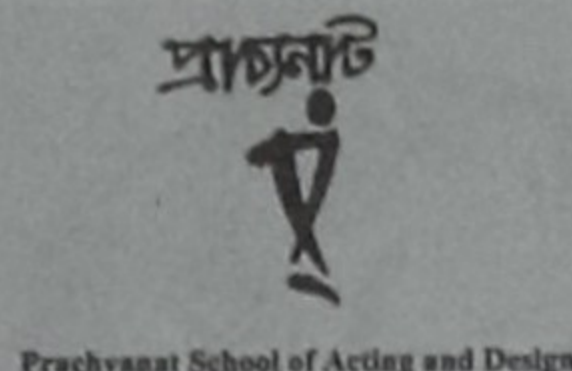


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre and Certificate Giving
Play: Inherit the Wind
Organiser: Prachyanat School of Acting and Design
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Natok Swarani, Bailey Road
Date: July 12
Time: 7:00pm



Musical Soiree
Title: Srotar Ashor
Organiser: Chhayanaout
Venue: Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanaout Sanskriti Bahaban
Date: July 10
Time: 7:30 pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Pahariya Pathay
Artist: Shohag Parvez
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise of Dhaka
Date: July 3-16
Time: 9-12am & 5-8pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: The Face of Bangla
Photographer: Nayeem
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka
Date: July 3-11
Time: 3-8 pm



Language Movement veteran Gaziul Haq remembered

Public memorial by Shammilito Shanskritik Jote



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni speaks at the Gaziul Haq memorial held at the central Shaheed Minar.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Shammilito Shanskritik Jote paid homage to the recently deceased Language Movement veteran Advocate Gaziul Haq (1929-2009) on July 8, at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city. People from all walks of life attended the memorial.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Professor Anwar Hussain, Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni,

President of International Theatre Institute (ITI) Ramendu Majumdar, media personality and lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor, Artist Syed Hasan Imam, writer-columnist Syed Abul Maksud, president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahidul Islam Selim, theatre personality M. Hamid, freedom fighter Dr. Zafarullah Chowdhury, general secretary of Jatiya Kobita Parishad Aslam Sunny and general secretary of Shammilito Shanskritik Jote,

Golam Kuddus, among others, attended the programme and spoke on Gaziul Haq.

Speakers elaborated on Haq's eventful life. M. Hamid spoke on Haq's valiant role during the Language Movement. Haq presided over a meeting on the day before February 21, 1952 at the then Dacca Hall. At the meeting, it was decided that the continuing section 144 would be violated. "His assertive role that day inspired many to fight for the

right to speak our mother language," he added.

In his speech, Professor Arefin Siddique mentioned Haq not only as a Language Movement veteran and freedom fighter, but also a vigilante when it came to education, culture, democracy and truth. "Haq was a true patriot and left behind a shining example of a lifetime of benevolence," he said.

Terming Haq "a great hero," Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "Gaziul Haq announced

the verdict of *Janatar Adalat*, formed under the leadership of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam. He was always involved with democratic movements."

Syed Abul Maksud said, "We found him in every mass movement. He remains alive amongst all, except those who opposed the formation of Bangladesh."

To realise the dreams and unfinished works of the valiant hero, Professor Anwar Hussain urged the youth of country to uphold the values and philosophies of Gaziul Haq.

Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni said, "He was father's comrade. I have fond childhood memories of him."

Syed Hasan Imam said, "Gazi bhai came from a *pir* family but became a communist in his student days. He worked with us during the war, wrote and composed songs for the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. I can still hear his loud and unpretentious laughter."

Reiterating the necessity of Haq in today's Bangladesh, Mahmud Hasan Ripon hoped to ensure a non-communal Bangladesh.

The memorial was presided over by Mofidul Haq, trustee of the Liberation War Museum. Speakers sympathised with the bereaved family members of Haq. The memorial ended with a call to bring the war criminals to justice.

Hanif Sanket drama festival on ATN Bangla

CULTURE CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing Hanif Sanket drama festival, ATN Bangla will air the single-episode TV play "Shunyosthan Purno" tonight at 8 pm.

The play revolves around two families living in the same building. The families are headed by Rafiq and Selim. So far the relationship

between the families has been a peaceful one, but one-day a dispute starts brewing regarding the landlord. Chaotic, yet hilarious incidents ensue.

The cast includes ATM Shamsuzzaman, Zahid Hassan, Azizul Hakim, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Tarin and others. The play has been written and directed by Hanif Sanket.



A scene from the TV play.



Veteran pop singer Azam Khan performs at a cultural programme at Rabindra Sarobar recently. Nagarik Moitry, a social welfare association, arranged the programme to generate awareness among the youth on different national issues.

Mita Haque: Tagore's tunes always in mind

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Mita Haque, a dedicated and popular Tagore singer has made her mark in the Bangla musical sphere. Growing up in music-oriented environs, she chose to specialise in the field of Rabindra Sangeet. Recently, the accomplished artiste spoke to The Daily Star about her musical career.

The Daily Star (TDS): Do you feel that there is a need to generate further interest in Tagore songs throughout the country?

Mita: Yes, but I consider it more as a weapon against ignorance and narrowmindedness.

TDS: Who was the inspiration behind your decision to focus on Tagore songs?

Mita: Tagore remains a major inspiration for every Bengali and I am no exception. To be specific, my mentors are Dr. Sanjida Khatun and Waheedul Huq. And of course I have reached this far because of them. When I was eleven, I participated at the International Children's Festival at Berlin. Later in 1976, at the age of thirteen, I started taking formal music lessons from Mohammad Hossain Khan, one of the leading *tabla* players of the country.

TDS: You run a music school. Tell us about that.

Mita: I started Surtirtha, my music school, a few years back. Initially, some students



Tagore remains a major inspiration for every Bengali and I am no exception.

would come to my home for music lessons. Gradually the number of students increased and I couldn't accommodate them at my home. So, I decided to rent a space and set up a music school.

I'm also one of the organisers of the Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Shammelon

Parishad. It is a 28-year-old organisation and has branches throughout the country. It is a volunteer programme. We train children in Rabindra Sangeet as well as other genres of Bangla songs, recitation and dance. We arrange competitions every two years at the grass-roots and eventually

national level.

TDS: A memorable experience...

Mita: Shailaja Ranjan Majumdar was a direct disciple of Rabindranath Tagore. He came to Dhaka in 1981. He was also one of the few fortunate ones who had worked with Tagore on making notations of many Rabindra Sangeet. I had the honour of getting acquainted with Shailaja *da*. Before leaving Dhaka, he told me, "Don't take pride in your achievements and someday you will be a great singer." I've been trying to follow this advice wholeheartedly.

TDS: Who are your role models?

Mita: I don't try to emulate any particular singer. However, a few legendary voices have had their impact on me -- Kanika Banerjee, Nilima Sen, Subinoy Roy, Suchitra Mitra, Fahmida Khatun and Ajit Roy among others.

TDS: How you balance your profession and personal life?

Mita: I have enough time to look after my family. Besides, I never considered music as a source of income. Rather, it's food for the soul.

TDS: What are your future plans?

Mita: My ultimate dream is that all Bengalis will sing Rabindra Sangeet at every stage of their lives. I will continue to sing till the end and work towards a secular Bangladesh.

Karan Johar talks My Name is Khan



Kajol and Shah Rukh will be seen together after several years in "My Name is Khan."

The most controversial movie of Karan Johar titled "My Name is Khan" is almost complete but the director had to face many ups and downs during the shooting. Visa problems for the Muslim cast, music rights sharing

issues, scheduling of the cast and many other hassles came in the way of this "completely different" movie of Johar that will soon be complete.

"You know, on the very first day of shooting my cameraman Ravi Chandran looked at me

and said, 'I don't think you've ever shot something like this.' Shah Rukh plays a completely different human being ... I've never directed that person before," Karan mused.

"My Name is Khan" has been written by Shibani Bathija and

is the story of a Muslim played by Shah Rukh who suffers from the Asperger syndrome, a form of autism that affects a person's social interaction abilities.

He gets arrested as a terrorist suspect in Los Angeles post 9/11 attacks as the police misinterpret his behaviour caused by the disorder.

The film also stars the vivacious actress, Kajol opposite Khan and the audience will get a chance to experience their magical chemistry on screen after a long gap.

Karan Johar has great expectations from his upcoming project, which also has Aamir Bashir who replaced Jimmy Shergill.

Reportedly the director was crowded by the Asian community each time he took a walk after finishing the day's work.

Source: Internet

Amader Galpo on BTV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Amader Galpo" will be aired today on Bangladesh Television at 10:30am. Each episode of the programme is divided into two parts -- a short play and studio discussion.

Today's episode portrays the story of Dolly. Dolly is apprehensive to share her ideas with her husband, Miran, ridicules everything she says. Miran thinks he is smarter than Dolly and always forces his decisions on her. This accumulates to an unpleasant tension between them. Mahmudul Islam Selim and Jyotika Jyoti play the couple in the short play.

The studio discussion will feature Fauzia Khandokar Eva, Mahmudul Islam Selim and Jyotika Jyoti. Nasreen Siraj Annie hosts the discussion.

Directed by Syed Shakil, Fuad Chowdhury is the executive producer of the programme.



Discussants at the programme.