

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 Annandadhani.

March 24
Abu Muhammad Delwar Hossain will speak on The practice of history of the Liberation War followed by Staging of the play "Tairafir Bukey Mijumunshir Pao" by the theatre group Palakar Muktagan.

March 25
Description of the massacre based on the interviews of the students of Panchagarh and Sherpur. Chhayanaut will present songs in the next session.

March 26
Special performance by children of XSF Green Herald School, Bharatavarsh 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 Abhayuday 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, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmoni
Date: March 23-April 06, From 12pm to 8pm

Cultural Programme
Title: Kobider Bashonto Utshab
Artists: Mahadev Shah, Nirmalendu Goon, Muhammad Samad, Tokon

Shahnaz Munni, Mahbube Rabani, Shahnaz Munni, Mahbube Rabani

Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur road, Dhanmoni
Date: March 24, at 6:30pm

Film Screening
Film: Matir Moyna
Organiser: Tapur Tapur Entertainment

Venue: Shawkot 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: Tonaturi

Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakar Academy
Date: March 24, at 6pm

Children's Drama Festival
Schedule
March 22

4:30pm Kiptey Rajar Golpo (Arunoday, Jessor)
5:30pm Dokhori Agoto Pachhot (Bidrohi, Panchagar)

6:30pm Minar Kashto (Srishti, Shayestagan)
7:30pm Gupothan (Shetabganj Shishu Theatre)

8:30pm Nipoti (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 Ghulam 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, Noorjahan, 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 khataey shorolipi likhey bolo ki hobey*. 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 India.

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 Bandyopadhyay 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.



"I try not to act"
--Prachi



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 kill 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 Patakhali for the shooting of the movie and after the first day, the director Moshred 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 Moshred Bhai, "I didn't do so well, did I?" Moshred 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—*Amar Bhaer 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.

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



Mina Barua renders a song composed by 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 Quayum Chowdhury and writer Maleka Begum will participate at the discussion. Rezvana 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. Channel 4 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.

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk Show: Annodishiti
11:05 Drama Serial: Chalche Chalbe

11:35 Business The Week

12:15 Amar Computer

12:50 Musical Programme

01:25 Cine Gaan

02:30 Drama Serial: Ghunpoka

03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar

Chokhku Nai

03:50 Drama Serial: Bhawal

Raja Shanyashi

04:25 Shomoshamoyik

05:10 Stamp From Campus

06:20 Ayan Sharney

08:00 Drama Serial: Shukhnagar

Apartment

08:30 Drama Serial: Mati

09:00 Drama Serial: Bajmaat

09:30 Ek Dui Teen

10:35 Chancholkar Mama

12:20 Talk Show: Islam Ki

Boley Amra Ki Kori

09:40 Shongbad Potrey

Bangladesh and Public Reaction

09:45 Tritio Matra

10:45 Grameen Phone

11:30 Aamar Chobi

12:00 Chithi Pelam

01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:25 Public Reaction

01:35 Bangla Feature Film: Kalmilita

03:50 Bangla Gaan

04:20 Musical Programme

05:30 i sports

06:00 Music Plus

06:30 i-speed

07:50 Drama Serial: Poribar

O Ekti Company

08:25 Ek Akasher Tara

ntv

08:30 Ajaker Shakal

09:05 Drama Serial: Sporsher Bairey

09:30 Khobor Shondhaney

10:05 Drama Serial: O Amar

Chokhku Nai

10:30 Drama Serial: Bhawal

Raja Shanyashi

11:00 Aarsishnagar

11:30 Tarar Shathey

12:00 Arashinagar

12:30 Trans world Sports

13:00 Khabor Deshey