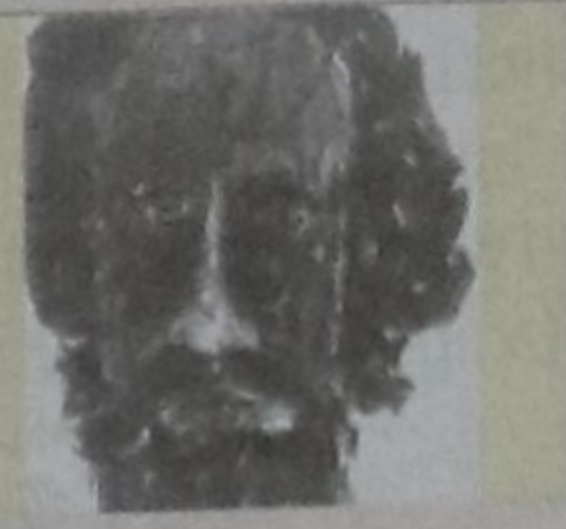


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre Festival
To celebrate Abdullah Al Mamun birth anniversary
Organiser: Theatre
Venue: Bangladesh Shiksha Academy
Date: July 10-17
Time: 6:30pm onwards



Rabindra Festival
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut
Sanskriti Bhaban,
Dhanmondi
Date: July 17-18
Time: 10am (1st day), 6pm (2nd day)



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Pahariya Pathay
Artist: Shohag Parvez
Venue: La Galerie,
Alliance Francaise
of Dhaka
Date: July 3-16
Time: 9-12am & 5-8pm



Concert: Tribute to King of Pop
Organiser: Old School
Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre
Date: July 18
Time: 7pm



Down memory lane

Ghazals of Feroza Begum and Ferdousi Rahman in Delhi

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

The timeless works of two Bangladeshi nightingales -- Ferdousi Begum (now Rahman) and Feroza Begum -- were presented at "A Feast of Ghazals," an evening dedicated to the singers of yesteryears in New Delhi.

Rendering songs of the two great artistes was Dr. Radhika Chopra, a well-known singer in her own right. Among the works that Radhika presented

were Ferdousi's "Rang parahan ka khushboo zulf lehrane ka" (written by Faiz Ahmad Faiz), "Dil dhakane ka sabab yaad aya" (from the Urdu film "Talash") and "Akhiyan tori rah taken." The perennial Feroza Begum ghazal favourites rendered by Radhika were "Tum bhulaye na gaye," "Ab ke hum bichhde tho shayad kahbi khwabon mein miley" and "Raz-e-ulfaat chhupa ke dekh liya."

An appreciative audience, comprising many of an older



Feroza Begum

generation, clapped along after every ghazal. There was a smattering of people, however, who had a word of constructive criticism on Radhika's performance. Said Mehdi, a close friend of the artiste, "While Radhika is a beautiful and competent singer, at times she needs guidance about the verses of some famous poets."

The credit for the concert must of course go to Pran Neville, a well-known author, scholar and founder-convenor of the KL Saigal Memorial Circle. To quote him, "In my own small way I try to keep alive the memory of all those great singers of yesteryears and ghazals have

a constant appeal in the subcontinent. Ghazals are evergreen and a predominant part of Urdu poetry and literature. My objective was to highlight two great Bangladeshi singers -- Feroza Begum and Ferdousi Begum."

Neville has many interesting tales to recount about these two ghazal greats and his association with Bangladesh. Among his close friends is Shamsur Rahman, at that time the Bangladesh High Commissioner in Delhi (1975-76). He recalls meeting Rahman, the first Bangladesh Ambassador in Moscow, while Neville was posted there as an Indian Foreign Service

official. Says Neville about Rahman, "He is a very knowledgeable person and is well up on the nuances of music. Plus, of course, he knew Sanskrit and could quote 'shloka' from poet Jaidev's 'Geet Govinda.'"

About Feroza Begum, Ferdousi Rahman and Kamal Dasgupta (a great composer and music director of that era), Neville says, "Feroza Begum trained under Kamal Dasgupta, who was then based in Calcutta. In 1960, he went over to Dhaka and married Feroza, who was 20 years younger than him. He embraced Islam and became Kamal Hussain. Unfortunately people who contribute immensely to the arts are often quickly forgotten. This was the story of Dasgupta, who did so much for cinema in the subcontinent as a playback singer and composer."

Neville is not a novice to the world of music. He has presented evenings dedicated to singers, such as, Malika Pukhraj. Now on the cards is a concert featuring Khemchand Prakash, who lent his voice to "Aayega aane wala" (from the film "Mahal") as well as "Tansen," some of the greatest musical hits of the 1940s.

Drama serial Khoj on Banglavision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Khoj" will be aired tonight at 8:15 pm on Banglavision. The serial has been jointly written by Rajibul Islam and Shojol Chowdhury, and directed by the former.

The plot centres on Mumu, a Bangladeshi working in Thailand. Mumu's mother

died the day she was born, and her father left her, blaming the newborn for his wife's death. Mumu has been raised by her uncle. Rimi is Mumu's close friend and is about to get married. One day Rimi requests Mumu to contact a man called Saiful and collect some photographs from him. According to Rimi, Saiful is a vicious person and has some

compromising photographs of her. Rimi is afraid that Saiful might blackmail her. Mumu, however, finds Saiful to be totally different from what Rimi had made him out to be.

The cast includes Abul Hayat, Chitralekha Guha, Abul Kalam Azad, Tanima Hamid, Intekhab Dinar, Naznin Hasan Chumki, Shatabdi Wadud and others.



A scene from the serial.

Autri on Desh TV tonight



Bijori Barkatullah plays the titular role in "Autri."

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode play "Autri" will be aired tonight on Desh TV at 9:45 pm. The play has been written and directed by Shibu Kumar Shil.

The story revolves around Autri, a school-teacher. She shares a close friendship with Shunyo. However, Autri's life takes a u-turn

with Shunyo's untimely death.

Shunyo's death creates an enormous vacuum in Autri's life. Moreover, she faces the toughest challenge of her life when she realises that she is having a child.

Bijori Barkatullah plays the titular role. Wahida Mallick Jolly and Sabyasachi Hazra play the other central characters.

Shahid Kapoor: From boy next door to heartthrob

Shahid Kapoor is known for his boy next door looks. Apart from that his romantic liaison with Bollywood princess Kareena Kapoor has earned him the required dose of name and fame. Perhaps his most well known films are "Ishq Vishk" (2003), "Vivaah" (2006) and "Jab We Met" (2007).

The son of well-known actor Pankaj Kapoor and actress/classical dancer Neelima Azim, his parents split when he was still a child. At the age of 18, he had his first break with a commercial for Pepsi alongside big names Shahrukh Khan, Kajol and Rani Mukherjee. Later he starred in a music video for a band and met his college sweetheart Hrithika Bhatt who also appeared in the video. His training under noted dancer Shiamak Datar gave him a solid grounding for his later career in films.

After extra roles in various films, including Subash Ghai's "Taal," he landed a role in Ken Ghosh's film "Ishq Vishk" and won the Filmfare Best Male Debut Award. He went on to acquire a huge fan following which included famous star



Kareena Kapoor. The duo also starred in a thriller "Fida" which bombed at the box office.

His first commercial success was in Sooraj R Barjatya's "Vivaah" and his biggest commercial success so far. Later he continued it with "Jab We Met."

The sentimental "Vivaah" drew a mixed response from the critics. Raja Sen of Rediff called the film a "nightmare" and "regressive," while The Hindustan Times termed the film as "boring" and a

"utopia." The prestigious BBC.CO.UK called Shahid "playful" but the movie "sickeningly sentimental."

And of course Shahid earned publicity for his relationship with Kareena Kapoor who in turned dumped him for the older good looking Saif Ali Khan. However, this is one actor who hasn't let that get him down and continues to wow the girls with his boyish innocence.

Compiled by cultural correspondent

In focus

Traditional Tangail kansa on the verge of extinction

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The famous 'kansa' (bell-metal) industry in Tangail is heading for extinction due to various obstacles say local artisans: A decline in the demand for kansa-made goods, lack of skilled craftsmen, high prices of requisite coal and huge price hikes of raw materials.

Once upon a time, the Kagmari, Kalipur, Mogra and Charabari areas in Tangail Sadar upazla had a formidable reputation for fashioning kansa-made goods including utensils and musical instruments made at the local blacksmiths' workshops. The kansa-made utensils including jugs, glasses, plates, bowls and pitchers were commonly



Traditional kansa items are losing their market to the massive influx of steel, glass, ceramic and melamine products. Many kansa artisans have abandoned their ancestral profession.

famous kansa has lost out to massive influx of utensils made of steel, glass, ceramic and melamine. Consequently many kansa artisans have abandoned their ancestral profession.

An indication of the decline in the number of kansa artisans is that a decade ago there were around 100 workshops (crafting kansa items) in the Kagmari area (Tangail town), but now there are only two blacksmith families.

There are exceptions however. Veteran artisan Durga Prasad Karmokar, 75, has been making kansa items at his ancestral home

in Kagmari for the last 60 years. He continues to make such items despite the changing fortunes of the kansa industry.

Karmokar told The Daily Star that high prices of kansa are driving people away. "The business will register profits if demand increases," he added.

According to kansa traders Uttam Saha and Nitai Karmokar, around 50 kansa shops on the Main Road in the town were in existence just two decades ago. There are only four shops now.

State patronage can save this industry, they said.



used in the homes of that time and as gift items. People from far flung areas used to flock to Tangail to buy kansa-made utensils and artworks. However today the