

# Tunes of the perilous times

Shujeo Shyam on his latest venture

NOVERA DEEPITA

THE new generation does not often realise the significance and impact of the spirited songs of our Liberation War. The main objective of the album *Bahanno Thekey Ekattur* is to make the young people imbibe the essence of the War for which many Bangalees sacrificed their lives," says celebrated music composer Shujeo Shyam about his forthcoming album.

The album is a collection of the patriotic and motivational songs dedicated to the Language Movement of 1952, Mass Uprising in 1969 and the Liberation War. The album is basically the brainchild of Mahbubur Rahman Jaynal of popular production house Tonatuni. Shyam says, "When Jaynal asked me about the possibility of releasing such an album, it took only a second for me to accept the proposal. Mujibar Rahman Dilu and I have worked on the album for the last two years. But unfortunately due to the sudden ailment of Dilu, the production process is delayed and at present I can't advance any further." According to Shyam, 98 percent of the album is complete and it is expected to be released this December.

Shyam complains, "The original records of the songs of our Language Movement were lost. Even the original tunes and lyrics of the songs we used to render in Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (SBBK) were not preserved by the Bangladesh government. Though different document and specimens have been preserved and collected by the museums, nobody took the initiative to preserve these songs or the records of



Shujeo Shyam

SBBK properly and institutionally."

Against this backdrop, it was hard labour for Shyam and Dilu to get the original songs with

Among these works is the timeless song *Bhulbona bhulbona Ekushey February bhulbo na*. Shyam says, "Although I had composed many songs aired on SBBK, I couldn't recall quite a few of the tunes. Hence some songs are lost forever."

Two noteworthy songs of the album are yet to be recorded: the incomparable *Amar bhaiyer rokter rangano* and the victory-marking song *Bijoy nishan udchhey oi*. Because the original records are not available any more, Shyam had to re-record the songs anew. Eminent singers including Subir Nandi, Rathindranath Roy, Bipul Bhattacharyay, Shahin Samad, Rafiqul Alam, Abida Sultana and Shakila Zafar as well as some promising artistes have rendered the songs for the album. The songs have been recorded in Sruti Studio.

Other songs of the Language Movement include *Ora amar mukher bhasha kaira nitey chay*. Among the songs of 1969 *Jantar sangram chalbei* has been chosen. *Rokto palash tapto phagun* and *Rashtro bhasha andolon korlorey Bangalee* will also be in the album. Shyam says, "The latter was originally rendered by martyred composer Altaf Mahmud during the Language Movement at the Paltan Maydan. Rathindranath Roy will render the song."

For Shyam, the album is the realisation of a dream. He hopes that in the process it will rekindle the spirit of the Liberation War and the Language Movement while bringing the younger generation closer to important milestones in the nation's history.

undistorted tunes and lyrics. They had to collect them from individuals who have personal collections of these records or notations.

## TV Highlights

### Special programmes on Nazrul Death Anniversary

August 27 marks the 29th death anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. The Bangla channels will telecast daylong special programmes on the occasion. The channels will feature musical programmes, talk shows, special drama and dance programmes. The focus will be on Nazrul's works and life.

#### BTV

**Khunji Tarey Ami Aponay**  
Hosted by celebrated Nazrul singer Sadya Aftreen Mallick, the special magazine programme will feature Nazrul singers Khairul Anam Shakil, Sujit Mustafa, Parveen Sultana and the host herself. Popular dancers Munmun Ahmed, Anisul Islam Hero and Chandni will perform special dance numbers. Litterateur Abdullah Abu Sayeed will speak on the works of Nazrul. Produced by Kamrunnessa Hassan, the main focus of the programme will be on his timeless songs and literary

works. The programme will be aired on at 10:30pm.  
**Padma Gokhro**  
Based on the story *Padma Gokhro* by Kazi Nazrul Islam, a special TV play with the same title will be aired on the occasion of the death anniversary of our National Poet. Adapted by Abu Muhammad Rais, the TV play features Meeta Nur, Kazi Khurshiduzzaman Utpal, Muhammad Babor, Nargis and Peerzada Shahidul Harun. Produced by Badruzzaman, the play will be telecast at 8:30pm.

#### ntv

**Harano Hiya**  
Fatema-tuz-Zohra, Khayrul Anam Shakil, Yasmin Mustari, Yakub Ali Khan, Ferdous Ara will perform their songs in this programme. ntv will telecast the programme at 10:30pm  
**Shapla Kuri**  
A special programme for children *Shapla Kuri* directed by Humayun Kabir will be telecast at 11:00pm. Child artistes will perform dance, recitation, music and short drama in the programme.  
**Hridoygagan**

perform in this programme.

#### Kabita O Gaan

Directed by Tanveer Khan, renowned artistes Khalid Hossain, Shahin Samad, Rawshon Ara Mustafiz will perform in this programme, scheduled to telecast at 12:30pm.  
**Ami Orfiasser Bashori**  
This special programme is scheduled to telecast at 02:30pm. Bhashkor Bondhopaddhay, Rupa Chokrobarty, Hasan Arif, Shimul Mustofa, Mahidul Islam Mahi,



Sadya Aftreen Mallick and Abdullah Abu Sayeed in *Khunji Tarey Ami Aponay*



Feroza Begum in *Akashey Aaj Chhodiye Dilam*

#### CHANNEL i

##### Amra Boner Pakhi

A special programme for children *Amra Boner Pakhi* will be telecast at 5:30pm. Directed by Aminul Islam Raju, child artistes will perform dance, recitation, music and short TV play in the programme.  
**Antarey Achho Tumi Chirodin**  
Directed by Jamal Reza, popular singer Shahin Samad will render popular Nazrul songs at 6:30pm.  
**Tora Shob Joyodhwani Kor**  
Veteran Nazrul singer Feroza Begum and eminent poet Shamsur Rahman will recollect the memories they have regarding Nazrul. Theatre activist Shimul Yusuf and Nazrul singer Sujit Mostafa will perform Nazrul songs. Directed by Raju Alim, students from different universities and colleges will participate in the programme, scheduled to be telecast at 10:00pm.  
**Papiya Aaj Keno Dakey**  
Eminent poet Shamsur Rahman will host the musical programme. Directed by Annaya Ruma, popular artistes Sohrah Hossain, Rowshan Ara Mustafiz, Shabnam

Mustari, Fatema-tuz-Zohra and Khalid Hossain will perform in the programme at 10:45pm.  
**Citycell Shorashori Nazrul**  
Poet Asad Chowdhury will host a live discussion programme on Nazrul's life and literary works. The viewers can ask questions through telephone (011-866633-44-55). Directed by Amirul Islam, popular singers Salahuddin Ahmed and Lina Taposhi will also perform Nazrul songs at the programme at 4:00pm.  
**Laili Tomar Eshchhe Phiria**  
Popular artiste Ferdous Ara will perform different songs from the CD titled *TumiKi Dakhina Pabon*. Directed by Amirul Islam and Iftekar Munim, the programme will be telecast at 09:35pm.  
**Dolon Chapa**  
The single episode special TV play is based on the love story of Nazrul and his wife Promila. Directed by Aruna Biswas, the TV play will be telecast on August 26 at 7:50pm.

#### ATN BANGLA

##### Meher Nigar

Directed by Zillur Rahman, the single episode special TV play will be telecast at 2:30pm. The story line is as follows: Gulshan is a famous dancer. Yusuf is an aspiring musician. He finds a similarity between his dream girl Meher Nigar and Gulshan. Though the feeling is reciprocated, Gulshan is unable further the relationship because of her troubled past.  
The drama features Arman Parvez, Murad, Momoy, Taslima Chumki, Mostagizur Rahman Babu and Tushar Khan among others.  
**Ghumayeche Pother Dhulay**

Fatema-tuz-Zohra, Shahin Samad, Yasmin Mustari, Yakub Ali Khan, MA Mannan and Rebecca Sultana will perform songs in this programme. ATN Bangla will telecast the programme at 12:50pm  
**Amarey Debona Bhulitey**  
Nazrul exponent and artiste Feroza Begum will perform in the programme. Directed by Shirajul Islam, the special programme is scheduled to be aired at 5:10pm.  
**Trishaley Nazrul**  
Directed by Russel Mahmud, the special documentary programme is scheduled to be telecast at 10:40pm.

## Theatre

### Three-day Molière Festival at Alliance Francaise

ERSHAD KAMOL

Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, widely known by his stage name Molière, was born into a comfortable, respected bourgeois family of Paris in 1622. The 17th French theatre theoretician, writer, director and actor, Molière is one of the masters of satire. As a comic dramatist he ranks with such distinctive masters of the genre such as Aristophanes, Plautus and George Bernard Shaw.

Molière's satires are not meant to generate juvenile humour. Influenced by the Italian 'Comedia Dell'arte' concept, Molière established the 'neo-Classical French comedy' technique to mock the fall of morality through witty dialogues. His Comedy of Morals is designed to ridicule and correct the vices such as hypocrisy, pride, avarice and nepotism.

Over the years, many Bangladeshi theatre groups have presented Molière's adapted plays on stage. However, in most cases, they have failed to maintain the essence of witty approach to the 'Comedy of Morals' concept.

However, two adaptation of Molière's plays *L'Avare* (The miser)



A scene from *Bouder Pathshala*

and *The Bourgeois Gentleman* have attained a huge response from the audience for their universal appeal.

In the ongoing three-day theatre festival at Alliance Francaise, which began on August 24, Molière's three plays *George*



A portrait of Molière

*Dandin, Le Medicine Malgre Lui* and *L' Ecole des Femmes* have been included. In these plays through the simple story of marriage and love, Molière satires the vices of the so-called 'fashionable elite'-their jealousy and hypocrisy.

On opening day of the 'Molière Festival', Jahangirnagar Theatre staged the translated version of *George Dandin*. Kalyan Kumar Datta is the translator and Nazmul Hasan Rubel is the director of the play.

On the second day Shatwik Theatre staged *Pejgi*, an adaptation of *Le Medicine Malgre Lui*. Apu Aman has adapted Molière's play in the Bangladeshi context, directed by Kamruzzaman Tupa.

On the final day, the Space and Acting Research Centre will stage *Bouder Pathshala*, a translation of *L' Ecole des Femmes*. Ashish Khondokar has adapted *Bouder Pathshala* from the English play *The School for Wives*. The latter was adapted by Miles Malson from Molière's original script *L' Ecole des Femmes*. Ashish Khondokar is the director of the play.

## British Animation Awards Film Festival

Who said animation is just for kids?

KARIM WAHEED

British Council, Dhaka is holding a five-day-long film festival that started from August 22. The best of animation that have been nominated and awarded at the British Animation Awards (BAA) between 1994 and 2004 are being screened at the festival.

Animation is not limited to amusing children any more. Through the ages animation has gone through a metamorphosis. Today, while animated films like *Toy Story* or *Madagascar* are becoming a global phenomenon among the young and the young at heart, animated satires like *South Park* or *The Simpsons* are targeted towards a more adult crowd. Animation is widely used in films and TV commercials as well. 'Fido Dido' from the *Tup* commercials has become a familiar character in our country.

Syed Masud Hossain, Culture and Science Programme Manager of British Council Bangladesh, says, "This festival showcases a compilation of best animation in 19 different categories such as short films, TV graphics, new technologies, sound and music. I'm astounded by the response we've received regarding this event. Our auditorium has a seating capacity of 250 people and almost every day, we had more people than we can accommodate. Aspiring animators and individuals working at ad agencies are showing an immense interest in the



(Top right) The Cramp Twins and (bottom left) Eddie & the Bear

programme as it covers cutting edge technology used in contemporary British animation.

"This is the first time we've arranged a film festival featuring animation and since we've received an outstanding response, we are contemplating future festivals and screenings similar to this."

Although there is significant number of animation enthusiasts in our country, festivals highlighting British animation have not taken place previously. This festival has been possible, thanks to the production of *Best of BAA 1994-2004*, a series of five DVDs.

Each day 10-12 titles are screened. The length of the features vary from 30 seconds to 30

minutes. Some of the notable animations being screened are: *The Wrong Brothers* by Steven Weston, *The Cramp Twins* by Becky Bristow, *Eddie & the Bear* by Tony Collingwood, *Mr Grimby's Video Diary* by Neil Jack and *Swag* by Daniel Edwards.

Maxim, a 9-year-old who had watched *Scat*, the *Stringalong Cat*, says he really enjoyed the show and hopes there would be similar "fun" shows on a regular basis. Hasan Imam, a student of Institute of Fine Arts said, "This show has presented several intriguing concepts that can inspire students. British Council's efforts are really commendable."

The festival ends today.

## Album release

### A homage to Manna Dey

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Nazrul singer Shumon Chowdhury released an album *Sradhdhanjali: Manna Dey* at the Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum Wednesday last. The album was formally unveiled by veteran Tagore exponent Kalim Sharafi and celebrated lyricist KG Mustafa.

As homage to legendary Indian singer Manna Dey, the album is a collection of 16 songs originally rendered by Manna Dey. Under the banner of SS Products, the album has been produced by Khondokar Manirul Islam Deepu. After the welcome speech by Ahsan Habib, the programme ended with Shumon's rendition of some timeless songs of Manna Dey. The songs included *Akasher moto*, *Coffee House*, *Abhimani choley jeyo na*, *Teer bhanga dheu ar neer bhanga jhar* and *Lailita go*.

"On popular demand I rendered these songs at several shows between 1972 to 1985. This album is a tribute to the great artiste. The songs evoke nostalgia," Shumon said.

He also added that the instrumental back up has lent a greater appeal to the album. As he said, "To me the art of rendition is more important than maintaining the accurate singing style." Shumon said that he took the liberty of singing the songs in a unique style.

Shumon expressed regret that the younger generation is not familiar with these classic songs and unfortunately the present state of music has lost its former glory. He said, "To avoid these substandard songs, people have to return to classical music."



Shumon Chowdhury

## Unity in diversity

Dhaka Language Club's cultural programme

KAVITA CHARANJI

The performers came from places as far flung as France, USA, UK, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Russia, Jordan, Japan and Spain. On August 24, culture cultures were in for a veritable treat at the Dhaka Language Club's programme held at the Teachers Students Centre at Dhaka University.

The programme was held on the heels of a discussion on the theme "Language and Culture form the backbone of a nation", which featured chief guest Ehsan Shamim, secretary Cultural Affairs along with special guests Marghub Morshed, former secretary, Shaheda Obaed, Education Board chairperson, Christopher Gunning, American Embassy representative and Zulfia Asaf, the managing editor of *The Bangladesh Today*. The discussion was chaired by Masud A Khan, president and CEO of the Dhaka Language Club.

Morshed spoke eloquently on the need for learning diverse languages. As he said, "Today old frontiers are disappearing and people are now exposed to external cultural influ-

ences...Through learning languages, it is possible to demystify foreign cultures."

The most enthusiastic response was reserved for the lengthy cultural programme, titled International Cultural Programme 2005. To the cheers of the audience, performers from diverse countries sang in foreign languages, danced and gave recitations. Among those who received a thunderous applause were Nursia Santawi from Indonesia who rendered what she called the *Gado Gado* song--a mix of three songs. Also pertelli was a group of French singers who gave an encore on request from the audience and Bangladeshi singers Sultana Chowdhury and Bulbul Mahalanabish.

Other singers and dance artistes included Iman, Sophie Claveller Khan, Errannel Anis, Mathilde Gasperi, Aline Bertelli and Joe Dassini.

More such cultural meets that bring together performers from different corners of the globe are definitely in order. Not only will such programmes build bridges between nations, they will help to remove misconceptions that may exist about other cultures.