01:00 *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*  
01:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*  
02:00 *Bhabhi*  
02:30 *Kesar*  
03:00 *Saarthi*  
03:30 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*  
04:00 *Kahin To Hoga*  
04:30 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*  
05:00 *Prithviraj Chauhan*  
05:30 *Antariksh*  
06:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*  
06:30 *Aladdin*  
07:00 *Timon And Pumbaa*  
07:30 *Sonpari*  
08:00 *Karishma Ka Karishma*  
08:30 *Antariksh*  
09:00 *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*  
09:30 *Viraasat*  
10:00 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*  
10:30 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii*  
11:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*  
11:30 *Kahin To Hoga*  
12:00 *Paraya Dhan*
- HBO**  
10:00 *Bad Apple*  
12:00 *The Pelican Brief*  
02:45 *Double Team*  
04:45 *Tales from the Crypt 26:*

- Food for Thought**  
05:15 *Bad Boys (1995)*  
07:30 *Crocodile Dundee*  
09:30 *Ocean's Twelve*  
12:00 *Deadwood 16: Requiem for a Gleet*  
01:15 *The Breed*  
03:00 *A Home at the End of the World*
- STAR MOVIES**  
08:30 *From Russia With Love*  
10:30 *War At Home, The*  
12:30 *The Hurricane*  
03:00 *Absolute Zero*  
04:35 *Kingdom Of Heaven*  
07:00 *Goldfinger*  
08:50 *Open Water*  
10:15 *Snakeman*  
11:55 *Jagged Edge*
- STAR WORLD**  
09:00 *The Simpsons*  
09:30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*  
10:30 *Commander In Chief*  
11:30 *One Tree Hill*  
12:30 *Ghost Whisperer*  
01:30 *Knight Rider*  
02:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*  
03:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*  
04:30 *General Hospital*  
05:30 *Desire: Table For Three*  
06:30 *The Simpsons*  
07:00 *Cheers*  
07:30 *Friends*  
08:00 *Seinfeld*  
09:30 *Secrets Of Street Magicians*  
10:30 *Grey's Anatomy*  
11:30 *Desire: Table For Three*
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
09:30 *Nat Geo Investigates*  
Terrorism

- 10:30 *Tigers Of The Snows*  
11:30 *Escape Tech*  
12:30 *Is It Real?*  
01:30 *Crime Night*  
02:30 *Nat Geo Encores*  
04:30 *Nat Geo Junior*  
07:30 *Spinner Dolphins*  
08:30 *Riddles Of The Dead*  
09:30 *Bridge on the River Kwai*  
10:30 *NG Investigates Terrorism*  
Wild
- DISCOVERY CHANNEL**  
08:30 *Raw Nature, Raw Senses*  
09:30 *Honey We're Killing The Kids!*  
10:30 *Bringing Home Baby, Overcoming Obstacles*  
11:00 *Runway Moms*  
11:30 *Deadliest Catch, Man Overboard*  
12:30 *Bringing Home Baby, Panamanian Celebration*  
01:00 *Baby Story*  
01:30 *Raw Nature, Raw Talk*  
02:30 *New Detectives*  
03:30 *Dinosaur Planet, White Tip's Journey*  
03:30 *Raw Nature, Raw Senses*  
05:30 *Placebo: Mind Over Medicine*  
06:30 *Junkyard Wars 8, Mud Racer*  
07:30 *Raw Nature, Raw Aggression*  
08:30 *Deadliest Catch, High Hopes*  
09:30 *I Shouldn't Be Alive*  
10:30 *One Step Beyond 2*