

CULTURAL FEAST



Exhibition

Title: *Shades of life*
Artists: 12 women artists of Shaka
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts,
Bengal Shilpalaya, House 275/F,
Road 27, Dhanmondi
Date: October 17-26
Time: 12:00-8pm

Kozmo Amaze

Artists: Abeer Hoque and Kaiser Haq
Venue: Kozmo Lounge, Bikalpa
Tower, Plot 74, Road 5/A, Sat Masjid
Road, Dhanmondi
Date: October 23
Time: 7 pm

Theatre

Title: *Koinna*
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium
Date: October 24
Time: 6:30 pm

Film Screening

Title: *Puja Special*
Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House
25, Road 96, Gulshan-2

Time: 6 pm
Date: October 23
Film: *Nishitapan*
Date: October 25
Film: *Bibar*
Date: October 26
Film: *Sweet Pathar Thala*
Date: October 29
Film: *Ek Mitho Chhail*

An evening of Russian poetry

Organisers: Meghdut & Russian
Centre of Science & Culture, Dhaka
Venue: The Russian Centre of
Science & Culture, House 510, Road
7, Dhanmondi
Date: October 25
Time: 5:30 pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: *Life and Nature*
Artist: Raghunath Chakroborty
Venue: Dik Gallery, House 58, Road
15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: October 21-27
Time: 3 pm to 8 pm



Homage to a legend

Swani Zubayeer on the Begum Akhtar Centenary celebration

KARIM WAHEED

AKHTARIBAI 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* *gayaki*.

Begum Akhtar Academy of Ghazal (BAAAG), 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 ICCR 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* artists 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 artists, 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.

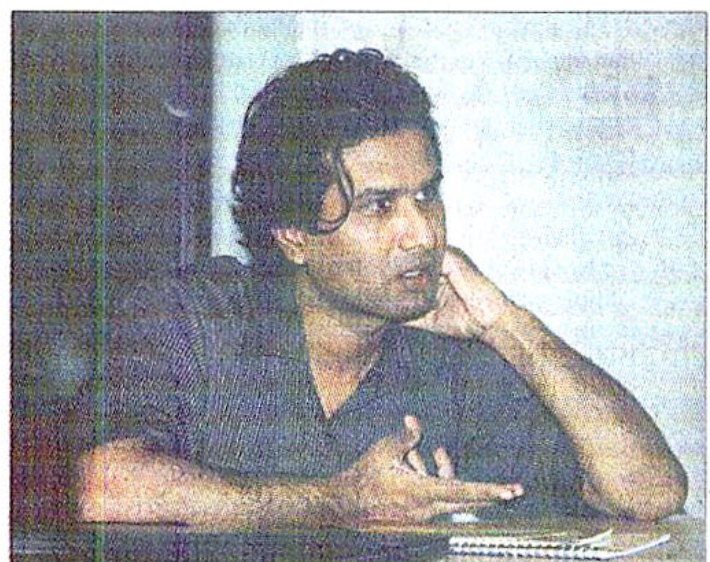
Apart from Zubayeer, noted Pakistani artist Tina Sani and Indian artists Pankaj Udhas, Anup Jalota, Padma Sri Ustad Sultan Khan performed at the festival. Iranian singer Ciavash Borhani demonstrated the *maqam* *gayaki* through his rendition.

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 Emon 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.



Swani Zubayeer

PHOTO: STAR

Profile of a committed singer

In conversation with Rukhsana Momtaz

NADIA SARWAT

Her melodic voice became quite familiar thanks to the jingle of several TV commercials in the '90s, including Coca Cola Food Products, Rooh Afza and more. But soon she started to dislike being labelled as just another "jingle singer". It was a prolonged story of hardship and frustration. But eventually Rukhsana Momtaz managed to carve a niche for herself as an *adnunik* singer.

The talented artiste is frequently featured in several musical programmes aired on different TV channels. The patriotic song *Pahar kol gheshe*, regularly aired on Rtv now, is fetching a warm response from the audience.

Rukhsana's story is one of sheer determination and unyielding spirit to overcome all impediments. She does not come from a family of musicians or even music enthusiasts, but music has always been her passion. Her fascination with music started at an early age as she used to listen to the radio; jingles were always on her lips.

As a child, her passion for music was not nurtured by her parents. In fact, her family literally discouraged her. But Rukhsana did not lose heart. She had to nag a lot so that her father would get her a harmonium. But this adverse situation only made her more resolute. She eventually managed to get her father to allow her to take music lessons. She received tutelage from Mousumi Kabir,



Rukhsana Momtaz

Kalipado Modok, and Ustad Zakir Hossain Mirza. She trained in classical music under Ustad Mamtajuuddin and Nazrul Sangeet for 5 years under Khalid Hossain.

"After I was enlisted in BTV as an *adnunik* singer in 1991, I had to wait patiently for almost five years to get a call to perform. My first performance was as a part of a chorus in a musical programme, *Geeti Shatodol*. Soon I received my break; I got the opportunity to do a solo performance for the same show. My first solo on TV was written by Lito Adhikari Rintu and composed by Ali Akbar Rupa. The song received good response and soon I started getting more offers."

Rukhsana is a vivacious stage performer too. "I am grateful to the late Firoz Shai for giving me my first opportunity to perform on stage. I was virtually unknown then, and after hearing me sing, he made arrangements for me to perform on stage. I was nervous and shaky during the performance but after I got off the stage, to my total surprise, he gave me TK 1000, my first ever remuneration."

So far the artiste has had six solo albums released, among which are *Tomari Karoney*, *Gopon Khobor Roina Gopon*, *Shuto Kata Ghuri* etc. Her next album *Swaper Jamdani* was released recently. She also did playback for several films. "Most of them however, were to be lip-synched by child actors. So, I'm taking a break from doing playbacks. Quality matters a lot to me."

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



Banglavisision will air drama serial *Tarik Ali Hadari* today at 2:40pm. 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

Madhuri Dixit has completed Yash Raj Films *Aaja Nachle*. The once reigning queen of Bollywood is now settled in Denver, since her wedding in 1999. Her last film was Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Devdas* in 2002. In a recent interview she talks about her comeback film, stay in Mumbai, husband, kids and future plans.

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 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.

Would you have been able to do it, if you were younger and in the thick of things now?

Madhuri: I haven't faced that situation. Hmm... If I would have seen that the director is good and can handle the scene well, I may have done it. But I tell you; this boldness is a reflection of the society.

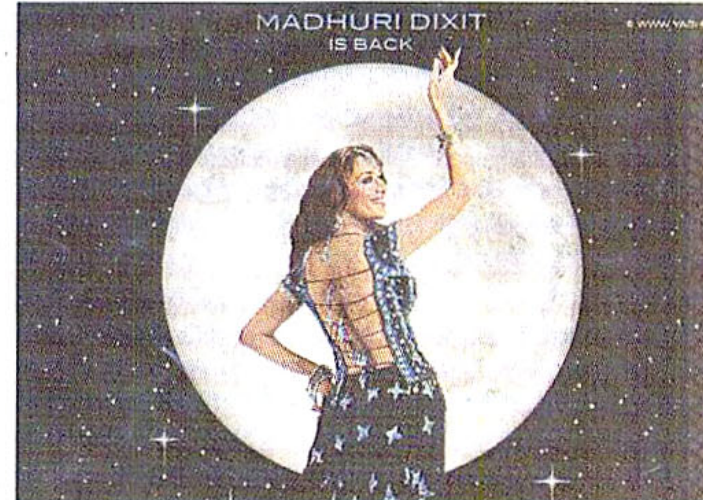
Films reflect society. Have your children started seeing your films?

Madhuri: No. They have only seen *Devdas*. 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, Kangna 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

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 Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 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 Desher Gaan/ Nobo Diganto
11:40 Heritage
12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotla
12:30 Educational Programme
01:30 Maiti O Manush
02:15 Musical Programme: Shurur Shurubi
02:40 Musical Programme: Chinnashur
03:05 Cartoon
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Rang Manchyo/ Tal
Grameenphone Lead
News

CHANNEL-i
09:30 Shingbadpotrey
Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
Grameenphone Titho
Mitra
11:05 Cocket On Line
11:30 Amar Chhobi
12:30 Citycell Tarokathar
01:05 Tax Helpline
01:15 Ebon Cinema/ Gaan
Shingbadpotrey
Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
Mega Serial: Pro
Bash
03:05 i-Sports
04:05 Sa Re Ga Ma
Shangol Mal
05:30 Mukhi Judho Proddin
06:00 Shukhor Oshukhey
06:20 Drama Serial: Ocheria
Adhar
07:50 Musical Programme:
Amar Pro Gaan
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10:00 Drama
11:30 Ekanyo Bari
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