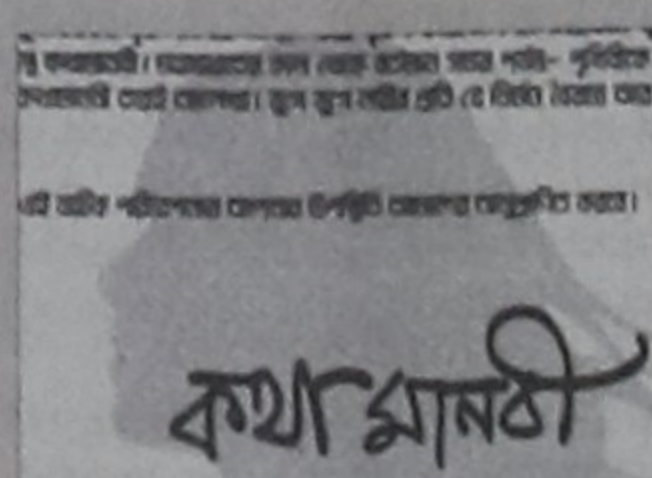


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

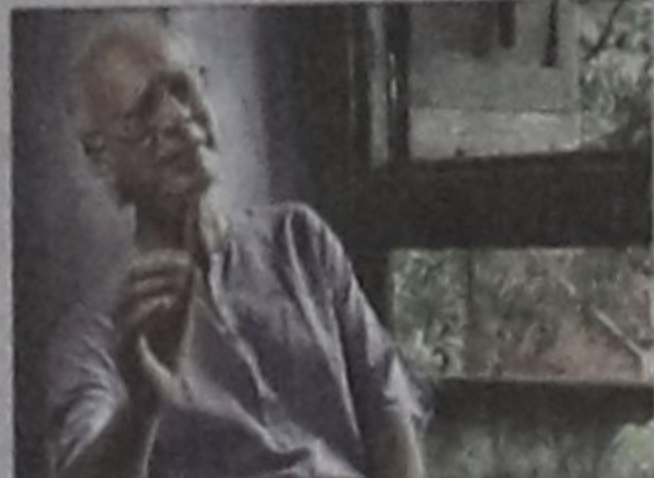
Recitation

Recitation from Mallika Sengupta's collection of poems "Katha Manobi"
Organiser: Juko
Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road.
Date: June 18
Time: 7pm



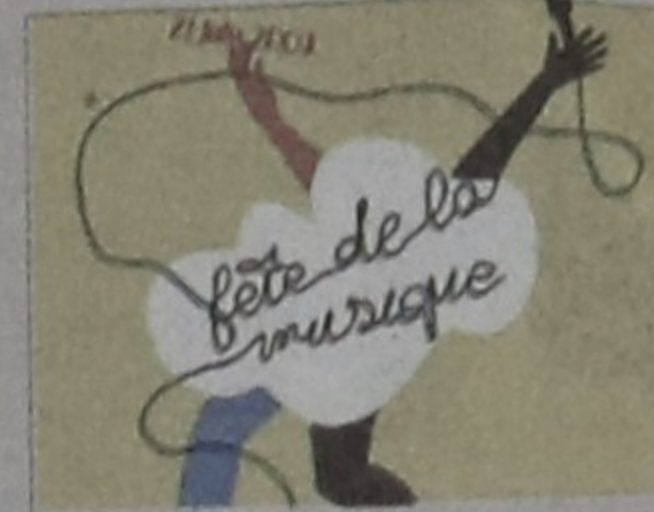
Film Screening

Film: Bhuvan Bhoor Sur
Filmmaker: Shabnam Ferdousi
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre, 160, Lake Circus, Kalabagan
Date: June 18
Time: 6pm



Fete de la Musique

Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD)
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: June 21-July 2
Time: 6:30pm onwards



Film Screening

Film: Harano Sur
Filmmaker: Ajay Kar
Venue: Auditorium, Indian Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan-1
Date: June 26
Time: 6pm



Aliya Sharafi: A woman with a musical mission

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Aliya Sharafi, daughter of legendary singer Kalim Sharafi, is a talented musician in her own right. Currently working as an interpreter in three languages in the office of the Attorney General in the Ontario Court of Justice, she hopes to perform in Bangladesh end July/August.

Aliya recently responded by e-mail to a variety of questions sent to her by The Daily Star. We reproduce the questions and her answers:

Who are your gurus and are ghazals your forte?

I have been learning kheyals from Ustad Phool Mohammad for the better part of my life. My guru Padmabhushan Girija Devi trained me in thumri, dadra, kajri and chaiti. Now I learn ghazals from the young maestro Jaswinder Singh. Later I hope to learn ghazals from Shanti Hiranandji, the foremost disciple of Begum Akhter. I intend to specialise in ghazals.

Your guruji Jaswinder Singh's latest CD was released by Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar. It must be a major honour for him...

Guruji had three other CDs prior to this. This one has been released by SAREGAMA, a major platform for music in India. It is a major honour for any singer to have a CD released by a poet of the stature of Javed Akhtar and an intellectual like Shabana Azmi, daughter of Kaifi Azmi, a renowned ghazal writer.



Aliya Sharafi pays her respect to her guru Girija Devi (left).

Apparently you have bagged a Canadian government grant to study music in Mumbai. To what do you attribute this honour?

The Art Council of Canada awards this grant to established and talented artists in Canada. It is difficult to get this grant but if you have made a sufficient contribution towards the Canadian community through your art then you are eligible for this grant. Ultimately one has to go through a lifetime of contributions to

the community to get this honour. For me, therefore, it is a privilege to gain acceptance from The Art Council of Canada.

What would you say are your main achievements?

Apart from this grant, I did playback for the first time at the age of 12 for the film *Sutarang*. It was called *Emon moja hoi na* and turned out to be a super hit. Other playbacks include *Dushtu Meye Paliye Bera* (a duet with Farida Yasmeen) in

Kagojer Nauka, *Naach re O Kath Putli Naach* (duet with Abdul Alim) in *Soye Nadia Jage Pani* and *Agun Jalaish na Amaar gaye re* (with Mahbooba Rahman in *Gunai Bibi*).

Achievements and awards:

Getting the first position in the ghazal genre in the Education Week of the then East Pakistan in 1967. Singing for Bangladesh TV in Rag-rang as a classical artiste. Representing Bangladesh in the West as an

artiste in the semi-classical genre. Being the first Bangladeshi artiste to sing at the Lincoln Centre Broadway New York, as reported by the New York weekly Shaptahik Bangla. In this concert I sang thumris. Opening my music school Prachee Sangeet Vidyalay, which won me recognition both at home and abroad.

Where does music figure in your life in Toronto?

I have been singing in Toronto since 2000. My most memorable show there was envisaged for the Bengali community at the 50th anniversary of the Bangla Bhasha Andolon (Language Movement). I managed to gather artistes from all across Canada to perform on a common stage in a "gaantha" programme. Previously the Bangladeshi community in Toronto had never seen anything like that.

I have established my music school and been a judge for organisations such as Udichi and Fobana. I have also been a judge on the internet for Paltalk singers. Which is a new technology where we are able to conduct these occasions where singers from all over the world log in to compete and we are appointed as judges to promote these.

You are evidently a multi-tasker. Where does singing fit into your scheme of things?

Music is my passion and I intend to focus on it. My job is for daily survival.

Commemorating Tagore artiste Zahidur Rahim on Desh TV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the death anniversary of Zahidur Rahim, a renowned Tagore singer of pre and post-Liberation Bangladesh. Rahim was one of the frontline campaigners against the ban on Rabindra Sangeet in the late 1960s by the then Pakistan regime. During those tumultuous times, Rahim played a stellar role in preserving this genre at that time through his renderings of Rabindra Sangeet at various programmes.

In particular, Rahim is credited with popularising the Tagore song "Amar Sonar Bangla" in the '60s--which eventually became our National Anthem.



Zahidur Rahim died on June 18, 1978. To commemorate this day, Desh TV will air a special programme "Zahidur Rahim Swaraney" tonight at 9:30pm.

Publisher and a trustee of the Liberation War Museum (LWM) Mofidul Haque will host the programme. Dr. Sarwar Ali, another trustee of the LWM, and noted Tagore artiste Iffat Ara Dewan will be discussants at the programme.

The programme is produced by Ushnish Chakrabarty.

Shaan Live

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