

Tribute

Remembering a versatile artiste

OMER FAROOK

ANJUMAN Ara Begum was the lady with a golden voice. She rose to popularity around the 1960s. Whether it was radio, television or gramophone records being played in wayside restaurants, her fresh, melodious voice was audible far and wide.

She was the daughter of Dr Kasiruddin Talukder and Begum Ziaunnahar Talukder of Bogra. Her father's dispensary at Thana Road was well known to the public. But tragedy struck the family when her father was arrested and killed by the Pakistan Army during the Liberation War in 1971. The ostensible reason for this drastic end was his role in providing medical aid and giving shelter to freedom fighters.

Anjuman Ara was born in a cultured family where almost all her family members were highly educated. She completed BA (Hons), MA from the Department of Sociology, Dhaka University while continuing her career as a professional singer. She was the youngest among her two brothers and five sisters.

Her eldest sister Begum Zabunnesa Jamal was a popular lyricist and educationist. Elder sister Mahbub Ara was also a singer of radio and television. Her niece, Zeenat Rahana, is a well-known vocal artiste and the famous Runa Laila is her cousin sister.

Anjuman Ara made her presence felt for the first time through radio in 1958 and instantly became everyone's favourite. There was a unique quality to her voice and listeners were captivated by the feeling that she put into singing.

During the early 1960s when there was no television and radio was the only medium to reach the masses, Anjuman Ara occupied the pride of place with three contracts every month. During each programme she was required to



attend at least three sittings in the morning, evening and night during peak hours. Her fans seldom missed her programmes because she had a variety of items to offer like light modern, Nazrul song, folk song, semi-classical, patriotic, ghazal and geet.

She was soon chosen for playback in feature films. Her song in a dream sequence of *Shutorang*, *Tumi ashbay bole kachhey dakhey bole* was an instant hit. This was followed by *Chandni bheegi bheegi haawa* a song of Urdu film *Chanda* became a hot favourite. Thereafter came other film hits like *Akasher Hathay aachhey ek rash neel*, *Kay Shoroneo prantoray chupi chupi chhayan rekhey jaye*, *Sahtu ronger majhey aami mil khunje na pati*, *Khokon shona boli shona*, *Maachhranga pakhita aye* and many

others.

Anjuman Ara's husband Masud Alam Siddiqui was a tremendous support all along. It was obvious that without his encouragement, she could not have made it as a singer. Masud retired as Secretary, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation. Her son Tariq Masrur is a Sub-Editor (News Section) of The Daily Star and daughter Umana Anjanin is a Lecturer, Department of Business Administration at the University of Asia Pacific.

Anjuman Ara received many awards for her contribution to music. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy gave her the 'Gunijan' award in the year 2000. In recognition of her contribution as an artiste, she received the National Award, Ekushey Padak in 2003.

After performing the Hajj she became very pious and gradually declined offers to sing although she held a respectable position as a senior vocalist.

Of late, she had been ailing. Her illness took a swift turn to acute pneumonia and she breathed her last in the morning of May 29, 2004. The news of her sudden death reached quickly and soon relatives, friends, well-wishers, artistes, fans and admirers gathered at her residence at Dhanmondi to pay their last respects to her.

Anjuman Ara was a very soft-spoken lady and always had a smile on her face. Personally she was very amiable and kind hearted. As an artiste she was always devoted to her profession.

Anjuman Ara is no more with us. However, she lives on in the memories of her numerous fans.

The author is a former Director, Department of Dance and Music, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

The legend lives on

Marilyn Monroe: A troubled star

'And it seems to me you lived your life Like a candle in the wind Never knowing who to cling to When the rain set in And I would have liked to have known you But I was just a kid Your candle burned out long before Your legend ever did.'

Elton John's *Candle in the Wind*-a tribute to Marilyn and later to Princess Diana

The occasion of Marilyn's birth anniversary on June 1, is an opportune time to look at the life and times of an actress who attracted attention both on and off screen. Her troubled childhood, tempestuous marriages and her stormy professional life all precipitated her untimely end in 1962. Though there is still speculation about whether she ended her life or was done to by motivated interests, there is still no denying that in her 16-year career she has made her mark in Hollywood with as many as 29 films.

Among her greatest acting milestones are *The Prince and the Showgirl*, *The Misfits* and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. Her first serious acting job was in *The Asphalt Jungle* (1950). The film earned her favourable reviews in the press. Another milestone was *Don't Bother to Knock* where she had a leading part.

Norma Jeane, as she was named in her childhood, had to carry the stigma of not knowing the whereabouts of her father. Her mother Gladys suffered from depression and for a while Norma had to stay in a foster home. Back home briefly with her mother, she was later looked after by Grace McKee, a close friend of her mother.

Her tormented childhood probably

explained her disastrous marriages-first with Jim Dougherty. It was in the course of this marriage that Norma Jeane, while working in a factory inspecting parachutes in 1944, was photographed by the Army as a promotion effort. One of the photographers, David Conover, asked to take more pictures of her. By 1945, she was becoming known as a 'photographer's dream' and had become a well known face in the print media.

Marilyn's film career took off in 1946 when she signed a contract with Twentieth Century-Fox Studios. She took on her mother's family name of Monroe and was from that time known as Marilyn Monroe. In 1948 she sang her first song in the film *Ladies of the Chorus*. Other films were *There's no business like show business* and *The seven year itch*.

After her relationship with Dougherty came to an end, Marilyn drifted into marriages with Joe DiMaggio and Arthur Miller, the famous playwright. There were also rumours of her clandestine relationship with John F Kennedy and Bobby Kennedy.

On August 8, 1962, she was supposed to remarry Joe DiMaggio. But three days prior to this date, she was found dead. Though there has been considerable speculation about her death, the consensus of opinion is that suicide was unlikely. More on the mark is the theory of an accidental drug overdose, possibly administered by someone else.

DiMaggio, her most trusted companion, made arrangements for the funeral. No one from Hollywood or press was invited and only her close friends and relatives were called. Talking about Hollywood, a saddened DiMaggio said 'they had only hurt Marilyn'.



Marilyn has stated what could be an elegy to herself: 'I knew I belonged to the public and the world, not because I was talented or even beautiful, but because I had never belonged to anything or anyone else.'

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Sparkling night

Channel-i to telecast Miss Universe 2004 live

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

BECOMING what is now considered universal royalty is still an obtainable dream for young women. Today, Miss Universe has become a fixture of pop culture, ingrained in the landscape of our minds.

The Miss Universe beauty contest has been held since 1952. Founded by California clothing company Pacific Mills to showcase its Catalina brand swimwear, it became part of Kayser-Roth and then Gulf and Western Industries.

Picturesque Quito, Ecuador sets the stage as women from around the world gather for this year's exciting Miss Universe competition. The delegates will be judged in Swimsuit, Evening Gown and Interview categories during the broadcast. Other awards include National Costume, Miss Congeniality and Miss Photogenic.

Hundreds of millions of fans have watched the contest over the years in 125 different countries. The spectacular, two-hour Miss



Miss Universe contestants from Serbia, Canada and Israel dance on stage during the first official presentation recently.

Universe competition has truly become a fixture of television pop culture, with beautiful and talented women representing their countries on stage. The most recent pageant will be broadcast on June 1, from Quito, Ecuador (Bangladesh time on June 2 at 7:00 am), in front of a live, international television audience.

During the show, a panel of 9 renowned judges will choose semi-finalists and finalists based on the women's beauty, grace, intelligence and poise, while celebrity hosts Billy Bush and Daisy Fuentes guide the audience through two incredibly fun-filled hours of exciting, prime time entertainment.

Celebration time

A rewarding career for Kumar Biswajit

NOVERA DEEPTA

TODAY is the 42nd birthday of the popular singer Kumar Biswajit, who has had a long innings in the music world. The Culture Desk of The Daily Star wishes him many happy returns. On this occasion he talked to the correspondent on different issues.

'I am rarely seen on screen. This is because I feel I should not appear before the audience unless I can offer good music. Besides I don't want to give a monotonous performance for the audience in a scenario where my recorded numbers are telecast repeatedly on the channels.

Again, the environment of the media world has changed and there are a lot of singers presently seen on screen. The songs are not for audible pleasure only, rather they are for viewing nowadays. I think the music, lyric performance and even the expressions of these singers are very substandard. So I wouldn't like to join their career path.

My next album, comprising 10 tracks, will be released on Eid-ul-Fitr which is yet to be titled. The



lyricists are Gazi Mazharul Anwar, Ahmed Rizvi, Milton Khondokar, Liton Adhikari Litu and Rafikuzzaman. On my tour to Europe I will be performing at Belgium, Austria and Italy. My four members are Kaniz Suborna, Kajol and Fakir Alamgir. I have just got back from London. Although I went there on a family tour I performed on the *Pahela Baishakh* programme. I sang for an audience of 50,000 expatriate Bangladeshis.

In the final analysis, I think I have come this far because of my honesty, sincerity, devotion, dedication and concentration to my work.

Event

'Tagore and Nazrul were our greatest inspiration during the Liberation War' --Kamal Lohani

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

'When Bangladeshi people faced extreme torment as the Pakistani rulers wanted to abolish our culture, we received the inspiration to revolt against injustice from Tagore and Nazrul, the two great poets of Bengal.'

Kamal Lohani, an eminent cultural personality, expressed this opinion at a recent function at the Liberation War Museum.

A discussion session and cultural programme was held on the contribution of Tagore and Nazrul's works in our Liberation War. Lohani elaborately discussed the political and cultural history of

our Liberation War along with the contribution of the cultural groups and personalities during the war.

He pointed out that the Pakistani rulers in a desperate attempt banned Tagore songs. 'The entire nation protested against the decision and the Cultural Independence Establishment Council (Shanshkritik Swadhiakar Protishtha Parishad) had many activities to mark their stand on the issue. Whenever we got into any cultural and political crisis we drew inspiration from Tagore's literary works,' said Lohani.

About Nazrul, Kamal Lohani said that people politicised Nazrul

by saying he is the poet of the Muslims. 'But his patriotic character which was his identity, has been overshadowed by his Muslim identity.' His songs were among the greatest inspirations during the war.

After the discussion session, two recitation groups Katha and Mukdadhara recited Tagore's *Shikharitha* and Nazrul's *Agamoni*. The musical effect in the background and the expressions of the artistes of Katha were truly appreciable. The stereotypical style of recitation was not at all enjoyable. Later the singers of Chhayanaut rendered different Tagore and patriotic songs.

BTV

- 07:30 *Bangladesher Hridoy Holey*
- 09:00 Satellite Programme
- 12:15 *Shongbad Potrer Pata Theke*
- 01:05 Cartoon Show
- 02:05 Computer Programme
- 03:05 *Shukhi Paribar*
- 03:30 *Aalor Jhomadhara*
- 04:00 Live Telecast of Sher-e-Bangla Cup Football
- 06:00 *Desh Janopod*
- 06:10 *Shondhya Maloti*
- 06:30 Weather Forecast
- 07:30 Three Stooges
- 08:30 Drama Serial: *Shonar Horin*
- 09:00 Drama Serial: *Aporajita*
- 09:30 Drama Serial: *Jale Tahar Chhaya*
- 10:30 *Upohar*

CHANNEL-i

- 09:45 *Tritiyo Matra*
- 10:45 Grameen Phone Cricket on Line
- 11:30 *Chithi Palam*
- 12:00 *keboli Raat Hoye Jaay*
- 12:30 *Aaj Dupure*
- 02:00 *Bangla Film*
- 04:00 *Banglar Gaan*
- 05:00 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
- 05:45 I Sports
- 06:10 Music Plus
- 06:45 *Aanonda Bichitra*
- 07:50 Close up Juke Box
- 08:25 Drama Serial: *Sharey Tin Tola*
- 09:35 Drama Serial: *Anekei Eka*
- 10:00 Drama Serial: *Bhoey*

ntv

- 08:00 *Aajker Shakal Gaaner Mala*
- 08:30 Crime Watch
- 09:30 Documentary Programme: *Colours*

- 10:02 Band Music
- 10:30 *Ekhaney Aamar Desh*
- 11:00 Journey to Dhaka
- 11:30 *Titiner Phanke*
- 12:02 Single Episode Drama
- 01:25 *Shapla Kurni*
- 02:30 Drama Serial: *Tin Purush*
- 03:05 *Sunsilk Apshora*
- 03:40 Drama: *Abosheshe Propat*
- 04:25 *Ke Korbe Eajimat*
- 05:20 *Apnar Jigyasha*
- 06:30 *Shubhoshondhya*
- 06:50 Local Programme
- 08:10 Mega Serial: *Sporsher Bairay*
- 08:50 Special Drama
- 09:40 *Shongshoy*
- 11:20 Dindarpan

TARA BANGLA

- 12:00 Tara Sundari
- 12:30 Sri Ramkrishna
- 1:00 Trailer
- 2:00 Taka Na Sonar
- 2:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo
- 3:00 Swapner Rang Neel
- 4:00 Baro Eka Lage
- 4:30 Trailer
- 5:00 Nonte Fonte
- 5:00 Serial Jug
- 6:30 Taka Na Sonar
- 7:00 Sree Ramkrishna
- 7:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo
- 8:00 Antakshari
- 9:30 Serial Swapner Rang Neel
- 10:00 Baro Eka Lage
- 11:00 Live Dashaite

PICK OF THE DAY



Anekei Eka
On Channel i at 9:35 pm
Drama Serial
Srabonti, Shahed Sharif Khan, Richi Solaiman



Sweet November
On HBO at 5:30 pm
Genre: Comedy / Drama / Romance
Keanu Reeves, Charlize Theron, Jason Isaacs

- 5:15 Sweet November
- 7:45 Lone Star State Of Mind
- 9:30 The In Crowd
- 11:30 Rollerball
- 1:30 High Desert Kill
- 3:30 Cinema Secrets III Ep 5: Racing Through Time
- 4:30 Hum Hai Bemisaal
- 8:00 Without Ticket
- 8:25 Kuch Hit Kuch
- 8:30 Altabar
- 11:55 Kuch Hit Kuch
- 11:30 Driven To Succeed
- 1:00 Narrow Margin
- 2:45 The Abyss
- 5:30 Hollywood Wives
- 7:00 Star Wars: Episode 2 - Attack of the Clones
- 11:00 Hollywood One on One
- 11:30 All American Murder

- 12:30 Watan Ke Rakhwale
- 3:55 Kuch Hit Kuch
- 4:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet-20 M
- 4:25 Kuch Hit Kuch
- 4:30 Hum Hai Bemisaal
- 8:00 Without Ticket
- 8:25 Kuch Hit Kuch
- 8:30 Altabar
- 11:55 Kuch Hit Kuch
- 12:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet-20 M
- 12:25 Kuch Hit Kuch
- 12:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet-20 M
- 12:55 Taaza Hits
- 1:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
- 1:30 Kunkum-Pyara Sa Bandhan
- 2:00 Bhabhi
- 2:30 Kesar
- 3:00 Kabhi Aaye Na Judai
- 3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 4:00 Kahi To Hoga
- 4:30 Kaahin Kissi Roz
- 5:00 Tedhe Medhe Sapney
- 5:25 Film Topper - 301 Series
- 5:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet-20 M
- 5:44 Taaza Hits
- 6:00 Samnewali Khidki
- 6:30 Fox Kids
- 7:25 Film Topper - 301 Series
- 7:30 Kunkum-Pyara Sa Bandhan

- 7:55 Film Topper - 301 Series
- 8:00 Shak Laka Boom
- 8:00 Boom
- 8:30 Khichdi
- 8:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
- 9:00 Kehta Hai Dil
- 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
- 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 11:30 Kahi To Hoga
- 12:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz
- 8:00 Hollywood Squares
- 8:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway
- 9:00 Cheers
- 9:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
- 10:30 The King Of Queens
- 11:30 Grounded For Life
- 11:30 Third Watch
- 12:30 Still Standing
- 1:00 Frasier
- 1:30 Mac Gyver

- 12:30 First Round(T)
- Oprah Winfrey Show
- 3:30 Bold And Beautiful
- 4:30 Hollywood Squares
- 5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
- 5:30 Miami Vice
- 6:30 The Simpsons
- 7:00 Home Improvement
- 7:30 Friends
- 8:00 Just Shoot Me
- 8:30 American Idol
- 9:30 Wild Card
- 10:30 Law & Order: SvU
- 11:28 Star Asia Travel
- 11:30 Baywatch
- 1:00 Olympic Related Golden Moments Of The Olympic Games
- 1:00 Olympic Related Golden Moments Of The Olympic Games
- 2:30 Yachting Omega Asian Yachting Circuit
- 2003/2004 China, China Highlights(T)
- 3:00 Motorcycle
- Programming Fim World
- Enduro Championships
- 2004 Puerto Lumberas, Spain Highlights(T)
- 3:30 International Motorsports News
- International Motorsports News 2004 (R)
- 4:30 NFL Racing Indianapolis
- 500 Indianapolis, In Usa (R)
- 8:00 Sportsline (L)
- 8:30 Olympic Related Olympic Century Part II(T)
- 9:30 Hitz (R)
- 10:00 Harsha Harsha Unplugged Rahul Dravid (Part II)(T)
- 10:30 Sportsline (R)
- 11:00 Classic Boxing Jack Johnson: The Best Years (T)
- 12:00 Kiana's Flex Appeal (T)
- 2004 Nba Western Conference Finals Los Angeles, Ca Usa
- Minnesota Timberwolves Vs Los Angeles Lakers Game #6 (If Necessary)(R)
- 5:30 School Quiz Show Espn
- 6:00 Cricket Show Espn
- 6:30 Football Focus Football Focus Extra (T)
- 7:00 European Championship Lead Up The Story Of The UEFA European Football Championships Euro 1980(T)
- 7:30 U.S. Open Golf Championship U.S. Open Golf C'ship '94 Official Film (T)
- 8:30 Sportscenter
- 8:30 Sportscenter India (L)
- 9:00 Nba Conference Finals 2004 Nba Western Conference Finals Los Angeles, Ca Usa
- Minnesota Timberwolves Vs Los Angeles Lakers Game #6 (If Necessary)(R)
- 11:30 Sportscenter
- 11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
- 12:00 School Quiz Show Espn
- 12:00 School Quiz 2004 (R)
- 10:30 ICC Cricket World
- 11:00 Gillette World Sport
- 11:30 ATP Tennis : Ep 29
- 12:00 Gamer TV
- 2:00 West Indies v Bangladesh, 1st Test-Day 4 H/Ls
- 4:00 Smackdown 2: Ep 248
- 9:00 French Tennis Open 04
- West Indies v Bangladesh, 1st Test - Day 5
- 11:30 West Indies v Bangladesh, 1st Test - Day 5

