

CULTURAL FEAST

Celebration of Independence Day

**Organiser:** The Liberation War Museum  
**Venue:** The Liberation War Museum, 5, Shegun Bagicha  
**Date:** March 22-28, at 5pm everyday  
**Schedule**  
**March 22-28**  
**Programme:** Book Fair themed on the Liberation War  
**Venue:** The Liberation War Museum, 5, Shegun Bagicha  
**Date:** March 22-28, from 10am to 8pm  
**March 22**  
Dr. Sanjida Khatun will speak on The Liberation War and the Cultural practice of Bangalee, followed by Tagore song by Rizwana Chowdhury Bonnya.  
**March 23**  
Selina Hossain will speak on Women in our Liberation War, followed by musical recital by Annadadhvani.  
**March 24**  
Abu Muhammad Delwar Hossain will speak on *The practice of history of the Liberation War* followed by Staging of the play *Tairair Bukey Mijumunshir Pao* by the theatre group Palakar Mukhtangan  
**March 25**  
Description of the massacre based on the interviews of the students of Panchagar and Sherpur. Chhayanaut will present songs in the next session.  
**March 26**  
Special performance by children of XSF Green Herald School, Bharaterswari Homes of Mirzapur and Hazrat Shah Ali Mahila Degree College at 10am.  
**March 28**  
Closing ceremony of the Book Fair themed on the Liberation War followed by musical session of Abhyuday Shilpi Goshthi and Ajit Roy.

Exhibition

**Title:** Colour of SHAKO  
**Artists:** 13 artists of the women artists association SHAKO  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of fine Arts, Route 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmoni  
**Date:** March 23-April 06, From 12pm to 8pm

Cultural Programme

**Title:** Kobider Bashanto Utshab  
**Artists:** Mahadev Shaha, Nirmalendu Goon, Muhammad Samad, Tokon Tagore, Alfred Khokon, Anisur Rahman, Shahnaz Munni, Mahbube Rabbani  
**Venue:** Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur road, Dhanmoni  
**Date:** March 24, at 6:30pm

Film Screening

**Film:** Matir Moyna  
**Organiser:** Tapur Tupur Entertainment  
**Venue:** Shawkat Osman Smriti Auditorium, Public Library  
**Date:** March 25-27  
**Schedule**  
**March 25**  
At 3 pm, 5 pm and 7 pm  
**March 26**  
At 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm and 7 pm  
**March 27**  
At 5 pm and 7 pm

Play

**Title:** Toray Bandha Ghorar Dim  
**Organiser:** Tonatuni  
**Venue:** National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** March 24, at 6pm

Children's Drama Festival

**Schedule**  
**March 22**  
4:30pm Kiptey Rajar Golpo (Arundoyay, Jessore)  
5:30pm Dokhojer Agoto Pachhot (Bidrohi, Panchogar)  
6:30pm Minar Kashi (Srishti, Shayestaganj)  
7:30pm Guptodhan (Shetabganj Shishu Theatre)  
8:30pm Nripoti (Theatre Circle, Munshiganj)

Musings

Runa and her magic web of melodies

FAYZA HAQ

INITIALLY, as a small child, Runa Laila was more fond of dancing than singing. Nevertheless she settled for singing as she grew, learning from Ustad Abdul Qader and Ustad Habibuddin Ahmed. Later, she learnt *ghazals* from Pundit Gholam Qader, Mehdi Hassan's elder brother. "The atmosphere at home was conducive to music. My mother and sister were good singers. Singing for me began as a hobby: at that time singing for films wasn't considered the done thing for a girl from a good family. "When I was nine, I took part in an inter school singing competition arranged by Radio Pakistan Karachi, and won the first prize. When I was 12, a producer from Lahore asked me to record a song for his film *Jugnu*. Initially my father objected to it but finally he got convinced. I myself was excited and often dreamed of being a part of the film industry." Runa recorded her first song and from then on there was no stopping her. This was even though, for some time, at the beginning, she had to juggle her studies in Karachi with her singing in Lahore.

Asked to give the names of her favourite singers and songs, she says that she admires Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhonsle, Mohammed Rafi, Noorjehan, Ghulam Ali and Mehdi Hassan. "I've sung with many of them, including Mehdi Hassan, Ahmed Rushdi, Mala and Ghulam Ali in Pakistan. In India I've sung with Mohammed Rafi and Bhupender Singh." Runa says. "A song that has a special place in my heart is my first song for a Bangla film *Shorolipi*, composed by Shubol Das, with its



Runa Laila

words *Ganeri khataye shorolipi likhey bolo ki hobe*. Apart from that there are songs that have been popular like *Bondhu teen din tor barit gelam*, composed by Alauddin Ali. I've sung for all the music directors in

Bangladesh, old and young."

Comparing her days in Karachi with those in Dhaka, Runa says that she was with her parents in Multan, Islamabad and Karachi, and that these were carefree days. She went

to school and college in Karachi and was totally happy, without the many responsibilities and tensions of adult existence. Her teachers at the convent felt that with all her recording at Lahore she might not find the time to study for good grades. She told her headmistress that if her grades fell then only did she have reasons to complain. She had two distinctions in metric and did her graduation later in Dhaka.

Talking about whether it was easy to follow up her career in Bangladesh, Runa says that she did not know much about the film industry and didn't have the feel of the place. She was only acquainted with films that went to Karachi like *Chanda* and *Chakori*. "Bangla music is totally different from Pakistani music, although the base is the same classical music. I had to mould my voice to a different style of singing."

Dwelling on the film *Shilpi* that she had made, Runa explains that it was loosely built around her own life. It was fictionalised for commercial purposes. The younger version of the main character was played earlier by her daughter Tani. Filmmakers in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh had approached her to make films but she wanted to concentrate on singing. However, Chashi Nazrul Islam had convinced her that it would be a sober film. She found the director and co-artists like Alamgir and Pijush Bandyopadya very helpful and it proved to be an enjoyable film for her. She felt dubbing of the dialogue was the most important part and worried that she may not do it well.

Runa has won three national film awards in Bangladesh and a Nigar award in Pakistan.



To the TV viewers and meaningful movie enthusiasts, Rokeya Prachi is an eloquent personality. She is not a conventionally "dolled up" performer, she is a true to the core actor and that's what sets her apart from some of her contemporaries. Her performance in Tareque Masud's award winning film, *Matir Moyna* fetched her international recognition. Here's a view of The Daily Star's conversation with Prachi.

**Did you originally want to become an actress? If not, then how did your acting career begin?**

Initially, I used to recite poems and poetry was my passion. For some reason, I became interested in theatre and became a member of Loko Natya Dal in 1989. Since then, I've greatly relished acting and became a member of theatre groups such as Arannyak and Nagarik.

**What was your breakthrough performance?**

Without doubt it is my performance in *Morshedul Islam's "Dukhai"*. Although by then I'd become a regular in TV dramas, after "*Dukhai*" people started recognising me as an actor. I received the National Film Award in 1997 for the best supporting actress. Better and meatier roles were offered to me after this film.

**Who is your idol, when it comes to acting?**

I don't have an idol in its true sense. In other words, I don't try to imitate or follow anyone's style. However, I rate Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi as skillful actors.

**What is your approach to the roles you play?**

I always try not to "act". I just think about how the

character I'm playing would react to the situation she is in and perform accordingly.

**Do you want to share your experience with *Matir Moyna*?**

"*Matir Moyna*" has been an incomparable experience. I can't say enough about this movie. Tareque and Catherine Masud have taken Bangladesh to a whole new level in the arena of international films. It was like a dream come true.

**What is your dream role and why?**

Hands down, the character of "Noti Binodini". Binodini made a tremendous contribution to theatre. In her time, when female theatre actors were looked down upon, Binodini paved a way for us. Besides that, any character in movies or plays that I think has been beautifully portrayed, makes me want to play that role. For instance, I recently watched "Two women" and I would like to play either of the two main characters in that movie.

**A naive act that still makes you laugh.**

I had never worked in a film prior to "*Dukhai*". We were in Patuakhali for the shooting of the movie and after the first day, the director Morshed Bhai was going through the shot-division script. I noticed that next to other actors' there were initials like "NG" and "GS" and next to my name there was no "NG". I was a little disappointed and asked Morshed Bhai, "I didn't do so well, did I?" Morshed Bhai started laughing and explained to me that "NG" stands for "not good" and "GS" stands for Good Shot. Not having "NG" next to my name, wasn't bad at all.

**Where do you see yourself five years on?**

I want to do more meaningful movies and plays. I have intentions of writing good scripts. I want to move towards direction as well.

Homage to Abdul Latif  
His songs remain his legacy

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Latif, the first composer of our Language Movement song-- *Aamar Bhaier Rakte Raangano*--passed away on February 26th. However, his songs remain his best legacy to future generations. To pay their respect to the departed singer, composer and lyricist at the Central Shaheed Minar premises, popular singers Mina Barua, Bipul Bhattacharya, Indra Mohan Rajbongshi, Nadiara Begam, Latifa Helen and others got together to sing popular songs and composed by Abdul Latif on Sunday last.



Mina Barua renders a song composed by Abdul Latif

The day marked by a cultural show was organised by the Bangladesh Sanskritik-karmi Sangha. Thus alongside the presentation of popular songs like *Ora Amar Mukher Bhasha* and others, the evening was graced by cultural activists such as Language Movement veteran Abdul Matin, poet Asad Chowdhury, media personality Nowazish Ali Khan, poet Sumadra Gupta, filmmaker Shibli Sadik, Khondokar Shah Alam, Hasanuzzaman and others.

Presided over by Rahiza Khanum Junnu, the speakers in the programme discussed the life and contribution of Abdul Latif.



Omni Books will hold a discussion meeting to mark the publication of *Shera Shandhani*, Vol 1 (Collection of article published in the weekly *Shandhani*) on March 23 at 5 pm at the premises of Omni Books, House # 4G, Rd #104, Gulshan, Dhaka. Renowned poet Shamsur Rahman, Dr Anisuzzaman, the editor of Jugantar - A.B.M Musa, poet Belal Chowdhury, Professor Quayyum Chowdhury and writer Maleka Begum will participate at the discussion. Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya and Shubeer Chowdhury will sing at the event.

Stars perform for Mandela's AIDS drive

REUTERS

Nelson Mandela joined movie and music stars on Saturday at an international concert to raise funds for women in South Africa suffering from HIV/AIDS.

Film star and rapper, Will Smith, Annie Lennox and Queen were among those entertaining more than 15,000 fans sprawled across the lawns of the exclusive Fancourt golf estate near George, about 250 miles from Cape Town.

Mandela, 86, was given a thunderous reception when he joined the crowd. "I would love to enjoy the peace and quiet of retirement, but I know that like many of you, I cannot rest easily while our beloved continent is ravaged by a deadly epidemic," said Mandela, who has retired from public life but launched the a drive to raise funds for life-prolonging anti-retroviral drugs.

HIV/AIDS activists praised Mandela when he announced in January that his only surviving son, Makgatho Mandela, had died of an AIDS-related illness, aged 54. The announcement was seen as a major boost for efforts to end the stigma attached to AIDS.

Nobel peace prize laureate Mandela said the concert was dedicated to the women of Africa. "As daughters, mothers, sisters and grandmothers, every day they experience and live out the reality of this epidemic," he said.

6th Bangladesh Film Festival to be held in London



A poster of *Shyamol Chhaya*

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The Rainbow Film Society, in cooperation with its London branch, will hold the 6th annual Bangladesh Film Festival, to be held in London from May 15 to 25. Channell i will be the media partner of the festival.

The festival will screen about 20 top Bengali films including features,

shorts, documentaries and films made for television. The festival will kick off with Humayun Ahmed's film *Shyamol Chhaya*, based on the momentous time of our Liberation War. In this festival five films will be awarded from four categories: Contemporary Films, Films on Liberation War, Children Films and Documentary Films.

TV GUIDE

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, 2:00pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.

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

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.  
News (English) 6:20am, 7:00pm  
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News/Headlines(Bangla)at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.  
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

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk Show: Annodrishti  
11:05 Drama Serial: Mohona  
11:35 Business This Week  
12:15 Amar Computer  
12:50 Musical Programme  
01:25 Cine Gaan  
02:30 Drama Serial: Ghunpoka  
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Akshhu Nai  
03:50 Drama Serial: Bhawal Raja Shannyashi  
04:25 Shomoshamoyik  
05:10 Stamp From Campus  
06:20 Aymar Shamney  
08:00 Drama Serial: Shukhnagar Apartment  
08:30 Drama Serial: Mati  
09:00 Drama Serial: Bajimaat  
09:30 Ek Dui Teen  
10:35 Chanchollakar Mami  
12:20 Talk Show: Islam Ki Boley Anra Ki Kori

CHANNEL i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction  
09:45 Tritio Matra  
10:45 Grameen Phone Cricket Online  
11:30 Aamar Chhibi  
12:00 Chithi Palam  
12:30 Aaj Dupurey  
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
01:25 Public Reaction  
01:35 Bangla Feature Film: Kalmita  
03:50 Banglar Gaan  
04:20 Musical Programme  
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma  
05:30 i sports  
06:00 Music Plus  
06:30 i-speed  
07:50 Drama Serial: Poribar  
08:25 Ek Akasher Tara

09:35 Drama Serial: Chalchhe Chalbe  
10:00 Drama Serial: Shakthi Kutum

ntv

08:30 Aajker Shakal  
09:05 Drama Serial: Sporsher Bairey  
09:30 Khorborer Shondhaney  
10:05 Tatar Shatheey  
10:30 Aarshinagar  
11:00 Trans world Sports  
11:30 Khabor Deshey Deshey  
12:30 Drama Serial: Tifiner Fankey  
03:05 Drama Serial: Anyorokom  
04:25 Matswa Sampad  
09:00 Unnayone Nari  
09:30 Ithasher Ei Dinay  
06:20 Shubho Shondhya  
06:50 Frankly Speaking  
08:10 Drama Serial: Sporsher Bairey  
08:50 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan  
09:40 Drama Serial: Shaeola  
11:25 Dindarpan

HBO

9:00 Goodfellas  
9:05 Charlie's Angels : Full Throttle  
2:15 Man on the Moon  
4:45 Tales From The Crypt  
27: People Who Live in Brass Hearses  
5:30 First Daughter  
7:30 Evolution  
9:30 Beethoven's 4th  
11:30 Tremors 3: Back to Perfection  
1:30 Goodfellas

STAR MOVIES

9:45 12 Monkeys  
1:00 Bottle Rocket  
1:00 The Ticket  
2:30 Alex & Emma

PICK OF THE DAY



**Sporsher Baire**  
On ntv at 8:10 p.m.  
Genre: Drama Serial  
Cast: Abdullah Al Mamun, Aupi Karim, Jeetu Ahsan  
Director Shahiduzzaman Selim



**Twelve Monkeys**  
On Star Movies at 11 p.m.  
Genre: Drama / Thriller / Sci-Fi (more)  
Cast: Joseph Melito, Bruce Willis, James Cole  
Director: Terry Gilliam

3:45 Mixed Nuts  
5:20 Blind Horizon  
7:00 Aliens  
9:15 Agent Red (Aka Captured)  
11:00 12 Monkeys  
1:15 Long Life Happiness & Prosperity

STAR GOLD

9:45 Pyar Ka Mandir  
1:30 Papa The Great  
4:25 Dabur Red Gel  
5:30 Hit Filmein Hit  
5:00 Sangeet- 20 M  
8:30 Taaza Hits  
11:45 Nargis  
Adventures Of Mickey  
Anddonald  
Disney's The

7:30 Weekenders  
Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
8:00 Hello Dollie  
8:30 Dekho Magar Pyaar Se  
9:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay  
9:30 Kehta Hai Dil  
10:00 Kkavyanjali  
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii  
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi  
Kahin To Hoga  
K.Street Pali Hill  
Maan  
Hit Filmein Hit  
Sangeet- 20 M  
Taaza Hits  
Nargis  
Adventures Of Mickey  
Anddonald  
Disney's The

STAR WORLD

11:00 Grounded For Life  
11:30 The Casino  
12:30 Everybody Loves Raymond  
1:00 Frasier  
1:30 Magnum P.I.

12:30 Wild Discovery  
Meerkats With Nigel Marven  
1:30 Future Perfect  
Engineering The Future: Rebuilding Ground Zero  
2:30 Junkyard Wars Fire Fighting Flotilla  
3:30 Classic Discovery Real Olympics, The Playing to Win  
4:30 FBI Files, The Operation Goldenrod  
5:30 Operation Junkyard Catapult  
6:00 Healthy Living Healing Garden  
6:30 Battlefield Detectives Charge of the Light Brigade  
7:30 Wild Discovery Lethal & Dangerous: Venomous Snakes  
8:30 Science Frontiers Owing the Weather  
9:30 Life on the Edge Trips Money Can't Buy With Ewan McGregor  
10:30 Terra X Death Trap Ayers Rock  
11:30 Mystery Night  
Nightmare: The Birth of Horror Hound of the Baskervilles

ANIMAL PLANET

10:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals  
11:00 Amazing Animal Videos  
11:30 Animal Planet  
Showcase Jane Goodall's Return to Gombe  
12:30 Pet Nation Breed All About It (III & IV) Saluki  
1:00 Pet Nation K-9 to 5  
1:30 Canine Companion  
2:30 Pet Nation Emergency Vets Miracles Happen  
3:30 Cell Dogs Corona Animal Precinct 4

DISCOVERY

10:30 Classic Discovery Real Olympics, The Death or Glory  
11:30 FBI Files, The Deadly Takeover

4:30 K9 Boot Camp K9 Active Duty  
5:30 Aussie Animal Rescue 2 Lucky Duck  
6:00 Monkey Business  
6:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals  
7:00 Amazing Animal Videos  
7:30 TV With Teeth African River Goddess  
8:30 The Protectors Cell  
9:30 The Protectors Animal Precinct 4  
10:30 Wild And Dangerous  
11:00 Bear Country  
11:30 Nightmares of Nature  
12:00 The Moody Monarch

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY

10:30 Seconds From Disaster  
11:30 Backyard Science  
12:00 Serious: Desert  
12:30 Creative Vision  
1:00 Tales Of The Living Dead  
1:30 Mummy Road Show  
2:00 Riddles Of The Dead S3  
3:00 Killer Leopards  
4:00 Dogs With Jobs S3  
4:30 Backyard Science  
5:30 Ng Explorer  
6:30 Seconds From Disaster  
7:30 Panda Nursery  
8:30 Ecstasy  
9:00 Ecstasy  
9:30 Extreme Latitude  
10:00 Extreme Latitude  
10:30 Interpol Investigates  
11:30 National Geographic's Taboo

STAR SPORTS

8:30 English Premier League Highlights  
9:30 Hitz (R)  
10:00 Five/Six Nations  
12:30 English Premier Football  
2:30 English Premier League Highlights  
3:30 Hitz (R)  
4:30 Five/Six Nations  
5:30 English Premier Football  
7:00 Australia Tour Of New Zealand New Zealand Vs Aust Ralia 2nd Test Day 5 Highlights(S)  
8:00 Born To Play: Masters Of Football (R)  
8:30 Sportscenter India (R)  
9:30 Australia Tour Of New Zealand New Zealand Vs Aust Ralia 2nd Test Day 5 Highlights(S)  
10:00 Born To Play: Masters Of Football (R)  
10:30 Sportscenter India (R)