

## Rangamaton Solaiman Mela

## A tribute to the theatre personality

ERSHAD KAMOL

It was a huge gathering of young theatre enthusiasts at the National Theatre Stage, Shilpkala Academy on September 28. All day long, through staging plays, music and dance they paid homage to S.M. Solaiman, a multi-faceted theatre personality at the 'Rangamaton Solaiman Mela'. To celebrate the sixth death anniversary of Solaiman the programme was organised by *Theatrewala*, a monthly magazine on theatre.

S.M. Solaiman was a noted playwright, director, actor, music composer, singer and an organiser. Moreover, he was a trendsetter, who had re-introduced 'music' as an important device in the neo-theatre

movement in Bangladesh. His plays (30 in number) have the potential to generate political consciousness among the middle class.

Solaiman's concern for fellow theatre activists as well as his dedication for the art form made him a leader. He was the founder of several theatre troupes in the country such as Kalantar, Padatik Natya Sangsads, Dhaka Padatik, Anyadal and Theatre Art Unit. Moreover, he formed a theatre troupe in USA named Bangladesh Theatre of America, which staged shows at the Off-Broadway theatres. *Amina Shundori*, written and directed by Solaiman, is the first Bangla play staged in the US. He was the General Secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation as well as the convening member of Shammilito Sanskritik Jote.

Convenor of the 'Rangamaton Solaiman Mela', Azad Abdul Kalam said, "For his rebellious nature S.M. Solaiman is our inspiration. We need figures like Solaiman to take the art form ahead when everyone around is losing passion for theatre and interpreting the society from a materialistic point of view. It's not a mere gathering of young talents, rather an arrangement to boost their creativity. In future we hope to include more colourful events based on his works at the 'Solaiman Mela'."

Commenting on the zeal of the participants at the programme, Editor of *Theatrewala* and also the coordinator of 'Rangamaton



Theatre enthusiasts gather at a pavilion at the National Theatre Stage, Shilpkala Academy to pay homage to S.M. Solaiman

Solaiman Mela', Hasan Shahriar said, "It's not like a regular commemoration programme. Theatre troupes through their innovative ideas are paying homage to Solaiman's contributions and presenting 'Natoker Gaan' as well as selected parts of plays written and directed by Solaiman."

Aranyak Natya Dal, Padatik Natya Sangsads (TSC), Udichi,

Shubchan Natya Sangsads, Prachyanat, Theatre Art Unit, Palakar, Mahakal Natya Sampradaya, Oikik Theatre and Prangone Mor presented drama, dance, music and installation at the programme. Moreover, a documentary on S. M. Solaiman titled *Khyapa*, jointly directed by Manirul Ahsan and Abu Sufian, was screened. The programme ended

with the staging of *Golapjaan*, written and directed by Solaiman. Rokeya Rafiq Baby, Solaiman's widow, performs the title character in the play.

Baby said, "I can sense Solaiman's passion for theatre shared by the enthusiastic participants. He remains alive through his works."



A portrait of S.M. Solaiman

## Discussion on "Meena" and art competition in Khagrachhari

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Speakers at a meeting said the popular animation *Meena* is inspirational. The animation generates awareness on equal rights, education, health and environment. Watching *Meena* our children can become more aware of their rights.

*Meena* also addresses issues like discrimination of the girl child, child marriage, acid violence, super-

sitions and more, they said.

The discussion was held at the Khagrachhari district Shishu Academy recently to mark *Meena* day.

Chief Executive of Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Syed M.A. Hashim was present as chief guest while Bangladesh Shishu Academy's Khagrachhari District Officer Ushanu Chowdhury presided over the function.

Among others, educationist

Ananta Bihari Khisha and Khagrachhari Government High School headmistress Srila Talukder were present as special guests.

Before the discussion, an art competition for children was held where some 200 students participated. After the discussion, prizes were given to children and a cultural function was held.

## Madonna nominated for Rock Hall of Fame

REUTERS, New York

Madonna and disco queen Donna Summer are among nine acts nominated for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as the hall embraces more musical genres.

Other nominees include U.S. rock singer John Mellencamp, Canadian poet-singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen, 1960s English band The Dave Clark Five and instrumental rock band The Ventures.

Also nominated are New York-based funk group Chic, rap pioneer Afrika Bambaataa and hip-hop group The Beastie Boys, reflecting the Hall of Fame's willingness to accept a diversity of genres.

Five-hundred music industry professionals will choose five of the nominees to be inducted at a ceremony at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel next March.

Last year, rap group Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five were the first hip-hop artists to be inducted.

Chic, the Dave Clark Five and Mellencamp have been nominated previously.

Artists become eligible for the Hall of Fame induction 25 years after the release of their first record and are represented at a permanent exhibition at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame museum in Cleveland, Ohio.

Madonna, 49, made her debut in 1982 and her first album *Madonna* included hits such as *Holiday*, *Borderline* and *Lucky Star* which helped her become one of the best-selling pop artists, with more than 200 million albums sold worldwide.



Madonna



Young competitors express their outlook on canvas celebrating Meena Day

PHOTO: STAR

REUTERS, New York

A new entertainment programme "Aaina" will be aired tonight at 9pm on BTV. The show will highlight several contemporary issues.

A special feature on Shona Mian, a 97-year-old musician, is one of the highlights of the programme. The programme also includes an insight into Dr. Manabendra of Rahimpur village, Muradnagar upazila, Comilla, who has dedicated his life for the welfare of mankind; former captain of the national football team Arif Khan Joy expresses his views on why a popular sport like football is taking a nose-dive in our country.

The *Chitrakarigar* part of the show will feature technical hands of BTV. Film actress Purnima will share her experience in the tinsel town. Popular singer Kumar Bishwajit and Sonia will sing songs written by Asif Iqbal and Safiuddin.

Sikder respectively Ariful Islam Mithu will perform a classic, *Chokh je morer kotha boley*, with a new approach.

Directed by Benu Sharma *Aaina* will be aired on the fourth Sunday every month.

## Cultural programme Generating awareness on disaster management

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

World Vision Bangladesh, Mymensingh ADP for Disaster Management organised essay, quiz, debate and paintings competitions at its auditorium on September 28 to create awareness among children about the disaster management programme. The participants came from different schools sponsored by World Vision. A total of 120 children took part in the day long competitions.

The children took part in the painting competition in three groups. The theme was 'disaster and necessary measures before or after a natural disaster takes place'.

Later a discussion was held with Disaster Management official of World Vision, Md. Abdul Barek in the chair. Samarendra Sangma, manager of Mymensingh ADP, was the chief guest. Assistant Keeper of Zainul Abedin Sangrashala Dulal Chandra Gain, Professor Pradip Kumar Biswas, journalist Fazlur



Children participate at the art competition

PHOTO: STAR

Rahman Siddiqui, Professor Shamsul Fazley and art teacher of Mymensingh Zila School, Hasan Masud also spoke at the event.

The speakers said that since Bangladesh is a country troubled

with natural calamities, our youngsters should be more aware of how to deal with the situation.

At the end of the programme the chief guest distributed prizes among the winners.



Members of children organisation "Phulkuri Ashor" celebrated their 33rd anniversary through a colourful rally in Bogra on September 28

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CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

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Sonia performs at the TV show

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ON AIR		PICK OF THE DAY		Channel 1		STAR PLUS		STAR WORLD		NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC		Radio Foorti	
04:20	Islamic Programme	04:20	Khotomey Quran	04:20	Look at Me	05:30	Islamic Programme	05:30	Sentinel, The	07:00	Surat Al	07:00	Hello Dhaka (Apu)
08:15	Musical Programme	05:10	Islamic Programme	05:30	Protidin	06:25	Sports Vision	06:25	Paparazzi	08:50	Colours of India	08:50	Amar 88.0 (Nusrat)
08:40	Bishwa Bichitra	06:20	Hamd Nath	06:25	Three Stooges	08:25	Drama Serial: Mohanogor	08:25	The Matador	10:15	Colours of India	10:15	Global Pendant
11:15	Documentary Programme	08:00	Drama Serial: Out Door	08:40	Drama Serial: Syed Barir Bou	09:05	Drama Serial: Apnar Agami	09:05	Shattered Glass	12:00	Colours of India	12:00	Rise And Fall Of The Wall
11:40	Lok Lokoloy	09:20	Drama Serial: Prothom Shokol	09:20	Drama Serial: Prothom Shokol	09:45	Drama Serial: Swapno Chura	09:45	Terror Strikes	10:30	Colours of India	10:30	Seven Eleven (Sadia)
12:30	Selected Programme	11:30	Drama Serial: Doll's House	11:30	Drama Serial: Doll's House	10:30	Kasturi	10:30	The Copper Beeches	11:30	Colours of India	11:30	Back to Back music
01:00	Ma O Shishur Kotha	12:00	Grammeenphone	12:00	Lead News	10:45	Star Azaadi Express	10:45	Prithviraj Chauhan	12:30	Colours of India	12:30	The Living Weapon
01:30	Selected Programme	08:30	Shokaler Gaan	08:30	Aplo Tele Prescription	11:00	Saibaba	11:00	Baa Bahoo Aur Baby	12:30	Colours of India	12:30	Bioterror Alert
02:15	Drama: Baba Achhey Baba Nei	09:30	Selected Programme	09:30	Shokaler Gaan	11:30	Prithviraj Chauhan	11:30	Aek Chabhi Hai	12:30	Colours of India	12:30	Terror in the Skies
03:05	Cartoon Educational Programme	10:00	Khela Dhula	10:00	Selected Programme	11:45	Kasturi	11:45	Paddos Mein	12:30	Colours of India	12:30	The Serpent
03:30	Cartoon Educational Programme	11:30	Geetimalyo	11:30	Selected Programme	12:00	Star Azaadi Express	12:00	Kayamath	12:30	Colours of India	12:30	Jumbo Movie
05:25	Mahar Ramjan	01:05	Hridoye Mati O Manush	01:05	Tarzan	12:30	Prithviraj Chauhan	12:30	The Copper Beeches	12:30	Colours of India	12:30	The Living Weapon
06:10	Selected Programme	01:15	Geetimalyo	01:15	Selected Programme	12:45	Baa Bahoo Aur Baby	12:45	Underground Bootleggers	12:45	Colours of India	12:45	Bioterror Alert
06:40	Shotorupa	01:30	Dekhun	01:30	Selected Programme	13:00	Aek Chabhi Hai	13:00	Presidential Prophecies	13:00	Colours of India	13:00	Terror in the Skies
04:05	Khela Dhula	01:45	Aaina	01:45	Selected Programme	13:15	Paddos Mein	13:15	Desperate Housewives	13:15	Colours of India	13:15	The Serpent
05:20	Documentary Programme	02:00	Aaina	02:00	Drama Serial: Prijush Bandyopadhyay, Chitolekha Guhu	13:30	Nach Balye 3	13:30	Kayamath	13:30	Colours of India	13:30	Jumbo Movie
05:25	Mahar Ramjan	02:15	Dekhun	02:15	Drama Serial: Prijush Bandyopadhyay, Chitolekha Guhu	13:45	Prithviraj Chauhan	13:45	Brothers & Sisters	13:45	Colours of India	13:45	Discover India
06:10	Selected Programme	02:30	Aaina	02:30	Drama Serial: Prijush Bandyopadhyay, Chitolekha Guhu	14:00	Baa Bahoo Aur Baby	14:00	Day Break	14:00	Colours of India	14:00	Colours of India
06:40	Shotorupa	02:45	Aaina	02:45	Drama Serial: Prijush Bandyopadhyay, Chitolekha Guhu								