
Independence Day programme at Liberation War Museum
March 27

Some Shangskritik Goshthi and Prachyanaat will perform two street plays titled Kabor by martyred intellectual Munier Chowdhury and Dori Khela by Bindaban Das. The show starts at 6:30 pm.

March 28

The closing ceremony of the Book Fair will feature reading from the books on the Liberation War. Eminent writers will participate in the reading. The book fair is open daily from 10 am to 8 pm.

Exhibition**March 19-27**

The 1st aerial photography exhibition by an Air Force pilot Sharif Sarker is going on at Drik Gallery. Titled *Pakbir Choktey Bangladesh*, the display is open from 3 pm to 8 pm daily.

March 25-April 02

Shilpangan has arranged a 9-day joint exhibition of photographs by Architect Enamul Karim Nirhar and wood carving by 64-year-old artisan Sri Roy Chand Shadhu. Titled *Two*, the exhibition will remain open daily from 10 am to 9 pm till April 2.

Film Show**March 26**

Biswa Shahiya Kendra will screen a movie *Dersu Uzala* by famous Japanese director Akira Kurosawa at 5 pm at the auditorium of the centre.

Dance Drama**March 27**

Bulbul Lalita Academy will hold a dance drama *Shurjomukhi Nadi* based on a story of the Liberation War at the Mahaanagar Natya Mancha at 6:00 pm.

Around the world

A kid runs away from Shrek while Princess Fiona (L) looks on after the opening ceremony of an event held by Universal Studios Japan (USJ) at a department store in Yokohama, suburb of Tokyo, 25 March. USJ kicked off its promotion from today at 14 cities all over Japan.

Music musings

Gana sangeet:a rich tradition Patriotism to the fore

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

WAY back in 1993, I was presented a rare audio cassette with an original song of Dilip Kumar Ray, a famous singer of the 1930s. This was presented to me by Dr Khan, a reputed doctor settled in the USA who had driven all the way from Ohio to Pennsylvania to present the cassette to me.

He had heard me sing the famous song *Dhoni O Dhannay Pushphey Bhora*, at musical concerts in the USA, and had told me that I should have the original tune in my possession. It is still one of my priceless possessions.

We are used to listening to a simplistic style; but the original tune has a classic touch to it.

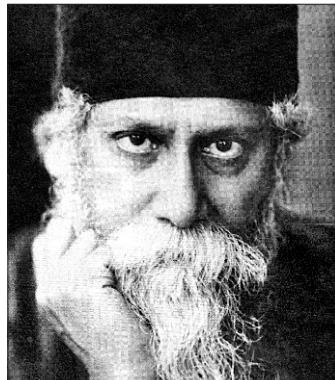
If we look back in the early 1940s a new trend of Bengali art song, known as *gana sangeet* or people's song, was initiated by those who worked against all kinds of repression in the society. The songs were imbued with a patriotic fervour and reflected the desire for a society free from exploitation.

Rabindranath, Mukundo Das and Kazi Nazrul Islam the three main poets of Bengal, have composed the largest number of patriotic songs. The two other poets and composers, Rajanikant and Dwijendralal Ray, also composed songs belonging to the genre.

When Rabindranath was only a child, noted musicians and talented artists gathered at their house. It was a time when patriotic and anti-British sentiments were at their apex.

Tagore's patriotic songs were composed in 1875 when he was just 14 years old. The earliest such composition was *Tomare torey Ma shopinu ey deha*. This patriotic trend gathered momentum during the *swadeshi* movement. Tagore's 60 patriotic songs, however, were a fraction of the 2,500 songs that he composed. Later Tagore expanded his repertoire with folk musical songs of the *Baul* genre.

Joggeshwarade (1878-1934) was better known as Mukunda Das. He was born in Munshiganj but spent his boyhood in Barisal and settled there. He was inspired by the patriotism of Aswini Dutt and soon began to compose songs to propagate anti-British feelings. In his songs *Bhai Ki Moroney, Baan Eshchey Mora Gangey*,



Rabindranath Tagore



Kazi Nazrul Islam



Mukundo Das

Mukundo reflected almost all the moods of patriotism.

He was also a powerful actor and performed in *pala* or rural based theatre. He was severely tortured in jail to stop him from spreading anti-British sentiments.

The 1940s were a watershed in the history of people's theatre and people's song of the Bangalis. This



Atul Prasad Sen



Dwijendralal Ray

trend was originated by none other than Kazi Nazrul Islam.

When Nazrul returned from the frontiers in 1921, he began to compose fiery patriotic songs also. Nazrul composed a number of songs on awakening of youth and women, communal harmony, heroic sentiment, with inspiring language and music.

His poems, a revolt against the colonial domination and social injustice, spoke of beauty and love. Among the popular songs, imbued with a rhythm and exuberance, are: *Shikol Porar Chol, Karak Oi Louha Kapat, Aj Rokto Nishi Bhorey, Chol Chol, Durgomo Giri, Jago Onoshon* and many more.

Mayer deya mota kapor

the government service as a Deputy Magistrate. During the *swadeshi* movement in 1905, DL Ray was inspired by the patriotism of the time and this was reflected in his compositions, which veered away from the humorous songs that he had long composed.

Rajanikanta Sen, one of the *pancha kabis* (five chief poets) of Bangla art songs, was basically a lawyer in Rajshahi. Rajani was deeply influenced by DL Ray's style and soon began to compose songs of a similar nature. He too, was influenced by the *swadeshi* movement and composed songs reflecting the spirit of the patriots.

Mayer deya mota kapor

that if he informs the Pakistan army about his younger brother's association with the freedom fighters, they might help him communicate with his parents, living in West Pakistan.

Moreover, his younger brother, being threatened by the army, might disassociate himself from the freedom fighters. But in reality it turns out to be just the opposite. The brutal army kills his brother and rapes his younger sister.

Starring: Jahiruddin Piar, Shamsuzzaman Khan Benu, Murad, Swity and others.

These immortal songs are on the verge of extinction. Many countries have put considerable efforts to re-launch their national treasures. A select few artists in our country, with private initiative have been struggling hard to preserve these songs, while patronage from the state is yet to come.

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all walks of life fought for the country and inspired the freedom fighters.

I can recall many things now about our Liberation War, some of which I will share with you.

I was in the Khaleda Musharrif's sector and was trained under Lieutenant General Ovan in Dehradun, India.

It was March 25, when my friend Nader and elderly Bengis Bhai

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