

Shaam-e-Ghazal with Ustad Ghulam Ali

KARIM WAHEED

ROUND 6pm, August 3: Ghazal enthusiasts eagerly waited in the Grand Ball Room, Radisson Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka. The Ustad did not, however, keep his audience waiting. It was a rather refreshing demonstration of punctuality. Perhaps those who believe in the 'justifiable' antics of ustads, divas and stars, could take note.

Letting the instrumentalists tune their *tabla*, guitar and *sitar*, the Ustad started an *alaap*, as if fine-tuning his vocals for the main event. The main event: an evening of ghazals with Ustad Ghulam Ali Khan, one of the most renowned exponents of the genre.

As part of Pakistan's 60th independence day (August 14) celebration, the Pakistan High Commission organised the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Sajida Iqbal Syed, press minister for Pakistan, said, "Rendition of ghazal is an art and every accomplished artiste develops a unique style. When ghazals were used in films and their popularity soared, certain elements were incorporated. Ghazals started sounding less like 'poetry in motion' and more like film songs. Ustad Ghulam Ali liberated ghazals from that trend. His extensive *taaalin* in classical music enabled him to ornate ghazals with unmistakable nuances of raagas."

Sajida Iqbal also hoped that this visit of Ustad Ghulam Ali would further strengthen the cultural ties between



Ghulam Ali performs at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The Ustad started with a rendition of Mirza Ghalib's *Har ek baat pe kahte*

ho tum ke tu kya hain, tumhii kaho ke ye andaaz-e-guftguu kya hai. Elaborated taan, sargam and tehayee were

met with rounds of applause. Sabir Hossain Khan from Islamabad made a fine demonstration of his mastery over the *tabla*. In between renditions, *sawaal-jawaab* between the Ustad and Bangladeshi instrumentalist Firoze Khan on *sitar* was impressive. Salahuddin Shantanu provided *sangat* on the harmonium.

An inimitable trait of the Ustad is that while rendering ghazals he creates subtle vibrations, which he uses beautifully, to convey a range of emotions. He can make the same line sound hopelessly romantic or melancholy, namely interpret it in any way he wants, effortlessly.

In the course of the evening the Ustad rendered ghazals penned by Faiz Ahmed Faiz. During a rendition of the Nisar Bazmi classic, *Dil mein ek leher si uthhi hai abhi*, the artiste treated the audience to a wave of notes, as if to justify the words.

Ustad Ghulam Ali also performed a ghazal written by Sajida Iqbal Syed, *Ussey main kahne jo gayee*. The repertoire included a Bangla song as well as *Megh eshey chhuye chhuye*, written and composed by M. Asafudda.

It is understood that ghazals and Urdu are indivisible and one must have a proper understanding of the language to enjoy songs that belong to the genre. However, at an event attended by diplomats, government officials and the local media, it is a norm that the speakers use either English or have an interpreter. The organisers should not regard that everyone speaks or understands their native language.

Cultural programme for youngsters at British Council

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The British Council's Young Learners' Centre (YLC) organised a daylong event titled YLC Cultural Day 2007 yesterday, featuring performances by youngsters at the British Council Auditorium, Dhaka. YLC was formed in 1998 by British

Council to provide youngsters, between the ages of 4 to 14 years, with a platform, where they will be able to nurture their creative ideas through interaction with contemporary British children's literature, visual arts, films and more.

A cultural programme by the youngsters of YLC followed the opening ceremony. Children performed songs, recitations and dances. The programme was

followed by a Sisimpur puppet show and a magic show. The event wrapped up with a chorus rendition of the Tagore song *Amra shobai raja*. A total of 250 children participated at the event. A noticeable performance was staged by Adil, an autistic adolescent. He rendered a song.

4X4



Special TV programmes on Tagore's death anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Channel-i

To observe Rabindranath Tagore's death anniversary, Channel-i will air special programmes. Highlights of the programmes:

Based on Tagore's short story *Pratihingsha*, a two-episode TV play *Indrani Janeey* will be aired at 11:30pm on August 5 and 6. Dramatisation has been done by Professor

Momotajuddin Ahmed and Rehana Samdani has directed the play. Shahed, Priya Dias, Tazin, Hillol and Momotajuddin Ahmed have played the lead roles.

Special episode of popular talk show *Grameenphy Tritiyomatra* will be aired at 9:45pm on August 6. Hosted by Faridur Reza Shagor, the programme will highlight Tagore's life and works.

Noted poets of the country will recite poems on Tagore in the

Noted Tagore singer Rezvana Chowdhury Banya hosts the programme *Shaboney Plaboney*

ATN Bangla

Special programmes on Tagore's death anniversary (August 6), to be aired on ATN Bangla:

Participated by Tagore singers Sadi Mohammad, Lili Islam, Shama Ali, Amina Ahmed; reciters Kazi Arif, Pragna Laboni, Rupa Chakraborty and dancers Sohel and Ria a special

magazine programme *Hridoye Rabindranath* will be aired at 11:05am. The programme is directed by Fakhruddin Abedin.

Poet Monzur-e Mowla, Nirmolendu Goon and artistes Sadia Islam Mou, Tamanna Mohsin and Sabina Bari Lucky have taken part in *Tumi Robey Nirobey*. The programme will be aired at 11:35am.

Selim Al Deen (3-R) hosts *Shondhamegher Shesh Shonatey*

Banglavision

The programme *Chole Chholochhola Nodidhara* is focused on Tagore's thoughts on river. Selim Al Deen shares his views on the topic and Bhaswar Banerjee recites Tagore's poems and Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, Lili Islam and Henry Rahman render songs on river at the programme. The programme will be aired at 8:15pm.



Based on Tagore's short story the play *Muktir Upay* featuring Al Mansur, Shakil and Mira will be aired at 8:55pm.

Dance drama *Chitrangoda* featuring Likhon and Nadia will be aired at 6:35pm.

Recitation programme *Chiropriyo Rabindranath* will be aired at 11:30pm. Kazi Abu Zafar Siddique, Shimul Mustafa, Ria Mahmud and Ahkamullah will recite Tagore's popular poems in the programme.

ON AIR

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

BTV

08:45 Bishwa Bichitra
11:15 Documentary Programme

08:40 Drama Serial: Sojyod Barir Bou
09:20 Drama Serial: Pichhutan

11:40 Lokolokoy

01:00 Maa O Shishur
Kotha

01:30 Mati O Manush

02:15 Drama: Ordhek
03:05 Cartoon

03:30 Educational Programme

04:00 Shotorupa
04:30 Khele Dhula

05:05 Debate

06:10 Prescription

06:40 Musical Programme

07:05 Dance Programme

07:30 Shomoyer Shonglap

08:30 Protidin Bangladesh

08:35 Drama Serial: Shesh

Prishthay Dekhun

09:00 Golpo Theke Natok

10:30 Shangbadpotre

10:30 Heritage

01:45 Public Reaction

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk Show: AKTEL

Onnordishti

03:05 Chance 50-50

CHANNEL-i

11:05 Drama: Biprotip

12:15 Talking Point

01:15 Shornali Shadakalo

01:30 Drama

05:30 Muktijudho Protidin

03:05 Telefilm: Bumerang

04:20 Telefilm: Brishti

05:00 Gram Gorjer Khobor

05:10 Prapok

05:45 The Sword of Tipu

Sultan

ATN BANGLA

06:25 Three Stooges

Rtv

08:00 Drama Serial: Out

Door

ntv

08:30 Ajker Shokal
08:55 Shanto Kutir

09:30 Shangbadpotre

10:15 Sa Re Ga Ma

10:30 Shangkruti Ei

11:15 Shantokutir

12:00 Grameenphone

12:30 Shantokutir

02:30 Shantokutir

03:15 Onirbaan

04:25 Apon Aloye

05:45 Apnar Jigyasha

06:45 Itihaser Path Dhorey

07:00 Padmoraag

08:15 Drama: Coffee House

09:00 Drama: Suborno

10:00 Music Music

11:00 Music Station

12:00 Shudhu Gaan

12:00 Shongbad Protidin

01:00 Shongbad Protidin

02:00 Shongbad Protidin

03:00 Shongbad Protidin

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