

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair '12
Venue: Bangla Academy
Premises
Date: February 1-29
Time: 9am onwards

Classical Music Fest
Organisers: Bengal Foundation & ITC SBA
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum
Date: February 12-13
Time: 6:30pm everyday

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Ekdin De Bangladesh
Photographer: Dr. Pierre Clauin
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: Feb 17-Mar 1

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Studied Reflections
Venue: Radius Centre, Gulshan-1
Date: Feb 10-Mar 2
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Exhibition
Title: Philosophy of Life
Artist: Ruhul Amin Kaji
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmoadi
Date: Feb 9-21
Time: 12pm-8pm

Basanta Utsab
Organiser: Banglink
Venue: Charakla premises, Dhaka University
Date: Feb 13
Time: 7:15 am-9:30 am, 4 pm-9 pm

Solo Exhibition
Artist: Khashinath Salve
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, R-6, H-115, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Feb 7-20
Time: 11am-8pm

Musical Soiree
Title: Bhalobashar Gaan
Organiser: Robiraag
Venue: Music and Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

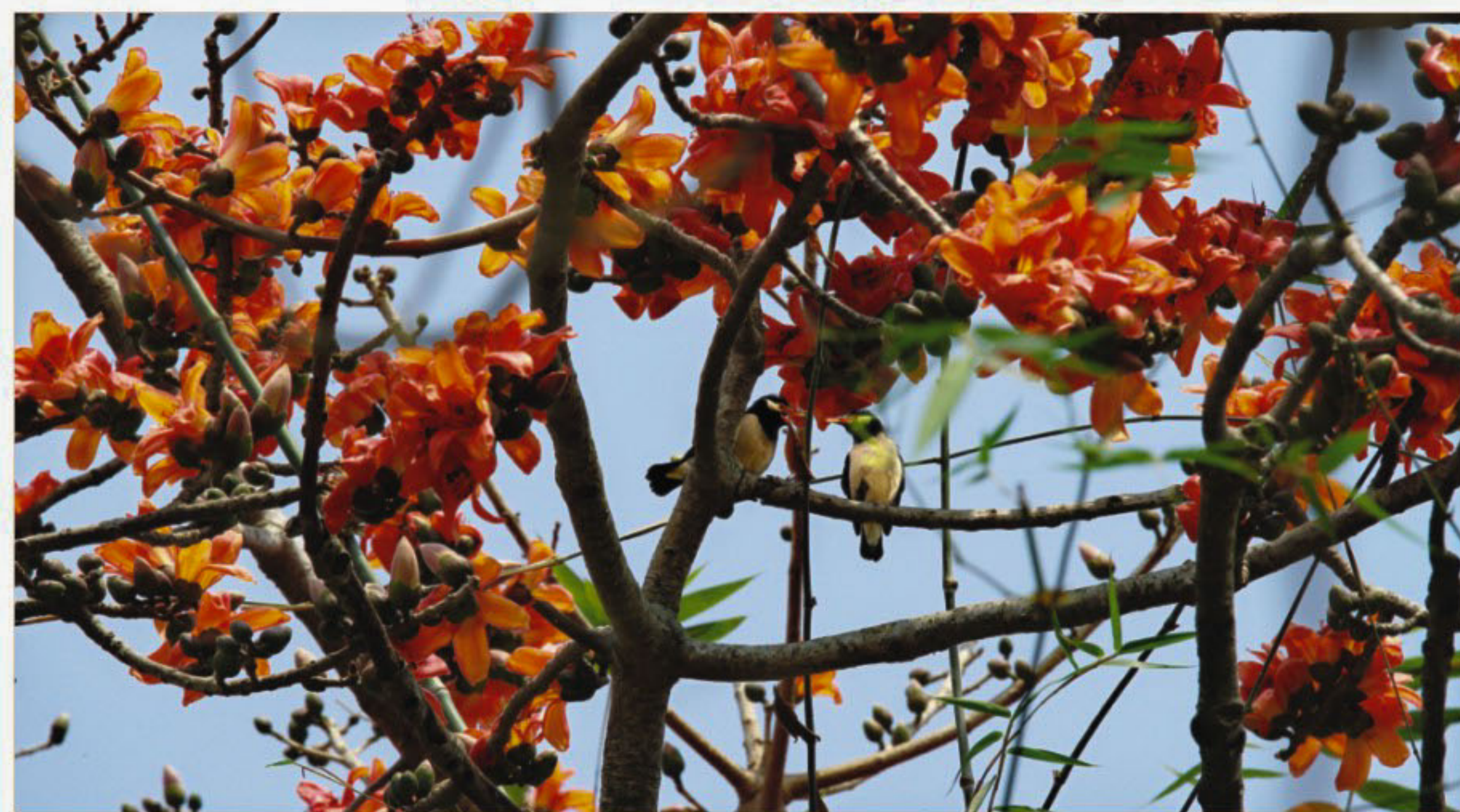


PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Pahela Falgun
Spring in the soul

Spring is in the air. Time to discard those winter woolies and don the colours of spring. Time to sing, dance, and rejoice in the change of season. Yes Bashanta Utshab is on us once again. And if you need inspiration you just have to look at Tagore's immortal verses on his favourite season. Our celebrities too wax eloquent about Bashanta. Here's a look at what spring means for them.



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Subarna Mustafa & Badrul Anam Saud
'As Bangladeshis we are fortunate enough to be able to enjoy the six seasons -- each defined by its uniqueness. To feel it and to observe the overall change in nature is a delight by itself. As the winter brings the aroma of khejur gur and pitha -- spring arrives with all its splendour and tenderness of love in the air. The young at heart wait in anticipation for Bashanta (spring)...I myself wait eagerly for the months when nature is in full bloom. I wish that Falgun brings love and happiness to everyone' -- these words were uttered by the charming actress Subarna Mustafa. Her husband, director Badrul Anam Saud, said that not only you take a deep look into nature, the advent of Bashanta becomes clear. As monsoon has its own characteristics so does Bashanta, with its vibrant look. Falgun makes us remember the popular Tagore song, 'Aha Aaji E Bashantey'.



Tauqir Ahmed & Bipasha Hayat

Tauqir Ahmed & Bipasha Hayat
Tauqir Ahmed says the joy of spring begins when the Bashanta breezes set in at the end of winter. It removes the barrenness of cold and revitalises the senses. When



Bappa Mazumdar & Chandni

the mercury refuses to climb in the winter, it is then Tauqir wants winter to bid adieu and spring to arrive with its splendour. Whether we call it Bashanta or Pahela Falgun, the day always brings a fresh breeze into our minds and lives, he adds. People start looking at nature again and all that is good in the world becomes visible to the soul, Tauqir says. Bipasha Hayat says that Falgun announces the advent of spring whether one sees flowers or not. Everyone awaits the arrival of Bashanta and when it comes, an added joy overcomes us.

Bappa Mazumdar & Chandni
Bappa Mazumdar believes that boys and girls of a certain age eagerly await the arrival of Bashanta -- when they can hold hands and listen to the music of spring together. 'I always admire the beauty of spring,' Bappa says, adding that he counts the days to Pahela Falgun as well. On the first day of spring, the song 'Aha Aaji E Bashantey' is always on the lips of Bappa. Chandni, meanwhile agrees with the poet's saying: 'Phool phutuk aar na phutuk, aaj Bashanta' (even if flowers refuse to bloom, it is spring today).

The definition of spring to her is the expression of love and constant stirrings in the heart. Chandni expects

spring to overwhelm all with feelings of love.
Mir Sabbir & Chumki

Mir Sabbir says spring is very important to him, as it was during Bashanta that his love lifted wings and he also tied the knot. He awaits Pahela Falgun, as the day fills his heart with joy. The first thing Mir Sabbir does after waking up on the morning of Pahela Falgun is to sing 'Aha Aaji E Bashantey'. Chumki, on the other hand, says spring has been her favourite season since childhood and it continues to give her immense joy. Every Bashanta, Chumki wants to go somewhere to appreciate the bounties of nature.

Tania & Tutul

Falgun always manages to colour the soul of Tania Ahmed and pump back life after the sixth season of winter. Tania says the yearlong wait for Falgun always pays off with a boost in spirit and energy. S.I. Tutul used the language of music to describe spring, saying, 'Falgun ignites fire in the mind, it kindles love in the heart.' Tutul adds that Falgun carries with it the identity of Bengalis, as well as acting as a symbol of love.



Mir Sabbir & Chumki



Tutul & Tania

Songs and poems of Tagore resound at National Museum

ZAHANGIR ALOM

As part of the joint celebrations -- by India and Bangladesh -- of the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), High Commission of India, Dhaka organised a cultural programme featuring Rabindra Sangeet and recitation of Tagore's poems at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on February 10.

The event featured renditions of Tagore songs by Abhirup Guhathakurta and Indrani Sen and poetry recitation by Bratati Bandyopadhyay of India.

Abhirup Guhathakurta was the first to take the stage. He had the privilege of training under stalwarts of Rabindra Sangeet including Kanika Bandyopadhyay, Nilima Sen, Sailajaranjan Majumdar.

His repertoire included 'Amar Matha Nato Kore Dao', 'Aaji Bijon Ghorey', 'Bani Tabo Dhaye', 'Chokher Aaloye Dekhechhilem' and more. Later he rendered baitalik numbers -- 'Ami Chanchal Hey' and 'Chiroshokha Hey'. The audience sang 'Akash Bhora Shurjo Tara' along with him.

Guhathakurta received his Diploma with Honours in Rabindra Sangeet from Dakshin in 1971 after which he trained under Subinoy Roy. A regular artiste for the All India Radio and Doodarsham since 1976, he has participated in all major Tagore-related festivals in India and abroad.

The art of recitation by Bratati Bandyopadhyay was next. The acclaimed elocutionist has so far given several thousand stage performances in the last 25 years both at home and abroad. Her crystal-clear voice, perfect diction and a rare

sense of dramatic expressions have touched the hearts of many.

With a charming stage presence, excellent memory supported by apt background score and light effects made her recitation a unique experience for the poetry connoisseurs. Starting with an excerpt from Tagore, the artiste eloquently referred from Shamsur Rahaman, Subhash Mukhopadhyay and Achintya Kumar Sengupta -- eulogising the spirit of



Indrani Sen

Bengali solidarity. 'Tagore and Nazrul are the greatest assets of both Bangladesh and Paschimbanga. Our duty is to uphold them to the upcoming generations,' said Bratati.

The artiste enthralled the audience reciting a number of Tagore poems including 'Nirjhor-er Swapnobhongo', 'Dui Pakhi', 'EK Ganeye', 'Shuoranir Sadh', 'Jhulan' and 'Banshiwala'. She also mentioned the backdrops of Tagore's cre-

ations. Rediscovering himself in poetry, love on the flames of melancholy and the scenic beauty of nature, thoughts on death and the poet's indomitable urge for breaking the silence of convention were aptly focused in Bratati's presentation. The artiste also showcased excerpts from a short story by Tagore, 'Sirir Patra', and 'Rabithakur', a compilation from the works of Buddhadeb Basu and Poornendu Patri at the event.



Bratati Bandyopadhyay

Bishwajit Banerjee and Asit Kumar Das assisted Bratati's performance. Indrani Sen was the last artiste, and performed for more than an hour at the event. She presented a number of Tagore songs including 'Agnur Poroshmoni', 'Anandadhara Bohichhey Bhuboney', 'Aaji Bangladesh-er Hridoy Hotey', 'Bhalobashi Bhalobashi' and 'Bipul Taranga Rey'. She also performed 'Tumi Robey Nirobey', 'O Je Maney Na Mana', 'Eki

Labonye Purno Pran' and 'Amar Poran Jaha Chaye' on request.

Indrani performed a bandish 'Bol Rey Paphira' on Raga Malhar. Tabla artiste Prabir Chatterjee was on rhythm. The singer then performed the Tagore song 'Gahono Ghano Chhailo', also set on the raga. Rendition of 'Pagla Hawar Badal Diney' followed.

Indrani Sen performed several timeless Tagore songs including 'Krishnakali' and 'Jete Jete Eka Pothey', popularised by legends like Kanika Bandyopadhyay, Subinoy Roy, Rita Guha, Shantidiv Ghosh, Suchitra Mitra and her guru Debabrata Biswas.

Chief guest of the programme, adviser to the Prime Minister, Dr. Gauhar Rizvi, gave away bouquets to Indrani Sen and her accompanying artistes --Prabir Chatterjee (tabla), Partha Pratim Banerjee (guitar), Surajit Chakraborty (keyboard) and Debashish Bhadra (octopad).

Indrani Sen is well-known for her distinctive style combined with modulated delivery. Apart from Rabindra Sangeet, the artiste renders Nazrul Sangeet, Bhajan, Ghazal, Adhunik songs, devotional and several other forms of light classical music. She studied at the Bengal Music College under the University of Calcutta and subsequently trained under legends like Debabrata Biswas. She also received training in classical music from Bibhuti Dutta, and in Nazrul Sangeet from Purabi Dutta.

IGCC organised the same event at Kachharibari auditorium of Shahjapur, Sirajganj yesterday (February 12) and will also organise it again at Kuthbari of Shilaiddah, Kushtia today (February 13) at 6:30 pm. The artiste trio are expected to perform at the programme.

Enter the dragon
Chinese arts and acrobatics showcased at Shilpakala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In celebration of the beginning of the Year of the Dragon, The 2012 Confucius Institute Spring Festival Gala brought on the Bangladesh stage a Chinese arts and acrobatics show performed by the students of Hubei University of International Business and Economics.

Starting from February 10, the two-day programme ended at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The Spring Festival Gala featured traditional Chinese culture through live performances. The students performed music, dance, acrobatics, kung fu, magic and more for the lively entertainment of a sizeable audience.

The show commenced with a stunning presentation of a traditional lion dance by two artistes wearing lion-like costumes. Next, followed brilliant music highlighting the beauty of the nature using traditional string and percussion instruments. Uli Chan Chan, Li Yating with others presented an aroma of spring titled 'Blooming Flower and Full Moon' while Zheng Huayu displayed magic: changing faces at the event.

The artistic highlight of the event was a solo ballet dance recital featuring the life of a spectacular lotus, from the blooming stage to its decay. A magician's tricks with rope and lock were also joyous.

Wang Yilin, Jing Xin and others performed Bangladesh dances at the event while Sun Dong and Zhang Runjun showcased marital arts at the programme.

The other items at the show included 'Joyful exuberance', 'Acrobatic performances', 'Modern dance', and more. Chen Hui is the director of the troupe.

Prior to the performances, Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad spoke on the occasion as chief guest in the presence of the Chinese Ambassador to Dhaka Zhang Xianyi and the team leader Shen Fuping.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

World mourns death of music legend
Whitney Houston



Whitney Houston, whose soaring voice lifted her to the top of the pop music world but whose personal decline was fuelled by years of drug use, died on Saturday afternoon in a Beverly Hills hotel room. She was 48.

The shock and grief from fans worldwide was immediate: Houston's pipes and presence, her grit and glamour had made her an icon.

For a decade and a half, she ruled the charts: 170 million albums sold, including seven back-to-back multi-platinum ones.

Numerous No. 1 hits, including the biggest-selling US single of all time, 'I Will Always Love You.' Emmys, Grammys, Billboard Music awards. Dozens of them.

And while her lustre had dimmed in recent years, as she battled drug addiction, Houston was in the midst of a comeback. A few shows here and there, mostly abroad, and a movie in the works. She had appeared healthy and beautiful in recent days.

Police and fire officials were called to Houston's room at 3:43 pm Saturday, after Houston's bodyguard found her unconscious body. Medics tried reviving her, but failed.

'I just can't talk about it now. It's so stunning and unbelievable,' said singer Aretha Franklin on hearing the news. 'I couldn't believe what I was reading coming across the TV screen.'

Fans mourned Houston's death in different ways inside and outside the Beverly Hilton. Outside, grieving fans laid roses and flickering candles on the front and back entrances of the sprawling complex.

Some sang songs. Others played her music videos on their smartphones. Inside the hotel, music industry's biggest names gathered in elegant attire for an annual pre-Grammy party that had been long planned by Houston's mentor, Clive Davis.

'I do have a heavy heart, and I am personally devastated by someone so close to me for so many years,' Davis told the gathering of artistes and entertainers, that included Tony Bennett, Gladys Knight and Britney Spears.

He then asked for a moment of silence. 'We dedicate this evening to her,' he said. Houston had been scheduled to attend the festivities. She had performed as late as Thursday night at a pre-Grammy event in the area, a raspy rendition 'Jesus Loves Me' with singer Kelly Price.

The organisers of Sunday's Grammy Awards said they have retooled the show to pay respect to Houston, with the help of singer Jennifer Hudson. Houston was born in Newark, New Jersey, on August

9, 1963, the daughter of gospel singer Cissy Houston. Her cousin was Dionne Warwick; her godmother Aretha Franklin.

In the mid-1980s, Davis spotted Houston in a New York nightclub and signed her on the spot.

For the next quarter century, he steered her career and served as her mentor.

Her string of Billboard No. 1 hits included 'Saving All My Love for You,' 'How Will I Know,' 'The Greatest Love of All,' 'Where Do Broken Hearts Go,' and 'I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me).'

In 1991, Houston's commanding performance of 'The Star-Spangled Banner' at the Super Bowl, just days into the first Persian Gulf War, electrified audiences and became the gold standard for performing the US national anthem, according to many music critics.

The next year, she released the soundtrack for her movie 'The Bodyguard,' one of the top 10 biggest-selling albums of all time.

Her cover of Dolly Parton's 'I Will Always Love You' for the soundtrack has been interpreted by many but rarely duplicated.

She appeared in several more films in the 1990s, including 'Waiting to Exhale.'

In 2000, Houston earned her sixth Grammy for best female R&B performance and, a month later, she was named female artist of the decade at the 'Soul Train' Music Awards.

But by then, her battle with drugs -- cocaine and marijuana -- and her tumultuous marriage to singer Bobby Brown were taking their toll.

The couple appeared together in the mid-2000s on the reality show 'Being Bobby Brown,' and had one child together, Bobbi Kristina.

She entered rehab and took a long hiatus. Her 2009 release, 'I Look To You,' was her first in seven years.

'I just took a break, which sometimes you have to,' Houston said. 'You have to know when to slow that train down and kind of just sit back and relax for a minute.'

She recently returned to a movie set for 'Sparkle,' a remake of the 1976 hit that was loosely based on the story of The Supremes.

It is scheduled to be released in August. It was Houston's first movie role since 1996's 'The Preacher's Wife.' Music mogul Simon Cowell said Houston's death is one of those events where you remember what you were doing when you heard the news.

'It's that significant,' he said. 'She was undoubtedly one of the greatest superstars of all time, one of the greatest voices in our lifetime we're likely ever to hear.'

SOURCE: CNN

Beetle Bailey comic strip by Mort Walker. Henry comic strip by Don Tranchte.

Table of TV programmes including BTv, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, and Desh TV.

Table of radio programmes including ahr radio FM 89.2, Radio 100, and Radio 101.

Be My Valentine On CHANNEL 1 at 06:20pm Magazine Programme Host: Punam Priyam

The Godfather: Part II On Z Studio at 09:30pm Genre: Crime/Drama Cast: Al Pacino, Diane Keaton

Aaynar Sharmey On ATN BANGLA at 05:15pm Style and Fashion Host: Aza

Table of TV programmes including Bangla Feature Film, HBO, and Star World.

Table of TV programmes including National Geographic Channel and Discovery Channel.

Table of TV programmes including BANGLAVISION and BANGLA TV.

Table of TV programmes including BANGLAVISION and BANGLA TV.

Table of TV programmes including ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, and BANGLAVISION.

Table of TV programmes including NEWS BULLETIN and BANGLAVISION.

Table of TV programmes including TALK SHOW and BANGLAVISION.