


WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
 Marking 91st Birth Anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmad
 Venue: Gallery Twenty One, 751, Satmasjid Rd, Dhanmondi
 Date: Jul 23-Aug 22, Time: 12noon-8pm



Asian Cinema Retrospective 2016
 Moviyana Film Society & BSA
 Venue: Int'l Digital Cultural Archive Room, Nat'l Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: Jul-Nov (Fri & Sat)
 Time: 3-8pm

এশিয়ান সিনেমা রিট্রোস্পেক্টিভ ২০১৬
 Asian Cinema Retrospective 2016

Award Giving Ceremony
 As Homage to Feroza Begum
 Organiser: Dhaka University
 Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, DU
 Date: July 28
 Time: 4pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Life We Desire; Life We Gain
 Artist: Bipap Shavan Bachhar
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka
 Date: July 22-August 2
 Time: 3-9pm



15th Anniversary of Theatre School Prachyanat
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: July 29
 Time: 9am-9pm



The inimitable FERROZA BEGUM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It's not possible to consider the evolution of Nazrul Sangeet without considering late Feroza Begum's contributions. She more or less single-handedly repopularised Nazrul Sangeet in the 1960s, when the poet's songs were not finding eager ears.

Accomplishments
 For her lifelong contributions to music, Feroza Begum received many awards and honours including the Shadhinata Padak, Netaji Subhash Chandra Award, Satyajit Ray Award, Nasiruddin Gold Medal, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Gold Medal, Meril-Prothom Alo Lifetime Honourary Award, The Daily Star Celebrating Life Lifetime Achievement Award, D. Lit from University of Burdwan and Bongo Shomman from West Bengal State Government.

Resolution to repopularise Nazrul Sangeet
 In her own words: "In 1962, HMV gave me an offer to record two songs for the Puja season. I told them that I would do it but the songs I want to record are Nazrul Sangeet. They refused but I held my ground. Eventually HMV budged and I recorded *Dur Dwipobashini* and *Momer Putul* for them. The songs were huge hits."



The city that saw her rise as an artiste
 On the occasion of Nazrul's birth anniversary in 2012, the West Bengal government honoured her with the Bongo Shomman. The realisation that she was still admired and her music was still appreciated in Kolkata, where her music career began under the guidance of Nazrul himself and composer extraordinaire Kamol Dasgupta, was overwhelming for her, the legendary singer said in an interview previously published in The Daily Star.

She also opened Nazrul Academy in Kolkata on the poet's birth anniversary.

Never did playback
 Singing for movies is something she apparently could never do. She sang Adhunik, Urdu Geet, Ghazal, Thumri, even Rabindra Sangeet, but playback was something she could never agree to. This apprehension-- how her song will be used ---always deterred her, she said. My mentor and husband, Kamol Dasgupta, who was one of the most popular music directors of his time, requested her to do playback for him. This was one request from him she couldn't oblige.

Talent hunts and true talents
 Here's what the artiste had to say about talent hunts and music competitions: "So many young artistes getting national exposure. Yet, truly talented singers who can demonstrate longevity of their skills are rare. The gifted artistes I know, who are ready, don't get enough opportunities to showcase their talents on a national level. I had trained many aspiring artistes when I used to run a music school at Kobi Bhaban."

Shafin Ahmed talks about his illustrious mother

86th birth anniversary of the legendary artiste

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

July 28 marks the 86th birth anniversary of legendary Nazrul singer Feroza Begum. Her legacy lives on. The Swadhinata Padak awardee's sons Shafin and Hamin Ahmed are pioneering musicians in their own right. Today Shafin Ahmed shares some cherished memories of his mother with The Daily Star.

Did your mother support and inspire you in shaping your musical career?

Shafin Ahmed: My mother always believed I could sing traditional songs well, and she thought that if I invested some effort in Mumbai, I would become a well-established playback singer there. But I wanted to pave my own path and she took pride in my aspiration. When I was composing Bangla songs, she listened to them carefully, and gave advice on the making of songs, choice of lyrics, singing techniques and other facets.

Both your parents were legendary figures in Bangla music; how did they react when you veered towards rock and roll?

Shafin Ahmed: Yes, both my parents were legendary names not just in classical Bangla music, but also modern songs and Nazrul Sangeet. Ma used to bring western records from India. I still remember the albums like "Tom Jones" where Ma liked the song "Green Green Grass of Home..." She also listened to Cliff Richard and bought The Beatles' "Rubber Soul" album for us. Her personal favourites were Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra. I disturbed everyone in the house with loud music from records, instruments set up in living rooms, but even then they didn't discourage me. They probably could see something good coming of it!

What aspects of your mother's personality shaped your life and your decisions?



Shafin Ahmed: Everyone in the music arena knew about Feroza Begum's tough principles. She was highly successful, yet never made compromises. I always find so much to learn from her life which works as my inspiration. There was a lot to learn from aspects of her personality that gained great honour and respect, how she presented herself in performance and in the media. Her commitment to home, family and music was exemplary. Dedication to her chosen subject of Nazrul Sangeet could be a lesson for everyone. I know how tough she was, how she battled many adversities in life and still went on.

What are your fondest memories of your mother?

Shafin Ahmed: Some of the fondest memories would be her cooking. Her scrambled eggs, lamb chops and smoked Hilsa were incomparable. I remember our walks on London streets. I remember her cleaning my single room in London when I went for studies. She brought big packs of cashew nuts from Kolkata, which I loved.

Any new albums on the horizon?

Shafin Ahmed: Yes, I am working on a Nazrul album, where I will sing renditions based on Nazrul's writing, my father's compositions and Feroza Begum's recordings. I am preparing to launch this in the current month. This month is the birth anniversary of both my parents Feroza Begum and Kamol Dasgupta, and amazingly, their wedding anniversary was also on July 28.

I would like to add one important point here, and that is, for anyone wanting to record songs of Kamol Dasgupta's composition, be it modern songs or Nazrul songs, they should take written authorisation from their sons, for matters related to copyright laws.



Their legacy: For the children of Feroza Begum and Kamol Dasgupta, Hamin Ahmed, Mohammad Tahsin and Shafin Ahmed... music is a passion.

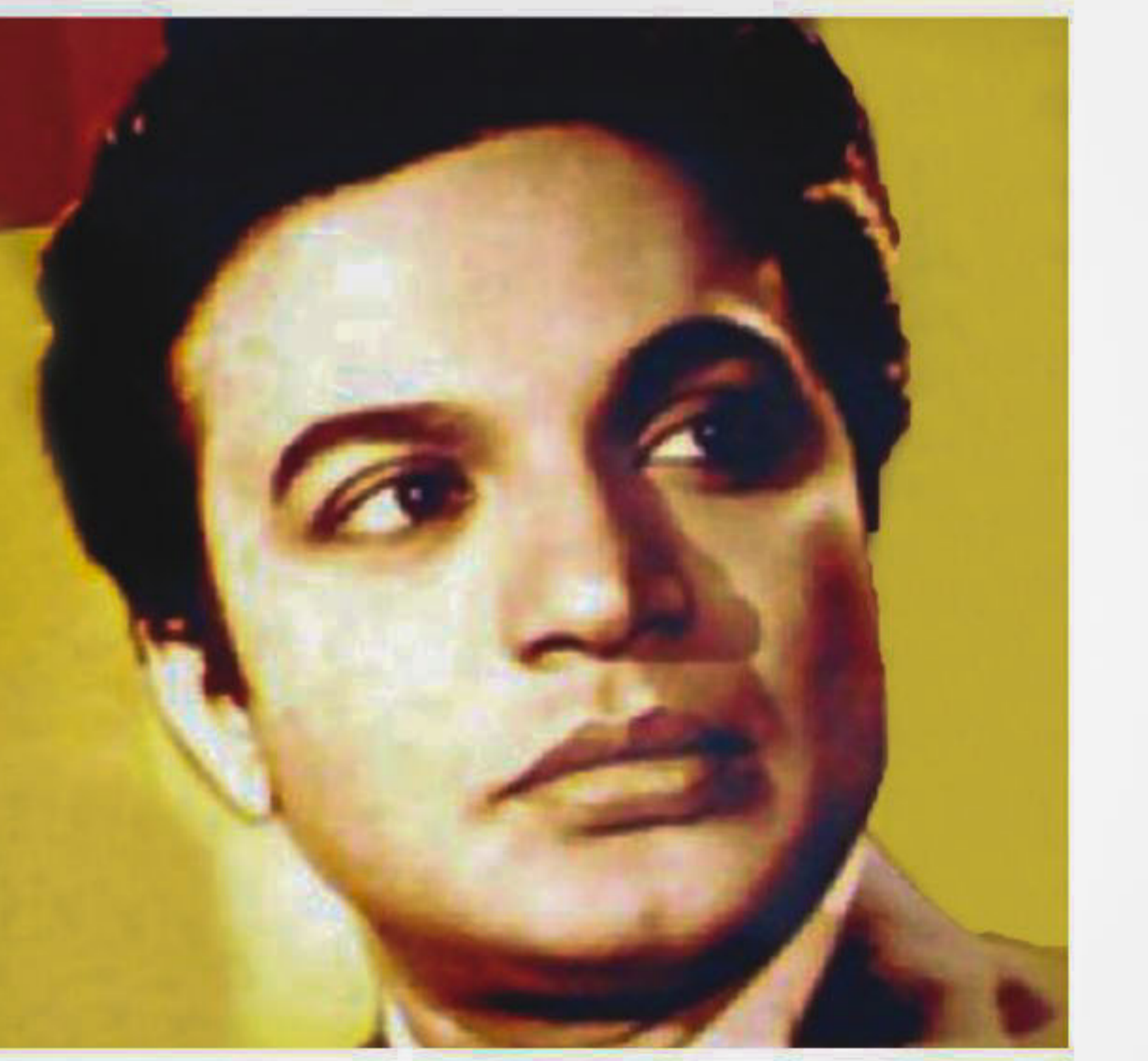
PHOTO: COURTESY

TV WATCH

Homage to Nazrul exponent

A CORRESPONDENT

Channel i is geared up to celebrate legendary singer Feroza Begum's birthday with a gamut of shows throughout the day, planned and directed by Raju Alim. At 7:30 am channel i will air "Shokaler Gaan" with a rendition of Feroza Begum's popular songs by Sushmita Anis. At 12:20 pm "Taroka Kothon" will go on air. Viewers will be treated to a conversation on the legend between Feroza Begum's sons Shafin Ahmed, Hamin Ahmed and noted singer Sadya Afreen Mallick. At 4 pm channel i will telecast live, "Feroza Begum Swarnapadak-2016" from Dhaka University. Celebrated singer Sabina Yasmin along with Patha Pratim- an outstanding student of Music Department-- will receive the award from Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique.



Music Station to pay tribute to Uttam Kumar

A CORRESPONDENT

24th July marks the death anniversary of Mahanayak Uttam Kumar. To pay tribute to the actor, Rtv's regular live studio concert show "Music Station" will air a special episode.

Singers Rizia Parvin, Badshah Bulbul and Atik Hasan will render popular songs from Mahanayak's films while responding to live phone calls from viewers.

Produced by Amir Khasru, "Rtv Music Station" will be telecast tonight at 11:20pm.

Fida's solo art exhibit ends today at EMK Center

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

EMK Center and ART con jointly organised "Enigma", the first solo art exhibition by young artist Sayed Fida Hossain at EMK Center, Dhaka. Renowned artist Professor Jamal Ahmed and M.K. Aaref, Director of EMK Center, jointly inaugurated the exhibition on July 16. The exhibition ends today (28 July).

Fida sees human existence in terms of a triangulation of mind, body, and spirit that collectively constitute the soul of a being. The existence consists of a constant fight between the dualities of good and evil, ultimately leading to death. He finds beauty in this struggle, which also generates a lot of stories. His paintings embody this struggle and a silent self-exploration towards humanity.

The artist received Dipa Hoq Award at the 18th National Art Exhibition and Honourable Mention Award at the 19th Young Artist Art Exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Sayed Fida Hossain completed his BFA and MFA from the Department of Drawing and Painting, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. He also participated in many group art exhibitions and workshops. At present he is a cartoonist at the Daily Banik Barta.

