

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition



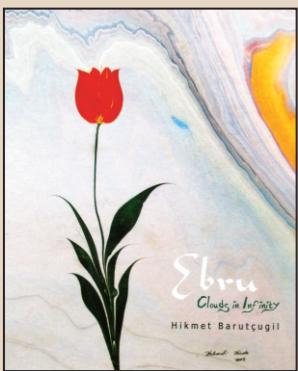
Artist: Rashid Choudhury
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Shahbag
Time: September 23-October 4, From 11:00 am to 7:00 pm and 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Fridays

Title: Mianbari Ghorasal



Organiser: Art Collector
Venue: Art Collector Gallery, BNS Centre Shop: A 7-8, Sector 7, Uttara; Tel: 8915586, 8915297
Time: September 17-October 16

Title: Second Solo Exhibition
Artist: S Rafi
Venue: Alliance Francaise, House 26, Mirpur Road, Dhamondi
Time: September 23-October 10, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, on Saturdays from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm



Title: Clouds in Infinity
Artist: Hikmet Barutcugil (Turkey)
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275/F, Road 27 (Old), Dhamondi
Time: September 23-29 from 12pm to 8pm
The display features Ebru (marbling) work of the Turkish artist

Visual Art
Title: Water is Innocent!
Artist: Dhali Al Mamun
Venue: NK Bhattachari Gallery, National Museum
Time: September 18-24 from 03pm to 08pm

Documentary show
Title: Nijhum Deep
Organiser: Spectra

An evening of nostalgia

Solo recital by the virtuoso Sohrab Hossain

SADYA AFREENE MALLICK

THE octogenarian Sohrab Hossain is an artiste at peace with himself. No wonder, considering his commitment to music and his acclaim as a household name for his rendition of Nazrul songs.

On September 22, The Daily Star caught up with Sohrab Hossain. On the cards was an evening of Nazrul songs, with illustrations and flashbacks, presented by him at the Kabibhaban auditorium at Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The performance was held under the auspices of the Nazrul Institute.

Executive Director of Nazrul Institute, poet Abdul Mannan Syed welcomed the eminent artiste on stage. He said that it was the second such session of solo recitals by an eminent artiste. Nazrul enthusiasts, scholars, researchers and singers also took part in a lively discussion session in the intervals between two songs. The auditorium, almost vacant at the beginning, was soon filled to the brim by an enthusiastic crowd from all walks of life.

Going back to his early days, Sohrab recalled his fascination with the music played on the gramophone records. 'I was so desperate to attend theatre that I even had to sell my mother's valuables to buy the tickets! The Minerva Theatre, in West Bengal was a popular source of entertainment at that time. During the interval of the plays *Sirajuddowla* and *Laili Majnu*, reputed singers like Angur Bala, Indu Bala used to perform songs,' said a nostalgic Sohrab. 'Gradually, I could say the drama lines of the characters by heart, not to speak of the songs. This is how my love for Nazrul songs started,' he added.

Continuing on the same line, he said, 'I hardly knew then about who the composer or writer was behind the songs. I remember one fine morning there was hustle and bustle all around. Everyone was rushing towards the Ranaghat bazaar. There was an air of breathless excitement. The one thing I remember from that first encounter with the poet, Nazrul, was his wild locks of hair and deep inquisitive eyes. Little did I know then that someday I would be so inspired by the immense creativity of the poet and that his songs would be my ultimate identity.'

Another of his indelible memories is his first lesson during the pre-partition days, in Nazrul from Zainul Abedin, a resident of Ranaghat Subdivision in West Bengal. He continued his musical learning under the



Sohrab Hossain: Passionate rendering of Nazrul songs

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guidance of Kiron Dey Chowdhury and Abbassuddin Ahmed, the undisputed master of folk songs. Ustad M Hossain Khuro gave him lessons on classical songs. Later, Girin Chakravarty gave him musical lessons on Nazrul songs and Shudhir Lal Chakravarty on modern songs. He also learnt a great deal from the gramophone songs of Angur Bala and Indu Bala. In fact, there is hardly any trend of Nazrul.

Sangeet that he has not performed. After partition Sohrab Hossain settled in Dhaka. From then on he made an entry in the music scene through recitals in the radio.

In addition to his reflection on the past, Sohrab Hossain rendered kirtan, ghazals and humorous songs with eloquence. However, he complained about his ill health and not being able to perform as before. He sang *Amaar Horinamey ruchi karon porinamey luchi, Mor pria hiru esho rani, Nirjorone shokhi, Chal Chal* and other popular songs.

He also recalled his heyday. While performing songs at the Chitra cinema hall for the first time in 1945, in Kolkata he gained popularity. In addition, he earned accolades and medals for his single-minded dedication to preserving and performing Nazrul songs. Later he was awarded the Swadhinata Puroshkar by the Bangladesh government in 1980, Nazrul Padak, 1982 (Nazrul Academy), Nazrul Academy, 1981 (Churulia, India) to name a few.

Kazi Nazrul Islam has undoubtedly enriched the world of Bangla songs with his creative genius. However, it is through gifted artistes like Sohrab Hossain that people continue to love and remember the artistry of Nazrul.

Rabeya Khatun's Onnesha on Alpha Bangla

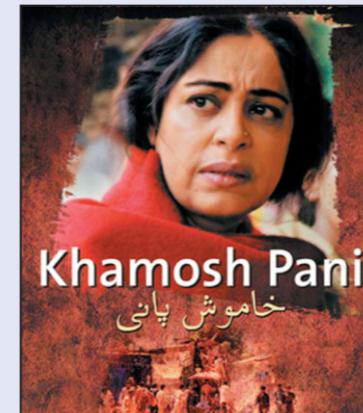
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT



Onnesha, based on the novel of Bangladeshi author Rabeya Khatun, will be telecast on the Indian satellite channel Alpha Bangla soon. Reshma Mitra directs the drama while Indrani Dutta, Mita Chatterjee, Shobai Bhattacharya, Shirin Sarkar and others are among the cast. The story is based on a promising writer Sultana, who falls in love with a boy named Nazrul. The drama, to be telecast on September 26 at 8:00pm, is a typical love story.

SHORT TAKES

Pakistani film Khamosh Paani set for Indian release



Pakistani film *Khamosh Paani*, which has won several awards and laurels on the international film festival circuit, is slated for its commercial release in India in October.

Shot entirely in Pakistan, this Sabiya Sumar-directed film stars Indian actress Kiron Kher in the lead role about a Hindu girl forced to stay in Pakistan after Partition and later converted to Islam.

According to Shyam Shroff of Shrinagar Films, the distributors of the Pakistani-venture, the film being produced with German and French collaboration made its distribution in India easier.

The plotline of the film, based in Pakistan, revolves round the pervasive influence of religious leaders on common Pakistanis.

The film also has scenes of Sikh pilgrimage site Panja Sahib, which will prove an added attraction for the Delhi and Punjab audience.

Nagarik Natyangan visits India

ERSHAD KAMOL

Recently a 37-member Nagarik Natyangan team led by Lucky Inam visited Kolkata to participate in a drama festival. The meet was organised by a theatrical group named Bhabishwat. In the 10-day long tour they staged two plays *Shoroma* and *Golmatha Chokha Matha*. Lucky Inam explained, 'Bhabishwat invited us to stage our new production and another popular production in the festival. That is why we staged *Shoroma* as the popular play on August 27 at Modhushudan Stage and *Golmatha Chokha Matha* as the new play at the Academy Stage on August 28. On the following day we held a seminar to make a comparison of the theatre practice in Bangladesh and India.'

Commenting on the selection of Nagarik Natyangan from Bangladesh, Lucky said, 'Earlier we invited them to take part in our drama festival in January last titled *Hridoy Tane*



A sequence from the play *Golmatha Chokha Matha*

Hridoy Tane. Now, it was their turn to invite us.'

The total expense of the 37 member-team was borne by the organisers. We reciprocate in the

same way.' For the Kolkata theatre audience the staging of the two Bangladeshi plays was a welcome change and a milestone.

MINI-SCREEN

Serial Biraj Bou conveys a powerful message --Aruna Biswas

NOVERA DEEPIKA

Talented actress Aruna Biswas is yet to shoot her long planned drama serial *Biraj Bou* based on a famous story by the legendary novelist Sharatchandra Chattapadhyay. She says the shoot has been delayed by the rainy weather.

The cast is almost final; Aruna will play the lead role Biraj, Litu Anam will be Pitambar while Adhara, a very promising new comer, will play the Chhoto Bou. Ahmed Rubel or Tarek Anam will enact the role of Nilambar, husband of Biraj.

Under the banner of Jatra Vision, the drama serial will be shot in an idyllic spot in the village Jabar, in Manikganj. It is also the hometown of Aruna's father, an eminent Jatra artiste Amalendu Biswas. The equipment for the drama like *palki*, *bajra* and the traditional costumes have also been readied.

Adapted by Mannan Hira, the story is about a beautiful woman Biraj who is very devoted to her husband. Like many other typical Bangladeshi rural families, Biraj's husband Nilambar has a conflict with his younger brother Pitambar. Meanwhile, the beautiful Biraj becomes the target of a wicked zamindar and is kidnapped by him in the dead of night. However, she escapes from the clutches of the evil landlord and manages to go far away from her village. As rumours go around that Biraj ran away with the zamindar, Nilambar sinks into misery. After a long wait for his wife, he decides to go on a pilgrimage. At the end of the story Nilambar encounters his long lost love. However fate has other plans because Biraj is too sick to survive.



Aruna said, 'People always love to read Sharatchandra Chattapadhyay's novels. But the situation is different in the case of the visual media. For instance, *Champa Dangar Bou* was not a hit after all, which is quite unfortunate.'

Aruna is a fierce proponent of the need to preserve the traditional Bangladeshi culture and values. The drama *Biraj Bou*, effectively conveys this message through its depiction of rural life in Bangladesh.

Married or Not, Britney Prompts Another Media Stir

Did the world's most famous pop star, Britney Spears, try to avoid annoying paparazzi by staging 'secret' nuptials last weekend -- a month ahead of her scheduled dream day in October? Or did she take the media for a ride by staging a fake wedding and selling the pictures in an elaborate hoax?

These were the questions swirling about on Wednesday as *People Magazine* published 'exclusive' wedding photographs and rival *US Weekly* claimed it had a document proving the whole thing was a fake.

Spears' New York publicist Leslie Sloane said Spears and Kevin Federline 'are married. It is not a fake anything.' But Spears admits no wedding license has been filed with authorities.

Source: Internet

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTV
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.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm.

BTV

Bangladesher Hridoy Hotey
12:35 Satellite Programme
12:30 Shongbad Potre Pata Thekey
03:25 Bangla Feature Film
06:25 Special Programme on Mawlana Panch Bagi
07:05 Maloncho
07:30 Alif Laila
08:25 Protidin Bangladesh
08:30 Anirban
10:30 Talk Show: Lal Golap

CHANNEL-i
07:30 Musical Programme: Prothom Shur

Shongbadpotre Bangladesh O Public Reaction

09:45 Tritiyo Matra
10:30 Live Show: Tele Shomoy

11:30 Islam Ki Boley
12:30 Drama Serial: Paritakto Bari

01:00 Banglar Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
03:00 Islam Ki Boley
04:30 Dekhar Gaan
05:10 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:45 Janapoder Khabar
06:10 Music Plus
07:50 Weekly Drama: Jalkonya
09:35 Drama Serial: Din Choley Jai

10:00 Drama Serial: Ahonish

ATN BANGLA

07:30 The Sword of Tipu Sultan
10:25 Anmodrishee
11:05 Islamic Programme
03:40 Bindon Jumbar

05:10 Shesh Akhkor
06:20 Amra Korbo Joy
08:00 Rup Madhuri

08:30 Drama Serial: Khowab

09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni
09:30 Drama Serial: Baba

10:35 Cine Musical Programme
12:20 Tele film: Kato Je Apon

ntv
08:00 Ajaker Shakal
08:30 Jhankar
09:00 Aain O Jibon

09:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
10:05 Siddika Kabir's Recipe

10:30 Apran Jigyasha
11:30 Trans World Sports
01:00 Smriti Janalay
02:30 Drama: Chander Aloy Ekti Pati
03:45 Tiffener Fankey
05:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:20 Ronger Manush
08:15 Diaries
08:50 Pepsi Music Express
09:40 Drama: Shei Lokti Shei Meyeti Ar Shei
11:25 Dindarpan

HBO
9:45 The Astronaut's

Bhalobashey Ekjon

07:30 Sultan
11:05 Islamic Programme
03:40 Bindon Jumbar

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STAR MOVIES
8:40 Swifman
10:15 The Princess Diaries

12:15 Moonlight Mile
American Born Confused Desi (Abcd)