



RAMADAN CHRONICLES

"I avoid iftar invitations at all costs"

... Elita

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elita Karim wears many hats-- besides being a top pop musician of the country, she is an established journalist and a radio host. Despite her busy schedule, Elita makes sure to eat healthy -- even when she's having Iftar at work -- and make time for friends.



What's your favourite iftar item?
 Elita: Chira (flattened rice soaked in water). I also make it a point to eat fruits during iftar, and always skip the deep fried oily stuff. I also don't like muri (puffed rice) which many consider a must-have at the iftar table.

Has Ramadan been different now that you're married?
 Elita: Not really. Since my in-laws live in Chittagong, I haven't had a chance to have that traditional iftar with them yet. I am still as busy as ever, so it's pretty much the same. At least three to four times a week I have to have iftar at work -- although I don't mind it. It's part of your professional life, and you have to learn to fit into it.

Do you go out for iftar and sehri, though?
 Elita: Once in a while, yes. However, I don't like going to Old Dhaka for sehri like many others do. I have had that brand of food many times, and I don't think it's worth the hassle to travel that far in the dead of night. But even when I am eating out in Gulshan or nearby, I like to go places that are not crowded. As for iftar, I avoid the formal iftar invitations at all costs. Near the end of the month, I do go to have iftar out with my friends, or at a more informal setting at someone's house.

What are your Eid plans, and how far along are you with your shopping list?
 Elita: I hate shopping (laughs). My mother usually gets salwar kameez suits for me and my sister, and panjabis for my brothers, so I just wear that on Eid and don't bother shopping. As for other plans, I have a few offers for live musical shows on TV during Eid, and I have already committed to a couple of them which I think would be fun and interesting. The last few days before Eid is usually the practice and preparation for the shows, and that keeps me busy.

Preservation and promotion of Abdul Alim's songs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is a land of rich folk cultural heritage. Folk songs flow in the blood of Bangladeshi people. Legendary folk singer Abdul Alim is a pioneering folk singer of Bangladesh. His songs are still popular in the hearts of the people even after his death in 1974. But his songs may go into oblivion with the passage of time.

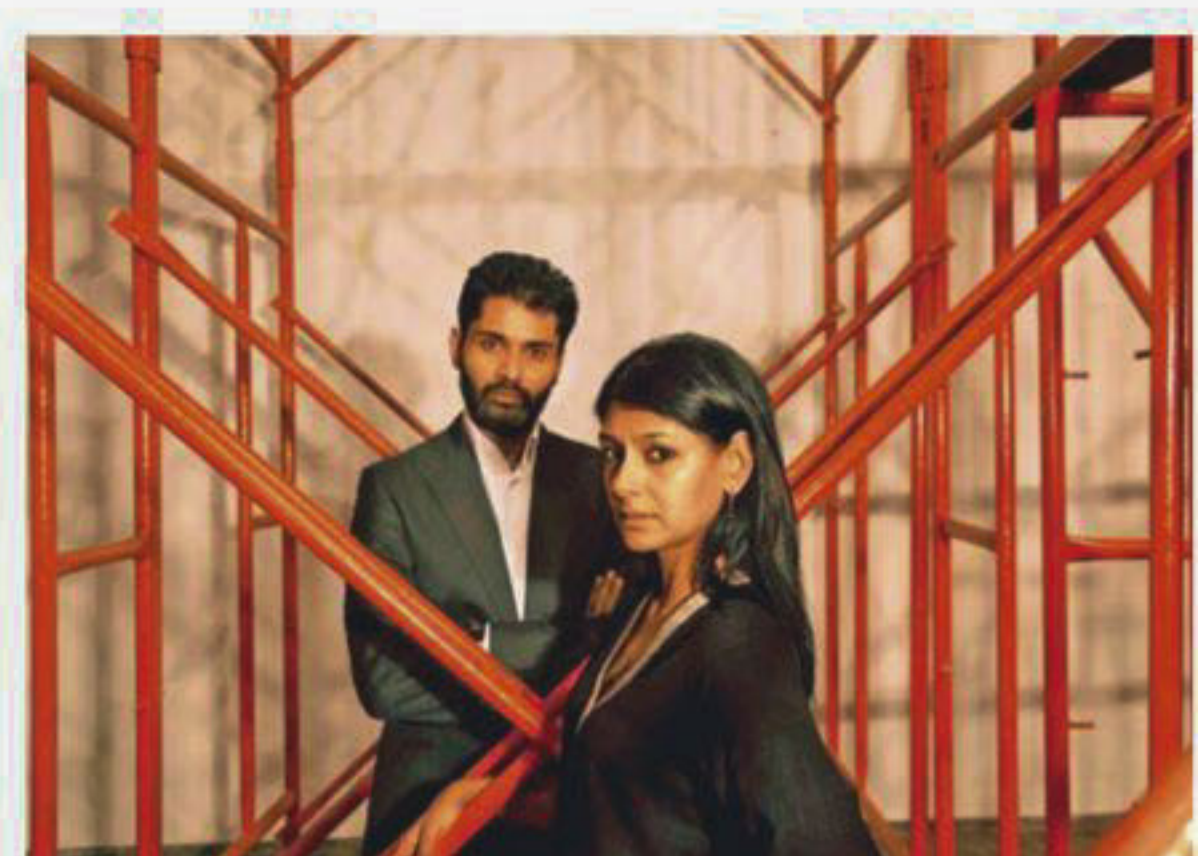
Fortunately, to preserve and promote legendary Abdul Alim's songs, Abdul Alim Foundation has taken an initiative where Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO is providing overall assistance. The organisations are working on the theme "Preservation and Promotion of the Songs of Abdul Alim, the Legendary folk singer of Bangladesh". Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is giving strategic assistance to the great cause. A folk artists' talent hunt programme has recently been launched across Bangladesh. All the 64 districts of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Rangpur divisions are under the artists' selection programme.

The artists aspiring to participate in the event are establishing contact with the authority of Shilpakala Academy of the concerned divisions. Artists are taking part in the competition at the auditorium of each divisional headquarter. The organisers have so far arranged seminars and talent hunt competitions on Abdul Alim's songs in several divisions --Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet. They are holding the same events in the other divisions confirming the participation of musical talents of all the districts of Bangladesh.



Initially, two folk song researchers and two folk artists from each district will vie for the divisional level competition. Later, the two best artists and researcher will be selected from each division to perform in a programme to be held in Dhaka. The selected artist will give a list of Abdul Alim's song to the researchers. The researchers will conduct a seminar on Abdul Alim's songs at each division. Five eminent music experts will select the best two artists.

A high-quality DVD of the grand programme will be produced. The proceeds of the sale of the DVD will be distributed among the poor and the disadvantaged participants. This would help the poor participants to continue their practice of Abdul Alim's Songs. A four-colour souvenir with inputs on the life and works of Abdul Alim, a list of his songs, photographs and news of the seminars and particulars of all participants, message of ministers and government high officials and personalities concerned will also be published in the souvenir. Folk singer Jahir Alim, also the president of Abdul Alim Foundation and a son of the legend, is taking part in every divisional programme.



A new genre of cinema

Cine-play "Between The Lines"

KAVITA, New Delhi

The poster of play "Between The Lines" was deceptive. The profiles of actors Nandita Das and Subodh Maskara gazed at one, complete with a laudatory message by Amitabh Bachchan. One was all set for a brilliant play. In fact it turned out to be a cine-play, described as a "new genre of cinema".

The cine-play, the story of a much-in-love lawyer couple, was intriguing. Finding themselves at the opposite ends of a criminal trial case involving an oppressive man and his brutalised wife who supposedly shot her husband in cold blood, the lawyers become estranged as their personal and professional lives began to impact each other.

The cine-play is now all set to travel to other cities.

As CinePlay, the organisers of "Between the Lines" explain, a cine-play is a 'new genre of cinema that presents stories from theatre'. To be widely viewed, a conventional play involves complicated logistics and economics, while it needs to overcome geographical and linguistic barriers. In contrast, a cine-play archives well known plays, bringing future generations of viewers closer to a new language of storytelling.

In the bargain, the theatre community benefits as they get wider exposure. The organiser shares its revenue with the theatre production of each cine-play. Further, CinePlay's revenues are fuelled to the community to spawn more productions -- both performances and cine-plays. So it is a win-win situation for both CinePlay and theatre professionals.

At first glance, a cine-play is a mere live recording of a play, but it is in fact shot with sets created especially for each cine-play. They are helped along with fine cinematic values like superb camera, light and production set ups.

Among CinePlay's productions are "Bombay Talkies", "Dance Like a Man", "Sometimes", "Adhe Adhure", "Hasmukh Saab Ki Wasihat" and "The Job".

Clearly this is just the beginning for cine plays. For a first-hand experience of this innovative genre, just log on to www.cineplay.com

"Dolchhut Projapoti" on ntv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Dolchhut Projapoti" airs on ntv every Saturday and Sunday at 8:20pm.

Written by Faria Hossain and directed by Arif Khan, the serial delves into the everyday lives, struggles and dreams of a middle class family living in the capital.

Director Arif Khan said, "The serial is the chronicle of a family. The story of each family member unfolds as the serial moves ahead."

About the serial Diti said, "Working in the serial is rewarding as the audience look forward to it."

On the other hand, Nawsheen said, "The serial has a very good storyline. And a good plot is rare nowadays."

"Dolchhut Projapoti" has familiar faces like Tauquir Ahmed, Diti, Rownak Hasan, Kalyan, Nawsheen, Bonnya Mirza, Raisul Islam Asad, Dolly Zahur, Laila Hasan, Chitralekha Guha and others.



Nawsheen, Diti and Kalyan on sets of the serial.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"The Beauty of Drawing" at Athena Gallery

Athena Gallery of Fine Arts organised group drawing workshop "The Beauty of Drawing" featuring the works of accomplished artists in Bangladesh, says a press release. About 15 artists are took part in this drawing workshop at the gallery premises from June 9 to 11. The drawings, which have been made during the workshop, are currently on display at the gallery.

The exhibit features eminent artists including Jamal Ahmed, Sheikh Afzal Hossain, Khalid Mahmood Mithu, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Mohammad Iqbal, Anukul Chandra Mojumder, Kamal Uddin, Ujjal Ghose and Sumon Wahed among others.

The exhibition that opened on June 15 will run till July 10.



Iron Maiden announce "The Book of Souls"

Heavy metal legends Iron Maiden revealed earlier this year that they were holding off on releasing a new album while Bruce Dickinson dealt with a cancerous tumor. But Dickinson has received treatment and got the "all clear" from doctors, and now fans can get ready for Maiden's new album, "The Book of Souls", coming on September 4.

The group revealed the news via their website. For the album, they teamed up with longtime producer Kevin 'Caveman' Shirley and finished off the disc late last year. They called upon Mark Wilkinson to create artwork for their first double-disc album featuring 11 tracks with a running time of 92 minutes.

Bassist/founder Steve Harris contributed songwriting on seven of the tracks, while the band's guitarists took the lead on six of the songs. This also marks the first time since 1984's "Powerslave" that Bruce Dickinson solely wrote two tracks on the album, and one of those songs -- "Empire of the Clouds" -- is the longest Maiden track ever recorded,

clocking over 18 minutes.

Harris says, "We approached this album in a different way to how we've recorded previously. A lot of the songs were actually written while we were there in the studio and we rehearsed and recorded them straight away while they were still fresh, and I think that immediacy really shows in the songs, they have almost a live feel to them, I think. I'm very proud of 'The Book of Souls', we all are, and we can't wait for our fans to hear it, and especially to take it out on the road next year!"

Dickinson continues, "We're really excited about The Book of Souls and had a fantastic time creating it. We started working on the album in late summer 2014 and recorded it at Guillaume Tell Studios in Paris, where we'd done the 'Brave New World' album back in 2000 -- so the studio holds special memories for all of us. By the time we'd finished we all agreed that each track was such an integral part of the whole body of work that if it needed to be a double album, then double its



going to be!"

The album will be available in two-disc deluxe hardbound book limited edition, two-disc standard edition, triple heavyweight black vinyl, High-res audio and Standard-res audio editions.

Source: Loudwire

The Daily Star Standard Chartered

CELEBRATING LIFE 2015
 Theme: Celebrating the HERITAGE of Bangladesh

FILM WORKSHOP
 Register and send your application before
30 July 2015

Rafiq Hossain
 THE DAILY STAR
 64-66 Road Mirzaul Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1215
 Details at:
www.CelebratingLifeBD.com &
[Facebook/Celebrating Life Contests](https://www.facebook.com/CelebratingLifeContests)

Two winning scripts at the end of the workshop will be funded by Celebrating Life for actual production. The winners will be the Directors of their films, which will be produced under the supervision and guidance of the organisers.

Partners

Agility
 Global Integrated Logistics

Office Relocation

From June 1, 2015 we have moved our administrative office to new location

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