

A rendezvous with Bangla songs of last 100 years

HSBC's grand musical soiree

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

It was an endeavour second to none. A journey through a hundred years of musical history, glory and pride. It was a rare occasion as some of Bangladesh's best lyricists, composers, and singers were under the same roof. Though generations apart, their love and passion for music brought them together to give music lovers a chance to experience some gems of Bangla songs.

The event took shape through the untiring efforts of HSBC Bank, the organiser and sponsor of the event. Titled 'Shotoborshe Bangla Gaan' (Hundred Years of Bangla Songs) it was held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center last Friday.

This was the second such extensive initiative by HSBC to celebrate the last 100 years of Bangla music.

Bengal has been the hub of countless talented composers, lyricists and singers such as Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, DL Roy, Atul Prasad, Rajnikant to Radha Romon, Pronob Rai, Shaili Chowdhury, Abdul Latif and many more during the last 100 years.

With an impressive line up of 20 artistes that included Syed Abdul Hadi, Abdul Jabbar, Sabina



Clockwise (from top-centre): Shahnaz Rahmatullah performs at the event, instrumentalists and artistes during an orchestra presentation and chorus rendition, respectively

Yasmeen, Shahnaz Rahmatullah, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna, Mita Huque, Ferdous Ara, Lucky Akhand, Kumar Biswajeet, Indramohon Rajbonshi, Mitai Mukherjee and more, the audience swung to the melodies of the golden era. The concert featured 40 songs (three from each decade), selected by Dr Karunamaya Goswami and

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed.

After a welcome speech by corporate banking head of HSBC, Mahbub-ur-Rahman, Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Korunamaya Goswami and CEO of the bank, Steve Banner, also gave short speeches.

The chorus rendition of our National Anthem, written in 1905 by Tagore, was followed by an orches-

trated composition *Aji Bangladesher Hridoy Hotey* with traditional instruments such as *esraj*, *dotara*, *sitar*, *sarod*, *flute*, *dhol* etc, that created a wave of patriotic sentiment in the concert hall.

Next in line was DL Roy's iconic song *Dhono dhanyo pushpey bhora* by Mita Haq, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Mahiuzzaman Chowdhury and others. The drift of nationalism among the poets and musicians during the early 1900s made way for scores of magnificent patriotic songs. Songs from that era *Mayer deya mota kapor* (of Rajanikant Sen) by Mita Haq and *Moder gorob moder asha* (of Atul Prasad), a chorus rendition captured the sentiment thoroughly.

Sumon Majumdar and Ferdous Ara sang romantic Nazrul songs. Mohiuzzaman presented the song - *Diner sheshey ghumer deshey*. This was followed by two more Tagore songs by Bonna.

Upcoming singer Nirjhor Chowdhury received a warm response as he sang *Tumi aaj koto durey*.

A gripping chorus rendition of *Mukhtir mondir shopano toley*, composed during 1926-35, took the audience to the tumultuous days of revolt against the British Raj. Then came Indramohon with a folk song

Shain parey tor boshot bari.

Mid '60s saw the popularity of television soar in our country. Syed Abdul Hadi selected a song of that era *Kichhu bolo* followed by Sail Chowdhury's popular composition *Shat bhai Champa*, performed by Samina Chowdhury. Bashir Ahmed performed two of his popular songs *Onek shadher moina* and *Amakey poratey jodi*. Upcoming talent and last year's *Closeup 1* contestant Sonia performed *Chhaya hoye tobu pashey roibo*. Shahnaz Rahmatullah sang *Tomar aguney porano* and an all-time favourite *Jey chhilo dristir shimanay* that received a round of applause.

The final segment of the event included *Osru diye lekha e gaan* by Sabina Yasmeen, *Nishi raat* by Samina Chowdhury and *Shona shona*, a chorus rendition composed by Abdul Latif.

Inspirational song, *Purbo digantey* (written by Gobindo Haldar), aired from Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, during our Liberation War, was presented next. Abul Jabbar presented an emotive rendition of *Salam salam hajar salam*, a homage to the martyrs of the Language Movement and the Liberation War.

The programme wrapped up with songs of Mitai Mukherjee (now settled in Mumbai), Lucky Akhand and Kumar Biswajeet.

Mitai presented *Ei duniya akhon tho aar and Haraano diner moto*. As Lucky Akhand performed his romantic ditty *Ei neel monihar* there was hardly anyone who didn't join in. Kumar Biswajeet then performed *Jekhoney shimanto tomar*.

Minutes away from midnight, the six-hour concert came to an end with the song *Je matir bukey* by Syed Abdul Hadi.

Once more HSBC deserves kudos for taking up a mammoth task. Hopefully this trend will continue to inspire more such initiatives.

Indigenous Performing Art Festival 'Shongjatra': Art form with a touch of humour



PHOTO: STAR

Actors in a scene from *Shongjatra*

ERSHAD KAMOL

The rural artistes in Bangladesh, who are basically occupied with other professions, perform several *jatra* forms developed through improvisation. The presentation style of *Shongjatra*, developed and performed by the rural artistes, is unlike that of the typical *jatrapalas* performed by the professional artistes. Usually the presentation style of typical *jatrapala*, which acquired its present form during the British colonial era, is greatly influenced by the European theatre concept. However, according to the experts, we have traditional *jatra* forms, which are not crafted like Shakespearean five act-drama,

nor is the presentation style akin to the typical *jatrapala*.

Nipen Pal, a potter by profession, and his troupe staged *Shongjatra* at the Experimental Theatre Stage on February 23. The troupe from Kalihati, Tangail, presented *Shongjatra*, titled *Boiragi*, as part of the ongoing seven-day indigenous performing art form festival arranged by the Department of Theatre and Film of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

If someone analyses the name of the art form one finds that it is basically *Shonger jatra* (*jatra* presented by clowns). As a result, in a *Shongjatra*, the clowns or jokers through the jeers and meaningless dialogue and activities

skillfully take the audience into the embedded sorrow and depth of the story. And the artistes appear on stage with 'painted face' and their performance may be labeled as 'exaggeration', but not at all irritating, rather entertaining.

Nipen Pal's troupe in its *Boiragi jatra* has touched many debated current issues with a touch of humour such as 'price hike', 'land grabbing', 'birth registration act' and 'dowry system'. And the use of glasses and costumes by the actors suggest the ongoing 'fusion process' of the indigenous performing art forms at the root level.

Bhojan Pal as a joker performed exceptionally well in the show.

A world without borders

79th Academy Awards more global than ever

Clint Eastwood, that most American of actors and directors, has a film nominated for a best-picture Oscar, *Letters from Iwo Jima*, that is in Japanese, a language he doesn't speak, and was shot in Iceland because it looks a lot like Iwo Jima but was cheaper.

Not to be outdone in globalising America's most famous film awards, another best picture nominee, *Babel*, was shot in four countries with actors speaking five languages and was written and directed by two of Mexico's most talented filmmakers.

To add to the Tower of Babel-like atmosphere at this year's Oscars, best-film nominee *The Queen* was shot in Britain about a crisis in the life of Queen Elizabeth.

This year's Oscars are more global than ever including a large number of Britons and Mexicans who have received nominations.

Guillermo del Toro, the Mexican director of *Pan's Labyrinth* said in a recent interview, 'It is a beautiful paradox. A world worried about protecting borders and frontiers now has film as the new Esperanto -- crossing all borders and being a universal language.'

The Oscars have always been international, but this year the US film awards seem to have been particularly open to foreign invasion.

Seven of the 10 contenders for best actress and best supporting actress are foreigners, including best actress

front-runner Helen Mirren.

As for the actors, three out of 10 are foreign-born, including dark-horse best actor contender Peter O'Toole of Britain for *Venus*. The last Briton to win this race was Welshman Anthony Hopkins in 1992 for *The Silence of the Lambs*.

A trio of Mexican directors are competing for various awards with the films *Babel*, *Pan's Labyrinth* and *Children of Men*.

Babel picked up seven nominations - second only to *Dreamgirls* with eight -- including a directing nod for

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu. Del Toro's grim Spanish-language fairy tale *Pan's Labyrinth* followed with six nominations, including foreign-language feature. British sci-fi thriller *Children of Men* scored three nominations, including an adapted screenplay mention for director Alfonso Cuarón.

Inarritu is one of three foreigners vying for best director, alongside long-shot Britons Stephen Frears (*The Queen*) and Paul Greengrass (*United 93*). In the last 10 years, the coveted award has gone to foreigners six

times. The Oscars will be handed out on tonight at the Kodak Theatre, Los Angeles (tomorrow morning, local time).

Source: Internet

Film festival at DU

Dhaka University film Society (DUFFS) is arranging a film festival titled *Amar Bhashar Chalochchitra* from February 24 to 28 at the TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University premises. Language Movement veteran Abdul Matin will inaugurate the festival on February 24, says a press release.

Four films will be screened every day at 10:00am, 1:00pm, 4:00pm and 6:30pm.

During the five-day festival 20 Bangla films will be screened: *Khelaghor*, *Nirontor*, *Chitra Nodir Paarey*, *Nandito Narokay*, *Chhutir Ghanta*, *Aalingan*, *Hajar Bochhor Dhorey*, *Jibon Thekey Neya*, *Pich Dhala Path*, *Shareng Bou*, *Paromitar Ek Din*, *Ek Mutho Chhobi*, *Nishjapon*, *Antarmahal*, *Kantatar*, *Hirok Rajar Deshey*, *Golpo Holeo Shotti*, *Titas Ekti Nodir Naam*, *Charachar and Kamol Gandhar*.

Classical music at National Museum

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Classical music has the innate power of transporting listeners to a higher realm. A memorable evening of music, which offered a gamut of rhythms to satisfy the palate of classical music lovers, was held on February 23. Cultural organisation Saptarshi arranged the musical soiree titled *Geetadhara* in association with Unesco, Bangladesh at National Museum Auditorium.

Singers performing at the soiree were Nilotpal Sadhya, Yasmin Mushtari and Rezwan Ali. They sang a series of beautiful compositions covering the ragas in *dhrupad*, *dhamar*, *khayal*, *tappa*, *tarana* and *thumri*. They were ably supported by Sajjadur Rahman (harmonium), Ashit Biswas (*esraj*), Firoz Khan (*sitar*), Tapan Sarkar (*pakhwaj and khol*), Gazi Abdul Hakim (*flute*) and Enamul Haque Omar (*tabla*).

Rezwan Ali, director of Saptarshi, delivered his welcome speech. Malama Meleisea and Professor Alim-ur-Rahman Khan, representatives of Unesco Bangladesh, were present as special guests.



Yasmin Mushtari (2-R) and Rezwan Ali, next to her perform at the programme

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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm.
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.

CHANNEL 1
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm
News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

RTV
News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am

BTV

08:40 Bishwa Protidin
09:05 Shomapti
11:15 Drama
12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon

01:00 Maa O Shihur Kotha
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Angkar
02:40 Cartoon
05:05 Debate
06:10 Swastha Katha
06:40 Tagore Song
07:00 Shamprotik

Shongho
Dance Programme
07:20 Shukh Shur
08:35 Shapto Dinga
09:00 Travel Show
10:30 Agun Jhora Shondha

ATN Bangla
10:30 Talk Show: Onnordishti

11:15 Drama: Guptodhon
12:15 Shutho Thakun
01:30 Shomali Shada Kalo
02:30 Telefilm: Amader Rum Jhum

05:00 Gram Gonjir Khobor
05:10 Documentary Program: Propok

05:45 Ekusher Uchayaron
06:25 Three Stooges
08:00 Drama Serial: Outdoor

08:40 Drama Serial: Nirey Taar Nil Dheu
09:20 Drama Serial: Pichhutan

Channel i
08:30 Shokaler Gaan

09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone Tritomatra

11:05 Apollo Tele Prescription
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction
04:05 Citycell Medha Bikash

04:35 Amader Gaan
04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Bimela Protidin
06:00 Rupantor

06:20 Mirror
07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat

09:35 Drama Serial: Mon Chhutney Jay
10:00 Mega Serial: Jog Beyog

12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shangbad Potro

ntv
08:35 Aajker Shokal Shangkriti Ei Shoptaho

10:05 Animal Kingdom
10:30 Natorker Gaan
11:00 Baul Gaan

11:30 Ki Kotha Tahar Shathey
12:05 Ei Shomoy

01:05 Japan Video Topic
02:35 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhey Jabo Jabo

03:15 Bhalobasho Mor Gaan

04:25 Apon Aloy
05:20 Apnar Jigyasha

06:20 Shubho Shondha
06:50 Ogrojo
08:20 Drama Serial: Shanto Kutir

09:50 Drama Serial: Bhalobasho Mondobasha
11:25 Din Dorpon

CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh

09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:00 Magic Show

10:30 Bangla Feature Film
12:00 Bishwa Jurey Shatdin

03:30 Drama Serial: Shunney Boshobash

04:30 Drama Serial: Godhuli Belay

05:15 Akar Ikar
06:10 Saaj Bela
06:30 Top News

06:45 Ithasher Path
07:00 Padmoraag

08:15 Drama Serial: Shunney Boshobash

09:00 Shomoyer Swad
09:30 Cine Tune

11:00 Akar Ekar

BANGLAVISION
09:05 Desher Pathhey
09:30 Drama Feature Film

02:35 Drama Serial: Shukher Kanta

03:00 Amar Ami
03:45 Drama Serial: Krishno Pokho

04:20 Drama Serial: Guest

05:00 Protidiner Boimela
06:30 Cinebit
08:10 Drama Serial: Chaitali Jochhonay

Ekti Meye
09:15 Apnar Agami

09:50 Drama Serial: Swapno Chura

STAR MOVIES
08:35 The World Is Not Enough

10:45 Star Wars: Ep. Iii - Revenge Of The Sith

01:15 Lord Of War
03:15 Robots
04:45 National Treasure

07:00 Transporter 2
08:30 Cinderella Man
11:00 Saw

STAR WORLD
09:00 According To Jim
09:30 Desperate

Housewives

02:30 Heroes
03:30 The Apprentice
04:30 Grey's Anatomy

05:30 Hollywood Shootouts
06:00 Travel Asia
06:30 Koffee With Karan

07:30 Malcolm In The Middle
08:00 The Kumars At No. 42

08:30 Fashion House
09:30 Koffee With Karan
10:30 Angela's Eyes
11:30 Third Watch

STAR PLUS
09:00 Yatra

09:30 Krishna Kathaiyen
11:00 Khichdi
11:30 Great Indian Laughter Challenge 2

01:00 Gandhi
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends

06:00 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cod
06:30 V Trailers - Star

07:00 Shararat
07:30 Ek Se Badkar Ek
08:30 Saibaba

09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Thodi Si Zameen

Thoda Sa Aasma
11:30 Kaboom

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
09:30 Day Of The Jackal

10:30 Great Indian Witch

11:30 Hunt
12:30 Latika Tiger Princess

01:30 Kick Fighters
01:30 Kung Fu Monk
02:30 Ngorongoro
03:30 Hanging By A Thread

04:30 Nat Geo Junior
05:00 Hunt
05:00 Cindy, Chipper, Hope

05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Blue Whales
06:30 Super Tanker
07:30 Dogsworld

08:30 Kick Fighters
09:30 Kung Fu Monk
10:30 Inside
11:30 Body Double

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 Discover India

10:30 Sacred India
11:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids

12:30 Man Made Marvels Asia
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Planet Earth

03:30 Extreme Engineering
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 Mean Machines

06:00 Building The Ultimate
06:30 Meerkat Manor
07:00 Animal Camera

07:30 Wild Discovery
10:30 Night Safari
11:30 Seven Wonders Of The Industrial World

STAR SPORTS

09:00 Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss

10:30 Ashes Legends
11:30 Malaysia Airlines Football Extra

12:30 2007 Euromihoes Dakar

01:00 Hyundai Hopman Cup Xix

04:00 Fei Equestrian World

04:30 Malaysia Airlines Football Extra

05:30 Junior World Rally Championship

06:30 A1 Grand Prix

08:30 Remember The Titans

08:54 English Premier Football League

11:00 Hitz

11:30 Ashes Heroes

11:55 Spanish Football League

ESPN
09:30 Final Score

10:00 Twenty20 International - South A

11:00 Indian Legends

12:00 Sportscenter Week In Review