



Amidst rain and music, Citibank honours Sanjida Khatun

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

THE cream of the cultural arena gathered to honour Tagore exponent Dr. Sanjida Khatun at a programme organised last Friday by Citibank N.A. Titled "Borshar Gaan-e-Gunijon Shambardhona", the programme was held at the Radisson Water Garden Hotel. The tastefully decorated hall was sprinkled with leading personalities from media, government, banking and cultural organisations, and there was an expectant buzz in the air as everyone took their seats.

Sanjida Khatun has been a rare personality, nurturing the revival of Bangladeshi culture over the last five decades. A literature professor by profession and a deeply devoted vocalist she has been a driving force to many through her sincerity and devotion to forwarding the cause of our cultural heritage. From the time in the erstwhile East Pakistan when she was under constant government surveillance to the time she established Chhayanat along

with Wahidul Haque, she had steadfastly promoted Bengali cultural, and inspired countless artistes. It was through Chhayanat that the celebration of *Pahela Baishakh* at Ramna Botomul became part of the Bengali cultural fabric. Chhayanat became the umbrella organisation for dancers, singers and musicians and achieved a symbolic status in the country, somewhat like Rabindranath's Shanti Niketan.

In his speech, Mamunur Rashid, country director and managing director of Citibank NA, noted Sanjida Khatun's contribution to the field of performing arts, specifically Rabindra Sangeet, in Bangladesh. Professor Rafiqul Islam, in his speech, mentioned how he had observed the seasoned artiste over the last six decades as a friend and colleague. He noted how her indomitable spirit and devotion had helped create the sustainable platform for promoting Bangladeshi culture.

The Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed then ceremoniously handed over a commemorative crest, on



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

(L-R) Tapan Chowdhury, Dr. Sarwar Ali and Dr. Sanjida Khatun at the programme (top), artiste Mita Huq sings at the event

behalf of Citibank, to Sanjida Khatun. Dr. Ahmed noted how inseparable Sanjida has become with our heritage to the point that it was difficult to distinguish between the two, much like the difficulty in distinguishing between "the dance and the dancer".

Advisor to the Caretaker Government Tapan Chowdhury, on behalf of Citibank NA, then presented a cheque for US \$2,500, which Sanjida donated to Chhayanat. Receiving the cheque, treasurer of Chhayanat, Dr. Sarwar Ali stressed on Sanjida Khatun's uncompromising stance in promoting Bengali culture.

Sanjida, in her acceptance speech, noted the importance of promoting culture that transcended the boundaries of reli-

gion and race. Chhayanat, she said, had grown into its present state not with any assistance from the government or other organisations, but backed by donations from countless patriotic citizens -- both at home and abroad. To her, this is a testament of how dearly people hold on to their heritage and are ready to defend it from any force, whether internal or external.

The ceremony was followed by a collection of songs celebrating the season of monsoon -- rendered by leading artistes Mita Huq, Khurshid Alam and Shahin Samad.

The occasion was part of a series of events Citibank organises to recognise personalities who have made a difference in the cultural scene of Bangladesh.



An artwork by Sanjjoy Das

Sanjjoy has done his BFA and MFA from Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan. He has received two awards -- the Golden Bush Award

(2006), and "chaya" Sree Award (2006), both in India. Sunjoy currently teaches at Santo Mariam University of Creative Technology.

CULTURALFEAST

Art Exhibition

Title: Colours from Hills

Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road

15A (new), 26 (old), Dhamondi R/A

Date: July 19 to August 1

Time: 3pm to 8pm

Theatre Festival

Title: Nobo anonde jago aji nobo robi

Kirone

Organiser: Mohakal Natya

Sampraday

Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage,

Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy

Play: Meraj Fakirer Ma

Troupe: Theatre

Date & Time: July 22, 7pm

Play: Nokshi Kantha

Troupe: Bangladesh Theatre

Date & Time: July 23, 7pm

Play: Tripura Rajar Upkhan

Troupe: Durbar Natya Gosthi

Date & Time: July 24, 7pm

Play: Rarang

Troupe: Aranyak Natyadal

Date & Time: July 25, 7pm

Solo Exhibition

Artist: Rashed Amin

Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery,

House 26, Road 3, Dhamondi

Date: July 10 to July 24

Time: 12am to 8pm

News Bulletin

BTB

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55

am:12:10 pm: 2:00 pm: 3:00 pm: 4:00

pm: 7:00 pm.

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

pm: 8:00 pm.

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

Late Night News (Bangla and English)

11:30 pm: (To be telecast on all Bangla

channels).

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am: 9:00am,

2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm,

12:15am.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am: 10:00am.

2:00 pm: 7:00 pm: 10:00 pm, 11pm.

News (English) 8:20am: 7:00pm

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am: 10:00

am, 11:00 am: 1:00 pm: 3:00 pm:

4:00pm: 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00am: 12:00pm.

2:30pm: 6:30pm, 7:30pm: 10:00pm,

12:30am.

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00am: 2:00pm,

6:00pm: 7:15pm, 10:30pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am:

12:00am, 4:00pm.

News Headlines(English) at 8:05pm

Rtv

News (Bangla) at 10:15pm: and

12:15am.

ntv

News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 12:02pm,

2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV

News (Bangla) 1:00pm, 3:00pm,

5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

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