

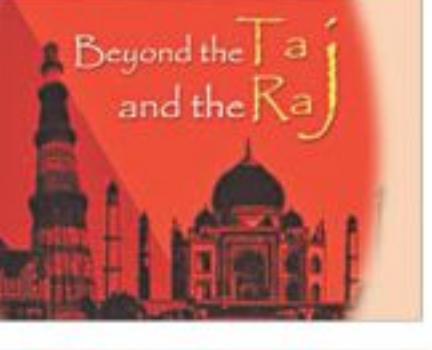
Bengal Classical Music Festival
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka
Date: Nov 28-Dec 1
Time: 5:30pm-5am



Poet Sufia Kamal Memorial
Speech & Musical
Venue: Chhayanaut
Auditorium, Dharmundi
Date: Nov 23
Time: 7pm



Book Lunch
Book: "India: Beyond the Taj and the Raj"
Venue: Independent University premises, Bashundhara
Date: Nov 23
Time: 4pm



Fundraising Exhibition
For Nur A Shafee Ahnaf
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dharmundi
Date: Nov 24-26
Time: 4pm-7:30pm



Musical Soiree
Artist: Dilshad Elita Karim
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1
Date: Nov 23
Time: 6:30pm



BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FEST '13

"This is an inspiring event for classical artistes and audience"
-- Anil Kumar Saha

ALOK KUMAR SEN

Renowned classical vocalist Anil Kumar Saha, a lecturer at Shantamariam University of Creative Technology, received talim for almost two decades under Ustad A. Daud Khan of India. Alongside, he earned Sangeet Bivakar (B Mus) and Sangeet Ratna (M Mus) degrees from Bangiya Sangeet Parishad, Kolkata, affiliated with Rabindra Bharati University and Indira Kala Sangeet Bishwabidyalay. Recently, he spoke to The Daily Star -- partner of the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2013 -- about the grand event.

"I'm very glad to note that such a grand classical music festival is returning in Bangladesh. As a classical vocalist, I opine that it is an incredible event that all the Bangladeshi artistes, music enthusiasts, students and teachers will get to know, learn and comprehend different aspects of classical music. Bengal Foundation deserves heartfelt thanks and appreciation for organising the festival.

"Bangladeshi artistes are performing music with the world-renowned classical maestro on a same stage at the festival. I think it will definitely boost them. Watching the featured Bangladeshi artistes on stage, artistes of the forthcoming generations will get inspired and enhance their practice to take part in such a grand festival. Thus, Bangladeshi Raga Music will get back its lost pride.

"As Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty himself said, we can say that we have many reasons to take pride in Bangladeshi Raga Music; as many pioneering classical musicians were born in this country and the legacy is on. But it is unfortunate that we could not provide them appropriate musical environment; that's why they left the country.

"The chairman of Bengal Foundation, Abul Khair is an avid cultural-minded person. The way



PHOTO COURTESY: MM ZAHIDUR RAHMAN BILOB

he patronises art, culture and literature with self motivation, is undoubtedly appreciable. I think not only Bengal Foundation but also other private organisations along with well-off sects of the society should come forward to take the legacy of classical music forward. A country's art, culture and literature indicate its prime identity in the outside world.

"The soil of our country has a special quality. There are many latent talents in Bangladesh. If they are given the apt opportunity the way ITC-SRA provides, I believe they will shine bright in the realm of classical music."

Aloke Kumar Sen is a classical vocalist and a disciple of Anil Kumar Saha.

"Good days are ahead for classical music students here"
-- Pandit Jyoti Goho

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Pandit Jyoti Goho is an accomplished artiste in the world of Indian classical music, noted for his astute sense of subtlety in the art of harmonium playing. Widely known for his masterful playing and appropriate embellishments, thereby enhancing the level of vocal performance to a significant extent, Jyoti Goho has received accolades from one of the most treasured vocalists of all times, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi -- whom he has accompanied many times -- as being "extremely supportive as a harmonium artiste."

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the veteran artiste spoke about the return of the Bengal Classical Music Festival in Dhaka.

Your feelings on a festival of this stature?

Jyoti Goho: It is indeed a rare occasion. I remember a festival on massive scale in 1973, headlined by Ustad Amjad Ali Khan at the Kolamondir in Kolkata that lasted for 17 days. But a festival stretching for four days with so many great musicians, it's a great event for Bangladesh, and I'm very excited.

To what extent do you think it will be received by the audience this year?

Jyoti Goho: I have been coming to Bangladesh for years now, and it is always a pleasure to perform here.



And I know that North Indian classical music is loved by many people here, so I am quite sure there will be very good turnout for the festival.

What is your take on the practice of classical music here in Bangladesh?

Jyoti Goho: Maybe the practice of classical music here is not as widespread as it could have been, but I think the scenario is improving. There are a lot of people who are learning here, many of them are coming to India as well. Besides, gurus are coming here from India from time to time to give lessons to aspiring musicians. I believe the collaboration of Bengal Foundation and the ITC-Sangeet Research Academy will take it much further. Scholars and students of the SRA will also come to Bangladesh more often, which I believe is great news for the students here.

NEWS bytes

R2-D2 confirmed to appear in next Star Wars movie

R2-D2 is to make an appearance in the next outing of Star Wars, makers LucasFilm have confirmed. The squat, squeaking android is being created at Pinewood Studios by two British men who are members of a Star Wars robot-building group.

Lee Townersey and Oliver Steeples say they feel "very privileged" to be working on the film. Star Wars: Episode VII is currently in pre-production and filming is due to begin in the spring. The new outing is being directed by JJ Abrams and is set for release in December 2015.

R2-D2, an astromech android, is best known as a companion to the human heroes of the Star Wars franchise, including Luke and Anakin Skywalker, using its resources to rescue them from perilous situations. He built up an endearing partnership with his fussy fellow android C-3PO, who is able to understand R2-D2's language and interprets it for humans.

Source: BBC



Susan Sarandon speaks of Oscar competitiveness



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Oscar-winning Hollywood star Susan Sarandon believes getting an Academy award now is like running for the post of US President.

"It is far more difficult to win an Oscar these days because the procedure is as elaborate as running for President", Sarandon, 67, told media persons a day after inaugurating the 44th International Film Festival of India in Panaji, Goa, on Wednesday.

Sarandon was nominated four times for the Academy Awards before finally bagging the honour in 1995 for "Dead Man Walking".

The actress said winning the trophy now has more to do about who is backing you rather than actual talent. "Getting an Academy award is great. You kind of join an elite club. But at the same time, there are so many actors in the film business. Now you need to have someone like Harvey Weinstein behind you to get an Academy award or even a nomination.

"People are on the road doing all kinds of different events, visiting different places. It is like running for President. They spend so much time and money. So there are so many great performances who deserve the Oscar but don't have a shot at all," said Sarandon on the sidelines of IFFI.

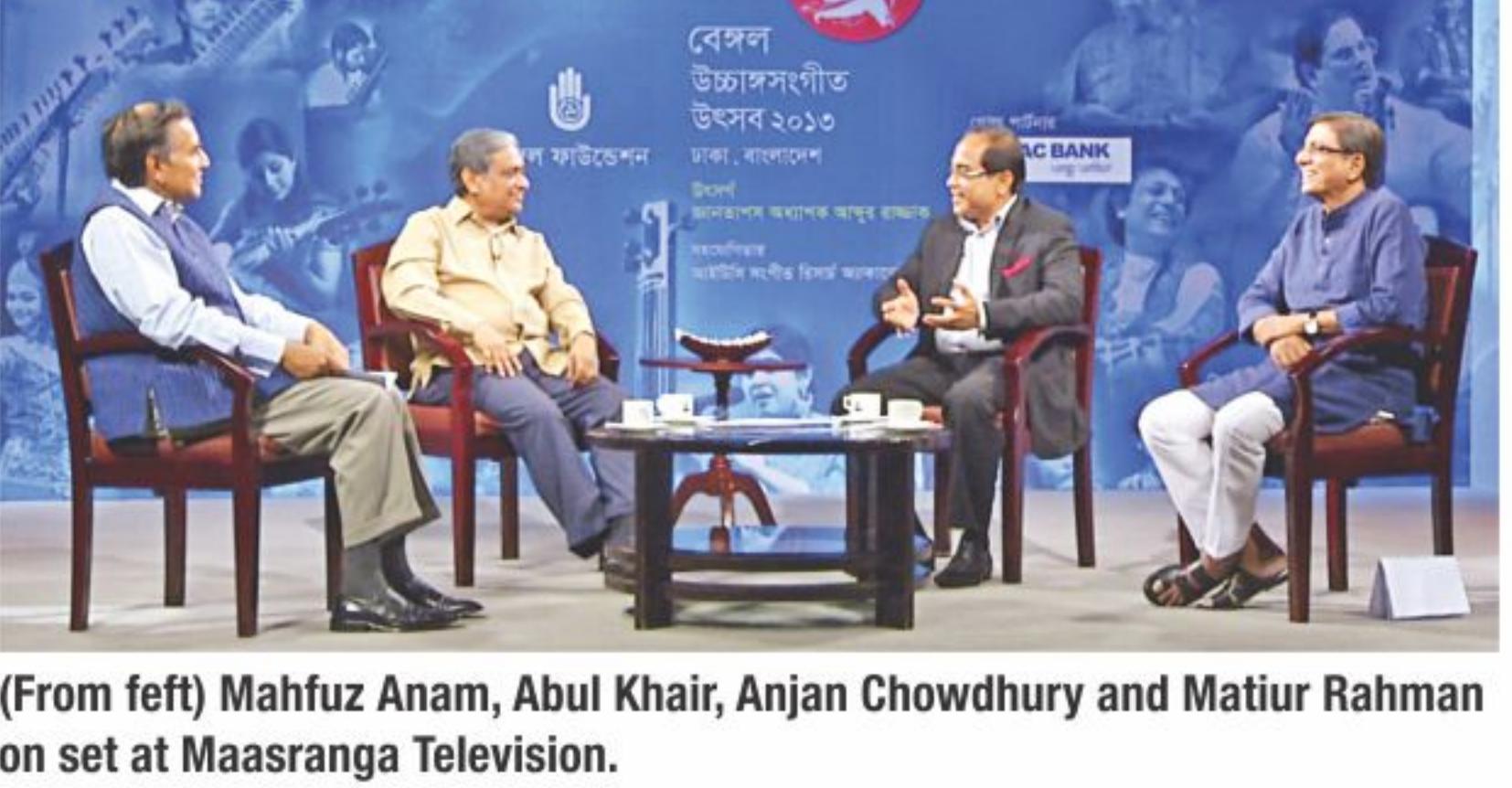
Sarandon met Indian actress Waheeda Rehman -- who was conferred Lifetime Achievement award on the inaugural day of the festival -- and was charmed by the latter's happiness.

Sarandon, who has been in Hollywood for more than two decades, shed light on how difficult it is for older actors to survive in Hollywood, but feels she has many more years to give to films.

"I try and keep working until I am not having fun anymore. It is a hard place for women but there are so many actresses who are doing better work as they grow older," she said.

TV WATCH

Special Discussion on BCMF '13 on Maasranga



(From left) Mahfuz Anam, Abul Khair, Anjan Chowdhury and Matiur Rahman on set at Maasranga Television.

A CORRESPONDENT

With the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2013 less than a week ahead, Maasranga Television has arranged a special discussion programme. Abul Khair, Chairman of Bengal Group, the festival's organiser; Mahfuz Anam and Matiur Rahman, Editors of strategic partners The Daily Star and The Daily Prothom Alo respectively and Anjan Chowdhury, Managing Director of Broadcast partner Maasranga Television will speak about various aspects of the festival on the show. Produced by Swikriti Prasad Barua, the programme will be telecast at 9pm tonight.

Simon & Garfunkel: "The Sound of Silence" and more

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

The sound of silence is the sound of harmony in music. Paul Simon and

Art Garfunkel, the American music duo of the mid-sixties celebrated it in their song "The sound of Silence" in 1964. They specialised in soft rock and folk.

They came into prominence when their songs were featured in the 1968 Academy Award winning movie "The Graduate". Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft as Mrs. Robinson were in the movie. The songs "Mrs. Robinson", "The Sound of Silence" and "Scarborough Fair" and two other songs of Simon & Garfunkel were in the movie. The movie was hit and songs were widely popular. It marked a trend in American life.

Simon & Garfunkel started as school mates in Kew Garden Hills neighbourhood in Queens, New York City in 1953. Simon was songwriter and singer and Garfunkel was a singer. They started composing their own songs and in 1957 recorded their first song "Hey, Schoolgirl". It sold 100,000 copies. Afterwards their career was faltering and in 1963 they recorded three songs as a part of Greenwich Village music in folk style: "Sparrow", "Bleecker Street" and "He

Was My Brother" in memory of their friend Andrew Goodman who died as a civil rights activist in Mississippi. The songs also flopped.

Simon & Garfunkel's partnership was marked by break ups and reunions. In 1965, Simon went to England. The mixture of electric backing as used by Bob Dylan in the folk style song "The Sound of Silence" of Simon changed the very genre of the song into folk-rock. It was popular and his compositions started drawing appreciation. He ultimately left for America. The duo was united and they released "The Sound of Silence" on January 17, 1966. It rose in the popularity chart. The songs in "The Paul Simon Songbook" were re-recorded; some with electric backing. "I Am a Rock" had such stimulating beat, the song reached to Number 3 in the chart. There were others "Leaves That Are Green", "April Come She Will", "A Most Peculiar Man", and "Kathy's Song". "Scarborough Fair" has the genre of English ballad.

While waiting at Dittion railway station on the outskirts of Widnes in North West England, Paul Simon was inspired to write "Homeward Bound". Simon is quoted as saying "if you'd ever seen Widnes, then you'd



know why I was keen to get back to London as quickly as possible."

Mike Nichols was making the

movie "The Graduate" with then

little-known actor Dustin Hoffman;

Simon & Garfunkel contributed

heavily to the soundtrack. Mike Nichols became so fascinated with the music of Simon & Garfunkel that he requested for three more songs in addition to the one they have contributed. They were working on a song "Mrs. Roosevelt" but Nichols wanted it to be "Mrs. Robinson". So, it was the popular song "Mrs. Robinson", in 1968.

Afterwards, their relationship started deteriorating. They were working on the album "Bridge over Troubled Water". It turned out to be their final album and not without tension. Simon declined to record a Bach chorale while Garfunkel objected to "Cuba Si, Nixon No". Ultimately, the album was released on January 26, 1970. Garfunkel's soaring vocals were huge hits. "El Condor Pasa" ("If I Could"), "Cecilia" and "The Boxer" were mega hits. Their "Greatest Hits" sold over 14 million copies in the US and became the largest ever selling album in US by a duo. But Simon & Garfunkel had parted.

They temporarily met at a June 1972 benefit concert at Madison Square Garden for Presidential candidate George McGovern. Later, they sang a new song "My Little Town" together at NBC's Saturday Night Live.

Simon & Garfunkel re-united again at New York's Central Park on September 9, 1981. 500,000 people attended the show and the live album was brought out under a cover "Wake Up Little Sussie". The Coliseum hosted Simon & Garfunkel for a concert in 2004 that drew 600,000 fans.

The songs of Simon & Garfunkel have had a profound effect on the American social life. The title of the songs has such intimacy with life and the pictorial element that they take people down memory lane. "Mrs. Robinson" is such a familiar name that people readily identify, almost as if she is around in the next block. "Cecilia" could be our girl in the neighbourhood blooming in her engaging youth. "Are you going to Scarborough Fair" is like a plea that heart produced with its finest elements - as if every society knows the humming tune. "El Condor Pasa" ("If I Could") has one of the finest imagery in songs - the song speaks your heart: "I would rather be a far standing tree; yes I would if I could". It speaks of the inner thoughts of men. "The Sound of Silence" is the epitome of harmony in melody.

The writer is a film and music buff.

NEWS bytes

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Source: BBC

