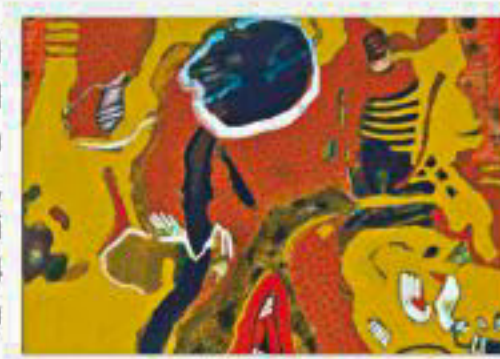


**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: EPOCH  
 Artist: Monsur Ul Karim  
 Venue: Gallery Twenty One, Dhanmondi  
 Date: September 30- October 14  
 Time: 12pm-8pm



**Open Studio**  
 Subir Choudhury Practice Grant  
 Artist: Abir Shome & Eshita Mitra  
 Venue: Gyantapas Abdur Razzak Bidyapeeth, Dhanmondi  
 Date: September 30- October 21  
 Time: 12-8pm



**National Theatre Festival**  
 Organiser: Group Theatre Federation (BGF)  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: September 24- October 11  
 Time: 6pm



**Korean Film Festival**  
 Organiser: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea  
 Venue: Bangladesh National Museum  
 Date: October 1-5  
 Time: 10:30am, 2:30pm and 6pm



**Solo Metal Sculpture Exhibition**  
 Title: Hard Emotion  
 Artist: Arham Ul Huq Chowdhury  
 Venue: Alliance Francaise Dhaka  
 Date: September 23- October 7  
 Time: 3-9pm



# KANAN DEVI'S MAGIC, RELIVED

## STAR MELODIES' TRIBUTE TO FILM LEGEND

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The name Kanan Devi may not be instantly recognisable to the youth of today, but to an older generation, the name resonates with a rare kind of stardom, of style and substance. Kanan Devi, born Kanan Bala on April 22, 1916, is said to be the first Bangalee woman superstar of film and music. Beginning her acting career at the age of 10, Kanan Devi did not take too long to become a big name in the film industry, and continued to mesmerise audiences with her acting and singing for decades. On her birth centenary year, Star Melodies of The Daily Star paid tribute to this pioneering figure, and an enthusiastic audience proved that Kanan's appeal still lives in those who saw and heard her on screen.

The programme on September 27, however, began on a sombre note, with the news of master litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq's passing away, coming minutes before the start. After a one-minute silence in his memory, Sadya Afreen Mallick, who planned and compered the programme, asked Tanjina Toma to open the show. By that time, the AS Mahmud auditorium of The Daily Star Centre was packed to capacity, despite it being 6:30pm on a mid-week day. Toma opened with Tagore-written and composed "Aj Sobar Rong Rong Meshate" (from the 1937 film "Mukti"), followed by eminent artiste Dalia Nausheen singing a familiar tune: "Akashe Helan Diye Pahar Ghumaye Oi" (written and composed by Kazi Nazrul Islam for "Sapure"). Badrunnesa Dalia and the young Raisa Islam then carried on the musical evening, crooning hits from the '40s and '50s, including "Ami Bonophool Go", "Phele Jabe Chole Jani Jani", "Jodi Bhalo Na Lage Toh Diyo Na Mon" and "Tufaan Mail", among others. Star Arts & Entertainment's Zahangir Alom, an amateur singer (and painter, for a matter of fact) joined Raisa in the only duet of the



(Above) A capacity audience (L) enjoyed the lively performance by the singers (R); Sadya Afreen Mallick anchored the programme. An august gathering of guests enjoyed the programme, including eminent educationist Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury; Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-ar-Rashid Bir Protik, former Army chief; Muhammad Abdul Hannan Khan,

chief coordinator and investigator of International Crimes Tribunal; Amanul Haque, an Ekushey Padak-laureate dance exponent; Masud Ahmed, comptroller and auditor general of Bangladesh and Nilufar Yasmin, the widow of late AS Mahmud – founding Managing Director of Mediaworld, The Daily Star's mother company, who this very auditorium is named after. Many of them spoke at the event, fondly recalling memories of Kanan Devi's career at its peak, and of the memories these songs brought back. Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury remained at the helm of the artistic design of the stage, with frilly fabric hanging from the top reminiscent of an older time, some sarees hanging like drapes on the side walls, and an aesthetically-placed set that complemented the mood of the programme. Visuals of the songs on a projection screen, along with a montage of Kanan Devi's photo, the most striking of them being the actress pictured with iconic Hollywood actress Vivien Leigh, added to the atmosphere. Eastern Bank Ltd. and Chalachchitram, as they have so often done, assisted in the programme.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



### Ravi Shankar's unending Bangladesh connection

#### Album of never-heard material contains Bangla folk dhun

FAHMIM FERDOUS

To anyone who has followed the cultural aspect of Bangladesh's struggle for Independence, it is general knowledge that it was sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, a son of this soil, who let the story of the Liberation War be heard across the world. He told his good friend George Harrison, the Beatles front-man, of the horrendous incidents happening here in 1971, and thus was conceived The Concert For Bangladesh, the first benefit concert of its scale in the world. It was with Harrison's immortal song "Bangla Desh" at the back-to-back jam-packed concerts at New York's Madison Square Garden featuring some of the world's biggest music stars -- Ringo Starr, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Billy Preston, Leon Russell, along with Indian classical music masters Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Ustad Alla Rakha and Shankar himself, that the Western world got to know about our struggles.

Earlier the same year, Pandit Ravi Shankar performed a morning concert in his home on Highland Avenue in Hollywood, California with Harrison in attendance. As Ravi's wife Sukanya Shankar attested, this performance most certainly sowed the seed for the

overwhelmingly successful Concert for Bangladesh.

Now, 45 years later, an album of that previously-unheard music has just released, and in a preview of one of the tracks you can hear his concern for Bangladesh. The album, titled "In Hollywood, 1971", has re-mastered the tapes from that concert. In the first track available for preview on the BandCamp web site, Shankar can be heard saying: "You know how much being a Bengali myself, we are very much disturbed with all that is happening ... the whole Bangladesh thing ... this is, (strokes sitar) one of the very beautiful folk tunes, (inaudible), from Bangladesh", before he proceeds to play a familiar Bangla folk tune.

The other tracks in the album are Raga Vibhas, Raga Parameshwari and Raga Sindhi Bhairavi. Earlier this year, Northern Spy Records released "In Hollywood, 1971" on a limited edition of two long plays, for Record Store Day 2016. Profits from this release benefited The Ravi Shankar Foundation, which serves to educate the world about Indian classical music and to preserve the archive of Ravi Shankar. They later partnered with East Meets West Music to release the album as a digital album and a CD.

### NEWS bytes

#### Lady Gaga to headline Super Bowl halftime

Lady Gaga will headline the 2017 Super Bowl halftime show. The superstar tweeted the news Thursday evening. Giving a nod to her latest single "Perfect Illusion", Gaga wrote on Twitter, "It's not an illusion. The rumors are true. This year's Super Bowl goes Gaga!" This Super Bowl won't be Gaga's first big game.



Last year for Super Bowl 50, she sang the National Anthem. The halftime performer in 2016 was Coldplay, who was joined by Beyonce and Bruno Mars. There is no word yet on who else will join Gaga for her halftime performance at Super Bowl 51. The Super Bowl airs Feb. 5, 2017, on Fox. Source: Variety

### Jayati Chakraborty mesmerises Dhaka audience

ZAHANGIR ALOM

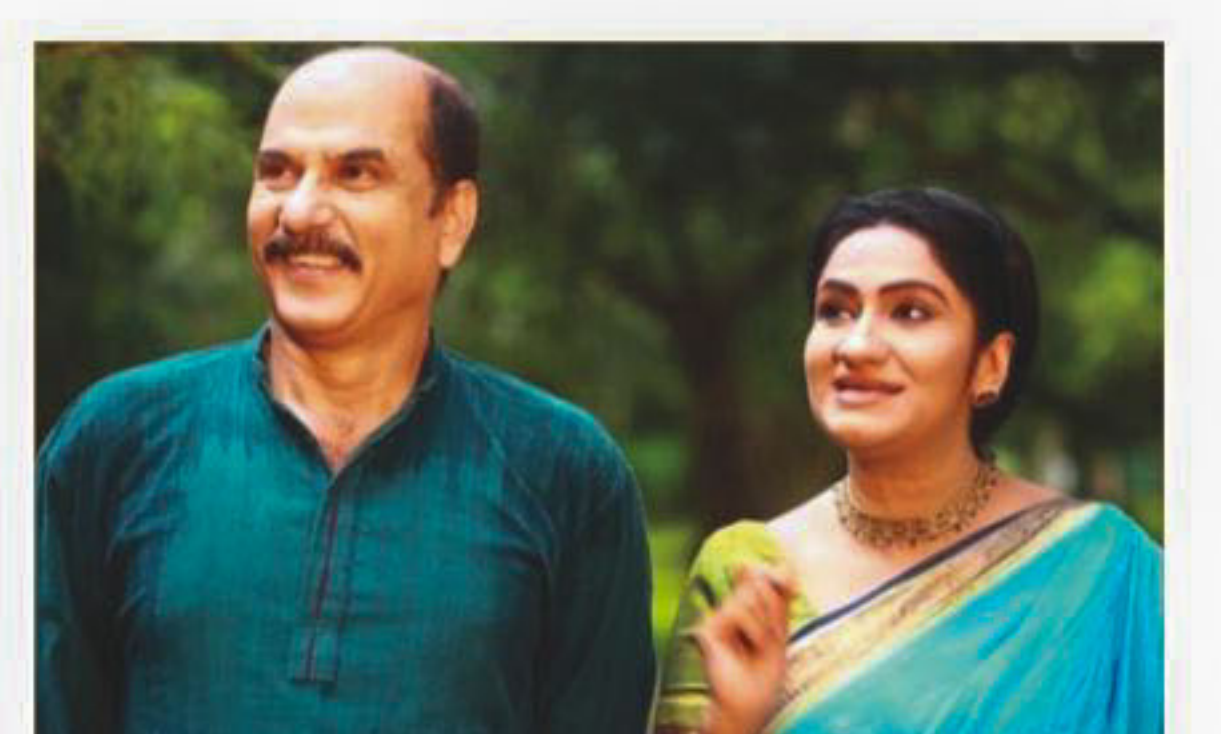
Renowned Indian Rabindra Sangeet artiste Jayatri Chakraborty performed in UCB Family Lounge of Uttara Club in the capital on September 29. Uttara Club Limited organised the solo musical soiree marking the launch of UCB Family Lounge in the club.

The artiste started off the soiree with the song "Tomaye Gaan Shonabo". The artiste mesmerised a number of Tagore enthusiasts presenting an array of songs including "Amar Mallika Bon-e", "Tumi Kon Kanoner Phul" and a Baitalik number "Megh-er Porey Megh Jomechhe". The audience requested her to sing their favourite numbers and Jayati rendered one song after another. MA Sabur, leading industrial entrepreneur and the Chairman of UCB, and Nasir U Mahmood, President, Uttara Club Limited, along with other members of the club took the stage and spoke at the event. Jayati beautifully presented another baitalik song "Emono Din-e Tarey Bola Jaye", requested by MA Sabur. She also kept the request of Professor Dr. Khalilur Rahman, performing the song "Borisho Dhora Majhey". Eminent artist Mustafa Monwar, noted film actress Kabori Sarwar and Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Annisul Huq spoke highly on Jayati Chakraborty and her unique rendition style. The artiste was very humble as well in her speech amid rendition.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Following her performance of a film track "Sakhi Bhabona Kaharey Boley" ("Ekti Tarar Khonje"), Jayati urged all to render with her from the line "Sokole Milia Gahibo Mora...Bhabona Kahare Bole". The audience serenaded with the artiste in a well-synchronised manner. The artiste thanked all and said, "It is the credit of Tagore creation that has made us sing in unison." Jayati marvelled the audience with her offering of two songs -- "Pran-e Khushir Tufan Utchehhe" and "Amar Hiya'r Majhe". In the later half of the programme, she presented several adhunik songs along with a few numbers composed by Atul Prasad, DL Roy and Rajanikanta Sen. The event was attended by eminent cultural personalities like Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Rabindra Sangeet artiste Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, thespian Mamunur Rashid, filmmaker-actor Tauquir Ahmed, actress-painter Bipasha Hayat and others.



A scene from "Baksho".

### Channel i steps into 18 today

A CORRESPONDENT

Channel i, one of the leading satellite television channels in the country, turns 18 today. Marking the anniversary, Channel i will air special programmes, including daylong programme from its premises. Titled "Atharoy Joyodhwoni", the programme will begin at 10:30am and continue till 6pm, featuring group and solo songs, dance, dance-drama and

recitation. Various other activities will be part of the celebrations, which will come to a close in the evening through cutting a cake and fireworks. Marking the occasion, a special TV play written by the late Humayun Ahmed will be aired at 7:50pm. Mohammad Ibrahim has directed the play, titled "Baksho", with Antu Karim, JH Himi, Jhuna chowdhury, Monira Mithu, Dr. Azad and others.