

Music

Life in Music

Aliya Sharafi elaborates on her ghazal performances

FAYZA HAQ

ALIYA Sharafi, daughter of Kalim Sharafi, was here from Toronto, rendering Bangla songs, ghazals and thumri before a rapt audience at the Bengal Foundation.

Aliya says, Ghazals, as is well known, is lyric oriented and the poetry within it describes beauty and it is based on classical music, in different ragas and moods. It has a definite form. You have to understand the words and render the song accordingly.

Urdu ghazals go back to Persia and they saw their heyday during the Moghul rule in the subcontinent. It died out somewhat during the British period and again flourished in Pakistan. The seat of the success of the ghazals was in Lucknow. Akhtari Bai Faizabadi kept it alive for 50 years specially during the 30s and 40s. There are many trained ghazal singers in Pakistan like

Malika Pokhraj, Iqbal Banu and others who followed the same style.

Now, of late, a lot of modernization is coming into ghazals. At one time it was sung with the sarangi and the tabla but now modern instruments render the accompaniment. People are trying to translate ghazals into Bangla but just as when you translate Rabindranath Tagore it loses a lot of its essence, when ghazals are translated into Bangla a lot of the feeling, sensation and meaning are lost. People like Nazrul Islam has written ghazals in Bangla for instance, and these, on the other hand have seen success. In this manner people have the concept of ghazals in different languages. However, at times, the barrier of the language tends to make them unpopular.

"My father, Kalim Sharafi, taught me to stress on classical training as a base for my ghazals and other songs that I wanted to sing. He said that if I knew the classical songs I

would have hold over any other song. From him and my Ustad Raisuddin and Wakil Mohammed. Later, I went to concerts with my father and listened to ustad's like Salamat Ali, Nazakat Ali, Amanat Ali and Fateh Ali. Gholam Ali Khan and Fayyaz Khan came to our house quite often. Mushairas often part in our house and my grandfather SM Ahmed Ashaq was a ghazal writer and was popular with poets like Josh Malihabadi. At home we had no problems with Urdu while we spoke Bangla and English at the same time. My knowledge of Persian has added to my appreciation of ghazals. You must correctly pronounce the words of a ghazal just as much as you must understand the depth of the meanings of the words in them. The lezja and tallafuz must be immaculate.

The other songs that Aliya sings are Pracheen Bangla songs, tappas, khayal, thumri and dadra. The Bengali writers thought they

could encourage the Bengali lyric based on kheyal, thumri and classical songs 200 years back. I learned these from Chandri Das Mal. This was where Atul Prasad and DL Rai were inspired.

Dwelling on what she sings best and how she began her career, Aliya says, "I'm most comfortable with 'ghazals' and classical based songs. I began singing at the age of three and when I was nine, I went to the Bulbul Academy. Then I went to Chayanot. I was also trained at home by Ustad Riasuddin. I became a kheyal artist on TV and radio. My husband was posted at Chittagong and I sang on the Chittagong radio. It was difficult for me to get TV programmes as I was at Chittagong. Overseas I was welcomed by the Bangladeshis, Indians and Pakistanis when I was in New York for nine years. I sang all over the States and even performed at Broadway, on the mainstream, being the first Bangladeshi to do so. Apart from the States, I have sung in Europe in places like London, Geneva, Toronto."

Asked as to how much of time she gives to singing, Aliya says, "I am a pharmacist by training I had my children to see to as well. Before performing I would give a fair amount of time to reyzaz but one should practice regularly. Before I went to the States, I practiced for ten hours a day. I would get up at 5.30 a.m. and do my diaphragm exercises and then proceed to my singing. In order to reach perfection you have to give singing your whole life time. Now that my son and daughter are married, I hope to give much more time to my music. I now perform regularly in Toronto. I play tanpura and 'harmonium' along with my singing. Since everybody is busy overseas they can give you little time for live accompaniment so that everybody practices separately and those like Ramesh Misr from India, Debu Chowdhury from Bangladesh and others like Shopon Chowdhury and Zakir Hussain, who supply me with accompaniment."

When at college, Aliya got the first prize in the then East Pakistan for her ghazals in the late sixties. She did her first playback in "Shutorang" in '63, when she was 12.



Aliya Sharafi's music evening organized by Bengal Foundation at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts

Fashion

Fashion for all seasons

Henry's Heritage Eid collection hits its Dhanmondi showroom

MUNEERA PARBEEN

A swift change of combinations in colours can bring about expressions of different seasons. Only last week, he was charming the youth in the city with his collection for Valentine's Day. This week, it's the festival that is reflected in his creations on display.

Shahrukh Shahid's specialty is the way he plays with different shades and the novelty with which he mixes them. It's through the mix and match of various hue that he comes out with very interesting designs suitable for different seasons.

The veteran designer of Henry's

Heritage, Shahrukh's Eid fashion is now on display at Dhanmondi Rd no 27 in the city.

Shahrukh plays around with colours to get the different effects on his different collections. In his present collection he has worked with block print, machine and hand embroidery, brush and spray paint on cotton and silks.

"I have used cotton mostly, since this Eid is essentially a mid-spring event," Shahrukh says, while explaining his work. The salwar-kameez range he has brought out, are all in bright and happy colours, with a touch of somberness to even out the effect of heat. Most are in happy colours of pastel shades with block



A chic black salwar kameez set

print and embroidery. The entire collection is in cotton, except for the few odd pieces in georgette.

Shahrukh's sarees are all stunning combinations of colour, fun and festivity. Most of them are on handloom cotton, which he buys from Tangail, and have been decorated with sprays of colour and block print to give it that ethnic touch. The block print motifs are all floral but come in broader and larger combinations of geometrical patterns. For example the large triangular or square shape of the outline is softened by the floral motifs in the smaller blocks. "The reason, he says, "is to even out the harsher outlines of the more modern geometrical shapes through the traditional floral or alpونا patterns".

Apart from this Shahrukh also has a collection on Rajshahi woven silks which are richly decorated with combinations of block print and spray paint, or hand embroidery. Exceptionally beautiful is a range with bead work on them, very exquisitely done.

The expansion of the work created by boutique houses has come ahead step by step from its scratches without any patronisation from any big houses or institutions at all, the artist says. If more workshops by leading designers from the region were held regularly, the standard of the local designers would improve further, he feels.



A model displays red block printed saree

RECOMMENDATIONS



Exhibition

A joint art exhibition by two sisters Tia and Nadia Chowdhury started at the North South University (BTA tower 6th floor) yesterday.

The money collected from the exhibition will help disabled Shiekh Mohammad Shaheen for the implantation of artificial limbs. The exhibition will come to an end on March 2.



Killingion

An art exhibition by Kajol titled 'Killingion' started at the Gallery Chittrak on February 23. The exhibition will remain open from 10a.m. - 8p.m. every day till March 4.

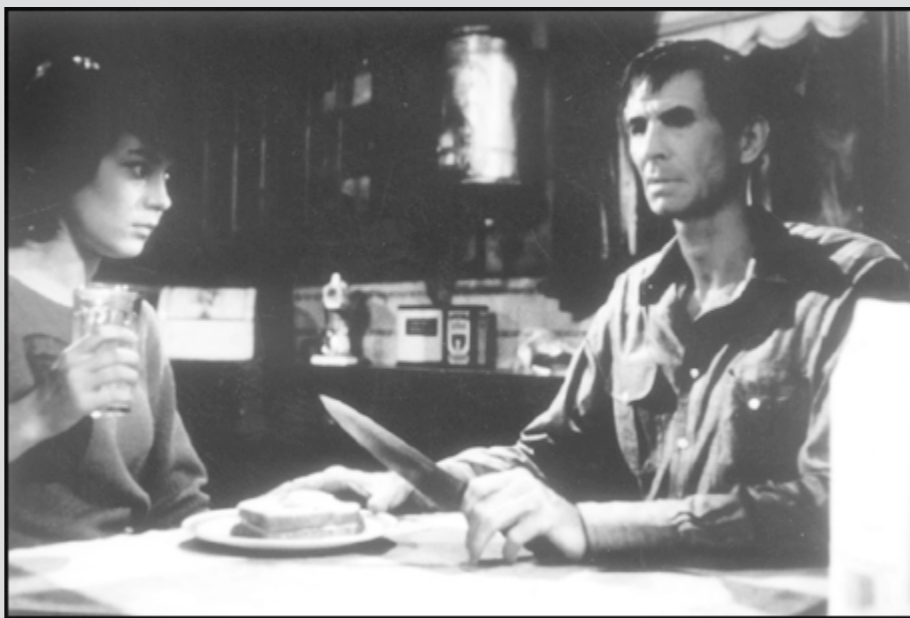
Three generations in art

A group art exhibition by artist Jindu Prova Debi, Swapan Chowdhury, Sultana Mahmodi Milita and Shayan Chowdhury Arnob, three generations from one family has started at the Drik Gallery.

The exhibition will be open to all from 3p.m. - 8p.m. everyday till March 2.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Psycho II on HBO at 10:00 tonight. After twenty-two years of being in an asylum for a murder, Norman Bates returns to society a rehabilitated man...or so it would seem, and takes up a job as a cook's assistant at a local diner where he befriends a waitress. But things take a twisted turn when a series of mysterious murders ensue. An impressive follow-up to Alfred Hitchcock's 1960-suspense classic.

EKUSHEY TV

- 2:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 2:05 Ajjker Potrikay 2:15 E
- Shoptaher Bishsho 2:40
- Classic Cartoons 3:00
- Ekushey Headlines 3:05
- Bangla Film: Sonali Akash
- 5:30 Gillette World Sports
- Special 6:00 Ekushey

CHANNEL-i

Morning

- 6:15 Drama: Ami Tomai
- Valo Bashi 6:50 Ekatturer
- Dinguli 7:00 Muktiyudho O
- Bangla Film: Sonali Akash
- of Jennie 8:00 Din Protidin
- 8:25 Samoyer Gane 9:00

Cinema: Guddi (Asad/ Subarna)

Evening

- 6:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 6:10 Suvo Sandha
- 6:40 Muktiyudho Amar
- Ahongker 7:15 Drama : Gnihohin Aroner Pathe
- 7:50 Ekatturer Dinguli

- Prem (Rajesh Khanna, Sharmila Tagore) 3:30
- Bollywood News 4:00
- Daal Me Kala (Kishore Kumar, Nimmi, Agha) 7:00
- Geet Bahar 7:30
- Shaadaar Shukrawaar Sargam (Raj Kapoor, Rehana) 10:30
- Bollywood News 11:00
- Mere Humsafar (Jeetendra, Sharmila Tagore) 12:30
- Mere Humsafar (Contd) 2:00
- Geet Bahar 2:30
- Shakuntala (Jayshree, Chandramohan) 5:30
- Mere Humsafar (Jeetendra, Sharmila Tagore)

HBO

- 6:30 Last Rites 8:15 Point of No Return 10:30 Black Beauty 12:30 Mad Dog and Glory 2:15 The Advocate's Devil 4:00
- Baby Monitor: Sound of Fear 5:45 Atomic Dog 7:30 Michael Collins 10:00
- O Chalochitto 11:15
- Teh (Shabana/ Alamgir), Africa 3:30 Mad Dog and Glory 5:15 Last Rites

STAR GOLD

- 8:30 Bollywood News 9:00
- Shakuntala (Jayshree, Chandramohan) 12:00
- Geet Bahar 12:30 Amar

BBC WORLD

- 6:00 BBC News 6:30
- World Business Report 7:00
- BBC News 7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 8:00
- BBC News 8:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 9:00
- BBC News 9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 10:00
- BBC News 10:30
- Hardtalk 11:00
- BBC News 11:30
- Click Online 12:00
- BBC News 12:30 IT: India Tomorrow 1:30
- BBC News 1:30
- Hardtalk 2:00
- BBC News 2:30
- Panorama 3:00
- BBC News

- 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00
- BBC News 4:30
- Talking Movies 5:00
- BBC News 5:30
- Panorama 6:00
- BBC

Report 7:30 Talking

- Movies 8:00
- BBC News 8:30
- Hardtalk 9:00
- BBC News 9:30
- Asia Today

News 12:35

- World Business News Report 12:45
- World Sport 1:00
- BBC News 1:30
- Hardtalk 2:00
- BBC News 3:00
- BBC News 3:30
- World Business Report 4:00
- BBC News 4:30
- Correspondent 5:00
- BBC News 5:30
- World Business Report/Asia Today

Showbiz Today 11:00

- World News 11:30
- Q&A Asia (replay) 12:00
- World Report News 12:30
- World News 1:30
- World Sport 2:00
- World News 2:30
- Insight 3:00
- Larry King Live (replay) 4:00
- World News 4:30
- Biz Asia 5:00
- Asia Tonight 5:30
- World Sport 6:00
- World News 6:15
- Asian Edition 6:30
- Biz Asia 7:00

CNN

- 4:00 CNN This Morning 4:30
- Asia Business Morning 5:00
- CNN This Morning 5:30
- Asia Business Morning 6:00
- CNN This Morning 6:15
- Asia Business Morning 6:30
- Asian Edition 6:45
- Asia Business Morning 7:00
- CNN This Morning 7:30
- Moneyline 8:00
- Larry King Live 9:00
- World News 9:30
- World Sport 10:00
- World News 10:30

World News 7:30

- elbizasia 8:00
- Asia Tonight 8:30
- World Sport 9:00
- World News 9:30
- Style South Asia 10:00
- World News 10:30
- Biz Asia 11:00
- World News 11:30
- Q&A South Asia 12:00
- World News 1:00
- CNNdotcom 1:30
- World Business Today 2:00
- World News 2:30
- Q&A 3:00
- World News Europe 3:30
- CNN Newsroom

Discovery 8:30

- Ultimate Guide to Planes 9:30
- Future Tense 10:00
- Cafe Digital 10:30
- India Hour: Gulistan 11:00
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- Discovery Profile Series 12:30
- Wild Discovery 1:30
- Ultimate Guide to Planes 2:30
- Future Tense 3:00
- Cafe Digital 3:30
- India Hour: Gulistan 4:30
- Discovery Profile Series 5:30
- 21st Century Medicine

Home Improvement 8:30

- Happy Days 9:00
- Walker Texas Ranger 10:00
- Martial Law 11:00
- The

1:00 Murder Call 2:00

- Nash Bridges 3:00
- Morris Cerullo 3:30
- Exalted Word 4:00
- Creflo Dollar 4:30

Question Time on BBC World at 10:30 tonight.

Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00

World's Wildest Police 1:00

Grace Under

World News 5:00

Outback Adventure 6:00

The Adventures of Sinbad

STAR PLUS

- 6:00 Tu Tu Main Main
- 6:30 STAR Geetmala 7:30
- Hit Ya Fit 8:00
- Cine Jharokha 8:30
- Good Morning India 9:30
- Star Morning Show: Raavan (Smita Patil, Vikram) 12:30
- Hit Ya Fit 1:00
- TSN 1:30
- Shrimati Sharma Na Kehi Thi 2:00
- Meri Saheli 2:30
- Jubilee Plus 3:00
- Sonpari 3:30
- Shanti 4:00
- I Love My India 4:30
- Cine Jharokha 5:00
- Hit Ya Fit 5:30
- Chhupa Rustam 6:00
- Small Wonder 6:30
- Fox Kids 7:30
- Ek Main Aur Ek Tu 8:00
- Family Fortunes 8:30
- Tu Tu Main Main 9:00
- Star Superhit Best of Screen Awards Event 11:30
- Aaj Ki Baat 11:45
- Best Of Screen Awards (Contd.) 12:30
- Ek Main Aur Ek Tu 1:00
- Chalti Ka Naam Antakshri 2:00
- Gharwali Uparwali 2:30
- Chhupa Rustam 3:00
- Shrimati Sharma Na Kehi Thi 3:30
- Kalash 4:00
- I Love My India 4:30
- Janata Ki Adalat 5:00
- Siski 5:30
- STAR Bestsellers



Tu Tu Main Main on Star Plus at 8:30 tonight.

- Headlines 6:05
- The Big Fight 7:00
- Drama Serial: Probashi Porijon 7:30
- Ekushey News 8:00
- Shukrobarer Drama: Shondhayaloke Jatra 9:00
- Virgin Takdum Takdum 9:30
- English Series: MacGyver 10:30
- BTV News 11:15
- Ekushey Late Night News 11:30
- Ei Shoptah 11:45
- Ekushey Headlines

- Drama: Kaktharu 9:50
- I Focus 10:00
- Reciting from Holy Quran 10:10
- Suvo Sandha 10:40
- Muktiyudho O Chalochitto 11:15
- Drama: Ami tomal Valo Bashi 11:50
- Ekatturer Dinguli 12:00
- Muktiyudho O Chalochitto 12:40
- Dream of Jennie 1:15
- Samoyer Gane 2:00
- Drama: Kaktharu 2:50
- I Focus 3:00
- Bangla



Friends on Star World at 5:00 & 9:00 p.m.



Nash Bridges on Star World at 7:00 & 10:00 p.m.



Late night, Sukhbir on Channel V at