

Versatility of a singer under spotlight

Iffat Ara Nargis performs on Radio Mahananda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seasoned singer Iffat Ara Nargis performed in a two-hour long solo programme that aired on Radio Mahananda on the day of Eid-ul Azha. Radio Mahananda (98.8 FM band) is a community radio based in Chapainawabganj. Nargis started her performance by dedicating the programme to her music guru Ustad Abdul Aziz Bachchu, as tribute. The artiste rendered an array of songs on the live programme. She first sang "Pryotomeshu Ononto Bhalobasha Nao" from her audio album "Ononto Bhalobasha" that was released in 1987. Rendition of several adhunik songs followed.

Next Nargis presented a DL Roy song "Tumi Je Pran-er Bondhu" and an Atul Prasad composition "Murli Kande Radhey Radhey Boley". The singer also performed two Nazrul Sangeet -- "Poth Cholitey Jodi Chokitey" and "Shokhi Shajaye Rakhlo" on request.

Some members of the audience, such as noted singer Andrew Kishore and the Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong phoned the singer during her live performance. Nargis' repertoire also included the song "Tumi Na Hoy Robitey Kachhey", originally recorded by iconic Indian singer Sandhya Mukhopadhyay; a Hason Raja composition "Nesha Lagio Rey"; a Lalou Geeti "Ego Kul-e Shyam-er Prem-e" and a popular Baroshia (folk genre of Rajshahi region) song "Abal Kaler Sawdagor".

Nargis has eight solo audio albums to her credit. Her latest albums "Jeney Shuney Koro Piriri" (Lalon Geeti) and a Hamd-Naat



CD (featuring Islamic songs, mostly composed by Kazi Nazrul Islam) are in the audio market. The artiste has been practising and promoting traditional Bangla songs with a deep commitment for the last 46 years.

Nargis can render songs in eight foreign languages. She presented three songs in Farsi, Hindi and Korean on the show as well.

Iffat Ara Nargis is an avid collector of music. She has a number of folk music (Bangladesh and West Bengal, India) collections. The singer also presented songs from Mymensingha Geetika and songs of the mystic bard Ramesh Sheel (of Chittagong).

Dr. Kajol, a physician who works for Unicef in Sri Lanka, anchored the programme.

Theatre Art Unit to mark 20th anniversary with int'l fest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five troupes from overseas will stage six plays at a theatre festival to be arranged by one of the leading local troupes, Theatre Art Unit. The ten-day International Theatre Festival will be held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in Dhaka, from November 14 to 24.

The festival will be arranged to celebrate the 20th founding anniversary of the troupe. Noted theatre activist SM Solaiman formed the troupe.

M. Bari, one of the senior members operating the troupe now, informed that the festival would feature troupes from Indian cities -- Bhopal, Murshidabad and Kolkata -- and a troupe from Nepal.

The troupes are: Swapno Shandhani (Kolkata), Rong Bidushak (Bhopal),

Rangashram and Ritwik (both from Murshidabad), and Theatre Mandala (Nepal).

Six plays by these troupes are to be part of 20 performances -- 14 by as many Bangladeshi troupes. The organising troupe, credited with bringing hugely successful plays such as "Amina Shundari" and "Court Martial", will hold a show of the latter play at the festival.

Local troupes such as Theatre (Bailey Road), Aranyak, Natya Kendra, Nagarik Natyasampraday, Centre for Asian Theatre and Prachyanat will stage their plays at the festival as well.

Plays will be staged at National Theatre Hall and Experimental Theatre Hall of BSA.

Theatre Art Unit was formed in 1992.



Theatre Art Unit will stage "Court Martial" at the fest.

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

Tanvir Mokammel's documentaries to be screened at Kolkata Int'l Film Fest



An archival still features Hariprobha (in black sari), to the left of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Noted Bangladeshi filmmaker Tanvir Mokammel's two documentaries -- "Japani Bodhu" and "Oie Jamuna" -- will be screened at 18th Kolkata International Film Festival, scheduled to be held during November 10-17, 2012, says a press release.

Featuring life and traveltogue of Hariprobha Takeda, the one hour long documentary "Japani Bodhu" will be screened as the closing film of the festival. The film highlights the exceptional story of Hariprobha Basu Mallik, who married a Japanese entrepreneur Wemon Takeda, and travelled to Tokyo in 1912. Her life has been recreated on the celluloid by Mokammel.

Mokammel said that what inspired him to make the documentary was the "extraordinary courage" shown by Hariprobha.

From a nondescript woman Hariprobha became a symbol of courage during the Second World War when she used to read news in Bangla on radio for Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj, travelling in the dead of night every day risking her life through bomb-ravaged streets of Tokyo.

On the other hand, in "Oie Jamuna", the filmmaker, along with his crew, followed the course of the river Jamuna on a boat towards downstream where the Padma has made confluence with it. The film deals with different aspects of the Jamuna river -- its vastness, erosion, shoals, fishes and the people living on its banks.

Mokammel has been invited to attend the festival. But, due to being busy with shooting for his upcoming film "Jibon Dhuli", he will not attend the festival.

First bin Laden film premieres just in time for US vote

AFP, Washington

Timing is everything in show business, but the director of the first movie about the commando raid that killed Osama bin Laden doubts its television premiere Sunday will swing the US election.

"SEAL Team Six: The Raid on Osama bin Laden" raised eyebrows when it was announced last month that it would screen for the first time on the National Geographic cable channel just two days before America votes.

Fuelling the buzz was the fact that Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, a prominent fundraiser for President Barack Obama, is the distributor and one of the executive producers of the 90-minute action thriller.

In an interview Thursday, director John Stockwell shrugged off suggestions that his film is some kind of prime-time Obama propaganda tool to sway voters less than 48 hours before polls open.

"It was never written or shot to do that," he told AFP. "Are there people out there who don't know that it was on this president's watch that Osama bin Laden was killed, and that this movie informs them of that? I would be surprised."

The daring May 2011 dead-of-night operation by US Navy SEALs against the Al-Qaeda leader who ordered the 9/11 attacks was a defining moment of Obama's first term.

The president turns up often in the film, which was shot in Khopoli, India and Santa Fe, New Mexico, but only in the form of archive footage -- much of it pulled from the White House website.

Cam Gigandet, a vampire tracker in "Twilight," stars as the leader of the tight-knit SEAL team that also includes rapper Xzibit. Kathleen Robertson, from the original "Beverly Hills, 90210" series, portrays an intense CIA analyst.

Inexplicably uncredited are Bollywood stars Maninder Singh and Rajesh Shringarpore, who play local CIA operatives who risk their lives staking out Obama's fortified lair in Pakistan.

Cast as bin Laden is Yon Kempton, who speaks no lines before he is shot twice and killed in a dark room with a Kalashnikov in his hand.

Stockwell, whose previous credits include the 2002 surfer girl movie "Blue Crush," said it was the National Geographic Channel -- part of conservative Rupert Murdoch's media empire -- that picked Sunday as the premiere date.

"SEAL Team Six" also precedes another film about the hunt for bin Laden: "Zero Dark Thirty" by director Kathryn Bigelow, who collected the best-film Academy Award in 2009 for the Iraq war movie "The Hurt Locker".

Sony Pictures has pushed back its general release to January 2013, but like "SEAL Team Six" it's been lambasted before anyone's seen it as glorifying Obama's role in bin Laden's demise.

Meanwhile, Robertson -- currently starring in the TV series "Boss," a political drama set in Chicago -- admitted to being somewhat bemused by the furor that's erupted over the release of "SEAL Team Six."

"I've been asked a lot of American politically-based questions which I feel slightly odd answering," she said, "because I'm Canadian."



A still photo from the film shows dramatization of Operation Neptune's Spear in the city of Abbottabad.

PHOTO: AFP

NEW RELEASES

Alok Monjuri
Solo album of Nazrul Sangeet by Mousumi Chattopadhyay
Source: Agniweena

Hridoy Bashona
Solo album of Rabindra Sangeet by Aditi Gupta
Source: Bengal Foundation

Abar Bhalobash ar Shadh Jage
Solo album of Nazrul Sangeet by Samira Abbasi
Source: Impress Audio Vision

Roibo Tomar Darey
Solo album of Rabindra Sangeet by Laisa Ahmed Lisa
Source: Bengal Foundation

COUCH POTATO

Two and A Half Men: Losing a Star, Losing the Grip

OSAMA RAHMAN

Twenty-eight million viewers tuned in to the premiere of Two and a Half Men's ninth season. This wasn't due to the show being regarded as the greatest comedy of the last decade. Rather, it was curiosity; each of those 28 million had one simple question in mind: was there really life after Charlie Sheen?

Charlie Harper, the lead character essayed by the infamous Charlie Sheen, was arguably the biggest reason behind the show's success. With him gone and Ashton Kutcher named as the man to replace the icon, the hype grew further. Kutcher had already transcended to the silver screen. His return to TV, coupled with a much younger fan base, ensured that interest in the show would not wane. The bigger question however is, whether interest in the show will sustain or not.

The revamped story now follows Walden Schmidt, a heart broken billionaire, who buys Charlie's beach-house, befriending the previous owner's brother Alan Harper (Jon Cryer) in the process. He allows Alan to live with him, while the perennial freeloader attempts to get back on his feet, all the while adjusting to life without the object of his affection. Charlie Harper's spirit also makes a few appearances, in the form of a woman, who watches over Alan and his son while burning in hell.

Ashton Kutcher as Walden Schmidt is a breath of fresh air. With the humility of his That 70s Show days still intact, he doesn't steal the limelight in every scene. This allows the other characters in the show to evolve more than they have done so before. Secondly, Kutcher, panned and praised for his acting skills in equal measures, makes it clear that he isn't here to step into any shoes but rather wear an entirely new pair. Helplessly in love, adored and not all that bright, Walden isn't a carbon copy of Charlie Harper. There are similarities though; both men are wealthy, immature and considered attractive. However, Kutcher's character isn't the alcoholic womaniser that made this show famous. This is a smart move on part of the writers. Comparison with Charlie Sheen will be one of the biggest obstacles for the show to conquer and thus an exact replica of his character would have been much too risky a move.

Alan Harper (Jon Cryer) has now steadily turned the focus of the plot on him. He remains a whiny, good for nothing, freeloader. Although, these very characteristics may have gained him his popularity, it also had a lot to do with how well it contrasted with Charlie's character. This does not seem to be the case anymore. While, previously viewers felt sorry for Cryer and even empathised with the 'good guy', Season 9 has made him come off



Kutcher's (centre) character isn't the alcoholic womaniser that made this show famous.

as being a parasite so far. Alan Harper is annoying and not in a good way. Then there is Berta (Conchata Ferrell). Usually welcome in any scene with her snide remarks and natural put-downs, the caretaker has now been turned into a lustful pervert, who speaks more in her mind than out loud. Her muted approval of Walden get old pretty fast and begs the story to move onto something else.

Perhaps, Jake (Angus T. Jones) may be the show's future saving grace. Although a bit-part player so far, making the occasional over-used flatulence jokes, Jake may have a bigger role to play when he turns 18. But all that remains to be seen. So far, the new season hasn't exactly gotten anyone hooked. The real reason could be that the writers forgot to play to the demography in question. Give Ashton Kutcher his shirt back and go back to being a show about men for men. Final verdict: plenty of promise with no panache; maybe it's time to move on to another show.

DS CAFÉ
Popular model and actor Nirob is the featured celebrity of this month at DS Café. He will be on the hot seat and take your calls at The Daily Star Centre on November 6, between 4 and 5pm. Readers, fire away all your questions at him! The best question will be highlighted in the transcription. Call 8126155, 01711623915 and 01711623917 to speak to Nirob.

THE WEEKLY STRUM
Song: Man in the Wilderness
Album: The Grand Illusion (1977)
Lyrics and tune by Tommy Shaw

Em.....
Another year has passed me by
.....Am.....Em
Still I look at myself and cry
.....Am.....Em
What kind of man have I become?
Em.....
All of the years I've spent in search of myself
.....D.....
And I'm still in the dark
.....Am.....Bm
'Cause I can't seem to find the light alone
ES.....DS.....
Sometimes I feel like a man in the wilderness
CS.....DS.....Am.....Bm
I'm a lonely sailor lost at sea
ES.....DS.....CS.....Bm.....Am
Drifting with the tide, never quite knowing why
BS.....CS.....DS
Sometimes it makes no sense at all
.....
(I'm alive)
Looking for love, I'm a man with emotion
.....
(And my heart's on fire)
I'm dying of thirst in the middle of the ocean

Em.....
But they can't see the way that I feel
.....Am.....Em
Nobody even cares to try
Em.....
I spend my life and sell my soul on the road
.....D.....
And I'm still in the dark
.....Am.....Bm
'Cause I can't seem to find the light alone
ES.....DS.....
Sometimes I feel like a man in the wilderness
CS.....DS.....Am.....Bm
I'm a lonely sailor lost at sea
ES.....DS.....CS.....Bm.....Am
Drifting with the tide, never quite knowing why
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All of the years I've spent in search of myself
.....D.....
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Sometimes I feel like a man in the wilderness
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I'm a lonely sailor lost at sea
ES.....DS.....CS.....Bm.....Am
Drifting with the tide, never quite knowing why
BS.....CS.....DS
Sometimes it makes no sense at all
.....
(I'm alive)
Looking for love, I'm a man with emotion
.....
(And my heart's on fire)
I'm dying of thirst in the middle of the ocean

Mort Walker's beetle bailey

3-27

WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING ME WITH YOUR TRIVIAL PROBLEMS?!

OKAY BUT ONLY FOR A MINUTE

SIR, CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?

IT'S ABOUT SGT. SNORKEL. HIS CHAIR SQUEAKS!

SO?

I CAN'T WORK! HIS SQUEAKY CHAIR DRIVES ME CRAZY!

GOOD! THEN HE WON'T MIND COME TIME OUT TO SEE ME

HE'S VERY BUSY

IS THE GENERAL IN?

WITH ALL THE THINGS I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT, YOU BRING ME A SQUEAKY CHAIR!!

SIR! SIR! YOUR CHAIR!!

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

Henry
BY DON TRACHTE

NEWS BULLETIN

ATN BANGLA 08:00pm Chena Mukh Ochena Manush
09:20pm DB
CHANNEL 1 07:50pm Noorjahan
rtv 08:15pm Oghoton Ghoton Potiyoshi
ETV

09:30pm Dhol BANGLAVISION 08:15pm Harkipity
rtv 09:50pm Aishpur
09:50pm Man Bangla
CHANNEL 9
07:45pm Shamikaran
08:40pm Nasarik
Gtv

12:00am Zero Hour
BANGLAVISION
09:05pm Amar Ami
11:25pm Lal Galop
rtv
Tarokap
10:40pm Our Democracy
Desh TV
09:45pm Beta Uobis Sharuobis
Maaranga Television

BTV	10:05 Mati O Manush	02:45 Bangla Feature Film	08:40 Drama	10:30 Special Programme	09:00 Bangla Feature Film	06:00 Classic Cartoon	09:25 We are the Band	11:15 Beauty Time
ATN BANGLA (Not Done)	12:30 Prosango	01:25 Prapak	03:05 Bangla Feature Film	08:40 Drama Serial: Shongshar Shukher Hoy Rednar Gun-e	09:30 Housewife	08:10 Eto Jibon	09:30 Drama	12:00 Unplug
CHANNEL 1	01:05 Bangla Feature Film	06:20 The Traffic Signal	09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush	11:30 Drama Serial: Roshni	02:10 Bangla Feature Film	08:50 Dance for You	10:45 Bangla Feature Film	my tv
rtv	01:05 Bangla Feature Film	06:20 The Traffic Signal	09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush	11:30 Drama Serial: Roshni	02:10 Bangla Feature Film	08:50 Dance for You	10:45 Bangla Feature Film	Fox Movies
ntv					01:20 Killers			

Amor Ami
On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Keramat Movia & Ramendu Majumdar

The Ides of March
On Fox Movies at 07:00pm
Genre: Drama
Cast: Paul Giamatti, George Clooney & Philip Seymour

Oghoton Ghoton Potiyoshi
On rtv at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Rana Khan, Mishu Sabbir

08:45 Bangla Feature Film	03:05 Ghost Rider
06:40 Biz Time	05:00 Casino Jack and the United States of Money
09:00 Drama	
11:30 On Bangladesh with Love	07:00 The Ides of March
	09:35 Conan the Barbarian
BANGLAVISION	
11:05 Ami Ekhon Ki Karbo	HBO
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	12:55 Thor
06:25 Front Line	03:26 Event Horizon
09:45 Drama Serial: Gulshan Avenue	05:20 Hop
	07:20 Step Up
	09:30 Transformers: Dark of the Moon
rtv	
12:10 Bangla Feature Film	Star World
05:00 Cine Bangla	01:30 Master Chef Australia
07:25 Shera Ami Shonge Maa	03:30 The Dewarists
12:00 News Top Ten	05:30 Once Upon A Time
	06:30 Grey's Anatomy
Desh TV	09:30 Once Upon A Time
03:00 Bangla Feature Film	03:30 Revenant
07:45 Music Dot Net	10:30 Once Upon A Time
08:15 Pothey Jetye Jetye	National Geographic Channel
11:45 Shoja Kotba	02:30 Monkey Thieves
	03:30 Big Cats
	07:30 Nissan X-treme Trail
	08:30 Secrets of Wild India
	09:30 Expedition Wild

DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA 08:00pm Chena Mukh Ochena Manush	09:30pm Dhol BANGLAVISION 08:15pm Harkipity
09:20pm DB	rtv 09:50pm Aishpur
CHANNEL 1 07:50pm Noorjahan	09:50pm Man Bangla
rtv 08:15pm Oghoton Ghoton Potiyoshi	07:45pm Shamikaran 08:40pm Nasarik
ETV	Gtv

NEWS BULLETIN

BTV News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm, ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, 7pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm, News (English) at 9am, 5pm, ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, rtv News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm, News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, Desh TV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 9pm, 11pm, Maaranga Television News (Bangla) at 7pm, 11pm,	Boishakhi TV News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm, News (English) at 9am, 6pm, BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, rtv News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm, Desh TV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 9pm, 11pm, Maaranga Television News (Bangla) at 7pm, 11pm,
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TALK SHOW

ATN BANGLA 12:30am Lead News	12:00am Zero Hour
CHANNEL 1 09:45am Trita Mitra	BANGLAVISION 09:05pm Amar Ami 11:25pm Lal Galop
12:30pm Tarika Kothon	rtv 09:45pm Tarika Kothon
ETV 10:00pm Golpo Sholpo Gaan	10:40pm Tarokap
Boishakhi TV 11:00pm Nopap Sarak Chai	11:30pm Our Democracy
	Desh TV 09:45pm Beta Uobis Sharuobis Maaranga Television