



# IN LOVING MEMORY

Star Melodies pay heartfelt tribute to Feroza Begum

IFTEKHAR ISLAM

A little over two months have slipped by since legendary Nazrul Sangeet singer Feroza Begum left us for her eternal journey. The Daily Star organised a special musical programme in memory of Feroza Begum on Sunday at the AS Mahmud Hall of The Daily Star Centre. The programme, organised jointly with Eastern Bank Ltd. and Simantic Creative Concern, was a part of Star Melodies' regular thematic programme on Bangla Songs. The programme began with a welcome address by Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star. Sadya Aftreen Mallick, editor of Star Arts & Entertainment – who compered the programme, then gave a brief about the background of organising such musical programmes, including the special one on Feroza Begum. She highlighted the contributions of the legendary singer in popularising the songs of Kazi Nazrul Islam in Bangladesh, West Bengal in India as well as other countries. Shafin Ahmed, the youngest son of



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Feroza Begum and a renowned vocalist of the band Miles, expressed his gratitude to the organisers for arranging the programme. The evening then rolled on with a selection of Kazi Nazrul Islam's songs, which were recorded by Feroza Begum. Shusmita Anis, a disciple and niece of the singer presented two songs "Ore shubro-boshona rojoni gonidha" and "Aami chand nohi oishap". Anupama Mukti rendered "Mor ghoom ghore ele monohor" and "Akashe aj choriye dilam", while Nasima Shaheen presented "Mone pore raj" and "Ami chirore dure chole jabo" while Fahmida Nabi rendered "Amar aponar cheye" and "Bulbuli nirob nangs bon-e". The Nazrul Sangeet segment of the evening ended with a chorus of "Dur Dipobashini" presented by all the artists along with the anchor, Sadya Aftreen Mallick. In the second part of the musical

programme, eight songs composed by the legendary composer and husband of Feroza Begum Kamol Dasgupta were presented by the artists. Shusmita Anis presented "Mor jiboner duti rati" and "Laguk dola", while Anupama Mukti sang "Aami bonoful go" and "Tumi ki ekhon dekhichho shwapon". Nasima Shaheen performed "Emoni borosha chilo shedin" and "Jejha gan theme jay" and Fahmida Nabi presented

"Duti pakhi duti teere" and "Ei ki go shesh dan". Interspersed with musical presentations were a few lively discussions and reminiscences by Brig (ret'd) Moshiuddoula, brother of Feroza Begum; Tabibul Islam, renowned dramatist; Qamrunnesa Hasan, former DDG of BTV and music connoisseur HQ Chowdhury. The speakers brought forth memories of the artist's personality – especially in both popularising

and protecting Nazrul's music, and how she performed Bangla songs on the launch of radio stations in Dhaka and Rawalpindi, against the will of the erstwhile Pakistan government. Numerous little-known facets of the artiste came forward in the reminiscences, seemingly moving a capacity-packed auditorium, almost all of who stayed till the end. At the conclusion of the programme, at the audience's request, a visibly emotional Shafin Ahmed presented two songs – "Niye Jao" and "Mon-e Pore", composed by his father Kamol Dasgupta as a tribute to his iconic parents. But even as the audience emptied the auditorium, an aura of melancholy hung in the air, filled with the words and tunes made unforgettable by the legend herself. When an artiste is gone, they remain in the feelings they evoked in their audiences, and Feroza Begum, along with mentor-colleague-life partner Kamol Dasgupta – were very much present at The Daily Star Centre that evening.

# Pandit Rajan and Sajan Mishra: Masters of the Khyal

STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Two brothers, both accountants in a small shop in India, once gave a musical performance in presence of Satguru Jagjit Singh. The Satguru, realising their musical talent, motivated them to come to the music platform and offered to pay double their wages in exchange for them to put in more time to practice their vocals. That duo is Rajan and Sajan Mishra, khyal style singers of the Indian classical music. Khyal is considered a 300-year old style, belonging to the Banaras gharana. Mishra brothers, who began their careers in their teens, have been performing their art of singing all across the India as well as the world. They have launched around 20 music albums of khyal, semi-classical tappa and variety of bhajans. Rajan Mishra was born in the year 1951 and Sajan



Mishra was born in the 1956 in Varanasi. Their grandfather, Bade Ram Das ji Mishra and father Hanuman Prasad Mishra, taught them classical music. Their uncle, Gopal Prasad Mishra was a renowned sarangi-nawaz. In recognition to their musical contributions, the duo has received many awards and honours, including the Padma Bhushan in 2007, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1998, the Gandharva National Award for 1994-1995 and the esteemed National Tansen Samman for 2011-12. The pandit duo will be performing in their third successive Bengal Classical Music Festival, when they wrap up tonight's (November 28) performances at Army Stadium in Dhaka.

# "A Raga is like a lifetime of tapashya" -- Pandit Shivkumar Sharma

ALOKE KUMAR SEN AND ZAHANGIR ALOM

Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, one of the most influential artistes of Indian Classical Music of the 20th century, is returning to this year's Bengal Classical Music Festival for the third year running. One of the biggest ambassadors of the festival worldwide, the master of the santoor spoke to The Daily Star last year during the festival. Excerpts: How can we reach God through the rendition or recital of classical music? Pandit Shivkumar Sharma: Music isn't essentially a means for entertainment only; it is rather a means for taking a look inside. There are different ways of connecting with the self; music is one of such way. Ages ago, when there was no raga, it was the nad of Brahma that needed not be composed; one had to just experience it. What is your source of inspiration in immersing in melodic bliss? Pandit Shivkumar Sharma: When I play on the stage, there is peace. I forget the audience and connect with that aura. My philosophy about music is that I don't



changes I follow are certain restrictions in the host countries. We have to finish in certain time. Not here, but in Philadelphia, London and Paris, they have so many rules, regulation and restrictions. I don't change the format of the music but make it simpler to reach out to the audience. You created a distinctive Raga – Antardhwani – that you performed at the 2012 Bengal Classical Music Festival. Which things come first prior to creating

a raga – mathematical or formulated rules, deep contemplation and meditation or your own musical philosophy? Pandit Shivkumar Sharma: A Raga is like a lifetime of tapashya. If I am not able to master the existing raga, there is no question for me to create a new raga. But how did it happen? Around the world, many people were using my santoor pieces for meditation and relaxation. They wanted me to make one album which they can particularly use for meditation. I was playing only alap of raga in a concert, when I started thinking about it – and one day during my practice session at home, I was changing the jodi from one raga to other raga where I got these notes which I repeatedly played that gave me a certain kind of peace. I approached a record company "Music Play" at Delhi. I recorded only alap, jod and jhala but no composition. After finishing the record company asked me what the raga was. I told them I didn't know. But when I played this, it took me inward. So, I decided to call it Antardhwani.

# PERFORMING TONIGHT at BCMF '14

Supriya Das – Vocal	Abir Hossain – Sarod	Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha – Vocal
Rahul Sharma – Santoor	Karakuidi Mani – Carnatic percussion	Pandit Rajan and Sajan Mishra – Vocal

# 16th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh begins December 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) will arrange the largest fine art festival in Asia, titled "The 16th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2014", from December 1. Finance Minister Abdul Maal Abdul Muhith as chief guest will inaugurate the grand art event at the National Theatre Hall of BSA at 11am on the day. Cultural affairs minister Asaduzzaman Noor will be present as special guest. A grand cultural programme will take place at the hall to mark the opening. A press conference was held in this regard on November 26 at BSA, where cultural affairs minister Asaduzzaman Noor, cultural affairs secretary Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, additional secretary of the ministry Mahbuba Moshur, director general of BSA Liaquat Ali Lucky and director of Fine Art Department of BSA were present. Since its commencement in 1981, the

Asian Art Biennale has attempted to display the kaleidoscope of various artistic endeavours of time in which continuity and change come together. Like previous years, the exhibition will begin at the National Art Gallery of BSA in the capital. The month-long exhibition will be open for all from 11am to 8pm every day except Fridays (from 3 to 8pm) till December 31. This year, 518 artists submitted their artworks from where 228 artworks by 209 artists from 30 countries will be put on display. Eminent artists – Samrajit Roy Chowdhury, Momtaz Islam, Syed Abdullah Khalid, Anwar Ull Karim and Dr. Farida Zaman selected the artworks for the biennale. Three grand prizes – worth Taka 2 lakhs each, along with six honourable mention awards worth taka 50,000 each will be conferred to the deserving artists. Some 55 art critics and artists will also take part in the art biennale events, including performance art and seminar.



Speakers at the press conference.

# Radharaman Music Festival begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 4th Radharaman Sangeet Utshab will begin today at the premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). In association with Radharaman Sangeet Charcha Kendra, BSA has arranged the programme to be held on November 28 and 29. The festival marks the 99th death anniversary of legendary musician and lyricist Radharaman. During his lifetime, Radharaman wrote and composed over 2,000 songs in the baul tradition and was known in particular for his geets and dhamal songs - compositions to tradi-

tional dance forms. The two-day festival will feature Radharaman's baul songs, dhamal, kirton, gunbadi songs composed by Radharaman. Noted artist Hashem Khan will inaugurate the festival while Finance Minister AMA Muhith will attend the inauguration ceremony as chief guest along with special guest Cultural Affairs Minister, Asaduzzaman Noor. The festival will bring together over one hundred singers from different parts of the country including Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Dhaka.

# A connect with readers | Evening with novelist Zia Haider Rahman

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

"A novel has the power to connect with people's minds and hearts. This is called interiority. Literature can do what the film or television media are unable to do," said Bangladeshi British novelist Zia Haider Rahman. He was addressing a programme titled "In the light of what readers think: An encounter with Zia Haider Rahman" in Chittagong, on Sunday evening. The city's largest book shop Baatighar had organised the event at Chittagong Press Club (CPC) where participants had the opportunity to interact with the novelist. Eminent personalities, writers, poets, educationists and journalists thronged the book shop early evening onwards. To start with, Professor Masud Mahmood of Chittagong University introduced the writer to the gathering. In his speech, the writer, who has won acclaim for his debut novel "In the Light of What We Know", said he was moved by the large turnout and warm ambience of Baatighar that not only merely housed books but was a fertile ground for people to exchange ideas. Zia said that he had a close emotional bond with Sylhet and Bangladesh, particularly Hasimpur village of Kulaura (Sylhet) from where he with his family



The writer interacts with the audience. moved to London. Later, he described how he turned into a writer. "I had a number of jobs but was not wholly satisfied. I am a very curious person so I studied diverse subject like mathematics. I am not an ambitious person. I love learning," said the novelist who has studied at universities like Oxford, Cambridge, Munich and Yale. In response to questions raised by the audience, Zia said he first started writing 25 years ago; however at that he did not think of having his works published. The programme concluded with the writer's observation that he wanted translations of his debut novel at the earliest.

# RAPID FIRE SUMAIYA SHIMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sumaiya Shimu is a popular name in the Bangladesh TV scene, regularly appearing in TV dramas, serials and tele-films. The wide-smiling actor recently answered a bunch of off-beat questions from The Daily Star. Do you receive anonymous calls? Shimu: Anonymous or not; I normally receive all calls. What do you usually do after returning home from a shoot? Shimu: Just unwind and relax. Do you frequently visit your village home? Shimu: Very rarely. I went there, in Narail, last year after a long hiatus of over a decade. How often do you go to the kitchen market? Shimu: I go there occasionally, but I often visit shopping chains like Meena Bazar and Family Need. Tea of Coffee? Shimu: Tea; green tea, to be more specific. Who do you like cooking for?



Shimu: My favourite people. How often do you make your bed and organise your room? Shimu: Everyday, without fail.

Which are the things you never leave house without? Shimu: My cell phone, sunglasses, wallet and lipstick. Where do you shop? Shimu: I buy my cosmetics, shoes and bags from abroad. Besides, I go to New Market, Gausia and Basundhara City to pick up essentials. Who accompanies on your shopping sprees? Shimu: My eldest sister. Which brands of perfumes do you go for? Shimu: Armani, Chanel and Dolce & Gabana. Favourite travel destinations in the country? Shimu: Rangamati and Cox's Bazar. What you usually do when you are angry with someone? Shimu: I stay aloof. Who calls you most endearingly? Shimu: My mother.

# Exquisite artworks on display at BSK Art Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the second consecutive time, Bishwo Shahitto Kendra (BSK) has organised a group art exhibition featuring exquisite works by 40 noted Bangladeshi artists at its art gallery. Artist Mir Mostofa Ali spoke at the exhibition inaugural event presided over by the founding chairman of BSK Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed on November 14. Artworks by four late artists, including Anwarul Hoq is on display at the show. Anwarul Hoq is amongst the very few artists who were the comrades of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin in starting fine art movement in this part of the world. Later, he served as a principal of Charu O Karukala Mohabidyalay. This year marks the artist's birth centenary and the exhibition has rightly been dedicated to Anwarul Hoq. Though the exhibition showcases one or two artworks by the participating artists, it captures the trends and dimension of Bangladeshi art covering six decades. Diversity of works is the predominant feature of the exhibition while works done using new



An artwork by Anwarul Hoq. techniques have been inspired. A fabulous oil painting titled "Jatrapala" by Anwarul Hoq takes the audience to the sweet memory lane of yesteryears, depicting the opulence of our cultural harmony. The subtle game of light and shades, compositional mastery and extremely matured colour use of the work make us nostalgic. Mir Mostofa Ali portrays "Waterloo Station" (watercolour) while Kazi Abdul Base's oil titled "Reflection" evokes the days of the past. Mahbulul Amin's acrylic "Paara" beckons an auspicious sunny day. KMA Quayyum superbly portrayed the music of inner sense in the work "Sensation Withing-5". The other participating artists at the exhibition include Md Shamsul Islam, Mahbulul Amin, Monsur-ul-Karim, Mohammad Eunos, Nasreen Begum, Rokeya Sultana, Sheikh Afzal, Ahmed Nazir, Saiful Haque Juise and Kamak Chanpa Chakma. Nayeema Pinky is the curator of the exhibition. The exhibition, open from 3 to 8:30pm, ends today (November 28).

# Rancho was based on me: Vidhu Vinod Chopra

Producer of 3 Idiots, Vidhu Vinod Chopra said that the character Rancho (played by Aamir Khan) in the massively successful film, was inspired from his own life. Rancho was an eternally optimistic genius in the film. "The character of Rancho in the movie is based on me. It is inspired from my life," Chopra said while sharing interesting anecdotes of his life. Chopra, a product of Pune-based Film and Television Institute of India, said "I never attended classes in the film institute and failed in the final examination. So, when I was nominated for Oscars, the institute called me as a guest and gave me my passing certificate as an honour."



According to Chopra, his family wanted him to become a doctor, but he pursued his dream of filmmaking. He purposely wrote the medical entrance exam paper incomplete, so that he could fail in it. "When I was nominated for Oscar in 1979 for a short film, I told my dad about it. He looked at me and said 'you fooled me' and gave me a slap with love and affection," said the filmmaker. Chopra said he wants to make the 2009 blockbuster in Chinese, French and English as the film continues to change many lives. Source: Hindustan Times

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