

Concert for a cause

Bands perform at fundraiser for Samia

MAINUL HASSAN

When we think of a seven-month-old, the first impression we get is of a playful child who is smiling and playing. But not all are so lucky. Samia Mahjabin Nayanti, a seven-month-old is suffering from Biliary atresia, a rare condition in newborn infants in which the common bile duct between the liver and the small intestine is blocked or absent.

When first detected she was taken to Chennai for treatment but after the operation it was found that she needed a liver transplant. The procedure is very expensive and the estimated cost is around Taka 25 to 30 lakh.

To raise funds for Samia, eminent band musicians performed at a concert at Gulshan Youth Club Field on May 30. The event, titled Fund Raising Concert for Samia Mahjabin Nayanti, featured performances by some of the leading bands and talented musicians of our country.

Sponsored by IDS group, the event was jointly organised by Raef Al Hasan mostly known as Rafa, vocalist and drummer of the band Aurthohin and his friend Hasibul Islam Shaibal, a member of Alternation band.

The event kicked off with Yaatri on the stage. Yaatri opened the programme with the song *Key Daakey*, the title track from their first album *Daak*. Next, Topu rendered *Bolbona* and *Ekta gopon katha*. Other songs performed by Yaatri included -- *Meye* (the recent hit track from the album *Bondhu bhabo ki*), *Nupur* and *Mithithyem*.

Powersurge performed *Aprostut juddho* (the title track from their debut album, scheduled to hit the market mid-June), *Ognisan*, *Jatra*, *Mithithyem*, cover of *Master of Puppets* of American thrash metal band Metallica and more.

Popular band, Black performed some of their popular songs -- *Poirish*, *Obinoshor?*, *Shorabodho*, *Alapon*, *Abar* and more.

Next on stage was Fuad, one of the leading music composers of the country. Fuad was accompanied by Shubho (the first D-Rockstar), on vocal, Rafa on drums, Maher and Faisal on guitars and Ratul on bass. The group performed four songs from three albums. *Jongli* and *Tor jonyo bonyo* from *Bonno* -- *Gotimoy* from *Maya* and *Nitol paye* from *Variation 25*.

Aurthohin delivered an energetic performance. Songs by the band included -- *Chaitay paro* (from the album *Drubok*), *Itihash* (from *Aguntak 3*), *Nirbodh*, *Protichhobi*, *Tomar jonno* and more. Shumon has mastered some innovative moves while playing bass, some of those were seen at the performance.

The last performer of the day was Warfaze. Warfaze performed *Hotasha*, *Beoyarish*, *Dhushor manchitro*, *Joto durey*, *Hariyey tomakay*.

The programme was supported by G Series, while radio partner was Radio Foorti. Event management was done by Oxyfair entertainment. All the performers and artistes performed at the programme voluntarily.

Feeding the future of the world

UNWFP's fundraiser for malnourished children

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

It's hard to concentrate when all you can think of is food. About 59 million children attend school hungry (according to a United Nations World Food Programme publication). Ninety-three percent children at primary schools in poor areas of Bangladesh are malnourished. This does not end here, however. It's a vicious cycle. An estimated 17 million babies born each year are underweight, inheriting hunger from their mothers, who are malnourished as well. The world's poor simply pass on their hunger from generation to generation.

Hunger, and the vitamin, mineral deficiencies it causes can leave children blind, intellectually and physically challenged. Their immune systems are weakened, and otherwise ordinary diseases like measles and diarrhoea can easily kill them. How many potential scientists, artists and athletes have we already lost then?

To address this global issue of hunger, The United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) and its partners initiated a campaign, "Walk the World". The global advocacy event aims to achieve the first United Nations Millennium Development Goal of reducing the number of hungry people in the world by 2015.

As part of the campaign, once a year thousands of people, as part of a procession, take to the streets in each time zone. WFP Bangladesh currently assists 600,000 children in over 4,000 schools under its "Food for Education" (FFE) programme.

To raise funds for WFP's FFE programmes, under "Walk the World" campaign, a charity ball was held at the Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on May 30. The event included a fashion show, painting auction, live performance by a band, raffle draw and more. Hundred percent of the proceeds from the event will go to WFP's



A colourful display of fancy dresses by underprivileged children and expats. Designer Emdad and celebrities seen in the centre.



Painting by a physically challenged child being sold at the auction

"school feeding" programmes.

M. Emamul Haque, Head of External Relations, WFP explained how the programme works. "It takes only Tk 70 or US \$1 to feed a school-going child for a month. I hope you'll look into your hearts and your pockets to contribute to

this programme that provides food for children at schools," he said. "The actual 'walk' will be held in Bangladesh on June 1," he added.

The programme began with a fashion show. Alongside models, enthusiastic expats who agreed to walk the ramp for a good cause,

displayed designs by Emdad Haque of 'Banglar Mela'. The highlight however, was children from schools under the FFE programme coyly accompanying the models to the tunes of "Sharthok jonomo amar", "Esho shyamolo shundoro" and "Aaji Bangladesh-er hridoy hotey". Celebrities Sharmin Lucky and Fahmida Nabi also sportingly joined in.

The painting auction was next. Paintings and drawings by children, donated by different schools were auctioned. Though it had a lukewarm start, the auction soon warmed up -- after the first 2/3 paintings, the starting bid was Tk 5,000. The auction saw generous bidders calling up to Tk 22,500. However, the latter bid was overtaken by an expat, who came up with an offer of USD 7,500. The MCs rightly said, "You can't put a price on these paintings but your contribution will certainly go a long way."

The event also included a "silent auction" of paintings by noted artists and live music performances.

TV Watch

Fatema-Tuz-Zohra in "Waiting for Baby"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Children's Day, Channel-1 will air a special play, *Waiting for Baby*, starring eminent Nazrul singer Fatema-Tuz-Zohra, tonight at 9:35 pm.

In the play, Fatema plays the role of a grandmother who awaits the arrival of her grandchild, son and daughter-in-law. The story depicts the beautiful relationship between a grandmother and her grandchild, a bonding of unconditional love and sincerity. At one point of time, she discovers that her grandchild is actually an

adopted one. From there the story unfolds.

Asked about how she bagged the role, her response: "The director, Raju Alim thought I had the right personality for the role." Talking about her experiences of working in the play, she said that it was challenging to deliver the dialogues with the appropriate expressions and body language. But, it was a wonderful experience and she would definitely like to act again if she can squeeze in time.

The cast includes Tauquir and Farah Ruma in two of the major roles of the play.



A scene from the TV play



Artistes of Rabirosmi perform in the programme titled "Gaaney Gaaney Rabindranath" held at Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum on May 30.

Photo: Mumit M.



Students of eighteenth batch of the Theatre School, run by Society for Education in Theatre, perform in their course final production *Jaisa-Ka-Taisa*. This was held at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on May 30. Photo: Mumit M.

Developing young Tagore enthusiasts Chhayanat launches new programme 'Waheedul Haque Sangeet Prabrajya'

JAMIL MAHMUD

To Chhayanat goes the credit for promoting Rabindra Sangeet. In particular, Waheedul Haque's name should be mentioned as one of the front liners in this genre.

To go with Waheedul Haque's philosophy, Chhayanat launched a new programme, titled "Waheedul Haque Sangeet Prabrajya". Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad (JRSSP) will join hands with Chhayanat to make the programme a success, while Habib-Khairunnesa Smriti Foundation will provide the funds.

A musical soiree was held at the Chhayanat Sangskriti Bhaban on May 30 prior to the launching of the Sangeet Prabrajya. Chhayanat artistes performed Tagore songs at the programme.

General secretary of Chhayanat, Kairul Anam Shakil

briefly highlighted the activities of the Sangeet Prabrajya. He said, "The activities will begin soon in different parts of Bangladesh with the help of JRSSP and Habib Khairunnesa Smriti Foundation. Initially the activities will be conducted on a monthly basis. "The endeavour of the Prabrajya is to develop young Tagore enthusiasts all over the country."

Initially four Tagore artistes were selected to conduct the Sangeet Prabrajya. The artistes are Mansura Begum, Nilotpaul Shadhya, A T M Jahangir and Azizur Rahman. Each of the selected artistes for the Prabrajya will be called Sangeet Paribrajak (Music Voyager). Apart from these four artistes, Fahmida Khatun, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonyia, Mita Haque and Laisa Ahmed Lisa also expressed their interest in the programme.

Among others, Bulbul Islam, general secretary of JRSSP and

Captain M. Rahman of Habib-Khairunnesa Smriti Foundation spoke at the programme. M. Rahman also recited excerpts from Rabindranath's poem *Prithibi*.

The musical soiree got off to a start with the rendition of *Lakkhi jekhoni ashbey* by veteran artiste Fahmida Khatun. She also rendered *Shey aamar gopon kotha*. Azizur Rahman rendered *Aami kaan pethey roi* and *Aanmona*. Nilotpaul Shadhya sang *Ekoda ki jani kon punner* and *Pipasha hai nahi mitilo*. Mansura Begum rendered *Toma lagi aankhi jagey*.

Partho Tanvir Noved, Bulbul Islam and Lili Islam rendered *Aami kebol swapon korechhi bapon*, *Hridoy aamar prokash holo* and *Ki shur bajey aamar praney* respectively.

The musical soiree ended with a group rendition of *Tomar shurer dhara*.

The Beatles: Two days in the life ...

When Honey magazine commissioned photojournalist Michael Ward to follow and photograph an up-and-coming music group called The Beatles in February 1963, he had never heard of the Liverpool-based rock band.

And he was not impressed when he heard The Beatles play: "I thought, Oh my God. How awful. What terrible noise they're making. There's no syncopation. They're playing all on the beat," he says.

What Ward considered just another job was actually the capturing of a pivotal time in the Beatles' career. Ward's images of the Beatles on the streets of Liverpool and performing in a basement bar came as the Fab Four learned their song *Please please me*, would be their first number one hit.

The humble photographer said after the shoot he put the images in a drawer and did not think much about them. "I forgot about them more or less. I wasn't really interested in the Beatles," Ward said.

That was until last year, when a colleague found the negatives and encouraged Ward to dust them off and re-print them.

Today, Ward does not get around as quickly as he used to. Aided with two canes, the humble, elderly journalist is making his way through a London exhibition of his 24 Beatles shots.

is really Lady Luck when you press the button and take a picture," he says, downplaying his skills.

Ward teamed up with another photographer Tom Murray, who captured images of The Beatles at another pivotal time: the group's last official photo shoot in 1968. A time many consider the beginning of The Beatles' break-up.

Murray, fast talking and flashy in a suit and jewelled lapel pin, is still in awe of The Beatles and the images he took of them. "I spent the whole day with the four most famous boys in the world," Murray said. "It was the hair, the clothes. It was the height of the swinging '60s."

Murray points to one of his pictures of the Fab Four at a London park bench. There is a fifth person in the photo -- a man fast asleep on the bench -- apparently oblivious that the world's most iconic musicians are mugging for the camera around him.

"He slept through the whole thing," Murray said. "I always wondered if somebody came up to him afterward and asked him 'did you know The Beatles were just sitting next to you?' He must be regretting it."



The Beatles - John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr



Veteran artiste Fahmida Khatun performs at the programme

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Source: CNN