

RECOMMENDATIONS



Photography Exhibition

Title: Artonad (Shout and Cry) Photographer: Monju Organiser: Bhuiyan Computers Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University...

T-shirt Exhibition



Theme: Kazi Nazrul Islam Organiser: Nitya Upohar Venue: Nitya Upohar, Aziz Super Market...

Painting Exhibition

Artist: Setara Elin's solo painting exhibition Time: May 21-31, 5:30 pm Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery

German Heimat Films

Organisers: Zahir Raihan Film Society and Goethe-Institut Dhaka Time: 23-27 May 2004 Venue: Goethe Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi

Indian Film Show

Organiser: Indian Cultural Centre House 25, Road 96, Gulshan 2 Time: Mondays & Thursdays, at 6:00 pm

Exclusive

'I have never been ambitious'

Mitali Mukharjee recently came to Dhaka and enthralled her fans at a ghazal nite after a long gap. She spoke at length to Kaushik Sankar Das and Afsar Ahmed of The Daily Star on various aspects of today's music.

The Daily Star (TDS): How does it feel to return to Bangladesh for a performance after a long time?

Mitali Mukharjee (MM): Superb! It was beyond my expectation. I never expected to get such a rousing welcome from the audience.

TDS: Why do you think the audience loved your show? Is it because of your long absence?

MM: No, the Bangladeshi audience has always had a good taste for music. And it's not only me who is saying it. Even Pandit Jasraj said the same thing. Once he told my husband Bhupinder Singh that if he does not get an opportunity to perform in Bangladesh, he would definitely miss one of the best audiences of the world.

TDS: Why didn't you come earlier? MM: Because no one ever contacted me. Actually a befitting platform is needed to organise a show where the artist can be presented properly.

TDS: You always say that you are proud to be a Bangladeshi. But in the music world, especially in the subcontinent, you are mostly known as an Indian artist. Doesn't it hurt?

MM: Well, actually when I perform in the West at a ghazal show or when Indians invite me to perform, then naturally I am treated as an Indian by them. But I've also performed in concerts organised by Bangladeshis in New York. At those times, I am a true Bangladeshi. Actually, I never think of this issue so deeply. I am a singer and the people from both the countries have given me such honour that I am ever so grateful to them. But I want to say this over and over again that I always miss Bangladesh.

TDS: What was the real reason for settling in India? Was it ambition?

MM: I have never been ambitious in my life. In fact from the beginning I was a happy go lucky kind of a girl and would sing anywhere, anytime. I have never dreamt of becoming a ghazal singer either though I always liked this genre of music. When people used to ask me to perform in small gatherings while studying in India, I would sing ghazals and get good response and appreciation from the audience. Finally when I started singing with Anup Jalota, Pankaj Udhass and other ghazal singers, I got labelled as a ghazal singer.

Actually some people had heard my songs at a private party and recorded and released them later. Those songs became so popular that HMV



Mitali in a jovial mood

offered to release an album of mine. I was never ambitious, but one can call me a very lucky girl.

TDS: But the recognition and popularity you had earned in Bangladesh really evoked envy. Then why did you just leave that?

MM: No, I never shunned any opportunity in Bangladesh. Actually, I was studying my bachelor degree at that time in Vadodara and to me exams were more important. My father always said, 'Get the basic education first and then if you sing well, you can earn fame. But if you run after fame only you will never become a good singer.'

TDS: In the early eighties, you were being hailed as the next big star in the music industry of Dhaka after Sabina Yasmin and Runa Laila. Don't you think that you have missed an opportunity?

MM: Actually, when I went to Mumbai, I had the opportunity to learn from eminent musical personalities like Pundit Jasraj and others; I had

realised that I needed to learn a lot more. I did not want to miss that rare opportunity either. Moreover, I got to meet all the famous classical singers and learn from them.

TDS: Why haven't we seen you in the mainstream music arena of India, especially the playback singing?

MM: I had good relations with famous music directors RD Burman and Kalayanj-Anandji, but I never asked them for film songs. In fact, I never took advantage of the close relationship we shared.

Yes, I did not sing many film songs, there were too many singers. Lataji and Ashaji were at the top. Others like Alka, Kavita, Sadhana were trying to get their foothold. However, in my case I had a keen interest in classical music. I was so busy doing recordings and programmes that initially it didn't strike me that I could sing for films also. I have been to many countries for solo shows. However, I never gave serious thought to playback singing, though I was aware of the exposure and fame that a playback singer gets.

TDS: Don't you regret that? MM: Yes, sometimes I do.

TDS: What is your opinion about remixing old songs?

MM: It is very wrong. I am against it. Even the dance sequences are also vulgar. Though the albums are selling like hot cakes, the songs have lost their originality. There used to be some ethics in the music industry before, not any more. The companies are mainly running after money.

Lataji and Ashaji are still reigning over the music industry. So why shouldn't the remixes be recorded with the original singers? We are destroying the archival value of the old songs.

TDS: Do you have any plans to rerecord your own songs?

MM: Yes, I do. In fact I went to the market to check whether they had any cassettes of my Bangla songs, but couldn't find any. How wonderful those songs were! I don't have them in my personal collection.

TDS: What kind of memories are you taking back?

MM: I am overwhelmed with the affection and love! I don't feel like leaving my motherland. I always miss the hospitality and the innocence of the people here, while living in Mumbai, a very mechanised city.

Anniversary

Celebrating two decades of Sangeet Bhaban

NOVERA DEEPTA

THE path from darkness to light is the path of culture.

In turn, music is the key medium in the cultural world. To revive the traditional values through the empowering light of music, several enlightened people lead by veteran Tagore singer Kalim Sharafi established the music organisation Sangeet Bhaban. Some of these artists were from Shantiniketan. This is the story of Sangeet Bhaban, which is named after the Sangeet Bhaban of Shantiniketan.

The last Pahela Baishakh was the 20th founding anniversary of Sangeet Bhaban and the people organised a discussion and cultural programme at the Shishu Academy auditorium recently. The chief guest of the programme was Professor Anisuzzaman while the special guests were former Director General of the National Museum, Shamsuzzaman Khan and Tagore singer Tapan



Young students of Sangeet Bhaban performing the welcome dance

Mahmud. Kalim Sharafi, the chairperson of the programme, also spoke on the occasion.

After the discussion session, the present and former students and artistes of Sangeet Bhaban rendered music and dances performances. Little girls in orange and white attire performed an interesting welcome dance. Side by side with the dancers, singers performed chorus songs. The Sangeet

Bhaban anthem Amra sangeet bhabaner gaaner pakhi was well rendered by the female singers dressed in green and yellow sarees and the male singers in all white. The Tagore song Amarey tumi ashesh karechho and Nazrul song Anjali laho mor sangeete were well received at the packed auditorium. The show enthralled the audience with its varied songs and dances.

Film preview

Ratnam's women of substance

Yuva, a Mani Ratnam film, is slated to hit the silver screen soon. After successes such as Raja, Dil Se and Bombay, film circles believe that this directorial venture of Ratnam will portray strong women characters. Yuva stars Ajay Devgan, Abhishek Bachchan and Vivek Oberoi, representing the diverse faces of contemporary Indian youth. The three heroines are individualistic young women with diverse temperaments. There are Kareena Kapoor playing a modern go-getter who knows her own mind, Esha, a simple girl next door who will spare no effort to have her way and the third, Rani Mukherjee, a far less self-assured lower middle class lass.

Yuva is Ratnam's first film that could fit the description of a mainstream Bollywood multi-starrer. Despite usually working with actors from South India, he has achieved considerable success at the national level with dubbed versions of his Tamil films. But the first time he opted to make a Hindi film, even Shahrukh Khan could not ensure commercial success for it. That perhaps explains the long gap between Dil Se and Yuva.

Yuva has a Tamil version lined up for simultaneous release. However, filmgoers are keenly watching the Hindi-language entry, which will determine the future course and shape of Ratnam's engagement with the national box office.

Despite the usual hallmarks of a Ratnam film—the strikingly prettified frames, the elaborately choreographed numbers and the interplay of colour, sound and surface textures—his films are rarely hollow efforts. The consistency of his technical finesse and narrative panache is such that one does not always notice the tendency to oversimplify complex contemporary political issues.

Ratnam's portrayal of women is akin to that of Shyam Benegal and Gulzar. Even in politically sensitive films where the focus has been on terrorism, such as as Raja, Bombay, Dil Se and Kannathil Muthamittal—the woman remains at the centre of the action. For instance, in Raja the abduction of the



Kareena Kapoor in a scene from Mani Ratnam's latest film Yuva



Rani Mukherjee and Abhishek Bachchan in Yuva

Tamil-speaking engineer and its consequences are seen through the eyes of his distraught wife. Likewise in Bombay, the impact of the growing communal tensions in the metropolis is reflected in the fate of the Muslim heroine who is married to a Hindu journalist.

Compiled from the Internet

Art

Raphael sketch 'found in drawer'

BBC ONLINE

AN unknown Raphael sketch has been discovered in a London home where it is thought it may have been hidden for more than 100 years. The unsigned drawing, Head of a Child, was recognised by a Sotheby's



The unknown Raphael sketch is expected to fetch £70,000.

expert as she looked through a folder of Italian sketches found in a drawer.

The sketch is expected to fetch up to £70,000 when it is auctioned on 8 July. The drawing, which dates back to about 1505, is Raphael's first sketch to be auctioned in seven years.

A Sotheby's spokeswoman said the family who own the house may have bought it as collectors as far back as the 19th Century. It was spotted by Cristiana Romalli, an expert in Old Masters who said she immediately recognised it as a Raphael.

She said the sketch was drawn between the Early and High Renaissance periods. It was authenticated after exhaustive checks at the National Gallery.

Exquisite



A US currency themed panda sculpture sits in front of the World Bank headquarters, and a brightly painted Panda sits on the street downtown Washington DC on May 21. PandaMania, a collection of 150 creatively designed Panda sculptures, commissioned by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, are placed on display from May through September. The exhibition will conclude with a public auction with proceeds used for arts grants and arts education programs.

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

- BTB 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.

- BTB 07:30 Bangladesh Hridoy Hote Satellite programme Shongbad Potrer Pata Theke 09:00 Quiz show 01:30 Cartoon quiz: Meena 02:05 Protidin Computer 02:30 Tommy Miah'r Kitchen 03:05 Judo Training 03:35 Shukhi poribaar 04:05 Banshori 04:30 Angana 05:05 National Television Debate 05:45 News for children 06:10 Geetanjali 06:35 Telecast from Chittagong 07:05 Maati O Manush 07:30 The Lost World 08:30 Jochonar phul Drama: Adurey Thikana 10:30 Priyo shilpi priyo gaan 11:00 Jhilmil

- ntv 08:00 Aajker Shakal 08:30 Chena Sur 09:00 Sangskriti Ei Shoplatho Museum Around The World 10:02 Hello Music 10:30 Guitarer Tale Tale 11:00 Drama Serial: Andhokarer Phul Magazine Sequence 11:30 Millennium 12:02 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush 03:05 Penaz Masanir Ghazal 05:10 Horicks Genius 05:40 Apnar Jigyasha 06:20 Shubho Shodhyta 06:50 Khabor Deshey Deshey 08:10 Drama Serial: Teen Purush 08:50 Right Click 09:25 Medhabhi 09:45 Diindarpan

- PICK OF THE DAY Adibashi Janapod On ATN Bangla at 10:30 pm Magazine on tribal people Directed by Maynul Hossain Mukul Under Siege 2 On HBO at 11:00 pm Genre: Action/Thriller/Drama Steven Seagal, Eric Bogosian, Everett McGill Sharey Tin Tala On Channel 1 at 8:25 pm Drama Serial Intekhab Dinar, Jaya, Tropa Majumdar, Afroza Banu

- 3:30 Wild Card 4:30 Charmed 5:30 Journeys In Asian Cuisine 6:00 Travel Asia 6:30 Baywatch Hawaii 7:30 Malcolm In The Middle 8:00 Kumars At 42 8:30 Style 9:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal 9:30 Britannia India's Child Genius 10:30 Cover Story 11:00 Top Drive Getaway 11:30 Focus Asia 12:00 The X Files 1:30 Cheetals and Cubs in the Land of... 1:30 Wild Encounters: Cats under the Serengeti Stars 2:30 Animal Planet Showcase: The Heart of a Lioness 3:30 Croc Files: Animal Rehab 4:00 O' Shea's Big Adventure: Back from the brink 4:30 O' Shea's Big Adventure: Swamp 5:00 Dinosaur 5:30 Champions of the wild: Wildebeests 6:00 Champions of the Wild: Japanese Macaques 6:30 Wild Island: Keeper Diary 7:00 Crocodile Hunter: Australia's Wild Frontier 8:00 Crocodile Hunter: Diaries: At Loggerheads 8:30 Wild Encounters: Natural World: The Tigers' Fortress 9:30 Wild Encounters: Warriors of the Money God 10:30 Animal Planet Showcase: Growing up... Lion 11:30 Predators: Nowhere to Hide 12:00 Secret World of Gardens: Hoppers 12:30 House to Home 1:00 Madhur Jaffrey's Discovery Sunday: Hitler's Gold 2:30 Discovery Sunday: Mystery of Lake Toplitz 3:30 Discovery Weekend: Battlefronts 4:30 History Weekend: Lasseter's Dream 5:30 History Weekends: Hidden History of Egypt 6:30 History Weekend: Hinderburg: Fire in the sky 7:30 Discovery Sunday: Hitlers Gold 8:30 Discover Sunday: Mystery of Lake Toplitz 9:30 Wings Extreme Machines O'hare Airport 10:30 Night Safari: Piranha Adventure 11:30 Mummies Forever: Fire Mummies of the Philippines 12:30 Wild Encounters: Storm Stories 7:00 Storm Stories 7:30 Adventure Challenge 8:30 Martial Arts 9:30 Chasing Time 10:00 Hidden Qi 10:30 My Backyard Serengeti 11:30 Built For Destruction STAR SPORTS 12:30 Australia Tour Of Zimbabwe 1st Test Day 1 Highlights(R) 1:50 Australia Tour Of Zimbabwe 1st Test Day 2 1st Session(L) 4:00 Hitz (T) 4:30 Australia Tour Of Zimbabwe 1st Test Day 2 2nd & 3rd Session(L) 5:00 Monte Carlo Grand Prix(L) 5:45 Formula One World Championships Monaco Grand Prix(L) 8:00 Chequerd Flag: Formula One Monte Carlo Monaco Grand Prix(L) 8:30 Australia Tour Of Zimbabwe 1st Test Day 2 2nd & 3rd Session(A) ESPN 1:30 Nba Anthology 1985 Los Angeles Lakers: Return To Glory (R) 2:00 New Zealand Tour Of England 1st Test Day 3 Highlights(R) 3:28 New Zealand Tour Of England 1st Test Day 4 1st Session(L) 5:30 Uefa Champions League Magazine Show New Zealand Tour Of England 1st Test Day 4 2nd & 3rd Session(L) 10:30 Sportscenter Weekend (T) 10:35 NBA Eastern NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 12:30 Martial Arts 1:30 Adventure Challenge 2:30 Secrets Of The Sands 3:30 Dim Sum Odyssey 4:30 National Geographic Special 5:30 On Assignment 6:00 Tomorrow's World ANIMAL PLANET 12:30 Wild Encounters: Buffy The Vampire Enterprise 1:00

