

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Fracophonie Festival '10
Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: March 20-27
Time: 5pm onwards



Int'l Theatre Festival 2010

Organiser: Dhaka Padatik
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: March 19-25
Time: 7pm
 Today's play: Paichochor-er Kichchha



Film Screening

Filmmaker: Tarvir Mokammel
Films: Tajuddin Ahmed: Nishongo Sarothi, Chitra Nadir Parey Lal Shalu, Lalon, Rabeya
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre Auditorium, 160, Lake Circus, Kalabagan
Date: March 26
Time: 10:30am-9:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Anukul Mojumdar
Title: Tales of Dreams
Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi
Date: March 19-April 3
Time: 12pm-8pm



Should the martyrs be remembered only on special days?

Sara Mahmud reminisces on Altaf Mahmud



Sara Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"It has been [almost] 39 years but I still remember that ominous day vividly," says Sara Ara Mahmud, widow of Shaheed Altaf Mahmud who became a legend for composing the timeless song that has become the unofficial anthem of Ekushey Febru-

ary -- "Amar bhai-er roktye rangano ekushey February/ Ami ki bhulitey pari..."

Sara is currently the director of the Department of Drama and Film, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

"August 30, 1971, was the day I saw my husband for the last time," she recalls. "My marriage with Altaf has an intriguing story. My family was not too keen on Altaf wanting to marry me. Poet Begum Sufia Kamal intervened and we got married in 1966."

"During the five years I had been with Altaf, I never had a chance to complain. Although he was primarily a music composer for films, his preferred genre was *Gano Sangeet* or inspirational songs. He had also composed tunes for the dance-recital 'Rajpath Janopath' and many more. 'Amar bhai-er roktye rangano ekushey February' was initially composed by the late Abdul Latif. Later, Altaf modified the tune, which was even more moving and imbibed the spirit of Ekushey effectively.

"Besides participating in the armed movement against the Pakistan army, Altaf was also composing inspirational songs for the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. On August 30, 1971, some Pakistani military men stormed our house, looking for ammunition buried in our yard by the Crack Platoon [one of the urban guerrilla groups]. A former acquaintance of Altaf had informed the military of Altaf's links with the Crack Platoon.

"Altaf was then arrested along with others. After December 16, I looked everywhere possible, but failed to trace any sign of my husband," pauses Sara.

Is this the state Altaf Mahmud and other martyred freedom fighters had envisioned? Sara's response: "Where are the values the martyrs struggled for? The martyrs had sacrificed themselves for Bangla, but we still do not have a standard format of the language. The same word is spelled differently in different books."

Should February 21, March 26 or December 16 be the special occasions every year when we ruminate on the inestimable gifts the martyrs have bestowed on us -- our language, our identity? For our own sake as Bangladeshis, let's hope not.

Rhyme and reason

In conversation with Shamim Azad

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Shamim Azad is one of the noted Bangladeshi poets and short story writers. She has been living in London for over 20 years and frequently visits Dhaka. Besides writing poetry, Azad has also associated with organisations like Brac University and the British Council in Bangladesh regarding several activities. She is also conducting storytelling sessions with students of colleges and universities in Bangladesh and abroad.

Azad's poems reflect her observations and experiences, being a part of the expatriate community -- their woes and separation from the homeland. Her writing provides insight into human relationships, the Liberation War, nature and more.

Azad's first book "Sporsher Opekha Kobita" was published in 1981 and second book "Bhalobashar Kobita" was published in 1982. Initially she wrote for 'Mukuler Mehfil' in the daily Azad; Purbo Desh; Lolona and Ittefaq. Her contemporaries include Ali Imam, Hasan

Shahriar, Mohammad Jahangir, Syed Manzoorul Islam, Muntasir Mamun and Ajmeri Zaman.

Azad spent her early days in Jamalpur. "The atmosphere was serene. I would

discover and interpret my thoughts and visions through words," she says.

Azad's writings published in the weekly Bichitra [in the '80s] made her popular

creativity was nurtured by my proximity to these wizards of words."

Azad's favourite poets are Benjamin Jephonaya, Wendy Coope, John Hedley and Michael Roosen. She said, "Reading with children is amusing and one of the best ways to nurture their creativity. Children have an inherent love for stories. A story creates a dream, vision, harmony and a sense of contemplating the world."

Azad considers herself to be modernist poet and her approach is rhythmic. In every short story and poem, she likes to experiment with form, content and backdrop. Incidents from everyday life can be easily found in many of her short stories. Images of rain, moonlit night, greenery, clouds, paddy field and other familiar aspects of Bangladeshi life are recurring subjects and themes in her poems. Her poetry highlights a greater social and cultural mingling. Her works also feature contemporary London life and times.



Shamim Azad

observe my surrounding at night. I guess that's when I became nocturnal. I still like to work at night. Night provides me with a quietness, which helps me to get closer to nature.

"I started writing poetry when I was a teenager. I grew up amidst nature and tried to

among the readers of Bangladesh. She said, "I remember Bichitra as the first safe haven in Bangladesh for my creativity. During my tenure with the popular weekly, I was introduced to many eminent writers, poets and educationists. My intellectual

Focus on Cities

German and Bangla movie night by Goethe-Institut Bangladesh

On the last Sunday of each month, Goethe-Institut Bangladesh presents latest German movies along with short films from Bangladesh. The event is organised in cooperation with the DUPS, says a press release. The screened films are also part of the series "Focus on Cities".

On March 28 at 7 pm, "Shonibar Bisram Dibosh" by Mushfek Manzoor will be screened. Synopsis: The story revolves on tom-tom (cart) helpers. They work six days a week but on the seventh day they get "freedom". They go back to their childhood.



A scene from "Shonibar Bisram Dibosh".

The German film to be screened is "Tough Enough" by Knallhart Detlev Buck.

Synopsis: On Michael's fifteenth birthday his mother has a nasty quarrel with her

partner. The dispute escalates and shortly afterwards the mother and son are seen standing on the street with their luggage. Michael also has to change schools and ends up in a class where both teacher and pupils have lost all optimism. The proportion of students with foreigner parents is disastrously high. Exasperation with the hopeless situation leads to aggression and violence. A Turkish boy named Erol and his pal bully everyone, including Michael. It's the tragic story of a fifteen-year-old who longs to escape the violence in school and his miserable private life.

TV Watch

Special play "Amoratrir Gaan" on Independence Day

A CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play, "Amoratrir Gaan", will be aired on Ekushey Television on Independence Day at 10:02 am. Directed by Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, the play is an adaptation of a Rabeya Khatun story.

The plot of the play is set against the backdrop of the Liberation War.

The cast includes Ananta Hira, Bonna Mirza and Ahmed Rubel.



Ahmed Rubel (right) and co-actors in the play.

"Chaloman Chhobi": Chayanika Chowdhury's 100th TV play



The play features a cast of 14 actors.

A CORRESPONDENT

Chayanika Chowdhury's 100th TV play "Chaloman Chhobi" will be aired on Channel 1 on Independence Day. Written by Arun Chowdhury, the play will be aired at 8:15 pm.

The highlight of the play is a solo performance by actor Mahfuz Ahmed. Tarin makes a short appearance, while Joya Ahsan, Aupi Karim, Apurbo and Arefin Shubho have lent their voices to the play.

The story zooms in on a young individual who has recently come back from abroad. He has left behind his ten-year-old son. He wants his son to get to know this country as well.

A group of 14 actors including Tamalika Karmaka, Shahed, Apurbo, Bindu, Hillol, Probha, Nova and Eresh Zaker have done cameos in the play.



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

ATN BANGLA
 03:45pm Sundar Jibon-er Jonyo
 04:10pm Mukti Juddher Itihas
 11:30pm Bibek Kachhey Proshno
 12:00pm Grameenphone Lead News

CHANNEL i
 01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
 01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma
 02:30 i Sports
 03:05 Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak
 03:45 Amader Shikya Amader Shangskriti
 04:10 Medha Bikash
 04:30 Mukti Juddha Protidin
 05:30 Chhayachhobir Gaan
 06:00 Talk Show: CSR
 06:20 Travel Show: Banglalink Banglar
 Pothey
 07:50 Drama: Chithi Ashey Na

09:35 Meril Prothom Alo Puroshkar'09
 Pordar Pichhoner Golpo
 Special Programme Live Telecast from Rajarbagh Police Lines
 Grameenphone Aker Shangbadpotro

ntv
 01:05 Swastho Protidin
 04:10 Quiz Show: Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey
 05:35 Mohilangan
 06:10 Shubho Shondha
 06:40 Musical Programme: Amaro Gaitey
 Ichha Holo
 09:00 Close Up 1
 11:30 Sur Bhora Neelima

ETV
 03:30 Dehatori
 04:30 Children's Programme
 05:25 Sangskriti Shamachar

05:45 Sports Plus
 06:30 Deshurey
 07:50 Quiz Show: Nimnochaap
 09:30 Ekusher Chokh
 10:10 Baula Ontor
 12:02 Ekusher Raat

RTV
 02:03 Bangla Feature Film
 Protidin
 06:00 Borney Borney Rochito
 07:10 Uttal 71
 11:30 Tomar Jonyo Amar Ei Gaan

BANGLAVISION
 11:35 Amar Ami
 12:30 Banglavision Top 10
 02:30 Drama on request
 03:35 Cinebit Shadakalo
 05:25 Music Vision
 06:05 Shamol Bangla
 06:40 Point of Order
 09:05 Media Bhuban
 11:20 Musical Programme: Projapoti
 Chhoya

DESH TV
 12:15 Chhaya Adalotey 1971
 Judhdhaoparadhider Bichar
 04:30 Dur Durantey
 05:02 Cartoon
 05:30 Baali Ghar

06:02 Rupali Geeti Chhanda
 07:45 Musical Show: Murchhonor
 Shabdolal
 09:45 Shei Raat-er Katha Boltey
 Eshechhi
 11:30 Special Programme live telecast from Rajarbagh Police Lines

ZEE STUDIO
 10:30 End of Days
 01:30 Dangerous Proposition
 04:20 The Basketball Diaries
 07:00 Goal
 09:30 Fireflies in the Garden
 11:35 Chicago

HBO
 09:15 Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire
 12:30 The Man Who Wasn't There
 02:45 Tmz 197
 03:15 Half Past Dead 2
 05:00 The Making Of Get Smart
 05:15 Tommy Boy
 07:15 Lost Boys : The Tribe
 09:00 Tmz 198
 09:30 Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire

ESPN
 10:30 Barclays Premier League 2009/10
 Match: Portsmouth vs. Chelsea
 12:30 German FA Cup 2009/10 Match:

02:30 FC Schalke 04 vs. Bayern Munich
 Handa Women's Australian Open - Day 4
 05:30 PBA All STAR Shootout
 06:00 Castrol Football Crazy
 06:30 Ocean Thunder - Pro Surf Boat Series
 07:30 Goals!
 08:00 Global Football
 08:30 Sportscenter India
 09:00 Sportscenter Asia
 09:30 2009 Men's Speed Pool Challenge
 10:30 Sportscenter India

STAR SPORTS
 01:00 Mobil 1 The Grid
 01:30 FIM Mx1 Motocross
 World C'ship 2009 - Highlights
 02:30 Barclays Premier League 2009/10
 Match: West Ham United vs. Wolverhampton Wanderers
 04:30 Simply The Best
 05:00 Almost Anything Goes
 05:30 Masters Official Films 2007
 06:30 TNA Sikander 09/10
 07:30 Behind The Baseline
 09:00 Ace 2010
 09:30 Score Tonight
 10:00 Behind The Baseline
 11:00 Trans Tasman Touch Rugby Test
 Series - Mixed

AXN
 11:30 Numb3rs
 12:30 Breaking The Magician: Magic's Biggest Secrets Finally Revealed
 01:30 Criss Angel Mindfreak
 02:30 VIDEO ZONKERS
 03:30 Guinness World Records Smashed
 Slamball
 05:30 So You Think You Can Dance
 06:30 Guinness World Records Smashed
 Caught on Camera
 07:30 Estate of Panic
 10:30 Top Chef
 11:30 Caught on Camera

BBC WORLD
 05:45 Sport Today
 06:30 BBC World News
 06:30 World Business Report
 06:45 Sport Today
 07:00 World News Today with Zeinab Badawi
 08:30 World Business Report
 08:45 Sport Today
 09:00 BBC World News
 09:30 HARDtalk (r)
 10:00 Business Edition with Tanya Beckett
 10:30 Asia Business Report

Talk show

CHANNEL i
 09:50pm Grameenphone Tritomatra
 12:30pm Citycell Taroka Kathan

ntv
 08:15pm Eki Brintey

Drama Serial

ATN BANGLA
 08:00pm Batasher Ghar
 08:40pm Dayebondhon
 09:20pm Shubarno Swapno

ntv
 08:15pm FnF

RTV
 09:25pm Tobou Boshonto
 10:10pm Dui Pokhkhho

BANGLAVISION
 08:15pm Patiganit
 09:45pm Gulshan Avenue

News Bulletin

BTV
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 am.
 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am
 2:00 pm-5:00 pm-8:00 pm.
 News (English) at 10:00am,
 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
 Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i
 News (Bangla): 7:00 am,

9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm,
 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN BANGLA
 NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm,
 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
 News (English) at 10:00am,
 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
 News Every Hour: 7:00am,
 11:00am, 12:00pm,
 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm
 News (English): 9:00 am,
 6:00 pm.
BANGLAVISION
 News (Bangla) at 7:30am.

Programme on March 25

A memorial programme remembering those killed on the night of March 25, 1971. Aired live from Rajarbagh Police Line.
 On Channel i and Desh TV, starting from 11:30 pm.

Chithi Ashey Na
 On Channel i at 7:50 pm
 Single-episode TV play
 Cast: Mamunur Rashid, Raisul Islam Asad

Shei Raat-er Katha Boltey Eshechhi
 On Desh TV at 9:45 pm
 Documentary on March 25

Mukti Juddher Itihas
 On ATN Bangla at 4:10 pm
 Documentary on Liberation War

RADIO FOORTI 88.0 FM
 07:30am Hello Dhaka
 10:00am Morning Express
 12:30pm No Tension
 04:00pm Dhaka Calling
 09:00pm Full Volume
 11:00pm Back to Back music

abc radio FM 89.2
 06:00am Bhorer Janalay
 09:00am Mokhurto
 12:00pm Darun Dupurey
 03:00pm Duranto Bikelay
 05:00pm Shondha Tara
 07:00pm Shaj-er Maya
 09:00pm Raat-er Akashay
 11:00pm Golper Shesh Nei

RADIO TODAY 89.6 FM
 07:15am Good Morning Dhaka
 11:00am Musti Unlimited
 05:00pm Shondha Tara
 01:00pm U Turn
 04:00pm Tabey Tai Hok
 08:00pm Today's Happy Moments
 12:00am