

CULTURAL FEAST



Homage to a legend

Swani Zubayeer on the Begum Akhtar Centenary celebration

KARIM WAHEED

A KHTARIBAI Faizabadi, or Begum Akhtar as *ghazal* aficionados all over the subcontinent remember her, would have been 93 this year (October 7).

Rightly known as the "Queen of Ghazals", she is almost synonymous with the concept of *ghazal gaayaki*.

Begum Akhtar Academy of Ghazal (BAAG), run by Padma Sri Rita Ganguly (a disciple of Akhtar), in association with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) hosted a four-day *ghazal* festival in New Delhi to commemorate the beginning of the legendary singer's centenary celebrations.

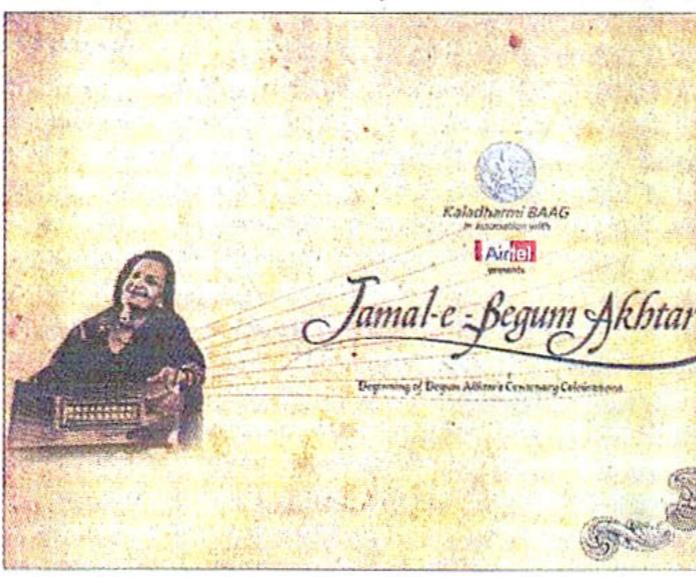
The festival titled "Jamal-e-

Begum Akhtar" began on October 4 and was held at the IIC Foundation, New Delhi. Pandit Birju Maharaj, Padma Vibhushan, was the guest of honour at the inaugural programme and unveiled an album (double CD) *Aye Mohabbat*, featuring contemporary arrangements of Begum Akhtar classics.

The highlight of the festival was live performances by *ghazal* artistes from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Iran. Swani Zubayeer represented Bangladesh at the programme.

Talking about the centenary celebrations, Zubayeer says, "It was a great opportunity to perform at a high profile event like this. But to me the major attraction was to hear Ustad Sultan Khan live."

According to Zubayeer, he



received a call from ICCR, Delhi in September, inviting him to perform at the festival. The event was attended by around 800 guests everyday and included artistes, culture enthusiasts and other renowned personalities. Noted actor Farooq Sheikh was the MC.

On the occasion, an audio-visual presentation (concept, research, collection of photos and script by Rita Ganguly) on the life of Begum Akhtar was screened.

Apart from Zubayeer, noted Pakistani artiste Tina Sani and Indian artistes Pankaj Udhas, Anup Jalota, Padma Sri Ustad Sultan Khan performed at the festival. Iranian singer Ciavash Borhani demonstrated the *maqam gaayaki* through his rendition.

The songs Zubayeer rendered at the event on October 5,

included *Niyat-e-shauq* (popularised by Noor Jehan), *Aah ko chahiye* (in the style of Ustad Barkat Ali Khan), *Yaad karu main* (a *Raaga Emam* based geet composed by Zubayeer's teacher and mentor Ustad Mazhar Ali Khan) and *Jochhona korechhey aadi* (a Begum Akhtar classic).

The talented singer fondly remembers a remark by Ustad Sultan Khan that generated chuckles at the festival. Khan said about himself, "I've always considered myself to be a *sarangi* player. I have no idea how four of my songs became popular! And now I'm here!"

Zubayeer is currently working on his next album. The album will feature 10 songs, of which six are ready. Highlight of the album are poetry by Jibanananda Das and Abul Hassan set to tune.

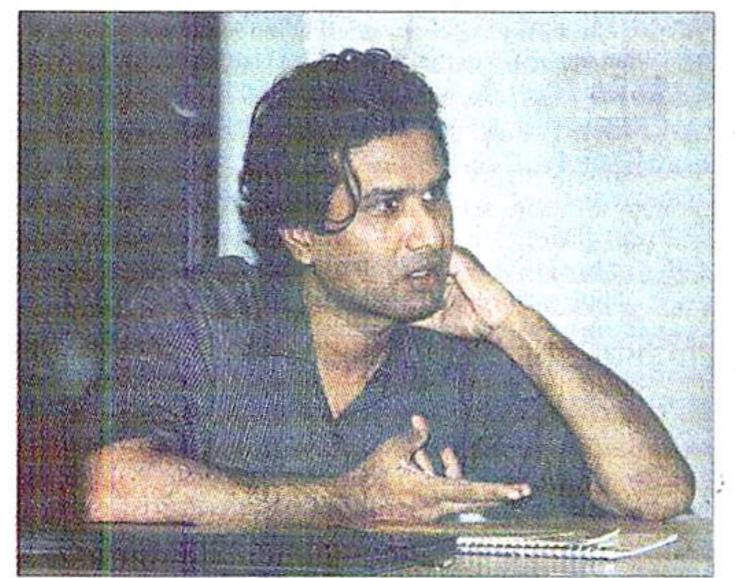


PHOTO: STAR

Swani Zubayeer

Travel show "Abiram Bangladesh" on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

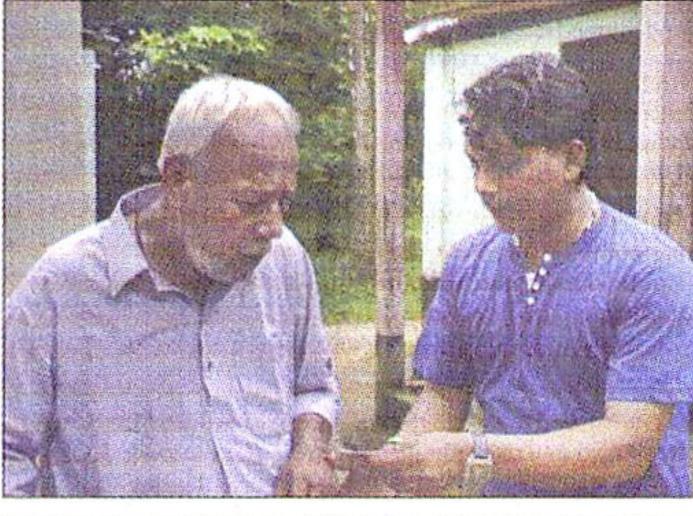
Travel show *Abiram Bangladesh* will be aired today at 4:20 pm on ATN Bangla. Planned and directed by Zillur Rahman, the programme is scripted by Osman Harun Sumon and hosted by Saif.

The show intends to explore our beautiful country and highlight locations and heritage sites worth visiting to the viewers. The *Abiram Bangladesh* team moves from Teknaf to Tetulia to find out the unique and special sites.

The show focuses on the history and heritage of the places as well. Apart from featuring the popular tourist spots, the show also focuses on nature, local people, their lifestyle and culture, special cuisines etc. The programme will provide information on how to reach the site, where to stay and more.



A scene from *Abiram Bangladesh*



Banglavision will air drama serial *Tarik Ali Hadari* today at 2:40 pm. Written by Ferdous Hassan, the serial is jointly directed by Sajjad Shumon and Ferdous Hassan. ATM Samshuzzaman, Mita Noor, Azizul Hakim play the lead roles in the serial

"Boldness is a reflection of the society"

-Madhuri Dixit

They are super organised (laughs). The technology has become wonderful and that really helps.

Have the actors become punctual?

Madhuri: (Laughs) Yes. I think the corporate culture has paid good dividends. The heroines have changed. They are doing bold roles and have bold scenes.

Describe your role in *Aaja Nachle*...

Madhuri: Well, I am not supposed to disclose details about it. But I must say that it has been a very satisfying experience to work in this film.

What is the extent of offers that have come your way since you came to Mumbai for *Aaja Nachle*?

Madhuri: The extent is quite broad. But I don't want to do every film. I want to do films and roles, which will satisfy my creative instincts and worthy of buying a ticket in a theatre. But my first priority will always be my family. I will always consider where the film is being shot and if it is convenient for me. Frankly, I will work at my own pace.

Will you play a mom or a mother-in-law?

Madhuri: Why not?

Have the work ethics changed in Bollywood from the days you got married and took a hiatus?

Madhuri: Tremendously. Almost everyone has become very organised. Yash Raj Films were very organised even before, but now

they are super organised (laughs). The technology has become wonderful and that really helps.

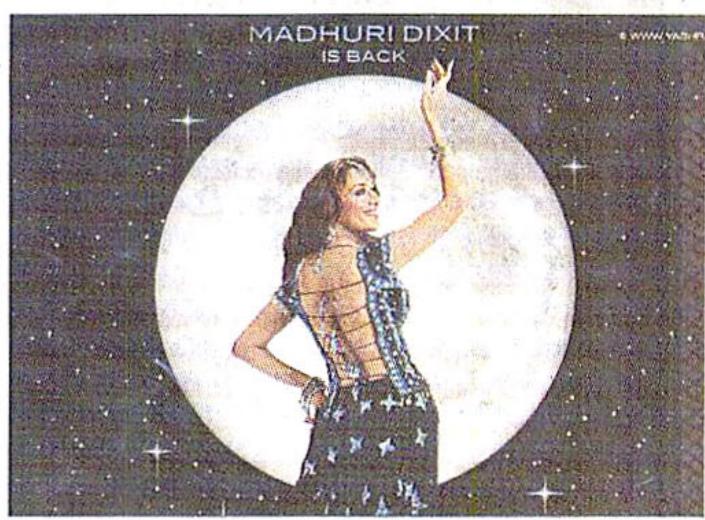
Have your children started seeing your films?

Madhuri: No. They have only seen *Devas*. In fact, they saw some other films in Mumbai - *Bheja Fry*, *Ta Ra Rum Pum*, *Dhoom 2*. They sat through all of them. Apparently, they love Hindi films.

New actors who have impressed you...

Madhuri: Konkona Sen Sharma, Kangana Ranaut -- she was awesome in *Gangster*, Priyanka Chopra, Vinay Pathak, Ranvir Shorey and Riteish Deshmukh.

Source: Internet



ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Moner Janala
On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Mir Sabbir, Bonna Mirza

Rebound
On Star Movies at 7:00pm
Genre: Comedy
Cast: Martin Lawrence, Wendy Raquel Robinson

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

News Bulletin

BTW
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:30 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, 12:15pm.

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 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 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, 12:30pm.

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.

ATN

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

BTV

11:15 Desher Geer/ Nobo Digonto
11:40 Heritage

12:05 Ma O Shishu Kotha
12:30 Educational Programme

01:30 Mat O Manush
02:15 Musical Programme: Shuru Shurohi

02:40 Musical Programme: Cheroshtr
03:05 Cartoon

03:30 Shukhi Panbar
04:05 Kolshor

04:30 Geet Bilan
05:10 Mon-er Kotha

05:30 Omshil
06:40 Shuter Onyeshoney

07:00 Aloar Pathier Jatri
07:30 Lok Loikoy

08:35 Drama Serial: Aplatu
09:00 Drama Serial: Moru

09:30 Shongshotok
09:39 Prudhikun

10:30 Selected Programme: Shomali Shondha

11:00 Drama Serial: Amar Prio Gaon

11:35 Drama Serial: Chondro Karigor

12:00 Ma O Shishu Kotha

12:30 Ekayno Bari

12:00 Gramophone Alkor

12:30 Shangbadporey

12:30 Shangbadporey

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shangbadporey

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Gramophone Trillo

09:55 Mastra

10:05 Amar Chhobi

10:30 Cheroshtr

10:45 Tax Helpline

11:05 Shangbadporey

11:30 Shangbadporey

12:00 Public Reaction

12:30 Gramophone Alkor

12:30 Shangbadporey

12:30 Shangbadporey

12:30 Shangbadporey

12:30 Shangbadporey

12:30 Shangbadporey

12:30 Shangbadporey

ETV

08:00 Ekusher Shokal

08:35 Lost

09:35 Sports Camval

10:00 Kachher Janala Durer

10:30 Prolidin

11:00 Shangbadporey

11:30 Drama Serial: Dohon

12:00 Shangbadporey

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