

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Anniversary Programme

Organiser: Bangladesh Udichi Shilpogosthi  
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: October 29  
Time: 4pm onwards

## Documentary

## Launching

Venue: LGED Bhaban, Main Building, Hall Room, Agargaon  
Date: October 28  
Time: 9am-2pm

## Art Exhibition

Title: Still-life  
Artists: Six eminent artists of Bangladesh  
Venue: Gallery Chitral, Road 4, House 21, Dharmnadi  
Date: October 27-November 10  
Time: 10am to 8pm

## World Film Manifestation Programme

Title: Documentary for life  
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society  
Venue: Goethe Institut Bangladesh, House 10, Road 9, Dharmnadi  
Date: October 29 & 30  
Time: 3:00 pm onwards

## Three Short Plays

Plays: Sanki, Janlob and Platform  
Organisers: Space and Acting Research Centre  
Venue: Goethe Institut Bangladesh  
Date: October 26 & 28  
Time: 7 pm

## In conversation

## Nadira Begum: Popularising and preserving bhawaiya songs

ERSHAD KAMOL

THOUGH Nadira Begum is capable of performing the different genres of Bangla songs, the artist has made a name for herself as a *bhawaiya* (a folk genre) singer. For years she has been enlisted as a 'Grade A' artist in radio and TV. The current president of the Bhawaiya Academy, Nadira Begum is also working on a compilation of authentic *bhawaiya* songs. This year Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has honoured the singer for her contribution to the folk genre.

Growing up in a musical environment, Nadira's first 'guru' was her father A.K.M. Abdul Aziz, a classical and folk singer on radio. According to Nadira, "I began taking music lessons from my father at an early age. Eventually I fastened *nara* (a traditional ceremony of becoming a disciple of a mentor) and started training under Ustad Nizamuddin Khan."

She received a gold medal for rendering a *bhawaiya* song when she was a school student. In Nadira's words, "I had to compete with college students. The song I rendered was *Oki gao tulo, gao tulo, moishal bondhure*."

Nadira also took extensive classical music lessons from renowned ustadhs including Ashtar Sadmani, Narayan Chandra Boshak, Fazlul Haque and Umed Ali Khan. Receiving tutelage from Ustad Umed Ali Khan was one of the most exciting experiences of her life, according to Nadira.

The way it happened: "In 1970, I was selected as a member of the government delegation to perform at a cultural programme titled *Nouroz* in Afghanistan. I was the



Nadira Begum

PHOTO: STAR

only participant from East Pakistan. The other members of the team were renowned singers and ustadhs including Umed Ali Khan, Mehdi Hassan, Kishwar Jahan and others. I rendered *Dhiko dhiko moishal re* and *Allah Megh de pani de* at the programme. The audience seemed to enjoy the *bhawaiya*, specifically the second one which is widely popular in Bangladesh. The following morning Ustad Umed Ali Khan, who was also the mentor of Mehdi Hassan, offered me his mentorship. I learnt a few *thumris* from him."

Nadira Begum was enlisted as a radio artiste back in 1960s. During the initial stage of her career she

used to render all genres of songs including *ghazal*, *geet*, *Nazrul* sangit and folk songs. However, after the Liberation War, she predominantly sang *bhawaiya* songs at radio and TV programmes. Why? Says the artist, "I was told that there are several quality singers in other genres of music, but accomplished singers in the *bhawaiya* genre were few and far between. And the audience seemed to enjoy my rendition of *bhawaiya* songs."

"Initially I felt that labelling me as a '*bhawaiya* singer' was kind of a marginalisation. But, now, I have no qualms; I'm proud to be *bhawaiya* singer."

Nadira Begum and other

researchers of the Bhawaiya Academy have been working on the genre for several years. Apart from the central office in Dhaka, the academy has seven branches in the north Bengal districts.

Commenting on the genre Nadira says, "Lives of the common people have been portrayed remarkably in *bhawaiya*. The genre has been evolved by the locals of North Bengal and some areas of India since the 12th century, though legendary singer Abbas Uddin popularised the genre among the urbanites. An interesting facet of the genre is that though most of the lyricists are men, the frequent theme in *bhawaiya* songs is the solitude of women."

The singer further adds that there is a difference between *bhawaiya* songs composed and written by the bards of Bangladesh and those of India.

On the hurdles of researching on and collection of *bhawaiya* songs, Nadira says, "Like it happens with most other oral traditions, maintaining the authenticity of lyrics and tunes of *bhawaiya* songs is challenging. Except a few educated ones like A.K.M. Abdul Aziz, lyricists and composers of *bhawaiya* songs are illiterate *garoans*, *moishals* and *mahuts*. One particular song can exist in several forms and it is difficult to trace the authenticity. After collecting the songs from the root level sources, we get them scrutinised by a panel of experts."

As a member of government delegate, Nadira Begum has rendered *bhawaiya* songs in countries including China, Japan, Australia, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Egypt.

## Soovas Dutta and Hiren Dey win Fazlul Haq memorial awards

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Film director Soovas Dutta, won the Fazlul Haq memorial award this year for direction. Hiren Dey, a cine-journalist won a similar award. Each received Tk twenty-five thousand, a certificate and a crest. Novelist Syed Shamsul Haq and artist Quayyum Chowdhury were chief guests at the programme which was held at a local hotel on October 26.

The certificates were given by Quayyum Chowdhury, Syed Shamsul Haq presented the crests while Rabeya Khatun gave away the cash prize.

The Fazlul Haq memorial award was first introduced in 2004 by his wife, novelist Rabeya Khatun, in memory of her husband. Poet and journalist Fazal Shahabuddin and Ahmad Zaman Chowdhury won the award in 2004.

The committee awarded noted film director Chashi Nazrul Islam and eminent writer Humayun Ahmed in 2005; Saidul Anam Tutul and Rafiquzzaman in 2006.

Fazlul Haq is considered among the pioneers of cine journalism in Bangladesh. In 1950 he brought out a cine based publication named "Cinema". During the sixties he made a film for children named "President" which



Soovas Dutta(R) and Hiren Dey(L) seen with Syed Shamsul Haq and Rabeya Khatun at the programme

received an award during that time. He also directed another cinema named *Uttoran*.

Speaking at the programme Soovas Dutta said "I've known Fazlul Haq and have worked with him. Today it's a great feeling for me to win the Fazlul Haq memorial award."

Sharing his feelings Hiren Dey said "Today I would like to remember journalist and editor of entertainment magazine *Binodon* Fazal Shahabuddin, editor of weekly publication *Chitrati* Syed Pervez, journalist Harun ur Rashid Khan

and journalist Ahmad Zaman Chowdhury. With out their support I could have never become what I am today." He also thanked the organisers for recognising him.

Writer Anisul Haq, director Amjad Hossain, Rafiquzzaman, director Chashi Nazrul Islam, Atiqul Haq Chowdhury, daughter of Fazlul Haq, Keka Ferdousi, Muhammad Jahangir and others spoke at the occasion recalling their memories of Fazlul Haq.

The programme was presided over by Rabeya Khatun.

## BCRA awards bring together stars of film and television

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

In recognition of the contribution in different areas of entertainment in the year 2006 Bangladesh Cultural Reporter's Association (BCRA) gave awards at a grand ceremony at the Plenary Hall of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on October 26. In presence of many stars of film and television, the award giving ceremony virtually became a get together for them.

Actors, directors, singers, music directors and journalists were awarded in 63 categories at the ceremony. The awards were on films censored in 2006, TV plays, telefilms, commercials, audio albums and cultural reports published in newspapers.

Renowned actor Razzak was the chief guest at the occasion while president of National Press Club Shawkat Mahmud, BFUJ secretary general Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, DUJ president Atif Mahmud, president of Bangladesh Film Club Ltd. KMR Manjur and chairman of Amicus Group Khondoker Mahmudur Azad were the special guests. President of BCRA Monirul Islam presided over the programme.

Fazlul Haque, one of the pioneers of cine journalism - editor of first film magazine in the country *Cinema* and the director of first children's film made here, were awarded 'A Tribute for Excellent Contribution to the Industry and Cine Journalism Award 2006'.

Award for best film went to *Aina*, while *Rikshawalar Prem* was awarded the best commercial film. Kabori



Kabori Sarwar

Sarwar was adjudged the best director for the film *Aina*. Mainna received the best actor award (male) while Nipun won the best actor award (female). Digbi received the best child artiste critics' award.

Mir Sabir was selected as the most popular TV actor for his performance in *Dui Kuthuri Ek Dorjo* and DA Tayeb was awarded the best actor for *Aponnash*.

Award for best female model went to Prova and the best male model was Kazi Jamaluddin.



Prova



Mir Sabir

## Gazi Sadekul Islam passes away



Veteran activist of the Bangladesh group theatre movement and poet, Gazi Sadekul Islam (Khasru) passed away last Friday. He was 67.

Gazi Sadek was born on October 21, 1940 in Sholghar village of Srinagar Thana, Munshiganj. A student of History department of the Dhaka University, he began his career as a journalist. In the '50s, he began creative writing in both English and Bengali.

He has acted in several TV and radio plays and also penned a few plays. Among the plays he has acted in, *Meghe meghe bristi*, *Jonaki joley*, *Bhalobasha DotCom* etc. are noteworthy.

His *Kulhuani* will be held at his residence, on October 29, House 6/2 Road no. 1, Shyamoli, says a press release.

## Generating awareness on eye diseases

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

To generate awareness on eye diseases among the rural people, Grameen Eye Centre Sirta in Sadar Upazila, organised a cultural programme at the Renaissance Girls High School here recently.

The event was held on the occasion of World Sight Day. Baul artists Fazlul Haque, Joyrat Abedin, Jibon Chandra Das and Rajkumar performed at the programme.

The artists rendered songs, addressing the various causes of eye diseases and how the rural people can take preventive measures. Hundreds

of people attended the programme.

A discussion was also held with Md. Abdul Jabbar, President of the Advocacy Center, in the chair. Eminent Eye specialist Dr. K. Zaman attended as the chief guest. Among others, staff reporter of the daily *Sangbad* Zillur Rahman Khan, *The Daily Star* correspondent and the *New Age* correspondent, spoke at the event. Eye specialist Dr. Saiful Islam Bhuiyan of BNSB Eye Hospital presented the keynote paper. A colourful rally was also brought out on the occasion.

ORBIS International supported the programme.



Local artistes perform at the event

PHOTO: STAR

## Jackie Chan flexes his vocal muscles

Jackie Chan has flexed his vocal muscles for the Olympics. The 53-year-old actor, best known for his daredevil stunts, has recorded *We Are Ready*, the official countdown song to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

He spent three hours recording the song during a recent trip to Beijing, Chan said in a blog entry on his Website last Wednesday.

Chan, star of the *Rush Hour* movies, dabbles in music and has released several albums.

He praised the lyrics of the Mandarin Chinese song composed by Peter Kam, who won a Silver Bear award for best film music at the Berlin Film Festival last year.

Olympic organisers have also recorded a second Chinese version sung by more than 100 pop stars, Kam said.

He told *The Associated Press* in a phone interview that an English version of the song may be recorded.

Chan said in an earlier blog entry that he got goose bumps when he attended the official



Jackie Chan

one-year countdown event in Beijing on August 8.

"The ceremony made me very emotional and I said to myself, 'That's our China, that's our day!' I felt this moment belonged to our China, this moment belonged to us," he wrote.

Source: The Associated Press

## ON AIR

## PICK OF THE DAY



Prothom Shokal  
On ATN Bangla at 9:20pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Tony Dais, Tania



The Grudge 2  
On Star Movies at 7:00pm  
Genre: Horror  
Cast: Sarah Michelle Gellar, Amber Tamblyn

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-1

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

## 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, 1:00pm, 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

08:15 Musical Programme  
08:30 *Deshar Gaan* Nabo Diganta  
11:15 *Loakik Bangla*  
12:30 *Ma O Shastur Kotia*  
01:30 Children's Programme  
03:05 Cartoon  
04:05 *Orpanga*  
04:30 *Kirra Digan*  
05:05 *Debate*  
06:10 *Syatho Kotia*  
06:40 *Geetmelo*  
07:05 *Mali O Manush*  
07:30 *Shonmoy Shonglap*  
08:30 *Prothom Bangladesh*  
08:35 Drama Serial: *Shesh Pristhity Dekhin*  
09:00 Entertainment Show: *Anipa*  
10:30 *Heritage*  
11:00 *Harano Diner Gaan*

## ATN BANGLA

08:15 Drama Serial: *Amador Nurul Huda*  
10:30 *Talk Show*  
11:05 *Smile Show*  
12:15 *Talking Point*  
01:30 *Khetar Jagat*  
02:30 Musical Programme  
05:00 *Gram Ganer Khabor*  
05:10 *Prapok*  
05:45 *The Sword of Tipu Sultan*  
06:25 *Three Stooges*  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Alkanogor*  
08:40 Drama Serial: *Syed Barf Bou*  
09:20 Drama Serial: *Prothom Shokal*  
11:30 Drama Serial: *Dola House*

## 12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

## CHANNEL-1

08:30 *Shakaler Gaan*  
09:30 *Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh*  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Grameenphone Trilomatra  
11:05 *Apollo Tele Prescription*  
11:30 *Hridayo Mali O Manush*  
12:30 *Cyical Taroka Kathan*  
01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*  
01:50 *Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh*  
01:45 Public Reaction  
02:40 Drama Serial: *Prishash*  
03:05 *Chance 50-50*  
03:30 *Hridayer Gaan*  
04:15 *Se Fe Ga Ma*  
05:30 *Mukhtijudo Proidin*  
06:00 *Swagrat Agant*  
07:50 Drama Serial: *Ghor Kuth*  
09:35 Drama Serial: *Aybol*  
10:00 Drama Serial: *Shesh Thaka Shuru*  
11:30 Drama Serial: *Ekanyo Bori*  
12:00 Grameenphone Aker Shongbadpotrey

## ETV

08:00 *Ekusher Shokal*  
01:30 *Drishhi*  
02:00 Drama  
03:30 *Cine Times*  
04:00 *Cartoon*  
04:30 *Total Music*  
05:45 *Ekusher Shordhiya*  
08:30 *Desh Juray*

## 07:30 Nishikutum

08:30 Drama Serial: *Chena*  
09:00 *Manusher Pachol*  
09:30 *Ekusher Shomoy*  
10:30 Musical Programme:  
11:45 *Spondon*  
12:00 *Reporter's File*  
12:00 *Ekusher Raat*

## Rtv

08:00 *Rtv Exclusive*  
09:05 *Tarzan*  
09:30 *Documentary*  
10:00 *Programme*  
10:00 *Look at Me*  
10:30 *Prodin*  
11:30 *Movie of the Month*  
01:30 *ET Din*  
02:30 *Dholwood Beats*

## 03:45 Apni Shiniyay

04:20 *Path Chabul Andono*  
06:00 *Hamd-Nath*  
06:35 *Tarzan*  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Dohon*  
08:40 *Wide Angle*  
09:20 *Anondomol Agomone*  
11:00 *Bazar Update*  
11:30 *News Watch*

## ntv

08:30 *Ajker Shokal*  
08:55 *Shantokur*  
09:30 *Shangskriti Ei Shoptala*  
10:05 *Animal Kingdom*  
10:30 *Natoker Gaan*  
11:00 *Mon Amar Shondhan*

## 11:30 Kori

12:10 *Ki Kotia Tatar Shathey*  
12:10 *El Shomoy*  
01:05 *Japan Video Topic*  
02:30 *Shonkhechesh*  
03:15 Drama: *Banshi*  
04:25 *Apon Aloya*  
04:50 *Apar Jigyasha*  
06:20 *Shubho Shodhin*  
06:45 *Neel Paharer Gaan*  
08:15 *Shantokur*  
08:50 *Talk Show: Shomporia*  
09:45 Drama Serial: *Nabibachoti*  
11:35 *Talk Show: El Shomoy*

## BANGLAVISION

08:35 *Shubho Shokal*  
09:05 Drama Serial: *Shesh*

## 12:00 Shongbad Proidin

## HISTORY CHANNEL

09:30 *War against Al Qaeda*  
10:30 *Castro*  
11:30 *The Resident Patient*  
12:30 *Mission*  
01:30 *Freemasons Underground*  
02:30 *Mysteries of Freemason*  
03:30 *Muscle Cars*  
04:30 *Witch Hunt*  
05:00 *Joseph McCarthy*  
09:30 *Attilla the Hun*  
10:30 *Salem Witch Trials*  
11:30 *Witcher*

## STAR PLUS

09:30 *Krishna Kathayon*  
10:30 *Star Voice Of India*  
01:30 *Baabil*  
07:30 *Nach Baliye 3*  
08:30 *Sababa*  
09:30 *Prithvira Chauthan*  
10:00 *Bae Bahoo Aur Baby*  
10:30 *Aek Chahni Hai Padoss Mein*  
11:30 *Nach Baliye 3*  
12:00 *Santana*

## STAR WORLD

09:30 *Kyle Xy*  
10:30 *The King Of Queen*  
11:30 *Life With Bonnie*  
12:30 *According To Jim*  
13:00 *How I Met Your Mother*  
12:30 *The Office*  
05:30 *The Simpsons*  
06:00 *World Championship Of Magic*  
07:30 *American Inventor*  
08:30 *In Justice*  
09:30 *Desperate Housewives*  
10:30 *The Closer*  
11:30 *The Unit*

## STAR MOVIES

09:30 *Stay*  
11:15 *Pirates Of The Caribbean: Dead M*  
02:00 *Rebound*  
03:30 *The Ring*  
05:05 *Sentinel*  
07:00 *The Grudge 2*  
08:45 *Breed*  
10:15 *16 Blocks*  
12:00 *Unleashed*  
09:30 *Costa Rica*  
10:30 *India's Otter Paradise*  
11:30 *Hunter Hunted*  
01:30 *Inside The Forbidden City*  
02:30 *Desert Hearts & Highways*  
03:00 *Journey of Discovery*  
03:30 *Out Of Sight*  
04:00 *Washington D.C*  
05:00 *Slam, Heavenly*  
05:30 *Angel Mike*  
06:00 *Big Bang*  
06:30 *Large Sharks*  
07:30 *Tasmania: Land of Devils*  
08:30 *Go Green Special*  
09:30 *Jaguar*  
10:30 *Munich Olympic Massacre*  
11:30 *Missing Link*

## DISCOVERY

07:30 *Animal Camera*  
08:00 *Africa's Great Rivers*  
08:30 *Discovery's Biggest Shows*  
10:30 *Night Safari*  
11:30 *Dirty Jobs*

## CHANNEL

09:30 *Discover India*  
10:30 *India Unleashed*  
11:30 *Chasing Nature*

## Radio Foorti 88.0 FM