

WHAT'S ON

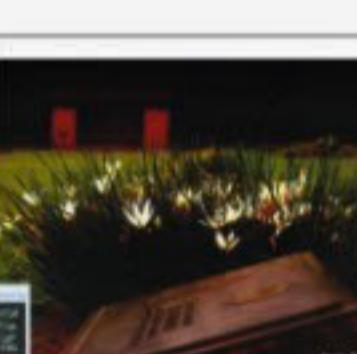
Theatre
Troupe: Nagrik Natyanjan Ensemble
Play: Raja Rani (Premier Show)
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: February 4, Time: 6:30pm



Solo Musical Soiree
Artiste: Yasin Mushtari
Venue: IGGC, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: February 4
Time: 6:30pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: Kaleidoscope of Life
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy
Date: February 6-9
Time: 10am-5pm



Annual Art Exhibition 2010
Organiser: Department of Print Making, FFA, DU
Venue: Zainul Gallery
Date: Jan 31 - Feb 4



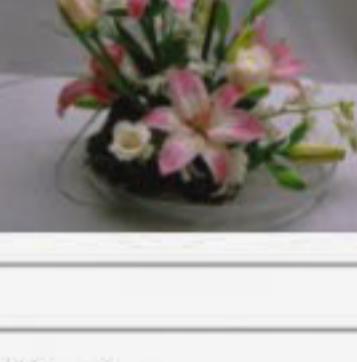
Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Mohammad Eunus
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7A, H-60, Hannondi
Date: January 28-February 6
Time: 5pm-8pm



Solo Sitar Recital
Artist: Reenat Fauzia
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd 24, Gulshan-1
Date: Feb 5
Time: 5:30pm



Ikebana Contest and Demonstration
Organiser: JUJAB and the Embassy in Japan
Venue: Lake Shore Hotel, R-41, Gulshan-2



Theatre
Play: Mitchell O Shanbar
Troupe: Pradyan Students
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: February 4



DIFFERENT TAKE

Exclusive with Dr. M Zahir

We know them as doctors, engineers, lawyers, entrepreneurs but behind closed doors some of them are aesthetes. They include brilliant singers, musicians and artists. Through 'Different Take', Star Arts & Entertainment has decided to put the cultural avatars of these renowned professionals in focus.



SADYA AFREEN MALICK

When M. Zahir finally looked up from his electric guitar we were going through our second round of coffee and goodies prepared by his wife Professor Shahida Zahir on a wintry morning.

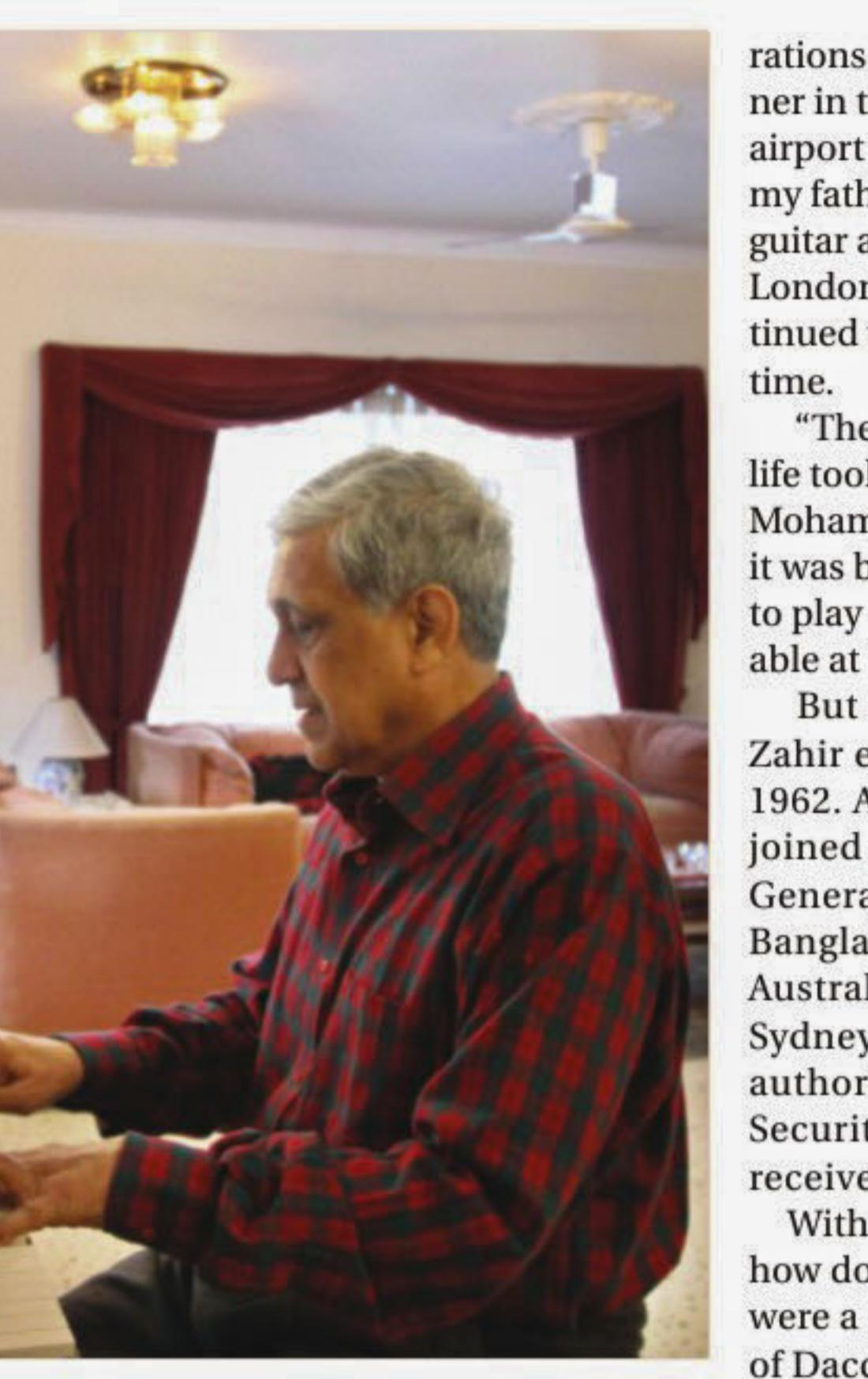
Far removed from his world of professional hazards as Barrister at Law and senior advocate of the Supreme Court, Dr. Zahir was treating us to his delightful rendition of the film hits of the 60s, *Aye Mere Dil Kahan, Ye Raat Ye Chandni, Ay Dil Hai Mushkil Jeena Yahan*, the Tagore classic *Tomar Holo Shuru* and the ever green song *Oh! My Darling Clementine*.

"Guitar was my first love," Zahir quipped. "And I started off quite young---during my college days. It's an age when you want to make an impression on the girls," he went on. And did you? "Well, I wanted to! You see ---the moment I mentioned that I wanted to practice law, the girls invariably fled the scene!"

Now however, I play for myself! Unfortunately because of my busy schedule the only time I get to play it is on Friday, when I shut my door to the world and lose myself in music."

Dr. Zahir, a renowned lawyer and jurist of the country, revels in living life to the brim. Besides running his highly respected legal practice and charming listeners with his music, he runs his opponents to the ground on the tennis courts on a regular basis. An avid tennis player since 1963, he is the reigning doubles champion of Dhaka Club for the past 2 years. He also plays in Gulshan Club and never misses a chance to play when he is abroad. He claims to have played in Canberra, Sydney, Singapore, Kolkata, London, Brussels, Rome New York, and Toronto. In between all this, he has published authoritative works on legal practices that serve as a reference to lawyers across the country.

From whom did you learn to play the guitar? "Well that is a very interesting story. My first mentor was Kalipdo Babu. My father, Justice Asir, was a music enthusiast too. He bought me the Hofner guitar. We know that he loved *dhol*. But it was my cousin Dulubu (Professor Dr. Zarina Zaman) who inspired me to play the guitar. So, one day I got to touch with Samar Das, the brilliant composer and musician. His technique of teaching was quite different. He would come and play the guitar for hours and I would try to absorb his style. After he left I



would try to imitate him. However, while studying at Notre Dame College, Samar Das and I hatched a "brilliant" idea to run away from home to Kolkata, to venture into the music world in Bollywood.

"But our sojourn was cut short and I returned from Kolkata with a broken heart. Samar Das possibly went to Bombay for sometime and he too returned after sometime. This was most fortunate as he went on to create some timeless compositions for us later on!" What are your earliest memories, especially in relation to music?

"I remember playing at the Intra District Musical programme at Palta Maidan a long time back. But the most interesting experience was playing with the Jolites, the first band in Bangladesh. Rafiq, Fazli, Fahmi, Alamgir (renowned singer, now settled in Pakistan)--- everyone was deeply attached to the band. I played with the band the whole night on my wedding eve. My friends probably thought I was trying to waste away my pre-marital tension, but they were wrong. I was just so immersed in music I lost all track of time! It was the night before 15th of January 1967," Zahir said.

"But somehow, every time my musical inspi-

rations were about to blossom there was a spanner in the wheels. When I was on my way to the airport to travel to London to study for the Bar, my father barred me from taking my prized guitar along with me. But once I reached London, I somehow got another one and continued with my practice whenever I had spare time.

"The most unforgettable event in my musical life took place in 1964. The legendary singer Mohammed Rafi was to perform in London and it was by sheer coincidence that I got the chance to play with him as there was no one else available at that time," says an elated Zahir.

But it was not music all the time. Dr. M Zahir embarked on his career as a lawyer in 1962. After practicing for several years he joined the Australian Government Attorney General's Department, but returned to Bangladesh in 1975. He kept going back to Australia on different contract jobs in Sydney. Dr. M Zahir has written several authoritative books on Company and Securities Laws and the Stock Exchange and received the coveted Padatik award in 2009.

With your busy worldwide travel schedule, how do you keep up with your hobby? "We were a group of around 35 batch-mates of 1956 of Dacca University; unfortunately many of them are no more. The one day we, as a group, get to come together is on weekends. At these get-togethers we forget the present and go back to our old days. I often have to play the guitar or the electric organ on request," he says.

Who is your favourite piano maestro? "I am very fond of Yanni. I listen to the old numbers of Shammi Mitra and Hemanta," hums Zahir from a few hit numbers.

"But our sojourn was cut short and I returned from Kolkata with a broken heart. Samar Das possibly went to Bombay for sometime and he too returned after sometime. This was most fortunate as he went on to create some timeless compositions for us later on!" What are your earliest memories, especially in relation to music?

"I remember playing at the Intra District Musical programme at Palta Maidan a long time back. But the most interesting experience was playing with the Jolites, the first band in Bangladesh. Rafiq, Fazli, Fahmi, Alamgir (renowned singer, now settled in Pakistan)--- everyone was deeply attached to the band. I played with the band the whole night on my wedding eve. My friends probably thought I was trying to waste away my pre-marital tension, but they were wrong. I was just so immersed in music I lost all track of time! It was the night before 15th of January 1967," Zahir said.

"But somehow, every time my musical inspi-

ring was about to blossom there was a spanner in the wheels. When I was on my way to the airport to travel to London to study for the Bar, my father barred me from taking my prized guitar along with me. But once I reached London, I somehow got another one and continued with my practice whenever I had spare time.

"The most unforgettable event in my musical life took place in 1964. The legendary singer Mohammed Rafi was to perform in London and it was by sheer coincidence that I got the chance to play with him as there was no one else available at that time," says an elated Zahir.

But it was not music all the time. Dr. M Zahir embarked on his career as a lawyer in 1962. After practicing for several years he joined the Australian Government Attorney General's Department, but returned to Bangladesh in 1975. He kept going back to Australia on different contract jobs in Sydney. Dr. M Zahir has written several authoritative books on Company and Securities Laws and the Stock Exchange and received the coveted Padatik award in 2009.

With your busy worldwide travel schedule, how do you keep up with your hobby? "We were a group of around 35 batch-mates of 1956 of Dacca University; unfortunately many of them are no more. The one day we, as a group, get to come together is on weekends. At these get-togethers we forget the present and go back to our old days. I often have to play the guitar or the electric organ on request," he says.

Who is your favourite piano maestro? "I am very fond of Yanni. I listen to the old numbers of Shammi Mitra and Hemanta," hums Zahir from a few hit numbers.

"But our sojourn was cut short and I returned from Kolkata with a broken heart. Samar Das possibly went to Bombay for sometime and he too returned after sometime. This was most fortunate as he went on to create some timeless compositions for us later on!" What are your earliest memories, especially in relation to music?

"I remember playing at the Intra District Musical programme at Palta Maidan a long time back. But the most interesting experience was playing with the Jolites, the first band in Bangladesh. Rafiq, Fazli, Fahmi, Alamgir (renowned singer, now settled in Pakistan)--- everyone was deeply attached to the band. I played with the band the whole night on my wedding eve. My friends probably thought I was trying to waste away my pre-marital tension, but they were wrong. I was just so immersed in music I lost all track of time! It was the night before 15th of January 1967," Zahir said.

"But somehow, every time my musical inspi-

Still Going Strong

In conversation with Subarna Mostafa



good actor. For those with a theatre background, it is natural that they may want to test their skills in other media.

TDS: Most of your movies have been commercial successes. Why didn't you become a regular face on the silver screen?

Subarna: I was going at my own pace. But then something happened to the Bangladeshi film industry. In a sense I was glad that I was not offered roles in a particular kind of movies. But I still wish to act in movies.

TDS: Where does your weakness lie?

Subarna: I don't know. I try to work honestly. My critics can point out my Achilles' heel.

TDS: Are there limitations to acting?

Subarna: I can't say about acting limitations. But there is sometimes a lack of facilities during shooting, which makes it hard to produce what you expect.

TDS: Tell us something about your latest work, "Gohine"...

Subarna: "Gohine" -- made by our own production house Shat Kahon -- has been both written and directed by Badrul Anam Soud (her husband) and will be aired on Desh TV five days a week. You can choose to call it a daily soap, but it does not have the glamour, tension-driven drama or the exuberant props like other soaps. It is more like a mega serial in a rural setting. There are many characters in the serial -- all with their own individualities. I play the role of Ramela -- a Hindu woman who with the unfolding of the story arrives at a Muslim family.

TDS: When did you take to acting seriously?

Subarna: I was in class eight or nine, when I worked on "Borof Gola Nodi"; since then I have been very serious about acting. This is the arena I feel comfortable in -- it is scriptwriting, direction or acting.

TDS: Since when have you been active in theatre?

Subarna: Since the time I began working in TV plays. I started off with Dhaka Theatre.

TDS: It is often said that talent, skill and dedication in acting are more in evidence today since the time you launched your career. What do you have to say about that?

Subarna: I don't agree. Skills have definitely improved with time and technology. In the past, people had no choice but to watch the sole channel on air. So looking back we become nostalgic and have fond memories of earlier days. When we first began acting there were huge cameras which shot black and white footage. But now with colour and newer technologies, skills have definitely improved. I always think that fresh faces will keep coming along with their fresh ideas. Initially they may falter, but let's not be critical about that.

However, I have an observation about the quality. In some cases everything is

being done in a haphazard manner, causing the quality to slump. But dedication and hard work can change that. I'm an optimistic person and welcome experiments in the field. For example, the recent trend of experimenting with improvisations has often paid off, while at another end it has been a failure. But good works will emerge through mistakes and successes. It is not if there were only praiseworthy productions in the past, nor does the present only offer poor performances. The mix of good and bad had always been there, and continues to be.

TDS: Desh being an active member of Dhaka Theatre in the past, you have been absent from the stage for some time. Is there any reason behind that?

Subarna: I have worked with Dhaka Theatre for 25 years. But at one point I bested that I could not give it my best. It was then I decided to take a break. But I have to add that theatre is where I received all my acting lessons. Performing on the stage gives one a certain spontaneity.

TDS: Tell us something about your achievements and regrets?

Subarna: Rather than regrets, I try to see the brighter side of life. I've always said that I'm lucky to be in a profession that is near to my heart. I know many people who earn their living, working in professions they do not enjoy. Only time will tell about my achievements.

TDS: To what extent do you think the theatre can assist in TV acting?

Subarna: The experience of the stage is helpful for any media person. In theatre, a play is staged after three months of readings and rehearsals. The learning process is done in that time. Let me add that there are many great actors who have never performed on the stage. Working in theatre can give you an edge, but it is not necessary that one has to have a theatre background to become a good actor.

Subarna: Right now, I don't have any free hours. But I try to be with my family when I get a break and if the vacation is longer, I go abroad. My brother lives in the US and his family is in Australia. So these are the places that I often visit. Last Durban Eid, we travelled to Bhutan. I read books not only during my leisure hours, but most of the time.

ATN BANGLA

11:15	Campus Parliament	10:50	Shomoy Katuk Gaane
02:50	Bangla Feature Film	12:30	Shudhu Cinema Gaan
06:15	Amra Korbo Joy		
08:00	Din Badal-er		
10:45	Kotha		
11:30	Bibhang Kotha		
02:40	Tele-Film		
05:30	Boi Mela (Live)		
07:50	Khude Gaanraj		
11:30	Fun Club Tournament		
12:00	Gramener Ajker		
	Shangbadpotro		

ETV

01:30	Bangla Feature Film	12:30	Shokol Bolar Pakhi Score Card
04:30	Mukto Kabor	01:00	Drama
05:30	Shoptho June	01:00	Chena Ochena
09:30	Drama	01:00	Z
12:30	Phono Live Studio Concert	01:00	Z

Diganta TV

10:05	Gaan-er Shomoy	12:30	Shokol Bolar Pakhi Score Card
02:30	Tele-film	01:00	Drama
06:10	Shubho Shondhya	01:00	Chena Ochena