

theatre

Lack of Patronage Mars Stage Performances



Mamunur Rashid speaking at the seminar while Ramendu Majumdar (L) and Nilima Ibrahim look on.

AT the seminar held last evening at the Mahila Samity on the role of stage performers and their future, the main speakers were Mamunur Rashid and Ramendu Majumdar. Dr. Nilima Ibrahim presided over the function. A packed audience listened to the speakers to the last bit of question and answering session.

Mamunur Rashid, speaking at the function, said, "Since the beginning of the theatre in the 70s there has been excitement by Fayza Haq

about stage theatre in Bangladesh. This satisfied our dreams of theatrical performances along with other passionate desires connected with the cultural, economic and political life of the country. What was unthinkable became a nine month's miracle. Similarly, we can dream of having professional satisfaction in the theatre world too"

Mamunur Rashid continued to say, "This professionalism has spread outside Dhaka. However, it is difficult to keep alive this passion after the nine-to-five jobs that take up time, energy and concentration as it is not possible to make a living by the theatre alone in Bangladesh. Since only a limited amount of time and energy can be devoted to the theatre by the actors and others associated with stage plays, they should be judged in that context. Those who just after money alone can never go into this profession. Of course, the box-office's importance cannot be ignored, at the same time. Just as actors delight in performing before a large crowd so the audience too revels in being in a big group."

He added, "In the west, as in England, there are adequate rewards for most talented and dedicated actors so why cannot such a situation be created here? If the government cannot help then surely the big magnates could help out. Even in our neighbouring country, India, the situation for stage performers is so much better. Since people are pouring money over TV and films, why cannot the same be done for the stage? "Package Natok" is the only way out for most of our actors. Today there are 50 to 60 satellite channels so why should the average viewer stir himself and go to the theatre, when he has so much to view sitting at home, in the comfort of a roomy sofa and fresh breeze and even sips of lemonade or tea along with snacks—all available at a negligible price. The Shilpakala Academy has not bailed us out

and those with degrees in acting go into professions like banking, having no other choice. The theatre economics is shaky in Bangladesh. It is essential that the economic side of the cultural productions have to be seen to in Bangladesh."

In answering some questions about why the electronic media is cutting down the production of stage plays while they survive in places such as in the west, and dealing with the situation of the diminishing audience, Mamunur Rashid added frankly and in detail, "In places like the Mahila Samity, the ticket costs Tk 50 but the chairs are uncomfortable. The lights have no lenses so that there is the resulting headache and weariness of the eyes. Even if there is a good play you cannot enjoy it because of the unpleasant atmosphere. The situation is different in the auditorium at the DU. The case of the Guide House is even worse where the sound is lost due to the whirling fans and there is no sense of satisfaction for the viewer. Again there is the stench emanating from the nearby open toilets. What follows as a consequence cannot be truly enjoyed. Moreover the stifling heat is also overwhelming."

As for the actors, they belong to the middle-class and must struggle to eke out a living. For many of us, we began in the 70s and theatre work is routine. However, if there is no payment even an army cannot progress with its basic existence with its food and shelter. Even if some of them fool around 25% of the time, the rest of the time they must be dedicated and serious about their work.

"We are not out to please the audience alone, even though we lack the financial backing, which is found even in our neighbouring West Bengal. The encouragement has to come both from the viewers and people behind the actors. With 'hartaals', incessant cricket on the telly and the easy guiles of the song-and-dance attractions as well as the discussions from BBC, apart from the menace of cable operators showing blue films, it is natural that the theatre audience will thin down. Yes, we have overcome the waves of destruction before, and hopefully within 5 to 6 years, the impact of the satellite will be something blasé. Meanwhile, we actors, must persist in a professional attitude in all our performances."

Also speaking at the occasion was Ramendu Majumdar, who added, "Professions and economic backing go hand in hand. Overseas, in England 60% of the drama students who have qualified from academies are sure of jobs on seasons. During the Soviet regime East Germany and USSR supported even the old and fumbling actors. Today in places like Germany, however, only the ticket sales really help out.

"In East Pakistan days actors were looked down upon but now the thespians are regularly admired as in the case of the members of 'Group Theatre'. Individuals like Dr. Nilima Ibrahim wrote and encouraged their daughters to perform on the stage. As for actors, we have no take-home-pay and must be satisfied if the make-up, lighting, and the hall rent is paid for. It is up to the government to provide satisfactory theatres. The Shilpakala Academy is there only for musical and dance performances. The Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina spoke of having given Tk 65 lakhs for stage performances but we see no trace of that. It is not enough to give meagre donations of Tk 10,000 at a time.

"All said and done, the live theatre provides the pleasure that films and TV can never replace as it is a social event in which there is direct interaction between the performers and the audience."

music

An Evening with Sumon-Sabina

Sumon and Sabina, two bright names of the Bengali music firmament, joining hands musically to the cause of People's Eye Awareness Programme (PEAP).



Sumon



Sabina

by Ziaul Karim

MUSIC is an old form of art, if not the oldest. In ancient Greece and in classical India music used to edify, entertain and enlighten the mind of the hearers. With the development of technology music has reached greater number of people but do not always run as deep as it used to in olden days. But still there are people who stand against the all encompassing consumerist world order to set their music to speak to the conscience of people. For them music is the vehicle to light the candle of good sense, sanity and of reminding the most important message we, human beings, are ultimately herd animals, without unity and harmony in existence we will perish.

Sumon Chatterjee in his macho and vibrant voice yesterday sang what he said his belief as a citizen of the world; the belief in music and the belief in man. Sumon after Shaikh Chowdhury has injected new blood into Bengali music. Bengali music which lost its way into foolish sentimentalism

has been revived into its past glory by Sumon Chatterjee. He has brought stunning changes to the patterns of lyric by putting weight to it and by introducing fresh rhyming pattern. His lyrics are more prosaic and grounded on contemporary issues: issues that concern sensitive minds, issues that disturbs the fabric of a society. His songs are rich in literary allusions and he shows his reverence to the virtuosos who have contributed to the rich cultural and aesthetic tapestry of this subcontinent. But above all else Sumon is a performer par excellence. He can pass what he believes, what he upholds as a humanist smoothly to his audience. In any Sumon concert one feels very much involved and cannot remain a lazy listener. He has the ability to spread his philosophy of love and humanism infatigably to his listeners. The musical evening at National Museum yesterday would surely remain permanently etched on the collective memory of the audience. Sumon and Sabina musically teamed up to further the cause of eye aware-

ness programme taken up by Rotary Club of Dhaka New City. It is nice to see that music is reverting back to its traditional role of edifying and enlightening people.

The preamble of the evening was Sabina's presentation of such popular numbers as *Sunder, Subarna, Tarunya, Labanya, and Janam Hamar Dhannya Halo Ma Go* in her mellifluous voice. Then there was a Sumon-Sabina jugalbandi *Dekhechi Tomai Dur Nilimai*, a composition by Sumon. There after it was Sumon and a silent and engrossed audience. His respect for great minds once again showed up when he dedicated a musical number *Katata Path Perula Tabu Pathu Bala Jai* to late Ahmed Shah with cheerful roars from the audience.

In the middle of another song he declared his solidarity with the people who are against fundamentalism and obscurantism, and condemned the recent Jessore bomb blast.

This is vintage Sumon always expressing in his own telling style ultimately we live for 'us' not 'I'.

TV Guide

Sunday 4th April
(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

BBC

7:30 World Focus: Correspondent (Around the globe provide an insight into life around the world. This week a disturbing report that reveals evidence of military instigated atrocities on the Indonesian island of Biak) 8:00 BBC News followed by Weather 8:30 Simpson's World 9:00 BBC News followed by Weather 9:30 Hard Talk (Tim Sebastian talks to the former leader of the British Labour Party, Michael Foot) 10:00 BBC News followed by Weather 10:30 This Week 11:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 11:30 India Business Report 12:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 12:30 Wild World: Land of the Tiger (R) 1/12 The

Focus: Reporters 6:00 BBC World News 6:05 World Weekend: People's Century (The documentary series which charts the 20th century. This week the story of nuclear energy as told by scientists, witnesses of the first US atomic explosion, survivors of Hiroshima and the victims of Chernobyl) 7:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 7:30 World Living Top Gear (James May tries out the Jaguar S-Type, a new version of the popular sixties model, and Tiff Needell takes to the road in the latest Vauxhall Vectra) 8:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 8:10 Dateline London 9:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 9:05 Panorama Special Secrets, Spies and Videotape Tom Mangold reports on the UNSCOM weapons inspection programme in Iraq which has allegedly been fatally compromised by the involvement of United States intelligence agencies) 10:00 BBC

point - Carrauntoohill)

CHANNEL [V]

8:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 9:30 Catch 10:00 House Arrest 10:30 Turn on TV 11:30 Cabaret Cabaret 12:00 Toofan TV 12:30 First Day First Show 1:30 Udam Singh Pop 2:00 Zabardast Hits 4:00 Sunday Special 5:00 Coke [V] Live 7:30 Kingfisher Mangta Hai 8:30 Zabardast Hits 10:00 [V] Mainstage-Blur 12:00 Turn On T [V] Followed by 99 Billboard US Countdown 2:30 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back Vids) /By Demand VJ Trey 3:30 Saya Mahu VJ Joey 4:30 Turn On TV

STAR PLUS

6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India 8:30 Animals of Farthing Woods 9:00 Animal Adventure 11:15 Dress Circle 9:30 Ek De Teen 10:30 Janata Ki Adalat 11:00 Shogun Shoot 11:30 Amul India Show 12:00 Mastercard Family Fortunes 12:30 India Business Week 1:00

The Great Escape 1:30 IFB Star Sunday Lunch 2:00 Eureka 2:30 Apradhi 3:00 Plus Preview 3:30 Tea Time Cinema: Tarqeeb (Mithurn C, Ranjeeta) 6:30 Priya Tenuddulgar Show 7:15 Dress Circle 7:30 Star Miss India Contest 8:30 Bakeman's Ooh La La 9:30 Saboot 10:30 Star News Sunday 11:30 Janata Ki Adalat 12:00 Ajeeb Dastan 12:30 Star News Sunday 1:30 India Business Week 2:00 World Cup Magic Moments 3:00 Movie Classic 4:30 Media TV 5:00 Series: The Knock 6:00 Travel Asia

STAR WORLD

6:00 Saber Rider and The Star Sheriffs 6:30 Animal House 7:00 Crystal Maze 8:00 Mr Belvedere 8:30 Nanny and the Professor 9:00 The Adventures of Sindbad 10:00 Small Wonder 10:30 Mind Your Language 11:00 Xena 12:00 Hercules 1:00 LA Heat 2:00 Walker Texas Ranger 3:00 Tropical Heat 4:00 WWF: Superstars 5:00 The Simpson 5:30 Travel Asia 6:00 Asia News Sunday 6:30 3rd Rock From the Sun 7:00 Series: The Crow 8:00 The X-Files 9:00 Cops 9:30 TV Com 10:00 Asia News Sunday 10:30 3rd Rock From the Sun 11:00 Series: The Crow 12:00 The X-Files 1:00 Tropical Heat 2:00 Baywatch Nights 3:00 Cops 3:30 Code-3 4:00 Aerobics 02 Style 4:30 World News 6:30 Britnash Empire

STAR MOVIES

7:00 Drama: Speechless 9:00 Family: The Kid (CFF) 11:00 Bhaskar Ghose Show 11:30 Sunday Best: Getting Away With Murder 1:30 Romance Matinee: Blaze 3:30 Comedy: Scenes From A Mall 5:15 Drama: Beaches 7:30 Beautiful Women of Film: How To Marry A Millionaire PG 9:30 The Bhaskar Ghose Show 10:00 Super Sunday: Premiere: Another

Stakeout (Emilene Estevez, Rosie O'Donnell) 12:15 Comedy: Getting Away With Murder 2:15 Drama: Speechless 4:00 Romance: Blaze 6:00 Western: Fistful Of Death

STAR WORLD

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PTV-2

8:00am Tilwat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd Naat/Warizah 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Fun Time 9:05 TV Encyclopedia 9:25 Khat Farmaish 9:40 Sports Clinic 10:05 PTV Gold 10:30 English Film: Darkwing Duck 10:55 Mast Mast Sanyo 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Sports Hour 12:05 The Sunday Brunch 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Food Show 1:40 Aaj Di Shaam 2:00 Drama Serial 2:55 Ghost Writer 3:55 Karabar 4:15 Education 5:25 Riazi for 9th 5:55 Zameen Per Zindegi 6:25 Alou Courses 7:00 English News 7:30 English Film: Star Trek Deep Space Nine 8:20 Mr J 9:00 Break for Headlines News 9:02 Mr J 9:20 TBA 10:00 Khabrainama & Commercial News 11:00 Its My Choice Songs 11:35 Home Victure 12:35 Serial Monsoon 1:00 Khat Khas Khabrain/Close Down

ZEE INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 Zee News-Hindi 8:00 Zed It Pro 8:30 Zee News-Hindi 9:00 Disha Samwad 9:30 Zee News-Eng 10:00 Zee Business Show 10:30 Aap Ki Adalat Aap Ki Faisala 11:00 Purush Kshetra 12:00 Ru-Ba-Ru 12:30 The Dream Merchant 1:00 Ghoomta Aaina 1:30 Zee



Land Of The Tiger

on BBC World at 12:30 pm

"We are about to begin a journey we will never forget," says Valmik Thapar in the new series from the BBC's renowned Natural History Unit which celebrates the unique wildlife of the Indian sub-continent. Indian author and conservationist Valmik Thapar journeys from the frozen peaks of the Himalayas to the sun-scorched deserts of Rajasthan, from the green, humid forests of Assam to the warm, blue waters of the Indian Ocean.

Valmik estimates tiger numbers in India, the creature's last stronghold, are now down to 2,000. A force of 14,000 forest guards are trying to protect their forest refuges. They must combat armed poachers and political insurgents. Valmik believes equipping them properly for their task.

To make the series, Valmik journeyed with the camera crew to every corner of his native land. "It has an extraordinary beauty." He has two priceless memories. "I flew in complete disbelief looking down on the Lakshadweep Islands, in the middle of a sea in shades of turquoise off the west coast. Nowhere have I seen such colour and clarity in the sea."

News 2:00 Namaste India 2:30 Hasen Pal 3:00 Teer Kaman 3:30 News Line 4:00 Ashaama 4:30 Hum Honge Kamyab 5:00 Nayee Nagme 5:30 Zed It Pro 6:00 Peoples Club 6:30 Young Buzz 7:00 Kuch Band Darwaze 7:30 Deep Space From the Beyond-50 8:30 Zee News-English 8:50 Zee Face To Face 9:00 The Tech Show 9:30 Zee News-Hindi 10:00 Zee World 10:30 Zee News-Hindi 10:50 Zee Business News-Hindi 11:00 India Debates 11:30 Zee News Roundup 12:00 Ek Aur Nazaria 12:30 Question Hour 1:00 The Ent Show 1:30 Ru-Ba-Ru 2:00 Zee News-Hindi 2:30 Zee Face To Face 3:00 Zee Business Show 3:30 Zee News-Hindi 3:30 The Women 4:00 Hindi Feature Film (B/W)

MTV INDIA

7:00 MTV Hanging Out VJ Sonia 9:00 House of Style 9:30 Non-Stop Hits 10:30 Best of ... 11:30 Made in India VJ Cyrus 12:00 MTV Hipshakers 12:30 MTV Hit Music 1:00 Gaaye Ja 4:30 Bajaj-Music Box 5:00 All Time Hits

5:30 Bagpiper-Jharokha 6:00 B&W Gems 6:30 Music News 6:45 Coca-Cola World Premiere 7:30 Old Tavern-Sizzlers 8:00 Coca-Cola-World Premiere 8:30 Bagpiper-Jharokha 9:00 Bajaj-Music Box 9:30 Pehlu 10:00 House of Choice 10:30 Bagpiper-Jharokha 11:00 Aalap 11:30 Shabab 12:30 All Times Hits 1:00 Sa Re Ga Ma 1:30 Bagpiper-Jharokha

DD 7

9:00 Sure Sadhak 9:30 Movie Club Film (Last Thursday's Film Rpt) 12:30 Sawal Zaway 1:30 Movie Club Film (Last Friday's Film Rpt) 3:30 Geet Sangeet 4:30 Sunday Bangla Film 5:30 News 7:00 Binodan (Magazine Show) 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Serial: Pratihata 8:30 Serial: Baro Theke Atharo 9:00 Serial: Surja Snann 9:30 Serial: Sidhanta 10:30 Sambad

DD CHANNEL-1

5:55 Vande Mataram & Thought of The Day 6:00 Serial: Aradhana 6:30 UGC Programmes 7:30 Samachar 7:40 Rangoli 8:40 The News 8:50 The World News 9:00 Gao Saachi Bani 9:30 Shri Krishna 10:30 Serial: Sangeet Samrat Tansen 11:00 Serial: Tiliem-e-Hoshurula 11:30 Series: Picnic Antakshari 12:00 Travelogue-12:30 Delhi Diary 1:00 Sakhi Saheli 1:30 News for Hearing Impaired 1:55 Feature Film in Regional Lang. 2:30 News in Hindi 2:40 News in English 2:50 Feature Film in Regional Language (Contd) 4:30 Feature Film in Hindi 7:30 Samachar 8:00 Series: Bhagwan Se Poonchu Ki Khuda Se 8:30 Serial: Meerabai 9:00 Samachar 9:30 News 10:00 Amul-Surabhi 10:30 Serial: Satyavadi Raja Harischandrar 11:00 Current Affairs 11:30 Doon

MUSIC ASIA

7:30 Aalaap 8:00 B&W Gems 8:30 All Time Hits 9:00 Old Tavern-Sizzlers 9:30 Aalaap 10:00 All Time Hits 10:30 Bagpiper-Jharokha 11:00 Banganga Festival 11:30 Bajaj-Music Box 12:00 Coca-Cola-World Premiere 12:30 Old Tavern-Sizzlers 1:00 Bagpiper-Jharokha 1:30 Cibacatube Top Ten 2:30 Bajaj-Music Box 3:00 Old Tavern-Sizzlers 3:30 Bagpiper-Jharokha 4:00 Gaaye Ja 4:30 Bajaj-Music Box 5:00 All Time Hits

SONY TV

7:30 Indian Holiday 8:00 Rishiprasad 8:30 Sunday Ki Sunday 9:00 Yadon Ki Barsaat 9:30 The Poppadam Show 10:00 Rang Birangee 10:30 World Of Cricket 11:00 Indian Holiday 11:30 Cine Clips 12:00 Bajaj Ki Lehren 12:30 The Monster Quiz 1:00 Malgudi Days 1:30 The Good Home Show 2:00 Uncensored 2:30 Cine Prime Hindi Film Show 5:30 Mahayagya 6:00 Aahat 6:30

Boogi Woogi 7:00 CID 7:30 The Monster Quiz 8:00 The Coca-Cola-Padma Show 8:30 Kehne Mein Kya Harj Hai 9:00 Aadab Aarz Hai 10:00 Cine Prime Film 1:00 Star Year Kalakar 2:00 Toofan Mail 2:30 Rangeela Re 3:00 Pop Pouri 3:30 Cine-Nite Hindi Feature Film

ZEE TV

6:00 Yaadon Ki Pal (B/W Songs) 6:30 Zee News & Zee Business 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:05 Gudgee 8:30 Suniye Zee Suniye Zee 9:00 Disney Hour Cartoons 10:00 Close-Up Antakshari 10:30 Mahabharat 11:30 Rin-Super 7 Mukabela 12:30 Bournvita Quiz Contest 1:00 Mr Gaayab 1:30 Commando 2:00 Nirman-Hum Paanchal 2:30 Kaha Se Kaha Tak 3:00 Jeena Isika Naam Hai 3:30 Hindi Feature Film 6:30 Ek Nazar 7:00 Disney Hour Cartoons 8:00 Thumps Up-Public Demand VJ Roshan Abbas & Kanakshana 8:30 TVS Saregama 9:30 Serial: Neeyat 10:00 Blockbuster Hindi Film 12:30 Rishy-Rang 1:30 Teacher 2:00 Zee News 2:30 Zee Arabia: Sapath 3:00 Hindi Feature Film (B/W):

Hawamahal

7:00 Boot It Computer 7:15 Gurubani Sagar 7:45 Business Weekend 8:30 Serial: Shiv Mahapuram 9:30 Gul Sanchar 10:30 Discy Club 11:00 Shree Thrupatti Balaji 11:30 Choti Se Baat 12:00 Serial: Mahabharat 1:00 Kuch Baatein Kuch Gancee 1:30 Ayur In Style 2:00

Lucky Seven 2:30 Saranga 2:55 Urdu News 4:35 Hindi Film 7:30 Mirich Masala 8:00 Public Hasti Film Masti 8:30 Ajnabi 9:00 Yeh Ishq Nahin Aasan 9:30 Superhit Mukabala 10:30 Cross Fire 11:00 Live Wire 11:30 Sunehari Yaadein /Yeh Cafe 12:00 Pop Show 12:30 UGC Prog.

DD INTL

9:30 Opening & News in English 9:45 Business Plus 10:00 Chitrahara (Meet the Film Star) 10:30 Asian 11:00 Light Music 11:15 Suravi (Renuka Sahani) 11:45 Gul Gulshan Gullam (Serial) 12:15 Bharat Samachar (News in Hindi) 12:30 India Film 1:00 Hindi Film Show 5:30 Mythological Serial: Shiv Mahapuram 10:00 Hindi Film Show (Rpt)



The Crow on Star World at 11 pm

Hardtalk

on BBC World

Carl Djerassi with Presenter Sarah Montague at 1:30 pm

An Austrian Jew who escaped the Holocaust as his father's Bulgarian papers enabled him and his mother to emigrate to America. He synthesized the steroid from which the Pill was developed when he was in the twenties. Now Professor of Chemistry at Stanford University, he is also an accomplished novelist - bringing scientific controversies to those who do not consider themselves interested in science, through fiction. Now embarking on a third career as a playwright, he talks of his three marriages, his daughter's suicide, his conversion to feminism and passion for the arts and for science.

Irina Pantaeva with Time Sebastian at 9:30 am

A Siberian model who now struts her stuff on the catwalks of New York, Paris and Milan, she shows Kenzo and Lagerfeld, and has the Levis contract. She's to be seen in Elle and Vogue. She tells her remarkable story of her rigid Soviet upbringing, through disappointments, adventures, thrills and risks, to the fashion houses of the West.

Tiger's Domain -Pt 1 (Valmik Thapar begins his celebration of the Indian sub-continent focusing on the lion, once the national animal of India, now one of the rarest mammals in the world) 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 Hard Talk: Carl Djerassi (Sarah Montague talks to the man who invented the Pill Carl Djerassi) 2:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 2:30 This Week 3:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 3:05 World Weekend: The Last Machine 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Talking Movies 5:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 5:30 World

World News Followed by Weather 10:30 India Business Report 11:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 11:05 Weekend World: The Last Machine 12:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 12:30 Simpson's World 1:00 BBC World News followed by Weather 1:05 Weekend World: People's Century 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Living: Wilderness Walks (R) Macgillicuddy's Reeks (Cameron McNeish and broadcaster Lesley Riddoch traverse Macgillicuddy's Reeks in Country Kerry - a deserted range of mountains that includes Ireland's highest



Another Stakeout

on Star Movies at 10 pm

A comic battle of wits and an outrageous endurance ensues when a pair of Seattle detectives grudgingly accept a stakeout assignment with an Assistant DA and have to pretend to be an average American family on vacation. Starring Richard Dreyfuss, Emilio Estevez and Rosie O'Donnell.