

CULTURAL FEAST

Cultural Programmes on Nazrul death anniversaries

Title: Natoker Gaan
Organiser: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad
Venue: Nazrul Institute, Dhanmondi
Date: September 05, at 6:30pm

Theatre

Title: Khudito Pashan
Group: Shubchan Natya Sangsad
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Shilpkala Academy
Date: September 01, at 7pm

Title: Bisharjan
Group: Tirjik Natyadal
Venue: Laboratory Theatre Stage, Theatre Institute, Chittagong
Date: September 02

Title: Photo Exhibition
Occasion: 1000th anniversary of the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russia - the city of Kazan
Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: August 28-September 03

Title: Smiles of Vietnam
Occasion: 60th anniversary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Organiser: Shilpkala Academy
Venue: National Museum Gallery
Date: September 02-08, 11am to 7:30pm

Occasion: 1st anniversary of the terrorist attack on Secondary School in the city of Beslan, North Ossetia and Russia
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Dhanmondi
Date: September 03

Group Exhibition

Title: Shomokal-1
Artists: Monsur ul Karim, Rokeya Sultan, Kazi Rakib, Tarun Ghosh, Dilra Begum Joly, Towfigur Rahman, Shishir Bhattacharya, Fokhrul Islam, Goutam Chakraborty, Bipul Shah
Venue: Gallery Kaya, House 20, Road 16, Sector 04, Uttara
Date: September 02-15, 11am to 8pm

Title: Film Screening
Title: German Films
Organiser: Goethe-Institut with cooperation with Jahangirnagar Film Society

Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Date: September 04-08

Schedule
September 04
4:30pm Mortiru
6:15pm The Poet to Assassinate Hitler
September 05
4:30pm Witness out of Hell
6:15pm Charlotte S.
September 06
4:30pm A Love in Germany
6:30pm After Your Decrees
September 07
4:30pm Angry Harvest
6:30pm Hanussen
September 08
4:40pm The Rose Garden
6:30pm Europa Europa

Title: Uttam Kumar Retrospective
Organiser: High commission of India, Dhaka
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan 2
Date: September 03-09, everyday at 6pm
Schedule
September 03 Agni Pariksha
September 04 Pothey Holu Dori
September 05 Saptapadi
September 06 Amanush
September 07 Jay Jayanti
September 08 Shathi Hara
September 09 Ogo Badhu Shundari

In Remembrance

Shaheed Altaf Mahmud's contribution recalled

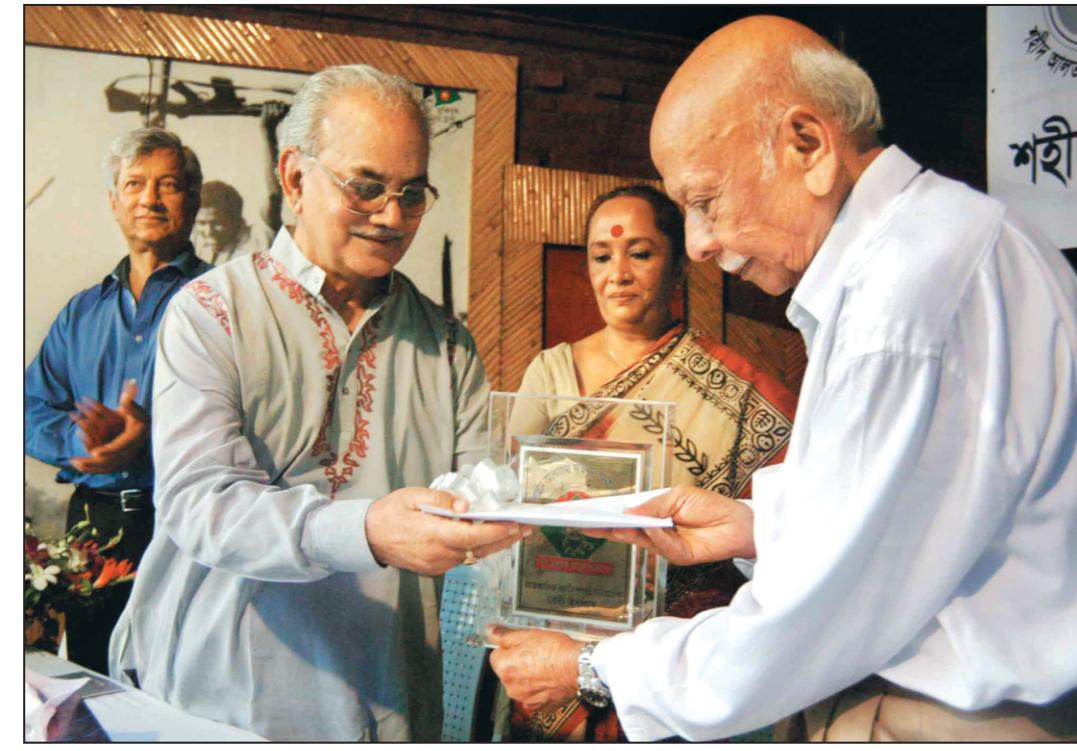


PHOTO: STAR

Baby Islam (R) receives the crest from Air Vice Marshal (Rtd) AK Khandokar

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

THE day the great composer Altaf Mahmud was picked up by the Pakistani Army, never to be found again, was observed on August 30. To mark the day, the newly established Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Foundation (SAMF) organised an award giving

ceremony including a discussion session. The programme was held at the auditorium of the Liberation War Museum, Shegun Bagicha.

Mahmud is widely known for his timeless music composition, Amar Bhaiye Rangano Ekushey February, Ami ki bhulite par? The song, which commemorates the martyrs of the Language Move-

ment, has secured him a unique position in the hearts of the Bangladeshi. He was honoured with several National Awards.

Internationally acclaimed cameraman Baby Islam won the SAMF award. In his brief speech, an emotional Islam said, "I wish to thank SAMF for this honour. I am extremely happy to have received

this award. Shaheed Altaf Mahmud's contribution to our culture, language and heritage is immense. His writings and songs should be preserved for generations to come. Thereby we can show our respect for this great composer."

After the award giving ceremony, Shaon Masud, daughter of Altaf Mahmud paid tributes to her father. In the discussion session, Shanta Srboni presented a paper written by Sara Ara Mahmud in remembrance of her husband, Shaheed Altaf. Altaf's childhood friend and the special guest of the programme Syed Abu Naser Bakhtiar recalled, "Altaf Mahmud was one of the pioneers who struggled to preserve Bangladeshi music. Through composing and singing patriotic songs, he greatly inspired the freedom fighters and pro-Liberation forces in 1971. These were broadcast by Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. In addition, he actively supported the freedom fighters. This led to his arrest by the Pakistani Army from his residence on August 30, 1971. Thereafter, he was brutally killed by them."

The chief guest of the programme Air Vice Marshal (Rtd) AK Khandokar (Buriram) said, "Altaf Mahmud used his music as a social weapon. His songs inspired the entire nation during our Liberation War and will remain a source of inspiration to us."

Later, noted artiste and convenor of the SAMF, Shrimul Yusuff rendered two songs: Joy shottor joy, joy premor joy and Amar shonar chand Altaf mara gechech mukti juddhey.



you've been gone, Think and The house that Jack built. Perhaps the most stimulating song of its time, Respect, took on several empowering translations during the era of black activism and feminism. A rallying cry for social progress, Respect, won Franklin two Grammy awards and an honorary award from Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Franklin's personal life was anything but peaceful, yet that didn't hamper

her barrage of hits. Bridge over troubled water, Don't play that song, Spanish Harlem and Rock steady were just a few of the hits Franklin scored in the early 1970s.

Franklin won Grammy awards every year between 1969 and 1975 but by the end of the '70s her record sales were beginning to dwindle.

Franklin gave her career a kick-start in 1980 with a cameo appearance in The Blues Brothers, a movie that introduced Franklin to a younger audience. That same year she left Atlantic for Arista. The recording studio produced sleek new hits like Freeway of love and Who's zoomin' who in 1985. This was Franklin's first award since 1974.

In 1987, Aretha Franklin became the first woman inducted into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame, while also winning multiple Grammy Awards. Following a hiatus in which she received the Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award in 1995, Aretha released the critically acclaimed A rose is still a rose in 1998. Post 2000, she resumed working on her new CD for Arista, her first in five years. The long awaited project, titled So Damn Happy was finally released during August 2003. The album was praised by critics and loyal fans, and its quality was validated in 2004, as Aretha won her 18th Grammy Award for the song Wonderful (in the best traditional R&B category).

Emulated by numerous aspiring divas, a list that includes recent British phenomenon Joss Stone, the popularity of the Queen still remains intact.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

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ALL TIME GREATS

Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul

The fate of gospel music was forever altered in 1956 when a 14-year-old choir girl named Aretha first belted out Precious Lord for a congregation of 4,500 at Detroit's New Bethel Baptist Church. The life of Aretha Franklin, widely known as the 'Queen of Soul', is nothing short of amazing grace—more than a dozen million-selling singles, 20 No 1 R&B hits, a civil rights award from Martin Luther King Jr, a spot in the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame, 18 Grammys and the adulation of billions of fans worldwide.

Aretha's devotion to music, though often interrupted by personal turmoil and tragedy, created a standard that remains unchallenged and unbroken even to this date. She was born on March 25, 1942 in Memphis, Tennessee, to a respected gospel singer and powerful orator who encouraged young Aretha and her sisters to hone their voices and free their spirits.

An untouchable force behind the microphone, Franklin hit a stumbling block when she became a 15-year-old unwed mother. In 1960, Franklin moved to Manhattan where she began recording demonstration tapes and attracting national attention. After declining offers from Motown and RCA, Franklin was finally snatched up by Columbia Records. When her contract expired in 1966, Atlantic Records signed her. In 1967 Aretha's gospel-charged song, I never loved a man (the way I love you), became a sensation and was the first in a long line of LPs that brought America to its knees.

During the next few years, Franklin burned with passion and intensity, selling millions of albums with Top 20 gospel-crossover hits like Respect, Baby I love you, Chain of Fools, Since

Nazrul's Death Anniversary observed in Comilla

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

The 29th death anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was recently observed in Comilla. To mark the occasion, the Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad Comilla arranged a discussion and cultural programme in the evening at the Comilla Shylorani Girls School auditorium recently. The president of the Parishad Professor Shantanu Kaiser presided over the event. Artistes rendered Nazrul songs at the programme.

After the award giving ceremony, Shaon Masud, daughter of Altaf Mahmud paid tributes to her father. In the discussion session, Shanta Srboni presented a paper written by Sara Ara Mahmud in remembrance of her husband, Shaheed Altaf.

Altaf's childhood friend and the special guest of the programme Syed Abu Naser Bakhtiar recalled, "Altaf Mahmud was one of the pioneers who struggled to preserve Bangladeshi music. Through composing and singing patriotic songs, he greatly inspired the freedom fighters and pro-Liberation forces in 1971. These were broadcast by Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. In addition, he actively supported the freedom fighters. This led to his arrest by the Pakistani Army from his residence on August 30, 1971. Thereafter, he was brutally killed by them."

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Artistes performing at the programme

perennial source of inspiration.

The discussion was followed by a cultural show participated by Sani Borua, Anonna Kor, Anamika Dey, Rina Dattu, Lituroto Dey, Guru Dass Bhattacharya, Gowri and Gulzar Hossain Ujjal, among others.

Fusion Music

London Film and Music School's jam session



(L-R) Joanne Kemp, Gabriella, Ustad Wajahat Ali Khan and Zubair Malik at the event

KARIM WAHEED

The visiting team of London Film and Music School (LFMS) held a jam session titled East meets West at British Council Auditorium on August 30. The programme featured performances by local musicians along with members of the LFMS team. As Sharmin Mursid, CEO of Brotee (Communications) put it: "Musicians who joined the workshop held earlier, worked on some tunes with the artists from the LFMS team and this evening they're going to perform those numbers. Keep this in mind, they had very little time to practice. All the numbers to be performed this evening are basically a fusion of Eastern and Western music." Brotee is the representative of LFMS in Dhaka.

In the first part of the programme, Zubair Malik was on the flute. On the keyboards were Martin Keating, principal and director of London Music School (LMS) and Gabriella, a talented student of LMS. Joanne Kemp, general manager of LMS and a singer-songwriter lent her vocals.

As the first composition began, the melancholy tune of banshi (flute), accompanied by the keyboards

Murray and in the recent times, a soul/hip hop phenomenon Lauryn Hill. Gabriella's version was a bit timid but it was easy on the ears.

Bangla, a popular band, performed in the latter part of the programme. Vocalist of the band Anushey started with a rendition of Amar lagi keu kandey na. Anushey's earthy, spirited performance rarely fails to make one feel the essence of a song and this time it was no different. "This song is special to me. It's written by Uttam Ghosh and composed by Lokman, an 11-year-old," shared Anushey. Traditional dhol added authenticity to the folk song. Bangla ended their performance with a Lalai geeti, Eshob dekhikana haat-bajer.

The programme wrapped up with a performance focusing on the dhol. The skill and zeal demonstrated by the dhol (dhol player) received several rounds of applause from a cheering crowd.

The informal jam session with a moderate crowd was a commendable effort. The programme was organised by Brotee, along with media partners The Daily Star and Channel i.

5:30	Anyway	Seconds From Disaster	Programming India
11:30	National Geographic Special	Glorious (R)	Sportcenter India
6:30	That Simpsons	Sportcenter Update (L)	Tri-Sportcenter Update (L)
7:00	Friends	Tri-Sportcenter Update (T)	Tna Xplosion (R)
8:00	Newsradio	Inside The Pga Tour (T)	Inside The Pga Tour (T)
8:30	Scrubs	Cayton Boxing Films	Mike Tyson Greatest Hits (T)
9:00	Growing Up Gotti	International Ironman Triathlon (T)	ESPN
9:30	Rockstar: Inxs	Nfl's Greatest Moments Blue Diamond (T)	Tri-Series In Zimbabwe
10:00	Arrested Development	Golden 4 Track & Field / Golden League Tdk Golden League- Weltklasse Zurich, Switzerland	Cup Zimbabwe Vs New Zealand 4th Odi, Highlights(R)
10:30	Angel	2005 Leeds, England Highlights(T)	2005 Moscow, Russia (R)
11:28	Star Asia Travel	George Gershwin classic Summertime	2005 Moscow, Russia (R)
11:30	Newsradio	The sultry jazz number recreated a hype when American Idol	