

CULTURAL FEAS

Cultural event in aid of tsunami victims
Organiser: Chhayana
Venue: National Theatre Stage at Shilpakala
Date: February 03-04

Book Publication Ceremony
Title: Meena Shamagra
Guests: M Shamsul Islam, Begum Selima Rahman, Enayetullah Khan
Venue: VIP Lounge, National Press Club
Time: February 03, at 10:30am

Film Screening
Title: New German Feature Films
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Time: February 01-03

Schedule
February 03
4:00pm Punkitchen und Anton
6:00pm Das fliegende Klassenzimmer
8:00pm Emil und die Detektive

Space Exhibition
Title: Exploring the Solar System
Organiser: British Council
Venue: Novo Theatre
Time: January 16-February 15, from 10am to 6pm

Art Exhibition
Title: Painting Show 2005
Artist: Javed Jallil
Venue: Shilpangan, House 25, road 5, Dhanmondi
Time: February 04-09, from 10am to 1pm

Title: Les Jours de Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhaka
Time: January 27-February 10

Title: Exposition
Artist: Ronni Ahmed
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhaka
Time: February 18-26

Title: Sylhet: On Its Own
Artists: members of North South University Photography Club
Venue: Room no 100, BTA Tower, 29, Kamal Ataurk Avenue, Banani
Time: February 01-03

Title: Reflection & Revelation
Artist: Kazi Rakib
Venue: Gallery Kaya, House 20, Road 16, Sector 4, Uttara
Time: February 01-07, from 11am to 8pm

Solo Concert
Artist: Kumar Biswajit
Organiser: Fusion
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium
Time: February 10

Musings

Nasreen and her world of Tagore songs

KAVITA CHARANJI

"MUSIC is my therapy," says Nasreen. "Rabindra Sangeet is spiritual. When I am sad, it lifts me up," she adds. Though she has had a gap of four years as a performer on radio, stage and TV--due to personal reasons--she is veering around to the view that it may be a good idea for her to plunge herself in work. And that means putting her soul into her singing persona and her role as Associate Professor in the physics department of Dhaka University.



Nasreen Shams presenting Tagore songs from the studio of Radio Pakistan, Dhaka in the mid 1960's

I quite enjoy Baul songs with western musical instruments. But I don't like this idea with Rabindra Sangeet.

"I have to go back to singing otherwise I might not be able to hold on to life," she adds. For the moment she has a modest goal: to sing at functions held by the Physics Department of

Dhaka University. Her brother Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, head of Bangla service, Voice of America (VOA), pitches in the conversation by gently reminding her of dates. According to him, Nasreen lacks the ambitious streak and is "lazy". The only CD, which she has to her credit, he says, is Shudhu Tomar Bani, a family CD of recitation and songs. The performers are Nasreen along with her

three siblings. Nasreen is on firm ground in terms of technique. A student of the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA), she has a diploma in Rabindra Sangeet from this institution. She was, in fact, in the first batch to get the certificate in 1961. Apart from BAFA, she was also involved in an organisation called Oikotan, which sought to promote Rabindra Sangeet. This group used to organise cultural shows in Dhaka. Nasreen recalls singing Tagore, Atul Prasad and DL Roy songs. Starting out singing on the radio and TV in 1964, she has had a successful career in Rabindra Sangeet. What draws her to this genre of music? Nasreen warms up to the subject. As she says, "I am attracted by the lyrics and tune of Rabindra Sangeet --particularly the devotional and seasonal songs. It touches my heart in a way that modern music doesn't. When you sing a song on the rainy season, you can feel the rain. For example, in Hridya Mondrilo, you can feel the thunder and raindrops. Then there's Shokatore Oi Katiche, a sad song, which lifts me up when I am down."

Nasreen believes that Rabindra Sangeet is evergreen. Who can forget Tagore's songs which have been rendered into the national anthems of India and Bangladesh, she asks. How does she view fusion music? She is quite open to it. "I quite enjoy Baul songs with western musical instruments. But I don't like this idea with Rabindra Sangeet. I don't mind a few adaptations but not much," she maintains.

For now Nasreen has set herself a modest goal. "I want to sing for myself and my satisfaction," she says. Here's hoping that the vicissitudes of fate will not prevent her from attaining this ambition.

Mymensingh Geetika calls for promotion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

It's back to the roots. Several groups of youth in the country have launched a concerted effort to popularise the important chapters of Mymensingh Geetika (indigenous compilation of the great bards). Among the facets of Mymensingh Geetika that they have staged are Mahua Sundari, Malua Sundari, Dewana Madina, Chandrabati, Kajol Rekha, Velua Sundari, Sonai Madhab and Kamala Ranir Sagar Dighi. These literary works have been promoted by Mahua Shilpighoshti, a cultural organisation, for the last few years.



A stage performance by Mahua Shilpighoshti

Nowadays, such significant palas (folk plays) are being ignored at the face of the advent of many modern sources of entertainment including the satellite

television, said Palakar Mrinal Dutta, an advocate and the chief artiste of Mahua Shilpighoshti. "As a nation's culture gives it an identity, traditional culture should not be over looked. For this reason we have launched the mission to preserve our heritage. Quality performances of folk plays can draw a huge audience which has been proven over and over again. However, in many cases, due to lack of support we face financial crises and are unable to stage our shows on a regular basis," he added.

Mahua Shilpighoshti has already performed different palas of Mymensingh Geetika on various occasions, including the staging of Mahua and Malua Sundari four times in Dhaka. Recently, the group staged Malua Sundari at Sofia Kamal auditorium of the Bangladesh National Museum which was greatly praised by the select audience. To popularise such folk plays, Mahua Shilpighoshti also stage their palas on different social occasions, including wedding ceremonies.

Mahua Shilpighoshti has also been doing research work on different palas of Mymensingh Geetika. Palakar Mrinal plays the role of the protagonist in the plays while other young artistes Sumon, Shaheen, Shampa, Chaiti, Sohani, Tomal and Mukta play the roles of the dohar (chorus).

Afzalur Rahman Bhuiyan, professor of Bangla Department of Government Ananda Mohan College, told The Daily Star that all the palas of Mymensingh Geetika depict Bangalee society hundreds of years ago when people lived in peace and harmony. Female characters dominate the palas and depict women's freedom, which is a burning issue now, said Professor Bhuiyan adding that the palas are a perennial source of inspiration for building up an ideal society. He expressed the need for more research work for the survival of this valuable aspect of Bangla literature. Farida Yeasmin, a lecturer of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Art Institute, said that the cultural organisations should conduct more research on Mymensingh Geetika.

Sesame Street turns to Sisimpur

On a visit to the sets of Sisimpur in Film Development Corporation (FDC), Khurshid Jahan Haque, Minister for Women and Children Affairs, said, "Quality educational television programmes like Sisimpur can play a critical role in teaching children counting and important health and social issues."

The series for children is co-produced by the non-profit educational organisation Sesame Workshop, says a press release. Sisimpur is a Bangladeshi adaptation of the world famous television series Sesame Street and features Bangla-speaking Muppets, animation and live-action segments. The series is funded under a grant of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is expected to debut on BTV later this year. Sesame Workshop has co-produced similar programmes in over 20 countries in the world over the last 35 years.



Khurshid Jahan Haque, Minister for Women and Children Affairs, with guests at the FDC set for Sisimpur

Mystery fan marks Poe's birthday

So-called 'Poe Toaster' brings roses, cognac

The mystery man was dressed for the cold rather than tradition, and some spectators were not quite as respectful as in years past.

But for the 56th year, a man stole into a locked graveyard early on Edgar Allan Poe's birthday and placed three roses and a half-empty bottle of cognac on the writer's grave.

Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe House and Museum, who has seen the mysterious visitor every January 19 since 1976, gathered with about 20 people Tuesday night to glimpse the ritual.

"It was absolutely frigid," Jerome said of the sub-20 degree temperature.

No one, not even Jerome, knows the identity of the so-called "Poe Toaster." The visit was first



Edgar Allan Poe

documented in 1949, a century after Poe's death.

This year, the visitor arrived at 1:10 a.m. in a heavy coat and obscured his face with a black pullover, Jerome said. He was not wearing the traditional white scarf

and black hat.

"He put the roses and cognac at the base of Poe's grave and put his hand on top of the (tomb) stone. He paused and put his head down," the museum curator said. He left after about five minutes, Jerome said.

The visitor's three roses are believed to honor Poe, his mother-in-law and his wife, all of whom are buried in the graveyard. The significance of the cognac is unknown.

For decades, a frail figure made the visit to Poe's grave. But in 1993 the original visitor left a cryptic note saying, "The torch will be passed." A later note said the man, who apparently died in 1998, had passed the tradition on to his sons.

Source: AP

ALL TIME GREATS

Mehdi Hasan: The ghazal king reigns supreme

Music fads may come and go, but the ghazals of Mehdi Hasan linger on in the memory. Even amidst the current cacophony of loud, jarring tunes and remixes, his songs have an everlasting appeal.

The main ingredient of Hasan's success is his careful choice of ghazals. In addition, his thorough knowledge of music has helped him render many a raga meticulously and in a wide range of styles such as Dhrupad, Thumri or Dadra.

According to the critics, only Hasan could have rendered classics such as Mujhe tum nazar se gira to rahe ho in Doraha (1967) or Yeh wafaaon ka diya sapne in Phir Chand Nikle Ga (1970). His songs from Jawab Dua (Zindagi ja, chod de peecha mera) or Daagh (Tum zid to kar rahe ho) are but some examples of his memorable songs.

His much-awaited latest album, Sada-e-Ishq, has Hasan and poet Farat Shahzad coming together for a second time. Known for his passionate poetry, Shahzad has written eight delightful ghazals in this album. The tunes have been composed by Altaf-e-Haider. This promises to be a memorable album not just because of beautiful ghazals like Humse tanhai ke mare or Pyaar karne ki is dil ko but because age is catching up with Hasan. However, the Shahenshah-e-Ghazal (as he is popularly known) retains the ability to spring many a musical surprise on his audience.

Hasan was born into a musically inclined family in a town called Luna in Rajasthan, 107 miles from Jaipur. His father was Azim Khan but his uncle, Ismail Khan, who had attended the Bhatkhande college in Lucknow, took the six-year-old under his wings and started training him in the arts of singing and wrestling. Hasan was an adept singer even as a child and began his career as a radio artiste. Later, he started singing ghazals. He struck gold with his very first ghazal Mera khayal in the film Shikaar (1962). Coupled with his soothing voice and perfect rendition, his rise was meteoric. There was no looking back after that.

Later on in life, his elder brother, Ghulam Qadir, fondly called Punditji, had a great influence over him. He composed most of Mehdi Hasan's ghazals, including Gulon mein rang bhary baad-i-naubahar chalay, which was recorded in Lahore in 1959 and became an instant hit.

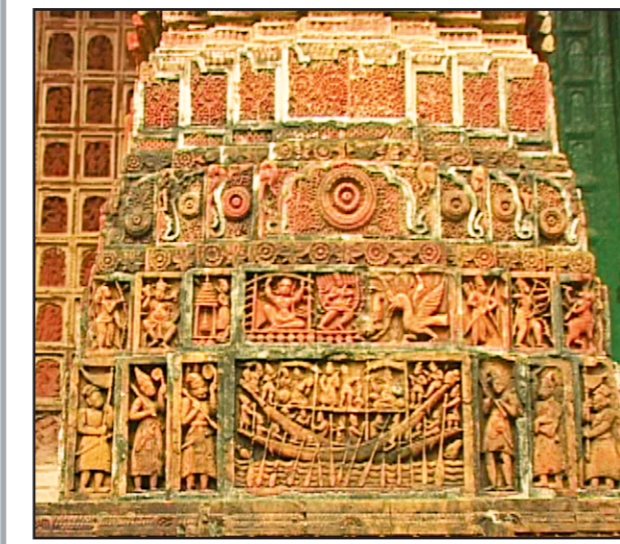


Mehdi Hasan was no Ustad in the classical sense of the word, but he was every Ustad's favourite singer, and they loved and respected him for his control over sur and taal, as well as his knowledge of classical music. Listen to his live concerts of "classical ghazals in rare ragas" in which Ustad of the calibre of sarangi nawaz Sultan Khan of India and tabla Nawaz Shaukat Husain Khan of Pakistan accompanied him.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Purakirtir Bangladesh

On ATN Bangla at 5:10pm
Documentary Show
Planned and directed by Zillur Rahman
Research by Fazlul Haq

Purakirtir Bangladesh brings the heritage sites of Bangladesh to the viewers through video clipping and vivid description of its history. Today's episode captures the most ornate among the late medieval temples of Bangladesh--Kantanagar Temple or Kantajees Temple of Dinajpur. Built in 1752 by Maharaja Pran Nath of Dinajpur, every inch of the temple surface is beautifully embellished with exquisite terra-cotta plaques, representing the flora and fauna, geometric motifs, mythological scenes and an astonishing array of contemporary social scenes and favourite pastimes.

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

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) 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 7:15 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Teletext of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Teletext 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, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV
07:30 Shubhechha Nin
09:00 Satellite Programme
12:15 Shongbad Potrer Pata Theky
12:30 Health Programme
01:05 Moner Kotah
02:05 Computer Time
02:30 Bangla Feature Film
05:30 Ittyadi
06:00 Khabor: Dash Janapad
06:10 Programme on SAARC
07:00 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast
08:25 Protidin Bangladesh
08:40 SAARC Song
09:00 Drama of the Week
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
10:40 SAARC Symphony
12:05 Satellite Programme
CHANNEL i
09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction
09:45 Tritiyo Matra
11:00 Agora Shopping Guide
11:30 TVC Sky Shop
12:00 Eboong Cinema Gaan
12:30 Aaj Dupurey
Special Programme
01:00 Live from Ekushey Book Fair
02:15 Tritiyo Matrai Apni
02:35 Hridoya Mati O Manusher daak
03:10 Banglar Gaan
04:15 Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan
05:30 RC Brain Storming
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Amar Chhobi
07:50 Drama: Keboli Raat Hoya Jai
08:25 Beast Master
09:35 Drama: Shampurno

Rongin
Drama: Aarai Tola Bari
ATN BANGLA
10:30 Annodishti
11:05 Ek Dui Tin
11:45 Chanchollokor Mamla
12:15 Bangla Feature Film
03:50 ATN Rannaghar
04:25 Shundar Jiboner Jonno
05:10 Purakirtir Bangladesh
05:45 Islami Sawal O Jawab
06:20 Drama Serial: Tana Poren
08:30 Drama Serial: Mati
09:00 Drama Serial: Rater Kanna Bhorer Shishir
09:30 Drama Serial: Mohona
10:30 Musical Programme
12:20 Ganey Shurey Tarunney
ntv
08:00 Aajker Shakal
08:30 Siddiqi Kabir's Recipe
09:05 Rupali Jhalak
09:30 New Decade New Vision
10:05 Priyamukh
11:30 Bangla Feature Film
02:35 Sposher Bairay
03:15 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan
03:50 Drama Serial: Sheola
04:25 Aalor Michhil '2004
05:20 Mahilangan
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 New Decade New Vision
08:20 Drama Serial: Urey Jay Bak Pakkhi
08:50 Drama: Swapno Shiri
11:25 Dindarpan
STAR MOVIES
8:45 The Rats
10:15 Hackers
09:35 Rocky V

1:45 Stark Raving Mad
3:30 Road To Perdition
5:30 Mxp: Most Xtreme Primate
7:00 Phenomenon
9:05 Reversal Of Fortune
11:00 Hackers
12:45 Mxp: Most Xtreme Primate
STAR WORLD
11:00 Philly
12:00 Third Watch
1:00 Magnam P.I
2:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
3:00 Bold And Beautiful
4:00 Hollywood Squares
4:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway?
5:00 Ally Mcbeal

6:00 The Simpsons
6:30 Home Improvement
7:00 Friends
7:30 NEWS Radio
8:00 American Idol
9:00 Chronicles
9:30 My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance
11:00 NEWS Radio
11:30 Cover Story
12:00 Kora Kagaz
1:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
1:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
2:00 Bhabhi
2:30 Kesar
3:00 Saarthi
3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi
4:00 Kahini To Hoga
4:30 K.Street Pali Hill Maan
5:00 Patang
6:00 Patang
6:30 Adventures Of Mickey Donaldal
7:00 Disney's The Weekenders
7:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
8:00 Hello Dollie
8:30 Dekho Magar Pyaar Se
9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
9:30 Saara Akaash
10:00 Kkavyanjali
11:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii Bhu Thi
11:30 Kahini To Hoga
12:00 K.Street Pali Hill

10:25 Peecha Karo
1:30 Yeh Hai Mumbai Meri Jaan
4:10 The Colours Of Black
4:45 Dadagiri
8:30 Gold Preview Black
9:00 Nigahen
12:15 Azaad Desh Ke Ghulam
DISCOVERY
10:00 La Mode City Guides, A Delhi And Jaipur
10:30 Great Romances of the 20th Century Charlie Chaplin & Oona
11:00 Legends of the Isles Leprechauns and Fairies
11:30 The Case Studies in Forensic Scie Random Targets
12:30 Wild Discovery Land of

the Kiwi
Ultimate Cars Luxury
2:00 The Ultimate I & II
Passenger Jet
2:30 Why Intelligence Fails
Unreliable Sources
Great Romances of the 20th Century Hemingway & Martha Gellhorn
4:00 Legends of the Isles Holy Grail
4:30 The Case Studies In Forensic Scie Grave Secrets
5:30 I Love My Music, My Animal and My House
6:00 Fat Free
6:30 Race Cars
7:30 Meet the Real Penguins
8:30 Wildest Asia
9:30 Human Instinct Natural Born Heroes
10:30 Fields of Armor Wave of Terror
11:30 World's Best Kept Secrets Of... Spying

ANIMAL PLANET
10:00 Monkey Business
10:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals
11:00 Wild on the Set III Cool Cats
11:30 The Natural World Canine Conspiracy Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
1:00 Pet Nation
2:30 Polar Bear Orphan
3:30 Cheetahs
4:30 Cell Dogs Warm Springs
5:30 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries, The It's A Girl
6:00 Monkey Business
6:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals
7:00 Wild on the Set Dangerous Combination

7:30 In The Wild Whoopi Goldberg : Zoo Babies
8:30 Elephant
9:30 Lion
10:30 The Coral Seas
11:30 Wild Encounters Lions of Phinda
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
10:30 National Geographic Special
11:30 Riddles Of The Dead S3
12:30 Creative Vision
1:00 Storm Stories
1:30 Backyard Science
1:45 Doc Eureka
2:00 Serious: Desert
2:30 Cheating Death
3:30 National Geographic Special
4:30 Backyard Science
4:45 Doc Eureka
5:00 Serious: Desert
5:30 Trail Of The Cougar
6:30 Dogs With Jobs
7:00 Storm Stories
7:30 The Grizzlies
8:30 To Love, Honour And Obey
9:30 People's Planet
10:30 Riddles Of The Dead S3
11:30 National Geographic's Taboo
STAR SPORTS
10:30 Fa Cup 2004/05 Southampton Vs Portsmouth Fourth Round(R)
12:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Manchester City Vs Newcastle United (S)
2:30 Tour De Langkawi 2005 Stage #6(S)
3:00 Asian Tour: Caltex Masters Day Four(R)
6:00 Tri-Series In Australia Vb Series Pakistan Vs

West Indies 9th Odi, Highlights(R)
8:00 Sportsline (L)
Indian Premier Hockey League Hyderabad Sultans Vs Chennai Veerans Tier (L)
10:30 Sportsline (R)
11:00 Football Crazy (S)
12:00 Fa Classic Matches West Ham United Vs Arsenal 97/98 Quarter Final Replay(T)
ESPN
7:30 England Tour Of South Africa, South Africa Vs England 2nd Odi, Highlights(S)
9:00 Hitz (R)
9:30 Goals! (T)
10:00 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Birmingham City Vs Southampton (S)
12:00 Pga Tour Golf Bob Hope Chrysler Classic La Quinta, Usa Third Round(R)
2:00 Euro Beachsoccer League 2004/Portugal Highlights(T)
3:00 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Charlton Athletic Vs Liverpool (R)
5:00 Football Crazy (L)
6:00 Goals! (R)
6:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Manchester City Vs Manchester United (S)
8:30 Sportscenter India (L)
9:30 Harsha Closeup Dream Job - Harsha Ki Khoj Studio Round #5(T)
10:00 Hitz (R)
10:30 World Pool League 2004 Warsaw, Poland Niels Feijen Vs Steve