

## Eid nostalgia

### Ferdous Wahid and Habib with their memories

MAINUL HASSAN

To music fans, Habib and Ferdous Wahid need no introduction, for father and son have both been successful in their fields. Recently *The Daily Star* caught up with Habib and Ferdous Wahid at their home for an informal *adda*.

The prime topic of that *adda* was Eid.

At the *adda* father and son shared their Eid experiences, how they pass their Eid, memories and more.

Recalling his childhood Eid, Ferdous Wahid said, "Back then Eid was observed with a lot more enthusiasm than it is these days. To a child it was like a dream coming true. On that day the most exciting part was the new clothes. We are nine brothers and sisters -- six brothers, three sisters. Our parents gave us two sets of dresses, *payjama* -- *panjabi* and Eid dress. The dresses were same in colour so it was really a great sight."

"As for any other child, the *Chand Raat* (the night before the Eid day) was very exciting to me. I was busy planning how to spend the big day ahead. On Eid day one of the top priorities was the salami collection," said Wahid.

"From class six to class ten one of the major attractions on Eid day was smoking. Among my friends the closest ones were-- Syed Siddiqui, the proprietor of Cats Eye, Golam Sarwar and



Habib and Ferdous Wahid in an informal ambience.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Masud Khan. On Eid day, no matter where we were at three o'clock all four of us met at Dhanmondi lake. That was our *adda* spot. Back then Dhanmondi lake was much different from now, an Eden within the city. There was no noise, there were no crowd just calm."

"One of my best childhood Eid memories was an Eid in the rainy

season. That year it rained heavily. Most of the fields in the village went under water. My father, who was in the launch business, took four launches to the village and the Eid jamaat was held on top of the launches."

"One of the main attractions during Eid in childhood was building miniature mosques. From class six to class ten, I built

five miniature mosques with paper and small sticks and glue. It took me twenty days to build one. On Eid day I decorated them with small lights and colour. It was really amazing, and it was a must finishing reciting the Quran. I did it regularly."

For Habib Eid in childhood was a time of great joy.

"On every Eid my mother

always bought me new clothes. During Ramadan I was always excited. New clothes were bought and after they were bought I was anxious to wear them. I could hardly wait for Eid day."

In my childhood, the main attraction of Eid was to go to the house of my Dora *phupu* in the afternoon. It was a family get together. I could find all my cousins of my age there. It was really fun, we played many kinds of games and during the evening we went to my mamashouse."

Recently, the joint music album *Obocheshey* ... featuring Ferdous Wahid and Habib for the first time was released for Eid.

The album features eight solo tracks four by Habib -- *Keno Emon Hoy*, *Chalthey Clotey Dekha Holo*, *Phirey Ashona*, *Katena Mayabi Raat* and four by Ferdous Wahid -- *Neel Jachhona*, *Dhukho Chhuye Dekho*, *Bhalo Lagey* and *Chokhey Chokhey*.

Why so late? Why could this venture not come earlier?

Answering the question Habib said, "Because it was the right time. After I came to the music industry I wanted to know how much my work is accepted by people and it seems I am very lucky to have such well wishers and fans. So when everything seemed right the album came out."

"And again, I always have gone about working in a planned way. I had plans to release the album this Eid."

## Eid special

### Kanak Chanpa to perform on Eid "Anandamela"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Noted singer Kanak Chanpa is appearing on this year's *Eid Anandamela*, to be aired on Bangladesh Television on the first day of Eid. She will be performing a song, *Jiboner phuldanitey, Kobitar phul rakhil*. The song has been written by Kabir Bakul and composed by Mainul Islam Khan.

"The last time I performed on *Anandamela* was eight years ago. At that time, it was a tremendously popular Eid programme and people used to make their evening plans on Eid day to be able to watch the show. To be a part of the show was really a big thing. When I made my breakthrough as an artiste, I eagerly wanted to perform on *Anandamela*. However, it didn't happen. Now there are so many channels and all of them air a whole lot of Eid special programmes throughout the whole week. Unfortunately, people do not remember most of these. *Anandamela* has also lost its earlier appeal for some reason. Yet, as it is BTV, audiences from across the country will enjoy the programme. BTV is still the most watched TV channel in the country. I am quite excited to perform



Kanak Chanpa performs in a TV show.

on *Eid Anandamela*," said Kanak Chanpa.

Kanak Chanpa will also feature in several other musical programmes on different channels this Eid. A solo musical programme featuring the artiste will be aired on Banglavisión on Eid. Kanak Chanpa will perform some of her popular songs as well as some new compositions on the show. On a musical talk show -- to

be aired on Rtv -- Kanak Chanpa, Shakila Zafar, Fahmida Nabi and Baby Naznin will take part in an *adda* setting. Kanak Chanpa will also be seen performing a duet with Monir Khan on a musical show -- to be aired on ntv -- this Eid. "I didn't perform on that many shows for this Eid actually. It's tiring when you fast. But I really enjoyed performing for *Anandamela*."

### Samina and Fahmida on Ekushey Television



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Samina Chowdhury and Fahmida Nabi, two celebrity siblings, will sing together in an Eid special programme to be aired on Ekushey Television.

The special programme, *Samina O Fahmida*, will be aired on Eid day at 6:30 pm. Anjan Roy and Kamruzzaman Ranju have jointly produced the programme.

The programme will highlight such musical performances of Samina and Fahmida as *Dur Duitbashini* and *Rajkanya*. The sisters will also take part in Eid *adda* at the programme.

## Eid special

### Music directors to perform on BTV show

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

*Chokh Je Moner Kotha Boley*, an exclusive musical programme featuring eminent music composers and lyricists of the country will be aired on Bangladesh Television at 9:30 am on the third day of Eid. Hosted by Sharmin lucky, the show is produced by Mahfuza Akhter, executive producer of BTV.

Noted music composers Ali Hossain, Alauddin Ali, Mainul Islam Khan, Ali Akbar Rupu and Shawkat Ali Emon will be singing their own songs in the show. Shaoukat Ali Emon will perform

a duet with lyricist Kabir Bakul in the programme.

Appreciating the initiative to bring forth the personalities who work behind the screen, eminent composer Mainul Islam Khan said to *The Daily Star*, "It's an innovative programme, I'd say. No one usually bothers about us that much, we never share the limelight with the celebrity artistes. Though other channels will also air songs composed by me, it will be a different thing for me to sing before the audience. I've sung a song written by Kazi Rosy that goes *Se tumi amar ar nei, ei tumi onyo karo* in the show."



Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb's second solo album *Mon Uchaton* was launched at the Bengal Shilpalaya on September 27. Produced under the banner of Bengal Music Company Ltd, the album features reimagining of some familiar and not-so-familiar Nazrul Sangeet. Noted Nazrul artiste Sadya Areen Mallick unveiled the album and lauded Shawjeeb's endeavour to draw the interest of young listeners in Nazrul's compositions. Shawjeeb rendered songs from the album -- including *Uchaton Mon*, *Gangey jowar elo* and *Bo(n)dhu tomar amar* -- at the programme.

## Tête-à-tête

### Delving deep into the world of acting

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Tanvin Sweety describes herself as a human being who is an actress on screen but a very simple and emotional girl off screen. She grew up in a big happy family of seven sisters and two brothers. Playing dolls with her sisters and running around in the open fields with her siblings are some of her first and fondest memories of childhood. Today she is the very successful small screen actress.

Sweety did not emerge on the scene as an actress initially. As a matter of fact she was among that generation of models who bought a complete roundabout change to the advertising scene in Bangladesh. She began her modelling career with Afzal Hossain's Diamond Brand in 1991. "I was interested in modelling and went with a friend of mine for the screen test. Within a week I was called for the shoot. But I was so nervous and uncomfortable in front of the camera that it took me 12 takes to give my first shot." However, later when she saw herself on TV she couldn't believe it was the same girl.

After that first commercial Sweety understood she needed grooming and went to a grooming school. Later on, Afzal Hossain's advice she also enrolled herself in the 'theatre school' in Bally Road.

These days Sweety hardly takes modelling assignments. She says in explanation, "I cannot concentrate and give my best to two things at the same time. I had my share of fame for modelling and thought it was time to broaden my horizons. In acting I have to play out the character of so many different people; in modelling the scope was limited during our times; we had to be beautiful well groomed women just showcasing a product."



Sweety requests the people of Bangladesh all around the globe to watch Bangladeshi channels more than ever before. "We have great entertainment on our channels; why should we watch foreign channels when they don't even air our channels in their country? This is also a form of patriotism," she concludes.

### Dev Anand: Young at 85



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Eighty-five and still no sign of stopping. That is quintessentially actor-director-producer Dev Anand for you.

Evergreen may be his middle name but that is an understatement. How else do you explain that the man, who celebrated his 85th birthday in London on September 26, directing another movie called *Chargesheet*, a murder mystery? He will be in England for the launch of the international version of his autobiography *Romancing with Life* that has already been launched in India. And in between all these, he squeezes in time to speak to the media at a hotel in Delhi.

Age has never worried Dev Anand. When a reporter asked him what was the secret of his longevity, he did not reel off his food habits but would simply say it is the love and affection he gets from his audience that he keeps him going at an age when others just relax.

The Bollywood veteran, who dominated Hindi cinema for more than three decades, has just completed the shooting for the first schedule of *Chargesheet* starring himself (in the role of a police officer who is falsely convicted for murder), Manisha Koirala, Riya Sen and Jackie Shroff among others.

The film, according to Dev Anand, is the story about police-underworld nexus.

The actor has roped in the diva Asha Bhosle to sing for his latest film and it is after 28 years that the playback singer will be working for a Dev Anand film. "Asha has done songs for my films like *Hare Rama Hare Krishna* which are still popular," Anand pointed out.

Music has always contributed in a great measure to the box office success of Anand's movies during his heyday and one has just to recall movies like *CID*, *Hum Dono*, *Guide*, *Johnny Mera Naam*, *Gambler* and *Hare Rama Hare Krishna*.

Responding to a question if singer Kishore Kumar made his films successful or vice versa, Anand questioned back, "Who can answer this?" But he is clear about one thing: "good music can win over times, boundaries and people."

Anand is disappointed but not disheartened by the failure of his last movie *Mr. Prime Minister*, a political satire, released two years ago and he said that he wanted to prove his critics wrong with his story-writing and directorial abilities in *Chargesheet*.

The actor said, "*Chargesheet* is a big-budget movie and it is taking all my energy and concentration these days."

### Zakia Bari Momo

#### Portraying the contemporary Bengali belle

AUREEN AHSAN

Flashback to the finale of Lux Superstar 2006. Momo was crowned the winner, thereafter winning the hearts of thousand fans with her subtle acting skills and sober aura. Recently, she won a national award for her role in her debut movie *Daruchinidwip*, which is an immensely notable achievement for a newcomer. During an interview with *The Daily Star*, she enlightened us about her journey so far, her upcoming works for Eid and other plans. Excerpts from the conversation:

First, tell us how you felt on receiving the prestigious national award?

It was a very overwhelming experience for me. At this point in my career, it is quite an achievement that my sincerity towards my work has been acknowledged with such honour and recognition. For this I am extremely grateful to the jury members, my fans who have supported me and my work, and of course my parents for always being there beside me.

How important has the Lux Superstar platform been to you?

Lux Superstar is a vast platform. I believe it has propelled me into the media world and gave me access into the projects of notable directors and producers. Who knows where I would stand today if I had not participated and won in the contest? It is a great medium for new comers. I highly admire the people behind this venture, for offering to support new talent.

Looking back at the success of "Daruchinidwip", do you plan to work in further films?

Why not? Sure. I am always open to working in good films.

Any preference between art and commercial films?

I do not think films should be categorised with respect to their genre only. Good films can be both commercial and slightly off-beat art films. I just require a good script to work on.

What are the criteria that you consider when agreeing to play a role?

The director and the character are the two prime aspects of my focus while considering a work. I try to delve into new characters in each of my plays, and not pick similar characters. Even if the character is close to some roles I have already portrayed, I attempt to add some diverse dimensions to it so that the audience is clearly able to differentiate between them.

Your memorable or significant works so far?

So far, there are quite a few works that I look back at with fond memories. To start with, *Swarnanaya*, a beautiful play directed by Tauqir Ahmed and written by Bipasha Hayat. Then there was *Tauqir Ahmed's Shankhabash*, which received audience acclaim;



Kayes Chowdhury's *Mahamaya*; *Nirupama*, an adaptation of a story by Rabindranath Tagore. My fans also highly commended my role in *Ejaz Munnas Neer*.

Idols? I greatly admire the skills of Shabana Azmi and Rani Mukherjee. Also, our country has an abundance of extremely brilliant artistes such as Subarna Mustafa, Aly Zaker and Asaduzzaman Noor.

Could you mention some of your works that the audience might anticipate this Eid?

This Eid, quite a few of my plays will be aired. I will appear in *Prithak*, a play scripted by Selim-Al-Deen and directed by Golam Sohrab Dodul. *Sheet Nidra* Porey is another venture with Tauqir Ahmed and Bipasha Hayat. I have also worked in a play written and directed by Kaushik Sankar Das, *Amar Kotha*, *Tomar Kotha*; and another play directed by Tony Dias.

To wrap it up, we are eager to know how Momo celebrates her Eid?

Previously, I used to visit my native village during Eid. In recent times, I have stayed back in Dhaka and celebrated Eid with my family and friends. It is time of the year when I catch up with my near and dear ones to make up for what I have missed out throughout the year. Eid is a great occasion to be close to the family.