

Tête-à-tête

Momotaj: The singer of the masses

ERSHAD KAMOL

MOMOTAJ Begum is a well-known name for music lovers both in the cities and rural areas. She claims the distinction of having released a record 600 music albums since 1992. The popular albums are *Return Ticket*, *Ashol Boithoki*, *Bhaab Boithoki*, *Mursidher Talim* and *Ronger Bazar*. Explaining the success of her music, she says, 'These albums have rich lyrics and a distinctive melody.' She also has her favourite singles. 'In every show I sing some common songs which are close to my heart. The songs are - *Rasul Ashechhe*, *Khaja Baba*, *Mayer Kandon*, *Mala Kar Lagia Gathi*, *Doyal Baba* and *Pankchar Hoiya Gele*.'

Momotaj's success was hard won. Recalling the early struggles to popularise her audio album, she says that she released two albums without any remuneration from the

production house. 'When those albums got popularity, the producer (who I would not like to mention) paid me Taka 2,000 for my next album on the condition that if the

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album did not do well, I would have to repay the money,' says Momotaj.

To the readers, it might seem incredible that in the beginning of her singing career Momotaj used to record two albums a day without any rehearsal. 'In those days, the composers only provided me the lyrics and the music tracks of the

songs. And I had to record the song at one attempt. In my early days I used to record duets with popular *Bauls* like Lal Mia Boyati, Porosh Ali, Abu Shorkar and Ashim Baul,' she reminisces.

Momotaj was introduced to music by her father Modhu Boyati. He used to take her along for stage programmes. Then she learned music from Matal Razzaque Dewan whom she considers as her mentor. On the stage she usually performs different types of mystic songs like *Boithoki*, *Pallapalli*, *Mursidher* and *Marfoli* which she had learned from her *Ustad* and her quality songs as well. Talking about her singing, she says, she enjoys singing mystic songs, *Bichheder Gaan* and folk songs which has the flavour of Sufism to some extent.

She has already visited all parts of Bangladesh and many parts of India, particularly the North Eastern states. She has also gone to USA, UK, Australia, Italy and so on with

government and non-government teams.

Despite her formidable success as a singer, Momotaj has not forgotten her roots in Shingir village in the Manikgonj district. Her philanthropic leanings have led to the establishment of an eye hospital in the village because as she says, 'The poor rural people do not have the resources to come to the city for treatment.' She, along with her husband, Romjan Ali Chairman, also supports many schools, colleges, mosques and madrasas in Manikgonj district.

Momotaj has won many awards such as the Bangladesh Cine Reporters Association Award (BACHSAS) and Dhalid award among others. The public recognition of her talent should be an inspiration for the new singers venturing out into the music world.

Channel click



Itihaser Ei Diney touches 300 landmark

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Ntv's popular show *Itihaser Ei Diney* telecasts its 300th episode today, marking an uninterrupted airing since the very first day of the channel on July 3, 2003.

Produced by Peace, *Itihaser Ei Diney* (This Day in History) presents exactly what its name suggests—a documentary on the evolution of the human civilisation in art and literature,

science and technology, politics and society and other aspects of human life all over the world.

Those who have helped researching and documenting the series so far include Sujan Kabir, Sagar Sen, Joyonta, Sumona, Joy Prakash, Sarwar Kabir, Tazimul Nayan and Julhas Mannan. Edited by Hassan Mak, the commentary is given by Sagar Sen.

The series is aired twice daily at 8 am and 5:05 pm.

Music

April 30

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka, in conjunction with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, will present a light classical music programme by Penaz Masani at 7 pm at the Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka.

Film Show

May 2

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea holds a Korean Film Show on May 2 at 5:00pm at the Korean Embassy.

Film Title: *Reversal of Fortune*

Cast: Kim Sung Woo, Ha-Jee Won

Date and Time: May 2, 5:00pm

Venue: Korean Embassy

4 Madani Avenue

Baridhara, Dhaka 1212

Exquisite



PHOTO: AFP

A boy stands next to a giant colorful kite during a Kite festival competition at the Luneta park in Manila, April 25. The annual summer event draws huge crowds from across the country.

Event

Musical soiree of Srijon

To capture the interest of the culture enthusiasts, Srijon organised a musical soiree of the yesteryear songs on April 25, says a press release. The venue was the Bishwra Shahitya Kendra Auditorium and this function is held on the last Sunday of every month. Both prominent and upcoming artistes take part in these performances of Srijon, a cultural organisation.

On their recent programme, renowned music personality and singer Begum Mahbuba Rahman was a chief guest while popular singers Ferdous Ara and Khurshid

Alam were special guests. Khondokar Moqbul Sayeed, Avi Mostafiz, Suman Bappi, Farzana Bobby, Tanveer Tamal and Rumana Islam performed several popular tunes of Rabindranath and Nazrul as well as some modern and folk songs. *Mone Robe Kina Robe*, *Shey Chole Geche Bole*, *Nithur Bondhure*, *Ki Ashay Bandhi Khelaghor*, *Ganga Sindhu Narmada*, *Bandi Pakhir Moto Monta* were some of the beautiful tunes of the evening, rendered by the artistes.

Clearly Srijon is an organisation to watch out for on the culture scene of Bangladesh.



Artistes from Srijon, a cultural organisation

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTW

07:30 Bangladesher Hridoy

09:00 Satellite Telecast

12:30 Health programme

01:05 Cartoon Show

01:30 Shobor Jonno

02:05 Computer Protidin

03:05 Shukhi Poribar

03:30 Campus

04:05 Musical programme:

11:30 Sangeeta

04:30 Open university

05:05 Probash Mela

05:30 Mithoshkriya

06:10 Nazrul song show:

06:45 Sandhya Maloy

06:35 Telecast from

Chittagong

07:05 Quiz show: Ke

07:30 The Three Stooges

08:30 Drama Serial: Sonar

09:00 Drama Serial

09:30 Drama Serial: Jale

tahaar chaya

10:30 Katha Mala

ATN BANGLA

09:45 Tritiyo Matra

12:00 Chithi Pelana

12:25 Live Programme:

Citycell Media Bikash

01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Sangbadpatrey

Bangladesh and

public reaction

02:00 Film show: Ghat

03:45 Prolighat (Shabana, Jashim)

05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma

04:45 i Sports

06:10 Music Plus

06:45 Special Programme

07:50 Close up Juke box

08:25 Drama Serial: Sharey

09:35 Drama Serial: Anekey

10:00 Drama Serial: Bhoj

08:00 Ajaker Shokal

08:30 Gaaner Mala

09:00 Khoborer Shondhane

09:30 Ei Shomoy

10:02 Shikhi

10:30 Ekhanei Amaar Desh

11:00 Drama Serial: Kichu

Chhoto Boro

Diroghoshash

11:30 Priyo Mukh

12:02 Drama

02:30 Tiffner Faake

03:05 Mega Serial: Teen

Purush

03:40 Band Music

Drama Serial:

Obosheshe Propat

05:10 Show

Ke

Korbe Bajimat

04:50 Apran Jigysa

Shubho Shondhya

06:20 Frankly Speaking

08:10 Drama Serial: Charpa

Dangar Bou

08:50 Tara Tarai

09:40 Drama: Shongshoy

Dindarpan

10:15 Talk Show:

Anndrosteet

10:50 The Adventure of

Sinbad

11:25 Drama Serial: Mohona

Bidaay

09:00 Drama Serial: Shrey

Tin Tala

09:35 Drama Serial: Anekey

Eka

08:30 Drama Serial:

Chirokumar Shabha

10:30 Election Spl. Live

Doshtai

11:30 Zee MGM Select

09:30 Ek Dui Teen

10:35 Special Programme

12:20 Bangla Feature Film:

Dangabaa

12:00 Hoi Hullod

09:45 Save the Last Dance

12:00 Gossip

1:45 The Man Who Wasn't

4:00 Point of Origin

5:45 Trojan War

7:30 Mortal Kombat

9:30 Pay It Forward

12:00 Ballistic: Ecks Vs.

2:00 Sever

2:00 Frequency

9:00 Everyone Says I Love

You