

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
Schedule: 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

Folk Music

Organiser: Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Parishad
Artists: Abdul Halim Bayati
Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendra
Date: June 23, at 5pm

Classical Music

Organiser: Shuddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi
Artists: Shama Ahmed, Fayzul Haque, Bijoy, Chowdhury Mostaq Hossain
Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendra
Date: June 30, at 7pm

Old and new talents come to the fore

Shilpakala Academy holds musical soiree

AFSAR AHMED

MUSIC is deeply rooted in our hearts. And the strains of Rabindra or Nazrul Sangeet, with their pensive lyrics and magnificent tunes, often have the power to transport us to a higher realm and reinforce our cultural identity. Despite the current trend of westernisation, these songs continue to maintain their appeal. But are we doing enough to pass on our rich musical heritage to the new generation?

This was the question uppermost in the minds of many on June 21. This day marked the beginning of a four-day programme featuring the upcoming as well as established Tagore and Nazrul singers. Organised by the Music and Dance Department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the programme was staged at the National Exhibition Hall.

While inaugurating the programme, Ahmed Nazir, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, said, "It is our duty to promote both the established and upcoming singers. We need to bring them on a common platform, judge their potential and present them to the audience. This programme is an opportunity to familiarise people with aspiring singers of Tagore and Nazrul genres."



Sushmita Ahmed rendering a Tagore song

The ongoing musical soiree features Tagore songs on the first two days and Nazrul songs in the latter part. A good number of upcoming and promising Tagore artists as well as the established ones performed on the first day. The first part of the programme was dedicated to the young ones who had come from distant places,

as far flung as the Hill Tracts, to demonstrate their talent. 12 artists such as Selina Huda, Rumana Sharmin, Golam Haider, Sharmin Ahmed, Nafisa Sher, Shimu Dey, Jhuma Chakma and others rendered a medley of Tagore's popular numbers: Amar ei path chalatei anonodo, Badolo dinero prothomo kadamo phul, Mor

bhabonarey, Ami tomar shongey bedhechi amari pran and many others. Some of the singers performed well. However, sometimes the amateurish presentations, poor accent of some singers and their inability to sing in the proper scale and tune was a damper. The dreadful audio system that sometimes gave an echo also proved troublesome for the audience.

Many in the audience questioned the rationale of terming a few mediocre singers as upcoming artists by the academy. Barun Kumar Sen, Deputy Director of the Music and Dance Department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, said, "The interested artists from different parts of the country sent in their applications. After the audition, our musical team did the selection for the performance."

Aditi Mohsin, Anup Bhattacharya, Bulbul Islam and other known Tagore artistes predictably delighted the audience with their melodious performances. But there is one question that deserves to be answered: Are we doing enough to promote the new generation of Tagore and Nazrul artistes? This is the right time to give a boost to the young ones. So that, one day they may blaze the trail!

ALL TIME GREATS Kanan Devi: A real life Cinderella story

Kanan Devi was among the early singing stars in undivided India. Her singing style, usually in rapid tempo, was behind some of the biggest hits of New Theatres.

Born Kananbala in 1916, her father, Ratan Chandra Das passed away when she was only five. Her mother, Rajbala Devi raised her amidst severe hardship. For a meager remuneration Kanan made her debut as a child actress with the movie Joydev (1926). Thus started the journey of a remarkable woman whose life was no less than a fairy tale. From 'Kanan Bala' to 'Kanan Devi', the journey of this legendary actress and singer was fascinating.

Kanan got her first break in films as a lead actress, with Jorabaat (1931) directed by Jyotish Banerjee. She was only 15 then. PC Barua was unable to enlist her for the role of Paro in Devdas (1935) but she played the lead in his Mukti (1937).

An untrained singer when she stepped into the film-zone, she trained briefly under Ustad Allah Rakha in Lucknow. She was employed as a singer at Megaphone Gramophone Company, receiving further training from Bhishmadev Chatterjee. She later mastered Rabindra Sangeet with Anadi Dasitdar.

Mukti made Kanan a star and led to a fruitful association with New Theatres. The success of Bidyapati (Bangla)/Vidyapati (Hindi) (1937) in which she demonstrated perhaps her finest performance, propelled her



to the crest of stardom. To quote critic Krishna Chaitanya, "Kanan Devi has the marvellous gift of smoothly carrying over to the melodic elaboration, the intimate expressiveness of speech -- occasional aspiration of vowels, accented speech rhythms and sensitive manipulation of volume."

Kanan Devi remained the top star of New Theatres till she resigned in 1941 and began to freelance in Hindi and Bangla films. Jawab the following year saw perhaps her biggest ever hit song Toofan Mail, which is hummed by many to this date.

Even though she was a singing sensation, music and songs were secondary to the narration of a story. In fact powerful narrative appeal made up for most of the technical and other deficiencies Bangla cinema may have suffered from at the time and was a key to the success of the New Theatres Films.

Kanan Devi turned producer with Shrimati Pics in 1949 and launched the film Ananya. Her own productions were mainly based on Sarat Chandra stories and were directed by her husband Hariadas Bhattacharya.

Kanan Devi's last film was Indranath Srikanta O Annadadidi (1959). She wrote an autobiography Shobarey Ami Nomi (1973) and in 1977, Kanan Devi, the then considered 'first lady of Bangla Films' was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke award for her contribution to Indian cinema. She also worked as President of the Mahila Shilpi Mahal, an organisation that helps aged and needy female artistes of yesteryears.

The legendary diva passed away on July 17, 1992 but her legacy remain alive in the heart of millions.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Mini Screen

Boro Pobitro Amar Shohor: Focusing on social injustice

NOVERA DEEPIKA

Safdar Hashmi is a business tycoon who has everything a person could ask for, although he is a bank-defaulter. On a usual workday he drives up to the office in his Mercedes Benz, greets his standing employees, gets an update on his appointments from his attractive private secretary, as television channels telecast his interview because he has recently received a prestigious business award. Everything goes smoothly, until the end of the day when alone in his office cabin, he finds a mysterious young woman standing in front of him.

The girl (or rather a spirit) tells him the story of her life. She reveals that a village moneylender took away her gold nose-ring because she could not repay a debt. The girl reveals the startling truth: she had committed suicide due to her inability to lead a dignified, debt-free life. The scared-to-death Hashmi hears the girl say, "I took my life only because I could not repay a debt of Taka 300. But what about you whose unpaid debt runs into the millions?"

This is the story of Boro Pobitro Amar Shohor, written by Anisul Haque and directed by Amitabho Reza. The premiere show of the TV play was held at the Liberation War Museum Tuesday last. The writer Anisul Haque said, "The script is based on a true story. I read one such news item and was moved by the sad story of the girl. She had no other choice but to commit suicide, even if it was for a small amount. What justice can there be, when affluent businessmen get away scot-free despite being defaulters of crores of taka and even hold a prestigious



Asaduzzaman Noor and Molly Akhand in scenes from the TV play

position in the society?" Powerful actor Asaduzzaman Noor plays the role of Safdar Hashmi and debutante Molly Akhand portrays the role of the unfortunate girl. Molly gave a realistic portrayal of this character. Her dialogue delivery and expressions were natural. An enthusiastic Molly said, "The script and the role are unique. I tried my best to bring the character to life. However, I believe it could have been better."

A production of Dhvani-Chitra limited, the play will be telecast on the occasion of the anniversary of ntv on July 3, at 8:15pm.

Top That

Shahrukh beats Sonia in a poll

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

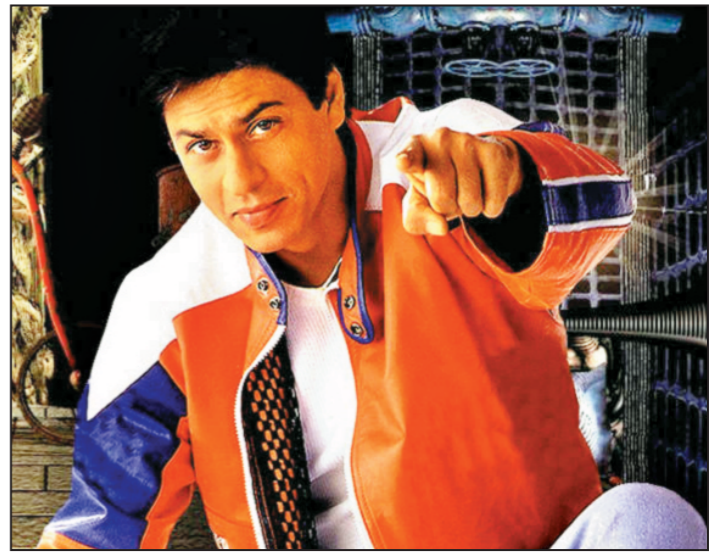
Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan never thought he would make it so big in the cinema world.

"No, I never thought I would make it this big because I never planned nor set any tangible goal," he said soon after being voted the "youth icon" in an opinion poll conducted by a leading music channel recently.

"I always believe that the task I have at a given moment is the most important in my life and nothing else matters," said Khan who has set the box office on fire several times in his career.

In the opinion poll, Khan beat Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi. Among others in the contention for the icon status were India's teenage tennis prodigy Sania Mirza, entrepreneur Aziz Premzi, cricketer Irfan Pathan and playback singer Sonu Nigam.

It was also an occasion for Khan to trek down memory lane and recall his own icons at a younger age: Mother Teresa, Imran Khan and



Michael Jackson.

The actor believes that what is shown on the big screen can affect people either positively or negatively and his message to the youth is not to drink, smoke or take drugs. Khan also asks the youth to look at the world positively and not cynically and work hard. Khan said while other contenders in the opinion poll were all worthy persons he had the advantage of getting more visibility because he is in a media-related field, starting down from posters on the walls and cinema halls.

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. Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 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. 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 (English) (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 Thekey 12:30 Health Bulletin 01:05 Loukik Bangla 02:30 Bangla Feature Film 05:30 Shastho Tathya 07:05 Grantha Bhuban 07:30 Egiye Cholar Pothey 08:25 Drama of the Week 10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia 12:05 Satellite Programme

CHANNEL i 09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction 09:45 Tritiyo Matra 11:00 Agora Shopping Guide 12:00 TVC Sky Shop 12:30 Aaj Dupurey 01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 01:25 Public Reaction 01:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh 02:40 Rutiner Bairer 03:10 Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak 03:50 Banglar Gaan 04:20 Special Programme 04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma 05:15 Janapader Khabor 05:30 RC Tones and Tunes 06:00 Music Plus 06:30 Aamar Chihobi 07:50 Drama Serial: Keboli Raat Hoye Jai 08:25 Beast Master 09:35 Drama Serial:

10:00 Shompurna Rangeen Surf Exel Pratibhar Larai 08:30 Aajker Shakal Siddiqua Kalbir's Recipe 09:00 Nari Ghorey Bairer Chalochhitr Katha Dhakar Cinema 02:35 Drama serial: Belabhumii Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan 03:15 Drama Serial: Sheola Shapla Kuri Protigita Mahilangan Shubho Shondhya Horlicks Genius Bangladesh 08:20 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush Concert Dujice Jhakanaka Din Darpan 11:25 ATN BANGLA 11:35 Pepsi Rock & Rhythm 12:15 Musical Programme 12:45 Telefilm: Nawab Siraj Ud Doula 03:50 ATN Rannaghar Shundar Jiboner Jonno 05:10 Bangla Namer Desh 05:45 Islami Sawal O Jawab 06:20 Drama Serial: Keboi Raat Hoye Jai 08:00 Drama Serial: Char Dewalar Chand 11:30 Shompurna Rangeen Surf Exel Pratibhar Larai 08:30 Aajker Shakal Siddiqua Kalbir's Recipe 09:00 Nari Ghorey Bairer Chalochhitr Katha Dhakar Cinema 02:35 Drama serial: Belabhumii Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan 03:15 Drama Serial: Sheola Shapla Kuri Protigita Mahilangan Shubho Shondhya Horlicks Genius Bangladesh 08:20 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush Concert Dujice Jhakanaka Din Darpan 11:25 ATN BANGLA 11:35 Pepsi Rock & Rhythm 12:15 Musical Programme 12:45 Telefilm: Nawab Siraj Ud Doula 03:50 ATN Rannaghar Shundar Jiboner Jonno 05:10 Bangla Namer Desh 05:45 Islami Sawal O Jawab 06:20 Drama Serial: Keboi Raat Hoye Jai 08:00 Drama Serial: Char Dewalar Chand

PICK OF THE DAY Mohona On ATN Bangla at 9:30pm Drama Serial Cast: Tarin, Pallab, Humayun Fareedi First Knight On Star Movies at 7pm Genre: Drama / Romance Cast: Sean Connery, Richard Gere

08:30 Drama Serial: Shikhor 09:00 Drama Serial: Britto 09:30 Drama Serial: Mohona 10:35 Char Deyalar Kabbya 10:45 Horse Whisperer The 1:35 Chasing Papi 3:00 Ozzie 4:35 Seabiscuit 7:00 First Knight 9:20 River's Edge 11:00 May 12:30 Stark Raving Mad 1:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 2:00 Bhabhi 2:30 Kesar 3:00 Saarathi 6:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai 101 Dalmatians 7:00 Kim Possible 8:00 Princess 8:30 Drama Serial: Shikhor 09:00 Drama Serial: Britto 09:30 Drama Serial: Mohona 10:35 Char Deyalar Kabbya 10:45 Horse Whisperer The 1:35 Chasing Papi 3:00 Ozzie 4:35 Seabiscuit 7:00 First Knight 9:20 River's Edge 11:00 May 12:30 Stark Raving Mad 1:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 2:00 Bhabhi 2:30 Kesar 3:00 Saarathi 6:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai 101 Dalmatians 7:00 Kim Possible 8:00 Princess 8:30 Drama Serial: Shikhor 09:00 Drama Serial: Britto 09:30 Drama Serial: Mohona 10:35 Char Deyalar Kabbya 10:45 Horse Whisperer The 1:35 Chasing Papi 3:00 Ozzie 4:35 Seabiscuit 7:00 First Knight 9:20 River's Edge 11:00 May 12:30 Stark Raving Mad 1:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 2:00 Bhabhi 2:30 Kesar 3:00 Saarathi 6:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai 101 Dalmatians 7:00 Kim Possible 8:00 Princess

2:30 Growing up 4:30 Animal Miracles I-III At the Crossroads 5:30 Cave Diving /Rainbow Serpent 6:00 Monkey Business 6:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals 7:00 Amazing Animal Videos 7:30 Land of the Tiger's Monsoon Forests 8:30 Growing up Wild 10:30 Great Dolphins, Dancers of the Deep 11:30 Survival School Water Babies 12:00 After Midnight 2:00 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 2:00 Cheating Death 3:00 Air Crash Investigation 4:00 Dogs With Jobs 4:30 Backyard Science 4:45 Doc Eureka 5:00 Serious: Desert 5:30 Ng Explorer 6:30 Air Crash Investigation 7:30 Night Hunters 8:30 Innovation 9:30 Marine Machines 10:30 Seconds From Disaster 11:30 Taboo 1:30 AXN 1:30 David Blaine: Vertigo 2:30 CSI: New York 3:30 CSI: Miami 4:30 7 Days 5:30 Hollywood's Greatest Stunts 6:00 Almost Famous 8:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 9:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime 10:30 CSI: New York 11:30 Poorman's Bikini Beach 10:30 ESPN 10:30 Mad About Sport(R) 11:00 Sportscenter India Update (T) 11:01 Cable In The Classroom: Sportsfigures (R) Brazilian Cup(T) 11:30 Fifa Confederations Cup

DISCOVERY CHANNEL 1:30 Extreme Machines :Earth Breakers 2:30 Legends of the Isles Richard the Lionheart 3:00 Rivals Camilla V's Diana 3:30 Past is Wild, Future is Wild 4:30 New Detectives 5:30 Real Kids Real Adventures 6:00 Baby Story, 2 Baby Hirsch 6:30 Dangerman, Warrior Women Warrior Women 1 Boucica 7:30 Giant Grizzlies 8:30 Roller Coaster 9:00 Amazing Baby Videos 9:30 Days That Shook The World 10:30 Great Cars 11:00 Massive Engines With Chris Rockets 2:30 The Simpsons 7:00 That 70s Show Friends 8:00 Newsradio 8:30 Invasion Iowa 9:00 Growing up Gotti The Chronicle: News From The E 9:30 Police Stop Star Asia Travel 11:28 Newsradio 11:30 Friends 12:00 ANIMAL PLANET 1:00 Pet Nation 2:00 Greece Vs Mexico Group Stage (S) 3:30 Fifa Confederations Cup 2005 Japan Vs Brazil Group Stage (R) 5:30 Espn School Quiz 2005 (T) 6:00 The Natwest Series England Vs Bangladesh 4th Odi Highlights(R) 7:28 The Natwest Series England Vs Australia 5th Odi (L) 9:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Day #3 Highlights(R) 10:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Second Round(R) 3:00 Samsung Nations Cup 2005 Lisbon Portugal Highlights(T) 4:00 Tna Impact(T) 5:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Second Round(L) Sportsline(L) 12:00 TEN SPORTS 9:00 Maradona -Downfall of a God 10:00 Caribbean Classics 12:00 ATP World Team Championship '05 1:00 TVS Futsal 1:30 ATP Tennis 2:00 Cricket Classics 4:00 WWE: The Bottom Line 5:00 Transworld Sports 6:00 European PGA Golf: Open De France Day 1