

CULTURAL FEAST

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Dance and Music department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Artists: Prominent and promising Tagore and Nazrul singers
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 21-24

Film Screening

Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium, Road 96, House 25, Gulshan 2
Time: June 06-27, at 6pm everyday
Schedule: June 24 Chokher Bali (Bangla) June 27 Black

Exhibition

Title: Tapestry Exhibition
Artist: Tajul Islam
Venue: Shilpanagan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi
Date: June 18-29, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm
Title: Metaphor of Agony
Artist: Nazlee Laila
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: June 23- July 06, from 12pm to 8pm
Title: Miniature Art
Artists: 105 artists
Venue: Shilparag, House 15, Road 16, Dhanmondi
Date: June 03-30, from 11:30am to 2pm and 4:30pm to 9pm

National Rabindra Sangeet Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Shangstha
Artists: Prominent and promising Tagore singers
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy
Date: June 23-26

June 23 Inaugural programme chaired by Kaleem Sharafi will be held at 7pm and the chief guest will be Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam.

June 24 Selected songs will be rendered at 9am and in the evening session Mustafa Monwar will be given an honorary reception followed by a poetry and song recitation.

June 25 Discussion session on copyright of Biswabharati followed by musical soiree at 5pm

June 26 Discussion session at 5pm and musical soiree at 6pm

Discussion and Film Screening

Topic: 1947 Partition: Reflecting on communities other than Bangalee
Discussants: Kabir Chowdhury, Ahmed Ilias, Afsan Chowdhury, Badal Rahman, Nayeem Gahar
Film: Meghey Dhaka Tara
Director: Ritwik Kumar Ghatak
Venue: Goethe-Institut (German Cultural Centre), House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Date: June 22, at 4pm

Musings

"Our folk songs have a universal appeal" -- Meena Barua

ERSHAD KAMOL

FOLKSONGS, our true musical tradition, retain a popular appeal for their moving tunes and uncomplicated lyrics. Following the footsteps of legendary folk singers like Abbas Uddin Ahmed, Abdul Alim, Abdul Latif, Ferdousi Rahman, Nadira Begum and others, Meena Barua has earned a place for herself in the folk music arena.

Meena has earned popularity for her soulful rendering of Bichchedi Gaan (melancholy folk songs). Her presentation of the song Jare Ja Chithi Leikha Dilam, written and composed by Abdul Latif, has placed her at the peak of folk genre.

On her learning years, Meena says, "I embarked on music studies at the age of five. Gopal Sarkar and KM Munaim were my first mentors. I trained under PC Gomez and Phul Mohammad in classical music. Then I learnt folk music from Abdul Latif, Osman Khan and Mamtaz Ali Khan. Morshed Ali Shah was my mentor for Lalon Geeti while Krishna Kirtan and Bijoy Sarkar were my guides for Kirtan songs. Later, I completed Sangeet Visharad, the highest degree in music, from Prachin Kala Kendra, India."

"I sing different genres of folk songs like Kirtan, Lalon, Bichchedi and others. However, the Bichchedi style greatly appeals to



Meena Barua

me. During my stage performances I am often requested to sing such melodious songs," adds Meena.

She has been singing for the radio since 1967. In the course of her 38-year kaleidoscopic journey in the music arena, Meena has sung numerous folk songs and

playbacks. Meena says, "I was once a busy playback singer. Nowadays however, films are not a suitable place for veteran folk singers."

Meena Barua is disillusioned with the current scenario of folk music. To quote her, "I see a decline in the audience's musical taste. People

nowadays go for folk songs with cheap and tawdry lyrics, which have been popularised by a few commercial singers. Moreover, because of poor handling of remix and fusion of the folk songs, the authentic tunes of folk songs are fading away. Immediate steps must be taken to preserve our authentic heritage, that is folk music. Otherwise our future generation will be detached from the roots."

"Only radio has enough slots for folk songs. But, nowadays, radio has lost its popularity amongst the masses. And television has never adequately promoted folk songs to begin with," adds Meena.

She believes, "We should always bear in mind that our folk songs have a universal appeal."

"After the death of Abdul Latif, a production house of Kolkata has released my tribute to him. But no such initiative has been taken in Bangladesh. In Kolkata I am often invited to perform Bijoy Sarkar's Bichchedi songs, one of the best bards in Bangladesh. He however, never received his due in Bangladesh," claims Meena.

Meena has rendered folk songs at musical programmes in Japan, South Korea, India, Thailand, Hong Kong and Singapore. So far she has released 20 albums, mostly on Bichchedi genre.

The opinions of artists who are always true to the cause like Meena should be heard more often.

Event

Generating awareness: Lets Speak about AIDS

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

It is time that the scourge of AIDS came out of the closet. Each and every person must openly speak about AIDS-related issues whether in Addas, mosques, temples, educational institutions or at the family level. In the process, it might be possible to generate awareness among the people. This was the unanimous view of speakers, while addressing at Express 2005: Lets Speak about AIDS at the auditorium of Nanking Community Centre in Rajshahi recently.

One of the leading business groups, Square and Bangladesh Centre for Communication Program (BCCP) jointly organised this programme. The function was locally supported by the development organisation Centre for Communication and Development (CCD).

Hosted by popular TV actor Monir Khan Shimul, the function was addressed, among others, by Deputy Commissioner Syed Ahsanul Haque, Regional Sales Manager of Square Pharmaceuticals Masuk Hossain, Senior Programme Officer of BCCP Maruf Kabir.

Expressing anxiety over the serious risk of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh, the speakers called on people to generate information about the terminal illness. There is no room for procrastination, they said, as the disease might strike anyone. "If all of us talk openly about



Artists performing at the event

AIDS, we will be able to generate mass awareness," said one speaker.

The artists of Youth Voice, a cultural wing of CCD, presented enchanting Baul songs with messages relating to HIV/AIDS awareness. Through the songs they called upon people to talk about the seriousness of the issue.

The popular Gomvira songs of the northern region were one of the main attractions of the function. Through the interesting dialogues

between a grandfather and grandson (Nana and Nati) the people were urged to talk frankly about HIV/AIDS.

Asif Akbar, a popular singer, charmed the audience with his songs. During the interval, he appealed to the audience to take steps to save the nation from the AIDS epidemic.

The programme was entertaining and focused on the issues of HIV/AIDS, which is the need of the hour.

Annual Dance Show of Shilpakala

Promoting aspiring dancers

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Ruposhi Talukdar came all the way from Khagrachhari to participate in the three-day dance show organised by the Music and Dance Department of Shilpakala Academy. Draped in a traditional skirt called Pinon and a long scarf Khadi, Ruposhi presented a Chakma dance on the closing day of the show held at the academy's exhibition hall plaza Monday last. The programme sought to promote promising dancers from all around the country.

Draped in a bright turquoise attire, Tanzida Alam Simi performed a Kathak piece, an elegant classical dance form

with a rich history. Another participant, Tanaya Chakma from Bandarban, performed traditional Thala Nritya while Manisha Sarkar from Rajbari performed a modern dance number with the popular song of yesteryears Ami mela thekey talpatar ek banshi kiney enechhi. Ahona Chowdhury, Khondokar Hafizur Rahman, Mohammad Shahnewaz Lemon, Swapna Dewan, Aditi Dutta and Mehraj Haque Tushar also performed classical and modern dances.

The Music and Dance Department of the Academy organises such shows annually. The programme draws promising dancers from different



Sната Shahrin strikes an artistic Kathak mudra

districts. Choreographer Deepa Khondokar of the Academy said, "About 66 dancers from all over the country participated in this year's show. This shows an upward trend as compared to the previous years."

Deepa says, "The dance directors of different Zilla Shilpakala Academies, choreographers and eminent dancers recommend these upcoming dancers. The performers who follow the grammar

of dance and are trained through a systematic process under dance gurus are selected for such shows. Although there is no officially declared competition among the dancers, all the participants put their hearts in their performances because this is a prestigious show."

The dancers gave a lively performance with their rich and aesthetic presentations.



Arno Kamalika performing Bharatnatyam

Coming Attraction

Big B strikes again

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan returns to the small screen this year for the second run of the super-hit television serial Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) which had brought a turnaround in his personal fortunes five years ago.

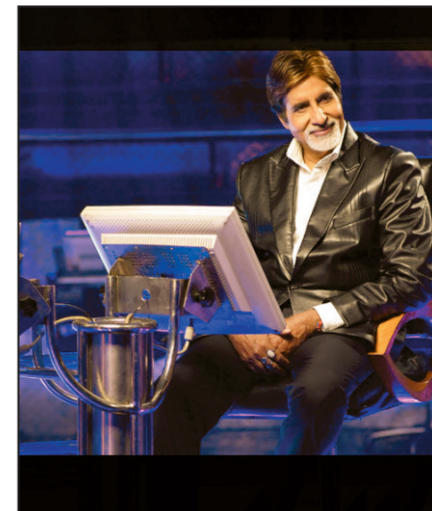
The sequel of Kaun Banega Crorepati will hit the small screen in August. Bachchan hopes the viewers would like the new version, to be known as KBC-2, as much they had done the first one. "We have made some changes in the sequel and hope to get the same success as in the past," the actor said.

When the KBC serial had gone on air for the first time in the year 2000 on Star Plus television channel, it had immediately made media magnate Rupert Murdoch-promoted satellite channel one of the most popular in India.

Bachchan said he had signed to do some 85 episodes for the second show of KBC which Star Plus proposes to air as a prime time show.

Organisers of KBC- 2 say the prize money for the new show would be doubled to Rs 20 million from Rs 10 million last time for the top winner.

The first KBC show had helped the actor come out of heavy debt incurred by him from the collapse of his company Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited (ABCL) and also launched him on a second glorious innings in Bollywood after having been seemingly reached the end of his three-decade-old film career.



Amitabh on the set of KBC-2

Following the enormous success of KBC-1, Bachchan was once again the super star of Bollywood, no matter his advancing years, and he cleared his entire debt after filmmakers and advertisement movie makers made a bee-line to rope him in.

Today at the age of 63, it is a tribute to Bachchan's versatility that he can do a rap number in the promo of an out-and-out Bollywood masala movie, Bunty Aur Babli, released recently starring his son Abhishek and Rani Mukherjee.

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, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 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) 8:20am, 7:00pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 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. 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, 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 Shongbad Potrer Pata Thekey 12:30 Shashtho Tathya 01:05 Kolhamala 02:05 Children's Programme: Sisimpur Hijo Tomal 02:30 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast 07:30 Amra Shobai Jantley Chai 08:30 Drama Serial: Golap Kano Kalo 09:00 Drama Serial: Shantikunjo 10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia 11:00 Anondochara 12:05 Satellite Programme CHANNEL i 09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction 10:45 Trito Matra 10:45 Sports Time 11:30 Agora Shopping Guide 12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citicall Tarokakothon (live) 08:30 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 01:25 Public Reaction 03:50 Banglar Gaan 04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma 05:15 Janapader Khorbor 06:00 Music Plus 10:30 Campus 07:55 RC Travel On 08:25 Drama Serial: Ek Akasher Tara 09:35 Drama Serial: Din Choley Jaye 10:00 Drama Serial: Mega Bond

ATN BANGLA 07:30 Drama Serial: Shukhnagar Apartment 08:45 Drama: Probashini 10:30 Onnodishti 11:05 Poraner Gaan 11:35 Drama Serial: Flat No. 40 12:15 Musical Programme Band Show: Ganey Shurey Tarunye Motamot 02:30 Drama Serial: Nil akasher Nichey Ronger Din 03:50 Drama Serial: New Files 04:25 Cinema Cinema 05:10 BSB Education Zone 05:45 Islami Sawal O Jawab (live) 06:20 The Sword of Tipu Sultan 08:00 Drama Serial: Tanaporen 09:00 Drama Serial: Bayoscap 09:30 Drama Serial: Shadakalo ntv 01:00 Ajker Shokal 09:05 Drama Serial: Belabhuri 09:30 Frankly Speaking Science Workshop Aarshinagar 11:00 Transworld Sports 12:05 Shurer Jolsha 01:25 TVC 03:15 Dance Programme: Nupoor 04:25 Cholocchitro Kotha 05:15 Ithasher Ei Diney

PICK OF THE DAY Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan Musical Programme hosted by Syed Abdul Hadi On ntv at 08:50pm Tonight's guests: Rizia Parveen and Badsha Bulbul 06:20 Shubho Shondha 06:50 Nari Ghorey Bairey 08:20 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe 08:50 Kichu Kotha Kichu Gaan (Today's guests: Rizia Parveen and Badsha Bulbul) 09:40 Drama Serial: Sheola

CSI: New York (Season 1) TV Series on Crime investigation On AXN at 10:30pm Cast: Gary Sinise, Melina Kanakaredes 06:20 Buffy The Vampire Slayer 7:30 The Simpsons 7:00 That 70s Show 7:30 Friends 8:00 Newsradio 8:30 The Virtual Magician 9:30 The Practice 10:30 J.A.G. 2:00 Bhabhi 2:30 Kesar 3:00 Saarthi 5:00 Teleshopping 5:25 Film Toppers 5:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet Taaza Hits 6:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai 6:30 101 Dalmatians 7:00 Kim Possible 7:25 Film Toppers 7:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 8:00 Princess Dollieaunskamagicbag 8:30 Dekkho Magar Pyar Se Kasautii Zindagii Kay Miliee 10:00 Kavyanjali Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi 11:30 Kahini To Hoga K.Street Pail Hill

11:30 Prosecutors, The Release Me 1:30 Science of Star Wars 2:30 Classic Discovery 3:30 Dungeons of Alcatraz 3:30 Hollywood Superstars Grace Kelly: The American Princess 4:30 Prosecutors, The Pride And Joy 5:30 Mystery Hunters 7:30 Wild Discovery In The Depths Of The Forest 9:30 Legends of the Isles 10:00 Rivals Camilla V's Diana 10:30 Past is Wild, Future is Wild 2:00 The Kung Fu Dragons Of Wudang 3:00 Chimp Diaries 4:00 Dogs With Jobs 4:45 Doc Eureka 5:00 Serious: Arctic 5:30 No Explorer 6:30 Interpol Investigates 7:30 Tropic Gothic 8:30 Sea Hunters The Quest For K2 9:30 Air Crash Investigation 11:30 Taboo

AXN 9:30 Csi: Miami (Season 1) 10:30 The Amazing Race (Season V) 12:30 Axn Xtreme: India Vs Pakistan 1:30 Maximum Exposure (Season II) 2:30 The Amazing Race (Season V) 4:30 7 Days (Season III) 5:30 Global Adventure 6:30 The President's Man: Ground Zero 8:30 Cold Squad (Season VI) 9:30 David Blaine: Vertigo 10:30 Csi: New York (Season 1) 11:30 Fear Factor (Season 4) ESPN 10:30 Tri-Series In England The Natwest Series Nottingham England v Bangladesh 4th Odi Highligths(S) 11:30 FIFA Confederations Cup 2005 Uefa Women's Championships Final(T) 1:30 Winter X-Games Winter X Games Ix - Day 3 Mt. Aspen Co Usa (R) 6:00 FIFA Confederations Cup 2005 Leipzig Germany

8:30 Sportscenter Sportscenter India (L) 9:30 Mad About Sport (T) 9:30 FIFA Confederations Cup 2005 Nuremberg Germany Argentina Vs Germany Group Stage(R) 11:30 Sportscenter Sportscenter India (R) STAR SPORTS 9:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships London Uk Day #2 Highlights(R) 10:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships London Uk First Round(R) 3:00 Golf Focus (S) 3:30 The Rugby Show (T) 4:00 Tna Wrestling Programming Tna Wrestling (T) 5:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships London Uk Second Round(L) TEN SPORTS 8:30 ATP World Team Championship '05 9:30 IRB Rugby Highlights 10:30 Cricket Classics Legends 1:30 This Week in Sport 2:00 World Rally 2:30 ATP World Team Championship '05 3:30 Great Centuries 4:00 WWE After Burn Legends:Lance Armstrong 6:00 World Rally 6:30 Caribbean Classics 7:30 Maradona- Downfall of a God 9:30 WWE After Burn