

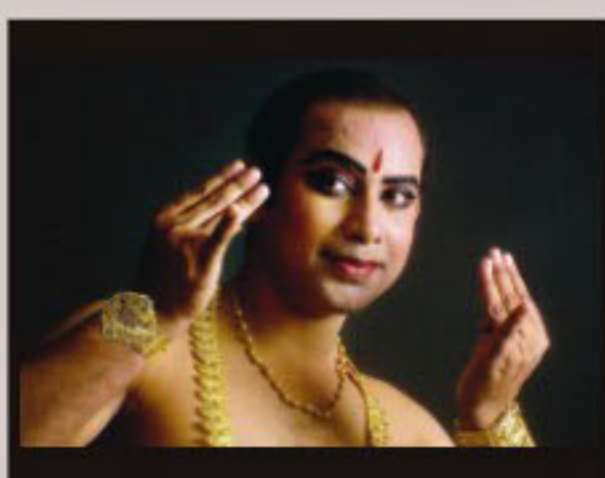
WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre
Play: Baramkhana
Troupe: Theatre
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 26
Time: 6:30pm



Solo Bharatnatyam Recital

Title: Nupur Beje Jae
Dancer: Rajdeep Banerjee
Organiser: Shadhona
Venue: Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhavan, Dhanmondi
Date: December 25
Time: 6:30pm



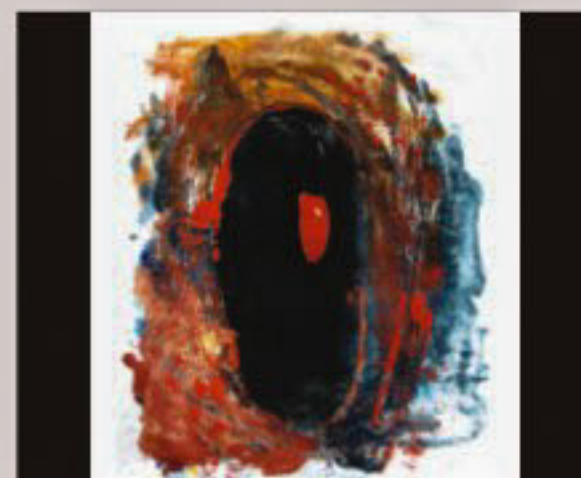
17th Convention of Udichi

Organiser: Udichi Shilpi Goshi
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh
Date: December 24-25
Time: 10am onwards



Solo Monoprint Exhibition

Title: Seeds
Artist: Soumyajit Choudhury
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-1
Date: December 22-29
Time: 10am-8pm (Fridays 3-8pm)



Christmas-themed traditional Bangla songs

Anima D' Costa reminisces a dying art form



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

A CORRESPONDENT

Anima D' Costa is a well-recognised Adhunik and Nazrul Sangeet artiste. She took music lessons from Ustad Akhtar Sadmani and Mangal C. Mandal.

In a recent conversation with The Daily Star Anima reminisced on Childhood Christmases and how she and her family celebrates the festival in Dhaka.

"My memories of childhood Christmas days in my village are absolutely different from how we now celebrate it in Dhaka. In the village, the celebration began on Christmas Eve. Instead of the usual Christmas carol we have in Dhaka, we had folk and Kirtan-styled songs about Jesus.

nied by some grown ups, used to dance and sing and visit all the houses in the village. Sometimes my elder brother used to sing the lead parts and we'd sing in chorus. And it went on till the break of dawn," Anima said.

She added, "Boithaki Gaan was another attraction during Christmas. It's something like Pala Gaan. The life-story of Jesus is narrated in a conversational mode, accompanied by traditional instruments. The onslaught of Western and Indian music have seemingly changed the taste of young people -- even in the villages -- of the country. Consequently, Kirtan and Boithaki Gaan are not as popular as they once were."

Talking about Christmas in Dhaka, she said, "For us, Christmas celebration in Dhaka also begins at 12am, on December 25. That is when the Mass ends, and we sing songs on Jesus. We attend the morning Mass. After that I usually spend the rest of the day with family. Friends come over and I go to their homes as well."

When Lata was naughty... and other unheard stories

The Indian film industry has seen its share of controversies over the years.

While star romances and break-ups are usually well documented, the music industry has many secrets that have never tumbled out of the closet.

Raju Bharatan, an assistant editor at The Illustrated Weekly of India, Asia's oldest English magazine till it shut down in 1991, and author of "Lata Mangeshkar: A Biography" and the recent best-seller "A Journey Down Melody Lane", reveals some of those secrets:

When RD Burman refused to compose a song for Raj Kapoor...

RD Burman and Randhir Kapoor were good friends. RD had been signed to score the music for Randhir's directorial debut, "Dharam Karam". One of the songs needed to be filmed on Raj Kapoor.

Randhir told RD to compose that particular tune with Raj Kapoor present. But RD got upset and said, "You didn't tell me that I had to play a tune in front of Raj Kapoor, else I wouldn't have signed the film."

The reason why RD reacted this way was that he had had a very bad experience with Guru Dutt earlier. He had heard that Raj Kapoor was difficult to work with as well.

RD said Guru Dutt "drove me mad." He would finalise a tune after hearing a range of tunes, but cancel it at the very next sitting because his vision would change by then. He would ask RD to compose another tune.

RD thought Raj Kapoor was difficult while selecting tunes as well. Randhir tried to reason with him, saying that Raj Kapoor was a very creative person. RD replied that he had worked with creative people before and knew exactly what happened when you worked with one.

He added that he only wanted to work with "normal" people.

After much cajoling, he finally agreed. He was very nervous because Raj Kapoor liked Shankar-Jaikishan, but did not like Laxmikant-Pyarelal's work.

So RD played the tune of "Ek Din Bik Jayega Maati Ke Mol". The lyrics weren't written then.

Raj Kapoor loved it. He said the song would be a hit.

When Dilip Kumar got mean with Lata...

Composer Anil Biswas and Lata Mangeshkar were travelling in the third class compartment (in those days, trains had a third class compart-

ment as well). Dilip Kumar was travelling in the same compartment, so Anil Biswas introduced him to Lata.

During their conversation, Dilip Kumar learnt that Lata was Maharashtrian. He said, "En Maharashtra-o ke saath ek problem hota hai. Inki gaane main daal bhaat ki boo aati hai (The problem with these Maharashtrians is when they sing, they smell of dal and rice)."

Lata took the hint and immediately kept an Urdu diction teacher, and she learnt the language carefully.

An out of tune Mukesh...

Shankar told me one day that sometimes when Mukesh would sing, he would be so besura (out of tune) that Shankar would leave the recording studio. He would ask his assistant to coach Mukesh.

Shankar would return to the studio only after Mukesh got the tune and diction right.

After all the rehearsals, the final number would be mind-blowing. That is why they kept working together

When RD got upset with SD Burman

A major chunk of the "Aradhana" soundtrack was composed by RD

Burman, after SD Burman fell ill.

During a party to celebrate the film's success, SD told everyone that the music was his, and that RD was only his assistant.

RD stood in a corner throughout the party as his father hogged the limelight. He was very upset even though he knew SD's nature.

Later, RD got "Kati Patang", but still felt ignored. Soon after that, he moved out of the family home.

How Lata would tease SD Burman...

SD Burman would bring an elaborate spread for lunch.

During lunch, he would ask everyone to leave so that he could have his lunch alone. He never liked sharing his lunch.

It is a custom in the industry that everyone had lunch together. Everyone would open their tiffins together. But SD would ask everyone to leave.

Lata (Mangeshkar) was very naughty. She would linger even though she did not want to eat his lunch.

She liked to irritate him. SD would shout at her and tell her to leave.

She would laugh, and then go.

Compiled by Correspondent

WHAT TO WATCH

Four Christmases



Today on HBO at 8:15 am
Language: English
Genre: Romance/Comedy
Storyline: Brad (Vince Vaughn) and Kate (Reese Witherspoon) have been in a relationship for three years. They are very much in love and have the time of their lives with no intention of getting married or having kids. On Christmas day, the two of them visit their parents -- both sets divorced. That will make it four Christmas visits in all. Brad and Kate learn a lot more about each other throughout the day.
Directed by: Seth Gordon



Lata Mangeshkar (left) with SD Burman

News Bulletin section with BT, ATN Bangla, Channel i, and Banglavisión news schedules.

RTV, ATN News, Desh TV, Diganta TV, Z Studio, and Boishakhi TV schedules.

Star Movies, Star World, and Ekattorer Jishu schedule.

HBO, National Geographic Channel, and Discovery Channel schedules.

Cartoon Network and Talk Show schedules.

Radio Foorti, Radio Today, and ABC Radio FM 89.2 schedules.