

RECOMMENDATIONS

Solo painting

Sept. 15-30
Artist Sadrul Hassan Rafi's solo exhibition continues at Alliance Francaise in the city and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & from 5 to 8 p.m. The show opens on today at 6:30 p.m.

Solo art exhibition

September 14-19
Artist Laila Sharmeen holds her solo art exhibition at Hyacinth Garden Gallery (Hse 8, Rd. 20, Sec#4) at Uttara Model Town in the city. The exhibition remains open from 4 to 7 p.m.

Art Exhibition

September 13-25
Charcoal, a contemporary artists' group holds an art exhibition at the Alliance Francaise gallery at Mirpur road in the city that continues daily from 4 to 8 p.m.

Dance festival

September 15-17
Nriya Dhara, a dance institution hosts 'Bangladesh Dance Festival', a 3-day event that schedules to display dance disciplines of several origins from across the country, in cooperation with the Bengal Foundation. State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Begum Selima Rahman inaugurates the festival at Bangladesh National Museum.

Six celebrated artists' show

Sept. 20 Oct. 7
Akku Chowdhury hosts art exhibition of 6 celebrated artists of the country, Jamal Ahmed, Kanak Champa Chakma, Khalid Mahmud Mithu, Saidul Islam Juse, Fareha Zeba and Nisar Hossain at La Galerie, Kemal Ataturk Avenue. The show remains open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Cinema

Sept. 17-18
Eight shows, four each day, at 5, 6, 7 and 8 p.m., will be screened at the Goethe Institut at Dhanmondi in the city, of 'Shei rater kotha boltey eshechi' (Tale of the darkest night), directed by Kawsar Chowdhury, on beta format video. Entry cards are available at the institute's reception counter.

Theatre

A life retold

Professor Rita Ganguly, a visiting scholar from India performs 'Dastaan Kehate Kehate', a biographical musical play, in the city

SAIFUL ISLAM

A life like Begum Akhtar's seems stranger than fiction as it is dipped in solitude and tear. The story of her life enchanted the audience of the city as Professor Rita Ganguly presented it with her captivating performance and melodious numbers. Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the High Commission of India, Dhaka, presented a play based on the life and times of the legendary singer Begum Akhtar titled 'Dastaan Kehate Kehate' by Professor Rita Ganguly and her group Kaladharmi on September 13 at National Museum auditorium in the city.

Her eyes glistened with mischievous smile of a little girl, and her voice trembled as she knit-



Professor Rita Ganguly

ted words with the playful innocence of a child, clever and fickle. She was half stammering, the way a frolicsome child speaks. She waved her palms like a butterfly; the way children do in excessive gaiety. The same actress cried when she was giving the account of the death of her beloved guru Begum Akhtar. And the audience joined her in the mourning. The musical drama was concise. The spectators traversed the colourful life of Akhtari Bai Fayzabadi in a short period of two hours and the detail presented throughout the piece seemed to have captured almost all the significant bits of the life of this legendary singer. Endowed with a rich voice, Professor Rita Ganguly has evolved a distinct style of ren-

dering ghazal and thumri, and is known as one of the foremost performers of the light classical forms of Hindustani music; her intimacy with music influenced her performance on stage. The pitch, high and low of her tune was intertwined with the ever-changing mood of the life-story of the malika of semi-classical music.

The majestic beauty of Urdu poetry swept the audience off to a dreamy land. It started off a beautiful cycle: the more the audience heard the excerpts of ghazals, the more the predominantly Bengali audience struggled to understand their meaning; the more they understood the bits of ghazals, the more they were drawn to their rendition. So organised were the rendering that each curtain that was drawn from the life of Begum Akhtar illuminated a new part replete with beauty and philosophy.

Akhtari Bai's life and times are well documented by many; G N Joshi's article on Akhtaribai in his book 'Down Memory Lane'; Sheila Dhar's account in her marvellously funny book 'Here's Someone I'd Like You to Meet'; and the very well made documentary, 'Hail! Akhtari!'. Professor Rita Ganguly's musical-drama 'Dastaan Kehate Kehate' (a play based on the life and times of the legendary singer Begum Akhtar) is not only stepped with newness but also saturated with dramatic actions that arouse tear and mirth. It is a tragedy soaked with strange and massive changes. A life that goes solitary over thorny deceit and stony injustices. What was she not? A theatre performer, a film actress, a loving wife, a dedicated guru, a devoted worshiper, a woman of perilous



Professor Rita Ganguly acts out Begum Akhtar's role

beauty who was raped when passing adolescence, a mother who failed to taste her motherhood. All these complex and subtle emotional crises were performed superbly by Rita Ganguly. She was not only narrating the history of her life but also giving it a feminist interpretation. Throughout her life Begum Akhtar was cheated by men, by her father, and later her husband, Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmad Abbasi.

Professor Rita Ganguly, an eminent theatre director, musician and dancer, was nurtured in a highly educated and cultural family. Trained originally in Dhruwad by Gopeshwar Bandopadhyaya of Vishnupur Gharana at Shantiniketan, she was a serious student of kathakali as well. A recipient of two-time national scholarship

for Kathakali and Bharata Natyam and third time for her music, the maestro also got a Ford Foundation fellowship. The king of bhav Shambhu Maharaj trained her in the bhav. Pt. Mani Prasad of Kirana Gharana moulded her voice to traverse the octaves of Khayal. Later, she learnt the nuances of the Patiala Gharana and gazal gayaki from Begum Akhtar. She pioneered the course on mime and movement as a Professor at the National School of Drama of Delhi.

Kaladharmi, a registered non-profitable organisation was established in 1973. The group is said to have made a lasting impact on the development and growth of the Indian performing arts through its National Festival.

Dance

An evening of rare retrospection

Anisul Islam Hero and his troupe present Bharata Natyam in the city

CULTURE DESK

It was quite a singular evening for the audience who attended the program, 'Chhanda the Rhythm', one of Bharata Natyam, at the Goethe-Institut on September 12.

A total of eight to nine ritualistic segments of the artistic dance acts were performed before the audience. Vandana (Adi O Aunto), Pushpanjali followed by Alarippu, Keetanam, Jatiswaram, Tillana, Utpatti, Envy and Colour through their depiction brought much enlightenment among the audience.

Two main categories of dance, nritta, or abstract dance for the sake of its own beauty, and nritya, an expression of a mood or story through pantomime and a rich language of gesture, have been well-represented in this style. The solo dancer presented dances related to specific musical forms and she needed continuation from items of abstract dance (nritta) through others which have introduced portions of drama (nritya), to the culminating padas and javalis in which full attention has been given to the interpretation of a poetic text through gesture and bodily expression.

A few of the more interesting segments like Alarippu and Jatiswaram seemed to have found finer appreciation at the performance of Sri. Pushpanjali, followed by Alarippu, has been since ages a body-language icon of opening the petals of a flower. Gentle movement of the eyes, neck and shoulders gave the artiste complete control of her theme with variations in speed of body movements.

On the other hand, Jatiswaram has been transformed into an item of Nritya or 'Pure Dance' that created lines and patterns in space, enhancing the notes' moods. Tillana, being a grand finale art



Anisul Islam Hero

form, seemed to be the most challenging item in the Bharatanatyam repertoire. Expression of pure rhythm has become the most vital feature here. Danced in fast tempo, the form has had single line of rhythmic syllables those have been repeated within a specific time cycle.

Various characters, meeting at single point, formed a fresh dimension, thus, gave rise to the term Utpatti, meaning, basic germination.

Envy has been a basic instinct in almost every living creature, not to speak of man. Through a dance form, envy showed pangs and cruelty of the human community.

The final segment of the dance was Colour. Here some ten artistes performed contemporary dance with joyful moods, in addition, represented the prime colours of nature, embedded in black, a root of all shades, in the eye of the artiste.

Sixteen danseuse of Sri performed before the spectators along with their director, Anisul Islam Hero, a student of world-renowned Bharatanatyam exponent, Padma Sree Lila Samson.

TV GUIDE

CHANNEL-i

- 1:50p.m. Bangla feature film
5:05 Documentary
5:35 Roving eye
6:10 Music Plus
6:50 Weekly | Focus
7:15 Channel I News
8:00 Your choice ole ole
8:30 Songs
9:00 Channel I News
9:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh
9:45 Mobile quiz
10:00 Drama serial
10:30 Channel I News
11:10 Roving eye
12:00a.m. Channel I News
ATN BANGLA
5:30 Islamic prog:
7:00 ATN Music
7:35 Musical prog: Dutora Basher Kanna Hashe
8:00 ATN Bangla News
9:00 Musical prog: Surer Madure
9:35 Papet show:
Advencher of Ponudada
10:10 Musical prog: Music Time
12:00 ATN Bangla News
2:05 Musical prog: ATN Music
2:30 ATN Bangla News
2:45 Bengali Feature Film: Omor Akbar
5:50 Chilren Pro: Sapla
7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
7:35 Mage Serial: Mohine
8:10 Reporting prog: Ghotonar Nepathee
8:35 Sutorang
9:10 Musical prog: Music Time
10:00 ATN Bangla News
10:35 Musical prog: Priyo Slipper Priyo Gan
11:10 Musical Prog:
11:30 ATN Bangla News
12:00 Bengali Feature film: Barho Ma

HBO

- 6:30 Alien Cargo
8:15 Black Moon Rising
10:15 Blood Hounds II
12:00 Moll flanders
2:30 Village of the damned
4:30 Spiders
6:30 Miracle on the Mountain: The Kincaid Family Story
8:15 The Big Hit
10:00 Shot Through the Heart
12:15 The Craft
2:15 Village of the Damned
4:15 Ice Castles
BBC WORLD
6:00am BBC News
6:30 Asia Today/Reporters
7:00 BBC News
7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
8:00 BBC News
8:30 Asia Today/Reporters
9:00 BBC News
9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
10:00 BBC News
10:30 World Business Report
11:00 BBC News
11:30 World Business Report
12:00pm BBC News
12:30 World Business Report / Sports Today
1:00 BBC News
3:00pm Euro Brief
3:30 BBC News
2:30 Hardtalk
3:00 BBC News
3:30 Correspondent
4:00 BBC News
4:30 Asia Business Report/World Business Report
5:00 BBC News
5:30 Hardtalk
STAR PLUS
7:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
8:00 Aatma
9:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
9:30 Fox Kids
10:20 Hit Geet
10:25 Kya Film Kya Geet
10:30 Small Wonder
11:00 Hasna Mat
11:30 Meri Saahil
12:00pm Shanti
12:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
1:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz...

- 1:25 Film Toppers
1:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
2:00 Bhabhi
2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
3:00 Shagun
3:30 Kasautii Zindagi Kay
4:00 Kumkum
4:30 Kabhii Sautan Kabhii Saheli
5:00 Kora Kaagaz
5:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
6:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
6:30 Fox Kids Daily
7:20 Aaj Ki Baat
7:25 Kya Film Kya Geet
7:30 Kumkum Pyara Sa Bandhan
7:55 Film Toppers
8:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
8:30 Krishna Arjun
9:00 Kasautii Zindagi Kay
9:30 Des Mein Niklla Hoga Chand
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kaahin Kissii Roz
12:00 Aaj Ki Baat
STAR GOLD
7:00 Geet Bahar
7:30 Lajwanti
11:00 Kuch Yaddain Kuch Baatein Bindu
11:30 Amne Samne Geet Bahar
3:00pm Preetam
7:00 Bellowood Beats
7:30 Monday Magic Biwi Ho To Aisi
11:00 Devi
STAR WORLD
7:00 Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 Da Vincis Inquest
8:30 Nash Bridges
10:00 Traders
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
12:00pm Worlds wildest Police Videos
1:00 Caroline In The City
1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
2:00 Hollywood Squares
2:30 Family Ties
3:00 Baywatch
4:00 The Simpsons
4:30 Cheers
5:00 Star News Asia
5:30 Frasier
6:00 That 70s Show
6:30 Everybody Love Raymond

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

- BTV: 2:00 p.m. ICC Champions Trophy: Sri Lanka Vs Holland. The Lankans are to take on the European cricket babes in this day-night match that seems to be a good practice opportunity for Sanath & Co. before their second round encounter. On the other hand, Holland would try to put some resistance on the islanders but that would be tough.
CHANNEL-i: 6:10 p.m. Music Plus. The program is based on music of the local arena and informs on latest audio releases, presents favourite songs of the audience, interviews star performers and upcoming artistes. Weekly best selections are informed about while music related news also feature various incidents of the arena before the audience.
CHANNEL-i: 8:00 p.m. Your choice ole ole. The program is a mixed magazine that includes in each of its episodes, ole ole music video. Songs of popular bands, comedy skit on a wide range of topics, segment involving audiences and collage are there, as usual, in the program.

PICK OF THE DAY

- Say anything
On Star Movies at 7:00 p.m. John Cusack plays Lloyd Dobler--an average guy with a penchant for kickboxing--in Cameron Crowe's first film. There is only one thing that all-around nice guy Lloyd wants for his high school graduation: a date with beautiful valedictorian Diane Court. Lloyd's dream comes true when Diane accepts his invitation to a graduation party. Diane falls for Lloyd, whose goal is to spend as much time with her as possible.

- 6:55 Starnews Update
7:00 Dharma & Greg
7:30 Becker
8:00 Boston Public
9:00 Frasier
9:30 That 70s Show
10:00 Dharma & Greg
10:30 Everybody Love Raymond
11:00 Backer
11:30 Boston Public
STAR NEWS
8:30 Breakfast News
8:30 English
8:00 Breakfast News
8:30 Hindi
8:30 Breakfast News
9:00 English
9:00 Breakfast News
9:30 Hindi
9:30 Star News English
10:00 Star News Hindi
10:30 Star News English
11:00 Star News Hindi
11:30 Star News English
12:00pm Star News Hindi
12:30 Star News English
1:00 Star News Hindi
1:30 Star News English
2:00 Star News Hindi
2:30 Bollywood News
7:00 Star Bazaar Hindi
7:30 Saat Baje Hindi
8:00 Star Khel
8:30 Tonight At 8
9:00 Star Samachar
9:30 Star News English
10:00 Star Business News
10:30 Star Newshour
11:30 Star News English
12:00am Sports Tonight

- 8:00 [V] Back To Back
8:30 [V] Jumpstart
9:30 [V] Hit Machine
10:00 [V] Back To Back
10:30 [V] Hit Machine
11:00 [V] Back To Back
11:30 Hit Macine
12:00 [V] Zabardast Hits
12:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox
1:00 [V] FDFS
1:30 [V] Hit Machine
2:00 [V] Zabardast Hits
2:30 [V] Back To Back
3:00 [V]Zabardast Hits
3:30 [V] Back To Back
4:00 [V] Hit Machine
4:30 [V] Hotline
5:30 [V] Top 5
6:00 [V]Jdeo War
6:30 Very [V]
7:30 Ctrl [V]
8:00 [V] Zabardast Hits
8:30 [V] Back To Back
9:00 [V]Zabardast Hits
9:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox
10:00 [V] FDFS
10:30 [V] Hit Machine
11:00 Late Night [V]
11:30 [V] Rewind
12:00 [V] Back To Back

- 10:30 Dogs With Jobs
11:00 Human Edge
11:30 On The Edge
12:30pm Jamu
1:00 Wild
2:30 Nat Geo Max
3:30 Scientific American Frontiers
4:30 People & Places
5:30 Croc Chronicles
6:00 Mission Wild
6:30 Dogs With Jobs
7:00 Earth Pulse
7:30 On The Edge
8:30 Wild
9:30 Nat Geo Max
10:30 Scientific American Frontiers
11:30 People & Places
12:00 Contract for Murder
ZEE TV
7:00 Yoga For Life
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10:00 Hum Paanch
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12:00 Paras Pathar
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5:30 Ek Palak
6:00 News In Bengali
6:30 Bideshini Bodhu
7:00 Ek Palak
7:30 Talk Jhaal Misti
8:00 Pratikbimba
8:30 Ek Akasher Niche
9:10 Ananya

- 6:00 The Little Riders
8:00 Laurie Lee's Cider With Rosie
10:00 Live Through This
11:00 Walter and Henry
1:00 Touched by an Angel
2:00 Sesame Street
3:00 Scholastic Clifford
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Please add 30 min. to schedules of foreign channels to match with BST