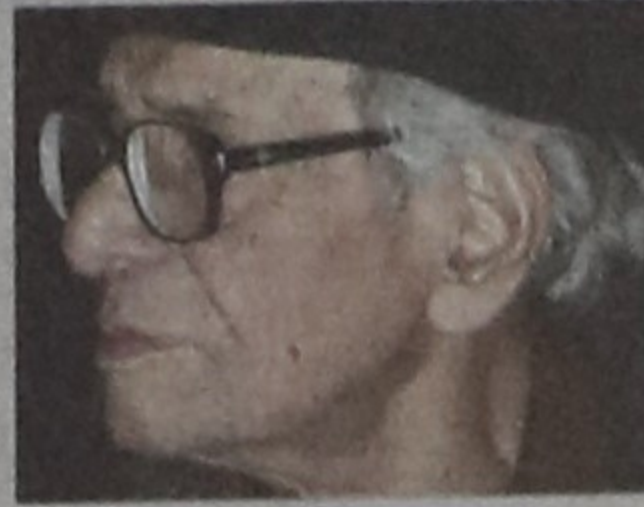


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

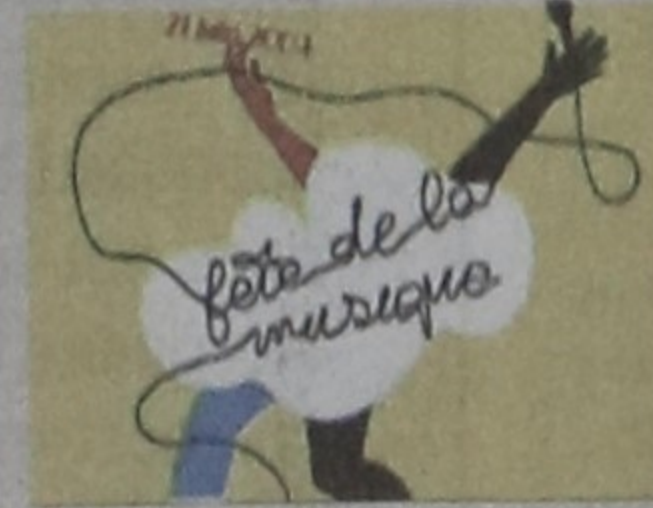
Album Launch
Title: Tomar Bibha Te
Organiser: War Crimes Facts Finding Committee
Venue: Chhayanaut Sanskriti Bhavan
Date: June 26
Time: 7pm



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



Fete de la Musique
Organiser: Alliance Francaise of 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



Chhayanaut hosts Nazrul Festival 1416

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With much enthusiasm and fervour both from the audience and the artistes, Chhayanaut's two-day Nazrul Festival commenced on June 19 at the Chhayanaut Sanskriti Bhavan. On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chhayanaut's life-time president Sufia Kamal, which fell on June 20, Chhayanaut organised the festival titled "Nazrul Utsab 1416". The poet-litterateur-activist was a devoted follower of Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The event started off with a group dance by the artistes of Chhayanaut. Veteran Nazrul exponent Sohrab Hossain inaugurated the festival by lighting candles. He was given a wreath, an "uttorio" and books on behalf of Chhayanaut. Prior to the inauguration, a one-minute silence was observed in honour of recently deceased Language Movement veteran Gaziul Haque. Nazrul artiste Khairul Anam Shakil, general secretary of Chhayanaut delivered the welcome speech at the inauguration.

"Chhayanaut always celebrates the birth and death anniversaries of the National Poet with special programmes. To celebrate on a greater scale with a festival was our long-cherished wish. After we shifted to our new building, we have organised successful festivals on folk and classical music and on Tagore. We chose the birth anniversary of Chhayanaut's former president Sufia Kamal for the festival because she was a true practitioner of Nazrul's ideals of humanity, secularism and equality. The festival also intends to create a common



PHOTO: MUMIT M

The festival brought together artistes and progressive thinkers.

platform for artistes and progressive thinkers all over the country, thus extending Chhayanaut's possibility as an organisation," said Khairul Anam Shakil.

Sanjida Khatun, president of Chhayanaut, presided over the ceremony. "Our intention is to enrich ourselves by the interaction of the guest

artistes performing at the festival. I believe this kind of artistic interaction will set a momentum to the cultural movement of the country, which is based on our heritage," the president said.

The first performance of the event was a chorus, "Jaago amrito piyashchito" by the artistes of Chhayanaut. The first session included performances by

Shahin Samad, Rezaul Karim, Rawshan Ara, Khairul Anam Shakil, Badrunnesa Dalia, Sumona Bardhan, Lina Taposhi Khan and more.

Nazrul artiste Sahahin Samad inaugurated the afternoon session on the first day. A one minute silence was also part of the event, this time in the memory of recently deceased Sarod artiste of

the subcontinent Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, along with Language Movement veteran Gaziul Haque. Dithi Hasnat then presented a documentary on the life and works of Nazrul. Next, the child artistes of Chhayanaut presented two chorus performance, "Joi hok joi hok" and "Shukno patar nupur paye." Anindita Choudhury's rendition of the classical-

based song "Rinik jhinik jhini bajey payela" set the mood of the audience into exploring the diversity of Nazrul's musical creations. Tanvir Ahmed was next with the song, "Badhu tomar amar ei je biroho," a melancholy song about the separation of two lovers. A dance number by Snata Shahrin and Tahmina Ferdous of Nrityanchal with the song, "Mor ghum ghorey ele monohor" delighted the audience. The programme continued till late in the evening with a total of 40 artistes, both form Chhayanaut and invited artistes. Fatema tuz Zohra, Sadya Afreen Mallik, Ferdous Ara, Yakub Ali Khan, Khalid Hossain, Shelu Barua were among them. Asit Roy and Padmini Roy (Tangail), Gurudas Bhattacharya (Comilla) and Rahena Saha (Chittagong) were among the artistes who came from outside Dhaka. Dance performance by artistes Munmun Ahmed, Tamanna Rahman and recitations from Nazrul were also included at the event.

Pinu Sen Das and Gautan Sarkar on tabla, Iftekhar Hossain on keyboard, Pradip Kumar Roy on Mandira and Almas Ali on violin accompanied the artistes at the second sessions event.

The last day's event included a memorial speech on Sufia Kamal by Dr. Rafiqul Islam. A dance drama by the artistes of Chhayanaut titled "Shajol Shyam Ghano Deya" was the special attraction of the event, directed by noted dance artiste Sharmila Bandopadhyay. The event was inaugurated by seasoned Nazrul exponent Sudhin Das.



Reflections: Of fathers, sons and daughters

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Father's Day gives us an opportunity to recognise the contribution of the men who have nurtured us since birth -- instilling in us values and inspiring us to be better human beings.

On the occasion of Father's Day, renowned personalities and their sons and daughters have shared how they intend to celebrate this joyous occasion.

Murtaja Baseer

Murtaja Baseer, one of the most distinguished painters of our country, has made immense contributions to the enrichment of our art. Baseer is the son of Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah, an outstanding scholar and linguist. The artist goes down memory lane and recalls his relationship with his father, his reaction to Baseer's decision of pursuing art and more.

"People think that Dr. Shahidullah was against my decision of becoming a painter, but that is not right. He disagreed but never stood in the way. My father simply tried to explain his views to me: 'When I was living in Paris, I witnessed the life of a painter haunted by poverty and pursued by inhumane treatment from his fellow countrymen. The life of an artist is never easy. You are my child. I do not want you to embrace this troubled fate. First, you should complete your BA and MA, and then you can go for art. In fact, I would rather prefer that you go to Aligarh,'" says Baseer.

"My father sent me to Italy in 1956 for higher education in art. After returning home in 1959, I prepared myself for a solo exhibition in Karachi. My father was in Urdu Development Board then. He invited the then Education Minister Habibur Rahman to inaugurate my exhibition and wrote on the invitation card, 'Introducing my son Murtaja Baseer -- Artist.' American Friends of the Middle East arranged the exhibition. Wine was in



abundance at the programme. I felt a little embarrassed at such unexpected grandeur solely on my behalf. At dusk my father chose one of the corners of the gallery to place his jainamaaz for his Maghrib prayers. That was a contrasting sight indeed!

"In Florence, Italy, I was included in an exhibition of nine painters from East Pakistan in 1957. A review was published in the Pakistan Observer, where I was referred to as 'Murtaja Rashid'. My father immediately wrote a letter to the editor of the Pakistan Observer pointing out that my name had been spelt wrong. In the letter, he appreciated my works and wrote out my correct name. Afterwards, I changed my

name to 'Murtaja Baseer'. My father was much displeased with me. When he wrote to me, he addressed me as A.K.M. Bashirullah alias Murtaja Baseer. He hardly used Murtaja Baseer. Fortunately, he always treated me as an artist," added Baseer.

Tropa Majumdar

Being the daughter of a celebrity couple, every year I have to say lots of things to the media about Father's Day or Mother's Day. But, personally, I don't think we are in such situation to show our love, our respect to our father on any special day. It's a part of western culture. Socio-culturally, our lifestyle is very much

related with our parents, and we can show our love and respect to them everyday, myself being no exception.

Talking about my father, I must say that I feel very proud to have Ramendu Majumdar as my father whom so many people revere as a great man. I always try to be like him as much as it is possible for me. His honesty, his selfless interest in other people's happiness and his devotion to the country are so impressing that I will consider myself lucky if I can have the slightest similarity with him in these respects. I think I can fulfil my responsibility to him only through fulfilling my responsibility as a better human being.

Bipasha Hayat

A person's feeling for his/her father is beyond expression, it does not depend on any particular day. Yet we have kept a day apart for him only as our love for fathers. First of all, the concept of Father's Day is only for those who respect their father, their parents. If we do not understand how important our parents are in shaping our lives, how will we show respect to them only on any special day? We must live our lives according to the teaching of our parents.

Without their impact on our philosophy of living, we cannot create a meaningful life. Parents should also be conscious of how they bring up their children, because

you can only learn to love and respect your father through his role in the family. It is an interdependent issue; it's a matter of family practice. As for me, I think my father inspired me a lot to be what I am now. Though I enjoy Father's Day as a special occasion to show my love for my father, I don't think I spend any single day without loving him or respecting him.

Shuveccha Haq

"I think there is no need of arranging special programmes on fathers as they are always special to children. To me, my father is the most special person in the whole world and he is the best friend as well. I share every secret with my father," said Shuveccha Haq, daughter of celebrated writer Imdadul Haq Milon.

Shuveccha is a lot more than being the offspring of a celebrated person. She has created a name for herself as a TV play actor. Shuveccha said that she plans to celebrate the day with her father but has no special plans. "I wish my father everyday, so today will be no different. As my father is a busy person, it will be difficult to manage sufficient time to spend together today. Nevertheless, we might squeeze time for special lunch and enjoy the whole day together," said Shuveccha.

Asked about any childhood memories surrounding her father, Shuveccha pointed to an incident that happened to her sister. "As I often act in different TV plays from my childhood, people are well aware about my identity. But my sister's friends were unaware that she is the daughter of Imdadul Haq Milon. One day, her friends planned to take autographs from my father. They asked her if she would like to go with them that she could also take an autograph," said a laughing Shuveccha.

Shuveccha also finds the irritating side of being the offspring of a celebrity. "Whenever I was at fault at school it was easy for my teachers to complain at home as my father was well known to them."

(Clockwise from top left) Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah and Murtaja Baseer; Ramendu Majumdar and Tropa; Imdadul Haq Milon and Shuveccha; Abul Hayat and Bipasha.