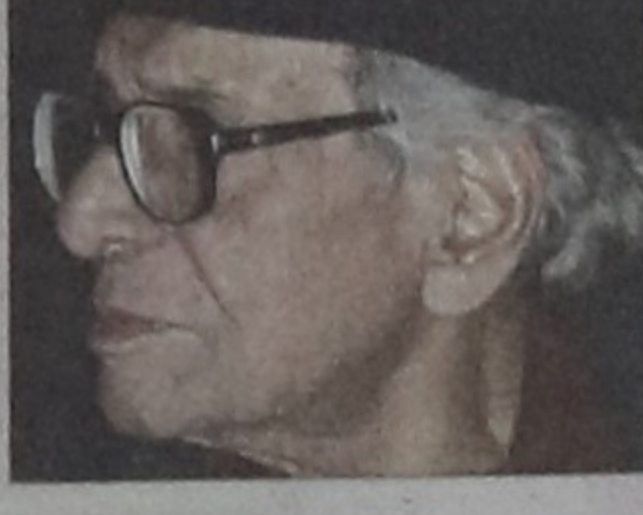


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Album Launch
Title: Tomar Bibha Te
Mugdho Ami
Organiser: War Crimes
Facts Finding
Committee
Venue: Chhayanaut
Sanskrit Bhaban
Date: June 26
Time: 7pm



Memorial Programme
On Indian playwright, philosopher and theatre activist Habib Tanvir
Organiser: Nagarik Natya Sampraday
Venue: Seminar Hall (6th floor), Shilpakala Academy
On June 21 at 6pm



Fete de la Musique
Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD)
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: June 21-July 2
Time: 6:30pm onwards



Film Screening
Film: Harano Sur
Filmmaker: Ajay Kar
Venue: Auditorium, Indian Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan-1
Date: June 26
Time: 6pm



Breathing life into Tagore's characters

Festival by Sanglap Group Theatre at Shilpakala Academy



(From left) Liaquat Ali Lucky, Ramendu Majumder, Jhuna Chowdhury and Mujibur Rahman Dilu at the inauguration.

NADIA SARWAT

Sanglap Group Theatre, a troupe from Mirpur is celebrating its 31st anniversary with a theatre festival featuring Rabindranath Tagore's plays. Six plays by troupes from the capital and outside -- originally written by Tagore or adaptations of his works -- are being staged at the festival, which began on June 18. The plays are being staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) at 8pm everyday till June 24.

The festival began with a rally that started from BSA. After the rally, noted theatre personality Ramendu Majumder, president of ITI, formally inaugurated the event at the Experimental Theatre Hall. The newly elected President of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), Liaquat Ali Lucky and general secretary Jhuna Chowdhury were also

present as special guests at the inauguration. Freedom fighter Rafiqul Islam, founder member of and adviser to Sanglap Group Theatre delivered the welcome speech at the event presided over by the troupe's president, Habibur Rahman Habib.

Praising the initiative by Sanglap, Jhuna Chowdhury said in his speech, "In-depth study and performance of Tagore's works got a momentum in the post-Liberation War Bangladesh. Tagore is omnipresent in every sphere of our cultural. But from my personal experiences, I have noticed that many young theatre activists are indifferent towards Tagore's literature and plays. Festivals like this would help to generate interest in Tagore among youngsters."

"Many are apprehensive about staging Tagore's play, as they find them difficult. But Tagore, who defined the modern Bengali, was very liberal when it came to staging his plays -- allowing directors enough

freedom to interpret his plays from their perspectives. Theatre troupes should definitely work more on Tagore's plays without reluctance," said Liaquat Ali Lucky.

Ramendu Majumder said, "It takes a skilled director to bring Tagore's characters to the stage from the pages. As we have a dearth of original/unique plays, we can always turn to Tagore for inspiration. I'm looking forward to see more innovative, experimental productions based on Tagore's plays and literature by young directors."

Subachan Natya Sangsad staged "Khudhito Pashan" on the first day of the festival. The play is an adaptation of a surreal short story (with the same title) by Tagore. Samar Chattyopadhyay adapted the play while renowned actor-director Khaled Khan has directed it.

The play begins with a Muslim aristocrat arriving at a deserted rail station in a small town. The protagonist

finds his way to a haunted palace. A tax collector in colonial India, he moves into the marble mansion. Supposedly, the edifice was once used as a 'pleasure palace' by King Shah Mahmud II. Wails of courtesans who were subjected to the tyranny of the king in the palace still seem to resound in the air. The protagonist goes through some unexplainable experiences, and comes to a profound realisation. Ahsan Habib Nasim played the tax collector in the Subachan production.

Tirjak Chattogram staged "Bishorjon" on the second day of the festival. Natyalk Sylhet will stage the play "Shasti" tonight. Other plays to be staged at the festival are "Rakto Karobi" (by Prangoney Mor), "Daakghar" (by Swapnadal) and "Debotar Grash" (by Sanglap Group Theatre).

This year has witnessed three theatre festivals on Tagore's works so far -- two in Dhaka and one in Chittagong.

Actors of Subachan Natya Sangsad in the play "Khudhito Pashan."

PHOTO: MUMIT M

Fête de la Musique comes to Dhaka again

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Music is a symbol of peace and harmony and invariably lifts our spirits. Many of us can't dream of a world without songs. A musician explores the beauty around him through melody, which brings forth hidden emotions -- happiness, sorrow and nostalgia. In 1982, a study discovered that five million people (two million of them youngsters) out of 55 million, played a musical instrument in France. Jack Lang, the then Minister for Culture, dreamed of bringing all those people together on the street for an immensely popular celebration. Three weeks later, Fete de la Musique or the World Music Festival was launched in France, on June 21, 1982. On the initiative of the Ministry for Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the music celebration has been exported from France since 1985.

Bangladesh too will observe this special day dedicated to music lovers. On the

occasion, a 10-day long musical programme will begin on June 21. The event is being organised by Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The festival will feature folk songs, ghazal and others genres.

Promising and noted singers are to participate in the festival. One of the objectives of the festival is to assemble artists of various age groups who will exchange ideas with music aficionados.

On the first day, Mlle Fariha Khandkar and Laloni exponent Farida Parveen will perform at La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. On June 22, noted flutist Gazi Abdul Hakim will perform at the same venue. On June 23, a French music event will be held in the café. In the course of the evening, Rezwan Naznin, Labiba Qamari Ugra, Salwa Jahan, Nida Hasnan Zaidi, Kazi Ershadur Razhid Bonny, Tamim, Jaistha Biswas and Mahbubur Rahman Sobuz will participate in the musical soiree.

On June 24, the music school of Alliance Francaise

de Dhaka will hold the audience captive with performances on violin, cello, guitar and piano, at the two wings of Alliance Francaise - Dhanmondi and Uttara. On June 25, noted ghazal singer Mesbah Ahmed and bhawaiya singer Shafiqul Alam Raza will take the stage. In recent years Mesbah has become one of the most promising ghazal singers in the city. The programme will also take place at La Galerie.

Calcutta String Quartet, a Kolkata-based band is expected to perform on June 26 at Gulshan Club. The famous Bangla band will perform at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on June 27.

On July 2, Dhaka University Group will perform at TSC. Dhaka University has partnered with Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in organising the Fete de la Musique for nine years. The performers will be the cultural team of Dhaka University.

"Bijoyini": Special play on Sufia Kamal's birth anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the 98th birth anniversary on poet-litterateur-activist Sufia Kamal, RTV will air a single-episode play "Bijoyini" tonight at 9 pm. Adapted by Delwar Hossain from a story by Sufia Kamal, the play has been directed by Rawshan Ara Nipa.

The play follows Kashem, who comes from an affluent family, and his infatuation with his childhood friend Masuma. But Kashem's father does not approve of his interest in Masuma, whose family is not well off. Kashem marries a girl of his father's choice and Masuma also gets married, to a schoolteacher. Years later, Kashem meets Masuma again, and after her husband dies of typhoid, expresses his interest in Masuma despite



A scene from the play.

having a wife. Masuma does not agree, as she believes in true love and not lust. An infuriated Kashem does not take this refusal well. He becomes vindictive and spreads vicious lies about Masuma, who is forced to

leave the town. Searching for her for years, Kashem eventually finds Masuma again. The cast includes Farzana Chhobi, Mahmud Hassan, Aforza Sultana, Tanzina Lily and others.

Stories of triumphant women

Yukta stages Katha Manobi



Reciters of Yukta narrate tales of spirited women at the programme "Katha Manobi."

JAMIL MAHMUD

Oppression of women is as old as the human civilisation. History only narrates and highlights the bravado of kings and warriors, carefully sidelining the contributions of women and the inspiration they provided.

Featuring the triumphs of eight historic and contemporary women, Yukta, an organisation of reciters, arranged a programme at the British Council Auditorium (on Fuller Road) on June 18. The programme, "Katha Manobi," was inspired by Indian author Mallicka Sengupta's collection of poems

(with the same title).

From the epic 'Mahabharat' to contemporary times, Sengupta chose eight characters -- Draupadi, Ganga, Sultana Razia, Madhabi, Khona, Shah Banu, Medha Patekar and Malati Mudi -- and narrated their struggles, passion and valour.

Draupadi is known as the wife of 'Pancha Pandav'. She is a symbol of grace, nobility and fidelity. Her dignity came under threat at the Kaurav court, but Draupadi took courage and faced off her oppressor, emerging triumphant.

Sultana Razia is another historic character. She was the first and only female emperor of Delhi (from 1236-1240 AD). During her reign, Razia had

to face the conspiracies by her fellow royals and was eventually killed. Her indomitable courage, however, made her immortal.

In contemporary India, the valour of Medha Patekar, Shah Banu and Malati Mudi has made them symbols of freedom. Medha Patekar, a research worker and social activist in Gujarat, became an iconic figure for her bold protest against a government decision to build a dam on the river Narmada.

Shah Banu is a Muslim housewife. In 1985, her husband divorced her and refused to pay her alimony. An illiterate Shah Banu filed a case at the high court. After years of excruciating wait, Shah Banu's case went to

the Parliament of India. Though it failed to triumph, Shah Banu became a public figure.

In 1990, Malati Mudi became a hero in Purulia, after she stabbed her landlord who had violated her.

Members of Yukta -- Shirin Khan Moni, Krishti Hefaz, Shamim Ara Koli, Mushfiqua Naznin Lucky, Shubhra Das and Riya Mahmud -- took part in recitation at the programme. Nishat Jahan Rana was the director of the show. Ferdousi Priyobhashini did the stage design, while Ishrat Nishat was the light designer.

This was the premiere show of the programme.

Robert Pattinson hit by a taxi while running away from fans

Teen girls across the planet can breathe a big sigh of relief: "Twilight" star Robert Pattinson was unhurt after being clipped by a cab Thursday in Manhattan.

The heartthrob was barely grazed, a representative told the Daily News.

RadarOnline.com reported that Pattinson, 23, was hit while fleeing teen fans in front of the famous Strand bookstore on Broadway at 12th St.

The London-born model and actor -- a tween phenomenon for his portrayal of the romantic 108-year-old vampire Edward Cullen in "Twilight" -- had been inside filming his new movie "Remember Me."

Trying to duck a crowd of screaming teen girls waiting on the rainy sidewalk, he ran across the street for his trailer when a taxi grazed his hip, RadarOnline said.

Pattinson reportedly stood still for a moment, appearing stunned, as a bodyguard yelled at the girls: "You see what you did, you almost killed him!"

"The reports are exaggerated," said Vivian Mayer, a spokeswoman for the film production company.

"It was not caused by his fans. Production continues."

The new film co-stars Emilie de Ravin, the Australian actress who plays Claire on "Lost." Pattinson, who was just dubbed "Most Handsome Man in the World" by a landslide vote in a Vanity Fair online poll, has been mobbed all over town during filming.

Fans using Twitter to pinpoint his location swarmed him Monday. He had to be rescued by bodyguards who pulled girls off him.

The situation is so dire that teen fan magazine J-14 launched an online petition Thursday to "protect Rob Pattinson!"

"We know, we wish we could spend every moment with Rob - and knowing where he is at all times definitely makes it feel that way. But there is a point where it goes too far," the magazine said.

"Let's all bond together to protect Rob."

Source: Internet

