

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: Just For You
Photographer: Anwar Hossain
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-8/A, Dhanmondi
Date: August 20-29
Time: 3-8pm



Photography Exhibition

Title: Ramadan in the Middle East
Photographer: Christel Becker-Rau
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H-10, Rd-9, Dhanmondi
Date: August 9-September 9
Time: 10am-8pm



Nazrul Death Anniversary

Organiser: Nazrul Institute
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: August 27
Time: 4pm



Film Screening

Film: "Ivan's Childhood"
Venue: Auditorium, Russian Centre of Science & Culture, Dhanmondi
Date: August 28
Time: 5pm



Bangladesh Betar: Restoring its lost glory



Sadly, the radio medium had become like the exhibit itself: a reminder of a glorious past but slowly slipping into decay through neglect and misuse.

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

Last week, I stepped into the Bangladesh Betar, Dhaka for the first time in nearly a decade. The building was very much as I remembered it - an imposing red brick structure in Agargaon with a sprawling and well kept garden in front. As a tribute to its rich history, the musical instruments from Shwadin Bangla Betar Kendra were displayed at the entrance.

Sadly, the radio medium had become like the exhibit itself: a reminder of a glorious past but slowly slipping into decay through neglect and misuse.

During the 1970s and 1980s, this was the cultural hub of the country, staffed by leading musicians and directors and frequented by the elite artists of the era. With the advent of television, cable and the internet, radio quietly slipped into oblivion. With the resurgence of digital radio in Bangladesh and the continued popu-

larity of radio in Western countries, though, I was curious to know why Bangladesh's once-leading medium was dying a slow, some would say painful, death.

The individual who would be giving me the answers to my questions was Nilufer Nazneen, Regional Director of Bangladesh Betar Dhaka and on whose request I had agreed to perform on the radio after such a long absence. Much to my delight, the musicians and directors arrived on time and the recording went exactly as scheduled. I was afterwards soon in conversation with Nazneen.

In this modern technological age, what steps is Radio Bangladesh taking to modernise itself?

Nilufer Nazneen: We are in the process of shifting from analogue to digital system. We have already started setting up 12 transmitters. We are also developing our archive by digitising audio cassettes from the worn-out spools. This will preserve

the works of the great artistes of yesteryears and also will allow us to play their tracks for the new generation.

How does the radio content compare with the content of other media? Does the radio broadcast content that is popular?

Nilufer Nazneen: Our audience is nationwide and as a public broadcasting system we need to cater to far flung interests. That means our content needs to keep a balance between entertainment and education. As a public broadcasting service, our programmes cover aspects such as agriculture, population control, development, self employment, women and child care and more. We also provide spots, jingles and documentaries which draw a large audience. The phone-in programmes are popular as well. It's worth mentioning that with such a massive audience, the radio medium remains a strong attraction for advertisers -- an indication that content-wise we do cater to

the needs and demands of our audience.

Why do you think radio is not able to attract artistes?

Nilufer Nazneen: Everyday around 60-80 recordings are held on songs alone. Then we have other talk shows and drama as well. We believe that the remuneration for artistes should be adjusted to today's economic realities and should be so set as to attract senior artistes.

Surprisingly, experienced musicians are still hired on a monthly contractual basis as casual artistes. Upon retirement, they are deprived of provident fund or pension benefits. Instead they are given a month's salary as gratuity. I put such questions to Abdur Rouf, DDG of Bangladesh Betar.

Why is there such a difference in pay and benefits compared to BTV, both radio and BTV being under the ministry of culture?

Abdur Rouf: We have been voicing our concerns on nearly all the forums. Now artistes also need to be proactive rather than shying away from the scene. We are aware of the wide gap and are trying to take measures so that artistes of quality once more take interest in performing on radio.

How does the administration maintain the quality of musicians?

Abdur Rouf: There are almost 570 vacant posts and we plan to organise competitive exams to recruit announcers and instrumentalists soon.

It occurred to me that the radio authorities were at least planning to turn this once-popular medium around. However, much bolder steps are called for. For instance, to generate a steady stream of quality new artistes, training sessions at Shilpakala Academy at the district level could be geared up. In addition, many of the retired veteran artistes can be reinstated on a contractual basis to impart training to the new generation of artistes. The inequality in pay structure is large and incomprehensible and should be addressed on the basis of immediacy.

With digital radio acquiring ever widening dimensions and its popularity growing by the day, it is high time for Bangladesh Betar to re-emerge from the shadows through re-inventing itself. The right mix of drive, vision and energy can surely restore Bangladesh Betar to its old glory. We look forward to the arrival of that moment.

22-year-old Mexican crowned Miss Universe

AP, Las Vegas

A 22-year-old Mexican won the Miss Universe pageant Monday night after donning a flowing red gown and telling an audience it's important to teach kids family values.

Jimena Navarrete of Guadalajara was first to answer an interview question Monday night and the last of 83 contestants standing in the headline-grabbing pageant on the Las Vegas Strip.

Asked by Olympic gold-medal figure skater Evan Lysacek how she felt about unsupervised Internet use, Navarrete said the Internet is important but parents need to be careful and watch over their kids.

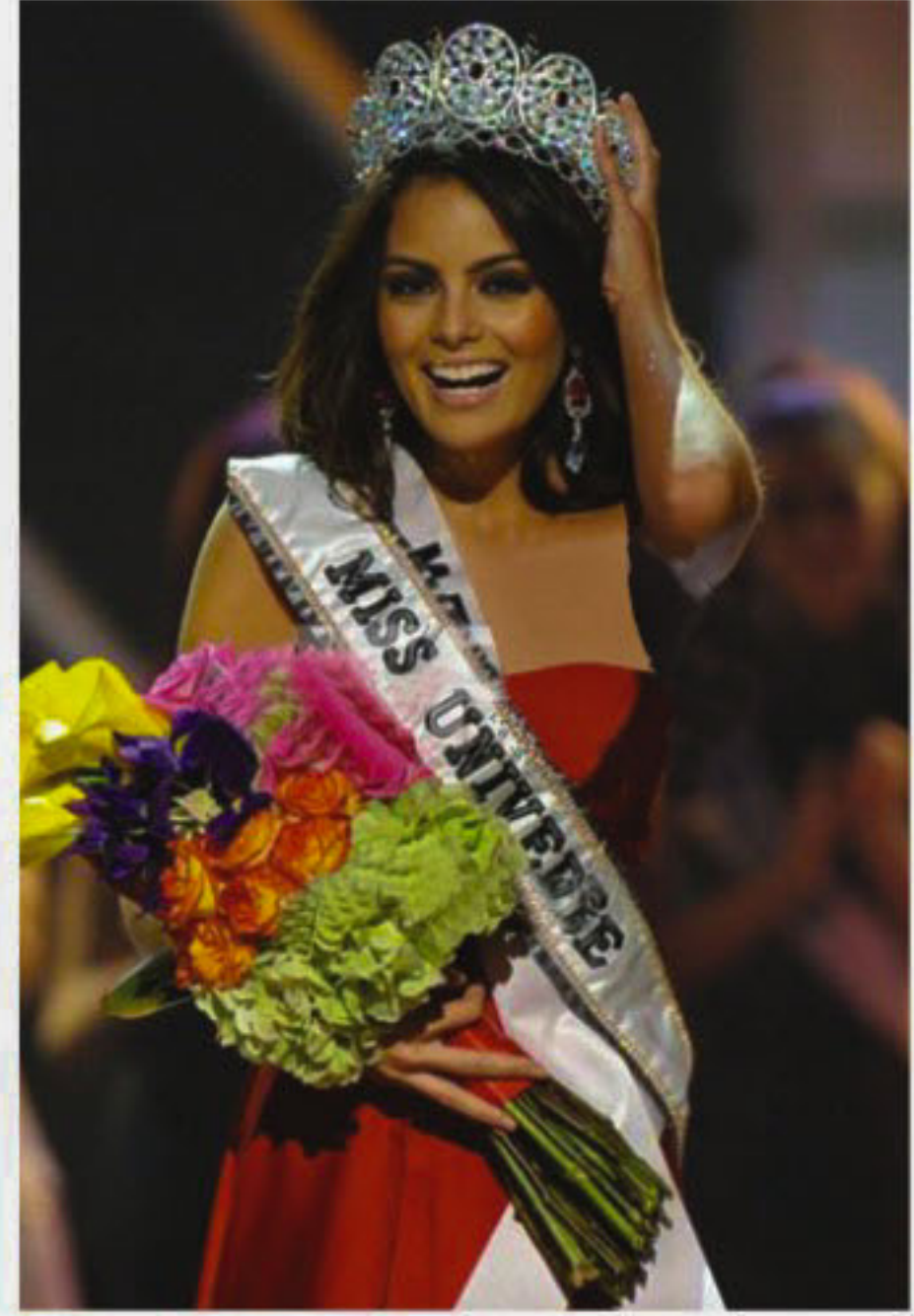
First runner-up was Miss Jamaica Yendi Phillipps, while second runner-up was Miss Australia Jesinta Campbell.

Navarrete who's been modeling since she was 15 is Mexico's second Miss Universe. Lupita Jones of Mexico won the title in 1991. Navarrete replaces Miss Universe 2009 Stefania Fernandez of Venezuela.

Navarrete was immediately congratulated on Twitter by Mexican President Felipe Calderon and his wife, Margarita Zavala.

With fans in some 190 countries watching on television and keeping tabs on social networks, Navarrete and her competitors introduced themselves while wearing over-the-top national costumes. They then danced in silver and black dresses for the show's opening number before the top 15 finalists were announced. The final 15 walked in swimsuits while Cirque du Soleil musicians played Elvis Presley songs including "Viva Las Vegas." The last 10 impressed in their gowns while John Legend and the Roots played a soulful medley including "Save Room."

By the end of the show, seven of the top 10 trending topics on Twitter had to do with the



pageant, its contestants, its judges or owner Donald Trump. The mogul co-owns the pageant with TV network NBC.

The show was without any major gaffes, except for Miss Philippines' answer when asked what her biggest mistake in life was and how she fixed it.

"In my 22 years of existence, I can say there is nothing major," Venus Raj said.

Before the pageant, Raj was rated among the top contestants in an online poll on the pageant's website. She finished in fifth place.

Navarrete won a package of prizes including an undisclosed salary, a luxury New York apartment with living expenses, a one-year scholarship to the New York Film Academy with housing after her reign, plus jewellery, clothes and shoes fit for a beauty champion.



The launching ceremony of an audio album by promising singer Porshi, was held at a local city restaurant. Lawmaker Zahid Ahsan Russell, noted singer Momtaz; Mili Rahman, widow of Bir Sreshtho Matiur Rahman; singer Ayub Bachchu; singer Anup Barua; AKM Arifur Rahman, Chairman of Laser Vision; Mazharul Islam, managing director of Laser Vision; noted lyricist Kabir Bakul; among others, were present at the programme. The album features 10 songs of different genres composed by Bappa Majumdar, Arefin Rumi, Mahmud Sunny and Audit.

৬ষ্ঠ সিটিসেল-চ্যানেল আই মিউজিক অ্যাওয়ার্ডস্ - শ্রেষ্ঠত্ব প্রমাণের এখনই সময়!

CITYCELL-CHANNEL I MUSIC AWARDS

শ্রেষ্ঠ শিল্পী - উচ্চস্ব (যেহ)

শ্রেষ্ঠ শিল্পী - উচ্চস্ব (কঠ)

শ্রেষ্ঠ শিল্পী - রবীন্দ্র সঙ্গীত

শ্রেষ্ঠ শিল্পী - মজরুল সঙ্গীত

শ্রেষ্ঠ শিল্পী - সোকালীতি (পুল্লী/মরমী)

শ্রেষ্ঠ শিল্পী - ছায়াছবি গান

শ্রেষ্ঠ শিল্পী - আধুনিক গান

শ্রেষ্ঠ শিল্পী - নবগায়

শ্রেষ্ঠ গীতিকার

শ্রেষ্ঠ সঙ্গীত পরিচালক

শ্রেষ্ঠ ব্যক্ত

শ্রেষ্ঠ কভার ডিজাইন (অ্যালবাম)

শ্রেষ্ঠ মিউজিক ভিডিও

শ্রেষ্ঠ সাউন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ার

শ্রেষ্ঠ আভ্যাক্সাউড ব্যাক (অধকশিত)

আপনি যদি একজন সঙ্গীত শিল্পী/সঙ্গীত সংশ্লিষ্ট কেউ অথবা সঙ্গীত প্রযোজনা প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে সম্পৃক্ত হয়ে থাকেন তাহলে আজই অংশ নিন!

প্রতিযোগিতার নিয়মাবলী: ● ১লা জানুয়ারী থেকে ৩১শে ডিসেম্বর ২০০৯-এর মধ্যে বাংলাদেশে প্রকাশিত যেকোন সঙ্গীত সংশ্লিষ্ট অ্যালবাম, সরাসরি শিল্পী অথবা প্রযোজনা প্রতিষ্ঠান এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন ● আপনার/আপনাদের অ্যালবামগুলো উল্লেখিত ১৫টি ক্যাটাগরির অন্তর্ভুক্ত হতে হবে। ১টি অ্যালবাম একইসাথে একাধিক ক্যাটাগরিতে মনোনয়নের জন্য জমা দেওয়া যেতে পারে ● প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অ্যালবামগুলোর শিল্পী, গীতিকার, সুরকার ও প্রযোজনা প্রতিষ্ঠানের অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশী হতে হবে ● অ্যালবামের একটি তালিকা মনোনয়নের নাম এবং শিল্পী ও প্রযোজনা প্রতিষ্ঠানের টেলিফোন নম্বর একটি সাদা কাগজে টাইপ করে শিল্পী কিংবা প্রযোজকের স্বাক্ষরসহ পাঠাতে হবে ● এন্ট্রি জমা দেবার ঠিকানা: চ্যানেল আই, চ্যানেল আই ভবন, ৪০ শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ সড়ক, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা ১২০৮ ● জমা দেবার সর্বশেষ তারিখ: ২০ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০১০ ইং বিকাল ৫টা ● ৬ষ্ঠ সিটিসেল-চ্যানেল আই মিউজিক অ্যাওয়ার্ডস্-এর যেকোন তথ্য অনুসন্ধান যোগাযোগ করুন: ০১১৯৯ ৮৮৩৩৩৮, ০১১৯৯ ৮৮৩৩৩৯ নম্বরে।

● ৬ষ্ঠ সিটিসেল-চ্যানেল আই মিউজিক অ্যাওয়ার্ডস্ সন্মুখে যেকোন সিদ্ধান্ত Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd. (Citycell) এবং Impres Telefilm Ltd. (Channel I) বৌখভাবে সংরক্ষণ করে।

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