

CULTURALFEAST

Theatre

Title: Rater Olithi
Troupe: Theatre Centre
Venue: Mahila Samiti Stage
Date: September 20
Time: 7pm

Title: Jugalbandi
Troupe: Bangaranga Natyadol
Venue: Mahila Samiti Stage
Date: September 22
Time: 7pm

Recitation Programme

Title: Bipanna Manusher Pashey Darai
Organiser: Konthoshilan
Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: September 20
Time: 7:15

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Drohe Nari, Nirbane Nari
Artist: Maksudul Ahsan
Venue: Shilpangan, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi
Date: September 7-21
Time: 12 pm to 8 pm

Leading the film society movement in Bangladesh

A profile of Rainbow Film Society

AHSAN HABIB

RAINBOW Film Society, one of the oldest film societies in Bangladesh, started its journey on December 26, 1977 with a group of film enthusiasts.

The Film Society arranges regular projection of films from different countries and organises film related seminars and workshops. It also brings out the only quarterly magazine on creative cinema from Bangladesh, *Celluloid*, which reaches readers all over world. *Celluloid* has continued its publication since 1978 facing lots of difficulties. Primarily it was published yearly and since 1995 it has been published quarterly. As is widely appreciated, *Celluloid* is known for its serious reflections on filmmaking and avowed approach towards healthy cine-journalism. Despite serious efforts Rainbow cannot bring out some issues on time due to non-availability of sponsors. Scarcity of sponsors is hampering its publication regularly. But it continues with its publication for last 27 years with the support from well wishers and friends.

Rainbow organised Dhaka Film Festival in 1992. From 1995, Dhaka International Film Festival became a biennial festival.

Rainbow Film Society in London annually organises the Bangladesh Film Festival. The annual Bangladesh Film Festival is the only film festival in the UK exclusively dedicated to Bangladeshi cinema. Taking place in East London, the festival provides a rare opportunity for the large local Bangladeshi community to be in touch with classical and contemporary entertainment from their country, whilst also



allowing people from other backgrounds to discover Bangladeshi cinema. Rainbow Film Society organised 7th Bangladesh Film Festival recently in London.

The main shortcoming is however the lack of patronage and support of the government. This is however the prerequisite for the development of a true cinema culture in a country. But the concerned authority has created obstacles, including the unfair censorship attempts. Government has never extended its support in the progress of this film society movement.

Lack of any premise for screening is another major problem.

Rainbow film Society was established with the objective to create a healthy cinema climate

in the country. Rainbow endeavours to improve the quality of local films, to motivate producers and scriptwriters to encourage depiction of positive but realistic images of life, and refrain from plagiarism and to encourage youth to participate in the movement for healthy cinema.

Rainbow believes that thoughtful use of cinema has a great potentiality in educating people about life as a whole. Good cinema can make people more empathetic, more sensitive, more caring and loving. At the same time it can make the viewers aware of their rights and responsibilities. Cinema can be a vehicle of protest against all forms of corruption and injustice.

Problems, however, remain the same as it was in the beginning.

The Rainbow Film Society aspires to build a cine complex named 'Dhaka Film Centre' which will provide auditorium, library, training and workshop, festival venue, publication and cafeteria facilities.

"We don't know whether we'll be successful, but we are trying with the same passion and enthusiasm. A great number of people share our passion," said the Raibow Film society authorities.

Rainbow Film Society embraces the art, technology and innovation of the world's most imaginative storytellers who use the moving image to celebrate humanity while educating, entertaining and enriching the audiences of the world.

Membership of the organisation is open to all interested in films. Anyone paying taka 1000 can be a member of Rainbow Film Society for a year.

TV serial "Mohanagar" on Banglavisision tonight



A scene from the series

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV serial *Mohanagar* will be aired tonight at 8:20pm on Banglavisision. Written by Ferdous Hasan, the serial is directed by Sazzad Suman and Ferdous Hasan.

The story revolves around the family of Anfar Miyan. Raj, one of the younger members of the family, is unemployed and carefree. His grandfather Anfar Miyan was a well-known politician and businessman. Dalim Minya, Angur Minya and Akhrot Minya -- Anfar Miyan's sons -- are a teacher, a government employee and a naxalite respectively. Gradually Raj becomes rebellious after discovering the questionable family history.

Mamunur Rashid, Khairul Alam Sabuj, Afroza Banu, Sumaiya Shimu, Apurbo, Litu Anam, Bijori Barkatullah and Sharmin Shila play the lead roles in the serial.

Mohanagar is aired from Sunday to Thursday at 8:20pm.

Music and recitation competition by World Vision Bangladesh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A three-day long annual competition arranged by World Vision Bangladesh Mymensingh ADP at the organisation's auditorium located at Shaheeb Quarter Park began recently. The competition featuring rendition of songs, poetry recitation and dance, concluded yesterday.

Manager of World Vision Mymensingh ADP, Samarendra Sangma inaugurated the competition.

Noted classical music trainer Ustad Sunil Dhar and recitor Amjad Dolan, were judges at the programme.

Some 200 students from 50 schools sponsored by World Vision



Speakers at the programme

Bangladesh attended the competition in eight groups. Twenty-four contestants received prizes at the competition.

ALL TIME GREATS

Begum Akhtar: The queen of ghazals

Begum Akhtar poured her heart and soul into ghazals. Rightly known as Malika-e-ghazal (queen of ghazals), she had a unique style of singing which few have been able to emulate. In fact one just needs to look at some of her songs to realise her passion and acute observation of human nature. Just eight days before her death on October 30, 1974, she recorded Kaifi Azmi's brilliant ghazal:

Sunaa karo meri jaan un se un ke afsane
Sab ajnabi hain yahaan kaun kis ko pahchaane
(My love, listen to her story
Everyone here is a stranger;
none recognises anyone)

Some singers develop a talent for their art even when they hail from less musically inclined families. Begum Akhtar clearly belonged to this category. Born in the small town of Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh, India on October 7, 1914, she developed a taste for music at the age of seven when she was captivated by the music of Chandra Bai, an artiste attached to a touring theatre group.

At her uncle's initiative she undertook training from sarangi exponent Ustad Imdad Khan from Patna. At a later stage she trained under Ata Mohammed Khan of Patiala.

Later, she journeyed to Calcutta, accompanied by her mother, and started learning music from classical stalwarts such as



Mohammad Khan and Abdul Waheed Khan of Lahore. Finally she gained musical instruction with Ustad Jhande Khan Saheb.

At the young age of 15, Begum Akhtar gave her first public

performance. The show was a resounding success. Many accolades came her way thereafter. Famous poetess Sarojini Naidu expressed her admiration of the

ghazal singer at a concert organised in aid of the victims of the Bihar earthquake. Subsequently, Begum Akhtar immersed herself fully into ghazals. She also cut her first disc for the Megaphone Record Company around this time. Her *ghazals*, *dadras* and *thumris* were released in the form of gramophone records.

Begum Akhtar also took a foray into the rough and tumble world of films. Among the films in which she starred were *Mumtaz Begum* (1934), *Naseeb ka Chakkar* (1936), *Roti* (1942) and *Jalsaghar* (a 1958 film directed by Satyajit Ray).

The great singer also sang in several films but opted out when she chanced to hear singers like Gauharjaan and Malakjaan. She decided to pursue instead a career in classical music.

Begum Akhtar's formidable talent gained wide recognition. She received the Sangeet Natak Akademi award for vocal music and a Padma Shri a few years before her death.

Unfortunately though she was awarded the Padma Bhushan only posthumously.

Though born with the name Akhtaribai Faizabadi, after her marriage to barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed Abbasi, she became known as Begum Akhtar. For five years after her marriage she perforce had to call a halt to her singing career because of her husband's

restrictions. Subsequently she fell ill and music was prescribed as the only remedy. In 1949, she staged a return to the recording studios. She sang three *ghazals* and a *dadra* at the Lucknow Radio Stationa moving event after which she burst into tears. She then returned to singing in concerts, a practice which lasted until her death.

In the course of her life, Begum Akhtar sang nearly 400 songs, *ghazals* and other light classical piecesall in her inimitable style. She was also a performer on All India Radio. She mostly composed her own *ghazals* and most of the compositions were raag based.

Begum Akhtar's end came after her last concert in Ahmedabad. A stickler for perfection, she raised the pitch of her voice as she felt that her singing that day had been below par. As it happened, she had been under the weather that day and the extra demand and stress she put herself under resulted in her falling ill and being rushed to the hospital. She died in the arms of her long time friend Nilam Gamadia who had invited her to Ahmedabad for what turned out to be her last performance.

Despite Begum Akhtar's passing, the *ghazal* world will remember this doyen.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Shabana Azmi sings again



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

After her singing debut in *The Morning Raga*, leading actress Shabana Azmi will once again be back with the same feat in her forthcoming movie *Loins of Punjab*.

In the film, Azmi plays the role of a Non-resident Indian socialite from New Jersey who takes part in a song competition to win thousands of dollars to donate them to a charity. She is seen singing the number *Chura liya hai* to which Bollywood's yesteryears actress Zeenat Aman had lent her lips in 1970s.

Azmi is quite exited about her role in "Loins of Punjab" as this is the first time she is made to sing live before an audience for the film.

"I was scared...I'm just a bathroom singer...I had stage fright," the 56-year-old actress, who carved a niche for herself through some memorable performances in meaningful cinema, told *Indian Express* newspaper.

For *The Morning Raga*, Azmi had taken training in classical music for six months but it is not clear whether she had gone through a similar exercise for the forthcoming flick.

Apart from *Loins of Punjab*, Azmi will be seen in a movie by actor-turned-director Mahesh Acharya's debut film which stars Ayesha Dharker and Indian-American actor Ajay Naidu.

Besides, she also appears in a film made by her step son Farhan Akhtar to promote awareness about HIV/AIDS for Belinda and Bill Gates Foundation.

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 8:00 pm.

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

11:15 Documentary Programme

11:40 *Angona*

12:05 *Maa O Shishur Kotha*

12:30 *Bhabbar Bishoy*

01:00 Documentary Programme

01:30 *Shukhi Poribar*

02:15 ICC World Twenty 20

02:40 *Esho Gaan Shikhi*

03:05 Cartoon

03:30 *Oitithi Shilpider Ashor*

04:05 *Sangeeta*

04:30 *Apon Bhumi*

05:05 *Sisimpur*

05:30 Documentary Programme

05:35 Islamic Programme

06:10 ICC World Twenty 20

09:15 Drama Serial: *Ar Ekbar*

10:30 ICC World Twenty 20

ATN Bangla

10:30 ATN Commentary Box

11:05 Drama: *Pownadar*

12:15 *Shurer Madhuri*

12:45 *Shodaipati*

01:30 *Nari*

02:30 Drama Serial: Doll's House

03:10 *Shesh Ondhokar*

04:20 Quiz Programme

05:00 *Gram Gorjor Khoror*

05:10 *Khotomey Quran*

05:30 Islamic Programme

06:20 *Hamd-Nath*

06:25 *Mugli*

08:00 Drama Serial: *Shokal Shondha*

08:45 Drama: *Koto Chena*

09:20 Drama Serial: *Amader Nurul Huda*

11:30 Drama Serial: Doll's House

12:00 GrameenPhone Lead News

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Selected Programme

11:05 Selected Programme

12:30 *Citycell Tarokakathan*

01:05 Tax Helpline

01:15 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*

01:30 Selected Programme

02:40 Selected Programme

03:05 *Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak*

04:05 Drama Serial: Tarzan

04:30 *Mukhtijudho Protidin*

05:20 *Sroshtar Shakhkhhor*

05:30 Islamic Programme

06:15 Cookery Show

06:30 *Amar Chhobi*

08:20 Drama Serial: *Adhutoray*

09:35 Drama Serial: *Ankush*

10:00 Drama Serial: Darwin

11:30 Drama Serial: *Aste Aste*

12:00 GrameenPhone *Ajker Shongbadpotro*

Rtv

09:00 Rtv Exclusive

09:05 *Witch Blade*

09:35 *Ei Desh*

10:00 Documentary Programme

10:30 *Protidin*

11:30 Drama Serial: *Dohon*

12:15 Akbar the Great

Koto Ochena

Drama Serial: *Amader Nurul Huda*

Drama Serial: Doll's House

12:00 GrameenPhone Lead News

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Selected Programme

11:05 Selected Programme

12:30 *Citycell Tarokakathan*

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09:35 *Ei Desh*

10:00 Documentary Programme

10:30 *Protidin*

11:30 Drama Serial: *Dohon*

12:15 Akbar the Great

Channel 1

08:40 *Shuprobhat Bangladesh*

09:30 *Akar Ikar*

10:30 Bangla Feature Film

02:00 Cookery Show

03:30 Drama Serial: *Godhuli Belay*

04:00 Drama Serial: *Gujob*

04:30 Show Case

05:15 Islamic Programme

06:45 *Ilthasher Path Dhorey*

07:00 Cookery Show

08:15 Drama: *Ekjon Kobi*

09:30 The One

11:00 *Akar Ikar*

11:30 Small Ville

BANGLAVISION

09:05 *Media Bhubon*

09:30 Drama Serial: *Swapnochura*

10:10 *Deshar Pathay*

10:40 Drama Serial: *Ei Shob Ondhokar*

11:05 Documentary Programme

11:40 *Nana Ranger Din Guli*

01:00 Drama Serial: *Mohanogor*

02:30 *Vokab*

02:40 Drama Serial: *Shesh Odhay*

03:15 Cookery Show

04:15 *Citycell Din-er Sheshey*

04:30 *Apnar Jigyasha*

05:30 Islamic Programme

08:25 Drama Serial: *Mohanogor*

09:05 X Crime

12:00 *Shongbad Protidin*

STAR MOVIES

12:00 Company Business

01:45 The Young Musketeers

03:30 Firestarter

05:30 Yours, Mine & Ours

07:00 Mr. Deeds

08:45 7-10 Split

10:30 First Snow

12:15 King Kong

02:30 Braveheart

STAR PLUS

10:30 Ducktales

11:00 Timon And Pumbaa

12:00 Sangam

01:00 *Kasauti Zindagii Kay*

01:30 Kurnkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

02:00 Bhabhi

02:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa

03:00 Saarthi

04:00 Kayamath

04:30 Sangam

05:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

06:00 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni

07:00 Kayamath

07:30 Sangam

08:00 Antakshari - The Gr8

Kids Spl

09:00 *Kasauti Zindagii Kay*

09:30 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni

10:00 Kasturi

10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi

11:30 Kayamath

STAR WORLD

10:00 Ghost Whisperer

10:30 Beauty And The Geek

11:30 Ugly Betty

12:30 Boston Legal

01:30 The Unit

02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show

03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

04:30 General Hospital

05:00 Law & Order: S.V.U.

06:00 Scrubs

06:30 The Simpsons

07:00 My Wife And Kids

08:30 How I Met Your Mother

09:00 My Name Is Earl

09:30 The Office (Us)

10:00 Two & A Half Men

10:30 The Jane Show

11:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak

11:30 Seinfeld

12:00 Friends

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

09:30 India Unleashed

10:30 Looking for India

11:30 Mean Machines

12:00 Extreme Evidence

12:30 Desmond Morris' the Human Sexes

01:30 Shark Week

02:30 Discovery Showcase

03:30 Planet Action

04:30 Wild Discovery

05:30 Nigel Marvin Week

06:00 Extreme Evidence

06:30 Man and Machine

08:30 Extreme Engineering

09:30 Equator

10:30 Building the Future

11:30 Detective Stories

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 Hijacked

10:30 Sauna Belt

11:00 Bagyshali Ratna

11:15 Global Pendant

12:30 Amazing Moments

13:30 Light At The Edge

01:30 Monsoon Railway

02:30 Dive To Tiger Central

03:30 Hijacked

04:30 Big Bang

05:00 Africa's Viper Giant

05:30 I Didn't Know That

Radio Foorti

07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)

11:00am Amar 98.4 (Nusrat)

03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib)

07:00pm Seven Eleven (Sadia)

11:00pm Late Night Show (Shuvo)

03:00am Back to Back music

06:00 Python Quest

06:30 Hijacked

07:30 Dangerous Encounters

08:30 MegaStructures

09:30 Frontline Of Construction

10:30 IC814 Air Hijack

11:30 Millau Bridge

HISTORY CHANNEL

09:30 Tough Going

10:30 Alpha Romeo

11:30 Wonder Brand

12:00 Brahmagyan

01:30 Jewel in the Crown

02:30 Nickel/Taylor

03:30 Benjamin Franklin

04:30 Cities of the Underworld

05:30 1975 Firebird

06:30 Nero

07:30 Cleopatra

08:30 The Fight Decades

09:30 Kane & Abel

10:30 Big Deals

11:30 Going Ballistic