

RECOMMENDATIONS



Victory Day Programs

Abu M. Murtaish Stage (T.S.C.): Road Drama
Sayed Mohidul Haque Stage (T.S.C.): Film Show
Bokul Tala, Charukala: Annadashanker Ray Stage: Poetry Recitation Program
Dr. Nilima Ibrahim Stage (Dhanmondi, Open Air Stage): Song, drama, Corus and solo song
Farukh Faisal Stage (Mirpur): Song, drama, recitation and dance program.
Mohila Shamity: Stage Drama: 'Jaijayanti' by Arrannak
'Balad' by Theatre
'Nurulindar Sharajbon' by Nagorik Natya Shamproday
The programs will start at 4.00 p.m. 16 December.

Book launching

December 17
The University Press Limited and The Daily Star will jointly hold launching ceremony of the book 'An Abiding City: Ruminations from Rome' by Neeman A Sobhan. The ceremony will take place at Etcetera Bangladesh, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, on December 17 at 5.30 p.m. The book contains various aspects of Italy and Rome as seen through the author who has lived in Rome for a long time.

Visions-1

December 10-24
Alliance Francaise de Dacca will host an avant-gardist French exhibition titled, 'Visions-1 new vision in fashion', which will present latest new forms of fashion photography. The exhibition will last everyday from 9a.m. 12p.m. and from 5-8p.m. except Saturday (5-8p.m.) till December 24.

Event

"Rabindrasangeet", recitations of revolutionary poems & dances to usher in V-Day

Nargis Chowdhury and her team from "Padatik" perform at the Dhanmondi Amphitheatre to celebrate Victory Day by "Sammilito Sangskritic Jote".

FAYZA HAQ

Nargis Chowdhury and her group from Padatik brought in the necessary spirited and festive mood at the Dhanmondi Amphitheatre to create the required mood for celebration on December 14th, by "Sammilito Sangskritic Jote".

Nargis will be singing three songs as the highlight of the performance.



Nargis Chowdhury

manches at the same venue today. Although she sings popular when required on occasions like February 21, March 26 (Independence Day), "Pahela Boishakh" and Victory Day, her forte is "Rabindrasangeet". Nargis says that it is easier for her to sing popular songs than her repertoire of her forte as her training is based on "Ucchanga sangeet" over which she has remarkable control the training being eastern classical music based.

Her teacher, at Brahmanbaria, had been Gajendra Lal Roy and when she came to Dhaka in 1977, after her Intermediate exams, she studied under Ajit Roy, with Sanjeeda Khatoun, Khondakar Nurul Alam (at his home), and some "Uccha sangeet" with Nilufer Yasmeen. She has been singing for about twelve years in public in

Dhaka. Nargis has considered singing her passion and not her profession; she works (dealing with various subjects as a "block teacher" at Maple Leaf Int. School) to supplement her monetary income. Moreover, having had the encouragement from her father in her youth, her husband Selim has always given her the time and moral support to carry on her singing on stage etc.

Asked why she went in for "Rabindrasangeet" rather than any other eastern genre, Nargis said, "I had a passion for 'Ucchanga sangeet' and popular songs at the outset but my own guru, Gajendra Lal Roy encouraged me to move onto 'Rabindrasangeet'. After his persuasion, I myself grew to love the genre that I now sing mostly. I listen to 'Nazrul geeti' but don't sing it."

Talking about her preference for "Rabindrasangeet"-- whether the popular ones or the ones not so well-known -- Nargis said, "I like Rabindranath's songs for 'puja' occasions like 'Anandadhara bohiche bhubone', 'Protidine ami he jibono swami', etc. One develops a penchant for such songs with age but I adored them right from the beginning."

Dwelling on Bangla pop and band music, Nargis said that they did not appeal to her very much, unless the band is based on Bangla folk music. She feels that those music and songs have little connection with our own Bangladeshi culture.

Asked if she contested the fact that some of Rabindranath Tagore's tunes had been influenced by church music, which he had heard while staying overseas, Nargis said, "Yes this is true as in the case of songs like 'Pran chae chokho na chai', 'Koto baro bhebechinu aapono bhulia' and 'Purano shae dinerkotha'."

Giving her preference for Rabindrasangeet from "Epar-Opar Bangla", she said, "Among the 'Rabindrasangeet' artistes from Bangladesh I prefer Mita Haq, Rizvana Chowdhury Bonna, and among the male vocalists I like Fahim Hossain Chowdhury. From the Kolkata-based singers I like Konika Bandoapadaya and Chinmoy Chattapadaya most of all."

Coming from a music loving family, although her mother -- who sang herself was so conservative that she was not all for Nargis taking

her songs too seriously. Today Nargis leads the "Padatik" in singing and tutors them in poetry recitation as well as even plays, which they will stage today at TSC "Chatter". She practices in the evenings with her "harmonium" and the accompanying "tabalchi" for an hour and a half every day (the "tabalchi" comes thrice a week). As for the "Padatik" cultural group, she has been attached to it since 1980. When music enters some of the play productions, Nargis guides here too in her gentle but firm voice, as in the case of the necessary background music. The songs that she will specially sing for Victory Day will suit the occasion and will not be difficult to render as she has already mastered "Ucchanga sangeet" years back.

On the 15th, at the Dhanmondi Amphitheatre there were songs like "Aaj Bangladesh, phoolay, phoolay aaj dipto bhore ache shangite", "Sankochero bihualata nijera apamaan" (from Rabindranath Tagore), a song from the B.Brecht's play "Mother", "Oder hate niom kanun, oder hate aeen", and the popular song "Janatar shangram cholbe". Today the "Padatik" artistes will perform at the Shahid Minar.

The songs that had been sung on December 14th evening included "Jey tomal chharey chharuk ami tomal chharbona" (a song on freedom achievement theme by Tagore). The programme that evening had been inaugurated by Ramendu Mojumdar and taking part was Mahbubul Haider Mohon; the groups "Kranti" and "Sharak" took part in group songs; group recitations were done by "Sharkalpan", "Arititi Chakra" and "Mukto Dhara." The solo recitation was by Ahakumillah Mojumdar Jewel and Mahidul Islam. The self-written poem was recited by Mustafa Ahmed Morshed, while the dance was by "Spandan" and "Sarak"--two groups. The solo song performances were by Nargis Chowdhury, Tulip Ahmed Chowdhury, Lina Khan, Victor Gomes and Afroza Parveen Mukta. On this evening too were "street plays" by "Nagarik Nattagan Ensemble" and "Oboyak Nattya Dal". "Baul" songs were sung by Arif Rahman as the finale. Similar plays, relevant to the occasion and popularly known as "patha natak", are being held from 14th December to 16th December at Abu Mohammed Murtaish Kochi "Patha Natak Mancha" at the TSC Sarat Dwp by the same group.

Speaking to the "Padatik" group who had gathered for singing and drama performances for December 15th and 16th, one gathered they had come from various walks of life and devoted their evenings to singing and acting as individual passions to which they regularly gave their time and energy. Moloy Kumar Pal said that he would be singing songs for plays and popular patriotic songs such as "Jonotar shongram cholbe cholbe" etc., which Nargis had already informed one about. On the 16th (today), Pal said, "We are presenting the play 'Shari shari laash' at the TSC 'Sarak Dwp'. I'm here with this group for quite some time and get together

every evening; there's no problem in this as my wife, Konika, who sings 'Rabindrasangeet' and helps with the play productions, is involved in the same cultural group (she teaches Bangla and English at a school too); I'm a banker by profession." Coming to Wahidul Islam, of the same group, a mobile telephone businessman by profession. One gathers that he's been attached to "Padatik" for 16 years; He has done plays like "Sujan Badiyar Ghat", a stage play; "Mother" or "Ma" by Maxim Gorky, "Ajker Songbad", a 'patha natak', "Biswa Behaya's Porikalpana", another 'patha natak' etc. Islam says, "We take out time from our everyday existence for the plays and songs as they are vital for our existence. Two hours to make a genre of drama flourish is not too great a sacrifice."

Next spoke Nahayan, another banker, who said on that occasion, "I'm not a professional singer though I've joined in the popular patriotic and celebration songs that we are practicing for the 15th and 16th. I'm an actor and, as such, I must know to sing, dance, recite and act to make our performances successful. I've learnt from guest teachers who come here from time to time where we get together to practice. I've learnt 'Rabindrasangeet', 'Nazrulgeeti', 'songs for plays, and whatever else is necessary for celebration days. We've most often had the accompaniment of the 'tabla', 'dhol' and the 'harmonium'. On the 16th December, the songs will not be related to plays, naturally, and we've been invited for our forte for performing on special occasions of celebration.

Khondokar Sohail Raana, a 23 year-old Honourse student in Bangla at DU, said, "When 'Padatik' were recruiting people I applied and was accepted. I've learnt singing for three years here now; I act and dance as well, when given the opportunity. About the performances on the 15th and 16th, I'm already excited and jubilant, just sitting and singing at the rehearsal."

Sabil Reza Chowdhury, yet another banker, said, "I am here to satisfy my cravings of the soul and mind: thus my being here is a hobby and passion. I have a family background for acting as my uncle Khorshed Alam Chowdhury was on stage and TV at one time, my sister, Nasreen Jehan acted on stage while at college, and my aunt, Ibne Sultana, performed on stage at Manikganj as an adult and during her student years. I spend three to four hours here everyday, even on weekends, when we practice even more."

Sadia Chowdhury, another singer for Victory Day celebrations by "Padatik" said, "I teach Bangla as a profession and joined the group to act and sing as the two are often related in our endeavours. I do not sing any other songs except for well-known popular ones such as folk songs for Independence Day. In my family my father, Abdul Wadud Khan, not famous as such, used to sing."

The last person interviewed, Konika Ghosh, said, "I'm a school teacher at 'Siddiqui's Int. School' by profession, my subject being Bangla. I'm involved with the group for six years. I've been singing with various 'ustads' at various times. Now I'm learning at 'Chhayanaut' with my teachers Partha, Tuheen, Mamun etc. My preference for songs is 'Rabindrasangeet' and my favourite exponents of that genre of songs are Rizvana Chowdhury Bonna and Konika Bandoapadaya."



Chorus by "Padatik" singers.

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TV GUIDE

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