

## CULTURAL FEAS

## Theatre Festival

**Title:** Moliere Festival  
**Venue:** Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** August 24-26, at 7pm everyday  
**Schedule**  
 August 24 20 George Dandin  
 August 25 Pejree  
 August 26 Bauder Pathshala

## Theatre

**Group:** Centre for Asian Theatre  
**Venue:** Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** September 24-26, at 7pm everyday  
**Schedule**  
 September 24 The Mission  
 September 25 Metamorphosis  
 September 26 Mukhosh

## Cultural Evening

**Occasion:** The 60th birth anniversary of Jibon Chowdhury  
**Venue:** National Museum Auditorium, Shahbagh  
**Date:** August 23, at 5pm

## Premiere

**Title:** Enechhi Surjor Hashi  
**Organiser:** NGO Service Delivery Programme  
**Venue:** Ballroom, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel  
**Date:** August 29, at 7pm

## Musical Soiree

**Title:** Classical Music  
**Organiser:** Shuddha Sangeet Proshkar Goshthi  
**Artist:** Zabir Imam Khan Shahi and Karim Shahabuddin  
**Venue:** Biswa Shabtiya Kendra  
**Date:** August 25, 7pm

## Film Festival

**Organiser:** High Commission of India  
**Venue:** Auditorium, High Commission of India, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan 2  
**Date:** August 12-29, at 6pm everyday  
**Schedule**  
 August 26 Roja  
 August 29 Barwali

**Title:** British Animation Awards Film Festival  
**Organiser:** British Council  
**Venue:** British Council, 5, Fuller Road  
**Date:** August 22-26, at 6pm everyday

## Exhibition

**Artist:** Murtaza Basir  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** August 17-31

**Title:** Romance with Nature  
**Artist:** KMA Quayum  
**Venue:** Saju Art Gallery  
**Date:** August 14-23

**Title:** Shato Borsher Dhaka  
**Venue:** Gallery Shilpangan  
**Date:** August 11-25, 10 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 8 pm

**Occasion:** 1000th anniversary of the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russia- the city of Kazan  
**Venue:** Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** August 28- September 03

# Mahmudur Rahman returns with a new album

KARIM WAHEED

M AHMUDUR Rahman, widely known as Benu, is an authority on classical music. However, he has not limited himself only to that genre of music. Benu's versatility is evident through his immaculate renditions of Nazrul, Tagore and classic Bangla songs. The artiste's new album, *Bhalobashibey Boley* was released on August 21 at the Bengal Shilpalya, Dhanmondi.

Presented by Bengal Foundation, this is Benu's second album. About the lengthy gap between his first and latest album, he says, "Even though I've been away from the country, in London, I've tried to find producers for my album but the response I received was 'You're a great artiste but there is no audience for the type of songs you perform'. My friend Asaduzzaman Noor suggested that I should contact Bengal Foundation regarding my album and I'm glad that I did."

Benu was also a member of the group of artistes who went from one refugee camp to another during the Liberation War to motivate the people. His contemporaries and people who had survived the War still remember his contribution to the movement. During his speech, when classical music exponent Azad Rahman requested the artiste to come back to Bangladesh for good, an emotional Benu couldn't hold back his tears and said, "It breaks my heart to see the current state of



Mahmudur Rahman performing at the event

my country, it truly does. I would try to return home permanently as my family and friends are still here."

Before his performance, the

devotional piece, translated from Sanskrit. The composition narrates the relationship between the Creator and mankind.

Chief guest of the event, actor Aly Zaker said in his speech, "Artistes are the conscience of a nation and Benu's voice has always influenced us profoundly. I hope his new album will be well received."

Resuming his performance, the artiste rendered a composition based on Raaga Shankara, followed by a Nazrul song *Tomar beena tar-er*. The latter is based on Raaga Khamaja. Benu then rendered *Jarey haath diye mala ditey paro nai* and a Nazrul song *Bhoriya poraan shunitechhi gaan*-a fusion of Raaga Behag and Vasanta (the traditional style). Following that, the artiste performed *Amar jibon nodir paday*. *Nidhubabu's* romantic song *Bhalobashibey boley* was rendered next. Benu said, "*Nidhubabu's* romantic songs were introduced at a time when devotional songs were reigning supreme. Quite a few people didn't take to the songs too kindly."

The artiste ended his performance with *Ami jogot-er kachhey ghrinno hoyechhi, tumi jano ghrinu koro na*, a Raaga Bhairavi based number and "an immortal song" according to him.

Shujeo Shyam is the music director of the album, *Bhalobashibey Boley*. The album has 12 tracks.



**QA**  
 "Instead of crying, I laughed at the top of my lungs as Jayanto was minus his fake moustache!"  
 --- Tania

ILLUSTRATION: DEEPTA

In the TV serial *Ronger Manush*, I played *Manjela* and had a habit of saying, "I am very angry, I can hit you anytime," in the Manikganj dialect. My little fans used to enjoy this dialogue and always requested me to recount these lines.

## What is your real self?

I am simple at heart. I never bother about what people will think about me. I always say what I believe is true. I do get into trouble every now and then because of my outspokenness.

## Do you have any hidden talent?

Since my teens I have been an expert in the art of bridal make up. My neighbours and friends used to take me to distant places to do the bridal make up. I guess one can say I'm a make-up artist.

## Who are your role models?

My all time favourites are Jaya Bhaduri, Sophia Loren, Julia Roberts and Kabir Sarwar.

## In which film have you given your breakthrough performance?

Humayun Ahmed's film *Shyamolchhaya*, *Sohanur Rahman Sohan's Swajon* and *Biswarone Nadi*.

## Your dream role

My long-standing dream is to play *Labanya* of *Shesher Kobita*. On the whole, as I said, I have given up dreaming because I have been disappointed before.

## What is your most treasured possession?

It's my heart, which is full of love and desire...

## What do you think are the basic qualities of an actress?

She must be a good human being with a pure heart. Observation power and a strong personality should go along with these qualities.

## Any interesting experience?

In the TV play *Sekku Sekandar*, I played the role of Jayanto Chattyapadhyay's wife. Jayanto is a very interesting and humorous person. In one sequence,

he was supposed to call me names after sipping his 'daal'. Although he usually sports a moustache and beard, at the time of the shooting he was clean-shaven. Consequently he had to wear a false moustache for his role.

When the director said, "Rolling! Camera! Action!" Jayanto took a sip from the bowl and began to yell at me. However, instead of crying, I laughed at the top of my lungs because when I looked at him he was minus his fake moustache-which he had dropped into his bowl! Everybody else in the set burst into laughter!

When he tried to put on the wet moustache again, the glue had dried up and he could not put it back. The make-up artiste had to arrange a new moustache for him

## Do you have any reservations about the roles you play?

I have played many roles--from a glamorous young girl to a dying old woman, an aristocrat lady to a courtesan. As an actress I am ready to act in any role that would further my career.

## What is the best dialogue you have delivered?

New TV serial *Megh Rang Meye*

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Promising director Taher Shilon has directed playwright Masum Reza's 26-episode TV serial *Megh Rang Meye*, which will be aired on ntv in October.

Shilon said, "Though Masum Reza lives in London, during his last visit he gave me scripts of 10-episodes of the serial. He completed scripts for the rest of the episodes in England."

On the plot of the serial, Shilon said, "The play follows the Western trend. *Megh Rang*

Meye is a love story with a twist. Sadrul Pasha, a young artist, is in love with a mysterious girl named Meghla, but simultaneously he is after the money of another girl named Mouri. At one stage Pasha kills Meghla and intends to marry Mouri. When his wrongdoing is unveiled, the play veers to a tragic end."

Shahed Sharif Khan performs the role of Sadrul Pasha in the play. Aly Zaker, Ahmed Reza Rubel, Joya Ahsan, Tanvin Sweety are in the other major roles in *Megh Rang Meye*.

Shilon said, "The play follows the Western trend. *Megh Rang*



Shahed and Joya in the play

## Tracking the Monster A documentary on AIDS

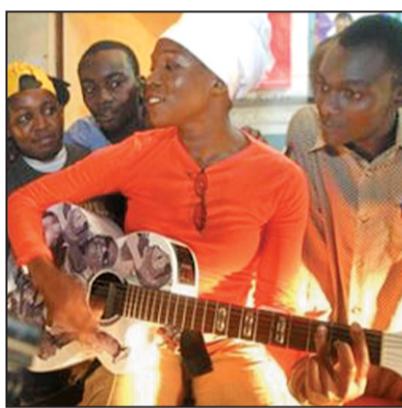
Singer India Arie is hoping viewers will be moved to action after watching VH1's upcoming documentary, *Tracking the Monster*, in which she and actress Ashley Judd visit separate African countries grappling with the plight of AIDS.

"It's what the power of this piece is, because I intellectually heard the numbers and knew that Africa was being devastated. When you see it though, you only see a portion of it. To get the real picture you have to multiply it in your mind," the singer said after a private screening of the film. "Seeing it just made it much more real."

While Judd visited the island of Madagascar and talked with women in prostitution about safe sex, India Arie went to poverty-stricken sections of Kenya and met with people infected with AIDS or the HIV-virus and comforted children orphaned by the disease.

In one heartbreaking scene, the singer asks a 14-year-old girl if she could have anything in the world, what would she want. The girl, an orphan, says she wants to come home with her, and bursts into tears.

The singer says she's frustrated the continent hasn't received more help in its fight against AIDS: "It's not fair that people



India Arie singing to African children

ignore AIDS in Africa because it's Africa." The experience has inspired India Arie to write songs about the devastating disease. Some of them will be featured on her new, dual-album project; one will be released in the fall and another a few months later.

The artiste famed for her chart-topping light-hearted song *Can I walk with you*, thinks her new material may lead people to criticise her for being too idealistic, but she really doesn't care.

Source: AP

## Stones keep rolling

The Rolling Stones launched into *Start Me Up* to kick off their latest North American tour at Boston's historic Fenway Park, a fitting venue and fitting opening song for the aging but irrepressible rockers.

Mick Jagger appeared as spry as ever, strutting across the giant stage.

"It's great to be back in Boston," the 62-year-old lead singer told the crowd last Sunday night.

It's been 43 years since the Stones first took shape and three years since they launched their *Forty Licks* world tour, which mistakenly believed would be the last for Jagger, Keith Richards and the crew.

On Sunday, fans across the age spectrum converged on the baseball stadium for the concert, many in T-shirts emblazoned with the band's trademark lips and tongue logo.

The Stones opened with classics *Start me up*, *You got me rocking*, *Shattered* and *Tumbling dice*, before playing *Rough Justice*, a song from their soon-to-be-released album, *A Bigger Bang*.

The 37-city tour gives the new album plenty of exposure. It hits US stores September 6, and with 16 tracks, it's the Stones' longest studio album since the 18-song *Exile on Main Street* in 1972.

The tour may well test the band's



Source: Internet

## TV GUIDE



Poribar O Ekti Company

On Channel-i at 7:50 p.m.  
 Genre: Drama Serial  
 Cast: Aly Zaker, Aupi Karim, Intekhab Dinar

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am. 10:00 am. 2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 11:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am. 1:00 pm. 5:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm. 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am. 9:00 am. 2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 9:00 pm. 10:30 pm. 12:15 am.

Telecast of ATN news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m. 10:00 am. 11:00 am. 1:00 pm. 3:00 pm. 4:00 pm. 6:00 pm. 8:00 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 10:00 am. 12:00 am. 6:15 pm. 9:30 pm.

News (Bangla) 7:30 am. 2:00 pm. 5:00 pm. 7:30 pm. 10:30 pm.

Telecast of ATN news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm. 7:30 pm.

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm. 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

STAR MOVIES

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 pm.

News Headlines (English) at 10:30 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 11:00 pm.

News Headlines (English) at 11:30 pm.