

Amidst rain and music, Citibank honours Sanjida Khatun

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

THE cream of the cultural arena gathered to honour Tagore exponent Dr. Sanjida Khatun at a programme organised last Friday by Citibank N.A. Titled "Borshar Gaan-e-Gunijon Shambardhona", the programme was held at the Radisson Water Garden Hotel. The tastefully decorated hall was sprinkled with leading personalities from media, government, banking and cultural organisations, and there was an expectant buzz in the air as everyone took their seats.

Sanjida Khatun has been a rare personality, nurturing the revival of Bangladeshi cultural over the last five decades. A literature professor by profession and a deeply devoted vocalist she has been a driving force to many through her sincerity and devotion to forwarding the cause of our cultural heritage. From the time in the erstwhile East Pakistan when she was under constant government surveillance to the time she established Chhayanat along

with Wahidul Haque, she had steadfastly promoted Bengali cultural, and inspired countless artistes. It was through Chhayanat that the celebration of *Pahela Baishakh* at Ramna Botomul became part of the Bengali cultural fabric. Chhayanat became the umbrella organisation for dancers, singers and musicians and achieved a symbolic status in the country, somewhat like Rabindranath's Shanti Niketan.

In his speech, Mamunur Rashid, country director and managing director of Citibank NA, noted Sanjida Khatun's contribution to the field of performing arts, specifically Rabindra Sangeet, in Bangladesh. Professor Rafiqul Islam, in his speech, mentioned how he had observed the seasoned artiste over the last six decades as a friend and colleague. He noted how her indomitable spirit and devotion had helped create the sustainable platform for promoting Bangladeshi culture.

The Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed then ceremoniously handed over a commemorative crest, on



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

(L-R) Tapan Chowdhury, Dr. Sarwar Ali and Dr. Sanjida Khatun at the programme (top), artiste Mita Huq sings at the event

behalf of Citibank, to Sanjida Khatun. Dr. Ahmed noted how inseparable Sanjida has become with our heritage to the point that it was difficult to distinguish between the two, much like the difficulty in distinguishing between "the dance and the dancer".

Advisor to the Caretaker Government Tapan Chowdhury, on behalf of Citibank NA, then presented a cheque for US \$2,500, which Sanjida donated to Chayanat. Receiving the cheque, treasurer of Chhayanat, Dr. Sarwar Ali stressed on Sanjida Khatun's uncompromising stance in promoting Bengali culture.

Sanjida, in her acceptance speech, noted the importance of promoting culture that transcended the boundaries of reli-

gion and race. Chhayanat, she said, had grown into its present state not with any assistance from the government or other organisations, but backed by donations from countless patriotic citizens -- both at home and abroad. To her, this is a testament of how dearly people hold on to their heritage and are ready to defend it from any force, whether internal or external.

The ceremony was followed by a collection of songs celebrating the season of monsoon -- rendered by leading artistes Mita Huq, Khurshid Alam and Shahin Samad.

The occasion was part of a series of events Citibank organises to recognise personalities who have made a difference in the cultural scene of Bangladesh.

Citycell-Mahakal Theatre Festival '07

Today's attraction: "Meraj Fakirer Maa"



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Theatre will stage *Meraj Fakirer Maa* today at the Experimental Theatre Stage, as part of the ongoing Citycell-Mahakal Theatre Festival '07 arranged by Mahakal Natyasampradaya. This is the 93rd show of Theatre's popular production *Meraj Fakirer Maa*, written and directed by Abdullah Al Mamun.

Meraj Fakirer Maa is a satire on the tendency of the fanatics, who twist the religious doctrines for their own benefit. The play also highlights a debate between fundamentalism and progressiveness. *Meraj Fakirer Maa* raises questions like 'should one's religious beliefs compel him/her to disown his/her mother'.



A scene from *Meraj Fakirer Maa*

"Hiraphool": TV play generating awareness on HIV/AIDS

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Written by Selim Al Din and directed by Afzal Hossain, ongoing drama serial *Hiraphool* revolves around a young woman, Hiraphool, who moves to the city from a village.

After completing her SSC, Hiraphool is forcibly married off to a stranger working in the Middle East. When her husband dies all of a sudden, Hiraphool is accused of being jinxed and is forced to leave the village. She takes refuge at a relative's home in the city. Adnan, son of Hiraphool's aunt, is rowdy and addicted to drugs. One night he returns home and in his drunken stupor attacks Hiraphool. Adnan however, goes through a change when he suspects that he might be HIV positive. The drama serial follows how the family deals with Adnan's behaviour and general attitude towards HIV/AIDS.

Tinni, Joy, Chitralekha Guho and others play the central roles. The serial is aired on BTV every Thursday at 7:30pm.



A scene from *Hiraphool*

Cultural programme in Netrakona

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

A discussion on National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore was held recently at Mahua Auditorium in Netrakona district town. The programme was jointly organised by Netrakona Shilpakala Academy and District Administration Netrakona.

The programme was presided over by Dr. Piar Mohammad, Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Netrakona. Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Netrakona, Ayet Ullah Majumder was the chief guest and Netrakona Pourashabha Chairman, Nazrul Islam Khan, attended the programme as special guests.

Renowned Baul song researcher Golam Ershadur Rahaman discussed on the life and literature of Rabindranath Tagore and Professor Matindra



Artistes perform at the programme

Sarkar discussed on the works of Kazi Nazrul Islam.

After discussion a cultural programme was held. Artistes of Netrakona Shilpakala Academy

performed songs of Nazrul and Rabindranath, along with dances. Artistes, litterateurs, intellectuals, teachers and students were present at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

CULTURALFEAST

Art Exhibition

Title: Colours from Hills
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (new), 26 (old), Dhanmondi R/A
Date: July 19 to August 1
Time: 3pm to 8pm

Theatre Festival

Title: Nobo anonde jago aji nobo robir kirono
Organiser: Mohakal Natya Sampraday
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Play: Meraj Fakirer Ma
Troupe: Theatre
Date & Time: July 22, 7pm

Play: Nokshi Kantha
Troupe: Bangladesh Theatre
Date & Time: July 23, 7pm

Play: Tripura Rajar Upakhan
Troupe: Durbar Natya Gosthi
Date & Time: July 24, 7pm

Play: Rarang
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadal
Date & Time: July 25, 7pm

Solo Exhibition

Artist: Rashid Amin
Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi
Date: July 10 to July 24
Time: 12am to 9pm

Exhibition

Sanjoy's metaphoric world in turquoise

FAYZA HAQ

Sanjoy Das' paintings at the recently ended exhibition, *Metaphoric City*, held at Zainul Gallery-2, deal with the complexities of urban life. "The city sometimes takes the shape of a book or even texture of the background of the paintings. I've taken the city as my subject as I feel I'm deeply attached to it," says Sanjoy.

One of the paintings, *Urban Life*, has a huge open book with rats eating into the pages. The pages comprise of innumerable motifs of houses, done with the precision of an architect in blue, green and red. At the side of the book are a table lamp and a chair. The painting is a symbolic one, delineating the turbulent times the city has seen earlier.

Another massive painting has countless transformers with tiny yellow bulbs. A golden eagle, strides the scene. The lines and geometrical shapes, in turquoise, green and blue, have been done

neatly so that they appear like a careful setting for the bird.

A woman is featured in another scene and city buildings are found all over her attire. In the drapery design is a curling snake devouring a frog. The woman's hair appears like a flowing river. This is, again, a dream sequence.

An enormous cow is seen in a painting and in its eyeballs are reflections of the city, with its crowding houses. Below is a tiny racing cow, taken from the village. On the tablecloth in the painting *Urban Life 03* are orange pattern of houses. The spilt water from a glass introduces a path. Three people are seen having their meal on the table, while a yellow cat leaps on the table. Through three windows the city, in startling red and pinks, is visible.

A young man with a guitar is seen in front of a huge sliding glass window. A blonde Barbie doll in pink hangs from the window. Cars and houses cram the background done in shades of blue and green.



An artwork by Sanjoy Das

Sanjoy has done his BFA and MFA from Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan. He has received two awards -- the Golden Bush Award

(2006), and "chaya" Sree Award (2006), both in India. Sanjoy currently teaches at Santo Mariam University of Creative Technology.

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Pichhutan

On ATN Bangla at 9:20pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Dolly Zahur, Tauquir Ahmed



Derailed

On Star Movies at 7:00pm

Genre: Drama

Cast: Clive Owen, Jennifer Aniston

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, 12:15am.

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.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00pm.

CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

Rtv

News (Bangla) at 10:15pm, and 12:15am

ntv

News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV

News (Bangla): 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

BTv

08:45 *Bishwa Bichitra*
11:15 Documentary Programme
11:40 *Laukik Bangla*
01:00 *Maa O Shishur Kotha*
01:30 *Mati O Manush*
02:15 Drama: Old Home
03:05 *Shotorupa*
03:30 Educational Programme
04:00 *Krira Diganto*
05:05 Debate
06:10 *Swastha Kotha*
06:40 Musical Programme
07:05 *Nritter Taley Taley*
07:30 *Shomoyer Shonglap*
08:30 *Protidin Bangladesh*
08:35 Drama Serial: *Shesh Prishthay Dekhun*
09:00 Drama: *Grisher Chhuti*
10:30 Talk Show

ATN Bangla

10:30 Talk Show: AKTEL
Onnodrishti
11:05 Drama: *Dompoti Porbo*
12:15 Talking Point
01:30 *Shomali Shadakalo*
04:20 Telefilm: *Romeo*
05:00 *Gram Gonjer Khobor*
05:45 The Sword of Tipu Sultan
06:25 Three Stooges
08:00 Drama Serial: *Out Door*
08:40 Drama Serial: *Sojyod*

Barir Bou
Drama Serial: *Pichhutan*
11:30 Musical Programme
12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

Channel-i

08:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
09:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 *Grameenphone Tritiomatra*
11:05 *Apollo Tele Prescription*
11:30 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*
12:30 *Citycell Taroka Kathan*
01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Drama Serial: *Priobash*
03:30 *Shomoyer Shonglap*
04:50 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
05:30 *Muktijudho Protidin*
06:00 *Shoppil Agami*
06:20 South Asian
07:50 *Mega Serial: Bhober Haat*
09:35 *LUX Channel-i Super Star '07*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Hritita*
11:30 Drama Serial: *Ekanyobarti*
12:00 *Grameenphone Aiker Shangbad Potro*

ETV

08:00 *Ekusher Shokal*
01:30 *Drishti*
03:30 *Chirontoni*
04:00 *Mukto Khobor*
04:30 Drama Serial: *Biraler Oporadh*
07:30 *Desh Jurey*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Shukhi Manush Project*
09:15 *Ekusher Shomoy*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Bondhon*
11:45 *Reporter's File*
12:00 *Ekusher Raat*

Channel 1

08:40 *Shuprobhath Bangladesh*
09:30 *Chokh Mele Dekhi*
10:30 *Bangla Feature Film*
02:00 *Amar Nayokera*
03:30 *Olpo Sholpo Golpo*
04:00 *Shondhikhonbey*
04:30 *Shomoyer Swad*
05:15 *Rupantoror Golpo*
06:00 *Saaj Bela*
06:45 *Itihasheer Path Dhorey*
07:00 *Padmorag*
08:15 *Drama: Neel Joler*
09:30 *Swapno Cine tune*

BANGLAVISION

09:05 Drama Serial: *Shesh Odhay*
09:30 *Bangla Feature Film*
12:30 Public Forum
02:30 *Bhokab*
02:40 Drama Serial: *Bachelor Dompoti*
03:10 *Nodi O Jibon*
04:15 Music Moments
05:00 Cine bit
05:40 *Citycell Diner Sheshay*
06:35 Sports Vision
08:15 Drama Serial: *Projapati*

STAR PLUS

08:45 Independence Day
11:15 *Dirty Work*
12:45 *Transporter 2*
02:15 *The Truth About Love*
03:45 *First Kid*
09:00 *Yatra*
10:30 *Star Voice Of India*
07:15 *Star Voice Of India*
08:30 *Saibaba*
09:30 *Prithviraj Chauhan*
10:00 *Baa Bahoo Aur Baby*
10:30 *Aek Chabhi Hai Padoss Mein*
11:30 *Kasauti Zindagii Kay*

STAR WORLD

09:30 *Desperate Housewives*
10:30 *Prison Break*
11:30 *Day Break*
12:30 *On The Lot*
01:30 *Life As We Know It*
02:30 *Falcon Beach*
03:30 *The Apprentice*
04:30 *Boston Legal*
05:30 *Hollywood Shootout*
06:00 *Travel Asia*
06:30 *Koffee With Karan*
07:30 *The Simpsons*
08:00 *Malcolm In The Middle*
08:30 *Falcon Beach*
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10:30 *Law & Order: S.V.U.*
11:30 *Third Watch*

STAR MOVIES

08:25 *Krippendorff's Tribe*
10:00 *The Patriot*
12:45 *The Pacifier*
02:25 *Cheaper By The Dozen 2*
04:00 *On The Lot*
05:00 *The Ticket*
05:30 *Transporter 2*
07:00 *Derailed*

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Yes Minister - S3

02:00 *A Quality of Life*
02:45 *A Question of Loyalty*
03:30 *Dreadnoughts and Crosses*
04:30 *History Rocks: The 70's*
06:30 *Nero*
09:30 *Nero*
10:30 *Modern Marvels*
12:30 *Oscar Wilde*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 *The Living Edens*
10:30 *Killer Leopards*
11:30 *Killer Tigers of India*
12:30 *Meltdown in Chernobyl*
01:30 *Cars*
02:30 *Deadly Summer*
03:30 *Suicide Attack*
04:30 *Get Outta Town*
05:00 *Ana, Bill, Banjo*
05:30 *Big Bang*
06:00 *Sable Island*
06:30 *MegaShip*
07:30 *The Living Edens*
08:30 *Mumbai Mega Flood*
09:30 *Delhi in Flames*
10:30 *Nat Geo Amazing Moments*
11:30 *Tracks of a Stalker*

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

09:30 *Discover India*
10:30 *Colours of India*
11:30 *Baby Story*
12:00 *Mean Machines*
12:30 *Future Weapons*

FM radio



Radio Foorti

07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)
11:00am Amar 98.4 (Nusrat)
03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sabir)
07:00pm Seven Eleven (Sadia)
11:00pm Late Night Show

Life In the Undergrowth

01:30 *Life In the Undergrowth*
02:30 *Baby Story*
03:00 *Baby Whisperer*
03:30 *I Shouldn't Be Alive*
04:30 *Raw Nature*
05:30 *How Do They Do It?*
06:00 *Million 2 One*
06:30 *Everest: Beyond the Limit*
07:30 *Raw Nature*
08:30 *Discovery's Biggest Shows*
10:30 *Night Safari*
11:30 *Mummy Autopsy*

ESPN

08:00 *European Rhythmic Championships*
10:00 *City Slam (Espn Original Enterta*
12:00 *Sportscenter Week In Review*
12:30 *Tour De France 2007*
01:00 *2005 Men's Trick Shot Magic*
02:00 *2007 Espy Awards*
03:55 *Sportscenter Weekend*
04:00 *The Open Championship 2007*
12:30 *Winter X-Games X - Day 1 Pt 2*